

# One Page

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One Page is an idea of Duccio Trassinelli & Demetria Verduci

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Year 3 n. 2

## SLOW MOVIE CONTEST

*Eight directors to tell the Chianti*

Carolina Mancini

Slow Movie Contest is a new short film competition representing the Chianti region in Italy, which aims to promote the area through Art (cinema).

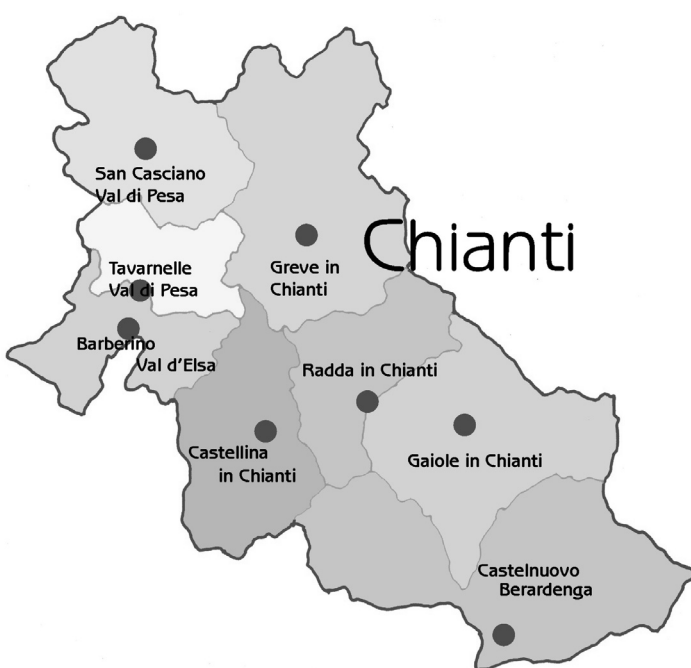
The contest is open to young directors - Italians and foreigners alike - who will be invited to spend a week in Chianti, a period in which eight chosen winners will produce a short film on the theme of "Arts & Crafts of the Region". In the autumn, a preview of the shorts will be given at the Odeon Cinema in Florence, and other screenings will be offered in the towns that were involved. A DVD will be created and distributed nationally and internationally in festivals, through collaborations with cultural associations and arthouse cinemas. SMC is a biennial event, which aims to focus on excellent works and to contribute to a more widespread use of the slow movement theme, creating type of visual database. The contest was founded on the initiative of cultural association La Macina di San Cresci, which is organizing the event with the support of the Region of Tuscany (under Toscanaincontemporanea), Ente Cassa di Firenze, in collaboration with the Fondazione Sistema Toscana and with the coordination of the Chianti Municipalities.

**Who are the eight directors who will arrive this summer in Chianti?**

The contest is still running (until 30 April) and we are still in the selection process. At the same time, we are also choosing the local artisans and activities that will be the subjects of the films. The latter task is more difficult: there are so many local artisans who deserve a whole movie, and redefining the activities is a little like redrawing the map of the territory, beyond the confines of the winery estates that have always characterized it. Slow Movie Contest was born from the desire to boost cultural production throughout Chianti: the 8 young directors who come will not simply present their works and talent (this will be the final stage of the project), they will carry out their work in the region and with the region. In describing the activities of these places, their ability to grow and reinvent themselves, the directors will contribute to the further development of the territory itself.

La Macina di San Cresci has been faced for some time now, with the challenge of hosting an artist residency, which receive a succession of painters, sculptors and writers from around the world. As with the prestigious Galleria Continua, located in a textile factory in San Gimignano, La Macina di San Cresci is a great example of a rural venue here, which attracts international attention. We would like the films shot here to share the same remarkable qualities of the local products, which are their subjects. A film, a short film above all, always carries in itself the traits of an artisan product even when (and this is another one of our goals) it reaches the industrial circuit. To fulfill these goals the directors will have to 'get their hands dirty', get in touch with the earth, to be masters of a technique that is able to merge with creativity and ingenuity, making art as craftsmen.

Cinema is the art of the moving image: in the image there is memory, in the motion the future. That's why cinema is the ideal medium to promote these age-old activities, which manage to survive because of their ability to innovate. They find the means within themselves, as well external means, which enables them to keep on going. The deeper meaning of tradition is about just this: succeeding in transmitting the genuine identity of something, (re)inventing its, without betrayal. After completion the shorts will be combined into a single documentary in 8 parts, which we will disseminate to national and international festivals, on television, and on the Internet. This is the real reward for our directors and our territory (along with the always useful and attractive prize money). The prime objective of our strategy: combine 8 shorts into one documentary that travels the world - like the 8 towns here united in one region - that works as an importer and exporter of culture. Ours is a dream, but a dream nourished by practical results, things that move of themselves, once we set them in motion. For example, at the request that came to us recently from the Turkish town of Cavus, to select eight painters and sculptors, to travel to Turkey in August for a week of artist residency there. Immediately it occurred to us to look for artists representing the 8 municipal districts of the Slow Movie



Contest. The delegation to Turkey will be entirely from Chianti. The number 8 pursues us, and to be honest, we have pursued it a little too: its shape is reminiscent of the infinity symbol, it recalls the form of our hills, and when you write it, your pen never leaves the page. It is a number that unites.

**What do the municipalities that are taking part and who will eventually host the directors think of the Slow Movie Contest?**

We had a word with the Mayors and Councillors of each territory, asking them the following questions in order to understand of what importance this event will play in their particular circumstances.

- 1) Your municipality is going to host a young director, how would you describe your town to them?
- 2) Has your town hosted artists in the past (most recently)? What is the contribution that they have made? What have they chosen to represent and what struck them the most in your area?
- 3) If you were the director, what are the realities of your town that you would choose to film? Is there one type of work, above all, that would represent your town?

(Describe one or more types of artisan trades and explain why they best represent your town)

4) What is the importance of filming local traditions like artisan, historical professions that no longer exists and / or a young person who is renewing such an ancient craft?

On the next page you will find their reflections.

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The territory of Chianti is made up of a broad hilly area situated in the centre of Tuscany, between Florence and Siena, closed to the east by the Chianti mountains and to the west by the valleys of the Pesa and Elsa rivers. It takes in, partially or in their entirety, the municipalities of San Casciano Val d'Elsa, Tavarnelle Val di Pesa, Barberino Val d'Elsa, and Greve in Chianti (in the Province of Florence) and Castellina in Chianti, Radda in Chianti, Gaiole in Chianti and Castelnuovo Berardenga (in the province of Siena). Famous the world over for its excellent wine, the Chianti landscape is characterized by a continuous alternation of valleys and gentle hills cloaked in vines and olives but also of harsh peaks covered in woods of oaks, cypresses and pines. The entire area is scattered with ancient hamlets, churches and abbeys, turreted castles and fortresses, farmhouses and tuscan villas. It is an architectural landscape made up of simple and warm

Materials such as limestone, pietra serena and terracotta, which has adapted itself to the natural landscape over the centuries, producing effects of breathtaking harmony. Inhabited since ancient times by the Etruscans, who it appears were the first to grow the vines and many archaeological traces of whom survive, the area also underwent a significant domination by the Romans, in the mediaeval period it was at length the scene of violent clashes between the rival cities of Florence and Siena, which only ceased in the mid sixteenth century with the definitive defeat of the Senese Republic. This is by now past history, but it is no mere coincidence that, after centuries of antagonism and rivalry, the eight municipalities of Chianti have symbolically underwritten an agreement - the "Patto di Pontignano" - which lays down common rules for protecting and valorizing their respective identities in a unified manner. (Fonte: APT Firenze)



Barberino Val d'Elsa



Castellina in Chianti



Castelnuovo Berardenga



Greve in Chianti



Gaiole in Chianti



Radda in Chianti

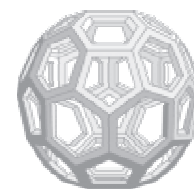


San Casciano Val di Pesa



Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

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SLOW MOVIE CONTEST



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# Barberino Val D'Elsa

In the words of Patrizia Sollazzi, Councilor of Culture

The territory of Barberino Val d'Elsa is itself a work of art: small villages clinging to the hills, where you see vineyards, forests and architectural gems, such as the Dome of Semifonte, the Romanesque Church of Sant 'Appiano, the castles of Linari, Poppiano and Monsanto; the Theater Margherita Marcialla; the Ruins of Cepparello, The Chapel Brancadoro - Majnoni - Guicciardini at Vico d'Elsa with its splendid frescoes by Giovanni da San Giovanni; fortified houses and examples of rural architecture; small cemeteries, churches and tabernacles ; small squares surrounded by nature like those of Tignano and Barberino; villas and palaces ...

This town is not short on legends and history. For example: the end of Semifonte, which was destroyed by the enemies of Florence in 1202 and the birth of Barberino Val d'Elsa; the decline of Linari, one of the freed towns of the territory; Monteloro and his Saint; the legend of the fountain of milk and the adventures of "Guerrin Meschino." The colors and contours of the landscape are unique, the scent of the woods and wines are unmistakable. It is an area surrounded by natural elements, made up of many small towns and populated with cottages and farmhouses. The towns of San Gimignano, Certaldo, Poggibonsi, Castellina in Chianti and

Tavarnelle Val di Pesa encircle it. A director wouldn't know where to begin filming ...Barberino Val d'Elsa is also the birthplace of the poet Francesco and Andrea da Barberino, Pope Urban VIII, the painters Raffaellino del Garbo and Ugo Capocchini, and *il maestro* Marco Borgianni, currently living in Vico d'Elsa . Many other artists have left their art work in the area, as to leave a mark: Michelangelo Buonarroti, who was a guest of the Augustinians in Marcialla between the end of 1400 and beginning of 1500. It is said that he began the fresco in the Santa Maria church depicting the Deposition (a statement that has never been proven or disproven). Bernardino Poccetti, who in the late 1500s painted a panel in the Saint Michael's dome in Petrognano and the "grotesque" frescos in the interior of the court at Paneretta Castle; Pietro Tacca, who created the golden bronze bust of Beato Davanzato for the San Bartolomeo church in Barberino Val d'Elsa ...

If I were the director, I would film the skills of the craftsmen who embody the artistic spirit of the territory. I would start with Paola and Danila's shop in Barberino, where they gently paint and glue together unique pieces. I would continue to ceramacists Andrea and Catia, who mold clay; I would meet Marco, painter and sculptor, who draws and sculpts women's figures, maternal and fertile; I would visit Roberto and

Giuseppe's workshop, as they tame and bend iron; I would look in on Paolo and Alessio, who are carpenters, and go to Fabio's studio. Roberto, who has taught his son Giuseppe the art of forging iron into shapes and designs is particularly fascinating to me: it represents a passage of experience, lessons, skills ... now they work side by side, and it's said that the son has exceeded his father. Paolo and Alessio are another father and son, working side by side in the same carpentry in Barberino. Here too, the father has taught his trade to his son, the ancient artisan tradition of carpentry.



# Castellina in Chianti

In the words of the Mayor Marcello Bonechi

The town of Castellina in Chianti can be considered a paradigm of the Chianti reality, for more than one reason: First, for the characteristics of the socio-economic fabric, based mainly on the agricultural production of wine, olive oil and tourism (the city has about 150,000 visitors per year). Secondly, because of its landscape, characterized by suggestive glimpses and sweeping vistas of the surrounding valleys, made even more fascinating by the warm colors of the vineyards and olive groves. Finally, from a logistical and historical point of view, as a territory located roughly halfway between Florence and Siena, two cities that had a key role, from the Middle Ages, in local history. Not surprisingly perhaps, the legend of the Black Rooster finds its setting in Castellina, in a place called Crocefiorentina. Typical activities in the area are related to the production of excellent agro-food: wine and oil. The international success of Chianti's wine is well known and well supported by marketing initiatives and communication of the Chianti Classico Wine Consortium. On the other hand, the olive oil seems to have a sort of inferior

status when compared to the wine, despite its organoleptic qualities. For this reason, it is important to enhance and stimulate the olive oil economy, encouraging higher sales, production and employment. This is essential for both the maintenance of our land and the identity of this land. What would Chianti be if the olive groves were abandoned because they were no longer profitable? One outstanding artist who decided to settle in Castellina, eventually becoming a full-fledged resident, in all aspects with his family, was the French singer Leo Ferré. Regarded by critics as the "De André of the Alps", he is particularly famous for the libertarian and anarchist content of his work, which was developed during his experience in Castellina. The best contribution he made to the community was integrating himself in the agricultural and rural context of Castellina in the 70s, with great tact and sensitivity and, without the superior attitude, his elite cultural status might suggest. The family stayed on in Castellina even after his death in the early 90's, and continues to thrive with great success, with a farm mainly dedicated to wine

Production. Another important piece of musical heritage can be found in the song, "Castellina paese del Chianti" ("Castellina the town in Chianti"), produced and published by the Cetra Quartet in 1954. Inspired by a love affair between the writer of the song (Tata Giacobetti), and a girl from Castellina, during World War II, the song describes in minute detail some of the people and characteristics of Castellina at that time.



# Castelnuovo Berardenga

In the words of Annalisa Giovani, the Councilor of Culture

Castelnuovo Berardenga is a town in Tuscany, which is located 10 km from Siena and about 70 kilometers from Florence, between Crete Senesi and Chianti. It is part of the *Slow Towns* network, the "Living Well" cities and in 2005 the town received the Orange Flag by the Italian Touring Club. A place of romantic and beautiful parks, houses of nobles and cultural personalities, such as Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli and Count Chigi Saracini; Castelnuovo is the backdrop to many cultural, architectural and monumental centers, for example: the village of San Gusmè, Montegiachi, the Cerreto Rectory, the Civic Clock Tower in Castelnuovo, the Oratory of Sant'Ansano, the Chapel of San Liberato in Curina and Montaperti, which is the site of the historic battle between Florence and Siena, as featured in Dante's Divine Comedy. Through the Slow Movie Contest we intend to introduce another type of Chianti, the kind that existed before the arrival of the intensive wine production which has transformed the landscape and made Chianti among the most popular brand name for wine, food and tourism. For several years, the whole community of Castelnuovo has been committed to the protection of the land and recuperating local traditions. The pride of the town is the



documentation of Bruscelli, a form of popular and poor theater, once widespread in Tuscany. Castelnuovo Berardenga is one of the few towns in Tuscany to be part of the national *Painted Towns* association, through the historical documentation of *Painted Walls*, which gives life and color, over the years to some of the most characteristic corners of the village with murals depicting the themes of the various editions of Bruscello. *Painted Walls* is an initiative of great beauty, especially for the artistic value of the murals. By binding itself to the important tradition of Bruscello it gives prestige to the town and its citizens. Castelnuovo is well worth a visit, even just by going for a walk and discovering these painted corners. The traditional craft of "bullettaio" or nail maker, still inspires artistic works using iron in the local shops. Castelnuovo Berardenga is part of the "Ecomuseo of Chianti." There is the Landscape Museum here, which contributes to the

ongoing project called "Memory Archive," that collects photographic documentation, as well as audio and audiovisual information of the citizens of Castelnuovo and Chianti. Also located in Castelnuovo is the "Città del Vino" (City of Wine) Headquarters, which was founded in 1987. In a small section of Castelnuovo, called Pievasciata, there is a permanent exhibition of sculptures and installations called "Chianti Sculpture Park." In this park the sculptures and installations are integrated into a magical forest of oak trees. There is also an amphitheater, that offers visitors a full program of concerts and cultural events, as well as a gallery of sculptures created inside an old furnace. Recently this part of town was the focus of an urban renewal project called "Pievasciata Village of Contemporary Art", which holds installations of art works within a landscape context. Pievasciata itself is a work of art, appreciated and recognized all over the world (and made possible by/with the support of The City of Castelnuovo, the Province of Siena and the Region of Tuscany).



# Gaiole in Chianti

In the words of Deborah Montagnani, Councilor of Culture

Gaiole has developed along the Massellone Valley River, an ideal place since ancient times for meetings and markets. In fact even before the year 1000, the hills that surrounded the valley were inhabited, the "peoples" of these villages of the "heights" came down to the valley to meet and haggle, which gave birth to the core that became the main center of the entire valley. Notarial documents of 1215 indicate its importance as a market place, and the importance grew again in 1300 with the establishment of the "Lega del Chianti", which Gaiole, became the capital of the "terziere" with the municipalities of Castellina and Radda. For four centuries the territory of Gaiole was the border between Florence and Siena and, therefore, the target of raids and attacks until the final fall of Siena in 1555. Today our municipality is one of the largest in the province of Siena and is covered in 80% forest. The hills and narrow valleys distinctly show, more than anywhere else, the particular characteristics of the Chianti region, which differs from the Siennese and Florentine hills. The hills are steep, the oak woods sufficiently cover its surface and opens up wide and airy islands of vineyards and

olive groves; the valleys are short and narrow and are untouched by the "breath of the city" and the traffic noise. The human markings of houses, of the church and of the castle are less intense, yet the sense of tranquility that you feel is not a sense of loneliness. Among our guests, there are many who decide to stay. We had many artists who lived in our farms anonymously. Usually, those who decide to live here prefer to stay away from the "spotlight." They not only enjoy the beauty, but peace as well. Matthew Spender is a distinguished fellow citizen, living near S. Sano since 1968, taking part in village life, playing in the Philharmonic Society and recently donated a sculpture to the town of Gaiole in Chianti. Unfortunately, the old crafts are being lost, like the cobbler who made wonderful shoes in his shop in Piazza Ricasoli, a real institution, which unfortunately disappeared. There is a German lady who has lived for years in Gaiole, who manufactures loom-woven fabrics, and an artisan wrought iron maker that still works in the traditional way. I believe there is not one particular job that represents our land more than others: all manual work that requires

tenacity and intelligence can be a symbol of this area, which was originally rough and hard, and transformed by man into a haven of beauty and tranquility.



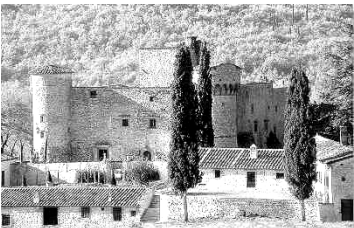


# Greve in Chianti

In the words of the Mayor Alberto Bencistà

It is possible to describe the territory of Greve (in Chianti) in two words: harmoniously austere. This is the essence, the charm and the magic of this place known and loved all over the world. This magic is carried throughout the land, from village to village, from the villas to the castles and found in every farmhouse scattered throughout the countryside. *Everything in moderation.* There is a simplicity found here almost to the point of being austere, a simplicity that never appears sad or penitential, but rather a reflection of the Tuscan and Florentine values. A landscape throughout history that has been forged by man, demonstrating his sustainable land management and his natural relationship, *in moderation* with the land. Everything that makes our villages and countryside strikingly similar is the same thing that makes it strikingly different, and those who visit these lands can feel the powerful presence of a loci genius that over time forged a place where one never grows tired of seeing. This fantastic place has not been given to us – how do you say- not as an inheritance from our parents, but rather as something we are borrowing from our children, and for that we are trying to preserve and protect it through the establishment of the first bio-district in Italy, the implementation of crops and organic products - from our main product: the wine Chianti Classico DOCG - the protection of the environment with particular

attention to the reduction of waste and recycling. In this context, the Slow Movie Contest can provide our municipalities with an important opportunity to highlight two aspects. On the one hand the uniqueness of this area that is so internationally popular. It is the place where people from all over the world and many artists, since the early 60's, have chosen to live and work. On the other hand to show why, today, we are trying to preserve and protect the environment and the quality of life of our citizens and tourists through a policy particularly sensitive to environmental issues, *slow lifestyles* (Greve in Chianti founded in 1999, the Association of Slow Cities), the safeguarding of traditional crafts and products. If our butchers shops - and butchers in particular - are famous all over the world, the same amount of attention should be given to leather and wood restoration laboratories that populate our commercial centers. With difficulty small artisan shops are still surviving (thanks to our elders). These shops include crafts like basket weaving, barrel making, wrought iron and tree (olive) carving. Getting back to the country, other than wine and oil, they are recuperating the cultivation of ancient crops, such as iris and saffron, which are related to an ancient economy of subsistence. The ancient feminine arts of embroidery, quilting and flask lining, have become almost only memories.



# Radda in Chianti

In the words of the Mayor, Alessandro Aterini

Radda in Chianti is a small town in the countryside of Chianti Classico Siena, with an area of over 80 square kilometers and a population of 1,700 inhabitants. In the past, Radda was the headquarters of the “Chianti Leauge”, and became the capital in 1415. Today, you can visit the Podestà’s Palace, containing the town hall and the (former) prison. Its façade is emblazoned with the coats of arms of previous mayors. After the exodus, which lasted for fifteen years (1952-1966) the hills of Radda and Chianti in general, became a place attractive to a host of nature lovers, mainly people from large Italian metropolitan areas and foreign countries (England, Germany, Switzerland ...). It is a heterogeneous world of social and territorial origin, but Radda also belongs to the farming culture, which has rediscovered the values of “nostra” (our country, a land so rich in cultural

and environmental assets, which the exodus seemed to have condemned to total ruin. Radda is a landscape scattered with farmhouses, modeled with spontaneous, but ingenious, “handmade” architecture, their exteriors built with local stones, reflecting the color of the rocks of the surrounding land, as well as a sparse succession of lovely villas surrounded by gardens. Standing out, above all, are the churches and chapels of great architectural interest, such as that of the village of Volpaia, Pian d’Albola, Montemuro Abbey, the Convent of Santa Maria in Radda, the parish church of Santa Maria Novella, San Fedele, Castelveccchi, Livernano ... The main activities of this area relate to the production of olive oil and wine, the wealth and pride of our region. And there are also traditions that have been lost, such as the production of

ceramics, meat processing and typical of this area. Radda has increased its income in the last twenty years, thanks to tourism, the hotel business and farming, while at the same time respecting the land. I believe that one of the tasks in which local governments should invest more, is in the intensification of the aggregation process through cultural and recreational events. The contribution of people with cultural understanding is essential, people who are not divided by prejudices in their ideas and their training. Slow Movie Contest’s job is to make a careful examination of the social and economic aspects that characterize the life of Chianti, indirectly this will in turn make a significant contribution towards the greater economic integration of the territory.



# Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

In the words of Lia Corsi, Councilor for Economic Development

Tavarnelle and the region of Chianti in general, exude beauty, harmony, vibrancy, but the real strength of this area lies not only in the enchantment of a scenic view, or in the historical value of a church. The very essence of our community is its people, the vitality of its residents, the common sense of membership in a territory with a strong personality, with its history and ancient traditions; is the desire to go out of your way for others, the pleasure of being together, and above all to do and create with skill and passion. The workers use their hands to grow, produce, feel useful, to express a quality, and is the most representative of the “encyclopedia of the past,” which is so majestic in Chianti. An encyclopedia that is not cluttered, but continues to be re-read with a forward-looking gaze and aware of the value of its roots and desire to look forward, despite the difficulties and setbacks from which even ‘beauty’ is not immune. There are artists who successfully represent the heart and soul of Tavarnelle simply because they are part of it. Distinguished representatives of film and theater, like Ugo Chiti, and his inseparable company “Arca Azzurra”, whose members, especially Massimo Salvianti and Dimitri Frosali, live the territory, as an inexhaustible source of themes and events to be staged, a mirror of reinterpreted reality that people love and appreciate because they recognize themselves. In the texts of the great playwright Ugo Chiti, always burns the fire of realism that is inspired by the slight and

ingenious observation of strengths and weaknesses of the reality of Tavarnelle, rich in authenticity and contradictions that make so vivid and varied our social fabric. Recently, the actress and director Barbara Enrichi filmed and produced a documentary in our area, as part of a project sponsored by the Municipal Department for Equal Opportunities and by the Women’s Coordination Arci La Rampa Tavarnelle, which has shed a light onto the parallel testimonies of fourteen women from four different generations. In general, the contribution of artists lies in the development and open discussion of the concept of memory and the identity of our community, which now has a profile, thanks to the interweaving of these two aspects. If I were a director, I would film the many artistic and architectural elements, which our town overflows with, for example: the village of San Donato in Poggio, Badia a Passignano, the church of San Pietro in Bossolo and the adjacent Museum of Sacred Art, the Noce ridges and Bonazza, alternating with the vitality of the squares, the streets of Tavarnelle and its artisan workshops, a visit to the weekly market in Piazza Matteotti, a day spent among the wineries, the sheds of entrepreneurs, the artisan studios. The shops in the old town, clarifies the idea of what is meant by this culture of working for the community. There are many trades that run through this tradition, between history and modernity. Old and new generations of carpenters, carvers, restorers, silversmiths,

pottery, blacksmiths linked by a common denominator: the hands on skills which turns into creativity and courage to interpret new trends with innovation. Artisans by choice and passion, in a world accustomed to hustle and bustle, they invent and rewrite the tradition by following the natural rhythms of the ‘made by hand’.



# San Casciano Val di Pesa

In the words of Chiara Molducci, the Councilor of Culture

San Casciano is like a big moving mosaic, in which each piece comes to life and becomes a living picture. The land is extensive, heterogeneous, each location has its own traditions and customs, but one does not function without the other. Besides the charm of the hills and roads, the value of historical and artistic heritage, San Casciano offers ample educational and cultural opportunities: the museum, which houses some of the most important works of art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the activities of the Niccolini Theater, the library, the panoramic viewpoint of the Tower of Chianti... Since its reopening, which took place over fifteen years ago, the Niccolini Theater has hosted hundreds of prominent artists both Italian and foreign. Representatives of the traditional theater and contemporary drama; this is the type two-fold programming that the town annually prepares, in collaboration with the Tuscan Foundation Show and the great Ugo Chiti. The town has decided to pay tribute to these artists (Paolo Poli, Gianrico Tedeschi, Massimo Ghini, Franca Valeri, Isa Danieli, Alessandro Benvenuti, Laura Curino, Ottavia Piccolo ...) and more recently a silver plaque, a product of high quality, made by our master craftsmen went to Antonio Morrocchesi as a Lifetime Achievement Award. The Museum of San Casciano is marked by a deep connection with

art. For several years, thanks to the professionalism of Sandra Stanghellini and the Giuliano Ghelli Foundation, the halls containing Tuscan masterpieces are coexisting with important works of contemporary art, donated by artists who have exhibited their creations at San Casciano. Walking the streets or through the woods you realize this sensitivity to nature that the great artists of our time must have felt, just think of the deer by Mario Merz towering the medieval walls or the moon by Mauro Staccioli in the clearing of Luciana. Another artistic stage is that of the village of Sant’Andrea in Percussina, where Niccolò Machiavelli wrote “The Prince” which this year celebrates its fifth centennial. The village has often been at the center of film productions that have amplified the name and prestige of our country all over the world. If I were a director, I would focus on the images of San Casciano that best describe the duality of our land: on the one part there is the beauty and elegance, on the other, there is simplicity and



concreteness. I wouldn’t be afraid to juxtapose the interior of an old villa and the cuisine of the Parco del Poggione, crowded with dozens of volunteers. I would like to have images of curious citizens that fill the library during philosophical conversations on Wednesdays, and of children who learn to explain in English the works of art in our museum, or the places where they build wagons and costumes for the medieval Carnival. I also think of the fields of our farmers, at the hands of those who work there, including those of our citizens from North Africa, and the workshops of the artisans of San Casciano, who know beauty along with skill and experience. It is difficult to identify a single job as a symbol of know-how in San Casciano. The shops of the past and their products amazingly relive the passion of woodcarvers, silversmiths, blacksmiths, potters, leather workers, and embroiderers. A wisdom which we hope will be picked up and carried forward by the citizens of the future.