



Estate

Between the two small towns of **Radda** and **Gaiole in Chianti**, two historical sites for the production of Chianti Classico, right in the heart of Tuscany, there lies Fattoria Vistarenni, a large farm of approx 500 acres. The 18th century **Villa Vistarenni**, with its majestic and unique façade, dominates from a hilltop 500 m above sea level. In the beautiful historical cellars underneath the villa, excavated in the rock and vaulted by a brick cross vault, wines improve and mature in big oaken barrels and barrique. On the first floor of the **Villa** the large halls with their 19 century murals, their objects, the ancient books and decorations echo the past, whilst the windows looking onto the **Chianti** hills, which at sunset are suffused with the colours of the seasons, draw you into the present. **Perfect venue for your weddings**
Villa Vistarenni can offer beautiful holidays in the manor, in the apartments, in the old 16th century country house built in stone, perfectly restored and furnished. Although the environment still keeps its historical wealth you will feel at home and most visitors consider themselves guests rather than occasional tourists. Ideal for wedding.

History

THE HISTORY

Vistarenni or "Fisterinne" is known to have been one of the rural settlements that in Roman-Etruscan times studded the territory around the Etruscan centre of Cetamura.
From its very beginnings it was a small village, recorded in early Middle-Age documents: the oldest of these, in the register of the monastery of San Lorenzo in Coltibuono, is a contract of sale, drawn up in **1033, in Montegrossi, in which the landmarks with S. Donato in Perano** were established. In **1400 the Florentine** land register mentions the built-up area of **Vistarenni**, which at that time comprised 6 or 7 houses and belonged to a large landowner of the area **Giovanni di Cecchino da Panzano**. In **1621 Vistarenni became the property of the Florentine Giannozzo da Cepparello and in 1714 passed on to a certain exponent of the Chianti family Pianigiani**. That was the end of the old village Vistarenni and on the same area arose the large building of the villa-farm with courtyard, kitchen garden and "olive mill"; a building which still perpetuated in some ways the Renaissance architectural tradition with its regular plano-volumetric structure and lines of windows in the white walls. The cellars were enlarged, excavating into rock, and covered by cross vaults in terra cotta interspersed with depressed arches. The estate at that time covered 78 hectares. In 1852 the whole Pianigiani property was sold to the **Prince Ferdinando Strozzi** and was managed for about 40 years by this aristocratic **Florentine** family whose coat-of-arms can still be seen in some parts of the manor house of Vistarenni. **Prince Strozzi was a member of the Tuscan Assembly in 1859 and was named Senator of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860**. The estate consisted in 26 holdings located in the Communes of Radda and Gaiole, all with farmhouse, yard or threshing floor and shed, and was managed according to the traditional system of agricultural agreements and subsequent share-cropping. At the end of the nineteenth century and more precisely in **1892, Baron Giorgio Sonnino, brother of Sidney, who was Prime Minister in 1906 and 1909, took over from the Strozzi family. A science graduate from the university of Pisa, Baron Sonnino lived in San Miniato di Firenze and was elected Senator of the Kingdom in 1868**. The books and documents in the villa's library are evidence of his vast ranging interests: from agriculture to public finance, from merchant shipping to African affairs and especially the colony of Eritrea. The Estate was enlarged from that moment on until it covered an overall area of 650 hectares. The average annual production of Chianti wine was at that time over 2300 hectolitres; a wine that was particularly esteemed for its qualities of "robustness, fineness and preservability". Sonnino had the façade of the villa embellished and between 1914 and 1919 the four pilaster strips of the central body, the lintels (arched and flat) over the windows of the piano nobile and the large staircase with two flights were added to design by the **Florentine architect Ludovico Fortini**. A chapel also remains: a small sixteenth-century construction in Neo Renaissance style, which bears the date 1584 on the lintel. It was used as Sonnino family vault and was dedicated to the Florentine saint Maria Magdalena de'Pazzi (1566-1607), one of the most important and worshipped ecstatic saints of the Catholic faith. **The villa has belonged for several decades to the Tognana family.**

Farm

The Vistarenni estate, overlooked by a splendid 16th century villa, lies between Radda and Gaiole in the heart of Chianti Classico.

Formerly owned by the **Strozzi and Sonnino families**, it includes 32 hectares of vineyards, as well as olive groves and woodland, and its impressive cellars are carved into the rock. In addition to a range of Chianti Classico wines under the Villa Vistarenni label, it produces Cod Rosso, a prestigious "Supertuscan" made from Sangiovese and Cabernet.
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