



Destination: Villa Buonvisi Lucca, Italy

Have you ever wanted to visit Italy and stay in a villa? The thought of finding the perfect location can be daunting, but help is just a click away! I recently discovered a website, www.villavacations.com. It belongs to Doorways Ltd., a travel agency based in Pennsylvania founded by Kit Burns, an avid traveler herself. The company has an experienced staff that will help you plan a vacation at one of the many villas they represent throughout Europe.

I spoke with Monica, a public relations representative with the company. She was very helpful and actually stayed on the property in Tuscany that I was asking about, a 500 year-old villa located on three hundred acres of vineyards, olive trees and vast nature. Villa Buonvisi, located in Lucca, really is the perfect destination for anyone wanting to experience the best of Italy with all the modern comforts of home.

The best way to arrive is through Pisa and most airlines will accommodate you. Otherwise, there is a main rail station in Pisa that is quite accessible from all major Italian cities. The villa is centrally located with possible day trips right in the vicinity. Among those destinations is Cinqueterre, also known as the five lands, a chain of fishing towns which overlooks the Mediterranean sea. The ancient towns still hold their centuries-old traditions but welcome visitors from all over the world. Another fascinating day trip is to Carrara where Michelangelo actually got his pure white marble for his masterpieces. Certainly, you must spend a day at "the piazza of miracles" in Pisa. It's a beautiful, stunning square where the infamous leaning tower is located. It has a certain magnificence at night when spotlights shine on the tower and its neighboring monuments. If you feel like staying in, you won't be bored! You can take a dip in the pool, which

overlooks mountains and vineyards or you can take a class in pizza making by a master pizzaiolo from Naples. The villa has its own chef and staff, so you'll never go hungry!



Cinqueterre, the five lands

In addition to Villa Buonvisi's charm and central location, couples in search of the perfect setting for their wedding flock to the location. The villa's owners, Joe and Gianna Dini will help you plan the perfect day. They'll also help you work with local photographers to see that nothing is lost in translation!

So whether you're planning a weekend get-a-way or a big family event, a villa may be your best way to go. For more information about Villa Buonvisi and Doorways Ltd., visit them online at www.villavacations.com or give them a call at 800-261-4460.

- Jeannine Guilyard