

IN ENGLISH  VERSIONE ITALIANA SULL'ALTRO LATO ►

inBARGA

EVENTS • PLACES • FOOD & DRINK • ACCOMMODATION • SHOPS & SERVICES



BARGA SUMMER GUIDE WHAT, WHEN & WHERE

2020 EDITION

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Barga is a pearl set in the Serchio Valley: a place of unique beauty that touches us profoundly. Its history is linked to that of the Poet Giovanni Pascoli who lived here and wrote some of his most famous poetry. But it also goes back many centuries and is reflected in the charm of our medieval town.

This year "InBarga" has been adapted to the Coronavirus period that has overturned many moments and routines of our daily life and has forced us to re-plan all the events. We want to give you, for this reason, the opportunity to discover in these pages, a way to spend an unforgettable and alternative holiday in Barga despite these difficult moments.

We invite you to wander around the streets and lanes completely absorbed in history, charm, sounds, scents, colours and welcoming warmth of the people. You will discover for sure why Barga and the surrounding places have always been a favourite destination for artists in search of inspiration and of a special Eden. You will fall in love with it too.

inBARGA

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Comune di Barga

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History, uniqueness, independence and beauty:

The city of Barga rises on a hill in the heart of Serchio Valley, a green corner of authentic Tuscany between the Apennine mountains and the Apuan Alps.

Its streets and buildings tell us of a long and important history. This area was already inhabited in ancient times by the Ligurian-Apuans and the Romans. Barga began to take shape in the Langobardic age. Its name would derive from the Germanic word “Berg” which indicates a place located in high.

A FLORENTINE ISLAND IN THE LUCCA AREA

Barga geographical position has marked its history. This area was a forced passage from Po Valley to Tuscany, that caused war between the nearby cities of Lucca and Pisa

during the Middle Age. To protect itself from wars and invasions, in 1332 Barga took a decision that made the difference: it voluntarily submitted to the city of Florence. This was powerful enough to guarantee Barga protection and, at the same time, far enough to preserve its independence. Moreover, Florence agreed to give it the status of duty free area.

Barga was a Florentine island between the Republic of Lucca and the area ruled by the Este family for five centuries, until the years of the Unification of Italy.

This peculiar link with Florence left signs in the local society, economics, religious life, architectural and artistic heritage (for example, the Robbian altarpieces present in town).

BELOW: THE DUOMO AND CASTLE OF BARGA. OPPOSIT: BARGA IN THE 500S FROM THE FLORENCE STATE ARCHIVE; A SUGGESTIVE VIEW OF THE RIPA ARCHES BUILT IN THE 30S OF THE 1900S.



the charm of Barga

Barga is different from all the other villages in the Serchio Valley. It seems almost a small capital, a piece of city in the mountains. Its compact and well-defined urban space has been perfectly preserved over the centuries.

BARGA AND EMIGRATION

Paradoxically, the Unification of Italy had a negative effect on the area. When the borders were opened, the tax privileges stopped and people suffered a sudden impoverishment. Between the 19th and the 20th century, strong waves of migrations started, particularly towards the United States and Great Britain. Many “barghigiani” remained in the countries where they migrated. Many others returned to their town, bringing with them traditions and cultural identity of the countries where they moved to. They also took material wealth and this can be still seen today in the “liberty” and “eclectic” villas built by them on their comeback.

THE GOTHIC LINE

After this phenomenon, Barga continued its existence without troubles, with the exception of the Second World War.

Barga lived the drama of the Gothic Line. Numerous signs were left by this dramatic event, especially in the mountain village of Sommocolonia, epicenter of the bloody Christmas battle in 1944.

You can see this long history of uniqueness and independence in the town streets. Around the two high streets crossing the historical centre, via di Mezzo and via del Pretorio, there is a web of narrow and sug-

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE >



VILLA MOORINGS, ONE OF THE VILLAS BUILT BY BARGA EMIGRANTS; REENACTORS DURING A COMMEMORATION AT SOMMOCOLONIA; A RELAXING EVENING IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE.

gestive medieval streets (known as *carraie*). Along the “*carraie*” you can meet imposing palaces and architectures of Florentine and Renaissance inspiration together with small and enchanting squares.

BARGA'S JEWEL

The main monument of the city is the millennial Duomo. From the churchyard you can see a view of the entire valley. The imposing and austere aspect of the Duomo gives it the shape of a fortress. The luminous and vaste view contrasts with the penumbra of the interior, rich in works of art such as the pulpit dating back to the 13th century.

The surrounding space hosted the signs of civic life such as the *Arringo*, the parliament of the time, and *Palazzo Pretorio*, the old municipal palace.

This area has a fascinating and mysterious history, for the many symbols and for the suggestion of position, aligned with the surrounding mountains and with the constellations. It seems to be indifferent to the

passing of time, in an arcane but protective atmosphere.

GIOVANNI PASCOLI

From the Duomo you can enjoy beautiful sunsets and hear the suggestive sound of the bells: a very particular sound that inspired one of the greatest Italian poet of the 20th century, Giovanni Pascoli. Pascoli lived in the nearby town of Castelvecchio for almost twenty years. He took inspiration for his poetry from the place and its people. Casa Pascoli, which is now a museum, offers a unique experience of a journey back in time: it has remained exactly as it was when the poet lived there.

THE TRADITIONS

We have inherited much knowledge of ancient peasant life: cooking traditions, based on typical products like chestnuts, and popular traditions, such as the Befana feast (her home is located in Peggiana village).



ABOVE: THE FACADE OF THE DUOMO; OPPOSITE: THE ROMANESQUE MARBLE PULPIT (XIII C.); GIOVANNI PASCOLI IN HIS GARDEN AT CASTELVECCHIO



OPPOSITE: THE TRADITIONAL SONGS FOR THE BEFANA; BELOW; TREKKING IN THE BARGA APPENNINES; AN IMAGE OF THE “PIAZZETTE” FESTIVAL IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE



SURROUNDED BY NATURE

From the past we have also received and preserved the uncontaminated nature. You can enjoy the green centuries-old chestnut trees, the scent of woods, the brightness of the valleys that are the setting for hiking trails (on foot, on horseback or by bicycle). The trails go through the whole area, reach and cross the Appennines peaks. Barga community owns hundreds of hectares of land and woods between Tuscany and Emilia Romagna.

This possession may date back to the 6th century and has been contended for centuries with the Modena neighbours. Today ancient disputes have stopped. The citizens of Barga exercise civic uses on these portions of land. Every year, on the last Saturday of July, Barga celebrates friendship with the neighbours of Fiumalbo and Pievepelago on



the shores of Lago Santo, a peaceful corner surrounded by woods, that you can reach from Barga on foot.

“I BORGHI PIÙ BELLI D’ITALIA”

This peaceful climate does not preclude a tourist vocation in Barga and its villages. Barga is included in the list of the “Most beautiful villages in Italy” and has been acknowledged as Slow City and Orange Flag of the Italian Touring Club.

It is officially recognized as one of the cities with the best hospitality and best services. Summer life offers a wide range of events and social occasions, such as restaurants, bars, village and food festivals (“sagre”), and big events such as the Piazzette festival in “Barga castle”, the ancient part of the town, or international cultural festivals such as Opera Barga or Barga Jazz Festival.

Piazza Angelo and Piazza del Comune



PIAZZA ANGIOLO



LOGGIA DEI MERCANTI

Piazza Angelo and Piazza del Comune are the heart of the Historical Centre and are surrounded by Medici period buildings. Here you can find some popular bars and restaurants to spend a relaxing moment in Barga.

Loggia dei Mercanti

Loggia Mercanti and the nearby Palazzo Pancrazi, headquarters of the Town Hall, are two excellent examples of Florentine style XVI th century Barga architecture. Here you can find Caffè Capretz with an epigraph dedicated to Pascoli.

Teatro dei Differenti

Teatro dei Differenti was built in 1795 from a previous one of 1689. It is one of the best preserved and most prestigious theatre of its size in Tuscany. Every year it hosts an important theatrical season and Opera Barga and Barga Jazz festivals.



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Orientation

LE PORTE DI BARGA There are two main doorways to the antique castle of Barga: Porta Macchiaia, so called because it opens up to the great woods of the Apennines (Macchie). From here the road continues up to the Barga mountains and is the starting point for popular trekking and hiking itineraries. From Porta Macchiaia you can go along Via di Mezzo to reach the historical centre or the Duomo along Via della Speranza; Porta Reale or Porta Mancianella, is the main entrance to the historical centre from Piazzale del Fosso where you can also find a car park. The main streets of the centre start from here: Via di Mezzo that takes you to the heart of the town and Via del Pretorio to the Duomo.

LE ANTICHE CARRAIE The old narrow and winding streets (carrarie) of Barga Vecchia. offer special unique views and suggestive atmosphere.



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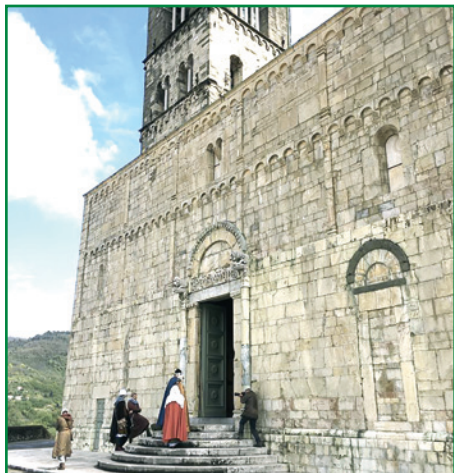
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The Duomo



The Duomo is on the summit of the Castle of Barga and was built in different stages from XI to XVI centuries. It is a monument of rare beauty and from its churchyard you can admire a breath-taking view of the Apuan Alps.

It is a Romanesque jewel that hosts suggestive external decorations and various works of art. There are two stoups and a fragment of a fresco from the original constructions. Here you can admire the panel of the Madonna del Mulino and Della Robbia altarpieces and the most important relic of all: the XIIIth century pulpit of Guido Bigiarelli.



Pieve di Loppia



The Pieve di Loppia can be admired from the main road Fornaci – Barga. Known since 845 it is a building with three naves and protruding transept and semicircular apse that have maintained the severe lines of the original Romanesque building. Inside you will find prestigious works of art like wooden altars and XVIIth century canvases.

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Santissimo Crocifisso

Santissimo Crocifisso is the oldest church after the Duomo. The late XVI century facade has two marble statues on both sides of the gate. The interior is rich of gold and stucco decorations and there is a beautiful wooden choir of mid-seventeenth century.

San Francesco

San Francesco is outside the historical centre in Via dei Frati near the Hospital. It was built in the middle of the XVth century by the Monk Beato Michele. Here you can admire wonderful Robbiano terracotta pieces and a well-preserved cloister.

Santa Elisabetta

S. Elisabetta is in Via del Pretorio and was built in the XVth century in the presence of a female convent. Inside you can admire a beautiful Della Robbia altar piece and a XIIIth century wooden Crucifix.

San Giusto in Tiglio

The small mountain village of Tiglio is gathered around this Church that looks onto an arcade with many antique epigraphs. On both sides of the main altare you can see two statues of Saints Giusto and Anthony while in the centre a medieval marble statue of the Annunciation.




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THE BEFANA COTTAGE

LOCALITÀ IL PIANO (PEGNANA)

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Pegnana is a small village of Barga 8 kms away near the Apennines that holds a very popular food festival between June and July. The village is also famous for the Befana Cottage (the official residence of the “old mountain lady” who is more famous here than Father Christmas. She brings presents to the children on the eve of the Epiphany on the 5th of January. Here from the second Sunday of October and every Sunday (and also 6th January) until the end of January it is possible to meet her too in person.



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☎ 0583 711100 – 0583 724759

🌐 www.comune.barga.lu.it

The “Civic Museum of the Territory” is hosted at Palazzo Pretorio, the old Town Hall headquarters where you can visit the ancient prisons. The exhibition rooms propose archeological findings of the Paleozoic, Medieval and Renaissance periods. Here you can admire the Podestà Crest of Arms and the antique measurements under the Loggia.



MULTIMEDIAL MUSEUM OF THE FORTRESSES

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**JOHN BELLANY****PIAZZA ANGELIO 9-10, BARGA**

In the splendid setting of Piazza Angelo an exhibition of the works of the great Scottish artist of international fame: John Bellany. An exhibition dedicated to his works created in his long artistic career, inspired by the landscapes of his beloved Scotland and by the years spent in the Serchio Valley.

JOHN BELLANY COLLECTION**VIA ROMA, BARGA**📍 www.villapascoli.it

At the old people's home "Villa di Riposo Giovanni Pascoli" you can admire on appointment the collection of twelve great paintings of John Bellany considered to be one of the greatest contemporary artists.

CASA CORDATI**VIA DI MEZZO 15, BARGA**📍 www.casacordati.it/museo

17th century building named after the notorious local artist Bruno Cordati (1890 –1979). His works of art are exposed in the rooms that were once his own art studio.

“CASA BRASILE” IN TUSCANY**VIA DELLA ROTA 8, BARGA**

🕒 open on appointment ☎ 339 6105635

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GALLERIES AND CULTURAL CENTRES

OXO GALLERY**VIA DI BORGO, 28, BARGA**☎ 0583 710452 📧 oxogallery@oxogallery.com

OXO Collection The Gallery an exhibition centre dedicated to contemporary art that promotes the many artists that live and work in the Apuane area. The Gallery exhibits periodically the works of Fabrizio Da Prato, Roberto Giansanti, Keane, Giorgia Madiai, Stefano Tommasi.

MUSEUM STANZE DELLA MEMORIA**VIA DI MEZZO, BARGA**☎ 0583 724791 📍 www.comune.barga.lu.it

Exhibitions, events.

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Casa Pascoli, a memorial journey



All places in Italy are full of history. In some of them, we find an atmosphere made of tales, stories, words with sounds, colors and scents of the lives we met in novels and poems. They became part of ourselves, of our personal memory. A trip to these places, is a journey to self-discovery.

One of many, in Italy, is the house where the poet Giovanni Pascoli lived, in the village of Caprona, at Castelvecchio, near Barga.

Pascoli arrived here in 1895 by chance. He was looking for a place, surrounded with nature that could give new strength to his literary production.

This is the holiday home where he used to live with his sister Maria and their dog Gulù, until 1912, the year of his death.

In his home Pascoli cultivated love for the Italian language and Latin poetry and wrote his most important works.

He took inspiration from the place and its inhabitants: he used to socialize with farmers, studied their language and traditions and analyzed their social problems like emigration. Their simple and metaphorical language was absorbed in his poetry.

The house is today the same as it was at the time the poet lived there. On his death in 1912, his sister Maria decided to create a sort of “shrine” in memory of her beloved brother. Structure, furniture, objects, books, documents, rooms, and the garden have remained the same since the beginning of the 20th century: even the calendar stopped on the day of Pascoli’s death.

All the “Pascoli heritage” is now property of Barga Municipality. The Giovanni Pascoli Foundation, established in 1998, works to protect and develop this great cultural heritage.

The Foundation aims is, in particular, to rediscover the surprising relevance of Pascoli’s work. During the year many cultural events take place, like the “Homage Evening to Giovanni Pascoli and to the Culture of the Peoples of the Earth”, every August 10th, when some famous Italian actors read Pascoli’s poems in the Museum garden.

Right now the Foundation and Barga Municipality, with the support of the Cassa di Risparmio di Lucca Foundation, are working to recover the Casa Pascoli theatre and the former kindergarten, named after Pascoli’s parents. This was established by express will of his sister Mariù; all this will complete the creation of a “Pascoli Studies Centre”.

Both places will host cultural production activities.



GIOVANNI PASCOLI HOUSE MUSEUM

LOCALITÀ CAPRONA, CASTELVECCHIO PASCOLI

You can visit the rooms, furniture and relics of the time when the poet lived here, in addition to his impressive library and archive.

The house and the garden are exactly the same as they were in the early 20th century.

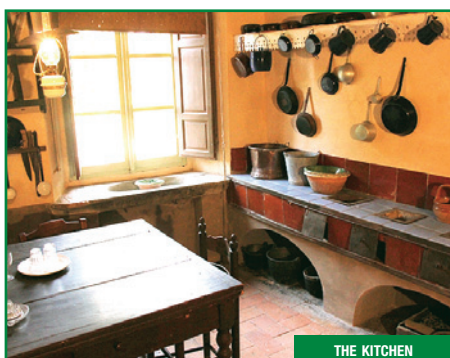
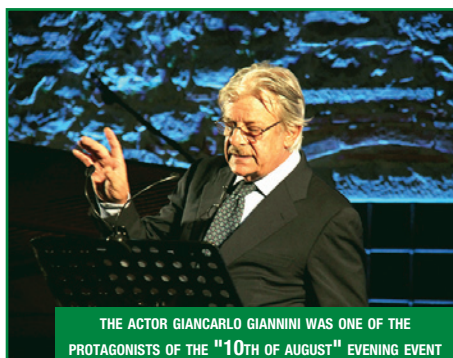
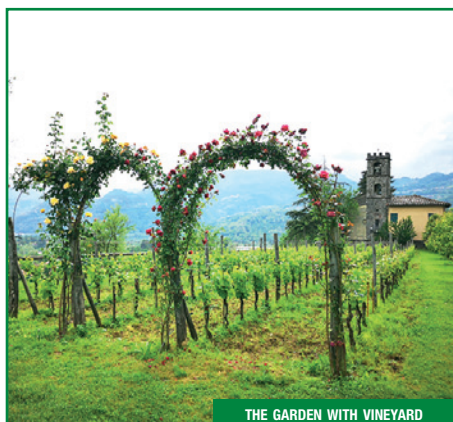
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AROUND BARGA

TRAIL B1

BARGA - TIGLIO - SEGGIANE - LOPPIA - LOPPIA - FORNACI - BARGA

DISTANCE: **13,0 KM** - AVERAGE WALKING TIME CA. **4H**

SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **450**

TRAIL TYPE: **PATHS, MULE TRACKS, CARRIAGEWAYS - EASY**

A trail to discover some enchanting places of the surrounding hills of Barga, walking along old mule tracks that take you to Tiglio Basso (possible connection to Tiglio Alto), the Seggiane church, the romanesque church of Loppia, the old town of Fornaci di Barga, Barga, the church of Saint Francis where you can admire the precious Terre Robbiane works and the Cloister.

TRAIL B2

BARGA - CATAGNANA - SOMMOCOLONIA - ALBIANO - BARGA

DISTANCE: **9,0 KM** - AVERAGE WALKING TIME CA. **3H**

SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **450**

TRAIL TYPE: **PATHS, MULE TRACKS, CARRIAGEWAYS - EASY**

Another trail to discover the enchanting places of the surrounding hills of Barga walking along some antique mule tracks once used to connect hamlets of Barga like Sommocolonia, of Roman origin and theatre of intense battles of the second World War, Capannelle, Albiano, with spectacular views of the Valley and back to Barga crossing pleasant fields along the Corsonna river.



TOWARDS THE APENNINE MOUNTAINS

CAI TRAIL N. 20

RENAIO - LA VETRICIA - PIAN DI CACIAIA - PASSO PORTICCIOLA SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **750**

AVERAGE WALKING TIME: UPHILL **2H 30'** - DOWNHILL **1H 45'**

TRAIL TYPE: **PATHS, SHORT STRETCHES OF ROAD. IN SOME PARTS DEMANDING**

RENAIO M. **1010** - LA VETRICIA M. **1300** - PORTICCIOLA M. **1720**

CAI TRAIL N. 22

SOMMOCOLONIA - DOGANA - PASSO DEL SALTELLO SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **900**

AVERAGE WALKING TIME: UPHILL **4H 30'** - DOWNHILL **3H**

TRAIL TYPE: **WHITE ROADS, PATHS, DEMANDING FOR GRADIENT AND LENGTH**

SOMMOCOLONIA M. **700** - PASSO SALTELLO M. **1600**

CAI TRAIL N. 30

MONTEBONO - ANGELETTI - LA VETRICIA SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **750**

AVERAGE WALKING TIME: UPHILL **2H 30'** - DOWNHILL **1H 45'**

TRAIL TYPE: **WHITE ROADS, PATHS, DEMANDING**

MONTEBONO, PONTE CORSONNA M. **550** - LA VETRICIA M. **1300**

CAI TRAIL N. 26

LA VETRICIA - BACOLETA - FOCE DELL'ALTARE SLOPE GRADIENT CA. M. **550**

AVERAGE WALKING TIME: UPHILL **2H** - DOWNHILL **1H 30'**

TRAIL TYPE: **WHITE ROADS, PATHS - HIKING**

LA VETRICIA M. **1300** - FOCE ALTARE M. **1830**

INFO FOR OTHER EXCURSIONS

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FRANCA DI RICCIO

☎ 347 6649298

ITALO EQUI

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GPS TRAIL SYSTEM AVAILABLE ON

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CONTACTS

✉ info@caibarga.it



Natural Adventure Fun Park

Set in the suggestive panorama of the Apuan Alps, Vagli Park offers an unforgettable experience for those who are in search of adventure and fun or want to relax and spend time in contact with nature, or in search for new and fascinating places to discover like the antique Medieval village, the lake and the mysterious village at the bottom of it. There are also many other events that will ensure you great emotions during your visit at Vagli.

One of the main attractions not to be missed is the **ZIP LINE**: a breath-taking flight 1500 m. long over the lake and the old town of Vagli Sotto at a height of 350 m approx. and at a maximum speed of 150 km/h. An emotional jump in the air and a thrilling 1500 m. flight hooked up to a steel cable with special flight equipment.

The **SUSPENDED BRIDGE ON WIRE ROPES** is one of the last masterpieces built in Vagli and attracts an enormous number of visitors. It connects the two banks of the lake and is situated in a position where you can enjoy the spectacular view of the surroundings, the peaks of Mount Tambura and the Pisanino. At the centre of the gangway there are new sheets of transparent glass that considerably increase the thrill and fascination while crossing the suspended bridge.

On the bank of Vagli Lake there is also the Park of Honour and Dishonour filled with precious marble statues.

You will find this and much more at Vagli Park and village.



VAGLI PARK

VAGLI SOTTO (LU)

☎ 347 1343362 (from 9 to 11)

☎ 347 1352002 (from 17 to 19)

✉ info@vaglipark.it

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Mountain bike passion at the Ciocco Bike Circle

Are you a MTB fanatic, a hobby rider or an experienced off-roader? Live your passion to the full in our exclusive Ciocco Bike Circle.

A park nestled among chestnut and beech trees that periodically hosts important cycling races, the largest indoor pump track in Italy and a network of paths in constant expansion, with kilometres of trails in the woods (cross country, enduro and downhill) to cater for all tastes and levels of difficulty.

If you are a beginner, sign up for a first-level MTB course to have qualified instructors at your disposal.

MTB ADVENTURES - A fast, fun and eco-friendly way to explore our local area is riding an e-bike, an electric bicycle with pedal assistance. Choose from our selection of e-bike tours with guide to find the one that suits you!

THE JUNIOR WHEELCHUCKS - With summer comes the “Junior WheelChucks”: an initiative dedicated to children (6-12 years) to get together, have fun, explore the world and immerse themselves in nature with the “EcologyE programme. Single days, one week or 15 days.

BIKE SERVICES - Bike rental (including electric bikes) and equipment, Customized lessons, Ride school, Bike shuttle - mechanical lift, Tool station for minor repairs, Bike store, Washing area (with pressure pump), Washing machine and drier, Dedicated menu/packed lunch at the Locanda Alla Posta.



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THE DUOMO OF BARGA



The Duomo has many mysteries still to be revealed like the inscription on the façade that no-one has ever been able to decipher exactly, the numerous Medieval symbols engraved on the marble or the probable contribution of its foundation on behalf of the Templars proven by the hidden symbols between the naves and finally the mystery of Saint Christopher Patron Saint of Barga who seemingly had Egyptian origins and is associated to the Sirio star that suggests and confirms mysterious pagan roots.

THE MOST SCOTTISH TOWN IN ITALY



Barga is also known as “The most Scottish town in Italy” due to the fact that many inhabitants emigrated there and some chose to come back to their homeland bringing back fortune and traditions. This is the reason why the “Fish & Chips” (typical dish with which the Barghigiani emigrants made their fortune) festival is held in Barga every year and why “Burn’s night” is celebrated at the end of January. But you can also breathe Scotland thanks to sport like football as Barga has its own Celtic Supporters Club.

MONTE FORATO



FOTO PIERLUIGI TORTELLI

It is impossible not to appreciate the breathtaking panorama of the Apuan mountains from the Duomo and the suggestive Monte Forato, a natural thirty metre arch. It seems that the Duomo is perfectly aligned with the hole which may suggest the existence of an antique Ligurian-Apuan observatory where the church now stands. This is certainly a mystery just like the double sunset phenomena that Monte Forato offers us every year in January and in November when the sun sets but then reappears for a few minutes from the hole and finally disappears.

THE GREEN “PATRIARCHS”



On the road up to Renaio, the panorama offers views of well-cared for chestnut groves where you find the green “patriarchs”, secular chestnut trees that have become real monuments of the area. Some are on private land but others are easily visible like for example the “Castagno dell’Eva” near the inn with the same name, or other chestnut trees near San Paolino church. While you can find other examples going towards Sommacolina. All of them are around 600 to 800 years old.

FORNACI DI BARGA - Is the most important and populated centre after the main town. It was built as an industrial town and today it is a modern and rich commercial centre and ideal for shopping.

CASTELVECCHIO PASCOLI - Is named after the Poet Giovanni Pascoli who set up his home here in 1895 on the Caprona hill where he lived with his sister Maria until his death. The Casa Pascoli museum, grounds, the seventeenth century church of San Niccolò and the Orso stream are definitely worth a visit. In the town in July there is a gastronomic festival.

SOMMOCOLONIA - Is one of the precious jewels of the Barga hills with its rich history and characteristic views. A place that you will fall in love with.

ALBIANO - A place to visit for its vast panorama of Barga and the Serchio Valley.

TIGLIO - A place to visit for its beautiful panorama, characteristic historical centre and San Giusto church.

RENAIO - A place to visit for the mountain atmosphere and secular chestnut trees.

PEGNANA - A place to visit for the beautiful nature, the Befana Cottage and the gastronomic festival in June-July.

SAN PIETRO IN CAMPO - A place to visit for the Wheat Threshing Festival in July and the Pork Festival in August.

MOLOGNO - A place to visit for the services offered at the train station and for the bus terminal.

LOPPIA - A place to visit for the antique Romanesque Xth century Parish Church and bridge over the Loppora stream.

FILECCHIO - A place to visit for its rural landscape and traditional Polenta and Birds Festival in September.

PONTE ALL'ANIA - A place to visit for its industrial history.

PEDONA - A place to visit for the San Maurizio church and ruins of an antique castle.



FOTO GRAZIANO SALOTTI



FROM ABOVE: FORNACI DI BARGA, CASTELVECCHIO PASCOLI, SOMMOCOLONIA, RENAI

EVENTS

JANUARY

“LA BEFANA” - In Barga and in its surrounding villages there is a very strong tradition of the “Befana” a sweet old lady from the mountains that replaces Father Christmas and brings presents to the children on the eve of the Epiphany. For the occasion many groups dress up and go around the town singing the typical “Befana” song. During the day and in the evening of the 5th of January Barga hosts two traditional feasts, one for children and one for adults. A fascinating period not to be missed. The following day families flock to her cottage in the middle of chestnut trees in Pegnana.



FEBRUARY

THE “BACCANALE” - Usually takes place the last weekend of February or beginning of March. The Carnival is celebrated here on a Saturday afternoon with a party for children in the new part of Barga and one in the evening for adults in Fosso square.



APRIL

THE 25TH OF APRIL WALK - The anniversary of “Liberation Day” on the 25th of April is celebrated with a walk from Barga to the beautiful mountain town of Sommacolonia where you can eat, drink and listen to music all day.



MAY

MAY DAY IN FORNACI - The 1st of May is the National May Day holiday and in Fornaci di Barga it is the day of the largest expo in the Serchio Valley that attracts thousands of visitors thanks to the different exhibition sectors and a multicoloured festival of flowers. In 2021 the event will celebrate the 60th edition and will be held on 1st and 2nd of May 2021.

ON THIS PAGE FROM THE TOP: THE BEFANA TRADITION; XXV APRIL IN SOMMACOLONIA; MAY DAY IN FORNACI.

ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE FROM THE TOP: DINNER IN A SQUARE WITH THE DUOMO IN THE BACKGROUND; BELOW OPERA BARGA; OPPOSITE BARGAINJAZZ

EVENTS

JULY

“LE PIAZZETTE” FESTIVAL - Usually held from mid-July to 25th of July. The historical centre is animated by the “Piazzette”. The squares of the antique castle become a beautiful open-air stage with good music, good food and drink and lots of “movida”. Not to be missed.

OPERA BARGA - From the beginning of July to the beginning of August Barga hosts different musical appointments of the famous international festival. Opera Barga is specialised in the discovery of Baroque music and proposes other Classical music concerts that are part of the projects “Piano Barga” and “Musica nei Borghi”.

“FORNACI IN CANTO” - On the last weekend of July Fornaci holds the National Singing Competition “Fornaci in canto” that in over ten years has brought to the lights many talented young singers of Italian music



AUGUST

BARGA JAZZ - After mid-August, even though there are some interesting previews at the beginning of the month, the Barga Jazz Festival takes place in the historical centre of Barga and around the town. For over thirty years the Festival has proposed an original arrangement and composition competition for Jazz orchestras and has hosted many concerts with the participation of many famous Jazz musicians. One of the most lively events is BargalNJazz with music in the streets and squares of the old town of Barga that normally takes place on the first Sunday after the 15th of August.

HOMAGE EVENING TO PASCOLI - The 10th of August in Castelvecchio Pascoli is a special evening: it is the magical evening that Giovanni Pascoli (who spent here the last years of his life) describes in the intense poem “X Agosto”. The enchanting atmosphere of the beautiful gardens of the house-museum is the accomplice of this splendid evening dedicated to the Poet for over 30 years. Every year it is enriched by important theatre and film actors and excellent musicians that blend music and poetry in an unforgettable evening.



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

BARGA SCOTTISH WEEK - Between the first and second weekend of September the Barga Scottish Week is held in the historical centre and other parts of the town with events, Scottish market, special dinners dedicated to Scotland and the relationship between Barga and Scotland.

In the same week there is also the Barga School of Scots Music, Song and Dance organised by the well-known artist of Scottish and Gaelic music Hamish Moore with the splendid jam sessions in the squares of Barga



NOVEMBER

"BARGA CASTAGNA" - Between the end of October and beginning of November the town hosts "Barga Castagna" homage to the tradition of the chestnut and chestnut flour, that used to be considered the main dish of Barga mountains.

Conferences, chestnut maker competition, tasting of traditional dishes made from chestnuts and chestnut flour are the main ingredients of this beautiful Autumn festival.



DECEMBER

"BARGA IN CIOCCOLATA" - Barga hosts this Chocolate Festival in the historical centre usually on the long weekend of the 8th of December.

A Festival completely dedicated to the masters of chocolate with delicious chocolates proposed in all ways and forms for all tastes.

"PRESEPE VIVENTE" - On the 23rd of December the traditional and spiritual live Nativity Scene takes place in the antique castle with over 200 figurants in costume and many old trades to accompany the Sacred Family along the way.



FROM THE TOP SCOTTISH WEEK IN "PIAZZA DEL COMUNE";
BARGA CASTAGNA IN "GIARDINO"; THE NATIVITY SCENE IN
"BARGA VECCHIA"

EVENTS

FOOD FESTIVALS

There are many food festivals all over Barga that usually take place in the summer.

During the 2nd of **JUNE** Fornaci feast day **THE FESTIVAL OF ALL FESTIVALS**, is held in piazza IV Novembre. A special fair of all the main gastronomic events of the area; June is also the month of the **ROVELLA FESTIVAL IN FORNACI VECCHIA** organised by the Parish and Fornaci 2.0; while on the last weekend of June and the first one of July there is the suggestive Festival in the Barga mountains on the green fields full of Chestnut trees in **PEGNANA**. In the middle of the same week there is also the beer festival **PEGNANA A TUTTA BIRRA** dedicated to the youngsters. Everything is organised by the local village Committee.

In **JULY** the traditional appointments are **DINNER UNDER THE STARS** organised by the Misericordia and Blood Donor associations of Castelvocchio at the village's multi-purpose field usually from Friday to Sunday of the second week in July.

Another unforgettable festival that usually runs from the last week in July to mid-**AUGUST** is the original **FISH AND CHIPS FESTIVAL** in honour of the traditional dish that represents Barga emigration to Scotland. The Festival takes place at the football stadium "Johnny Moscardini" in



ABOVE, THE PEGNANA FESTIVAL; BELOW, THE PORK FESTIVAL IN SAN PIETRO IN CAMPO

Barga and is organised by AS Barga. On the first weekend of August there is room also for the **STREET FOOD FESTIVAL** that takes place in Piazza Pascoli with many food trucks from different regions.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14



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EVENTS

At San Pietro in Campo the traditional **PORK FESTIVAL** takes place on the last two weekends of **AUGUST** at the multi-functional field.

The **POLENTA AND BIRDS FESTIVAL** closes the summer festivals and usually takes place on the first three weekends of **SEPTEMBER** and is organised at Filecchio by the active Polentari association.

In the autumn months there are two chestnut appointments not to be missed. The **“MONDINATA” IN MOLOGNO**, usually on the weekend after mid-**OCTOBER**, and the **“MONDINATA” IN SOMMOCOLONIA** on the weekend after mid-**NOVEMBER** for “San Frediano”.



POLENTA AND BIRDS FESTIVAL IN FILECCHIO

SUMMER AND COVID-19

The Coronavirus emergency has completely changed our behaviour and Summer 2020 as many events for obvious reasons will not take place.

The programme regarding the events that may be carried out in the following months is still in progress and has to be defined while this guide is going into print.

Therefore in these pages we want to show the enthusiasm and desire of this community to welcome the visitors. You will find in these pages all the main events that are usually held in Barga all year round, with the benefit of the doubt, for the reasons mentioned above, that they will actually be carried out.

There are also in these pages all the reasons why you should choose, in any moment of the year, to visit these places and this territory.

We are sure of one thing though: A visit to Barga and the Serchio Valley in these particular times or in normal ones will always represent a unique opportunity to discover a territory that can offer you great emotions all around.



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www.villamoorings.it villamoorings@gmail.com

Tommaso Giannini



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MARKET UNDER THE STARS

In Barga Giardino, Via Canipaia, Piazza Pascoli, Piazzale Matteotti every summer on Wednesday evenings in July and beginning of August the traditional Market under the Stars. A real festival by night rather than a market.

ANTIQU AND HANDICRAFT MARKET

On every second Sunday of the month the "Fosso" and in the most beautiful squares of the historical centre are animated by market stalls of handicraft, antique and typical products, a way to enjoy a relaxing day in the town along the narrow streets and lanes of the old part of the town.

FARMERS MARKET

You can buy local products at Km 0 on a weekly basis at the Farmer market in Fornaci di Barga where you can find a delicious but economical range of short food supply chain products.

At the market you can also find a wide-range of local products

FORNACI DI BARGA MARKET

Food, clothes, shoes, household goods and many other items for hobbies and free time every Friday in the area Piazzale Don Minzoni - Via Mozza - Via Enrico Medi - Via Dante Alighieri



ABOVE, MARKET UNDER THE STARS; BELOW, FARMERS MARKET

BARGA MARKET

Food, clothes, shoes, household goods and many other items for hobbies and free time every Saturday in the area Via Roma – Piazza Pascoli – Piazzale Matteotti

La Conca d'oro di Silvia Bacci
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SAINT ANTHONY

On the 17th of January Fornaci di Barga celebrates its Patron Saint Anthony. On this day the old part of Fornaci hosts a traditional fair. In the past it was the occasion to buy the pig for the family and the cuttings for the vineyard. Now you find modern time products.

SPRING FAIR

In Fornaci the change of season and nice weather is celebrated with the classical spring fair in Fornaci Vecchia, organized between March and April.

THE SECOND OF JUNE FAIR

Republic Day on the 2nd of June also means to Fornaci the anniversary of the Natural Commercial Centre. For this reason, along with the institutional celebrations, there are commercial events and entertainment including a big market with over 200 stands.



THE 2ND OF JUNE FAIR AT FORNACI

SANTA MARIA AND SAN ROCCO FAIR

The traditional and secular Barga Fair in Barga Giardino from 15th to to the morning of 17th August. Hundreds of stalls where you can find a wide range of goods at excellent prices at the hundreds of market stalls. It is an important appointment for all the local Barga people, an occasion to meet up and have a chat after the religious ceremonies held on the 15th at the Fornacetta Church and on the 16th and 17th at San Rocco Church. On this occasion the local people usually buy garlic for the winter and watermelon.

Via Roma 10 Barga - Via del Brennero 996 Lucca
Via Stat. Lucchese 880/882 Gragnano (LU)
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JANUARY

SAINT ANTHONY

Fornaci on the 17th of January celebrates the Feast of Saint Anthony protector of animals but above all Patron Saint of the town. In Fornaci Vecchia there is Holy Mass followed by the traditional blessing of the animals in the "Aia del Beniamino".

In the Church of Fornaci Vecchia the devotees during mass collect the devotion rolls dedicated to the Patron Saint of Fornaci

FEBRUARY

SAINT APOLLONIA

The Saint is venerated in San Pietro in Campo where on the weekend closest to the 9th of February many events take place like the traditional evening walk around the village that leads to the Church where there is a huge bonfire in honour of the martyrdom of the Saint who through herself into the fire so as not to give up her own Christian faith.

APRIL

ROGATION DAY

Tiglio on the 25th of April celebrates Rogation Day where special supplications are recited in Latin to invoke a prosperous harvest and to ask the Lord to protect the fields and the harvest but above all to keep away catastrophes.



SAINT ANTHONY IN FORNACI

JUNE

CORPUS DOMINI IN BARGA AND FORNACI

The "infiorate" are sacred images created with flower petals, sand and coloured sawdust. They are normally created in Barga and Fornaci for the procession of Corpus Domini that falls every year on the Thursday after the Holy Trinity celebrations and is therefore a movable event.

JULY

WHEAT THRESHING FESTIVAL

San Pietro in Campo organises on the third Sunday of July a beautiful homage to the local farmer tradition, the commemoration of wheat threshing. Many local people dress up in traditional costumes and around 40 vintage farming vehicles take part.

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WHEAT THRESHING FESTIVAL

SAINT CHRISTOPHER

Saint Christopher is the Patron Saint of Barga and is celebrated on the 25th of July with Holy Mass in the Duomo, one of the most touching and suggestive moments is the procession on the 24th. On this occasion the "arm" of the Saint is carried to the Duomo followed by hundreds of participants and figurants in costume. The Florentine Historical Football group opens the procession in homage to the Florentine Barga of the past.

AUGUST

FORGIVENESS OF SAINT FRANCIS

The Franciscan feast is celebrated with great participation and devotion on the 2nd of August. In the Church of Saint Francis many religious functions take place. In the evening at 21 there is the traditional



SAINT CHRISTOPHER

procession with the statue of the Saint carried in the cortège.

SEPTEMBER

THE 40-HOUR DEVOTION IN RENAIO

The 40-hour devotion is usually held during the Easter period but also on Palm Sunday and on Easter Monday and Tuesday. In Renaio on the other hand it is held on the third or fourth Sunday of September.

This ritual is connected to the past of this mountain community that used to be dedicated exclusively to pastoralism and during the winter months to the transhumance towards the plains of Pisa and the Maremma. On their return the shepherds would go directly to the alpine pastures and for this reason it was decided to change this ritual to September.

DECEMBER

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The sound of the bells on the eve of the Immaculate Conception is on the 7th of December. It is the traditional concert of the secular bells of the Duomo that toll for a whole hour. This tradition has taken place since 1522 as homage to the Barga co-patroness Madonna del Molino. Three heavy bells that carry the burden of a lot of history are tolled with great expertise: the first one is "Maria" the smallest bell of 1580 that in 2020 will ring for the 440th time.

LOCAL PRODUCE

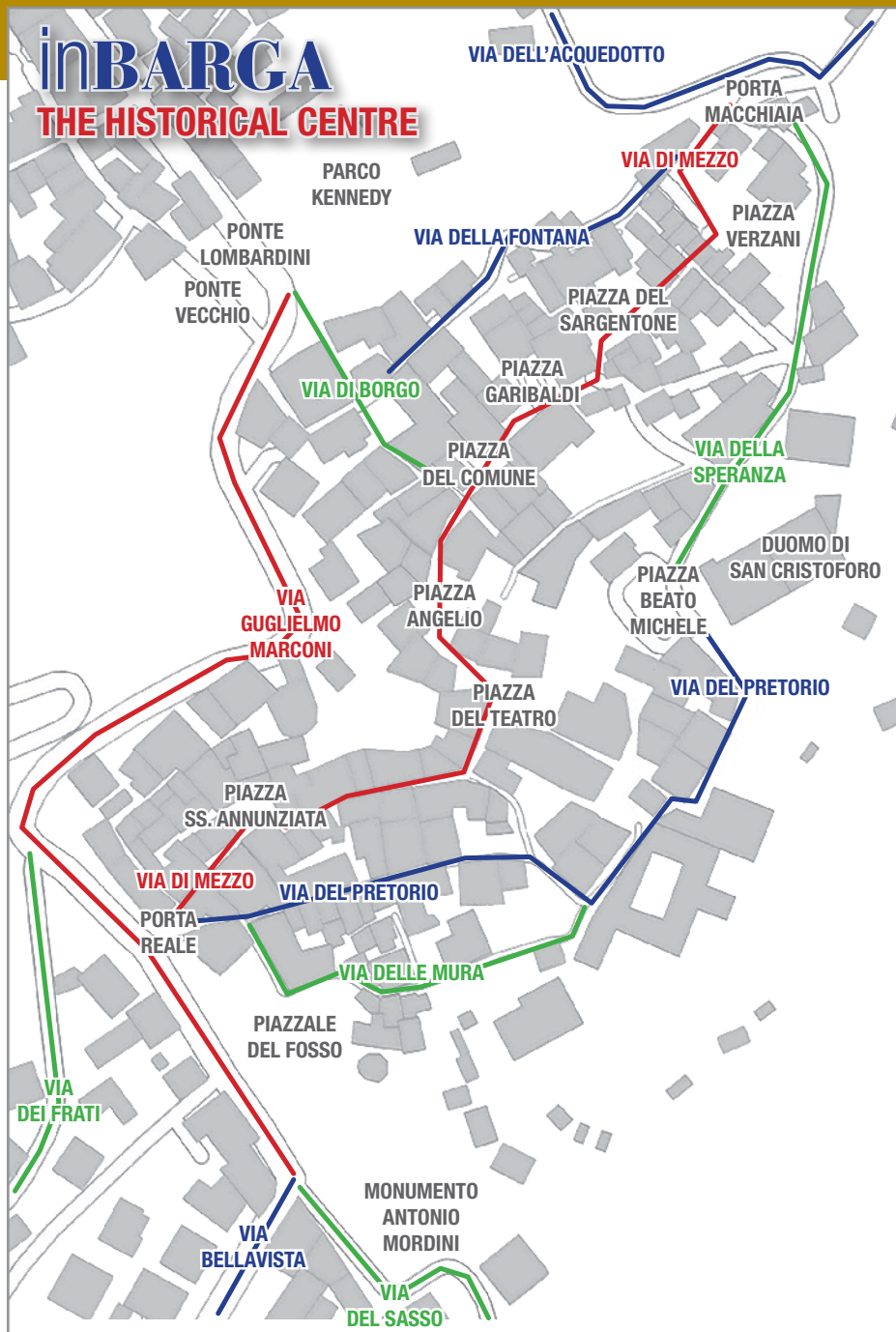
il tuo MINIMARKET

Il Tuo Mini Market

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inBARGA

THE HISTORICAL CENTRE



A safe port

Guarded by 600 hectares of Il Ciocco Estate, the Locanda Alla Posta restaurant is a safe haven, with generous rooms, a spacious roof terrace and a new garden area surrounding it, perfect for enjoyable summer evenings and a relaxing lunch on beautiful sunny days.

Fear gradually gives way to serenity and pleasure when eating at the restaurant, just like old times.

Glamorous and welcoming, the Locanda offers an attentive service in keeping with the Covid-19 protocols, with a particular focus on local ingredients and finding the right balance between innovation and tradition.

Thanks to the open spaces at its disposal, the Locanda is the ideal location for ceremonies, private celebrations and corporate events.

Chef Stefano and his team stand out thanks to their great flexibility and ability to adapt to the culinary needs of the most varied clientele.

Like us on Facebook for updates on all the upcoming events!

OUR PRODUCTS Pasta, bread and homemade desserts; fresh, genuine and local produce: here is the ideal place to unwind, breathe fresh air and rediscover the authentic flavours of the local cuisine.

SUNDAY BRUNCH Every Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm. A fun compromise between a full English breakfast and a casual lunch.

FRIDAYS AT THE LOCANDA Every Friday from 8 pm. Themed nights designed to wet your appetite and refresh your spirit.



LOCANDA ALLA POSTA

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www.ciocco.it



Artisan Pastry Chefs since 1980

The Fratelli Lucchesi Patisserie opened 30 years ago and this year celebrates its anniversary. It is the only artisan pastry shop in Barga and even so it is never lonely thanks to its numerous clientele.

The owners Paolo Lucchesi and Francesca Bacci, with their expert staff, produce daily fresh croissants, cakes, pastries, pizza, sandwiches using sourdough and selected prime ingredients that come mainly from the territory.

The most popular and appreciated products are “Befana di Barga”, typical biscuits with marzipan topping produced only in this way in Barga, chestnut and “Barga” biscuits, chocolate, special Christmas and Easter cakes (Panettone, Pasimata and Colomba pasquale). The last successful speciality is Chestnut “Panettone” that won the first prize at the National Pastry Contest.

Under the supervision of Paolo in the laboratory there is always continuous research in new experiments and use of local products. But at Fratelli Lucchesi Patisserie, not only are the original products delicious and special, but also the most traditional ones like croissants for breakfast or delicate miniature pastries. Here everything is made with passion, a special ingredient that enriches everything together with special courtesy and hospitality that you will always find here.



FRATELLI LUCCHESI PATISSERIE

CAKES, CHOCOLATE, YOGHURT, BAR

Piazzale Matteotti - Barga

☎ 0583 723193 - 340 9009466

✉ lucchesi.barga@hotmail.it

📘 Pasticceria-Flli-Lucchesi

🌐 www.pasticceriaLucchesi.it



Scent of the sea in Barga

Typical products and traditional dishes of the Serchio Valley that encounter the scents of delicious sea dishes to create a symphony of taste. This is what you will find at La Pergola Restaurant in the new part of Barga in Via del Giardino 90. This restaurant is in the suggestive part of a more informal but real Barga set in the heart of the Giardino quarter. It is run by Nicola Autiero and his son Ciro Alan who together have brought to Barga the atmosphere and culinary tradition of Naples.

In the kitchen you'll find Nicola's wife Nadia Giannotti and the chef Ezio Belli who know how to tempt you with a variety of dishes from seafood to typical local ones all prepared with care and love by those who live for good food and love it with all their heart.

Demanding in quality and if you try this restaurant you'll understand why. A clue? Start by observing the creativity in the dishes.

The selection offered is enriched by the wine cellar that can satisfy even the most demanding palate, by the pizza baked in a wood oven following the Neapolitan tradition and by the excellences of the typical products used.

La Pergola welcomes you to its discrete and comfortable location and its outdoor tables. It is open all year round for lunch and dinner and is closed only on Mondays.

Whether it be by day or by night the best choice is La Pergola Restaurant that will welcome you like a king and queen in a special but informal way.



LA PERGOLA RESTAURANT

FISH AND MEAT RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

Via del Giardino, 90

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L' Osteria is in the parlour of the old town where you can absorb the atmosphere of Medici Barga and enjoy the many events on in summer. The Osteria, one of the most popular restaurants in town, is a place where visitors of all ages enjoy the good life, good tastes, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Barghigiani people love this place too, especially in the summer months when Piazza Angelio has a continuous buzz of many events, musical and otherwise; a favourite place of all the artists who come to Barga.

This is the place we can find the relaxed Barga lifestyle, felt by the owner Riccardo Negri and his staff.

Wine-bar, restaurant; a place also for snacks and drinks with the adjacent lounge bar Ageli...O. The two external terraces offer an exclusive setting on the most intense square of Barga where you can watch the coming and going of people. Here you feel at home in good company and food: simple dishes but a delight to the palate all made with local ingredients and products; dishes that you can find in a Barga home. Last but not least an important wine cellar with mainly Lucca and Tuscan wines.



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Along the Via Francigena

In this suggestive place, an old hospital of the XVIth century along the Via Francigena divided into various rooms, the Bellandi family proposes and exalts local products of the Garfagnana and Serchio Valley that can be bought and tasted here. EatValley is not only a food store but also a place where you can taste and enjoy food at their restaurant.

TYPICAL PRODUCTS - EatValley is the food store of Antica Norcineria where you can buy and taste typical products of the Serchio Valley, Garfagnana and other Tuscan delicacies.

WINE - Here you'll find an infopoint and showroom of the "Strada del Vino e dell'Olio di Lucca, Montecarlo e Versilia" (wines and oil of Lucca, Montecarlo and Versilia) where you can buy the best red and white wines of the Lucca area.

RICH PLATTERS - EatValley proposes a variety of platters of cold cuts of Antica Norcineria, cheeses and many other delicacies that can be accompanied by artisan spelt beers.

THE BEST MEAT - On Friday and Saturday evening special steak cooked in an innovative way. On other days it is possible to taste it if reserved for groups of at least 10 people. It is also possible on request to see how the delicious cold cuts are made.

OLD BUTCHER - If you love quality meats, the Bellandi Family invite you to buy them at the "Old Butcher" shop in Via Pascoli Barga that proposes a unique choice of prime quality meats rich in Omega-3, with no OGM and from a traceable source.



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Albiano is a charming little village just outside Barga, one of the main reasons it can guarantee an unforgettable holiday.

I Cedri covers an area of 16 hectares, a great many of which are planted with olive groves and vineyards. Villa Mordini is in the middle of the estate and was built in 1711, the home of the Mordini family and best-known as the home of Senator Antonio Mordini, Garibaldi’s pro-dictator in Sicily during the Expedition of the Thousand in 1860.

Between the terraced countryside, there are three outstanding swimming pools from which one can enjoy a splendid view of the valleys and mountains that surround this marvellous area.

Words cannot express the peace, the tranquillity and the magical serenity that I Cedri offers as one walks through the olive groves, along the ancient vineyards or simply relaxes in the shade of the age-old trees.

I Cedri is an agritouristic complex composed of various rural buildings, all restored with the greatest of care.

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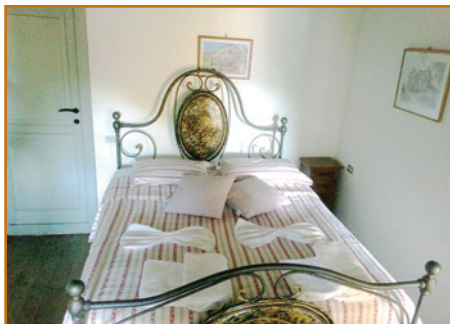


An alternative stay at “Casa del Papa”

To cover the Serchio Valley territory we take you to Roggio to find an alternative holiday spot where you can discover the Garfagnana.

Roggio is 858 m above sea level and is one of the most antique villages of Garfagnana, a village of Vagli 17 km away from Castelnuovo the main town of Garfagnana. The houses here are all made of stone and full of history and will offer you an unforgettable stay here. In the heart of the village you will find the characteristic “Casa del Papa” that was the home of Pope Felice Peretti, Sisto V and dates back to the XVI century. Here you will find quality hospitality of the Coletti family that have always rented out rooms in the village and, with the help of Maria Luisa, offer you a choice of seven rooms in the “Casa del Papa” and in other traditional houses in Roggio. Staying here means immersing yourself all around in history, charm, traditions of these places that you will find in these rustic but comfortable rooms.

Roggio is the ideal place to discover the beauty of this territory. In the various excursions it is possible to encounter enchanting places that will take your breath away like Vagli lake, one of the biggest hydroelectric lakes in Italy. In the deep waters lies the abandoned village of Fabbriche di Carreggine that reemerges every time the dam is opened and is emptied revealing the bell-tower and houses. From Roggio along the old mule-track you reach Campocatino an old seasonal settlement for shepherds and farmers, a place definitely worth a visit.



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