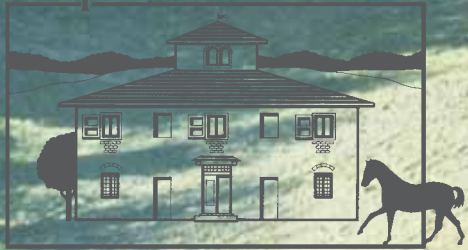


IL PARETAIO



TUSCANY

**Country House - Riding Centre**

Loc. S. Filippo - 50021 Barberino val d'Elsa (FI)

tel. +39 055 8059218 - fax +39 055 8059231

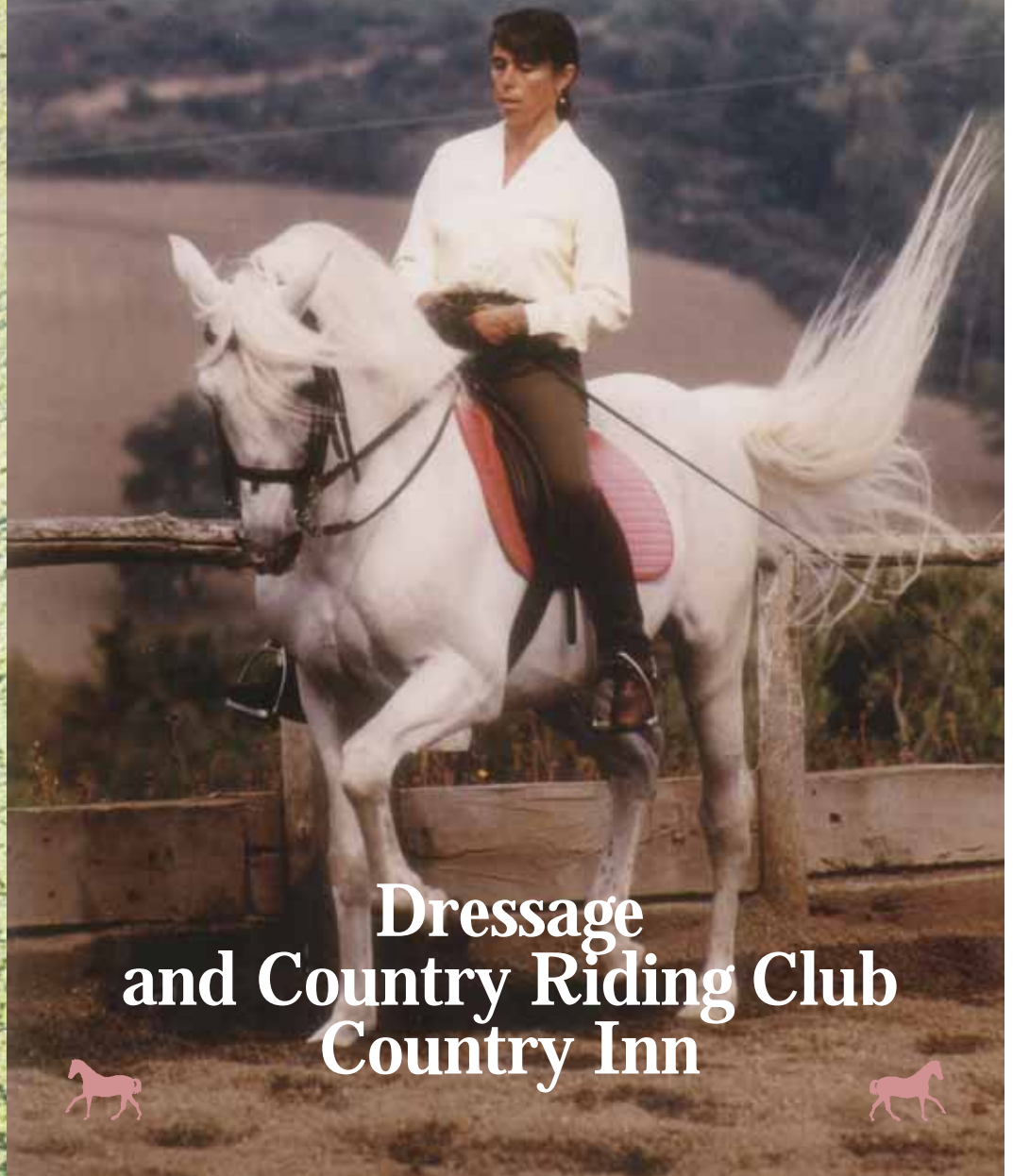
E-mail: [ilparetaio@tin.it](mailto:ilparetaio@tin.it)

VISIT: <http://www.ilparetaio.it>

F.I.S.E. affiliated

Recommended by the best travel and charming inns guides of the world (Fodor's, Karen Brown, Guide de Charme, Touring Club, Gambero rosso, Duncan Petersen, Guide du Routard and others).

IL PARETAIO



**Dressage  
and Country Riding Club  
Country Inn**





**I**l Parettaio is situated in a peaceful, picturesque valley in the heart of Tuscany. Its central location makes it a good base for touring the area without changing accommodation.

Florence and Siena are just 30 minutes by car (or 50 min. by bus from S. Filippo where we can drop you off and pick you up, or we can arrange you a taxi at discounted rates).

Colle Val d'Elsa, San Gimignano, Certaldo are 20 min. by car. Greve in Chianti, Pienza, Volterra, Pisa and Lucca are easy to reach.

Florence: what to say? The capital of Renaissance, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We will give you all the tips to maximise your enjoyment of your visit here.

## SURROUNDINGS

**Siena:** a jewel. It is the town with the highest quality of life in Italy.

**San Gimignano:** very charming with all its towers... And you can eat there the best ice cream in Tuscany!

**Volterra:** magic ancient Etruscan town with a special tradition for artcrafts with alabaster.

**Chianti area:** we can help you suggesting nice itineraries to discover its beauty and it's famous produce!





**A**t il Paretaio, at any one time we have around 30 well trained horses (Lusitanos, Anglo Arabs, Arabs, Dutch warmblood) available for our guests.

We offer:

- ∞ Basic lessons for beginners and post beginners
- ∞ Dressage lessons for riders with more experience
- ∞ Lunge lessons to improve balance and position for all the levels
- ∞ Hacking in the Tuscan countryside (not suitable for absolute beginners)

The benefits of our lessons are that with calm and sensitivity the teacher will lead you through softening exercises to improve your balance and your pleasure of riding.

Our guests always leave complimenting us on the lightness and sensitivity of our horses – and they are horses which have a new rider

## HORSE RIDING

almost every week!- This is possible because we use appropriate gymnastic exercises and a sympathetic approach creating in our horses a good physical and mental harmony.

Great importance is given to the balance and position of the rider from the first beginner's lesson to the most advanced ones.

The lessons are often individual or with just two riders. Occasionally we work with small groups of riders, but group sizes are kept to a maximum of 4 riders in order to offer our pupils the maximum attention on details.

Giovanni and Cristina are supported in delivering riding lessons by very well trained instructors. For those riders who love to ride out in the countryside they will have the opportunity to do rides of half a day and full days out with picnic or wine tasting.





**W**e have more than 20 years of experience teaching children and we have well trained ponies and small horses which are very suitable for them.

During the week we organize lessons, vaulting, small competitions and games.

Children love this place, our horses, our dogs and cats. They feel at home and always feel sad to leave.

More experienced children often come to Il Paretaio to prepare for riding club tests and we have a record of helping them to achieve very good results.

Children can also join a summer camp with or without their parents. We offer very good price reductions for children up to 18 years old, who sleep in the same room or apartment, with their parents.

## CHILDREN & MISCELLANEOUS

**Contact:** Carla and Katuscia will assist you to book your holiday and during you stay at Il Paretaio.

**Opening time:** all year. We enjoy a very mild climate in Tuscany and are often riding in shirts in November!

**Swimming pool:** open from May to October

**Other activities** (for non riders): in the neighbourhood: tennis; golf; guided wine tasting; baloon rides; Italian lessons; cooking lessons.



 **I**L PARETAIO is one of the top level riding clubs of Italy. It is well known for its high standard of professionalism and for its beautiful and magic setting.

With programs both for beginners and advanced riders, IL PARETAIO offers its guests the possibility to ride out in the beautiful countryside or have beginners and advanced dressage lessons.

While IL PARETAIO can be considered a paradise for riders, it is also an excellent base for sightseeing in Tuscany because of its central position (exactly halfway between Florence and Siena) and the atmosphere is very warm and friendly.

At IL PARETAIO the guests all eat dinner together at one long dining table in the beautiful dining room with its enormous fireplace.

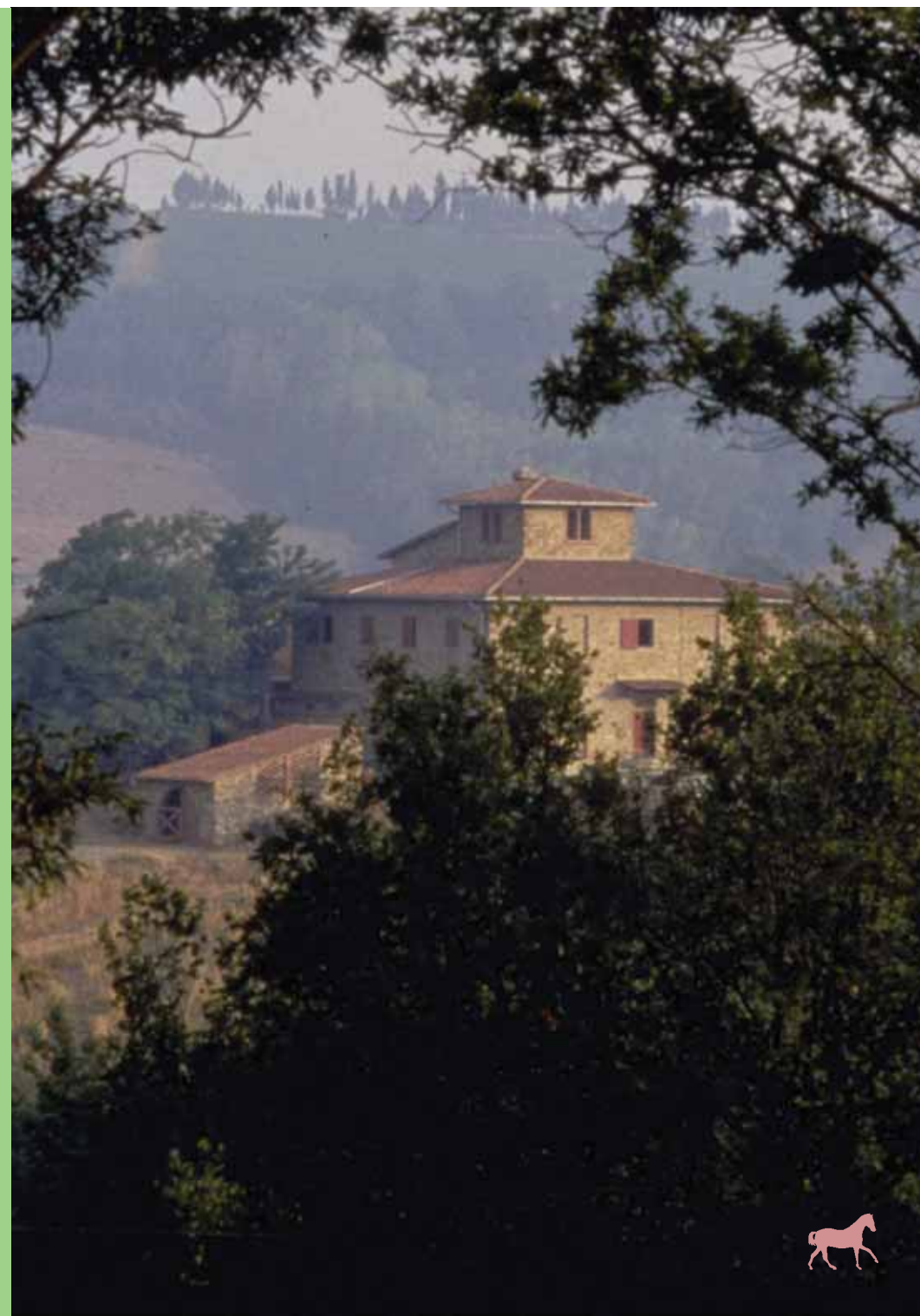
The bedrooms, ten in total, all have private bathrooms and are com-

## IL PARETAIO

fortably furnished, each one is stylishly decorated with additional touches such as dried flowers, lace curtains, and of course, equestrian prints.

The cuisine is another great feature of IL PARETAIO.

Delicious Tuscan traditional cuisine is enriched by excellent Chianti wine and extra virgin organic olive oil which is made by IL PARETAIO using ancient methods. Vegetarians are also excellently catered for here.



**I**l Paretaio is an ancient country house which has been sympathetically restored and modernised to maintain the charm of the old original floors and arched ceilings.

Non riders are also welcome and can enjoy a holiday close to nature and art, with a delicious kitchen and away from the usual formalities. The rooms (8 plus 2 small apartments and all with private bathroom) are very romantic, full of light and well furnished. Some are so big that can comfortably sleep 3 or 4 people and they are ideal for families.

Here's a brief description of our bedrooms and apartments:

**Cavallo room:** full of equestrian prints, a very spacious room with a special light at sunset and a fantastic view.

**Robinia room:** a Mediterranean light makes this room particularly warm. The two windows toward the South offer a special view on the background of the "Robinia" tree

# HOSPITALITY

that looks like a part of the room.

**Linari room:** the favourite one of artists. Again possesses a special light and a beautiful view on the Castle of Linari.

**Pozzo room:** very appreciated in the hot summer because it is the coolest one.

**Maneggio room:** cozy and romantic: the only small room we have. It is for single use.

**Piccionaia or Tower room:** what to say...the charm and exclusivity of being on the top of the house. Six arched windows give an amazing view on the valley.


**Teatro room:** very large room and very silent. With an arched ceiling and something in the architecture that reminds you of a theatre.

**Volta room:** also this room is very spacious and has an independent exit on the garden and an imperial bathroom with roll-top bath.

**La Mangiatoia:** small apartment with kitchenette. Ideal for families. It still has the old "mangeoire"

**La Stallina:** small apartment with a mezzanine and an outstanding view on the horses' valley.



 Our training method is based on supplying and loosening up the horse to achieve elasticity and lightness in the use of the aids. We follow the very traditional principles of classical riding with a very sensitive approach and our professional foundation is based on the academic style and our professional qualification is derived from the benefit of several years of training and teaching.

The owners of il Paretaio and trainers of all the horses, **Giovanni** and **Cristina De Marchi** were born with a very strong passion for horses. They met very young and decided to dedicate their lives to their passion for the equestrian art. They moved from Milan to Tuscany in one of the most beautiful spots in the Chianti area where they founded the equestrian riding centre Il Paretaio. Their brilliant career as trainers started in Milan with the meeting of

# INSTRUCTORS

a French master (Mr **Gerard Beckrich**) followed by the meeting of **Albert Moyerson**, a very reputable horseman and pupil for many years of the great **Nuno Oliveira**. At Albert Moyerson's centre they had the chance to meet the Master **Louis Valenca**, one of the chief riders in the Portuguese Equestrian School. Both Giovanni and Cristina started to study with this Master at his centre Leiziria Grande. After some time they were introduced to the technical director of the National Stud in Portugal, Mr **Pedro de Almeida**, with whom they studied for many years, contributing also to the training of the horses at the National Stud. Pedro De Almeida, who has been pupil of Nuno Oliveira, is still their main reference master however they also attend clinics with other international coaches to fulfill all the requirements a good instructor and trainer needs.

