

Via Medicea

- ▶ **Total length** 115,5 km
- ▶ **Overall altitude difference** 2.916 m
- ▶ **Difficulty** medium
- ▶ **Overall duration** 4 days
- ▶ **Stages** 4 and 2 rings
- ▶ **Municipalities** 9
- ▶ **Medici villas Unesco Heritage sites** 4
- ▶ **Connections** 3

10 things to put in your backpack



- ▶ waterproof jacket or cape and backpack cover against rain
- ▶ sweatshirt, light or heavy depending on the season
- ▶ hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- ▶ clothing and underwear according to one's personal needs, all packed in a waterproof bag
- ▶ first aid kit, insect repellent, hand sanitizer
- ▶ multipurpose knife and a light and practical front torch
- ▶ water and food and some snacks, light and energetic foods
- ▶ everything you need to observe, immortalize and share beauties, a smartphone and binoculars are enough
- ▶ the credential of the Medici Route to collect the stamps of the stages
- ▶ what you need to find your way and obviously the guide and the map to discover all the secrets of this route and enjoy the journey!

I walk sustainable

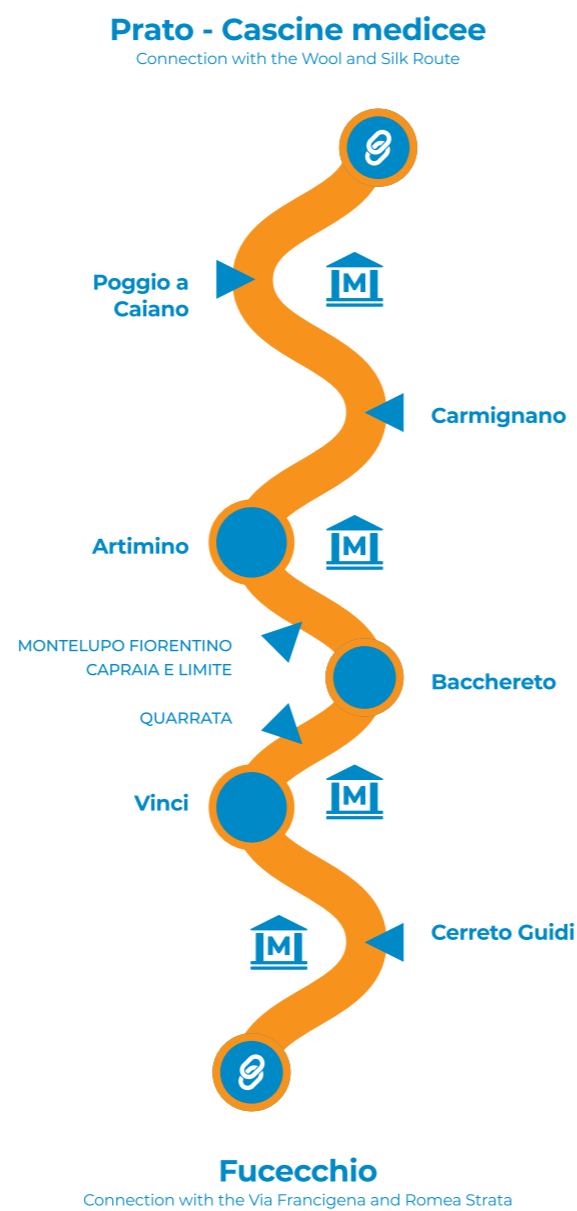


Preserve and protect the historical and natural heritage by following a few simple rules:

- ▶ appreciate the scents and colors of flowers and plants without picking them
- ▶ observe animals from a distance without disturbing them
- ▶ Respect silence and avoid loud noises
- ▶ buy local products on the way
- ▶ do not use disposable dishes and glasses
- ▶ always use a water bottle, not cans or plastic bottles
- ▶ use biodegradable soaps and natural products
- ▶ Place waste in biodegradable bags and do not leave it along the way

Path

The *Medici Route* is an evocative route that starts from the Medici Cascine of Prato to reach Fucecchio, crossing the marvelous territories where the Medici lived, also represented by Leonardo da Vinci in his paintings. Two rings also branch off from the main route with Quarrata, Montelupo Fiorentino and Capraia and Limite. Along the way, identifiable by specific signs, you will meet *Medici Villas*, *Unesco Heritage Sites*, villages, ridges and valleys, natural parks, archaeological sites and countless historical-artistic testimonies. Among vineyards and olive groves there is no shortage of farms and shops where you can taste extraordinary wines and oils, exquisite products and authentic cuisine. In short, a land for those who love nature, art, beauty, good food and good wine, just like the Medici. The Medici Route develops mainly on local roads and CAI paths and is also a strategic link between the Route of Wool and Silk, the Via Francigena and La Romea Strata which allows those who travel along it to join the areas of the Padan and Northern European spaces with the spirituality of the Eternal City.



Along the route

01. STAGE

- ▶ Cascine di Tavola park
- ▶ Leopoldo II Bridge
- ▶ Medici Villa of Poggio a Caiano
- ▶ Still Life Museum
- ▶ Soffici Museum and Medici Stables
- ▶ Church of S. Francesco in Bonistallo
- ▶ Parish church of S. Michele and Francesco in Carmignano and Visitation by Pontormo
- ▶ Vine and Wine Museum
- ▶ Fortress of Carmignano
- ▶ Quinto Martini Museum Park and Studio House
- ▶ Boschetti Tumulus
- ▶ Montefortini Tumulus

02. STAGE

- ▶ La Ferdinanda Medici Villa
- ▶ Parish church of S. Leonardo
- ▶ Archaeological Museum of Artimino
- ▶ Etruscan necropolis of Prato Rosello
- ▶ Parish church of S. Martino in Campo
- ▶ Abbey of San Giusto
- ▶ Archaeological area of Pietramarina

03. STAGE

- ▶ Tower of Sant'Alluccio
- ▶ Church of S. Maria in Orbignano
- ▶ Leonardo Museum
- ▶ Leonardo's Birthplace

04. STAGE

- ▶ Medici Villa of Cerreto Guidi
- ▶ Local Memory Museum - Mumeloc
- ▶ Corsini Park and Florentine fortress
- ▶ Corsini Palace and Museum
- ▶ Medici Bridge of Cappiano
- ▶ Fucecchio Marshes

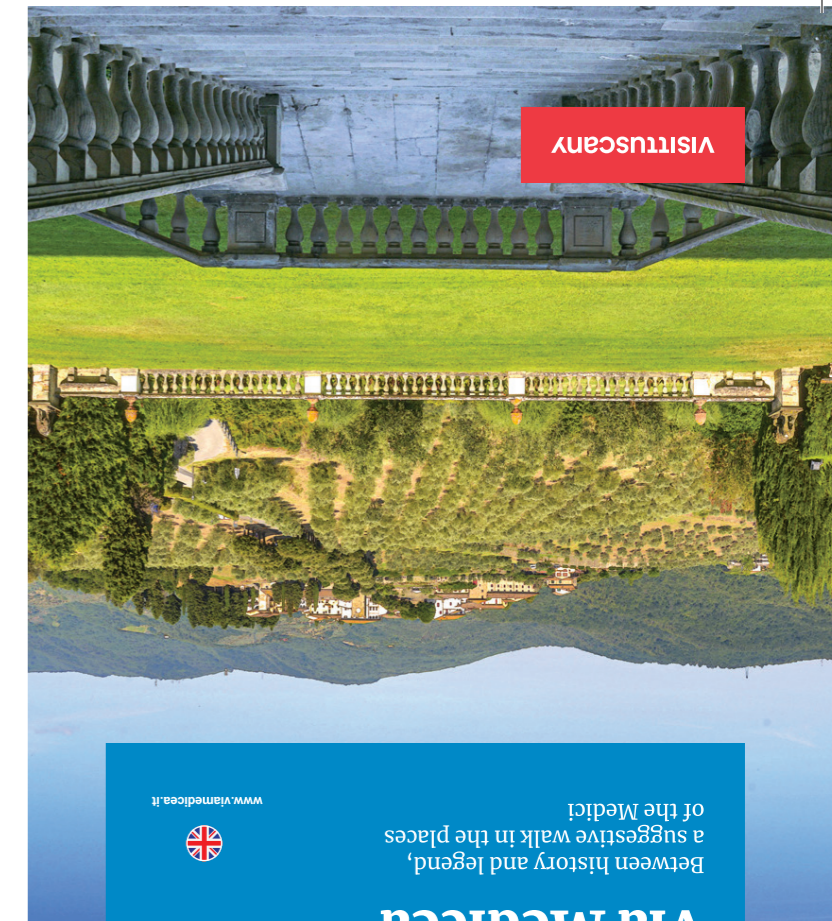
Rings

→ QUARRATA

- ▶ La Magia Medici Villa
- ▶ **MONTELUPO FIORENTINO and CAPRAIA E LIMITE**
- ▶ Ambrogiana Medici Villa
- ▶ Capraia Castle
- ▶ Pasquinucci Kiln
- ▶ Church of S. Stefano
- ▶ Egg Tomb
- ▶ Etruscan settlement of Montereggi
- ▶ Mosaics of the Roman Villa dei Vetti

The connections

- The Route of Wool and Silk from Prato
- The Via Francigena from Fucecchio
- The Romea Strata from Fucecchio



Between history and legend,
a suggestive walk in the places
of the Medici

Via Medicea

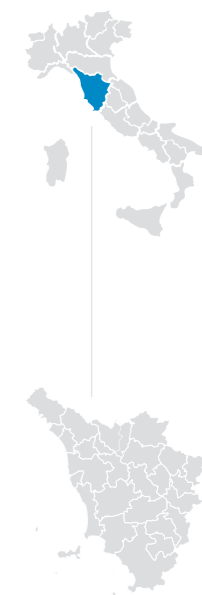
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Via Medicea

Toscana

Prato Area - Empolese Val d'Elsa and Montalbano, Pistoia and its Mountains

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Along the route you meet...



Prato. Textile and art city which pays attention to sustainability, new technologies, innovation and creativity, capable of bringing together art, history, modernity, entrepreneurship and good living. Its historic centre is elegant and well preserved and you cannot miss visiting the *Emperor's Castle*, the only historical testimony of Swabian architecture in central-northern Italy, the *frescoes by Filippo Lippi* in the Cathedral, the *Palazzo Pretorio Museum*, the *Cathedral Museum*, the *Textile Museum* and *Datini Palace*. Just outside the walls do not miss the *Pecci Centre*, the first center dedicated to contemporary art in Italy. Public parks and protected areas, policies that encourage the use of bicycles also make it one of the greenest cities in Tuscany. In this context, the *Cascine di Tavola*, the starting point of the first stage of the route, is a splendid park built in the fifteenth century at the behest of Lorenzo de' Medici known as the Magnificent. Today much of the area is a magnificent park for public use, with large lawns and wooded areas that make crossing and stopping pleasant.



Poggio a Caiano. Poggio a Caiano is strongly identified with its superb *Medici Villa*, commissioned by Lorenzo the Magnificent and built by the architect Giuliano da Sangallo: a real masterpiece, a holiday resort and a skilful balance between architecture, nature and landscape. The elegant rooms are marvelous and the garden with the lemon house is pleasant. The Medici's passion for nature and botany can also be found in the *Museum of Still Life* (the first in Italy), with more than 180 paintings spanning the centuries from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. Near the Villa there are also the *Medici Stables* where the works of the twentieth-century painter *Ardengo Soffici* are exhibited in the museum of the same name.



Carmignano. Immersed in a landscape scattered with vineyards, olive groves, villas, parish churches and churches of considerable cultural and artistic importance, it contains everything that has made Tuscany famous in the world: art, landscape, archeology, wine, figs, buckets and good cuisine made of excellent products. There are many opportunities for visits: the testimonies of the Etruscan civilization that make up the *Archaeological Park of Carmignano*, the splendid *Medici Villa La Ferdinanda* in Artimino, the *Visitation by Pontormo*, the *medieval fortress*, the *Quinto Martini Widespread Museum*, the exposition of *Ancient Majolica in Bacchereto* and the *Vine and Wine Museum* bearing witness to the importance of the food and wine culture of the area which sees Carmignano DOCG and extra virgin olive oil as absolute protagonists.



Montelupo Fiorentino. Known as a specialized centre for the production of ceramics since the Middle Ages, through the delightful old town you can find the *Archaeological Museum*, the *Church of San Giovanni Evangelista*, the fourteenth-century *Frescobaldi Tower* and the *Museum of Ceramics* which testifies to the artisan history of this place. Inside the park is the *Medici Villa L'Ambrogiana* which was built by Ferdinand I in 1587, probably based on a design by Bernardo Buontalenti.



Cerreto Guidi. Immersed in the typical Tuscan landscape, the unmistakable element of the city is the *Medici Villa of Cerreto Guidi*, built from 1564 to 1567 by the will of Cosimo I, as a hunting residence and territorial garrison near the Fucecchio Marshes. Attached to the Villa is the *San Leonardo Parish church*, inside which stands out the baptismal font in polychrome glazed terracotta by Giovanni Della Robbia and a canvas depicting San Leonardo, by Cristofano Allori. Interesting is the *Oratory of the Holy Trinity* with a valuable panel by Domenico Cresti known as the Passignano and the *Sanctuary of Santa Liberata*.



Fucecchio. Its history is closely linked to the Via Francigena and to the presence of the Medici who established here the administrative centre of their grand ducal farms in the area. The Cadolingi Counts were responsible for the construction, in the 10th century, of the *Castle and the Church of San Salvatore*, with the *Collegiate Church of San Giovanni Battista* rebuilt in neoclassical forms in the 18th century. What remains of the castle is now part of the Corsini Park, where the *Civic and Diocesan Museum* is located, documenting the history of the city and its *Marshes*. The largest inland marsh in Italy is a sanctuary for numerous animal species and can also be visited with traditional small boats.



Capraia e Limite. The Castle of Capraia is located on a spur that drops sheer to the Arno and still retains the structural characteristics of a fortified medieval village. Its origin is undoubtedly very ancient; it is in fact mentioned for the first time in imperial decrees in 998. During the 12th century, Capraia enjoyed splendor and prosperity; purchased by the Municipality of Florence in the fourteenth century, it remained a quiet agricultural village for a long time and then returned to have a commercial importance with the processing of terra-

cotta and ceramics. The Capraia ceramics specialized in the production of daily use crockery and pots and warmers (called "cardani") which are on display in the old *Pasquinucci Furnace* (now restored and usable for exhibitions, events, congresses, weddings). In the village it is possible to visit the *Church of S. Stefano* and the *Church of the Holy Annunciation*. Crossing the naturalistic beauties of Via Valicarda that climbs up the slopes of Montalbano, you will find the *Abbey of San Martino in Cam-po*. Along the way you will cross the *Path of the Etruscans* and then pass in front of the *Church of San Jacopo in Pulignano*, visit the mysterious *Egg Tomb*, the *Etruscan settlement of Montereggi* and admire the splendid mosaics of the *Roman Villa dei Vetti*.



Quarrata. Known for its artisan tradition as the "city of the furniture", it welcomes the splendid *Medici Villa La Magia*, a place of recreation and rest for the Medici family during the royal hunts. Today it is possible to stroll in its romantic garden and see the widespread collection of works by international artists that make it a museum park of environmental art. In the internal rooms, the Filet Permanent Collection shows the craftsmanship of the embroiderers who have woven the history of the town. All around there are the *Magia Wood* and, nearby, *La Querciola*, two protected natural areas populated by many animals that can be easily observed thanks to educational paths.



Vinci. Immersed in a very green countryside, among vineyards and olive groves that offer excellent wine and fine oil, is the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. The museum itinerary includes: the *Leonardian Museum*, housed inside the Castle of the Guidi Counts and the Uzielli Palace with the oldest collection of machines and models on display; the *Birthplace of Leonardo*, and the *Leonardo and Painting Exhibition* in the cellars of the Villa del Ferrale. In the historic centre, the *Leonardian Library* currently collects over 16,500 works by and on Leonardo da Vinci, including facsimile reproductions of all his manuscripts and drawings. The protected area of Montalbano is particularly suitable for walks and excursions with an extensive network of walking and cycling paths. In the village of Vinci there are important works by contemporary artists who interpret Leonardo's legacy in an evocative urban path.