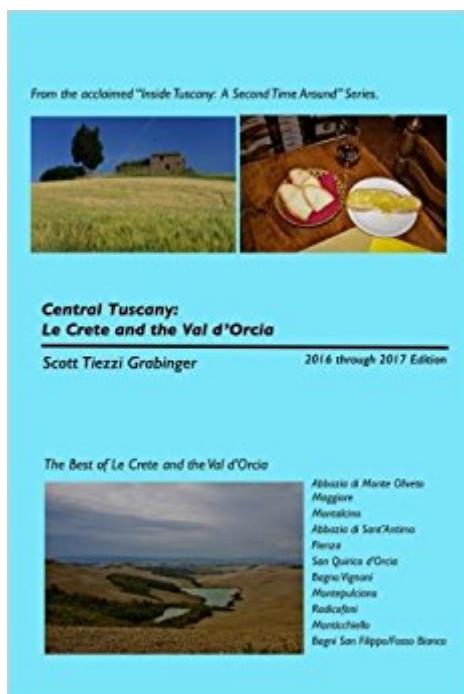


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# Central Tuscany: Le Crete And The Val D'Orcia (Inside Tuscany: A Second Time Around)



## Synopsis

Central Tuscany: Le Crete and the Val d'Orcia Latest 2016 to 2017 Edition The latest version of this guidebook on the Le Crete and Val d'Orcia regions in central Tuscany is the fifth book in Scott Tiezzi Grabinger's "Inside Tuscany: A Second Time Around" series. Here he takes you to the area of Tuscany that provides many of the pictures in calendars, coffee table books, movies, and postcards – the cedar lined drives and roads going over hills with small towns and solitary farms. Val d'Orcia towns stand high on hills with their Roccas and forts visible for miles. Different areas produce a variety of world class wines and foods, especially the pecorino cheese from Pienza region. Here you'll find information to: learn about the art and sites in several Val d'Orcia towns, view some of the greatest landscapes and panoramas in Tuscany, use decimal GPS coordinates for navigating, get an idea of mobility accessibility of tourist sites and towns, cook from authentic Italian recipes, many from my Italian family. The book helps you visit a variety of sites from spas to forts to scenic areas to small and large towns: Drive through the eerie and astounding rolling clay hills of Le Crete viewing rolling fields of grain, pasture land, small ponds, and sheep. After passing through the Le Crete stop at the Abbazia di Monte Oliveto Maggiore and enjoy the peace and quiet of this monastery hidden deep in the forest. Walk easily through the hill town of Montalcino, climb the ramparts of its fortezza for an open view of the Val d'Orcia all the way to Monte Amiata, taste the world famous Brunello di Montalcino, and study art in the churches and the excellent Museo Civico e Diocesano. Listen to the monks say their prayers in the Gregorian chant at the Abbazia di Sant'Antimo a few kilometers from Montalcino. Stop at the "ideal humanist city" of Pienza with its unique Piazza Pio II and brilliant architecture. Have a lunch taking an option for each course that uses Pienza's great pecorino cheese. Explore deceptively quiet San Quirico d'Orcia famous for its gardens: the Horti Leoni and the Rose Garden. Take a break from the effort of touring in the spa town of Bagno Vignoni, first used by the ancient Romans. St. Catherine of Siena was brought there by her mother who hoped that the waters would cure of her desire to become a nun – they didn't. Be surprised by the beauty and treasures in the tiny hill town of Monticchiello. Want to avoid the cost of using the spas in Bagno Vignoni and dive into natural hot tubs? Drive to the Fosso Bianco at Bagni San Filippo and take a short hike through the forest to visit its wild pools. Bring your swim suit. Explore the fortezza and rocca of Radicofani, the highest in the Val d'Orcia near Monte Amiata. Spend a day or two at the exciting and busy Montepulciano, the largest town in the area. Appreciate the stunning panoramas from its walls. Visit the museums and churches. Taste the excellent Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and have a great lunch at the Ristorante Enoteca la Corte Medicea. So, set up a base in one of the larger towns in the regions like Montalcino, Montepulciano, or Pienza and

spend three or four days carefully exploring the beautiful scenery, hill towns, restaurants, museums, fortresses, and churches, finishing the day in one of the hot springs. For more information: [www.insidetuscanybooks.com](http://www.insidetuscanybooks.com). For itinerary information: [www.insidetuscanytours.com](http://www.insidetuscanytours.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Author: Scott Tiezzi Grabinger Why are my guidebooks unique? Experience. My family and I have been traveling around Italy since 1992 learning the towns, sites, foods, language, and culture. I believe in slow travel. My books focus on small towns and culture for repeat visitors to Tuscany – the kinds of places that most guidebooks cover in 30 words or less. To me, second timers want to travel slower to engage more in the culture – gelato – than try to collect as many sites as possible. Family makes all the difference. My Italian cousins give me a unique perspective from other writers. They show me the real inside Tuscany – with its hidden tiny hill towns, incredible panoramas, and restaurants and pizzerias known only to the locals. They have taken me to sagre (festivals dedicated to a single food like steak, or porcini mushrooms) and weekend long festivals and antique fairs. They try to teach me how to "act Italian" - but it is still hard to get used to eating dinner at 8:30. I speak Italian. It's impossible to recall how often a church caretaker or museum docent has opened up and taken me on a private 40 minute tour because I could understand them. Or the number of times I learned about specialties in a restaurant that aren't on the menu or found the perfect Vino Nobile for the secondo piatto. Thanks to the language I've learned to harvest grapes and olives to make wine and olive oil. I live in Tuscany two

months a year. My base is in Arezzo and from there I study Italian, branch out to discover new places and events, participate in festivals and daily markets, walk in the evening passeggiata, and make friends. Now available, a book of true stories: Walking the Aqueduct: Tuscan Adventures and Culture. These are stories about my adventures, misadventures with insights about the culture of and traveling in Italy. Available in both paperback and Kindle formats. Contacts and Social Media Contact: scott.grabinger@gmail.com Facebook: [www.facebook.com/scott.grabinger](http://www.facebook.com/scott.grabinger) LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/scott-grabinger-3890b073](http://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-grabinger-3890b073) Blog: [insidetuscany.blogspot.com](http://insidetuscany.blogspot.com) For book information go to: [www.insidetuscanybooks.com](http://www.insidetuscanybooks.com) For Tuscan itineraries go to: [www.insidetuscanytours.com](http://www.insidetuscanytours.com)

We used this book recently in Val d'Orcia and found it very helpful even though we'd been to the area several times before. He includes some really interesting info. For first timers to the area, it would REALLY be helpful. I loved that he included satellite codes for the GPS. Unfortunately, our stupid GPS failed to work. Also, sometimes the GPS just won't work in this area according to other people staying at the same place we did. I love that the author took the time to give readers an exhaustive explanation of my favorite spot in Italy (ever). I lived in Italy for 13 years, and I always go back to Val d'Orcia.

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