

Arrival Information for Agriturismo Braccicorti:

By Road :

From Pisa airport: from the arrivals/hire car section follow the road round to the left from small roundabout, straight down behind the car parks and then at end bear right up ramp at end, this will take you onto main rd or flyover out from Pisa to Autostrada. The autostrada, which are green signs. If you want, the centre of Pisa is only 10 min to the tower & Pisa Centro & yellow signs for the tower, from airport take the left at small roundabout from car hire and then immediately right, follow straight along and over rail bridge. Right and then left after bridge and then follow signs that are visible for the Leaning Tower. For Lucca, follow blue signs from Pisa on small country road and re take these directions at Lucca.

From Florence take autostrada A11 in direction of Pisa Nord, to turn off for Lucca and then follow from point 3 below

From the North:

Road from the North from Parma / La Spezia to Aulla, and then road to Piazza al Serchio & Pontecosi, see other directions.

From Pisa, first lookout is for the autostrada to Genova and then to Firenze.

- 1) After taking you ticket for autostrada, take the right turn onto the autostrada to Genova. Stay on this for about 10 min, (ticket ones with sign biglietto ! not the others)
- 2) Take the turning off for Firenze, this takes you onto the next section of autostrada for about 20min
- 3) Turning off autostrada at Lucca and Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, pay ticket on exit, then after follow out and turn left passing Mc Donalds on your right.
- 4) Here stay in the left lane as you approach Lucca, pass set of traffic lights over bridge and follow straight over in left lane normally the one with more cars, Bear left as you go over roundabout, into middle lane.
- 5) Follow rd round along side walls following signs, not that there are many for Castelnuovo di Garfagnana / Abetone, with the walls of Lucca on your right.
- 6) Follow until another large roundabout, here rd continues round the walls to right, we cross over roundabout bearing left away from Lucca. Signs to Castelnuovo & Abetone.
- 7) Straight ahead then After lights, right lane, follow straight and then bear right at end onto main road out of Lucca.
- 8) Stay on this main road, going out into the country side until you pass a big pink house on left and reach shopping centre Esselunga on right, here turn left next to shopping centre, "brown signs for Garfagnana"
- 9) Onto main section of road, pass through 2 tunnels & on exit from 2nd then right onto road to Castelnuovo, and follow straight / straight, no turnings off, straight, all the way to Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. There is a roundabout at Borgo, straight over, then later on, there is a junction in the rd with a right turn to Barga, carry on straight here. Always try to be on left side of river as it is easier.
- 10) In Castelnuovo, enter town, carry straight on, pass 1st turn on left, this goes to the Coast, then pass 2nd left turn, this goes into the main square, and follow round to the right. Over bridge to right, and round to the left all the time on main road. (Ignore all left turns in castelnuovo)
- 11) Straight on and out of Castelnuovo, pass Triti restaurant and then station entrance on left further up. Continue straight to narrow bit of road bending up some hairpin turns. As you come out at top with wide views and grass fields and mtn views on right, Take rd FIRST LEFT, main road continues to the right, take left here by bar, with many blue signs, San Romano, Villetta, Pontecosi, Aulla. Be aware in the dark.
- 12) Straight along, pass Bowling centre, following round down and round bend to left, pass industrial area on left, down dip again and round & down and then up to left. Pass sign for Pontecosi on left and then Shell garage on left.
- 13) Round corner, next turn on right, with sign for Garfagnana Golf. Pass this turn, and then after some bends / about 200m you will have the lodge on the right hand side above the road. RIGHT turn at a green and a blue rubbish bin on the right hand side of road and wooden signs for Agriturismo Braccicorti. Up the road & follow up and park.
- 14) If you go too far you will see signs for Villetta, our local village, with some bars and a pizzeria, if you have trouble, they know Braccicorti at Il Grotto there and can help out. Otherwise turn back and when you see Pontecosi sign, left just after a green wheely bin., there are Agriturismo signs here also.

Come up to lodge and meet us here, then we can show you where there is the pool, self serve bar, dining area & lounge, Then someone will take you to your lodge or to your room. Dinners in General at 7.30pm, with breakfast at 8am. Packed lunches can be made. Please let us know asap for dinners if and when you need them.

Contact Numbers : Braccicorti > 0583 62371, Rupert > 347 5139794, Angela > 348 7780689

Train Arrival Information:

Depending on which direction you are coming from: (times of train can be sent if you wish)

From the North :

Train line from Parma and La Spezia to a stop called Aulla.

From Aulla one then changes trains and takes the valley train via Piazza al Serchio to Villetta San Romano or Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. The trains will be labelled to Piazza al Serchio where one then waits or changes for the continuation further as it goes to Lucca, thus the train goes straight through Piazza al Serchio to Villetta and Castelnuovo and eventually Lucca (do not go all the way to Lucca !). Follow points 7 or 8 onwards for once you arrive at the Station.

From the South:

Train line up into the Valley from is Lucca. This is on the main line from Florence to Viareggio, along with trains from Pisa to Lucca (15 min). From Florence to Lucca it is 1hr and 15 min. There are some trains directly to and from Pisa Airport but they are not too regular !!!

On arrival at Pisa or Lucca station:

- 1) You will buy your ticket to Villetta San Romano, this is our local station. However after a certain hour in late PM they go only to Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, then taxi to us.(The trains after 5.30pm to 8pm in the evening from Lucca do not stop at Villetta).
- 2) From Pisa train to Firenze SMN and get off at Lucca, From Florence train to Lucca / Viareggio off at Lucca
- 3) At Lucca change trains, sometimes from Pisa the train waits and the same one continues. Then on the platform look on the board for the train labelled to Piazza al Serchio or to Aulla
- 4) If you get on another train you more than likely will end up back in Pisa !
- 5) On the train, journey from Lucca to Villetta takes an Hour.
- 6) Look carefully for station names or ask in the train to passengers or guard on the train.
- 7) We are the 1st stop after Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. Here from Villetta it is 15min walk to the lodge.

- 8) If you arrive at Castelnuovo take a taxi, this is a local taxi number. Just say Braccicorti and they will know where to go ! : 0583 62312 or mobile no. 348 6500191 Guido Guidi ! if you have bikes, say con biciclette, uno 1 or due 2.
- 9) For Villetta arrivals : Out of the station and for walkers and bikers ! just follow the main road to the right out of the station as it goes UP towards the main road and the bars and restaurant of Il Grotto.
- 10) On the main road go right.
- 11) Follow the road along around 2 quite sharp left bends until you see the sign for Pontecosi on the right hand side of the road.
- 12) From the Pontecosi sign we are about 40m down the road on the left. There is a green wheely bin on the left hand side of the entrance and signs saying Agriturismo.(week days there is a blue 3 wheeler parked at the entrance also !) Head up the drive to the main house, the larger one set back more from the road.
- 13) Once there someone from the family will meet you and then show you around and then take you to your lodge / room.

Other Info >

- ❖ Main Airport is Pisa : Flights from the UK with Ryan Air and BA, along with Thompson Fly.
- ❖ For Self guided weeks and accommodation only weeks, one is advised to take a hire car while in the Garfagnana, as local transport is not too often and regular, buses and even trains are few and do not really take you to where you want to go to.
- ❖ Castelnuovo has the main supermarkets and stores there. Here there are supermarkets and the old town, with visitors centre and information in the old town. In the industrial area there is Conad a bigger supermarket & sports area such as the open air pool and tennis club. Thursday morning is market day in Castelnuovo.
- ❖ Villetta has a good bar and pizzeria and some shops here for local produce and food for dinner attached to the side of the bars, fresh bread and meats, you can get it all from here at Il Grotto. This is the village closest to Braccicorti. There is a butcher and 2 bars, and a small mini market. Both bars sell stamps and cigarettes. For late evening arrivals, Il Grotto is a good option to eat at.
- ❖ For Big Supermarkets / Hyper Markets, which have a huge range of food, clothes etc etc. There are some further down the valley : **Leclerc** : Gallicano, on the road to/from Lucca near Barga, 20 min, a big food store with other sections of household goods, will pass this when coming from Lucca, if you want to stock up on way to your villa.