





This land defined by the outpouring of the river Magra and mount Montemarcello was an Etruscan basis for the conquest of Corsica and centuries later it was a major natural barrier against the Romans trying to conquer the North West.

For a long time, this marginal land was the battle field between Rome and the native Ligurian-Apuans fighting for the control and access to the Ligurian Sea.

For many years the Romans attacked the area and Tito Livo (180 BC) considered it as the training area for the roman army in between the big wars.

However, in 186 BC, the rebel Ligurians defeated the roman consul Quinzio Marzio. 4000 roman soldiers were killed and "Marzio" became the shame of Rome. The battle was fought on the level land between Trebiano and Monte Carpione, right before the slope towards Barcola/Lerici ... exactly where La Musa is located nowadays.

The stream in front of La Musa was called Canale del Marzo which was presumably derived from the name the Roman consul, "Marzio". In 1773 the official name of the stream was changed into Riomaggio but natives often called this torrent "Canale del Guercio" according to the many oaks (querce in Italian) in this green fertile level land.

This area between mount Carpione and the Guercio stream was elected to host a water mill for the local grain cultivation. There are good archeological reasons to believe that the first origin of this mill goes back to Etruscan times and may have survived roman times. The only official description of the mill is dated 1795 and illustrates in which way the water flows powered the grinder of the mill.

The water was drawn from the Riomaggio with a floodgate at the tip of the property in front of the house. Walking down the path in front of the house, in the gorge behind the cactus border you can still see the upper arch of the floodgate. This gate was opened manually to draw water from the stream that filled the large basin (currently the low part of the garden). This way the water from the basin flowed under the basement of the house. During the rainy months of the year, the brook behind the house collects spring water from mount Carpione which flows under the house, below the basement of the cellar. Opening the trapdoor in the cellar you can still see the historical water tunnels in which the rotor powered the enormous grinders.

We bought the property in 2003 from the family Cresci that lived here for numerous generations. After many years of quarrels with the neighbours about the considerable withdrawal of water from the Riomaggio, the Cresci's decided in 1916 to replace the water mill with an electric grinder in the basement. Being the only mill in the area, business was going very well and Cherubino, their good hearted, Tuscan miller had a hard time (in between the frequent sips of his bottle of grappa) to cope with the queues of people waiting for hours and hours.

After the second world war, competition was coming from new mills in the area and in 1960 the Cresci's decided to close the activity.

However locals still call the area 'il mulino'; some locals continue to call the bus stop 'at the mill' and remember their mothers and grandmothers going there to do the laundry in the basin.

# Ferry boat



## Consorzio Marittimo Turistico 5 Terre - Golfo dei Poeti

## Orario battelli dal 30 Maggio 2011 Andata - Going - Aller

	Lerici	09.30	10.30	the same	11.30		14.30	15.30	
	Portovenere	10.00	11.00	NA REAL PROPERTY.	12.00	14.15	15.00	16.00	17.20
e	Riomaggiore	10.30	11.30	12.00	12.30	14.45	15.25	16.30	17.45
-	Manarola	10.40	11.40	12.10	12.40	14.55	15.30	16.40	17.50
F	Corniglia	+	+	+	+	+	+	÷	+
	Vernazza	10.55	11.55	12.30	12.55	15.15	15.50	16.55	18.10
	Monterosso	11.10	12.15	12.40	13.10	15.25	16.05	17.10	18.20

#### Ritorno - Return - Retour

L	Monterosso	10.30	11.30	12.10	14.30	15.00	16.00	17.00
	Vernazza	10.40	11.40	12.20	14.40	15.10	16.10	17.10
	Corniglia	+		+	+	Ļ	+	+
F	Manarola	11.00	+	12.40	15.00	15.30	16.30	17.30
•	Riomaggiore	11.10	12.00	12.50	15.10	15.40	16.40	17.40
	Portovenere	11.40		13.20	15.40	16.10	17.10	18.10
	Da Portovenere	12.30		15.00	What is	TALL NO.	17.15	18.10
	Arrivo a Lerici	13.00	2000	15.30		The states	17.45	18.40

## Partenze da Portovenere per Lerici ore: 17.15 - 18.10

Consorzio Marittimo Turistico 5 Terre - Golfo dei Poeti Tel. 0187/967676 Servizio di linea 2011 Lerici - 5 Terre GITA GIORNALIERA Partenze - Abfahrt - Departs - Departures Ore: 9.30 - 10.30 - 11.30 Il biglietto giornaliero da la possibilità di salire e scendere a piacere nei paesini delle 5 Terre (Riomaggiore - Manarola - Vernazza - Monterosso) - orari e coincidenze riportati nel retro -GITA POMERIDIANA Partenze - Abfahrt - Departs - Departures Ore: 14.30 - 15.30 Tariffe - Fahrpreis - Prices - Preis Giornaliero feriale € 23,00 Giornaliero prefestivo € 25,00 Pomeridiano intero £18.00 Pomeridiano ridotto € 13.00 Giornaliero festivo € 25,00 Ridotto giornaliero o andata € 15,00 Giornaliero Agosto € 27.00 Andata con tutte le soste € 18.00 Solo andata Riomaggiore o Manarola € 11.00 Linea Lerici - Portovenere Partenze - Abfahrt - Departs - Departures da Lerici alle ore: 09.30 - 10.30 - 11.30 - 14.30 - 15.30 Partenze - Abfahrt - Departs - Departures da Portovenere alle ore: 12.30 - 15.00 - 17.15 - 18.10 Tariffe - Fahrpreis - Prices - Preis: Andata o Ridotto € 6,00 Intero € 10.00 A Portovenere possibilità di effettuare il Giro delle Tre Isole

Ridotti: bambini da 6 a 11 anni se accompagnati da almeno un adulto

# What most guests enjoy

1. Short roundtrip to Montemarcello - Ameglia - Bocca di Magra- Romito Magra – La Musa At La Musa, go left on the Provincial road (direction Lerici); at the roundabout, take the road on the left (don't take the tunnel) and after 200m, right before the tank station, take the road on the left to Montemarcello. Montemarcello is worth visiting and has a large parking on the right. Continue on the spectacularly panaromic road to Bocca di Magra which deserves another stop. After Bocca di Magra, proceed to Ameglia (also worth visiting) and follow signs for Romito Magra ... In Romito Magra follow the provincial road, direction Lerici, back to La Musa

## 2. Lerici – Tellaro

At La Musa, go left, at the roundabout take the tunnel and immediately after the tunnel, turn right. Off season, you may decide leaving your car downtown Lerici but fines are not totally excluded. If you have a rent car, we strongly recommend using the large parking prior to the second tunnel. During summertime we strongly recommend using the large parking area only (or catching the bus). Tellaro really deserves a visit. From downtown Lerici, you follow the winding road (direction Sarzana/highway) and after 500m on the right hand, take the beautiful road to Tellaro. Or alternatively, from La Musa, take the road slightly left on the roundabout and proceed the winding road to Lerici until you see the signboard Tellaro on the left: Finding a parking in Tellaro isn't always easy but it's worth the effort. Half way you can stop at the beach of "Fiascherino"; a beautiful small bay, ideal during May, June and September but too crowded during summertime.

## 3. Cantina Lunae

Beautiful place to taste and buy local wines (colli di Luni) but also various liquors and marmelades. In case you would like to visit Cantina Lunae, please tell us so that we can plan your visit. How to get there? Take a right and follow signs for the highway; after the bridge over the river Magra, proceed (neither take the highway nor Sarzana) until the first roundabout and go straight on (direction Carrara); always go straight on for about 7 km over the "Variante Aurelia" until you reach Ortonovo. You will see Cantina Lunae on your left.

## 4. Visit to the marble quarries of Carrara (Fantascritti)

Take the highway to Carrara and in the centre of Carrara follow the sign boards "Cave di marmo". Keep on driving through the mountains following "Marmo tours". Fantascritti are biggest marble quarries of this type in the world. The quarries are open to the public all year long from 10 am until 6.30 pm. They drive you inside the mountain and have excellent guides (French, English and Italian). You may have to wait half an hour before the van leaves for the quarries but you can visit the marble museum or have a snack in their restaurant.

#### 5. Day trip to Barga - Lucca

Unforgettable itinerary through the the white (marble) and green Garfagnana mountains to Barga and Lucca. Take the highway to Massa and in the city of Massa follow the signs for "Castelnuovo di Garfagnano". Continue your journey to Barga but don't forget to stop in Isolasanta, a mediaval abandonned village (but with an excellent grill restaurant on the road). Barga is a typical Tuscan mountain village with lots of art and antique shops. After Barga you could either drive back to Massa or proceed towards Lucca. You could spend the evening in Lucca if you wish. However, if you take the highway, Lucca is only 30 minutes away from Lerici and therefore, you may just as well dedicate more time to this fascinating city.

## 6. Last but not least, the Cinque Terre

From May until end of September you can take the boat shuttle from Lerici to Portovenere/5 Terre. Off season, the most comfortable way to visit the 5 Terre is by car to Riomaggiore where you'll find a large car "silo". From there you can either walk or catch the frequent train service stopping in 4 out of 5. Portovenere - which does not belong to the 5Terre but competes with it in terms of beauty- has no train station but you can get there by car. In summertime we do not recommend visiting Portovenere by car (impossible to park your car) but the boat shuttle is the best alternative.

# Beaches and swimming



Baia Blu: The blue bay of Pozzuolo is another recommended beach nearby. You can reach this beach driving to Lerici – San Terenzo and right after San Terenzo, about 50 meters before the tunnel you'll see the indication "Pozzuolo" on your left. From their the parking area of the Baia Blu is clearly indicated. Part of the beach is free but it is worth paying for an umbrella/chair near the swimming pool and excellent restaurant



Fiascherino: Half way the the beautiful, narrow and winding road from Lerici to Tellaro, along the hillside above the coast. While driving, you'll see glimp of one of the most beautiful sandy bays of ltaly and can leave your car at the parking area. The first bay 'Eco del Mare' is a very exclusive (and expensive)pay beach but the free bay right behind is highly recommended. After the parking area, you just need to walk a little further in the direction of Tellaro until you'll see the indication 'mare'. You'll have to face some stairs but it's worth the effort. This small bay (unfortunately getting smaller and smaller every year) with sandy beach can become crowded in high season, we recommend going there during the morning to occupy a good spot for your towel on the free part of the beach or to pay for a chair and umbrella on the pay beach.



Marina di Sarzana: To spend an entire afternoon on a sand beach with children or to enjoy windsurf or other beach sports



Lerici (behind the castle): The beautiful little bay behind the castle of Lerici may be too crowded by young people during August or weekends but is worth visiting. You can reach this bay by feet, walking through the tunnel of the castle of Lerici or by car, following the signs for Tellaro for about 1-2 km and turn right for Maralunga

Lerici, Venere Azzurro: the best reachable beach on the left of Lerici, nice and sandy, and good services



## Beautiful rocky swimming areas:

The Gulf of the Poets and the 5terre offer a unique swimming experience; numerous rocky spots or pebble beaches with cristal clear water. We recommend the center of Tellaro where you settle down in front of the church and can dive into the sea.



San Terenzo: Large sandy beach in front of San Terenzo.

Visiting the Cinque Terre



The most charming way to visit the Cinque Terre is by ferry boat which starts in springtime. This excursion gives you the possibility to hop on and off the shuttle boat for the entire day. See calender on next page.

In case of rough sea there are no boats and you could consider visiting the Cinqueterre by train, leaving from La Spezia. However, you can also drive up to Riomaggiore (through La Spezia, following the sign boards for Cinque Terre) and take the train to visit the villages of the Cinque Terre. In case you go by car, don't forget to visit the most beautiful pearl of this coastline, Portovenere, which has no train station.

You can drive to Lerici by car but remember that you should not enter the tunnel/harbour but leave your car on the large parking areas outside the ZTL zone. You may also consider catching the public bus and we can sell you bus tickets as they are only for sale in the T (tabacco) shops around. Each half hour there is a bus leaving in front of La Musa but be aware that the last bus back from Lerici is around 11 pm in summer and around 8 pm off season. Coming back from Lerici, ring the buzzer on the bus when you see the sign board "Guercio", at the big white house with blue shutters. The bus then drops you off right in front of La Musa.

## La Musa Pool en Fitness



You can enjoy my private pool all day long but please mind some basic principles to ensure the comfort and hygiene for all guests:

- Use slippers around the swimming pool, and take a shower before swimming.
- Diving is dangerous as my pool is only 1.40m deep •
- Use only beach towels are available at the pool upon request ; please do not use the towels from the room.
- Refrain from using shampoo or soap under the pool shower •
- Playing with balls or other toys in and around the swimming pool is forbidden for security reasons and respect for the quiet of the other guests (moreover, Pepe, my dog likes distroying balls 🕲)
- I love children and appreciate parents ensuring the quiet and • wishes of other guests in the pool area
- Please feel free to use my private bar when I am not around. Just write down your consumptions and keep the bar as clean as you can.

Feel free to enjoy my private fitness room, free of charge and on your own responsibility. Prior to using any equipment, please ask me to provide you with some explanation to ensure safe use of all equipment.

# Marble quarries MARMO TOUR E

DIR SARZANA

AUTOSTRADA JUSCITA

A11

Temperatura

18°

## HAI MAI VISITATO UNA CAVA DI MAR VENITE A FANTISCRITTI (carting sul retro

Sei curioso di scoprire "l'oro bianco" conosciuto in tutto il mondo? La MARMO TOUR è fiera di essere la prima a permettere di visitare la galleria RAVACCIONE nata nel cuore del monte, i suggestivo e fantastico del nostro territorio. Sito nel pigzzole "DEI FANTISCRITTI" N' 84 località MISEGUA CARRARA. Seguendo un percorso stabilito gli organizzatori ti guideranno in un fantastico viaggio alla scoperta del tesoro della nostra più grande risorsa... IL MARMO!!!

## Aren't you curious to discover the worldwide famous "white gold"?

MARMO TOUR is proud to be the first to let you visit the RAVACCIONE gallery deep in the heart of the mountain, a striking and sight. Located in yard No 84 "DEE FANTISCRITTI" in MISEGLIA CARRARA. Our organizers will lead you on a fantastic experience, to reveal our toun's treasure, our most important resorce... MARBU

#### Est-tu curieux de découvrir "l'or blanc" connu dans tout le monde? La MARMO TOUR est fière d'avoir l'exclusivé de faire découvrir la gallerie de RAVACCIONE, nee dans le coeur de la montagn

suggestif et fantastique sur notre territoire. Arrive sur le site DE FANTISCRITTI localite MISEGLIA CARRARA. Les organisateurs vous guideront au travers d'un parcours etabli dans un fantastique voyage a la découverte du trésor de no plus grande ressource... LE MARBREIII

## Moechten sie das weltberuehmte "WEISSE GOLD" entdecken?

MARMO TOUR erlaubt ihnen zum ersten Mal, den stollen RAVACCIONE im berginnern zu besichtigen, ein einzi ueberwaeltigendes naturschauspiel unserer landschaft. Ausgangspunkt ist der platz FANTISCRITTI N° 84 MISEGLIA ueber CARRARA. Von dart fuehrt der verlauf der besichtigungstaur in die phantastische welt des groessten schatzes unserer stadt-MARMOR



Giorni Feriali: dalle 14.30 alle 18.30 Sabato e Giomi Festivi, continuato dalle ore 10,30 Dal 12 Agosto TUTI I GIORNI orario continuato dalle ore 10,30 alle 18,30 INFO: 339.7657470





AURELIA

ROTONDA

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MARF

MARINA DI CARRARA

DIREZIONE MASSA

PARTACCIA

MM

Grafiche 38 - 0585 834

Eating, the Italian way

Italians have remained loyal to their food and eating habits. Therefore, eating in Italy has remained very Italian and often typical region by region. Hopefully a short explanation is useful to clarify some peculiarities:

Only on special occasions Italians start from antipasti (apetizers), primi (pasta, risotto, soup, gnocchi, testaroli, ...), secondi (main courses) through dolci (deserts). Taking a 'primo' only probably leaves you on your hunger but you can order either an 'antipasto' or a 'secondo' as a second course. However, a 'secondo' never comes with vegetables or patatoes ; they will bring you only bread. If you want salad, vegetables, patatoes or french fries, you have to order this as a 'contorno'.

One dish meals don't exist in Italy, except pizza! Often, pizzerias are allowed to prepare pizza only and they often only open during the evening due to the heat of the wood-ovens. It shouldn't cost much more than  $10 \in a$  person for a great crispy pizza with a typically light Italian beer. No wonder all Italian families visit a pizzeria at least once a week. Pizza is almost never prepared at home.

Leaving a tip in Italy is not really necessary (leaving some coins on the table is always appreciated though). However, you will usually find "servizio" added to your bill which legally accounts for preparing the table, the water and the basket of bread.

Remind that restaurants are closed during the afternoon and open again by 7 - 7:30 pm. Before that time, you can enjoy a Spritz, a glass of wine or some cocktail in an Italian bar (restaurants usually don't serve aperitifs) and they will usually bring you lots of crackers, tramezzini and pieces of pizza. Italians don't call it happy hour or chill-out but it sometimes satisfies you to the point where you skip the restaurant.

## Most recommended restaurants

## II Loggiato

Via Buonaparte 11 Sarzana 0187 620165 Beautiful historical restaurant on the first floor ; entrance stairs at the side of the Roman church

## Pizzeria "Il Mattatoio",

via Provinciale 174 Romito Best pizza in the area ; at walking distance from La Musa (next to the post office in Romito Magra) 0187 989036

## **II Calandrino**

Piazza Calandrini, Sarzana 0187 603591 excellent chef

first floor (out-door terrace on the

## Osteria Simon Boccanegra (especially good for pizza nucl facescia)

(especially good for pizza and focaccia) Via Ancillotto Cattani, 32 Sarzana 0187.621212 Closed on Monday

## Agli antichi sapori»

Agriturismo on the way to<br/>Bocca di MagraExtremely ap<br/>guests this ye<br/>ViaBonaparteLoc. Senato 4ViaBonaparte335 6527043SarzanaExcellent but open only during<br/>the weekends ; ask me to<br/>book for you333 3630773

## 0187 967605 Closed on Monday

"Fish à volonté", fixed menu

## Marcomando

2nd floor)

Extremely appreciated by my guests this year ViaBonaparte 21 Sarzana 333 3630773

## **Osteria Picciarello**

Via Fieschi 300 La Spezia (on the way to Portovenere) 0187 779237 Closed on Monday Slow food – biodynamic wines