

La Volpaia

Guide for guests





Welcome to La Volpaia!

We are Jan, Thérèse, Thijmen and Anne Benedictus, and we welcome you to our Casa La Volpaia! With this book, we hope to provide you with essential information, plus some insider tips, to make your stay as pleasant as possible!

Make yourself comfortable, feel at home and enjoy the house as if it is yours! Cheers!

Who is who?

Filippo: For any questions you may have during your stay, you can contact Filippo. He can be reached via his mobile (also WhatsApp) at +39 347 038 1757. Please keep in mind that Filippo lives about a fifteen-minute drive from La Volpaia. Filippo speaks English and Italian.

Hassan: Our right-hand man in the olive grove and garden. Hassan speaks Italian, French, and Arabic.

Nadia and Stefano: Our dear neighbours, who live about 100 meters past La Volpaia. You will occasionally see them driving by. Feel free to have a chat with them - in Italian or French. Good to know: their private property begins at the posts just above the parking lot - please don't drive up beyond the parking.

Directions to La Volpaia

We are listed on Google Maps and other navigation apps, but always doublecheck that you are being directed to the right "La Volpaia".

La Volpaia - Benedictus

Località San Donato 29/A,

06065 Passignano sul Trasimeno (PG)

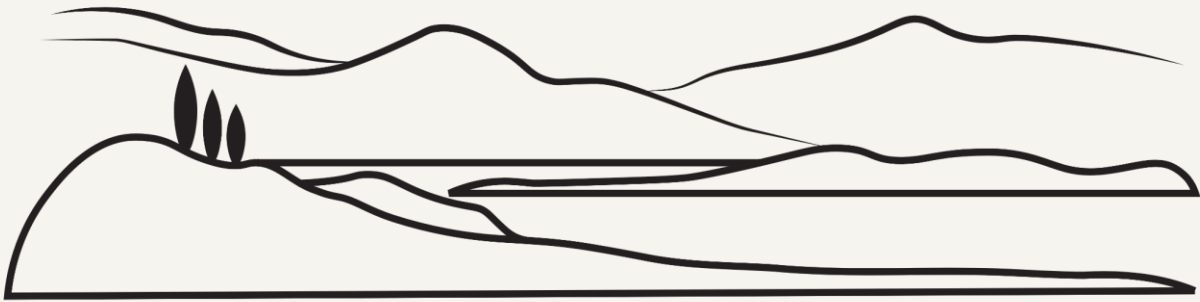
1. At the RA6 (between A1/Bettolle and Perugia) take the exit **Passignano Est**
2. Down the exit, turn **Left** (direction Castel Rigone / Magione)
3. After approx. 1KM, you see the sign "**Villa Cecilia**". Turn **Left** at the bus stop.
4. Go through a little tunnel, then just keep following this road for 2KM.

After 1KM, at a crossing, you will see the sign and keep going straight ahead.

The last 1,5 KM of the road is dirt-road and climbs quite steeply, but can easily be driven with any car.

Part I

House Guide



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Getting settled

Keys

You will receive two set of keys consisting of:

- A grey key marked with a "C" - casa/**house**. For all five doors of the main house
- A grey key marked with a "A" - **annex**. For the two doors of the annex
- A key with a round handle. This key opens the **pedestrian gate**

Please be careful not to lose the keys. If it happens, we will need to replace the cylinders on all doors – something which we will need to charge.

Opening the gates

On one of the sets, you find the **remote control** for the car-gate. Use **the top-left button** to open the automatic gate. The gate closes after 1 minute or by pressing the left-top button again.

Strong wind or objects obstructing the gate may prevent it from closing completely. If that is the case simply opening and closing the gate again using the remote should solve the issue.

*For loading and unloading luggage near the **annex**, you can open the upper gate manually from the inside.*

Wifi:

There is wifi everywhere in and around the house.

The network is named La Volpaia and the password is lavolpaia2025

You may also use the QR to connect.



Inside the house

Air Conditioning & heating:

You will find a wall-mounted thermostat for the AC in every bedroom in the main house. Additionally, there are thermostats in the upstairs hallway, the dining room, the kitchen, and the laundry room.

- Power On/Off: Press the middle button on the left side (Power symbol) to turn the system on or off.
 - Select the correct Mode (Heating/Cooling): Press the top button on the left side (Sun/Snowflake symbol).
 - Sun ☀: Heating mode (Winter).
 - Snowflake ❄: Air Conditioning / Cooling mode (Summer).
 - Adjust Temperature: Use the Up (▲) and Down (▼) arrows on the right side to set your desired temperature.
 - Recommendation: heat up to 20°C in Winter, cool down to 23°C in Summer.
 - Fan Speed: Press the bottom button on the left side (Fan symbol) to adjust how forcefully the air blows.
- We recommend Auto for daytime and Sleep mode (Moon) for night time.



In the annex, you operate the AC with the handheld remote control - this single remote operates both AC units. Point the remote to the unit while you set the desired settings.

When using the AC, please keep doors and windows closed and do not set it excessively cold (<23 °C) on hot days.

Kitchen appliances

To make things easy for larger groups, the kitchen features two **dishwashers**. If you used the large white 'formal' dinner-plates, we suggest taking out the top-drawer of one of them so these fit in easily. In the annex you will find a separate dishwasher.

There are two high **refrigerators**. The left unit has a separate **freezer** compartment, the right one is all cooling, In the Annex you will find a small fridge under the worktop.

Under the stove, you will find an **oven**, a combination **oven-microwave**, and a **plate heater**.

In the kitchen you will find a table-top **ice-cube maker**.

Cutlery & kitchen drawers

Most large drawers in the kitchen have a somewhat hidden '**inner drawer**'. This is where you will find the cutlery, among other things.

Coffee

The coffee machine works with **Lavazza "A Modo Mio" pods**. You can buy these at almost all local supermarkets. You will find the glass jar filled with cups upon arrival, may we ask you to leave *grosso modo* an equal number of pods when you leave?



*Note: Nespresso pods do **not** fit in this machine!*

In addition, of course, there also are a real Italian espresso-maker for on the stove, and a 'French Press'.

Waste separation

In Italy, waste is separated. To the far left under the worktop, you will find different coloured bins: Grey (General waste including organic), Yellow (Plastic), and Blue (Paper/Cardboard). When full, you can **take them to the bins / box at the parking lot**.

Note: Glass is not collected. Please bring this to the glass container opposite 'Bar Sosta di Zucchero' or at the large parking lot in Passignano.

The Quooker

Next to the regular tap in the kitchen, you will find a Quooker, providing **instant boiling water**.

The left tap is an ordinary tap.

The right one is used to instantly dispense boiling water,

1. Push the textured ring on the right tap *down twice* quickly.
2. After the second push, hold and turn the ring counter-clockwise.
3. A red light will glow to indicate boiling water is flowing.



⚠ CAUTION: This tap dispenses instant 100°C (212°F) boiling water! Don't let kids operate the boiling water tap.

Laundry

In the laundry room, you will find a washing machine and a dryer underneath the worktop. Feel free to use them. A drying rack, iron and board are stored in the high cabinet to the left.

Vacuum cleaners

You will find a 'regular' vacuum cleaner ("Miele") in the laundry room. Additionally, for quick clean-ups, there is a rechargeable Dyson vacuum in one of the tall cabinets in the kitchen. If the Dyson battery is empty, simply charge it using the charger found in the same cabinet.

Toilets & septic tank

Our house is not connected to a municipal sewer system but to a septic tank. Therefore, please be conservative with (toilet) paper.

Guests are urgently requested not to flush hygiene products down the toilet, but to use the small bins provided.

Bathroom-fan

The bathrooms are equipped with fully automatic fans to remove moisture. These are silent, but you may hear them switch on and off automatically – this is as-intended behaviour.

Towel heaters

The towel heaters in the bathrooms are operated by the round button / thermostat on the wall. The orange light indicates they are on.

Locked cabinets & technical rooms

You may notice that a few storage cabinets and the door to the technical room are locked. The same applies to the garage in the parking lot and under the pool. In these areas we store spare stock, or these hold technical equipment.

Television

We have a **Samsung Frame** television, though we rarely use it ourselves.

- Plug the black box next to the TV into the socket and wait for it to start up.
- Besides a wide range of channels, you also have access to Netflix and Amazon Prime

Note: you may need to log in with your own account for some services. Don't forget to log out when you leave! When switched off but not unplugged, the TV shows artwork.

Boardgames

For a cozy evening, there is a large selection of board games and other games available. You can find them in the baskets to the left of the wood stove and in the drawers of the dresser under the stairs.

Windows and screens

All windows can be opened and titled. Make sure that if windows (or doors) are open at night you use the **built-in screens** to keep insects out. Please operate these screens with care.

The piano

Feel free to play the piano - we apologize if fluctuations in temperature have set it a bit out of key... If travelling with children, we ask you to make sure they treat it with the appropriate care.

Wine cabinet (honesty bar)

You will find one bottle of wine on the bar as a welcome gift, but feel free to enjoy more “Colle in Colle” wines from the wine cabinet underneath the worktop in the kitchen-island. Before leaving, you can easily pay for wines consumed by scanning the QR code on the consumption list - which is based on the ‘**honesty bar**’ principle.

Music speaker

At the cabinet in front of the stairs, you will find a **Marshall Bluetooth** speaker.



1. Power On/Off

- Push the brass power switch on the top panel forwards/backwards and hold it for a moment until the speaker lights up and plays a sound.

2. Connect via Bluetooth

- Press the Source button on the left until the Bluetooth symbol is selected.
- Press and hold the Source button until the Bluetooth light starts pulsing red.
- Open the Bluetooth settings on your smartphone or tablet and select ACTON III from the list to pair.

3. Adjust the Sound

- Use the three brass knobs on the top panel to adjust the Volume, Bass, and Treble to your personal preference.

4. Play, Pause & Skip

- Use the flat, multidirectional brass control knob on the right side:
 - Press down once: Play / Pause
 - Push right / left: Skip forward / Skip backward

Please don't move the speaker outside.

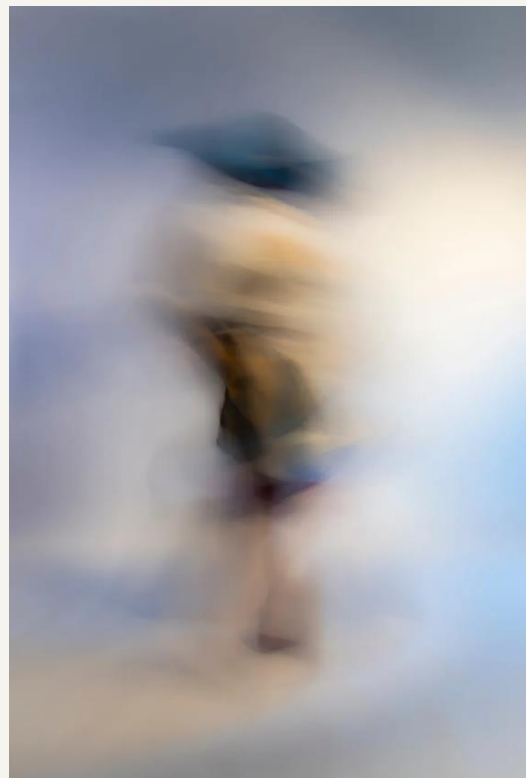
The indoor fireplace

Mostly used on cold nights in winter, fall or spring. Always use a few firelighters to start the fire (avoid using paper). Leave the glass door half open at the beginning until the wood is burning well. After about ten minutes, close it completely. Nice to know, in winter, using the fireplace contributes to heating the tap water and the house.

Art

All art (most of it photography / mixed techniques) you find is original work by Dutch artists - mostly acquired via De Galerie Den Haag (<https://www.degalerieden Haag.nl/>) .

- The square works in the 'Green room' and in the living room next to the fireplace are by Waldo van Bokhoven:
<https://www.bowfor.nl/waldo>
- The work in the Master bedroom Simone Boon: <https://www.simoneboon.com/>
- The photo in the hallway above the stairs is by Van de Camp & Heesterbeek:
<https://www.vandecamp-heesterbeek.nl/>
- The styled photos of vegetables in the kitchen are by Iris Gonzalez:
<https://www.irisgonzalez.nl/work>
- The flower in the White bedroom: Gudule Veeger (Thérèse's mom, has no website)
- The 'portraits of flowers' in the dining- and living room are by Puck Soetens: <https://www.pucksoetens.nl/portraitsofaflower>
- The wedding-scene in the annex: Ferdinand Schonberger;
<https://www.feestinverve.nl/over-ferdinand/>



Around the house

Outdoor Cooking, barbecue, fireplace

Under the pergola, you will find the outdoor fireplace, perfect for a cozy fire or for barbecuing/grilling. Grills and frames inside the fireplace are made-to-measure.

We provide you with firewood, feel free to ask Filippo if you need more.

Only move frames or grills when they are cooled down.

Please be careful not to make too big fires in dry months, as sparks may fly from the chimney and spread fire.

Other than using the barbecue / fireplace, making an open fire is strictly forbidden in Umbria due to forest fire risk. Especially in the summer, this is strictly enforced and fines are heavy!

Our olive grove

Our olive grove extends from the two columns below to the road running behind and above the house. The total area is around 7 hectares, on which we have around 400 trees, which we harvest manually in November.

From our olives, we produce our or biological *Extra Virgin* olive oil. In the welcome package, you will find a bottle of it. If you are interested in buying more, please let Filippo know.

Feel free to walk around the terrain and discover your favourite spots.



The tartufaia and its electrical fence

At the bottom of the terrain lies the 'tartufaia', the patch of oak wood where we find our truffles.

To keep wild boar out, it is fenced with an electric wire (wooden sticks, white rope) ; *please be careful not to touch it (or children!). A shock it not dangerous, but very unpleasant!*

Animals

Especially in the evening and early morning, **deer** and **wild boar** often roam the grounds. You might also spot foxes (to which "La Volpaia" is named).

In principle, the animals are not dangerous and will run away rather than approach you, but **keep distance from wild boar** if you are on foot at night.

Snakes (vipers) are present, but rarely seen. Ensure you **wear shoes when walking in tall grass**. Small scorpions also occur in Umbria; their bite is not dangerous, but painful. Always shake out your shoes before putting them on.

Finally, Kikki, the white cat belonging to Nadia and Stefano, might come by for a curious look!

Close the gates at night or when away

Could you please ensure the gates are closed properly at night or when you are away? This prevents deer and wild boar from entering the garden.

If you find yourself locked out of the fence, the easiest way to enter is via the iron gate at the bottom of the pool- it is closed, but not locked.

Pool

The pool is 12.5 meters long, 4.50 meters wide, and around 1.50 meters deep. There is no alarm system, so please always supervise children closely. Also, be careful on the pool steps as they can become slippery.

***No Glass: Broken glass in the pool is dangerous and very difficult to remove.
Therefore, a friendly but urgent request never to use glass near the pool.
For drinks by the pool, special plexiglass wine and long-drink glasses are provided.***

There is an automatic cover, but please leave it open during your stay (unless otherwise agreed with Filippo). ***Never step on or walk over the cover!***

For enthusiastic swimmers, there is a jet-stream machine available (the metal 'smiley') - that you activate by pushing the button at its top. It will stop automatically after 8 minutes.

Pool- and pergola lighting

Switches for the lighting under the pergola and the pool lights are located on the pergola post.

Parasols / sun-shades

The pool parasols are of heavy, professional quality; only let adults set them up. Note that the umbrellas open by the centre-top coming down. Gently spread the arms of the umbrella, until a bar comes down in the centre, which can be used to 'lock' the umbrella. Closing the umbrella begins by unlocking this bar, then pushing this up bar up.

Please always close the parasols when leaving, at night, or when it is windy.

Pool cleaning

The pool cleans itself automatically and is cleaned weekly by a specialized company. For quick cleaning, a net is available. Extra pool cleanings can be planned with Filippo.

Departure (check-out)

Check-out Time

Check-out is at 10:00 AM.

Honesty Bar

If you have enjoyed wine from the wine cabinet, we ask you to use the form and pay using the QR code on the price list - based on the '**honesty bar**' principle.

Beds and towels

Don't bother taking off the beds. Please leave used towels in the bathrooms upon departure. We ask you to hang out wet towels.

Damage or Breakage

Please let Filippo know if something broke or got lost. It happens, and only in case of excessive breakage we will need to hold part of your deposit. Please report larger damages timely, this allows us to fix or replace it in time for the next guests.

Keys

Please lock all doors except the kitchen door and leave the two sets of key and the remote control for the gate on the bar, unless otherwise agreed with Filippo.

And then, it is time to say Goodbye....

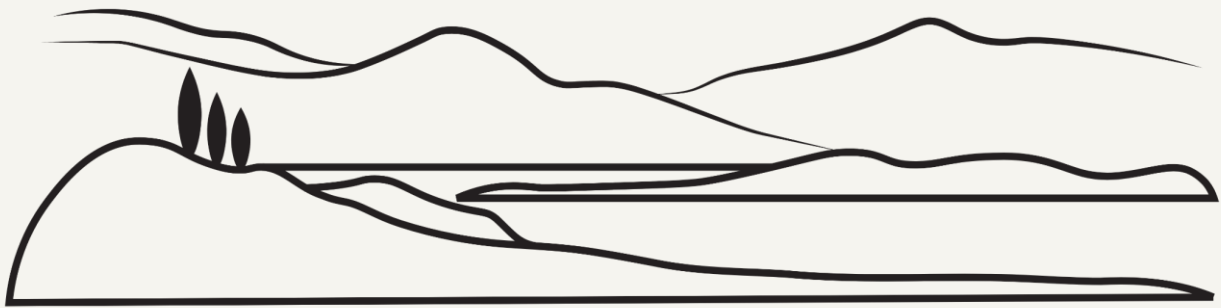
We thank you for being with us! We hope you look back to a fantastic stay and wish you a safe trip onwards or home. Of course, we hope to welcome you again in the future!

If you have any feedback - things you liked, or suggestions for improvement - we are very grateful to hear it. Please let us know: lavolpaia@benedictus.nl



Part II

Getting Around



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Shopping

Bread and pastries

The best bread and pastries are found in **Bar La Sosta del Zucchero** and bakery **La Dogana** in Passignano.

Supermarkets

Passignano has three supermarkets. Pass the train station and then to your right you will find **Coop**, which is a useful mid-sized supermarket. Just 200 meters onwards, there is the **Conad** - which is a bit more cramped, but has a surprisingly complete assortment.

Onward towards the Passignano Ovest (West) exit, you pass by the supermarket **EuroSpin** – it is a discounter, known as “the intelligent shopping”.

Convenience stores

Not premium quality per-sé, but discount prices. That is the promise of the many convenience stores in the area. Very convenient if you are in need of *anything* practical.

In Passignano we usually go to [Rispa World](#), near the Passignano Ovest (West) exit. If you cannot get enough, the [Marino fa Mercato](#) right at the [Magione](#) exit of the RA6 in direction Perugia is another option.

Malls and hypermarkets

The modern part of **Corciano** may not be the most idyllic part of Italy, but is very practical as you will find large supermarkets, and numerous other shops. We mostly visit the [Quasar Village](#) shopping centre with convenient (and cool) underground parking. There is a huge **Conad hypermarket** and an **electronics** store. A bit further, you will also find a **Decathlon** for anything sportive you could think of. Approx 20 minutes from the house.

Take the RA6 towards Perugia, the [Corciano](#) exit - then the signs to Commercial zones.

Valdichiana Outlet Village

Just across the border into Tuscany, you'll find this outlet center with more than 130 stores of well-known (designer) brands at great discounts. So if you look for **clothes** and are up to a few hours of bargain hunting... It is easily found by taking the RA6 toward Siena at the Bettole exit, and approx. 25 minutes from the house.

If you happen to be there at lunchtime, consider [Fierli Agri-macelleria e Agri-ristoro](#) located at the road that leads from the RA6 to the mall. It doesn't look fancy from the outside, but the restaurant at the first floor (the farms is downstairs) serves great food.

Directly-from-farm-shops ("KM 0")

Of course, you can get all of what you need from supermarkets. But Umbrians prefer their ingredients fresh from local producers - known as "KM 0".

Therefore, here, you will find a selection of our favourite "Aziende Agricole".

Meat

Next to Bar La Sosta, you find [Moretti](#). The cow in front of the show already reveals what this is all about. It is the store connected to a farm at the Pian di Marte. All **beef** is biological and local. They also sell cheeses, honey and other farm-products.

If you are - in addition to beef - looking for the best **chicken, pork and other meat**, Azienda [Agricola Macelleria - Pioppi Sauro](#) in Corciano is the place you are looking for. It is a 10 minutes drive, in the direction of Perugia.

Vegetables

The only thing coming close to **vegetables** from your own garden, is the produce sold at [Azienda agricola Tonazzolli Roberto](#). Along the road from the Passigano Ovest (West) exit towards Tuoro, you will find it at the left hand side. It looks like a barn house with large open doors at the front.

Wine

The [Colle in Colle winery](#): is just down the road - behind the Terra Frantoio (oil mill). They have a **wine-shop**, show you around the 'cantina' and offer **tastings**. They also ship wine abroad! Please tell them you stay at our place to enjoy a nice discount.

Eating out

Breakfast, coffee

The nearest bar is also one of the best in the area: **Bar Sosta di Zucchero**. People come from far and wide for the fresh bread, pastries, and coffee. Park along the road (like the locals do), get your coffee from Fabio and enjoy your breakfast (like the locals do). Along the road to Passignano, near the exit. <https://www.instagram.com/unasostadizucchero/>

But, if the weather is nice and you prefer to start the day by overlooking the lake and being part of the town slowly waking up, you may choose have your coffee in the morning sun at the terrace of **Bar del Sole**. Continue past Bar Sosta to Passignano, park at the big parking lot on the left. From the huge parking at the lake, **Bar del Sole** is the first terrace along the 'boulevard'. And, if you like it here, the bar is open all day!

Lunch (pranzo) and dinner (cena)

Passignano offers *many* culinary options. Here are a few of our favourites. In high season, it is recommended to make a reservation (by calling, or walking in early). All restaurants have one week-day in which they are closed , but these are all different.

Il Fischio del Merlo

Within walking distance of the house (though you might prefer taking your car up after a heavy meal), this "living room and garden" restaurant is a true hidden gem. Beautifully prepared dishes, classic service, and an extensive wine selection complete the experience. If you show interest in wine and/or art, owner Bruno will gladly show you around the restaurant and wine cellar. <https://ilfischiodelmerlo.it/>

Cuore di Mamma

The sympathetic Michael and his sister run this lovely, compact restaurant. On busy days with a full terrace, the wait time can increase, but it is definitely one of the best choices in Passignano. <https://www.osteriacuoredimamma.it/>

La Nicchia

Tucked in the corner of the central square is the small restaurant *La Nicchia*. Fun fact: the wife of Hassan is the chef here! <https://la-nicchia.it/>

Pizza

Of course, an Italian holiday isn't complete without pizza. Note: in Italy, outside the touristic places, pizza is usually *not* available for lunch (traditional wood ovens often only start in the evening). And of course... pineapple on a pizza is strictly forbidden here!

Our go-to pizzerias in the area are:

- **Nonno Cencio:** Closest by; also known as "by the railway line", enter their parking just past bar Sosta, before you cross the railway line. Excellent pizzas and no-nonsense service. Our favourite for a 'quick pizza' nearby.
- **Osteria del Carro:** Located in the centre of Passignano. A large, yet atmospheric place with an impressive oven and grill that serves great pizzas alongside a fantastic selection of meat and wine. Also specialised in beers to go along your pizza.
(<https://www.osteriadelcarro.it/>)
- **Pizzeria Il Gabbiano:** Located at the hotel along the road to Magione (5-minute drive). While the interior is somewhat 'Spartan', the covered terrace is wonderful on a beautiful summer evening. Owner Gianvitorio is assisted by his sisters and (during holidays) by his Dutch-speaking children.
- **Al Cento Passi:** Located in Magione (10-minute drive). A lovely, modern-industrial styled spot for fantastic pizzas.

Il Molo

The most highly-regarded and somewhat more upscale restaurant in town. You'll find it on the main road along the lake. <https://ristoranteilmolo.com/>

Da Luciano's

Located next to Il Molo, this is a second, somewhat more formal restaurant. Recommended for a beautiful, full evening out. <https://ristorantedaluciano.com/>

Osteria del Maremmano

The place to be for meat and wine lovers, though they also serve excellent pasta. Expect honest, robust dishes, meat served per ounce. The owner is one of the strongest rowers in town (see Palio delle Barche). The restaurant has a resident dog that which is happy to finish your meat if you have anything left over. <https://osteriamaremmano.it/>

Trattoria del Pescatore

Place of the fisherman, but serves meat as much as fish. Inside it is very traditional, but the real plus is the overgrown pergola on warm evenings. Finding the bathroom is a bit of a challenge. From the central square, through a little alley that is marked with their name.

Osteria di Liam

At the central square, lovely little Osteria that serves honest Italian food from an incredible small kitchen. House wines are those from Colle-in-Colle.

Sushi Longteng

A Sushi-meets-Chinese-meets-Asian-in-general restaurant in Italy?! Found along the road, at the exit towards the sailing club. We mention it here, as teenagers tend to love it. All-you-can eat, order by iPad, it's all there. Maybe while the parents enjoy a diner at Da Luciano's?

Outside of Passignano

Restaurant Miralago

Fancy something truly local? Go for lunch at [Ristorante Bar Miralago](#). Run by two elderly sisters, this is where you'll find real local life. Follow the road towards Magione and turn right towards Montecologna; you'll find Bar Miralago at the crossing with the road to the borgo. A 10-minute drive.

Lillo Tatini

At the far end of the square in beautiful Panicale sits a fantastic little restaurant: **Lillo Tatini** <https://www.lillotatini.it/> with its own wine shop. "Worth the detour"!

Sundowner at wine resort Madrevite

Buy a bottle of local wine, grab some food from a food truck, and find a spot on a wooden pallet (*tip: bring a blanket to sit on*). Enjoy the music, the vibe and the sunset! Check their website at <https://www.madrevite.com/> for the dates and times, reservation recommended – 35 minutes drive.

Il Vecchio Mulino

Located in nearby “Hannibals town” Tuoro (10-minute drive), il Vecchio Mulino is a popular restaurant among locals and visitors alike. The pizzas are good too!

<https://www.vecchiomulinoTuoro.com/>

A luxury dinner at home

If you are interested in having a private chef at our home, our favourite is Alessio Berionni. Alessio (1991) comes from Umbria, but moved at the age of 17 to London, to come back in 2022. Alessio worked at various 2 and 3 star Michelin restaurants alongside chef's like Alain Ducasse, Gordon Ramsay. Alessio has cooked at La Volpaia multiple times. The experience is upmarket, but always incredible. Ask Filippo to inform you about possibilities and availability.



See: <https://abpersonalchef.it/>

Activities

Isola Maggiore

Take the ferry from Passignano to Isola Maggiore, the biggest island in Lago Trasimeno. It's a car-free island with a picturesque fishing village, fine walking paths, and cozy fish restaurants. Tickets for the boat (*traghetto*) are easily bought at the little office at the jetty itself.

Rent a Boat

Want to explore the lake at your own pace? You can easily rent a boat (often without needing a license) in both Passignano and nearby Tuoro for a wonderful day on the water.

<https://www.passignanorentboat.com/nl/> or <https://www.trasimenoboats.com/en/>

Walking & Cycling Pian di Marte

The Pian di Marte plateau is a paradise for walking, hiking and MTB. The good news is that it starts directly behind the house! Walk up the slope from the parking lot until you reach a small road (there is a small gate in the barbed wire). From there, follow the paths into the woods, or start by going to the remains of the Castello di Monteruffiano (the tower you see from the house). A hike-app like Komoot is useful to find the paths.

Rent a bike

Cycling is a great way to discover the area and highly popular. There is a well-maintained tour around the lake (60KM). When you rent a bike, we recommend you choose a E-Mountainbike. Rentals can be done:

- in Passignano - Trasimeno Turismo Rental Bike - Piazza Aldo Moro, 10
- A more specialized provider of high-quality biking gear, in Magione:

<https://www.matebicycles.com/bike-rental/> Via Case Sparse 47/C – Magione

Padel

For the sporty guests, Hotel Il Gabbiano (5-minute drive) has semi-covered padel courts and equipment available. *Tip:* Ask Gianvittorio for the special neighbour's discount!

Golf

Within half an hour drive, we have three golf courses available. At 25 minutes from La Volpaia you will find the spectacular [Antognolla Golf course](#). One of the most spectacular and challenging golf courses in Italy, Antognolla's eighteen-hole course is characterised by long fairways lined with cliffs, beautiful water hazards and wide, undulating greens.

Another famous option is the [Lamborghini Golf Course](#), right across the lake (30 minutes' drive).

Thirdly, near Perugia, there is the Golf Club Perugia <http://golfclubperugia.it/> (20 minutes)

Tibetan bridge, rafting, canyoning

If you are looking for mountain-related activities the area to go to is towards **Norcia**. Typical the ride takes approx. 90 minutes from the house. Note that in this area, it is notably colder than at the house!

A great walk (perhaps not so for height fearers) is the [Tibetan Bridge](#) between Sellano and Montesanto. Cross the bridge, and descent through the valley and return on foot. You are getting instructions and a safety harness.

Canyoning and Rafting is mostly done in the area Seravalle di Norcia, for example [Gaia rafting](#).

A chocolate workshop in Perugia

- Perugia is the historic chocolate capital of Italy. Perugia is the birthplace of the world-famous *Baci* (chocolate "kisses" filled with hazelnut) and is deeply rooted in the history of Italian chocolate making. Tours and workshops are available at *Casa del Cioccolato Perugina* in the historic home of Perugina, the creators of the iconic *Bacio*.. [Welcome to the Casa del Cioccolato](#)
- *Città del Cioccolato* This interactive attraction celebrates the rich history of cocoa and artisanal chocolate making. It's a fantastic experience for both adults and children, including chocolate workshops. [Città del Cioccolato](#)

Towns and villages

Passignano sul Trasimeno

Our 'home-town' Passignano has a nice little centre. Dominant is the Rocca, a nice and not very touristic, medieval structure which overlooks the lake

<https://www.umbriatourism.it/en/w/la-rocca-passignano-en>. There is a little museum with bar at the top.

The pebbled central square has most boutiques gets most lively around 'aperitivo' time. At warmer evenings, the terrasses under the trees at the lakefront are the place to have another drink.

Palio delle Barche (Last week of July)

The last Sunday of July, four quarters of Passignano compete in a row-run-row relay where a boat is raced over the lake and through the centre by a team of 50.



In the week leading up to the final, every quarter gets to do a practice rounds, and organises a banquet for the entire town.

Also nice: 'our neighbourhood' San Donato usually wins.

Tip: when having dinner at the terrace of Cuore di Mamma, you arr seated front-row!

Castel Rigone, Pian di Marte (10 minutes)

The drive to Castel Rigone brings you into the hills brings where pine trees create a different atmosphere. The village itself has an authentic square with a bar and is a great starting (or pause) point for a walk or bike ride. For lunch or dinner: Semplice Osteria along the road.

In the summer, free open-air classical concerts are organised on Friday evenings (look for posters).

Cortona (25 mins)

This Tuscan town became world-famous as the setting for the bestseller (and film) *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. Beautiful place, but can get crowded in summer – so go early. For lunch we usually go to Ristorante Il Teatro.

Castiglione del Lago (25 minutes)

Be sure to visit this charming town, beautifully situated on a peninsula on the other side of the lake. Stroll through the authentic streets and visit the impressive castle (Rocca del Leone) with nice views over the water. For lunch we usually go to (the garden of) Ristorante La Cantina.

Perugia (25 mins)

A beautiful city full of culture and good shopping. Go early in the summer to be ahead of the heat and crowds.

If you like culture the 'national gallery of Umbria' is interesting – as well as the adjacent Sala dei Notari, in the Palazzo dei Priori. Be sure to see the Etruscan arch that was built 300 years BC.

Parking is everywhere, we prefer the convenient at *Parcheeggio Viale Pellini* (with escalators to the centre), or park for free at the stadium (*Pian di Massiano*) and take the convenient Minimetrò up.

There are *very many* lunch options, of which we like Trattoria Oberdan for being very central but not very touristy. The same goes for Caffè Baglione if you look for ice or coffee.

Assisi (30 mins)

Consider a day trip to the stunning hilltop town of Assisi, famous worldwide as the birthplace of St. Francis and home to his magnificent basilica. It gets crowded, but is a very unique place. Close to Perugia, but perhaps a bit much to combine in one day..

The airport of Perugia is located along the highway between Perugia and Assisi.

Panicale / Paciano (35 mins)

The village square of little Panicale is small but picture-perfect. Walk up and down to the church and the viewpoint, then go to one of the various bars and restaurants. With a bit of luck, you might run into Ed Sheeran who has a place in nearby Paciano – which is a beautiful and even smaller little town. To eat, go to Lillo Tatini or - if full – the garden of Rastrello.

Montepulciano (45 mins)

A world-famous Tuscan town, situated on a hilltop. On clear days, you can see it from our home. Montepulciano is known for its stunning architecture, cozy squares, and of course its fantastic wines (such as the Vino Nobile). A must for wine lovers! Of the many (!) bars and cafe's, the 'classic' is the Caffè Poliziano <https://www.caffepoliziano.it/> . If you do your best, you can spot our house from the balcony at the back end of the historic hall.

Rome and Florence

Of course, Rome and Florence are worth a trip on their own. Nevertheless, both are relatively well in reach from our home.

By car, assume 1.5 hour to get into Florence (e.g. [Parking Garage Beccaria](#)), and 2.5 hours for Rome (where we prefer [Parking Piazza Cavour](#)).

Another good option is the train. Although Passignano has its own station, more trains arrive and leave at the station of Terontola-Cortona (15-20 minutes along the RA6, with ample parking space). Terontola-Cortona is also very convenient if you need to pick up or drop off guests that travel from either Rome or Firenze.

<https://www.trenitalia.com/en.html>



In case of any emergency, call 112

**First aids kits are located in the kitchen
and in the annex kitchenette**

The nearest hospital (20 minutes' drive).

Ospedale Santa Maria della Misericordia

Piazzale Giorgio Menghini, Perugia +39 0755 781

The second hospital (25 minutes' drive)

Ospedale Castiglione del Lago:

Piazza Gramsci 1 - 06061 Castiglione del Lago +39 0755 4194

For minor medical issues, there is a medical post located in the pharmacy
Passignano Viale Roma, 36, Passignano (the main road along the lake)

If you need help, call Filippo: +39 347 038 1757.

