



27 MAY 2014



CATERINA POMINI



14695

ANOTHER CHIANTI ITINERARY: GREVE, PANZANO AND CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI

This classic one day itinerary for Chianti will take you to Greve, Panzano and Castellina, all reachable by car in less than one hour from Florence. Besides visiting the Wine Museum, you will have the opportunity to see a Medieval marketplace, the largest wine shop in Chianti, two old butcher shops, a beautiful parish church, an imposing fortress and an Etruscan burial mound.

Split between the provinces of [Florence](#) and Siena, Chianti is famous all over the world for its never-

ending vineyards, olive groves, honey coloured stone villages and picturesque cellars; usually accessed via the SR222, the easiest way to explore it is to get in touch with a [Florence car service](#) and drive through the Region. In this article, we will give you some information about **Greve, Panzano** and **Castellina**, the first three Chianti towns on the way to [Siena](#).

Located about 35 km south of Florence, well off the main roads, **Greve in Chianti** is considered by many as the **gateway into the Chianti wine region** and boasts an attractive, triangular-shaped *piazza* that has been a marketplace since the Middle Ages. The **Falorni family** owns the town's three main tourist attractions: the **Museo del Vino**, a [huge cellar](#) where you can sample and buy wine and **the oldest butcher shop in Italy**. If you happen to be around Greve the first or second week of September, don't miss its **yearly wine fair**, during which a variety of wines, cheeses and other local products are available for tasting and purchase.

15 minutes drive from Greve is the hamlet of **Panzano in Chianti**, best known for its **12th century castle** that played a crucial role in defending the Florentine Republic during the battles between Florence and Siena.

The old town is very pretty and quiet, one of those places where you can really soak up the atmosphere of times gone by. Places of interest in and around Panzano include: the **Church of San Leolino** (offering fantastic views over the local vineyards) and **Antica Macelleria Cecchini** (a butcher shop + restaurant famous for its Florentine T-bone steak): [Dario Cecchini](#) – the hilarious owner – often recites the *Divine Comedy* while serving the customers!

Included in the province of Siena, **Castellina in Chianti** dates back to the Etruscan period and was fortified by the Florentines in the 15th century as a defensive outpost against the Sienese. Its most prominent feature is **Via delle Volte**, an arched Medieval passageway that runs along the old city walls. Other interesting sights in Castellina are its well-preserved and imposing **Fortress** (home to a small Etruscan museum with archaeological finds from the local area) and, just outside the town centre, the **Montecalvario burial mound** (7th century BC).

Conclude your [Tuscany tour](#) with a pleasant dinner in one of the many restaurants available.