



WHERE NATURE STILL RULES

Grosseto in the south of Tuscany is the region's largest province and, with fewer than 250,000 residents, one of the least populous in Italy. It embraces the marshy Grosseto flatlands, crossed by the river Ombrone, the

Colline Metallifere (metal-bearing hills), the Monti dell'Uccellina marking off Argentario peninsula and lagoon of Orbetello, and rugged, wood-clad Monte Amiata. If you love nature trails and stunning countryside, Grosseto is the prov-



The medieval village of Pereta with its clock tower.

ince to head for. Wines from the area include Massa Marittima, Morellino di Scansano, reds from Montecucco and “Etruscan” whites from Pitigliano.

Grosseto itself is a relatively recent city. When Italy was unified in 1861, it had no more than 4,500 inhabitants and even today only has just over 80,000 but the walls, started by Cosimo de’ Medici and completed by Ferdinando I in the 16th century, are impressive, embracing the ancient part of the town. The cathedral, dedicated to San Lorenzo, was rebuilt in 1190 on the ruins of the earlier church of Santra Maria but Grosseto’s oldest church, mentioned in 1188, is San Pietro.



Near Grosseto, the Roselle archaeological park contains intriguing remains from the Etruscan and Roman periods, including a perfectly conserved Roman theater still used for summer performances.

Just south of Grosseto, Alberese is the starting point for the trails of the Maremma nature park, where wild horses and Maremma cattle roam the pasturelands while roe deer and wild boar scurry through the woods undisturbed.

Most of the beaches are low-lying but Monte Argentario is a mountain on the sea. The resorts on the promontory are Orbetello, Porto Santo Stefano, Cala Piccola and Porto Ercole. A ferry from Porto Santo Stefano will take you to the island of Giglio where the only road rises from the harbor to Giglio Castello, a settlement that dates from the tenth century. A little further south is Ansedonia and its archaeological sites. Capalbio boasts an eccentric tarot garden dotted with 12 to 15 meter-high mosaic, mirror and ceramic-decorated sculptures of tarot cards.

Near Capalbio is the world Wildlife Fund’s Burano lake wetlands nature reserve. North of Grosseto is the medieval coastal town of Castiglione della Pescaia, as well as Punta Ala and Follonica. Inland Vetulonia and Lake Accesa are important Etruscan sites. Massa Marittima has one of Italy’s loveliest medieval piazzas while in the south of the province are the “tufa rock towns”: scenic Pitigliano, medieval Sovana and Etruscan Sorano.



POGGIO AL TUFO •

Maremma Toscana IGT Vermentino 2010



GRAPES:
vermentino 100%

DRINK BEFORE:
2013

Serve at 10/12 °C
in a stem glass
about five cm
at the rim

\$15

Poggio al Tufo sprawls over 66 hectares of Maremma countryside and is the pride and joy of the Tomassis, a family of Veneto-based producers who since 1997 have been investing in Tuscany with undeniable success.

THE WINE

Brilliant straw yellow shimmering with lovely green highlights; delicious peach and pear-like white fruits aromatics give way to fresh greens and citrus; very fresh acidity and outstanding persistence that reveals appealing pear fruit at the back.

TRY IT WITH...

A pleasingly fresh-tasting white for light summer lunches al fresco. Serve with a Tuscan bread salad of tomatoes, cucumber, onion and basil or veal in a creamy tuna sauce.

CONTACT: www.poggioaltufo.it