



Dog Days

Beyond the Yalla Dog Ltd



June 2010

Issue 4

The Massarellas come home to Italy

Special points of interest:

- * Plate painting
- * Mia's fresco
- * Sunday lunch at Impruneta
- * San Miniato Evensong
- * Future events
- * Contact details

I always wondered how they did that!

Have you ever looked at a painted plate and wondered how they manage to get the design so even—and not finish up with a small bit squashed in a corner? The more complex the design the more difficult it looks—and is!

In June Mia, Tony, Peggy and I were treated to an 2 Hour introduction to Plate Painting and shown some designs dating right back to the Etruscans.

Our teacher Vincenzo Formisano—(Enzo to his friends) showed us how to hold our brushes steady over the plates as they revolved on the wheel.



Plate painting for 2 hours costs only €30 per head and you get to keep your fired plate and take it home as a souvenir

Mia's fresco lesson with Alan

It was wet in Florence this June!

Mia also displayed her creative side when we painted Michelangelo frescos with Alan Pascuzzi.

Another souvenir for her kitchen!

Alan is shown here in his studio with some of his locally commissioned sculptures



Sunday lunch at Impruneta



The famous Bistecca Fiorentina— at its finest!

Impruneta—

famous for it's iron red earth and the resulting terracotta is set in Chianti is only a 20 minute bus ride from Florence

There were **some fabulous views on the way—especially as the rain had passed and the countryside was green and lush.**

We asked my friend Luca to just cook us what he enjoyed cooking and that meant we spent most of the afternoon in the restaurant—beside a groaning table -not even escaping the ice-cream and Grappa courses!

The meal was splendid—as always!



Mia with wine store and Grappa

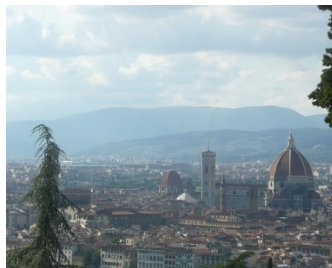
Evensong at San Miniato



San Miniato was Florence's first Christian Martyr—following his beheading he so much wanted to return to his monks cell in the small church overlooking the Arno he popped his head back on an flew home. Naturally the Florentines honoured him for his pains by building him a most impressive church to rest his bones in,

The Evensong ceremony is all sung in Gregorian Chant and although not well attended is held in rather magical original Roman Catacombs.

At the end of the service we emerged into the sinking sunlight and a stunning view across the City.



Early morning at the Central Market



Tony, a butcher in his early life was interested in the different cuts and types of meat on display in Florence's Centro Mercato.

I enjoyed the early morning walk to see this colourful slice of life



July 16-18 —another painting weekend with Glynis Barnes Mellish

August—One hot summer Bank Holiday week waiting to be filled in Florence and also Florentines escaping the heat are coming to visit me in London

September - wine tasting, cookery classes and language lessons

Future Yalla Dog Tours 2010

October—wine tasting, frescos, watercolour painting and parties

NB Specialist tours which focus on a specific artist or subject can be organised on request— we have even dealt with specific requests for vineyards—to organise just give me a call on **07979464640**

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