
StockenBridge

POGGIO AI SANTI, TUSCANY, ITALY

Two Luxury bridge trips in a superb property on the Tuscan coast with your hosts Zebedee and Claudia Stocken.

from £1251 pp* including :

- 7 nights' stay in this luxury Italian hotel
- Full board every day including selected wines at dinner
- Reception with sparkling wine and canapés every evening
- All bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

*with 10% loyalty discount

Play bridge in this magical hotel overlooking the sea, with wonderful Tuscan food and a warm Italian welcome.



Saturday May 17th – Saturday May 24th, 2014
Saturday October 11th – Saturday October 18th, 2014

Poggio Ai Santi

This hidden hill-top hotel in southern Tuscany with views across to the islands of Elba and Corsica, was originally the owner, Francesca's family home. The farm was gradually converted to create this peaceful hotel with rooms filled with olive-green furniture, driftwood and botanical prints on whitewashed walls. Relax in the comfortable sitting room and bar, or on the adjoining terraces, with their far-reaching views to the sea. The



recently converted bridge room is absolutely perfect with large windows looking over to the sea, and a large log fire in case we have a chilly evening. Francesca is a wonderful warm-hearted person who, together with all the staff will make you feel extremely welcome and looked after.

Gardens

Lavender and rosemary scent the air and birds and bees abound, drawn by a multitude of plants and flowers. Wander through the irises and lilies, under a canopy of pines and palms, to find an immaculate lawn, pink roses hugging iron pergolas and an inviting pool.

This magical and restful garden overlooks vines, the forest and the sparkling Mediterranean. In the distance, Elba Island (and sometimes Corsica) float above the haze.



Bridge with Zeb & Claudia



Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game.



Claudia – Zeb's sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your

holiday and, as a keen and experienced bridge player herself, she will also be supervising bridge sessions.

The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment.

The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group. If required, we will have two groups with Zeb running advanced and Claudia running intermediate.

The other sessions will be either supervised play or some form of duplicate. The duplicate sessions will have an on-going competition with prizes at the end of the week.



We plan to have two sessions of bridge tuition, duplicate or supervised play per day each lasting approximately two hours. There will be supervised bridge every evening after dinner.

All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play.

Non-Bridge Players

Non-bridge playing husbands, wives and partners are welcome providing that they are sharing a room with a bridge player!

Food

Il Sale, Poggio's restaurant, is worthy in its own right, drawing in both tourists and locals for its delicious Italian cuisine in the 'slow food' tradition. It serves fantastic seasonal, mainly homegrown food and of course plenty of seafood. Breakfast can be eaten on the terrace with homemade cakes and pastries, plenty of fresh fruits, eggs cooked to order, juices, yoghurts and cereals. Here are some typical dishes:



*pasta fatta in casa con ragu' di caccia, di carne Chianina o verdure dell'orto
spaghetti o pasta corta con pesce secondo pescato del giorno
minestrone di verdura toscano
zuppe di legumi tipiche toscane con olio extravergine al rosmarino o Salvia
creme di verdura
lasagne e/o tortelli fatti in casa
gnocchi di patate
arista di maiale con patate al forno
ossibuchi con risotto
sformati di verdura
saltimbocca
gratin di verdura
insalate varie
spezzatino di manzo sui crostoni croccanti*



Included in the price will be breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner on all days. During dinner you will be served with half of a bottle each of good quality wine. During bridge play, there will be a range of refreshments available. Additional alcoholic and soft drinks will be available from the bar.

Excursions and Activities

We plan to organise optional excursions during your stay, bookable in advance. We will contact you nearer the time with the exact details and prices.

Other Things to Do

Sandy beaches, reached via a gentle stroll through the pine trees, are a 4km drive from San Vincenzo - Baratti beach has an fascinating Etruscan burial site. There are also numerous short walks to be taken from the hotel itself, through olive groves and down small lanes. Look out for donkeys on your way!

There is a golf course, Il Pegalone at Follonica, 20 minutes away.

If you would like to visit the local vineyards, this can also be set up, complete with a driver for the day.

Elba Island is a short ferry ride away (30 mins) and you can take your car from Piombino port, about 15km from Poggio Ai Santi. It's the largest island of the 'Tuscan Archipelago' and is less developed and more laidback than the mainland, with crystal clear seas, sandy inlets, barren lands where cacti grow and picturesque ancient villages.

Potter about in Piombino: it has a attractive historical centre with a cathedral and palazzo, and its large port is nice to stroll around. Visit the very pretty hilltop village of Bolgheri, home of the prize-winning Sassichaia wine.

Back at the hotel, the garden, with its pool, is a lovely place to spend your time. There's a huge variety of plants and a small vegetable plot (the main vegetable plot is across the road from the hotel), plus a kitchen garden full of herbs. The pool has lovely sea views and is the perfect spot for a glass of Vermentino.



Accommodation

All the bedroom suites at Poggio are spacious, beautifully decorated and finished to a high standard. The decor is fresh and bright, and a lot of thought has gone into the styling. The effect is rather timeless: its rural roots are firmly in place, but it's clear that Francesca (who designed all the rooms) understands modern trends for simplicity. Fussy fabrics are kept to a minimum, pieces of driftwood and antique furniture add interest. Wooden shutters keep out early morning light and fresh flowers from the garden scent the air.

The suites are spread out between 3 buildings.

Garden Suites

The garden suites are situated on the ground floor, about 40m from the main building and on the same level.



Garden superior suite 1



King / twin bed. Bathroom with large shower, kitchennette, furnished patio, ground floor, approx. 45 m2. Can have a third bed in another living space, separated by a curtain from the main bedroom.



Garden suite 2



Kingsize bed. Bathroom with large shower, kitchennette, furnished patio, ground floor, approx. 30 m2



Garden superior suite 3



King / twin bed. Bathroom with large shower, kitchennette, furnished patio, ground floor, approx. 45 m2. Can have a third bed in another living space, separated by a curtain from the main bedroom.

Farmhouse Suites

The farmhouse suites are situated in the main building



Junior farmhouse suite 6 ♣
King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and/or large shower, 1st floor, approx. 35 m2



Farmhouse suite 4 ♥
King / twin beds Bathroom with tub and large shower, furnished terrace 1st floor, approx. 45 m2.



Farmhouse suite 7 ♦
King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and large shower, 1st floor, approx. 45 m2. Has third bed in separate living space (see photo above right), and connected to main bedroom through arch.

Villa Suites

The villa suites are situated on the south side of the park at the bottom of the sloping garden, about 100m from the main building. They have their own private parking and direct access by car. They have unobstructed sea views and really do have the wow factor.



Seaside royal suite 8 NT

King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and large shower, kitchenette, furnished terrace with bathtub, views of the sea, ground floor, approx. 65 m2



Seaside royal suite 9 NT

King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and large shower, kitchenette, furnished terrace with bathtub, views of the sea, ground floor, approx. 65 m2



Pineforest superior suite 10 ♠

King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and large shower, furnished terrace, sea view, 1st floor with mansard roof, approx. 38 m2



Pineforest superior suite 11 ♠

King / twin beds. Bathroom with tub and large shower, furnished terrace, sea view, 1st floor with mansard roof, approx. 38 m2

All suites have en-suite bathrooms, delux king-size beds, independent air conditioning, satellite LCD TV, internet access, hair driers, courtesy toiletries, a safe and a minibar. We can supply additional details of rooms and bathrooms on request. The rooms will be available from 3pm on the day of arrival, and need to be vacated by 11am on the day of departure.



Loyalty Discount

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for all previous StockenBridge Breaks guests, provided that the holiday is booked before January 31st 2014 (May holiday) or February 28th 2014 (October holiday)

Prices Per Person *(based on two people sharing)*

Suites 1,3 and 7 can accommodate a third person and are not available for single occupancy.

Please deduct £150pp from the price for triple occupancy.

There is limited availability for single occupancy - please check before booking.

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
Full Price	£1840	£1690	£1590	£1440	£1390
With 10% loyalty discount	£1656	£1521	£1431	£1296	£1251
Single occupancy	£2190	£2040	£1940	£1690	£1640
Single occupancy with discount	£1996	£1871	£1781	£1546	£1501

How to Book...

There is a non-refundable deposit, payable on booking, of £180 per person. The full payment will be due by February 28th 2014 (*for the May holiday*) and July 31st 2014 (*for the October holiday*). To book your holiday, please fill out the booking form - stating your room preferences - and post with a cheque for the deposit to: 131a Stephendale Road, London, SW6 2PS.

Alternatively, you can transfer your deposit on line - please see booking form. Terms and conditions are on the booking form.

Travel Details

Poggio Ai Santi lies 3km inland from the seaside town of San Vincenzo, which is halfway between Livorno and Grosseto on Tuscany's coastline. The nearest airport is Pisa, 83km away (approximately 1hour's drive). There are many airlines serving this airport including British Airways, Easyjet, Ryanair and Jet 2.

Transfer from Pisa Airport

We can organise transfers from the airport and will group people together to get the cheapest price (approx 20€-40€pp each way, based on 4-8 sharing).

There are also many car hire companies situated at the airport including all the main companies such as Hertz, Avis and Europcar, all bookable on-line.



STOCKEN BRIDGE BREAKS - take a look at our website!

Our website will give you all our latest news and up to date details on our holidays and weekends.

www.stockenbridgebreaks.com
