



Italy

Part 5

*Tuscany -
San Gimignano*

June 15 - 16, 2015

June 15, 2015 - Just before leaving Pisa we entered the destination for our bed and breakfast in Tuscany and began the drive there. We got somewhat lost but it was a detour into some really beautiful Tuscan wine country winding up and around in the hills.





The La Canonica di Cortine bed and breakfast was just a small dot on the map. When we arrived at our destination, it had started to rain. We turned onto a long tree lined lane and pulled up to the old family villa now turned into a bed and breakfast.

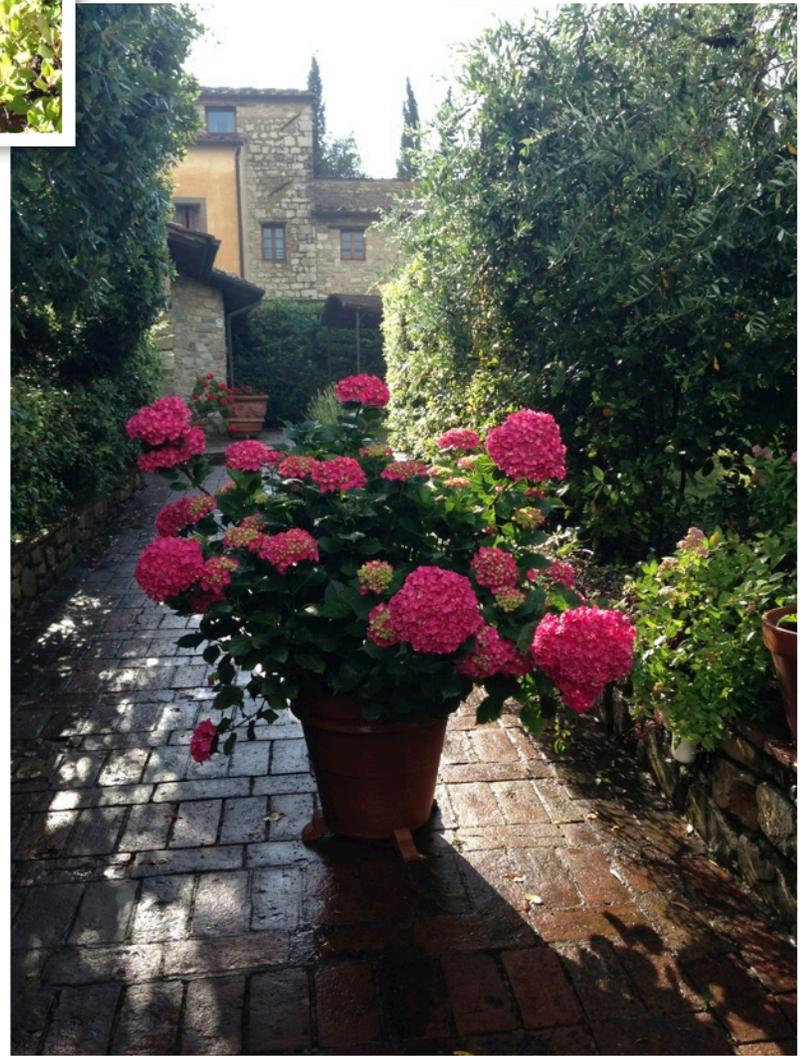


I got out of the car in the rain and rang the bell.
A man met us at the gate with an umbrella.





After we got the keys to our room, we passed these lovely sites on the way to our building. Jasmine covered doorways and beautiful flowers and landscaping.





A covered seating area just outside our building.





The building with our rooms
on the second floor.



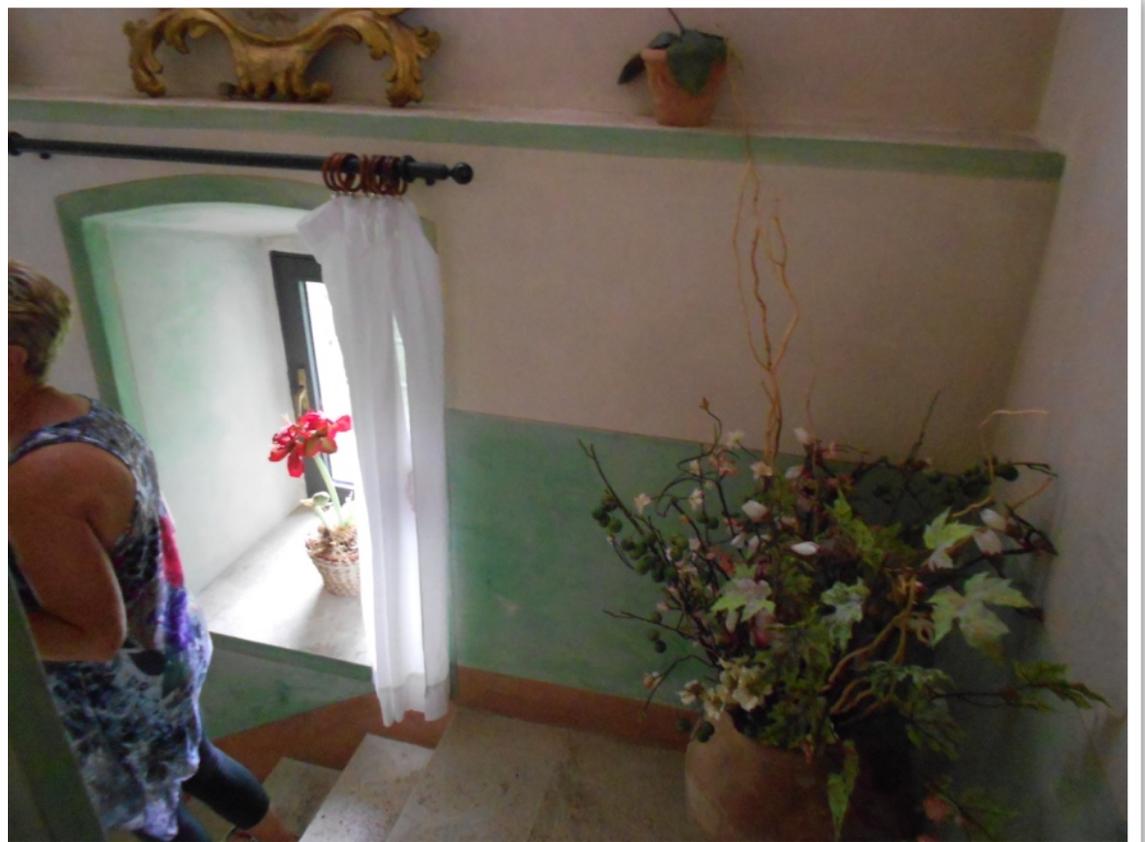


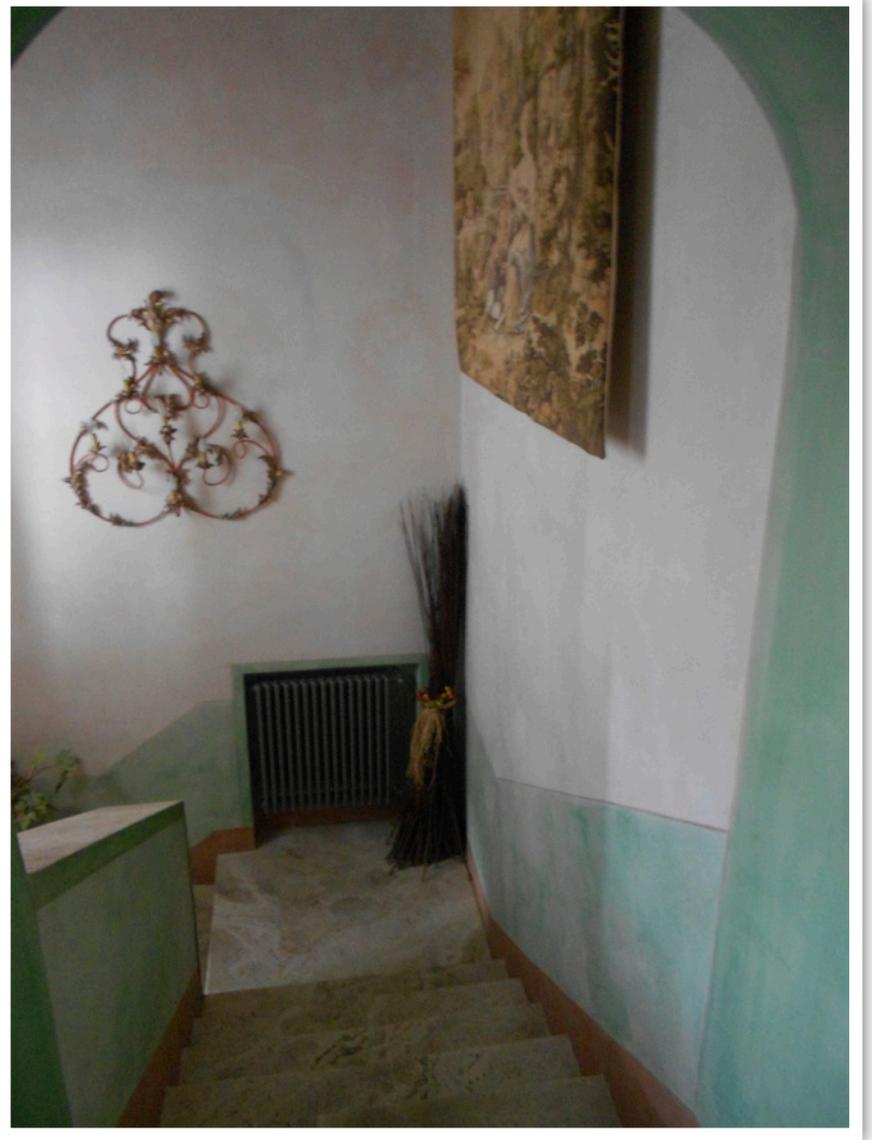
When we stepped inside the door of the building, we were greeted with this warm and cozy foyer and sitting area.





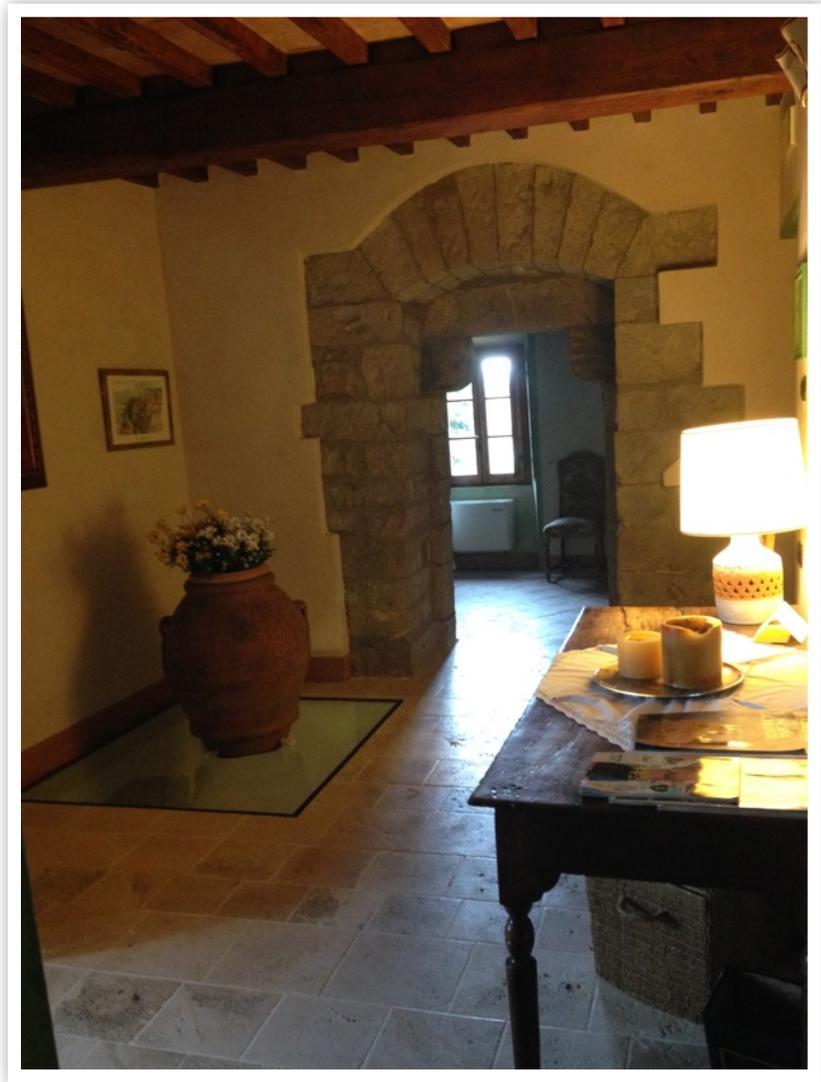
We walked up the stairs and were in complete awe of what would be our lodgings for the next three nights.

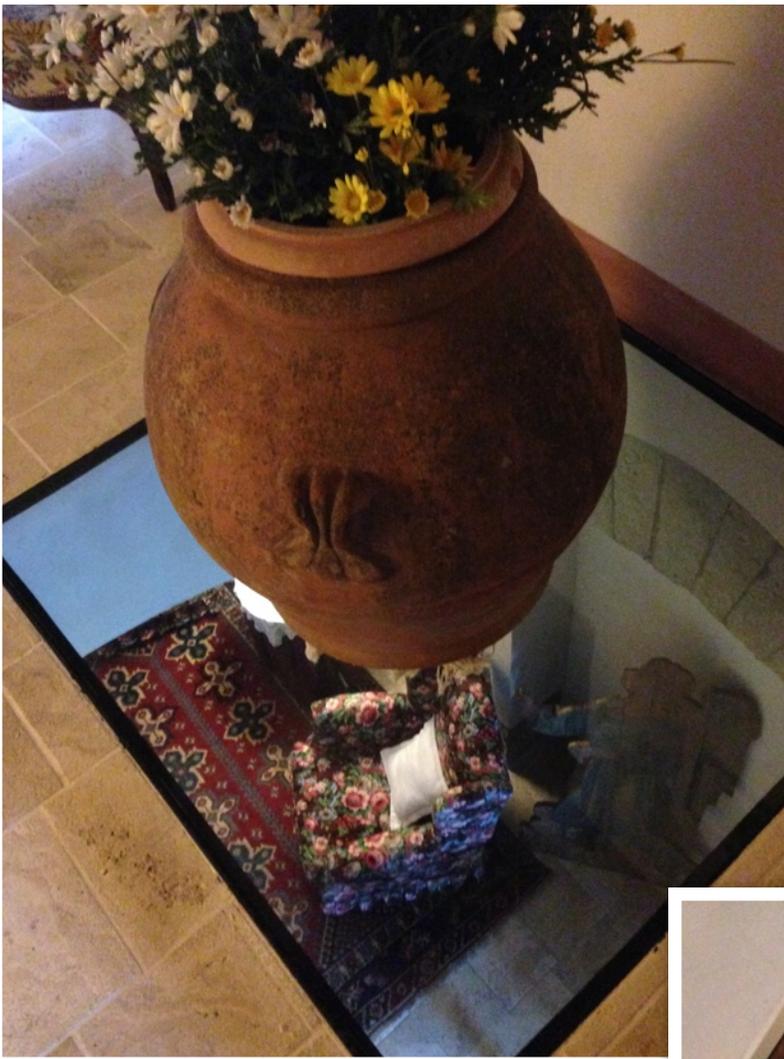






The second floor landing





At first I thought this large pot was sitting on a mirror until I realized it was glass looking down the the entry foyer where we came in. We went downstairs and took a photo of the pot looking up at it from the first floor.



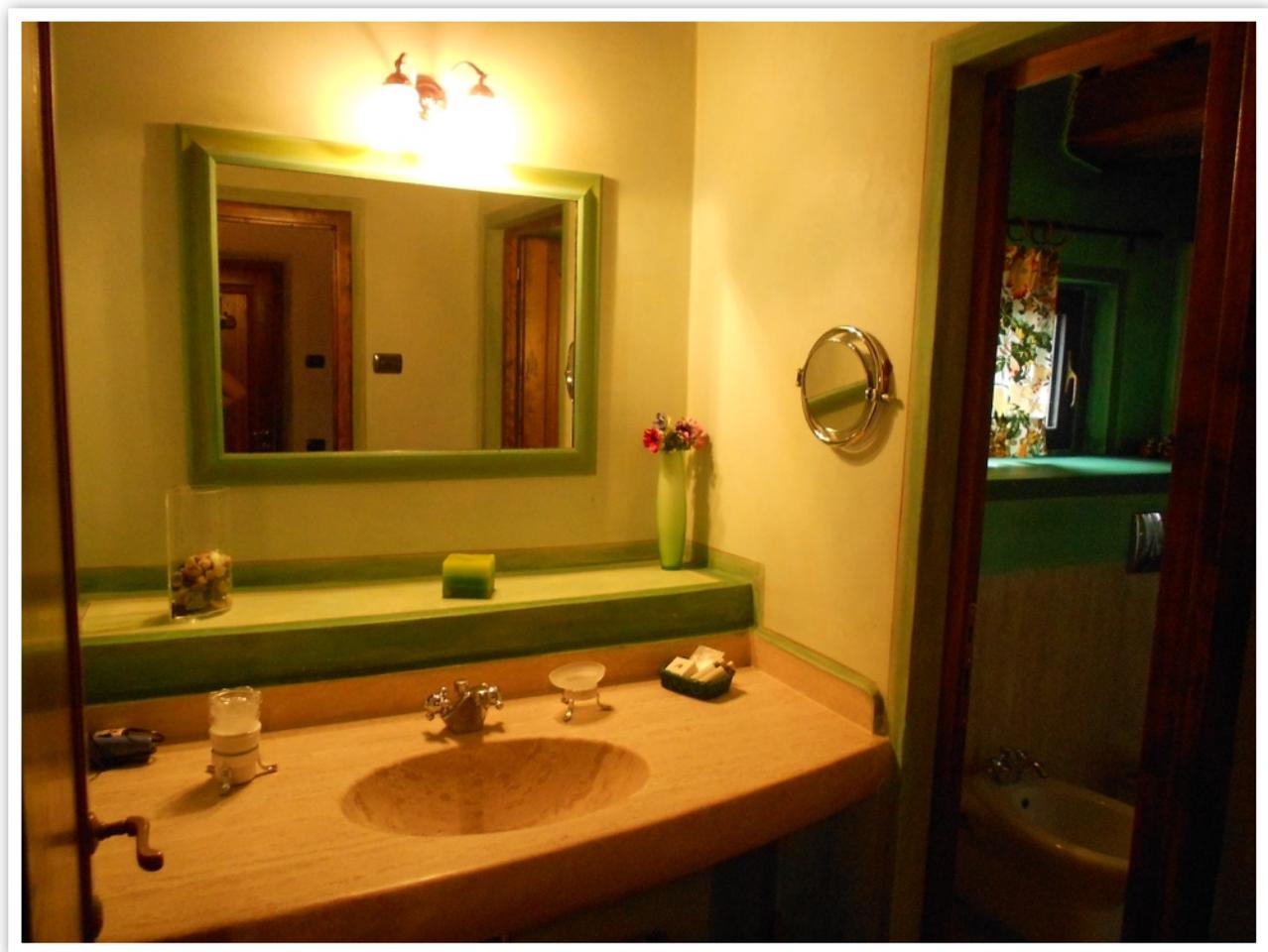


Just past the big pot where the open door is in the back of the photo was our room.



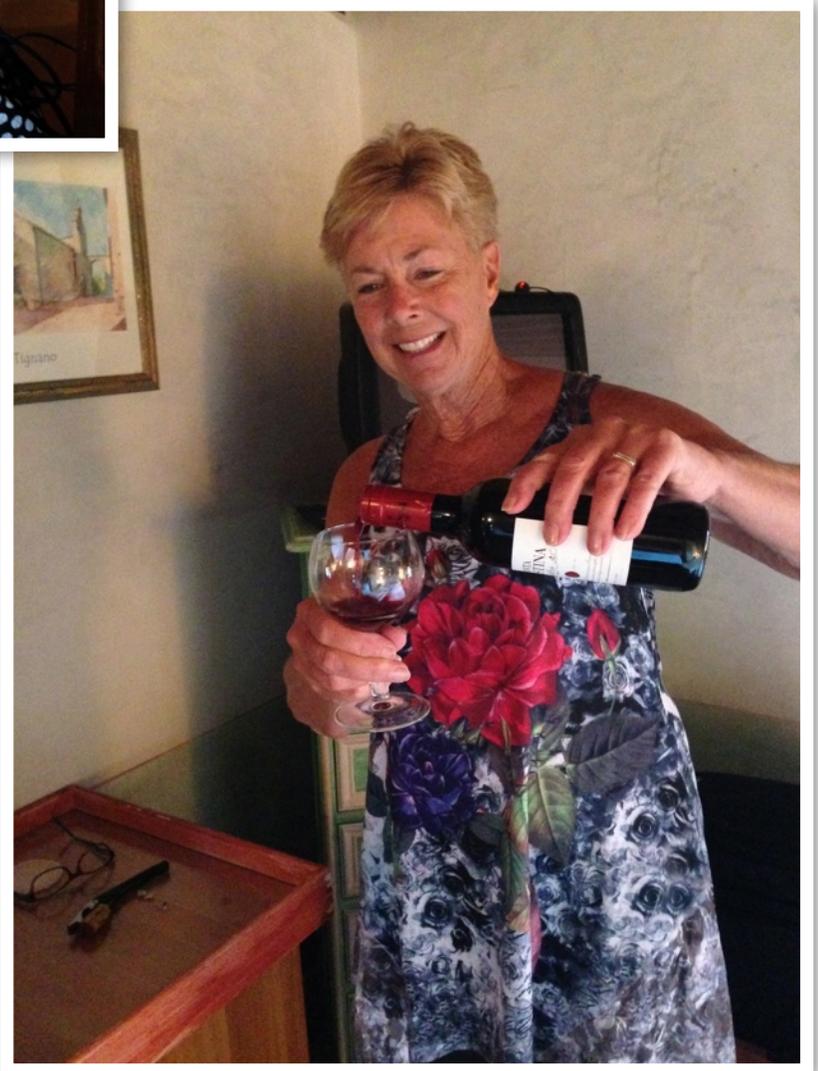
We loved everything about this place, except my only complaint was the bed was so narrow and hard and not very comfy for sleeping.







Anna poured herself a glass of wine that was waiting in the room for our arrival.



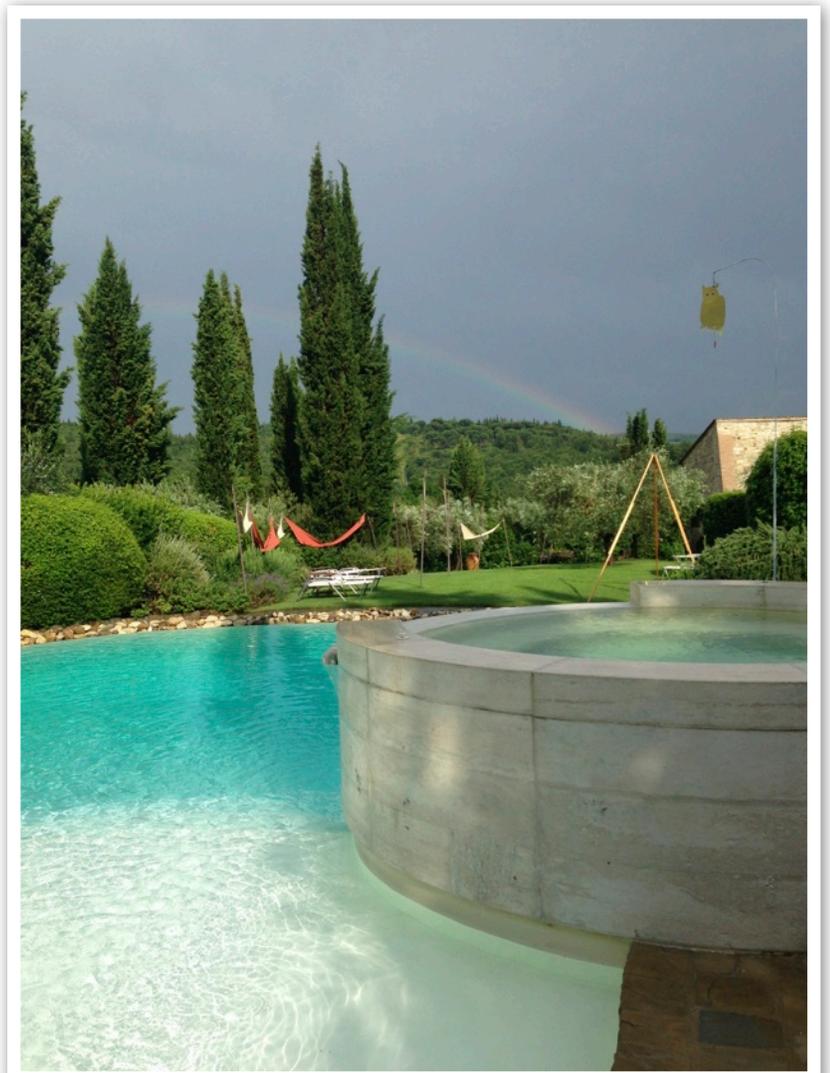


The sun was coming out from behind the rain clouds, so after unpacking we went to explore the grounds and look for the pool. We came across these statues.





We found the pool just around the back of our building and also discovered a beautiful rainbow in the sky.







I didn't have my camera, so I ran back up to the room and shot the bottom photo from our room window.



We felt like we weren't in Kansas anymore and truly landed over the rainbow in the colorful land of Oz.



The view from the bathroom window.

I'm not sure if Anna thought she found the yellow brick road or not, but she sure was ecstatic to be back in Tuscany.



Anna pretending to take a drink from the empty wine barrel.



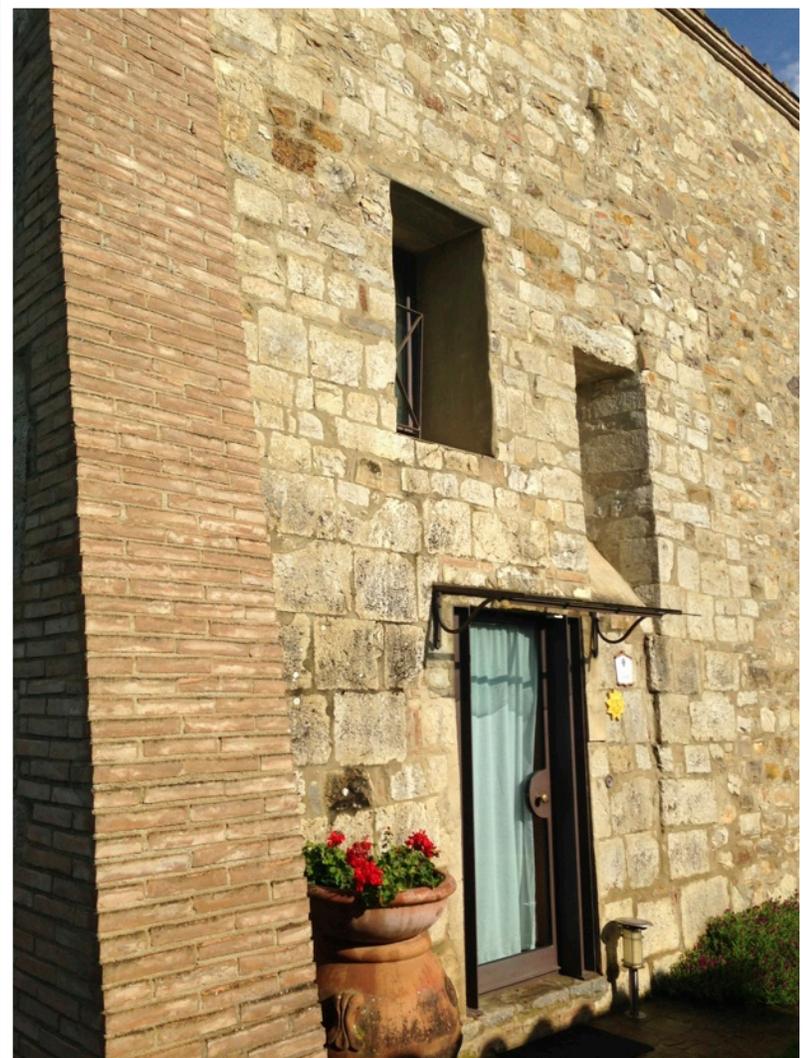
Vineyards everywhere and the tiny grape buds in my hand.







Walked past another building where others were staying towards the reception desk building to ask about suggestions for where we could get a good dinner. They suggested we have dinner there because they were cooking for another group of people staying at the larger villa.



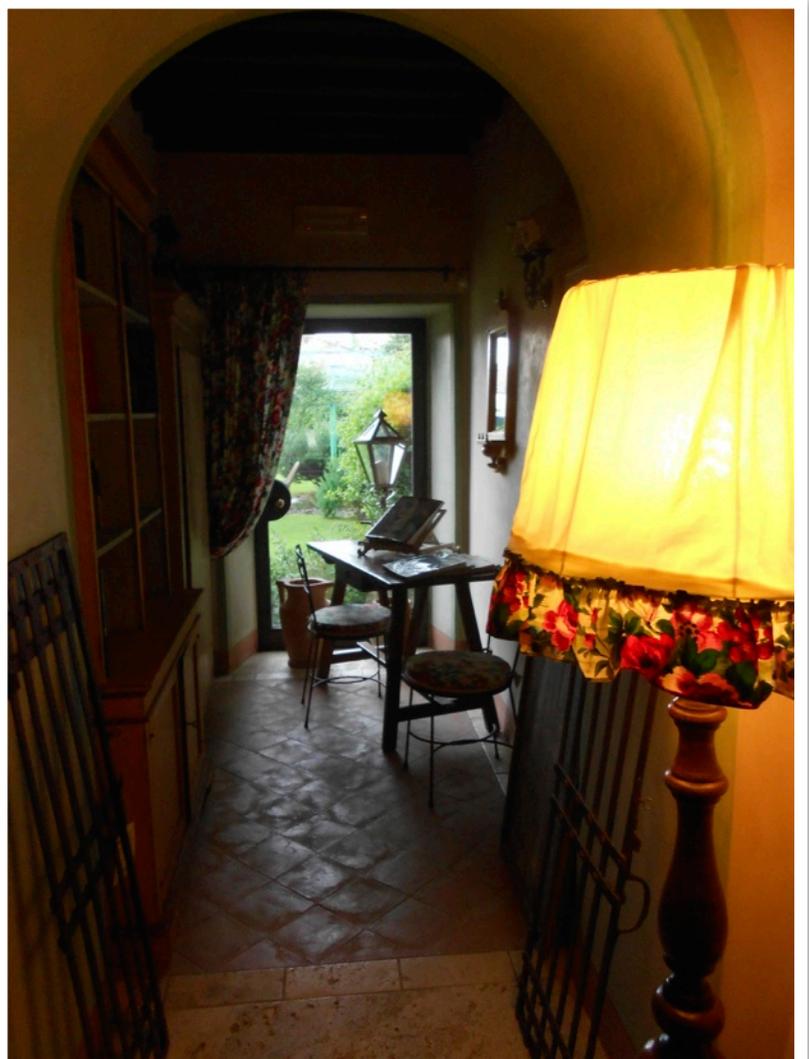


They walked us over to the kitchen to meet the cook, where they showed us what they would be serving. I wasn't that hungry so I just had appetizers, while Anna got the big steak dinner.





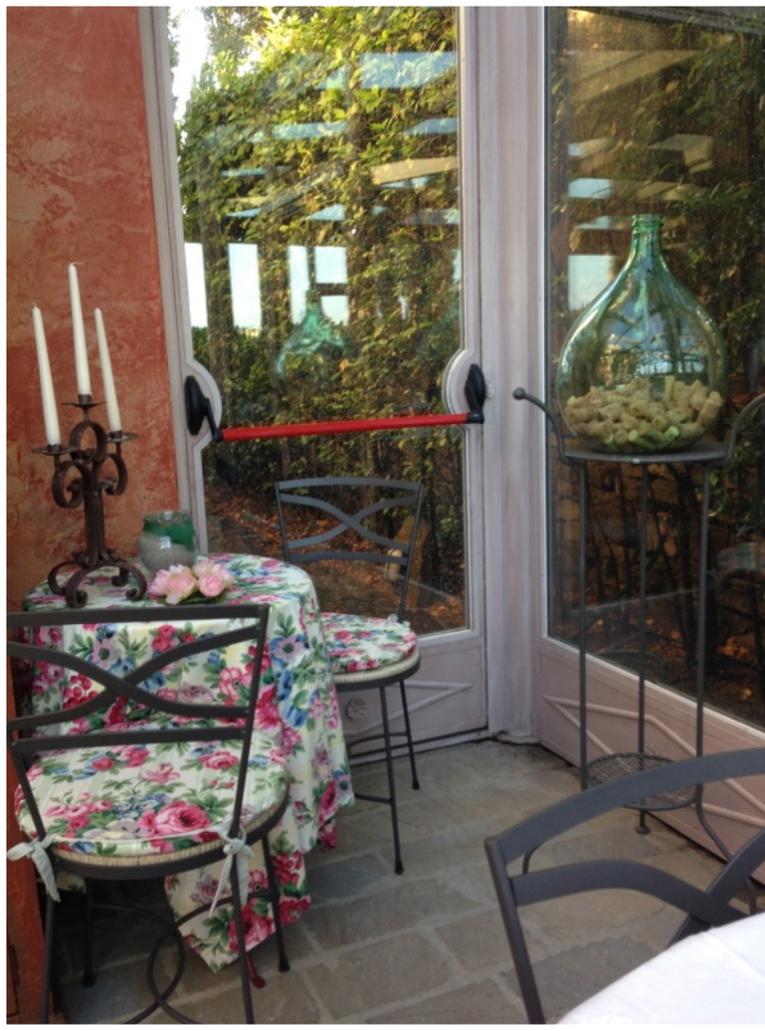
When it was time for dinner,
we walked downstairs from
our room through the foyer
area and another sitting area
to the sun room.





This is where we ate dinner the first night and all our breakfast buffets during our stay.





The photo on the left the cook called this tomato soup. But it was so thick and delicious made from tomatoes and cheese.



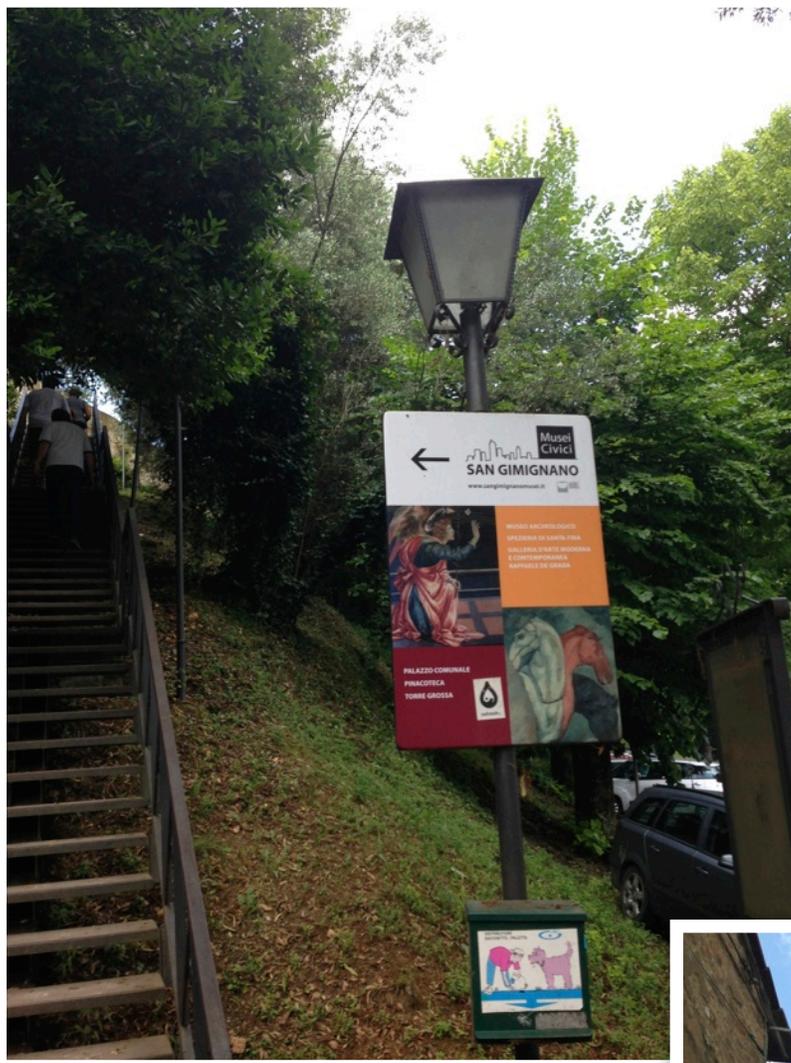
June 16, 2015 - After our breakfast all you can eat buffet, we got in the car and drove to the walled city of San Gimignano.





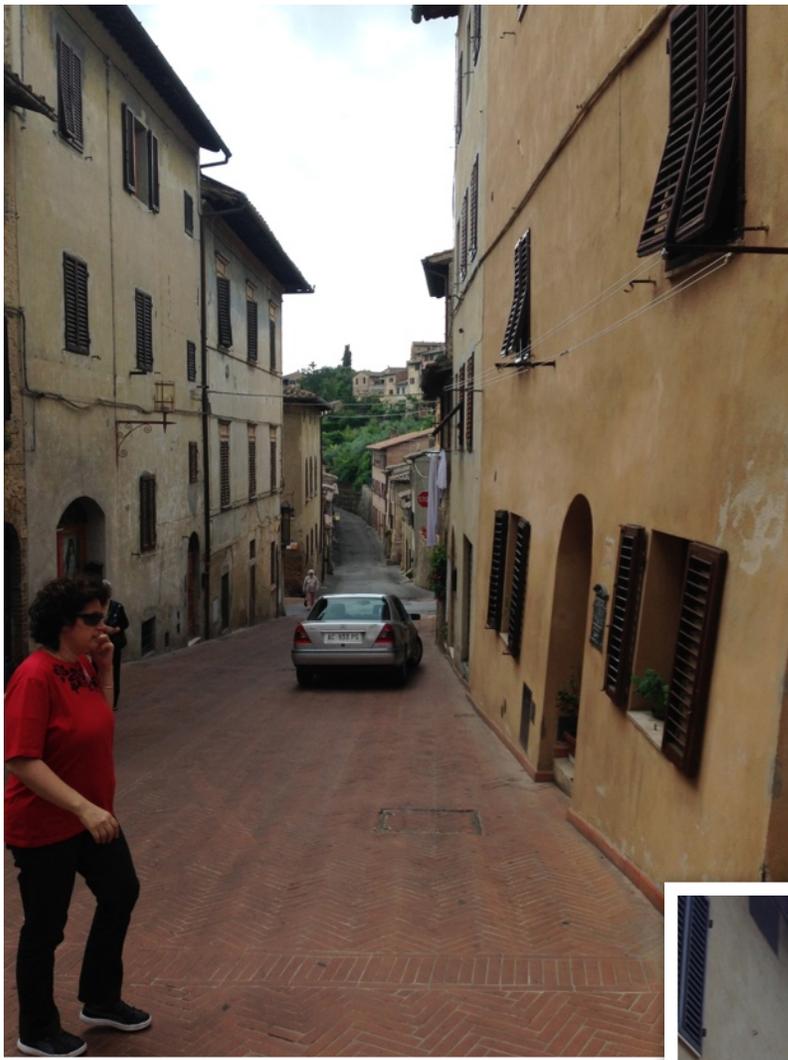
Driving through winding roads
and small towns on our way to
San Gimignano.





We arrived at the walled city, which is known for having seven towers. There are many old walled cities in Italy because each city or town had to fortress itself against the neighboring towns, as they were always at war with one another.





Entering the city we walked through all the streets. There are four territories within the city each with its own colored flags, red, green, yellow and blue.







As you can see from the green flag hanging in the picture on the left, this was in the green part of the city.





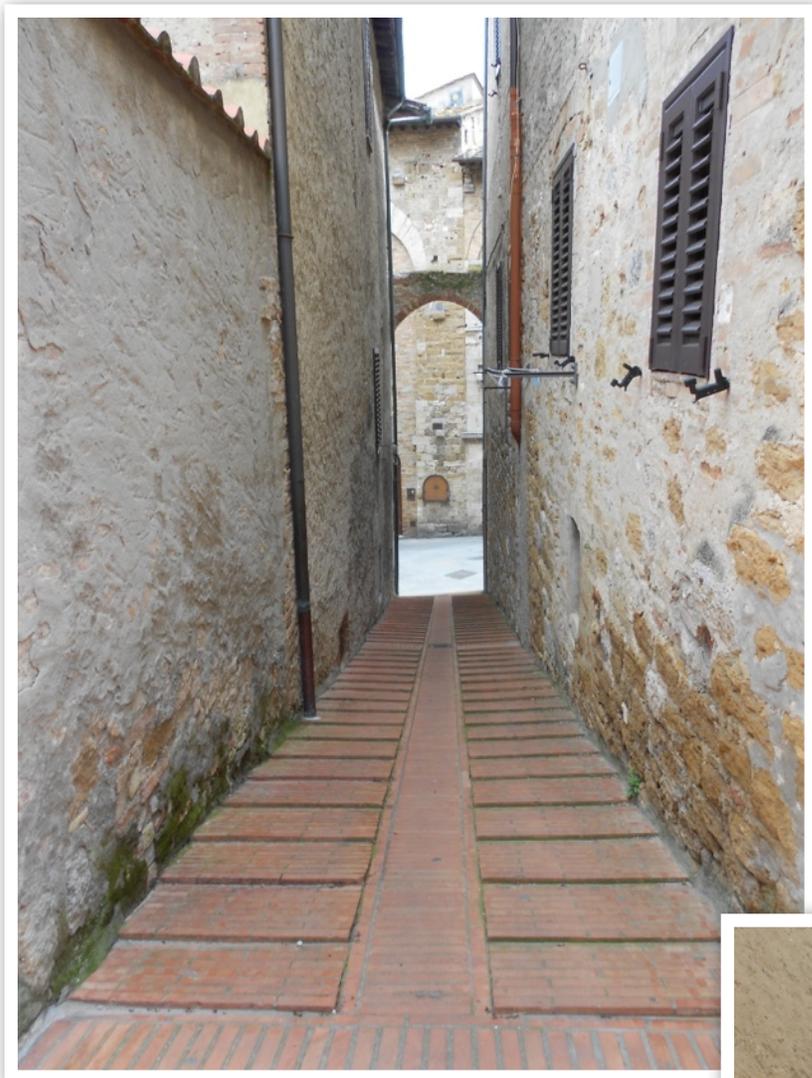
A quaint lovely town with lots of shops.





Walking along we came across this old grandfather taking a walk with his granddaughter. He was speaking to us in Italian.





Alleyways and stairs.





Now that is some really aged wine on the left.





More towers and a piazza.







Red flag territory and on the right we can see some of the seven towers at the end of the street.





Anna wine tasting.





This was a clever way to use old wine corks by covering a wall with them in this store.





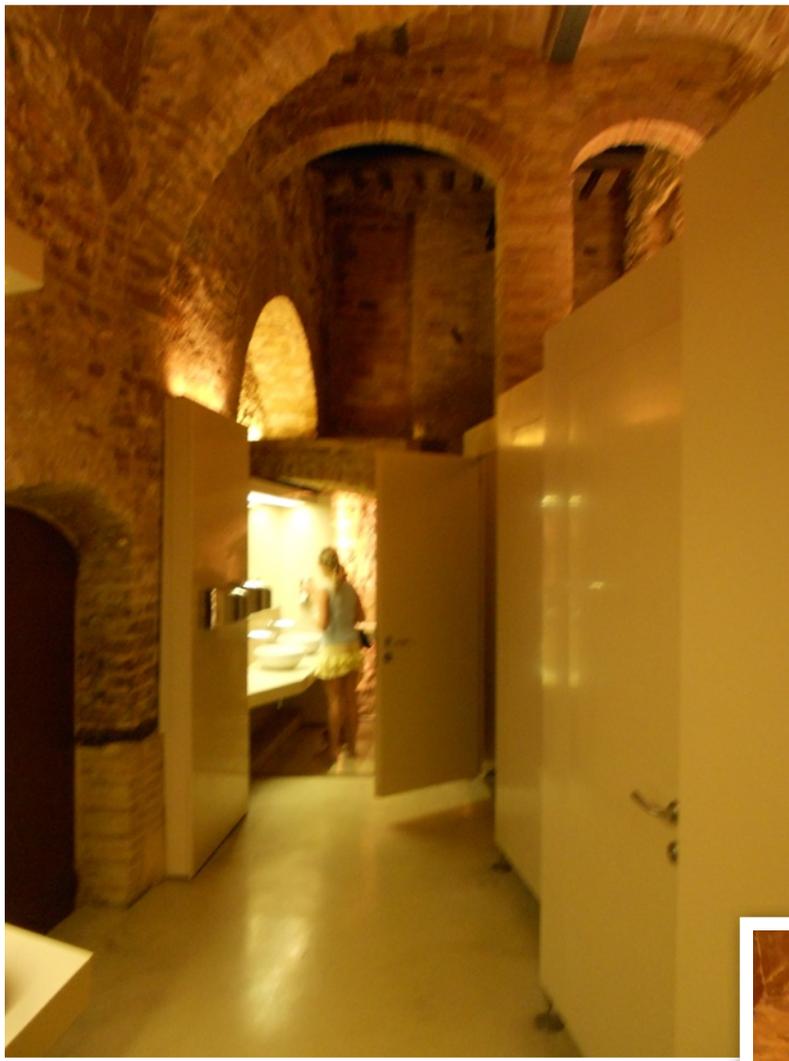


Blue flag territory on the left.



Shopping in a clothing store.





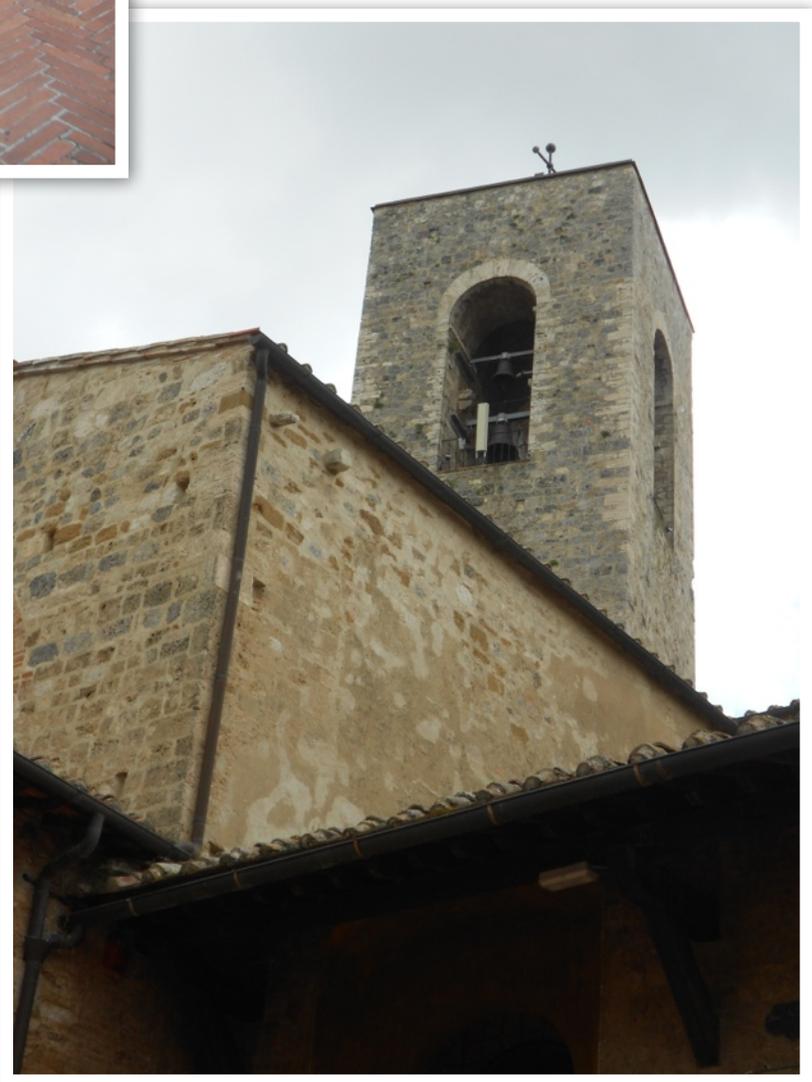
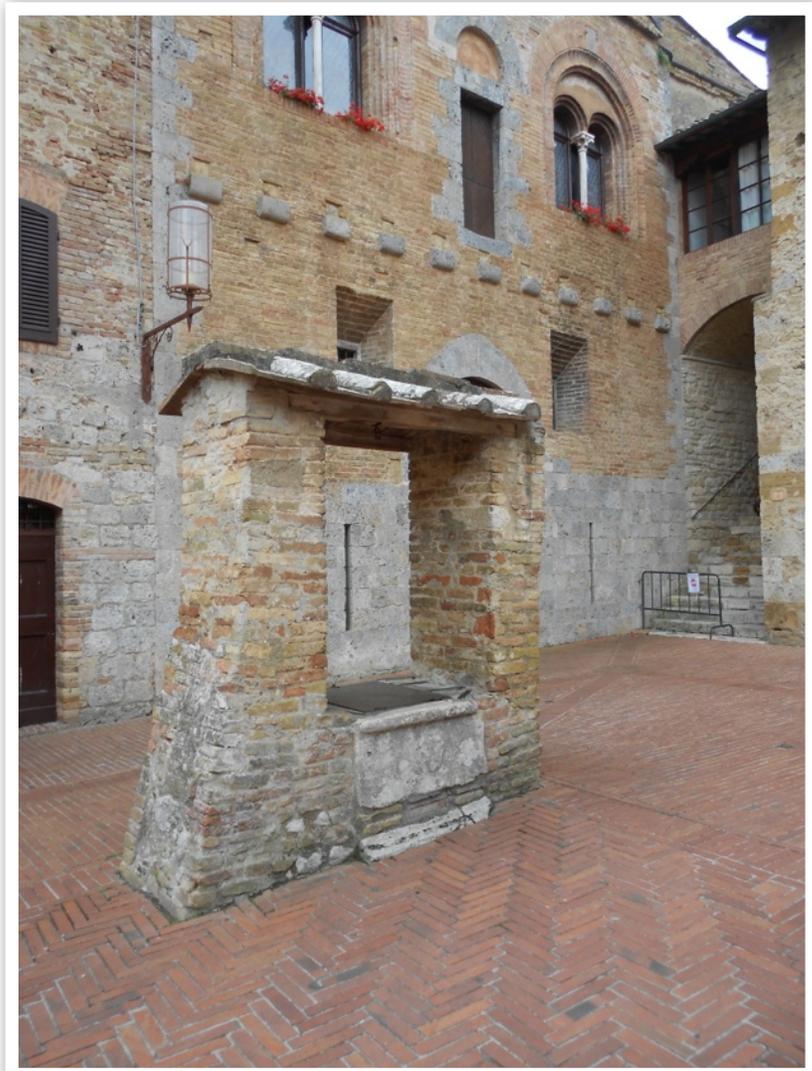
This was a very modern public bathroom built right into the old brick walls.





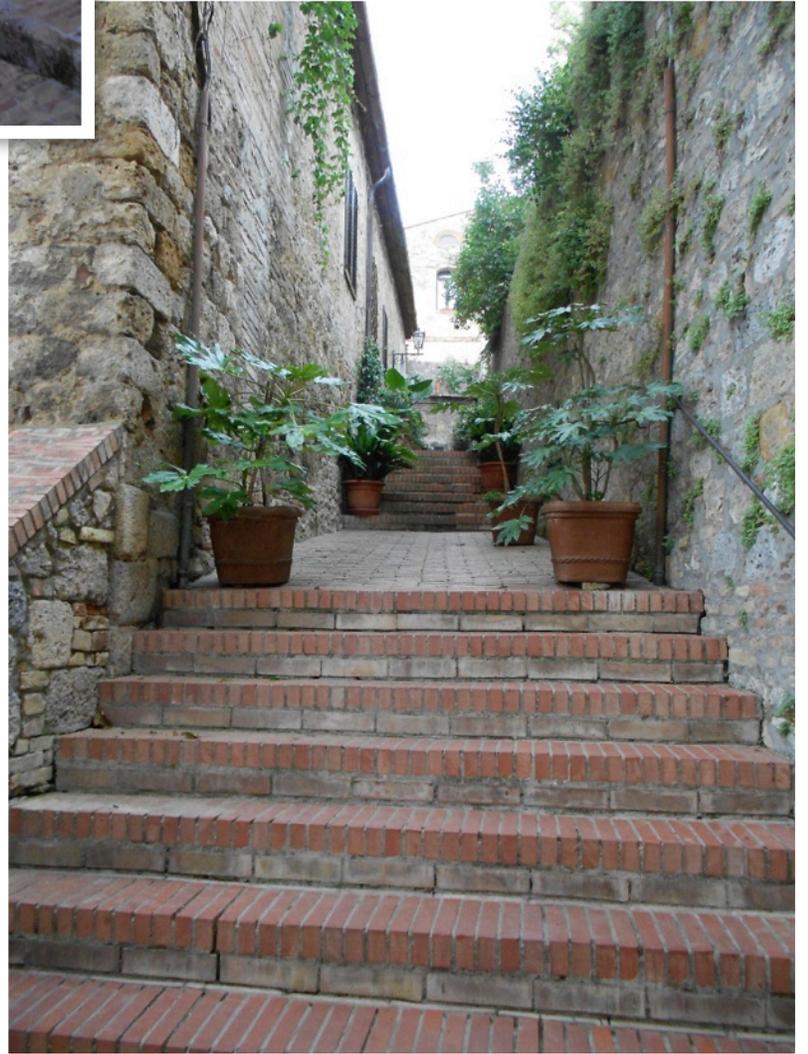
Monks











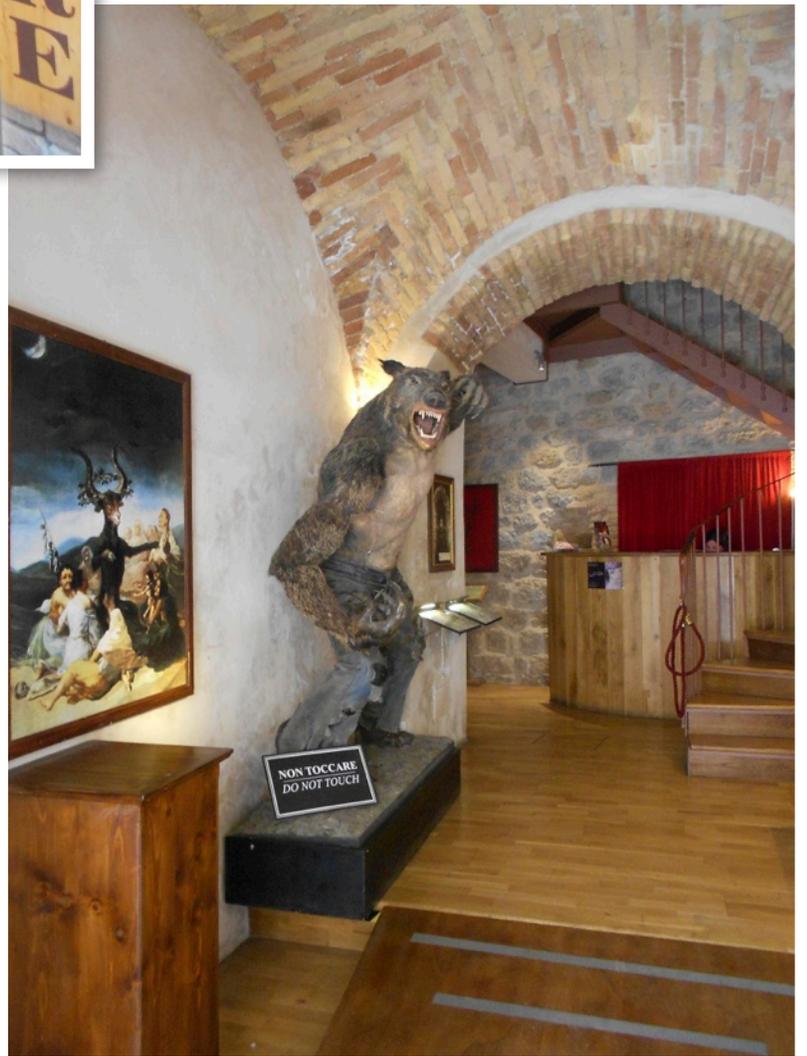


The yellow flagged territory.





And then there was the
Museum of Torture!





Leonardo da Vinci museum









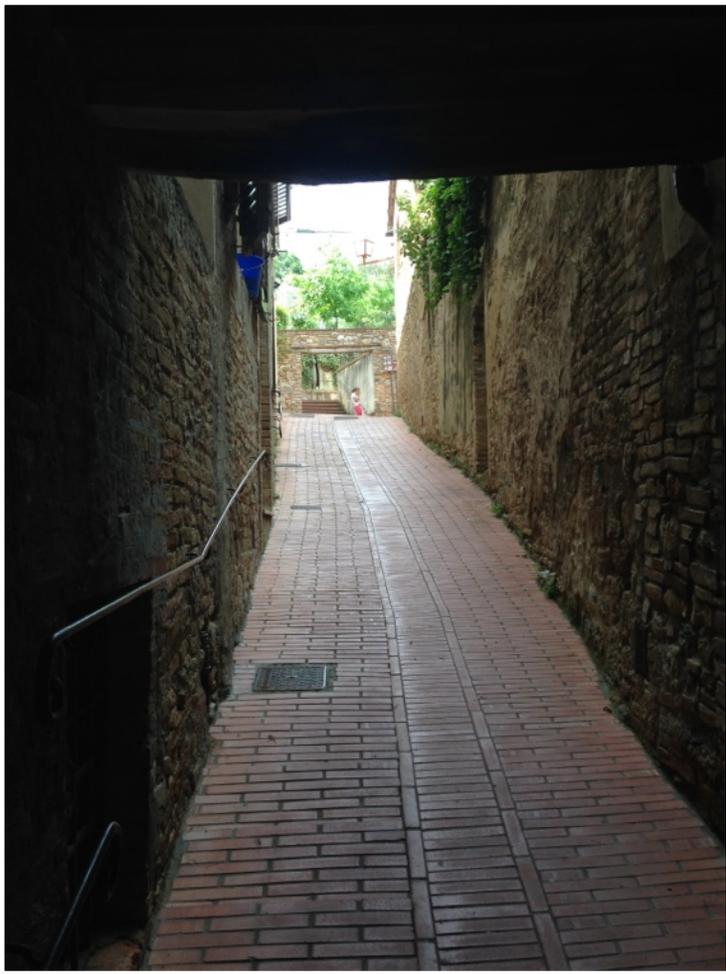
View of the outside
surrounding area from
up above.













This old man was leaning out his second story window watching all the tourists walk by. I looked up and waved at him. He waved back.





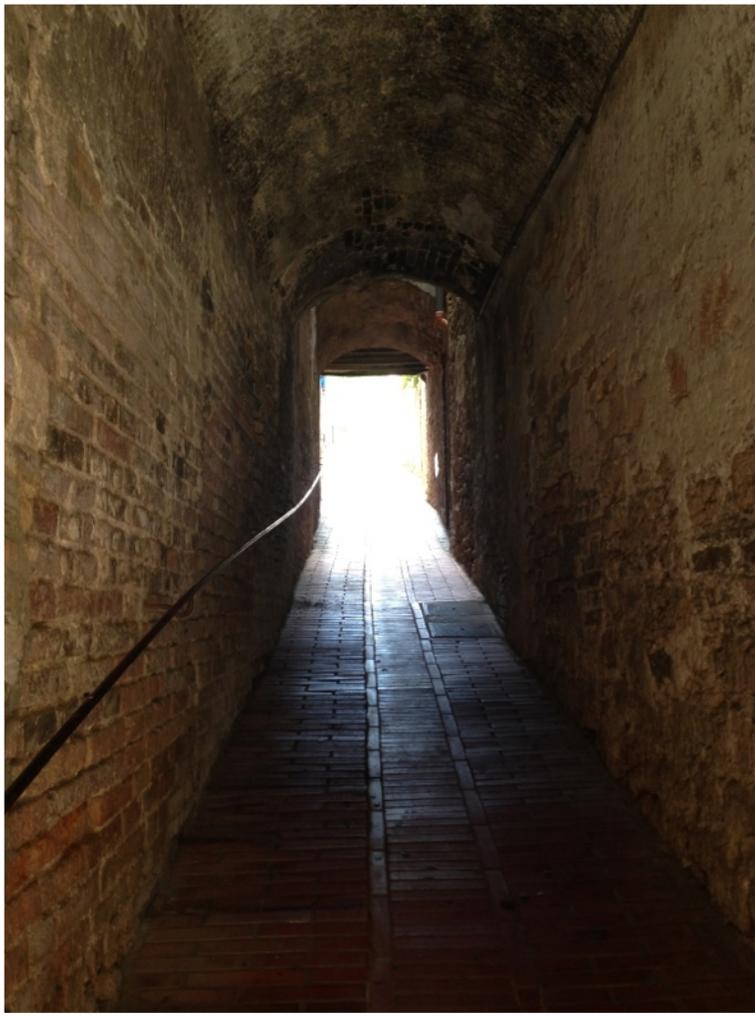
We met some guys from Georgia who pointed out that they were staying in one of these towers. They said they ate their dinner on the top terrace and had a fantastic view.





Some funny T-shirts at one of the shops.





Swords in a medieval shop.





That evening we had dinner at Osteria la Piazza in Chianti country. I had asparagus risotto and spinach.



