



NOTABLE MEMOIRS

Tuscany - Cradle of Italian Verve

托斯卡納－孕育意式風情

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一提到托斯卡納，不禁讓人想起文藝復興時期的風景畫，與其他地方無法比擬的美酒佳餚。延綿的山脈，被一層層藤蔓、橄欖樹及柏樹所覆蓋，單是上述幾項，就已足夠吸引大批品味獨特的遊客及品酒大師到此一遊。它的歷史、傳統及文化延伸至各大城市、中世紀的山間村落，以及無數位於城郊的村鎮，環繞著意大利的心臟地帶。如詩似畫的農莊、城堡及修道院，孕育了出色的酒莊、酒店及餐廳。

Tuscany evokes a Renaissance landscape, gourmet food and wine as no other region does. Its rolling hills, clad with vines, olives and cypress trees are just a part of the attraction which draws a huge number of discerning travellers and wine connoisseurs to the area. Its history, traditions and culture extend to magnificent cities, medieval hilltop villages and endless hamlets scattered around a timeless countryside, which encompass Italy's heartland. Its picturesque farmhouses, castles and monasteries are very often home to some of the top wine estates, hotels and restaurants.

托斯卡納 (Toscana) 是釀造意大利頂級美酒的地區。當中非到不可的地點，包括Chianti Calssico、Brunello di Montalcino、Nobile di Montepulciano及San Gimignano。它們位於兩大文藝復興城市：西恩納及佛羅倫斯之間的鄉郊路上。可供參觀的酒莊多不勝數，Chianti Calssico將是一個好的起點：無論從西恩納或佛羅倫斯出發，都能讓你輕鬆到達目的地。屬於Chianti的村莊包括Radda、Gaiole、Castellina、Greve及Panzano，出色的風土條件讓它們聞名於世。

單以最優秀紅葡萄Sangiovese而言，在托斯卡納不同的地形及微氣候影響下，便能醞釀出多款不同風味的美酒。Sangiovese一詞源於sangue di Giove，意謂「（古羅馬神話主神）朱庇特之血」，亦說明了這種佳釀的獨特地位。

Chianti是托斯卡納葡萄酒業的重鎮，出色的佳釀包括由100% Sangiovese所釀製的Brunello di Montalcino、讓人一試難忘的Vino Nobile di Montepulciano，還有極具代表性的Chianti Classico，由80% Sangiovese及20%其他紅葡萄（例如本土的Canaiolo及Colorino，或「國際化」品種的Cabernet Sauvignon及Merlot）組合而成。

Toscana is one of Italy's premium wine producing regions. A visit must include the classic areas such as Chianti Calssico, Brunello di Montalcino, Nobile di Montepulciano and San Gimignano, all of which lie between the Renaissance towns of Siena and Florence and their scenic country roads. The choice of wineries to visit is infinite and Chianti Classico is a good starting point: the area can easily be reached from either Siena or Florence. Its territory encompasses the original Chianti villages of Radda, Gaiole, Castellina, Greve and Panzano, favored for their excellent *terroir*.

Marked by its very diverse terrain and its many microclimates Tuscany offers a range of different styles of wine, even within the same grape variety, the predominant red grape Sangiovese. The name *Sangiovese* originates from the term *sangue di Giove* – the blood of the ancient god Jove, which gives an idea to the importance allocated to the variety and the wine.

Chianti remains the nucleus of Tuscan viniculture, but its stage is shared with the majestic Brunello di Montalcino made from 100% Sangiovese and the impressive Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Chianti Classico made from a blend of 80% Sangiovese and a remaining 20% other red grapes of the area which can include native varieties such as Canaiolo and Colorino as well as "international" varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.



在Chianti Classico的云云酒庄之中，定必要造訪當中歷史最悠久的兩家酒庄，以一嚐它們的佳釀美饌。Badia a Coltibuono的Benedictine Abbey位於Chianti的Gaiole山峰之上。它在過千年前，由Vallombrosa的僧侶開立。傳承多年的釀酒傳統工藝，現在由一大家族企業將它繼續發揚光大。酒庄內的花園、廳堂之間的壁畫，還有古舊的拱形天花酒窖，都一一成為了景點。它亦是學習托斯卡納菜式、以及享用露天午膳的上佳地方，為傳統文化添加不少創新色彩。

從Coltibuono走上一段上山小路，便可到達由Ricasoli男爵家族所擁有的Castello di Brolio。它們的佳釀透露著高貴的傳統氣息，並帶有獨特的風土味道。這裡有Chianti區內最顯赫的古堡，還有當中的博物館，均是值得遊覽。

若你身處於Montalcino，則可遊覽Barbi的古老酒庄，這裡將是另一個好的觀光起點：傳統古舊的酒窖氣息會把你重重包圍，你更可以輕嚐當地的芝士及腌肉，配以托斯卡尼烤包crostini toscani以作為你的午膳。Col D'Orcia及Banfi均是極具歷史價值的建築，值得大家參觀。而Siro Pacenti及Casanova di Neri則是Montalcino當中最具代表性的建築物，它們出產充滿時代活力的Brunello di Montalcino；而在Castello di Argiano，天文學家Giuseppe Sesti則以生物動力自然耕種法，釀製出較傳統的Brunello di Montalcino。Fuligni及Lisini則是值得參觀的傳統派酒庄。

Chianti亦是在八十年代盛極一時的話題之作Super Tuscans的發源地。這一批品質上佳的美酒出產後，不但引發了世界各地的關注及討論，更顛覆了DOC (G) 的審核標準與命名規範。Super Tuscans至今仍是人所共知、享負盛名，故此被重新納入至修訂後的DOC (G) 規範之中，或是成為IGT (Identificazione Geografica

In Chianti Classico among the many wineries two historic ones stand out for an exciting visit, excellent dining and quality wines. The Benedictine Abbey of Badia a Coltibuono set in the hills above Gaiole in Chianti founded by the Vallombrosan monks over a thousand years ago. Its age-old tradition of wine growing is now carried on in a modern family enterprise, creating a strong sense of continuity between past and present. The formal gardens, the frescoes in the refectory and the old vaulted cellars are a special attraction. It is also a wonderful location for Tuscan cooking classes and is ideal for al fresco lunches serving traditional Tuscan fare with a creative flair.

From Coltibuono a short climb and a few windy bends will bring you to the majestic Castello di Brolio owned by the Ricasoli family, an ancient aristocratic line of Barons. Their wines reflect elegance, terroir and tradition. The grounds surrounding the magnificent castle dominating Chianti can be visited as well as the museum in the castle.

When in Montalcino a visit to Barbi's historic winery is also a good starting point in order to soak in the historic cellars and maybe enjoy a light lunch with local cheeses and cured meats accompanied by 'crostini toscani.' Col D'Orcia and Banfi are also estates to visit of impressive historic value. Of particular interest are Montalcino's iconic estates Siro Pacenti and Casanova di Neri both producing a modern, vibrant style of Brunello di Montalcino, while at Castello di Argiano, astronomer Giuseppe Sesti produces a more traditional, biodynamic Brunello di Montalcino. Fuligni and Lisini are among the niche 'traditionalist' wineries wellworth a visit.

Chianti was also the original source of those controversial wines that became known as Super Tuscans, which rose to fame in the early 1980's. A rash of wines of unprecedented quality which blatantly scorned DOC(G) appellation restrictions caused such intense comment worldwide that eventually the entire DOC(G) regulations were overhauled. The Super Tuscans, whose names remain well known and highly admired, have therefore either been accommodated

Tipica) 的品級。IGT品級葡萄酒包含了無數款式與風味，而當中數之不盡的葡萄品種，均能起碼釀製出最少一種佳釀。

托斯卡納的「新領域」佳釀，可以在Maremma的沿海地區找到，當中包括Bolgheri、Suvereto等地的頂級佳釀。Montescudaio及Val di Cornia則是潛力無限的酒庄，以高雅、傳統而時尚的釀製技巧，製作出果香清新的美酒。最讓人雀躍的，正因為這是經典波爾多紅酒的家鄉，出產舉世知名的Sassicaia、Ornellaia及Angelo Gaja的作品Ca'Marcanda。Bolgheri當中的Relais Poggio ai Santi酒店，提供了魅力非凡的住宿環境。別忘了到位於Bibbona海邊的頂級海鮮餐廳la Pineta用膳，它正是Angelo Gaja最愛的海鮮餐廳。

你亦可以到訪San Gimignano，它是托斯卡納出產Vernaccia白酒的小區。每年六月San Gimignano便會舉辦深受歡迎的中世紀嘉年華，當地人稱之為「Ferie delle Messi」，活動充滿著中世紀的意式特色；到處都有騎士比劍、雜技及各種體操等。在六月及八月舉辦的夏日音樂節，則為大家帶來大大小小的音樂會、芭蕾舞及劇場表演。

同類型的中世紀嘉年華，亦會在Montepulciano的Bravio delle Botti舉行。當中最具挑戰性的比賽，會要求參賽者把笨重的木酒桶推到街上，在崎嶇不平的窄路上一直翻滾競速，直至到達Piazza Grande的大教堂的終點。最為人所認識、亦是最沿遠流長的競技，必定要數Siena的Corsa del Palio。自1283年開始舉辦，這是一項要求參賽者不用馬鞍的賽馬活動。在七月二日及八月十六日，它會在Siena的中心地帶Campo坎波廣場進行。

無論是時裝、藝術、音樂、美酒或佳餚，托斯卡納都是你的必然選擇。

back into these revised DOC(G)s or have slipped naturally into an IGT (Identificazione Geografica Tipica). The IGT wines incorporate innumerable styles, encompassing an unlimited range of grape varieties to the extent that it is practically de rigueur to produce at least one.

Tuscany's 'new frontier' wines can be found on the coastal area known as the Maremma, incorporating the appellation of Bolgheri, Suvereto. Montescudaio and Val di Cornia, with a potential to produce young fruity wines, mingled with elegance, tradition and a trendy modern style of winemaking. It is perhaps one of the most exciting new areas of production, home to the classic Bordeaux blends, producing world famous wines such as Sassicaia and Ornellaia and Angelo Gaja's Ca' Marcanda. Bolgheri also offers charming accommodation at the Relais Poggio ai Santi and be sure not to miss booking a meal at one of the coast's top fish restaurants, la Pineta on the seafront of Bibbona which is also Angelo Gaja's favourite local fish restaurant.

San Gimignano home to Tuscany's small but noteworthy production of white Vernaccia wine is a must to visit. Each year the town of San Gimignano in the middle of June hosts its ever-popular Medieval Festival, which is known locally as the 'Ferie delle Messi', featuring a true taste of medieval Italy, with jousting, juggling and all kinds of acrobatics. June and August San Gimignano's Summer Music Festival features a number of concerts, music events, ballet and theatrical performances.

Similar Medieval festivals are also staged in Montepulciano's *Bravio delle Botti*, a challenging competition in which heavy wooden wine barrels are pushed up the steep cobbled narrow streets as far as the finish line which is right in front of the beautiful Duomo in Piazza Grande. The most famous and historic competition of all is Siena's *Corsa del Palio*, a bareback horse race first recorded in 1283 and today one of Tuscany's most famous events staged in the Campo, in the heart of Siena, held on the 2nd July and 16th August.

Whether it be fashion, art, music, wine or good food, Tuscany is simply a must destination! 📍