



Camping Norcenni Girasole Club,

Via Norcenni 7, 56003 Figline Valdarno (Fi), Italy

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GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 43.6122

Longitude: 11.4486



Campsite Information

Norcenni Girasole Club, Florence

Camping Norcenni Girasole Club is in a stunning setting high in the Arno Valley, half an hour south of Florence. Although a large site, it has a feeling of intimacy with the emplacements arranged in a series of terraces down the steep hillside Pisa and Siena are both close by. Rome is also accessible for a day out.

Arriving at Norcenni Girasole Club

On arrival, go to the campsite reception to register. You will need a passport for each member of your party, plus your car registration number. You should then go to the Canvas reception where your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00.

Early/Late Arrivals

Please note that if you arrive before 16.00 your accommodation may not be ready. If you arrive between 20.00 and 22.00, you will find directions to your courier and/or accommodation at the Canvas reception. Arrivals after 22.00 cannot be admitted onto the campsite, you have full responsibility for finding alternative off-site accommodation. A Canvas courier will be available on site from 09.00 the following day. Please telephone your couriers if you know that you are going to be late.

Reception

Reception is open daily from 07.30 to 23.00.

Payment System

Please note that the only method of payment on site is with pre-paid 'electronic money'. Guests will have their own chip card, which must be charged up in advance, to use for payment in the restaurant, bar, shop etc. Payment in cash is generally not accepted.

Info Point

This is open every day from 07.00 to 23.00 in high season. Here, you will find a team of staff willing to help with questions about the site or the area, and you can book your excursions from here.

Barrier

The barrier is closed between 23.00 and 07.00 and during the 'siesta' hours of 13.30 to 15.30. Should you need to use your car between these hours, please park it outside the barrier.

Currency Exchange

Currency can be exchanged in the site reception. A commission charge may be payable.

Safety Deposit Boxes

These are available to rent at the campsite reception.

Telephone

There are several coin and card operated phones on the site, phone cards are on sale at the Bazaar.

Web/Email Access

This facility is available on site at the site info point and in the bar.

Washing and Toilet Facilities

Tokens for the washing machines and tumble dryers are on sale at the Bazaar. Free hot showers, baby room, baby bath and standard toilets.

Post

There is a post box on site near the campsite reception and stamps are on sale at the Bazaar.

Shopping

Supermarket: The large Market Girasole sells a wide variety of fresh products, including milk, bread, meat and vegetables. There is a good range of Tuscan produce, as well as international brands. The complex is open everyday between 07.00 to 13.00



and 16.00 to 20.00. In high season it does not close at lunchtime.

Bazaar: In this shop you will find all of your other holiday essentials, from souvenirs to items for the swimming pool. Open 08.00 to 20.00, hours extended to 23.00 in high season.

Wine cellar: This is located in the ancient wine cellar where the old farm estate produced their wine. Twice a week professional wine tasting takes place here.

Encoteca Girasole: The wine shop sells many of the wines available from the cellar, as well as other Tuscan products. Open every day between 16.00 and 22.00.

Eating and Drinking

Bar: The large Tuscan-style bar is open from 08.00 to 01.00 everyday and serves breakfast, lunch and snacks all day. Also in the bar, you will find pool tables, satellite TV and internet access.

Takeaway: The takeaway, Il Noce, opens early afternoon until late evening everyday from May to September. From here, you can order a variety of food, such as pizzas, hamburgers, lasagne, chips and salads.

Ice cream Parlour: The Gelateria Elmi sells the best homemade ice cream in the area. There is an amazing range of flavours, including frozen yoghurt. The parlour is open daily from 15.00 to 23.00.

Disco: The disco opens every evening at 23.00 until 03.00. Over 16's only. Entrance is free.

Ristorante Vecchio: This rustic restaurant is considered one of the best in the area, offering delicious traditional Tuscan cuisine. The restaurant is open every day at lunchtime from 12.30 to 14.30 and in the evening from 18.45 to 22.30. All of the meat is cooked on an open fire. The restaurant does get quite busy, so booking is advised.

Ristorante Norcenni This restaurant has a more international menu. The pizzas, cooked in a traditional wood oven are extremely popular. Open daily 18.30 to 22.30.

Sant'Andrea: This restaurant/bar is located at the top end of the site. It is aimed very much at families, promising a menu that all children will love.

Entertainment

There is a varied programme of entertainment on site including live music and Tuscan evenings. Tuscan cookery lessons are available and you can participate in the wine tasting in the well-stocked cellar.

Excursions

Excursions are bookable at the Info Point. They include trips to Assisi & Perugia, Chianti, Lucca & Pisa, Siena & San Gimignano, Florence and Rome.

Recreation

Swimming: There are two pool complexes onsite. The one at the centre of the site has three swimming pools, a children's pool and waterslide. The pools are generally open 10.00 to 18.00 in low season and 09.00 to 19.00. There is also a heated indoor pool and at the top of the site you will find three lagoon style pools, complete with a lazy river. Both complexes have snack bars. Covered pool opens 27 March, lazy river and childrens pool open 24 April and all other pool open 1 May.

Bicycle Hire: Bikes are available for hire on site, prices vary - ask your courier for more details.

Tennis: There are three synthetic grass courts on site, book them at the bazaar. Cost €8 per hour (€3.50 for racket hire).

Health Centre: Inside here you will find a range of activities available, from gym and sauna to hydro massage. Open between 11.00 and 19.00 throughout the season.

There are facilities for football, horse riding, aerobics and volleyball. There is a games room with arcade games and table tennis and a children's playground.

Rules and Regulations

- Silence and no driving on site between 23.00 and 07.30 and between 13.30 and 15.30.
- 10km/ph speed limit on site.
- On arrival, all customers are requested to hand in their passport for 24 hours.
- Please recycle bottles in the bins provided.

Local Information

Shopping

Supermarkets: The closest large supermarket is the Co-Op on Via Roma at the entrance to Figline Valdarno. Open from 08.00 to 20.00, Sunday to 13.00. The nearest hypermarket is IperCoop, 20km from the site in the direction of Montevarchi. Please ask your couriers for detailed directions. You should note that Italian supermarkets are generally closed over lunchtime and on Wednesday afternoons, Monday mornings and all day Sunday.

Souvenirs: Figline Valdarno has a good selection of shops, many of which sell quality leather goods at competitive prices. For a really wide range of shops, explore Florence. The bazaar and shops on site also offer range of good souvenirs.

Local Markets

Monday: Prato.
Tuesday: Figline Valdarno, Florence (Cascine).
Wednesday: Siena, Pontassieve.
Thursday: Montevarchi.
Friday: Incisa.
Saturday: San Giovanni, Valdarno, Greve.
Sunday: Antiques market in Arezzo (first Sunday of every month).

The market on Piazza del Mercato Centrale in the San Lorenzo area of Florence is the place to go for cut-price leather goods, clothing and jewellery as well as fresh produce. It is held daily except Sunday.

Facilities

Petrol: There is a filling station in Figline Valdarno, a short 10 minute drive. Open from 09.00 to 13.00 and from 16.00 to 20.00.

Chemist: There are several chemists in Figline Valdarno. Please ask for directions and opening hours. The staff in the chemist next to the bank on Piazza Marsilio Ficino speak good English. Open 09.00 to 13.00 and 17.00 to 20.00.

Bank/Cash Dispenser: There is a cash dispenser on site, accessible 24 hours. The nearest bank is in Figline Valdarno on Piazza Marsilio Ficino. Banks in Italy tend to be open between 08.30 and 13.30 and for an hour in the afternoon, usually between 15.30 and 16.30, Monday to Saturday.

Post Office: The post office is on Piazza Salvo D'Aquisto in Figline Valdarno. Open from 08.15 to 19.00 Monday to Friday, Saturday morning only.

Tourist Information: On Piazza San Francesco in Figline Valdarno - open from 10.00 to 12.30 and 16.00 to 18.30, Saturday morning only. Located inside the walls of the old town square. Tel. 055 951 569.

Distances

Figline Valdarno: 3km (1.8 miles)
Florence: 32km (19 miles)
Siena: 50km (30 miles)
Pisa: 130km (84 miles)

Local Transport

The campsite bus will take you to Figline Valdarno station where you can get a train to Florence, a ½ hour journey. Florence is on the Rome-Milan line and there are trains to Venice, Trieste, Verona (via Bologna) and Pisa. Please ask for an up-to-date timetable. Book your place on the campsite bus from the information point. The campsite also runs a daily bus to Florence, leaving the site at 08.45 and returning from Florence at 17.00.

Doctor

There is a doctor on site. The hours change, so please ask your couriers or the campsite reception for the times.



Dentist

Dr Toricelli has a practice in Figline Valdarno. Tel. 952 422.

Emergency Services

There is a three-digit phone number for emergency services

Police	113
Fire	115
Ambulance	118
Highway Rescue	116

Eating and Drinking

You may like to try these restaurants and bars, recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years:

Borgo Antico: *In Lucolena.* A good variety of top quality, traditional Tuscan food, served in a converted country house. The price reflects the atmosphere and excellent service.

La Piazzetta: *In Strada.* A warm welcome and homely atmosphere makes this a special place to eat. Reasonably priced, home-cooked, local dishes are always on offer.

La Capannina di Leti: *Near Figline Valdarno.* Traditional Tuscan dishes and fresh fish are the specialities at this friendly restaurant.

Angie's Pub: *In Florence.* Despite the name, this little restaurant on via dei Neri, just east of the Palazzo Vecchio, is very popular with the Fiorentini and virtually unknown to tourists. The menu offers a huge selection of 'panini' and 'focaccia' as well as Italian-style burgers.

La Certosa: *In Florence.* Close to Piazzale Michelangelo, this restaurant offers traditional Tuscan menu. You can enjoy your meal inside or outside in the gardens.

Da Ladi: *in Figline Valdarno.* A friendly Indian restaurant serving standard curries at very reasonable prices.

Nearby

The town of Radda in Chianti has retained its charm despite the tourist influx. Its location makes it handy for many of Chianti's beauty spots. Florence is just a half hours' train journey from the site - don't miss a visit to see the historical treasures of Italy's most beautiful city. Siena is a walled city, an hour's drive south of site. Explore the centre, which is medieval

in plan and appearance. Pisa, with its famous leaning tower, is also around an hours drive away.

You can also take advantage of the excursions organised by the campsite, including trips to Florence, Pisa, Siena and Rome or the Chianti tour which includes wine tasting. Please ask on site for more information and prices.

Beaches

Florence is an inland site but the white, sandy beaches of the Tuscan coast are only around one and a half hours' drive away.

Activities

Just 17km from the campsite is Firenze Ugolino, an 18-hole, par 70 golf course, set in the beautiful Chianti countryside. It is open daily, except Mondays, and the facilities include buggy rental, field practice, a pro-shop and bar/restaurant. Try a spot of horse riding at the horse ranch 'Vecchio Texas', just opposite the site. They cater for both beginners and experienced riders and offer guided tours in English - ask your courier for further details on guided tours and prices.

Out and About

When touring in Tuscany make sure you stop off at the town of Greve, at the heart of the Chianti region. Visit the sprawling vineyards, olive groves, and the imposing Romanesque church. Take a trip along the Strada del Vino (wine road) to see the best of Tuscany and to sample some of the local wines.



Regional Information

Tuscany and Rome

The landscape of Tuscany is a delightful combination of hills, fields, olive groves, vineyards and medieval hill forts sloping down to fine, sandy beaches bordering the Mediterranean. Along the coast there are beautiful pine and holly woods, and cork trees. The historical centre of Rome can be explored on foot to fully appreciate the Roman buildings, café filled squares and beautiful gardens.

Eating and Drinking – Regional Specialities

Tuscan dishes are prepared simply, using ingredients from the surrounding countryside. Wonderful herbs are used in the preparation of meals. Extra virgin olive oil is used in all the sauces and dressings for meat, fish and vegetables. Crusty bread sprinkled with Tuscan olive oil is a favourite filler. For a starter, try an antipasto of crostini, toasted bread with chicken liver paté or cured meat. Florence is renowned for its grilled and roasted meats. For dessert Zucotto is delicious. The red wines of Tuscany are famous, of which Chianti, a dry red, is the best known. Brunello di Montalcino is a delicious smooth, dry and warm red wine and Venaccia di San Gimignano is a dry, light yellow wine best served chilled with starters, fish and seafood.

Things to do and see

*A • an admission charge is payable for these attractions.

Family Fun

Giardino Zoologico • A well-kept zoo with a wide range of species, set in lovely surroundings on the western edge of Pistoia. (Open daily *A).

Magical Mondo del Cavallino Matto • An amusement park with water rides, bumper cars etc. In Marina di Castagneto Donoratico (25km south west of Cecina). (*A).

Parco di Pinocchio • A theme park for a fun day out with no strings attached! A statue of Pinocchio is the centrepiece of a garden containing scenes from this children's classic. In Collodi, 15km east of Lucca. (Open daily *A).

Grotto del Vento • An impressive 'Cave of the Wind', with stalactites and stalagmites. Wear warm clothing, as the subterranean depths are icy cold. Near Fornovolasco, 9km southwest of Barga. (Open daily *A).

Monte Amiata • An extinct, craterless volcano in the south of Tuscany. This is excellent walking country with clearly marked paths through chestnut and oak forests and has a rich variety of wildlife. There are magnificent views from the summit.

Parc Naturale della Maremma • Combine a trip to the beach with a visit to a nature park. Walk through this forest to a stretch of unspoilt coastline. Keep watch for wildlife. Near Grosseto (Open daily *A).

Places of Interest

Florence • From early last century, Florence has been celebrated as the most beautiful city in Italy. Situated on the banks of the Arno, the "cradle of the Renaissance" is so full of wonderful buildings, paintings, sculptures, palaces and shops, that it is almost impossible to single out particular places to visit. See the local information folder in the Canvas reception for our suggestions.



Pisa • The Leaning Tower in Pisa is one of the most instantly recognisable buildings in the world. The construction of this medieval bell tower began in 1173, but work was halted due to subsidence. For the next two centuries architects tried to correct the tilt. In the 14th century the angle was finally accepted and the tower completed. The Tower was closed to visitors in 1990 but re-opened in 2002 (*A). The town is fascinating, and there is plenty to see and do.

Prato • Still encircled by medieval walls, Prato has been the main textile centre of Italy since the Middle Ages. It has enjoyed great wealth, reflected in its fine buildings and art collections. The medieval town centre is pedestrianised and full of lovely shops and cafés. The Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci is one of Italy's best museums of contemporary art. (*A). The Palazzo Pretoria houses the Galleria Comunale, containing art from the 14th-18th centuries (*A).

Lucca • Once a Roman settlement, this historic town is surrounded by huge tree-lined walls built in the early 16th century. The town centre is traffic-free and for a good view follow the path along the top of the ramparts. On the southern side of town, the Duomo San Martino (cathedral) houses some precious works of art. Music lover should visit the Casa di Puccini containing memorabilia from the famous composer's life (*A). The Piazza del Anfiteatro was once the site of a Roman amphitheatre. Its oval shaped remains are surrounded by medieval buildings. For a great view over the city and surrounding countryside climb the tower of the medieval Palazzo Guinigi (Open daily *A).

Montalcino • A lovely hill-top town, Montalcino is an important wine-producing centre famous for the production of Brunello, one of Italy's best wines. You can sample it in the town's wine cellars or visit a winery for a guided tour and tasting.

Rome • A trip to the "Eternal city" as it is fondly known has to be on your agenda. Rome was built on seven hills and, according to legend, founded by Romulus in 753 BC. A large modern metropolis and heart of Roman Catholicism headed by the Pope, Rome has a plethora of early Christian, medieval, renaissance and Baroque monuments and museums. Hand in hand with its ancient past, Rome also offers some of the best fashion in the world, the most inviting restaurants and some incredible contemporary art and design. The castle district, just outside the city, offers many attractive little towns, wineries and a pleasant landscape. Access to Rome is easy by road on the A1, or by train. The campsite also runs day trips with guided tours of the city.

San Gimignano • This is one of the most attractive little towns in Tuscany. It commands wonderful views over the surrounding countryside but can get very busy during the summer months. Known as "Medieval Manhattan" with its skyline of towers, San Gimignano is visible from afar. All Tuscan towns once had such towers - each belonged to a family striving to rise above their neighbours - to defend themselves during feuds by pouring boiling oil on their enemies

Siena • A beautiful walled city with narrow streets and a rich artistic heritage. Built on six hills, the centre of the city is almost entirely medieval in plan and appearance. At its heart lies the charming Il Campo, a sloping semi-circular piazza lined with cafés and restaurants. On 2 July and 16 August every year the Palio, a bareback horse race, is held here. Dating from the 14th century, the races are preceded by parades in medieval costume - a memorable sight.

Vinci • A small town on the southern slopes of Montalbano, hometown of the famous Renaissance artist and scientist Leonardo. You can visit the house where he was born (*A) and the Museo da Vinci, housed in a 13th century castle, which exhibits machines and instruments designed by Leonardo and a number of his drawings and sketches (Open daily *A).

Volterra • Magnificently situated, Volterra was one of the most important cities in Italy from about 900BC until the 14th century. It fell from prominence when the hilltop position meant that it was unable to expand at the same rate as Florence. You can still see the remains of the Etruscan city walls. The Museo Guarnacci is one of the most important galleries for Etruscan art in Italy (Open daily *A). The Teatro Romano (Roman Theatre) lies just outside the walls to the north of the city (Open daily *A). At the heart of the city the Piazza dei Priori, is surrounded by medieval palaces. Volterra is famous for its alabaster and is full of shops selling everything from sculptures to table lamps made from this translucent white stone.

Abbazia di Monte Oliveto Maggiore • A Benedictine abbey in a spectacular pine forest setting, 35km southeast of Siena. (Open daily).

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this guide, to the best of our knowledge, is both helpful and correct at time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.