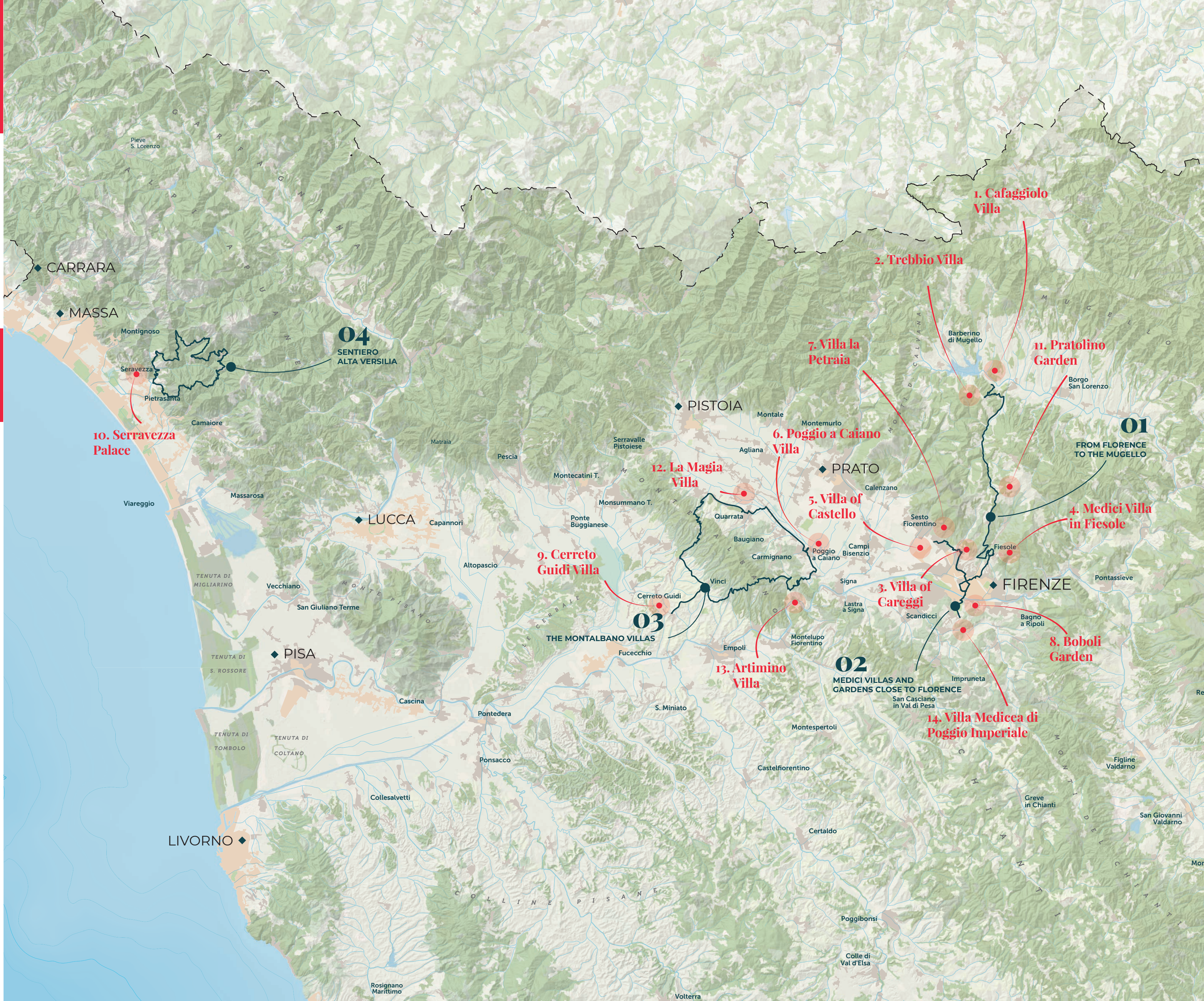
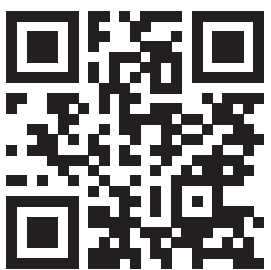


Villas and gardens

- 1 CAFAGGILO VILLA
- 2 TREBBIO VILLA
- 3 VILLA OF CAREGGI
- 4 MEDICI VILLA IN FIESOLE
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INFO

www.villegiardinimedicei.it



The itineraries on the map

On the trail of the Medici to discover the area and its wonders

discover them all on villegiardinimedicei.it

History, art, beauty, culture: immerse yourself in the poetry of the Medici villas and gardens of Tuscany.

Unexpected, hidden and surprising preserve the essence of a territory and a family that has made history, enhancing what surrounded it with a new aesthetic and a new and modern lifestyle.

Medici villas and gardens in Tuscany* consists of 14 villas and gardens of the Medici family located in Tuscany, and has been listed on the World Heritage List since 2013.

The system of villas with gardens expresses a way of managing and organizing the territory created by the Medici family that has a representative value and elegantly marks the landscape of Tuscany. The Medici villas and gardens are the witness, in brief, of the aristocratic rural residence as the incarnation, at the end of the Middle Ages, of a succession of new political, economic and aesthetic ambitions.

They were models that spread widely throughout Italy during the Renaissance and then throughout modern Europe and were eminent examples of the aristocratic country villa dedicated to leisure, arts and knowledge. During a period spanning almost three centuries, the Medici developed many innovative architectural and decorative solutions.

The whole is a representation of the technical and aesthetic organization of the gardens in association with their rural environment, emphasizing a specific landscape style of the Humanism and Renaissance.

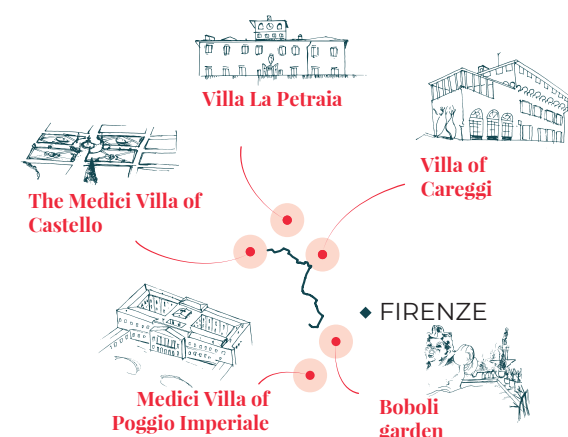
The Medici villas and gardens, together with the Tuscan landscapes of which they are part, have made a first and decisive contribution to the birth of a new aesthetic and lifestyle. They represent an exceptional testimony of cultural and artistic patronage developed by the Medici. They constituted a series of crucial places where ideals and trends of the Italian Renaissance emerged, which had followed and spread throughout Europe.

FOR OPENING HOURS AND DAYS AND FOR INFO ON ONGOING RESTORATIONS VISIT THE WEBSITE:

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01 FROM FLORENCE TO THE MUGELLO



1 MEDICI VILLA OF POGGIO IMPERIALE

It was the favourite of Isabella de' Medici. In the seventeenth century Mary Magdalene of Habsburg had it enlarged by the architect Giulio Parigi who connected the Villa to the city with the majestic monumental avenue up to Porta Romana. It was further transformed by Vittoria della Rovere and Pietro Leopoldo di Lorena who, in the eighteenth century, created the majestic "Salone delle feste" and the Chinese Rooms. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the Villa assumed the current neoclassical connotation.

2 VILLA OF CAREGGI

Lorenzo the Magnificent was very attached to the villa and was born there in 1448 and died there in 1492. It was owned by the Medici until 1780 when the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo Lorena sold it to Vincenzo Orsi, and then passed to the Hollands and later to Francis Joseph Sloan, who was responsible for the nineteenth-century layout of the park. On the first floor there is the living room of the "Camino", dominated by the fireplace decorated with bas-reliefs dated 1465; here is the picture representing a meeting of the neo-platonic Academy founded in Florence in 1462 by Marsilio Ficino on behalf of Cosimo de' Medici who found his home in the villa.

3 VILLA LA PETRAIA

Purchased by Cosimo I in 1544 it was donated to his son Ferdinando in 1568 who transformed it into a suburban villa. The gardens are arranged on three levels with a breathtaking view of Florence. On the terrace adjacent to the villa is the famous fountain of Fiorenza surmounted by the Venus of Giambologna. Also renowned for the cycles of frescoes by Cosimo Daddi and Baldassare Franceschini known as Volterrano, in the villa there are 14 lunettes by Giusto Utens depicting the Medici Villas.

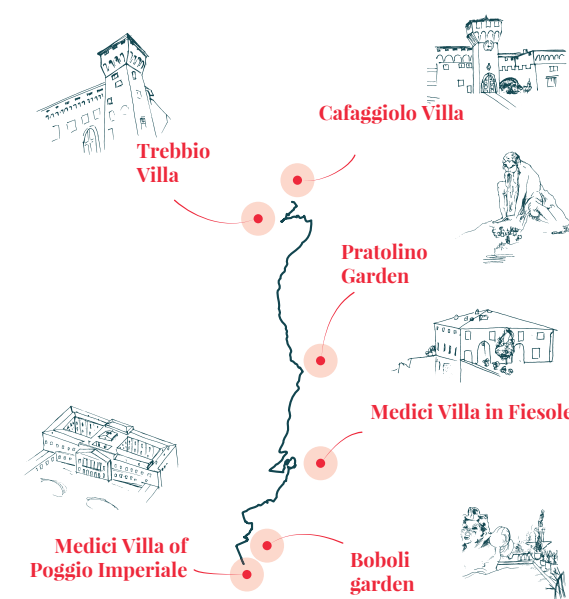
4 THE MEDICI VILLA OF CASTELLO

Acclaimed for the gardens designed by Tribolo in 1538 as a project of representation and political propaganda for Cosimo I. The garden was to represent the Duchy with the Apennines at the top and the two rivers (Arno and Mugnone) flowing in Florence. The cave of animals wanted to evoke the peace brought by Cosimo I "in the universe". In the terraces the fountain designed by Tribolo and surmounted by Ercole and Anteo by Bartolomeo Ammannati, and the lemon houses with over 500 citrus plants in pots. The villa is now home to the Accademia della Crusca.

5 RICHARD-GINORI MUSEUM

In Sesto Fiorentino, it is one of the most important Italian ceramic museums. On exhibit are works made from the mid '700 up to the works of innovative style of Gio Ponti in the '20s.

02 MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS IN FLORENCE AND SURROUNDINGS



1 BOBOLI GARDEN

Born as a Medici garden connected to the grand ducal residence of Palazzo Pitti, is an authentic and surprising open-air museum both for its architectural-landscape setting and for the collection of sculptures and botanical heritage with its ancient collections. Here the brilliant Bernardo Buontalenti created the "Grotta Grande", one of the masterpieces of European mannerism.

2 (PRIVATE MANSION) MEDICI VILLA IN FIESOLE

Inherited on the death of his uncle by Lorenzo il Magnifico, the villa became an upper room for artists and writers. Prototype of suburban villa, the villa designed by Leon Battista Alberti combines simplicity, harmony and beauty. Set on three terraces, overlooking the Florentine valley, in the garden twentieth century interventions by the architect Cecil Pinsent.

3 PRATOLINO GARDEN

The large estate was designed by Buontalenti for Grand Duke Francesco I. A gradual abandonment led to the demolition of the Villa and the transformation of the garden into an English park. Artificial caves and the amazing fountain of the Apennines of Giambologna are some traces of the past magnificence. It is one of the largest parks in Tuscany and preserves ancient trees.

4 THE MEDICI FORTRESS OF SAN MARTINO

One of the largest suburban fortresses in Europe. In 1569 Cosimo I entrusted the project to Baldassarre Lanci but Buontalenti finished its construction in 1608. Nine bastions and two gates surround the central keep. The fortress is an immense city with mills, cisterns, armories and ovens, which could hold 2,000 soldiers. A path that surrounds the walls allows the visit.

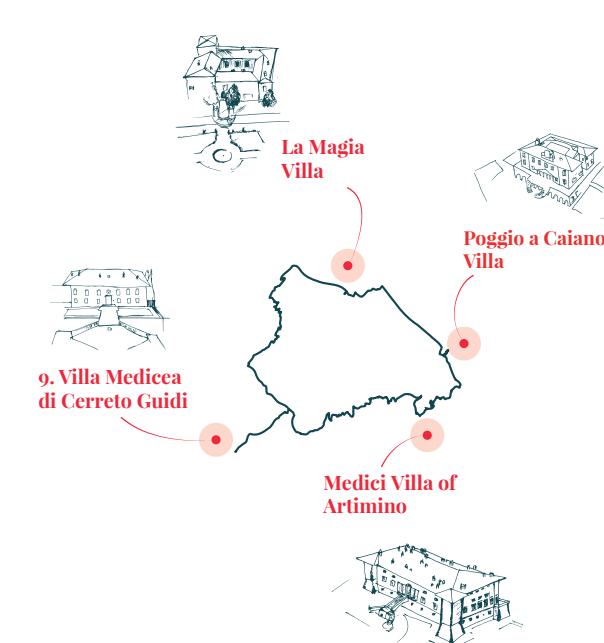
5 (PRIVATE MANSION) TREBBIO VILLA

From the fortress through white roads and through the provincial road you reach Villa del Trebbio. It belonged to Giovanni di Bicci, patriarch of the family. Here Giovanni dalle Bande Nere grew his son Cosimo, later Grand Duke of Tuscany.

6 CAFAGGILO VILLA

Continuing on the white road you reach the Villa di Cafaggiolo. Legend has it that the Magnifico composed the poem 'La Nencia di Barberino' here, because he spent part of his childhood here.

03 THE VILLAS OF MONTALBANO



1 CERRETO GUIDI VILLA

Commissioned by Cosimo I in 1564, on the ruins of a castle of the Guidi counts from which it took its name. The zig-zag-shaped staircase is particularly precious. Today it houses the museum of hunting and of the territory. Do not miss a visit to Cerreto Mumeloc, museum of local memory and the Natural Reserve of the Padule di Fucecchio.

2 ARTIMINO VILLA "LA FERDINANDA"

Bernardo Buontalenti built in just four years (1596-1600) the villa for Grand Duke Ferdinando I. It has always been a place of hunting and hunting activities, and for this reason the great Barco Reale was created in 1626, fenced by a high wall for more than 50 kilometers with an extension of about 4,000 hectares. From Artimino you can reach the Church of San Michele Arcangelo in Carmignano, where it is preserved La Visitazione del Pontormo.

3 POGGIO A CAIANO VILLA

The villa, conceived by Giuliano da Sangallo for Lorenzo il Magnifico, was a model for Renaissance civil architecture. Placed on top of a hill, it is an example of the ordering work of man on nature. Inside there is the majestic hall of Leo X, with one of the most important cycles of Tuscan frescoes of the sixteenth century made by Pontormo, Andrea del Sarto, Franciabigio and Alessandro Allori and the Museum of Still Life, with more than 200 paintings belonging to the Medici collections.

4 LA MAGIA VILLA

Purchased by Francesco I in 1583 it was renovated by the architect Bartolomeo Buontalenti who also designed the garden by inserting a huge artificial lake (now disappeared) for fishing and hunting. It was a fundamental hunting estate (here took place a widely known hunting trip organized for Emperor Charles V). In the garden there is the collection of contemporary environmental art "The spirit of the place" with works by Fabrizio Corneli, Anne and Patrick Poirier, Nagasawa, Marco Bagnoli, Maurizio Nannucci, Daniel Buren.

04 SENTIERO ALTA VERSILIA



1 SERAVEZZA PALACE

The Medici Palace, wanted by Cosimo I as an affirmation of power and consolidation of state boundaries, was used as a temporary residence during frequent visits to marble quarries and silver mines. Today it is a cultural center where art exhibitions are held and is the permanent home of the Museum of Work and Popular Traditions of Historical Versilia, the Municipal Library and the Historical Archive.

2 SAV ITINERARY

Alta Versilia Itinerary* (suggested itinerary)

Starting from Seravezza you can take the SAV: an itinerary that develops along the mule tracks, the ancient streets that allowed cultural and commercial exchanges between the different communities and villages. You can walk one or more stages of this ring, which winds through woods and paths, crossing an extraordinary environmental heritage, combined with a highly interesting cultural proposal: churches, parishes, numerous traces of a past that reaches the unwritten tradition of rock engravings.

3 FROM THE APUAN ALPS TO THE SEA

In 1517, Pope Leo X, a Medici himself, sent Michelangelo to Versilia to select the marble for the Church of San Lorenzo in Florence (a project not realized by the artist). Michelangelo, being on the territory, designed the rose window known as "the Eye of Michelangelo" for the nearby Romanesque chapel of San Martino to the Azzano Chapel. Michelangelo's most significant undertaking, however, was to trace "the marble road", the road that connects the quarries to the sea of Forte dei Marmi, where marble was loaded on boats and transported to the mouth of the Arno river. The Palace of Seravezza is located on this same road.

4 PIETRASANTA

If we talk about Medici or historical Versilia, we can not stop in Pietrasanta. Here the use of marble is very evident, even today there are numerous studios of sculpture artists, as well as being a real outdoor museum of contemporary art and sculpture of great quality. This beautiful town has always been an important crossroads also in ancient times thanks to its location on the Via Francigena, the historic pilgrimage route from Canterbury to Rome. In the Cathedral of San Martino the bell tower hides an amazing spiral staircase, unique in its kind, indicating Michelangelo or his assistant among the possible authors.