



Casa di *Nonnas*[®]



Pescia, Tuscany

www.casadinonnas.co.uk

How To Get To The House

By plane: The nearest airports are in Pisa ("Galileo Galilei" International Airport), approximately 50 km; and in Florence ("Amerigo Vespucci" International Airport), approximately 40 km.

www.aeroporto.firenze.it

www.pisa-airport.com

By train: All towns in Valdinievole have a railway station along the line that links Florence to Lucca and Viareggio.

www.trenitalia.it

By car: Step by step instructions are located at the end of this document. It takes around 40 – 50 minutes to arrive at Casa di Nonnas from the airport. The GPS co-ordinates for the house are: N43.94401 E10.71408

By coach: All towns in Valdinievole can be easily reached by local coach service.

www.lazzi.it

www.copitspa.it

<http://www.cttcompany.it/flyBusIt.asp>

FLYBUS offers first-rate travel at economy prices on comfortable coaches. You will enjoy a stress-free trip as you are delivered straight to the Airport's front door or to Montecatini Terme in the very heart of Tuscany. This is where you can continue on to your final destination conveniently and quickly. Tickets available on board. Once at Montecatini Terme, a car can be hired (try http://car-rental.europcar.com/car-rental-ITALY-MONTECATINI_TERME.html), taxi ordered or a train can be caught into Pescia where an onward Lazzi bus can be connected to the doorstep of *casa di Nonnas*.

Information and website details inc timetables: CTT-Compagnia Toscana Trasporti,

tel. + 39 0573 018620

www.cttcompany.it

Thank you for booking Casa di Nonna's for your vacation

Casa di Nonna's is owned by a two restaurateurs from Sheffield in England. The restaurant Nonna's (meaning Grandmother) is an Italian restaurant and has been in operation by two friends (Gian Bohan and Maurizio Mori) since 1996. Most of the staff at Nonna's have spent a working holiday at the house to better understand the culture and the food which enhances the restaurant (www.nonnas.co.uk).

Casa di Nonnas is operated by several people. *Gian or Chiara* organise the bookings based in the UK and Marilena is the point of contact in Italy, greeting guests at the house. On arrival to either the house or the airport, please call Marilena who will come and meet you. Any requests before you go and to book, speak to Bree.

Contact Casa di Nonnas reservation team +44 (0)1142686166 option2 (landline) info@nonnas.co.uk
MARILENA (Italy) +39 (0) 366 4889905 (mobile) or +39 (0)572 952219 (landline)

Security deposit

You have been asked to pay a security deposit for the house of £250. This is to cover breakages and damages made and if the house is not left in an acceptable state of cleanliness. Your security deposit will be returned to you in full after 7 days of leaving the house unless there have been reported problems/ damages, in which we will deduct the damage costs from the deposit. If you see any damages or breakages on arrival, please inform Marilena immediately.

Picking up the keys

You can pick up the keys up to 3 days before your departure from Nonnas (535– 541 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield S11 8PR). If you require the keys earlier please contact us for advice. The keys need to be returned before your fifth day back to the UK, they can be dropped in to Nonna's restaurant or sent registered post to Bree O'Neil, Nonnas Restaurant, 535 – 541 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield S11 8PR. The security deposit cannot be released until the keys are returned.

Check- in

The check in time for both houses is **5pm**. Sometimes we are able to offer you an earlier check in time. Please use this as a guide when planning your travel.

Check- out

We ask you vacate the properties at **11am sharp unless** prior arrangements have been made.

Check the weather

Click on Tuscany region and then scroll down to Pistoia for a regional interactive guide to the upcoming weather near the house at:

<http://media2.meteo.it/turistiche/index.html>

Directions to the house

Complete with this pack, you will receive written directions to the house from Pisa airport. Pescia is approximately 50 minutes from Pisa airport and the house is 6kms from Pescia central, about 10 minutes drive up into the hills. The address is 218 Via Mammianese Nord, Ponte di Velano, Pescia.

The houses

The houses are fully equipped with all your essential equipment including kitchens, dishwashers, crockery, pots and pans, poolside beds and linen and towels, however we do not have air- conditioning at the house. There is also an outdoor barbeque which is available for your use. There is wood chopped and ready (firelighters required) if you wish to use it. Please clean after use.

Telephone

The houses have a telephone for incoming and local calls only. Its number is +39 (0)572 409274.

If you wish to call from the house abroad, it is best practice to buy a phonecard from the local supermarket or post office. To call the UK, dial 0044 and drop the usual local area code 0 before entering the number you require.

Internet access

Due to its hillside position the house does not offer internet access or wireless.

Important numbers

Emergency number	112	Policeman
	113	General enquiries emergency
	115	Fire Brigade
	118	Emergency (ambulance)

General information 1240

Taxi number	339-74-37-380	Paolo, local taxi
	335-49-42-61	Sergio, local taxi

The Other House

If you have not hired both houses together (The Main House and The Cherry Tree), then you must be aware that you are sharing grounds together potentially with other holiday makers. The two houses share 2 infinity pools and a garden complete with sunbeds. Please be courteous to the users of the other house and be aware of their needs for their holiday, including noise levels both morning and evening.

Central Heating

The central heating is on automatic however at different times of the year it may need adjusting. Is on automatic, you should not experience any problems, however, if you do please call Marilena who will organise a plumber. Please turn off the heating when you leave.

Fire place

There is a log fire place. The covered wood near the outdoor BBQ is for your use if needed. You just need to buy some fire lighters from the supermarket for an enjoyable BBQ or cosy fire. Please make sure you clean out the fireplace before you depart.

Swimming Pool

The pool is not heated however it does get full sun all day so it heats up just nicely. We have provided some sun-beds and chairs around the pool for relaxing. PLEASE NOTE, THE POOL IS NOT GUARDED BY A LIFEGUARD AT ANY TIMES, CARE MUST ALWAYS BE MAINTAINED ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN AS THE FIRST POOL IS 1.8m DEEP AND THE LOWER POOL IS AROUND 1.1m. The pool will be in operation from June 1st until 30th September only.

Bins/ Trash

At the bottom of the hill is the main rubbish bin, drop your rubbish in here as you leave or if you are going out for the day. To operate, press down on the foot pedal on the bottom of the bin to open it.

Cleaning

Cleaners will have been before you arrive and after you leave, leaving fresh towels, linens and will general cleaning. On departure, please place all linens, towels and bathmats in a pile in the front room. All pots need to be washed, the dishwashers need to be emptied on departure and pots put back into the cupboards, cleaned. Please leave the buildings as clean as you found them. **Failure to leave the house in a reasonable state** will result in the loss of your security deposit and will cause delaying check in problems for arriving guests.

The local resident

There is a resident in the house behind the main house, this is not Nonna's property, nor is the wood store, vegetable garden or fruit trees that are located behind The Main House. Please respect their property.

Olive oil

In the utility area of The Main House we have Nonnas Olio (olive oil). An oil vat filled with our very own grown olives crushed into extra virgin olive oil, you are welcome to use this as you please. The oil is from the olive trees situated near the main house.

Cycling

The houses situation makes it the perfect base for cycling holidays in the hills. If this is your type of holiday, contact GUSTO CYCLING MARCO MORI AT <http://www.gustocycling.com/>

House equipment and furniture

All of the equipment in the house is for your use. Please treat everything with respect, if you break anything just let us know and if possible just replace it. Do not move items between the houses, please keep all crockery, furniture and glassware in its house.

The Local Area of Pescia

The characteristic form of Pescia seems to date back as far as the year 1000. The city played a leading role from the 11th century due to its agricultural industry and climate. Various wars due to its agricultural importance meant the city was nearly destroyed in 1281. It was ranked into a “city” in the 14th Century. Although Pescia thrived on production of paper and silk are today in decline, however the horticultural industry continues to expand and the city is renowned for its flowers and horticulture. You will see the great Florentine door with its baroque friezes and the coat of arms of the Medici family built in honour of Gian Gastone. As you go through Pietrabuona, where the only remains of a castle are the ruins of a fort and church, there also stands an ancient paper mill still producing paper to ancient techniques. As you continue up the hills past Casa di Nonnas, you will come to a town called Vellano, one of the most important fortified settlements in the Pescian mountains and today still preserves the remains of the walls and a 10th century church.

Local food shops to Casa di Nonnas, Pescia

- “Pane” (bread shop) situated in Vellano, it is a small shop, on the right hand side, very limited signage.
- Down the hill in Pietrabuona, there is a Rosticceria selling take away goods like lasagnes and cooked chickens– *this is the only local food supermarket open on a Sunday.*
- In Pescia, there is a large well– stocked supermarket called EssenLungo– try their sliced meats, mozzarella– basil and tomato, prepared “crema fegato” (chicken livers), fagioli (beans), tuscan breads, tuscan Salsiccia (sausage)– perfect for great tasty lunches or a picnic? NOTE– you must weigh fruit and vegetables at the weighing scales and print off a ticket before taking them to the tills to pay
- All shops in Montecatini, Pescia and around open at 9am until 1pm and then re– open at 4pm until 8pm. Most national shops are open throughout. Sunday is very much a family day in Italy, please check ahead if the shop you require is open.
- The main street in Pescia on a Saturday turns into a market. There are great cafes as well as good gelaterias and pizza taglios (slices). You must pay for parking here at the machines.

21 things to do from Casa di Nonnas

We have listed our top 20 things to do; afterwards we have also noted our favourite local restaurants. As you will find more things to do and newer restaurants– we ask you to share them with future guests at the back of this book.

1. **Wine Tour**– head to the Chianti region, taking in the great chianti road to Siena for breathtaking views. We recommend heading onto Montalcino– a famous city for its type of wine produced there called Brunello del Montalcino (100% Sangiovese). We recommend Fattoria dei Barbi (0039 0577 847117). Barbi is an estate of great heritage and pride, with a fantastic tour, tastings and a restaurant producing their own salamis. Whilst you are there, take in the beautiful city steeped in history and heritage. Set off early, it’s at least a 2 hour drive without stopping to Montalcino. Consider staying over in one of the many hotels there so you can explore Siena on the way back. A good map of Italy will include wine estates on.
2. **Montecatini Terme**– Terme means spa as Montecatini has many spas revered around the world for their healing properties. “Bar Giovannini” offers great coffees, pastries and cakes and is highly recommended. The tourism office in Montecatini offers advice (in English) of upcoming festivals and spa information. You can also make preparations beforehand on their website at www.montecatini.turismo.toscana.it or call 0572 772244. With great shops, cafes and pizzerias, parks and child friendly kindergartens, Montecatini is a great place to explore. Everything closes down on a Sunday though and it can be very quiet. Usually all the shops in Italy close for lunch for at least 2 hours between 12pm and 2pm, but alas they open until at least 7pm.
3. **The baths of Montecatini**– The extraordinary properties of Montecatini’s water springs means all ailments can be treated. The nine classical baths take their name from the springs pouring out inside them. The **Excelsior** baths can also offer ascendant intestinal showers for constipation and inhalation amongst a variety of ailments. Mud baths therapy for rheumatism and vascular diseases are practiced at the **Redi Baths**. At the **Grocco institute**, besides its analysis laboratory, massage centres, there is also a thermal pool for rehabilitation purposes. A new beauty farm has opened at **Excelsior baths**, anti– cellulite massages, lympho– draining, Turkish baths, etc. It is opened all year round from Monday afternoon to Sunday morning, for more info contact 0572 7781. Swedish massages at the **Grotto Giusti** start at around

€60.00 for 50 mins, however the 3 days of treatments for are between €400.00 and €550.00 whilst the 6 days of treatments is €930.00– for more information see www.grottagiustispa.com

4. **Montecatini Alto**– Until 1940, Montecatini Alto was the headquarters of the spa town. Alto, meaning above, is situated on the hills behind Montecatini looking down upon it. A beautiful medieval town with remains of old towers, churches and convents. There is a beautiful square perfect for a Friday al fresco meal. There are sensational views down onto Montecatini Terme on a clear day. A Michelin star restaurant graces the centre square or a lovely gelateria for a sunny day. It is accessible by cable car (funicolare) or you can drive up.
5. **Collodi**– Not far from Pescia you come across Collodi, famous for its Garzoni gardens and monumental park dedicated to Pinocchio (the writer of Pinocchio’s (Carlo Collodi’s) birthplace), here you can find the Toys Village.
6. **Firenze (Florence)**– Make sure you have a great guidebook and spend a full day in Firenze, we recommend you take the bus from the bus station in Montecatini which has ample free parking out front, for times go to www.lazzi.it, here you can check times (click on the GBR flag) to see it in English, look for times from Montecatini Terme to Florence. Whether it be shopping, sightseeing or wandering– there’s a whole lot to see. Don’t miss the Point Vecchio (famous for proposals in the middle of the bridge), museums and galleries (the Uffizi (make sure you book in advance as it’s always busy). It’s about a 40 minute bus journey, however if you choose to drive then you will have a lot of problems parking in an over–burdened car population that is Florence.
7. **Lucca**– one of Tuscany’s most fascinating towns. Independent until the 19th Century, Lucca’s wealth was based on commerce. Historic walls enclose an active centre of medieval streets, Romanesque churches and a stately palazzo. Not many cities in Italy have kept their enclosing walls, however Lucca is almost completely intact, leaving one of the most important examples of military architecture and today, the symbol of the city. The shops in Lucca have always been an integral part of the architecture– they continue to be party to the best in Italy, clothes, food and kitchen stores. Opera lovers will be glad to know that Puccini was born in Lucca and today his house bears a museum to his name. Spend a whole day within these walls easily and you will still want to come back for more, try and climb the stairs of small bell towers to see Lucca and the Lucchese people in all its glory. Great music festivals are held every year, including the outdoor festival which have brought great names to Lucca like Jamiroquai, James Brown and George Michael. There is also an annual Puccini opera festival worth looking at. For information on the festivals, try:
<http://www.summer-festival.com/main.html>
<http://www.puccinifestival.it/eng/>
8. **Pontito**– A drive to the highest town of all, at 800m altitude, draws breathless views in all directions. As you head down to Pietrabuona from the house (towards Pescia), watch out for signs to Pontito– it is a long drive (maybe 30 minutes) but worth it! These regions are famous also for Pecorino cheeses, chestnuts and wild boar. Farm holiday lovers will find endless tracks for mountain biking around here as well as horse–riding tracks. Call the APT tourism office in Montecatini for more information 0572 772244
9. **Il Palio– Siena**– annual horse racing event, usually held in July each year. Pescia holds its Il Palio is annually around the end August. Check local guides for precise dates. They always involve lots of celebrations, dressing up and fun!
10. **Beach**– head west to Viareggio, a great long stretch seaside resort. Fantastic views, uber trendy discotheques and at the right time of year you will get a great suntan. Viareggio carnival is held in January and early February– look out for its real Art Nouveau style in the architecture along the beach.
11. **Bolgheri**– Visiting the home of Tuscany’s most famous wine is a great experience. (Tenuta San Guido, Capanne, 27, Bolgheri, travel south from Pisa for 50km on the A12 and then E80). Visits can be made by prior arrangement only, 0565 762003, there is no direct sales at the estate, however you can buy it in the wine shops in Bolgheri but you are usually limited to 2 bottles per person. Despite being rated as one of the best wines in the world, *Sassacaia* still holds no greater wine classification than table wine, which

caused one of the greatest revolutions in Italian wine production to this day. A great coastal region and definitely worth taking advantage of your 2 bottle quota!

12. **Skiing**– The winter skiing resort of Abetone is not far from the house. Head north from Pescia through the rolling hills to Abetone, well– known and visited by tourists from all over the world. The ski slopes reach altitudes of upto 1900m. All levels of skiers can be engaged here, with many hotels and hospitality spread throughout. Italy’s top ski champions are from Abetone, hence its popularity.
13. **Market days/ festivals**– antiques in Lucca 3rd Saturday in the month, Pescia every Saturday morning for food. With food festivals all year round, check out the tourist website for more information for when you are going, www.montecatini.turismo.toscana.it they normally have printed literature for the month ahead, try also www.pistoia.turismo.toscana.it . There is also a wine festival in local Montecarlo in the first week of September. There is also a chestnut festival in Vellano on or around the end of October each year.
14. **Walking in the hills**– behind the house there are a few unmarked walking trails heading up into the hills. They make great morning runs or afternoon walks. Take care, there are wild boars in these hills, they have been sighted around the house and near the pool at night. Walking around Vellano is great to see the people going about their day– to– day business.
15. **Cycling trips**– we can organise a professional cycling trip in advance, perfect for the roads, hills and views. If you decide you would like to have a trip here, contact us beforehand and we will see if we can arrange something.
16. **Fagioli di Sorana**– Tuscany’s finest beans! Tuscany is famous for its beans: the most celebrated are the fagioli di Sorana. They have long been a delicacy of the rich and famous that visit Montecatini. The legend of the bean is that a caravan of pilgrims got caught in a big storm and their (Spanish) bean bag split and the beans were scattered and washed up along the small river in Pescia. Its silt bed was the perfect ground for the beans. Sorana is a small village near to the house and only a handful of people still grow the beans, training them up high poles. So whilst you are here make a trip to Sorana, take a picnic, there are green areas with picnic tables perfect for this, but make sure you bring some fagioli di Sorana
17. **Truffle hunting**– truffles, a type of fungus, are rooted out from under trees by specially trained dogs that have been weaned on truffles since birth. The white truffle variety, to which San Miniato (South East of Lucca, near Empoli) dedicates an annual fair over a weekend in late autumn and winter (for dates and information go to http://goeurope.about.com/od/sanminiato/ss/miniato_truffle.htm). Fresh truffles only last a few days but they are worth more than gold in weight.
18. **Pisa** – Rumour has it there is a tower structure which is not 100% straight? We recommend you visit the leaning tower on your way back to Pisa Airport. You can park across the street, don’t forget to buy a ticket, pop over and experience its beauty then hop back in your car and follow the signs for the Airport which is only a 15 minutes journey from there.
19. **BBQ Al fresco**– Enjoy the views of the rolling hills, head to the local butcher and get some proper Tuscan sausages. There is some wood available near the outdoor barbeque for your use, buy some firelighters, sit back and enjoy the view.
20. **Vinci – Home of Leonardo da Vinci**
distance–approx 1 hour
to do–quaint small village with a museum of leonardos sketches and models of his inventions. The tickets are bought at a building near the entrance to the museum, there are a few souvenirs and books in English on Leonardo da Vinci. You can walk to his birthplace home (20 mins), walk through the olive groves to anschiano hamlet (no cafes or restaurants in the hamlet) or take a picnic or eat in the village of vinci. There is a small Enoteca with an outside area, very rustic inside. They do a selection of good brushetone, pasta and classic antipasto. The highlight is the fantastic wine list of over 500 labels, all very reasonably priced, a great way to spend a rainy afternoon, we have previously enjoyed a bottle of *tunuta di trincore, la cupole 2002* at 27 euros which is an absolute bargain. You may be tempted by a few bottles to take away.
Antica cantina di baccio p.zza leonardo da vinci tel 0571 568042

21. **Finally – Relax**– after all you are on holiday! Enjoy the infinity pools, the landscape from the sun– loungers, the terrace. Take breakfast outside. Pick yourself a fig from the fig– tree and enjoy it with some prosciutto and Nonna’s olive oil. Sun yourself by the pool and watch the Tuscan rain clouds sweep over the hills and dissipate. Listen out for the hourly bells from the 3 “local” villages chime across the hills as they echo back and forth. Hear the “neighbours” chatting in the hills in the other villages over 5 miles away.

Dining in Tuscan Restaurants

Lunch is usually from 12.20–2.30pm. Dinner hours vary, but rarely begin before 7pm. Most kitchens especially in the country stop serving at around 9pm. It is always best to reserve, but if your plans change don't forget to cancel the booking as there is usually only one– sitting.

Typical dishes in Tuscany are:

Pappa al pomodoro	Tuscan soup of bread and tomatoes
Ribollita	Thick bread and vegetable soup
Bollito	Boiled meats
Pasta e fagioli	White bean soup with pasta
Steak Florentine	T–Bone steak
Cinghiale	Wild Boar (served with pasta or as a main)
Lepre	Hare (served with pasta or as a main)
Cantucci	Twice baked biscuits served to dip in Vin Santo dessert wine, seekers of the real stuff should make a pilgrimage to Prato, home of the original
Pannacotta	Creamy set dessert can be served with hot chocolate or summer fruits.

Restaurants, Bars and Eateries

€ = cheap, snacky between £5 and £15 each

€ € = good value meal, local produce between £15 and £25 each

€ € € = occasion restaurant, pricey but worth it! Anything over £25 each

ALL RECOMMENDED, SOME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (DON'T GO HOME WITHOUT TRYING!)

Bar Giovaninni, Montecatini Terme €

In the main square of Montecatini Terme, this bar makes fantastic coffees, pastries and panino sandwiches. Pay at the till first and take your receipt to the bar for your great cakes and caffè. If you are here in easter, check out the huge chocolate easter displays. GPS co–ordinates 43.52.57.34N 10.46.19.05E.

Ristorante and Pizzeria Pucci € +39 0572 476176

Just off the main square in Pescia via Amendola, it was renovated by the same builder who re– built casa di Nonnas! Good local pizzas, great fresh products, speciality tagliata di tonno (tuna) and manzo (beef). GPS co–ordinates 43.53.59.06N 10.41.16.98E

Gauguin, Firenze € € +39 0552 340616

Gauguin is a rarity, vegetarian restaurants in Italy are often macrobiotic, serving very pure, pared down food. This however, uses good vegetables, pulses and cheeses that Italy has to offer, like Crostini of warm herbed lentils spiced with orange, pumpkin tarts and home– made desserts.

Ristorante Bigiano, Uzzano € € +39 0572 476341

Via Bardeli at the old gate entrance of Pescia turn left up the hill to Uzzano. They have a nice outdoor terrace, also it's nice to sit inside and get a great view over the valley. Wonderful tagliatelle made with chestnut flour on recent visit.

Agroturismo Montalone, Sorana € € +39 0572 407031

Follow the directions for Da Carla or Sorana. Go up to Sorana village (ideal for a picnic!), just before the village top is a signpost on the left for Agroturismo Montalone. The bend is very sharp and you may need 2 attempts. Follow the signs and it will lead you on to a small track, on the right (again a tight turn), this turns into a dirt track and leads uphill. Stick with this dirt track, even if you don't think it is the right way, tight turns and steep hills will lead you to the very end of the track at the top of a hill, with a farm and outbuildings. Park up and walk up the 50 metres to the house. True home cooking and amazing value; make sure you don't eat all day before you go!!!!!! Included in the fixed price– all wines and as much food as you want– however, they just bring what they have farmed so be prepared to be adventurous! Bookings ALWAYS required for this 30 seater family home restaurant. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** GPS co–ordinates 43.58.10.49N 10.42.58.89E

Ristorante Cecco, Via Forti, Pescia € € € +39 0572 477955

Cecco is a wonderful place to sample Pistoia's gastronomic specialities. The menu always includes a few hard-to-find dishes and locally grown produce like Pescia's renowned giant green asparagus. Try their fagioli di Sorana, cioncia alla Pesciatina (diced beef muzzle in aromatic tomato sauce).

Ristorante Montacolle, Marlianese € € € +39 0572 66275

From the house, head up past Vellano and continue, following signs for Mirlianese. Great local restaurant, you have to order a traditional Florentine steak (T-bone, cut at the table, with crudités and chips), expensive but worth every Euro and a view to die for over Montecatini.

La Baita, Canfittori- Via Marlianese € € € +39 0572 66275

This is a great local restaurant, with specialities in mushrooms, hunting and gathering. Directions- from the house- turn right at the bottom of drive towards Vellano. Pass through Vellano going up the hill through the woods till you get to Macchino hamlet (approx 3km from Vellano). Just after the main bend in the village there is a right turn, do not take this but continue straight on. The next right turn will be signposted for Marliana, choose this one and head down the hill through the woods (approx 10-15 mins, 5 km) go through the village of Marliana, keep on the main road, approximately 2 km on you will see La Baita on the right- hand side on a bend. The journey time is approx 30-40 minutes to La Baita from the house. GPS co-ordinates are 43.54.26.19N 10.48.33.29E. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** GPS co-ordinates 43.54.26.19N 10.48.33.29E

Buca di San Antonio, Lucca €€€ +39 0583 312199

Inside the old walls via Della Cervia. An institution in Lucca, decorated with the old copper polenta pots and has a nice oldy worldly feel, favoured by informed tourists and locals alike. Not cheap. Specialities are classic local dishes done with style: tortelli lucchesi, petto di faronna. Closed Sunday night and Monday.

Andreachio, Pescia €€€ +39 0572 476062

Newly opened, 5 star food, wine and service. They serve two menus, Italian and Japanese. The 5 course Italian Taster Menu is truly great. Their address is Via G.Giusti 7, 51016. They also own the following too:

Il Cascinale Belvedere, Montecarlo €€ +39 0583 277263

A typical Tuscan restaurant, very different from Andreachio's. Excellent antipasto and great service again. Their address is Via Stefanini 14, 55015.

Arrival Back Home

When you get back, don't forget to send the keys and let us know of any damages before claiming any security deposit. Bree will also send you a feedback form so you can help us improve.

If you re-book at the casa or recommend a friend, we will give you a £50 Nonna's gift voucher to use at Nonna's restaurant, bar and cafe as well as our delicatessen called Nonna's Cucina (Grandmas kitchen). When booking, make sure your friend quotes your name for your voucher. If you can recommend places or restaurants, send us your recommendations and we will feature them in the brochure for future guests.

Directions to Casa di Nonnas, without a satellite navigation system

On arrival at Pisa airport, pick up your rental car (it's a short shuttle bus journey to the cars). Make sure you have some euros as you will need them for the toll booth. Head to the exit, follow the green sign towards GENOVA.



You will come to a toll booth; do not go into the TELEPASS aisle as this is for pre-paid charges only. Collect a ticket from the booth and keep it to hand.



Continue to follow signs for GENOVA until you see a green sign right turning towards FIRENZE A11.

Follow the A11 FIRENZE for around 20 minutes until you see the turn off on the right for CHIESINA UZZANESE, take this turning off there, you will come to the end of the toll road, go to the booth sign posted with coins and pay euros at the booth and wait for the green light. It costs around €3.20.

You will then see these signs (as left), follow the directions for PESCIA, you will go over a bridge over the motorway you have just departed which used to be straight to your right (as right) but you follow the road in a U shape until you come to a new round-a-bout of which you follow the signs for Pesca (as below) to your right and then you will drive over the bridge over the motorway.



Continue on straight, it is approximately 10–15 minutes drive until you arrive into Pesca. You will head into Pesca and need to go straight through the town; you will arrive at a small set of lights of which you go straight ahead. You will then eventually come to a supermarket on your right hand side called Esselunga (this is your local supermarket) and will immediately come across a new round-a-bout, exit at your first right. Keep following the road straight ahead and you will have the river on your right and the main town centre of Pesca on your left. Keep following the road straight, you will eventually come to a sign signalling the end of Pesca and the start of Piertrabuona (as below)



The road is quite curved and windy, stay on the road following the valley on the right hand side, you will curve around past some small shops on your left one of these is a Post Office. The road then curves heavily to the right follow the same road around the curve, passing this sign below...



Follow the sign for VELLANO, there will come quickly a fork off to the left, ignore this and continue straight...the road becomes very windy, as you head up the hills, crossing a narrow bridge, with many steep turns. You will see a house on the left of the road as below,



About 200 metres after this farmhouse, there is a large metal bin on the right hand side of the road just before a steep stoned driveway heading upwards (unpaved). You should see here the CASA DI NONNAS signpost to signal your arrival.

To get up the drive way you can either pull off onto the left verge here, wait for no traffic either way and almost u- turn up the steep stoned driveway; however, we recommend continue on over the bridge where there is ample room to turn around and come back on the drive way on the same side of the road.

The drive needs care as it is fairly bumpy. Continue straight upwards until you reach the main gate, The Cherry Tree house off on the right and The Main House on the left. The house on your far left is not part of Casa di Nonnas.

Park to the right hand side in front of the gate. There is ample room to turn the car around ready to set off again back down the hill and instead of a sharp left onto traffic, head right over the bridge and turn where there is room.

The locks to the houses have several deadbolts on them; turn them full circle several times to open.

If you do not U– turn right into the steep stoned driveway to the house, you will eventually come to a small cliff town of VELLANO with great family restaurant, bakeries and cafés. Back in Pescia is the supermarket, cafés and restaurants. When heading back to Pescia, head through the town but cross over the river near the main centre and you will head towards Montecatini Terme. The journey from airport to house takes about 50 minutes.

Returning to Pisa Airport from Casa di Nonnas

Follow the same directions back but after being on the A11 for just over 30km there is a slip road off to the right off the Autostrada with a sign saying, A12 Genova and Livorno, take this exit. You will be able to see the toll booths just ahead of you. **Do not go to the toll booths**, you will end up going away from the Airport and there is no exit for many miles.

Follow that around and take the exit marked Livorno then its back the way you came.

A picture of the slip road will be coming soon but if you click on this Google Maps Link below it will show you theirs:

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Pescia,+Italy&daddr=Pisa+Airport,+Pisa,+Italy&hl=en&geocode=FSTVnQldTyOjACmTz1zfoIAqEzGSo0KZ3M_B-Q%3BFcSKmgldjp6eACkRuxg-y5PVEjH9iwGMMx_D0Q&mra=ls&sl=53.800651,-4.064941&sspn=14.641113,32.387695&ie=UTF8&ll=43.780142,10.336933&spn=0,0.126514&z=13&layer=c&cbll=43.780029,10.336882&panoid=jaSrhhXUahy45uSr0QjTFg&cbp=12,242.77,,0,9.03

These are the exact directions and distances once you are on the A11 Autostrada outside of Pesica to make it easier;

Merge onto A11 Toll road – 34.7 km

Take the exit toward Livorno/Roma Toll road – 1.6 km

Merge onto A12 Toll road – 10.2 km

Take exit Pisa to merge onto Strada Grande Comunicazione Firenze–Pisa–Livorno Partial toll road – 4.7 km

Take the exit toward Piazzale Corradino D'Ascanio – 210 m

Turn left at Piazzale Corradino D'Ascanio – 300 m

Continue onto Via Eugenio III – 56 m

Turn left to stay on Via Eugenio III – 27 m

Turn right at Via Cariola – 240 m

Take the 2nd right to stay on Via Cariola – 180 m

Turn left to stay on Via Cariola – 650 m

Take the 2nd right to stay on Via Cariola – 900 m

Turn right at Via Dogali – 170 m

Slight right to stay on Via Dogali – 350 m

Turn right at Via di Mezzo – 600 m

Via di Mezzo turns slightly left and becomes Via Enrico Pezzi – 1.0 km