



PIETRA PINTA

WINERY AND OLIVE MILL IN CORI

CORI

AND SURROUNDINGS

Roman temples, enchanted gardens, stone villages
and the Circeo coast: all within a glass's reach.

A LOCAL GUIDE FOR OUR GUESTS

WHY STAY HERE

Welcome to Cori

Some places you pass through; others make you want to stay. Cori is one of the latter: a hilltop town in the Lepini Mountains, older than Rome according to tradition, where vineyards slope down towards the Pontine plain and the view stretches all the way to the sea.

For more than a century the Ferretti family has grown vines and olive trees on the volcanic soils of Cori, cooled by Mediterranean breezes. In these pages we have gathered the places we love most and recommend to our guests every day: the Roman temples of the old town, the Garden of Ninfa, the medieval villages of Sermoneta and Norma, the Cistercian abbeys and the beaches of the Circeo coast.

The best part? They are all close by. Staying in our apartments puts the whole area within easy reach: head out in the morning to a garden or a castle, come back to the vineyards in the afternoon, and end the day with a glass of Nero Buono and our olive oil on a slice of country bread. A day like this cannot be squeezed into a trip from Rome: it is something you live by staying a few nights.



Welcome to Pietra Pinta

Photo: Pietra Pinta

01 · THREE THOUSAND YEARS ON FOOT

The town of Cori

The old town is best discovered on foot, climbing lanes and stone stairways from the lower town up to the ancient acropolis. Every bend opens up a new view over the plain.



Photo: pietro scerrato · CC BY 3.0

◆ Temple of Hercules

UPPER CORI · ON FOOT

The symbol of Cori: a Doric temple from the late Republican period (2nd–1st century BC) standing at the highest point of town, its porch of columns still upright. From the terrace the view sweeps across the Pontine plain to the sea; on clear days you can make out the outline of Mount Circeo.

OUR TIP go up towards sunset, when the stone glows with golden light.



Photo: Alessandro · Public domain

◆ Polygonal walls OLD TOWN · ON FOOT

Huge limestone blocks fitted together without mortar: these are the walls that protected the ancient town, also called “Cyclopean” because they seem to have been built by giants. One of the most striking stretches emerges near the Sant’Oliva complex. Legend has it that Cori was founded by the Trojan hero Dardanus.

◆ Sant’Oliva complex and Museum CORI · ON FOOT

The church of the town’s patron saint, built on the remains of a Roman temple, preserves 15th-century frescoes of biblical scenes; next to it stands the former Augustinian convent and its cloister.

The same complex houses the Museum of the Town and its Territory, whose archaeological finds trace the history of Cori through the centuries. Among its curiosities is a copy of the statue of Minerva now on the Capitoline Hill in Rome, which came from Cori’s own Temple of the Dioscuri.

OUR TIP ask the local Pro Loco about guided tours, which often include the Oratory of the Santissima Annunziata.

◆ Oratory of the Annunziata CORI · ON FOOT

Modest outside, astonishing inside: its walls are entirely covered by a 15th-century fresco cycle. One of those places that stay with you precisely because you don't expect them.

◆ Temple of the Dioscuri LOWER CORI · ON FOOT

In the heart of the ancient forum rise two columns of the temple dedicated to Castor and Pollux, rebuilt in the 1st century BC over an even older sanctuary. Little remains, but the atmosphere is intense, on a terrace with a view.

◆ Ponte della Catena OUTSIDE PORTA NINFINA · ON FOOT

A single-arched Roman bridge from the 1st century BC, spanning the ravine of the same name and resting directly on the rock. More than two thousand years later you can still walk across it, and on the far side one of the finest views of the town awaits.

OUR TIP *from Piazza del Pozzo Dorico, follow Via Ninfina down to the bridge: a short and beautiful walk.*

◆ Lake Giulianello

VILLAGE OF CORI · 15 MIN

A small lake of volcanic origin, protected as a Natural Monument since 2007 and tucked away among oak woods and olive groves. A nature trail leads down to the shore: perfect for a slow walk or a picnic.



Photo: Mac9 · CC BY-SA 4.0

02 · GARDENS, CASTLES AND ABBEYS

The surroundings

Within half an hour's drive lie some of the most beautiful places in Lazio. They are easy to reach from Cori, and you'll be back in time for an aperitivo at the winery.



Approximate driving times from Cori. Indicative diagram, not to geographical scale.

◆ Garden of Ninfa

CISTERNA DI LATINA · 20 MIN

Considered one of the most beautiful and romantic gardens in the world, it grew among the ruins of an abandoned medieval town: stone towers, churches and bridges wrapped in roses, wisteria and rare plants, crossed by the crystal-clear waters of the Ninfa river. It is a Natural Monument of the Lazio Region, managed by the Roffredo Caetani Foundation.

It opens only on set dates, roughly from spring to autumn and mainly at weekends, with guided tours and compulsory online booking on the official website giardinodininfa.eu.

OUR TIP *book Ninfa first and plan your stay around that date: tickets go fast.*

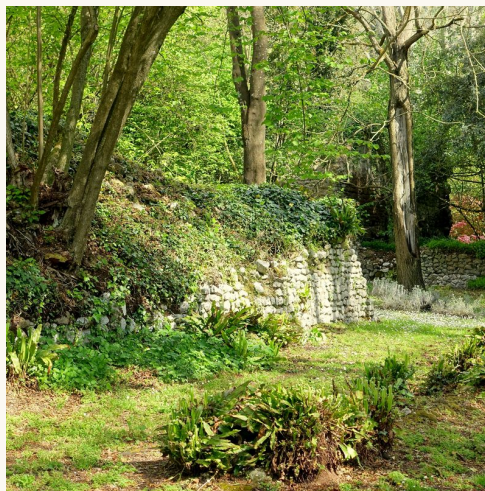


Photo: Daderot · CC0 1.0

◆ Sermoneta and Caetani Castle

SERMONETA · 30 MIN

A perfectly preserved medieval village of stone lanes, arches and small shops, dominated by the mighty Caetani Castle. Visits are by reservation and tell the story of one of Lazio's great noble families over the centuries. It pairs naturally with a visit to Ninfa, about ten kilometres away.



Photo: Valentino74 · CC BY-SA 4.0

◆ Valvisciolo Abbey

BELOW SERMONETA · 30 MIN

A Cistercian abbey surrounded by olive trees, with a plain façade and a peaceful cloister. Among its stones is the mysterious "Sator square", the enigmatic palindromic inscription that has inspired legends and theories for centuries.



Photo: MM · Public domain

◆ Norma and ancient Norba

NORMA · 25 MIN

Norma sits on the edge of a sheer cliff above the plain: from its viewpoint you look straight down on Ninfa. Just outside town lies the archaeological site of ancient Norba, a Latin city with kilometres of polygonal walls, streets, temples and monumental gates. Paragliders often take off from the cliff edge.

OUR TIP *combine Norba in the morning with Ninfa in the afternoon: one sits right above the other.*



Photo: XNick0510 · CC0

◆ Rocca Massima LEPINI MOUNTAINS · 20 MIN

A small village perched at over 700 metres, a natural balcony between the Castelli Romani hills and the Pontine plain. Cool air in summer, woodland trails through the Lepini and spectacular sunsets.

◆ Fossanova Abbey

PRIVERNO · 50 MIN

One of the masterpieces of Cistercian Gothic in Italy: a tall, luminous church, the cloister, the chapter house and the small village around it. Saint Thomas Aquinas died here in 1274. A half-day well worth the trip.



Photo: Fczarnowski · CC BY-SA 3.0

03 · FROM THE HILLS TO THE COAST

The sea and beyond

Few people know that the sea is less than an hour from Cori. A morning on the beach, dinner among the vineyards in the evening: this is what makes the area unique.

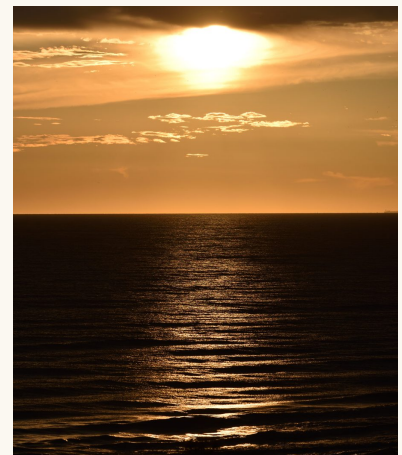


Photo: MarcoPerNikon · CC BY-SA 4.0

◆ Sabaudia and Circeo National Park

PONTINE COAST · 50 MIN

Miles of sand dunes between the sea and Lake Paola, ancient forest, and the Circeo promontory rising from the water like an island. Founded in 1934, Circeo National Park is one of the oldest in Italy: beaches, trails and birdwatching in every season.



Photo: Anglisani Alessandro · CC BY-SA 4.0

◆ Terracina and Sperlonga RIVIERA DI ULISSE · ABOUT 1 HOUR

In Terracina, the sanctuary of Jupiter Anxur offers one of the most spectacular views of the Lazio coast. A little further south, Sperlonga is a white village above the sea, with the Villa of Tiberius and its Archaeological Museum right by the beach.

◆ Rome ABOUT 1 HOUR

Cori is also a peaceful base for a day in the capital: explore Rome by day and come back to sleep in the quiet of the countryside, far from the traffic and city-centre prices.

04 · THE LAND IN A GLASS

Food, wine and traditions

◆ The wines of Cori

CORI DOC

The hills of Cori, cooled by sea breezes and sheltered by the Lepini Mountains, are home to two native grapes: *Nero Buono di Cori*, a deep, fragrant red, and *Bellone*, an ancient and aromatic white, the basis of the Cori DOC wines. In our winery we also grow *Malvasia Puntinata* and other varieties. Tasting them where they are made, looking out over the vineyards they come from, is a different experience altogether.



Photo: Pietra Pinta

◆ Extra virgin olive oil

OUR OLIVE MILL

The olive groves on the hills of Cori produce a green, fragrant oil. In our mill, running since 1993, the olives are cold-extracted and we follow every step from tree to bottle. The best way to get to know it? Raw, on a slice of country bread, ideally during the autumn harvest.



Photo: Pietra Pinta

◆ Carosello Storico dei Rioni LATE JUNE – JULY

Since 1937 the districts of Cori have re-enacted the 16th-century festivities in honour of the Madonna del Soccorso and the patron saint Sant'Oliva: the Oath of the Priors and the Palio of the Madonna del Soccorso in late June, and the Palio of Sant'Oliva in late July, with costumed parades and flag-wavers. The whole town is transformed.

OUR TIP if you are planning a summer stay, choose these dates: it is the liveliest time of the year.

A REASON FOR EVERY SEASON

Spring

Ninfa reopens in full bloom, the hills turn green again and the weather is perfect for walking.

Summer

The Carosello Storico, cool evenings in the hills and the Circeo coast less than an hour away.

Autumn

The grape harvest, the colours of the vineyards, the olive harvest and freshly pressed new oil.

Winter

Quiet villages, museums without queues and red wines: the most intimate side of the area.

05 · AN ITINERARY TO ENJOY

Three days of vineyards and history

An idea for a long weekend: a slow pace, plenty to discover, and every evening a return to Pietra Pinta.

	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Day 1 CORI	Arrival and check-in to your apartment.	A walk through the old town: Sant'Oliva, the Museum, the polygonal walls, the Ponte della Catena.	Sunset at the Temple of Hercules, then dinner and a glass of Nero Buono.
Day 2 NINFA AND SERMONETA	Guided visit to the Garden of Ninfa (booked in advance).	Lunch in Sermoneta, a visit to Caetani Castle and a stop at Valvisciolo Abbey.	Back at the farm for a tasting of our wines and oils, to be booked on site.
Day 3 NORBA AND THE SEA	The walls of ancient Norba and the view over the plain from Norma.	The beach at Sabaudia or a walk in Circeo National Park.	A last dinner in the hills, or one more night: there is still so much to see.

WHY STAY WITH US



Our apartments

Photo: Pietra Pinta



Kitchen and living area

Photo: Pietra Pinta

At the centre of it all

The temples of Cori, Ninfa, Sermoneta and Norba just minutes away: less driving, more time to enjoy.

Space and freedom

Apartments with two large bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and private bathroom: ideal for families or couples.

Comfort and relaxation

Free Wi-Fi, air-conditioned living area, garden and free private parking on site.

Wine where it's made

Winery visits and wine and oil tastings with the Ferretti family, without leaving the farm.

Opening times and visiting arrangements may change: please check the official websites before you go. The Ferretti family will be happy to help you organise your visits during your stay.

PHOTO CREDITS

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Norma seen from the Norba archaeological park — XNick0510, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons; cropped and resized

Cloister of Fossanova Abbey — Fczarnowski, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons; cropped and resized

Sunset from the Sabaudia dunes — MarcoPerNikon, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons; cropped and resized

Sabaudia, with Mount Circeo in the background — Anglisani Alessandro, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons; cropped and resized

Vineyards and olive groves at Pietra Pinta — Pietra Pinta

Olive harvest at Pietra Pinta — Pietra Pinta

Hospitality at Pietra Pinta — Pietra Pinta

Pietra Pinta apartments — Pietra Pinta

Kitchen and living area — Pietra Pinta



This guide is an invitation. The best way to enjoy it is to stay with us.

A stay at the Pietra Pinta farm means slipping into the peace of the Cori countryside, among the scent of the vineyards and hills covered in olive groves. Set off in the morning for an enchanted garden or a medieval castle, and come back in the evening for a glass of our wine. Distances are short, but to enjoy it all you need days, not hours.

Our apartments are the ideal base for exploring the area. And to complete your stay, you can book a winery visit or a tasting of our wines and oils directly on site.

[Book a room](#)

[Book an experience](#)

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