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## Restaurants to try - Tuscany, Italy



Tuscan restaurants for your next visit - ***Osteria Le Logge and Nimphaea***.

I cannot think of Tuscany without thinking of food, the pasta, the seafood, the meats, olive oils, and cheeses, as well as the wine (Chianti and Vin Santo). During a trip to the Tuscany region with Edward F. Nesta in October 2004, we found that these restaurants stood out as places that we not only enjoyed, but also are looking forward to returning to on our next trip to Tuscany.



**Osteria Le Logge** located on Via del Porrione in **Siena** is a definite must visit. Edward and I had a very memorable lunch at the restaurant with Jim and Gloria Redmond. The restaurant is 27 years old, and was a former bakery and food shop. The cozy downstairs dining room still bears the remains of the cabinets from the shop, and if you look closely, you will see rice, beans and other items behind the glass doors. There is another dining room upstairs. In the summer, there are also tables outside. White tablecloths, excellent service, and gourmet cuisine make this de rigueur on your next trip. They are closed on Sundays and reservations are highly recommended. We enjoyed Funghi porcini con frutta e verdure autunnale, Paccheri con carciofi e Parmigiano, Tagliatelle con verdure, Insalata di spinaci, rape rosse, olive e mozzarella, Toscanelli all olio, Paccheri con calamari, salsiccia e finocchietto, Petto di Anatra con constagne, noci, uva e spinaci, Crema di cipolla con caciotta e purea di pere, followed by a large cheese selection. For dessert, we tried one of everything! Incredible? Yes, but some things are worth going off a diet for!

**Nimphaea** located at Piazza Masini 1, in **Certaldo** is worth making a stop for their luscious pastries. Their sparkling glass cases tantalize with a wide-assortment of freshly baked pastries made on the premises, as well as freshly made sandwiches. Their sfogliatelle was the best I had ever tasted, with perfect crispy ribbons of pastry outside with a smooth sweet filling inside. Portions are large, but they also have miniatures, perfect for the figure-conscious or to enjoy sampling one of this and one of that, (which I did!) There are small round tables and chairs to sit and relax, as well as a counter bar for a quick espresso or a sandwich. They also sell chocolates and gelato, making it the perfect sweet spot to satisfy your sweet tooth.

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