

### RESTAURANTS IN THE AREA

Generally, restaurants are open from 12:00 to 14:00 and from 19.30pm to 22:00 (pizzerias are normally open till much later).

Listed below are some of the restaurants close by, those marked with \* are some of our favourites. Others have been recommended by previous visitors to Casa Michele or Casa Della Nonna.

**\*Da Remo, Monzone** - Via C. Battisti – Tel: 0585 97933

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Da+Remo,+Monzone&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

Via C. Battisti is the main street through Monzone so you can't miss this place. Don't be put off by the decor, it's kind of 1970's style still, but the food is excellent as is the service! Local Lunigianese specialties - cinghiale (wild boar) and testable (chestnut flour pasta cooked in either meat sauce or pesto) - are a must try, as well as the local cured meats and cheeses.

- Very good food – the antipasto is a must!
- Friendly service
- Credit cards accepted
- Closed Monday

**\*Locanda del Lucido** – Via Provinciale in Località Pian di Molino, 54013 - Tel: 0585 97547

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=il+lucido,+fivizzano&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

An absolute favourite! A beautiful riverside restaurant with rustic charm and great food. An ideal place for a very relaxed lunch. Lovely relaxed atmosphere with outside dining in the summer months, and locally caught seafood - make this a day trip and visit the old spa town of Equi Terme a five minute drive away afterwards!

- The fresh trout with a glass of cold house wine is unforgettable!
- Service is relaxed and charming
- Outdoor eating at its best. The children can paddle in the river.

**\*Al Vecchio Tino** – Località Germalla. 1 Monte dei Bianchi, 54013 Fivizzano - our personal favourite and well worth the drive - spectacular views, go for the sunset and have an aperitif beside the pool while soaking in the majestic Apuane Mountain range and enjoying a chilled glass of prosecco or wine from the area.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=vecchio+tino,+italy&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

Head down to the road that takes you to Aulla, turning off at the village of Gragnola. Follow the signs to Equi Terme/Gragnola/Mezzana/Monzone etc. Take this road and go through Gragnola until you come to a turning to the left to Mezzana. Go to the T junction in Mezzana where there is a sharp turning to the left and follow the signs to the restaurant. The last bit of the drive is an unmade up road so don't be put off. It opens up into the restaurant and ample car park. This is a truly spectacular place and well worth the effort.

- Great food, although a little more expensive than most restaurant in the area – the owner

and chef is from Milan

- Closed on Wednesday (except for Summer season)
- Beautiful views and well worth the drive to arrive in time to watch the sun going down
- Payment by cash or credit card

**\*Il Sicomoro, Cormezzano – Tel: 0585-99442**

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=LnF&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&q=ristorante+il+sicomoro,+fivizzano&bav=on.2,or.r\\_gc.r\\_pw.&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wl](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=LnF&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&q=ristorante+il+sicomoro,+fivizzano&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wl)

On the main road between Aulla and Fivizzano just past the Gassano turn off. Take the road once again to Aulla, going through the little village of Gassano (the lower road, not the upper road) and when you get to the T junction Il Sicomoro is right in front of you to the right, turn right and then a hard left into the restaurant parking lot. Good food – try the pasta with wild boar sauce.

- Lovely outdoor setting in August. Cozy fireside setting in the winter.
- Friendly, efficient service.
- Credit cards accepted
- Closed Wednesday

**\*Ristorante Da Gambin, Podenzana – 0187 410106**

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=da+Gambin,+Podenzana&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

A little further away than the previous five restaurants but well worth the journey for the food and the location. Set high in the hills above Aulla, this restaurant specializes in the local delicacy of panigacci – simple little pizza like breads served with sauces and as panini – that are really delicious and a treat for everyone, often a favourite with children. These are little pancake type forms, burnt on an open flame over ceramic dishes, that you literally fill with all the delicacies that are brought to your table of stracchina cheese (melt in your mouth), local salami and cured meats, and you eat as you would a sandwich or a slice of pizza. Truly to be tried, delicious and very unique. Follow the signs from the centre of Aulla, crossing over the bridge behind the centre of town and climb up about five to ten minutes by car until you arrive at the restaurant itself. There is more than one of these restaurants serving this local specialty so if Da Gambin is closed, try on of the other two - but this one has the best views overlooking Aulla itself and the river below.

- Good and plentiful food
- Friendly service
- Beautiful setting
- Credit cards accepted

**Albergo Ristorante Da Pasquino, Aulla – Piazza Mazzini, 22 – Tel: 0187 420509**

A good restaurant serving the Podenzana speciality, Panigacci. Very good food, and very good service and handy if you are in town doing a shopping or wandering around Aulla.

**Ristorante Da Felice, Equi Terme – Tel: 0585-949307**

A nice little restaurant on the road leading into Equi Terme. Right in the heart of town, great

food, unusual items not found in all the other local restaurants, child friendly (most Italian restaurant are, Italians love children), and a great little town to explore afterwards - make sure to visit the grotto while in Equi Terme or a visit to the spa to take "the cures" of the local waters!

- Hearty and rustic food
- Good, friendly service
- Reasonably priced

LA POSTA - Has been a local institution for years in the Equi Terme area. Great food, very reasonably priced, and operates also as a hotel during the summer months for those coming to take the "cure" at the spa, which is located directly across the street from the restaurant.

### **Cera Una Volta (Once Upon a Time), Aulla** – Tel: 0187 409798

You will find this fully restored restaurant on the right hand side of the main road out of Aulla going towards Pallerone (Fivizzano valley). The setting is idyllic and is full of character.

- Excellent food – good workman's lunch (Pranzo di lavoro) during the week for 10 Euros!
- Closed on Wednesday
- Payment by cash and credit card

### **Galletti, Crespiano** - Tel. 0187 484564

Galletti is on the on the right hand side of the main road going through Crespiano towards Comano. This is the other side of the valley, so a bit of a drive, but worth a visit if you are visiting the Comano/Licciana Nardi/Pontremoli area

- Good food modestly priced but service can be slow.
- Closed Wednesday (except for Summer season)
- Payment by cash or Eurocheques

### **Il Giardinetto, Fivizzano** – Via Roma, 151 FIVIZZANO – Tel. 0585 92060

A well-known restaurant which has been in the same family since 1882. One of our very favourites and a "must" for all visitors. Rustic, charming and the last time we ate there we were served by a waiter who had to be in his 90's - but he was well versed in his restaurant's offerings, nimble, quick and delightful!

- Very good food and good friendly service. The antipasto is excellent.
- Modest prices
- Payment by cash or credit card

### **Ristorante Pizzeria Paradiso, Fossdinovo** -Via Boccognano 6, 54035 - Tel. 0187 417058

This is a small place more suitable for lunch and snacks than for an evening meal.

- Good food – try the lasagna
- Friendly English-speaking staff.

- Credit cards accepted
- Closed Thursday

**La Giara, Sarzana** – Via Bertolini 35, Sarzana - This is a town well worth a day's visit, charming old borgo (city centre) and a fabulous weekly market that stays open ALL DAY - even during lunch time, although it does slow down - but best time to shop it, no crowds - so be sure to give yourself enough time to linger !

In the old part of town Via Bertolini runs off the main square at the bottom right hand corner

- Very good food.
- Pricier than many but very good value and good service.
- English spoken
- Closed Tuesday

**La Sosta, Pallerone** - Via F. Turati, Pallerone Tel: 0187 418095

This is at the side of the petrol station on the main road just outside Aulla at Pallerone.

Especially good is the 3 course lunch for 10Euros including wine. Great also if in a hurry and on your way home and too late to cook lunch! Good pizza also - worth a try!

- Crowded with local workmen at lunchtime.
- Cheerful atmosphere
- Good food
- Credit cards accepted.

**La Civetta** – Via S. Giacomo, Pugliano. Tel: 0583 611352

Take the old Lucca road past Casola and on up through Vigneta, carry on for two miles. Just past the Pugliano sign La Civetta is on the right. The pizzas are better than the main courses. Stunning views. Our favourite pizzeria!

- Very good pizzas
- Pleasant service – no English.
- Modest prices
- Credit cards accepted.

**Il Re di Macchia** – Via della Stazione, Casola in Lunigiana - Tel: 0585 90389

Via Stazione is the road out of Casola towards Pieve San Lorenzo and the restaurant is in a prominent roadside position just on the edge of Casola, so you can't miss this place. Good place to stop off if you are planning a train trip to Lucca or Pisa or even Florence and plan on leaving your car at the car park at the station in Pieve San Lorenzo/Minnucianno - a local favourite.

- Very good food in this recently opened restaurant
- Friendly efficient service with a smile.
- Credit cards accepted

**Bar Trattoria Cecchi** – Via San Giacomo , Pugliano, Lunigiano - Tel: 0583 611057

Via San Giacomo is the old road to Lucca as it goes through Pugliano. The trattoria is by the roadside next to the Civetta

- Very good workmans lunch (Pranzo di lavoro) - 4 courses with wine, coffee and water for 16 Euros! Local people say that the pasta is among the best in the area.
- Friendly efficient service with a smile.
- Supposedly closed Thursday but they don't seem to. Normally open lunchtime only but will cook in the evenings to order
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