



LA STRADA DEL VINO (The wine road)

The Etruscan Coast offers itineraries exclusively dedicated to wine tourism. It follows a route through a maze of medieval villages, abbeys, ancient farms and wine estates in the hidden corners of the province, in search of country atmosphere and the flavor of local produce with stops designed to rediscover the culinary heritage of the area in its most authentic setting. The top quality production in this tiny zone is represented by no fewer than three DOC wines, Montescudaio, Bolgheri and Vald Di Cornia. These wines range from dry white, rose' and red to the traditional sweet Vinsanto.

Montescudaio is the most northerly of the three DOCs and stretches into the neighbouring province of Pisa (the village of Montescudaio is in fact over the border). Here the wines are based on the traditional local varieties; Trebbiano, Vermentino and Malvasia for the whites and Sangiovese for the reds. At Bolgheri, on the other hand, the key varieties are Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Sassicaia, in the Vald Di

Cornia, in the south of the province, offers, besides the familiar Trebbiano, Vermentino, Malvasia and Sangiovese and the Cabernets also a Pinot Bianco and a Pinot Grigio and some local varieties such as Clairette and Ciliegiolo and rarities like Ansonica and Biancone di Portoferraio. Val Di Cornia is the only DOC to include a reserve category for reds with a minimum of three years aging.