



Fact sheet Villages of Tuscany

General information

Name of the village	SASSETTA
Province	Livorno
Tourist information	INFOPOINT SASSETTA (Open in summer and during the October holidays) Piazza Nuova – Via di Castagneto Tel. +39 0565 1790111 Email: apt7sassetta@gmail.com ufficio.turistico@comune.sassetta.li.it 
Notes	For people with reduced mobility, it is recommended to visit the village with an electric drive or with the help of a companion. The roads can in fact be bumpy and not always easily accessible, as it is a medieval village.

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Please note: The following information refers to the date of verification shown at the bottom of each sheet. The Association is not responsible for any significant changes made by the property after the visit.

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Description

The territory of Sassetta, geographically, extends between the valley of the Cornia river and that of the Cecina river; while towards the west there are Monte Calvi, of Campiglia, with the hills of Castagneto, the county of Della Gherardesca. The village of Sassetta is one of the smallest in the Province of Livorno. Built in medieval times on some steep cliffs, it is located halfway between the Municipality of Castagneto Carducci and Monteverdi Marittimo. The origin of this municipality is ancient and the first documents that speak of the castle date back to 1000. Sassetta was a center of great importance.



In the eleventh century it was a possession of the Signoria of Pisa with the Orlandi family who later took their name from this land. The Orlandi della Sassetta family held this Signoria in subjection until 1516 when, declared rebels by the Florentine Republic under which they served, they were stripped of it, losing all their property and the castle. Once the Medici came to power and reviewed the feudal lands dependent on them, they later ceded this fief to several of their protégés, and definitively to the Montalvo Ramirez family. Further on, the castle of Sassetta will uninterruptedly follow the historical events first of the Medici House, then of the Lorraine House. In 1836 the Municipality of Sassetta was united to the province of Grosseto to which it remained for several years, returning to the province of Pisa and later to that of Livorno. Today only a few sections of masonry remain of the Castle of Sassetta, located within the historic center, and from which we can deduce that it must have been an imposing building. Another thousand-year-old building is the small Church of Sant'Andrea, built within the perimeter of the

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Castle and renovated in 1625. Inside it is possible to admire a painting depicting the Madonna and Child between Saints Jerome and Anthony Abbot dating back to the Tuscan Renaissance. Furthermore, the Orlandi family coat of arms, the first feudal lords of Sassetta, is still placed on the baptismal font. If the historical heritage of this small village is not as vast as that of other centers of the Etruscan Coast, it cannot be said of its natural and landscape heritage. The real site of attraction and interest of the Municipality of Sassetta is therefore the Poggio Neri Park. An extensive scrub, mainly composed of holm oaks and chestnut trees, where it is possible to carry out various leisure activities. Thanks to the rich vegetation, the temperature remains mild even during the hottest days. And the trekking routes allow you to take long walks, on foot or on horseback, enjoying the surrounding landscape. Inside the Poggio Neri Park you will find the Museum of the Woods, built with the aim of recreating the working and family environment of the charcoal burners who lived here for centuries. In fact, its inhabitants are descendants of old charcoal burners and woodcutters, somewhat wild people who have always lived in symbiosis with the forest, thanks to hunting and chestnut harvesting. This is also reflected in the cuisine based on game and products of the land: chestnut flour pasta, wood pigeon, figs in oil and the main dish of this village which is wild boar with chestnuts. Its thermal baths are renowned today. The pools and swimming pools, inspired by Etruscan and Roman architecture. they are fed by precious naturally warm water that flows from an underground basin at 51°C. Thanks to the particular concentration of sulphates, calcium, minerals and trace elements, Sassetta water has therapeutic effects on the respiratory, skin and musculoskeletal system.



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The peculiarity of the village are the few streets that make up the historic center of the village decorated with works of art made of stone scattered throughout the village. These are the sculptures of the different editions of the event "The Symposium of Contemporary Sculpture" that are placed every year in the most characteristic corners of the ancient village or in points of historical interest. Each sculpture is identified by a chestnut wood plaque that shows the author, the name of the work and a summary of what the artist wanted to express.

The Symposium of Contemporary Sculpture in Red Marble of Sassetta, is an event born in 2009. It is an open-air creative workshop that takes place during the month of July. In ten days, five sculptors, Italian and foreign, create their works under the watchful eye of visitors who witness the birth of sculpture from the early stages of roughing marble. This event provides for an important involvement of the public who has the opportunity to vote for their favorite work by filling out a voting form and choosing the winner of the Jury Prize.

How to reach Sassetta

By car	From North and South reachable along the SS1 Aurelia with exit at Donoratico. From here, follow the signs for the provincial road 329, up to Sassetta
By plane	The nearest airport to reach Scarlino: • Pisa "Galileo Galilei" Airport, located about 90 km from Sassetta.
Assistance service for people with disabilities	Yes
Embarkation/disembarkation of passengers with reduced mobility	With courtesy chair and ambulift/finger
Tactile paths for the blind and visually impaired	Yes
There is a toilet room accessible with grab handles	Yes

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By train	
Nearest station	the nearest station is Castagneto Carducci-Donoratico. From here continue by bus
Assistance service for people with disabilities	The Castagneto-Carducci – Donoratico station is enabled for the assistance service for people with disabilities and reduced mobility (PRM). To use the service, it is necessary to contact the Italian Railway Network through the relevant Blue Room, at the following addresses: • toll-free number: 800 90 60 60 (from a landline) • National number: 02 32 32 32 (from a landline or mobile) The service provides information on the nearest enabled station and allows assistance to be booked.
Blue Hall Reference	Florence
There is a toilet room in the station accessible with grab handles	Yes
By public and private transport	
Nearest bus stop	The public transport service is operated by Autolinee Toscane, which offers connections from Castagneto Carducci-Donoratico to Sassetta.
Presence of adapted buses with ramp	it is advisable to check the availability of the service in advance by contacting Autolinee Toscane. Contact details: toll-free number: +39 800142424 or +39 05551351

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Parking

Public parking nearby	YES
Type of public parking floor	Asphalt
Presence of parking space reserved for people with disabilities	YES, 2 stalls
Type of parking lot reserved for people with disabilities	Asphalt



1 Piazza Nuova public car park



2 Public parking Piazza Nuova

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3 Reserved parking



4 Reserved parking adjacent to the tourist office

Pathway from the car park to the entrance

Pathway from the car park to the starting point	Obstacle-free with no major slopes or steps
Distance from parking to entrance	About 100 meters
Type of trail surface	Its asphalt
There are indicators and tactile maps	No

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5 map of the village



6 Obstacle-free course

Description of the itinerary

Length	About 500 meters
Along the itinerary there are maps and tactile signs for the blind	No

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From the parking lot, the first attraction we encounter is the **public park** located in the center of the square. The space is located within a green area characterized by trees and hedges, where in the hottest periods you can cool off. The area also represents a place for the local community to socialize and aggregate. At the entrance to the park we find a plaque attached to a wooden panel that testifies how the park was created and donated to the community of Sassetta, by the citizen Loris Benini, in the 60s. Inside, in addition to benches, there are promotional explanatory panels. The information panels present QR codes but also maps and images that tell and illustrate to visitors the history of the area and a series of nature trails that wind through the village area.

From the park you can see the large oven used in the various festivals that take place in October each year, days full of tradition, taste and fun, with food stands and craft markets. The most important festivals are those of chestnut, tordata and polenta, all poor foods that

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have always represented a source of essential but also energetic nutrition in many rural areas of the area.

From here, continue for about 40 meters until you find an intersection on the right.

From here begins Via del Poggetto where a red marble sculpture is placed next to a bench on a pedestal.

The sculpture made in 2010, as reported on the plaque, represents the "**Germination**" and is the work of Nichita Costinel Romicà. The artist, with his artwork, depicts the sense of creation through the germination of a seed and its momentum towards air and heat.

From the artwork, going up through the ramp, we can admire a beautiful marble **fountain** and two spouts.

Accessibility:

Public park: gravel pavement.

Route from the car park in the direction of the historic centre on asphalt pavement, free of obstacles.

Via del Poggetto ramp: length about 12 meters, slope 9% paving in stone block.

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7 Public Park



8 plaque in memory of the donation



9 information panels with QR code



10 The Great Oven

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11 asphalt road



12 Via del Poggetto and sculpture germination



13 Plaque Sculpture



14 marble fountain

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We arrive in Piazza del Plebiscito where we can admire the **Palazzo Ramirez de Montalvo from the** outside. Here the family received honors and importance, so much so that Antonio Ramirez di Montalvo became one of the most trusted courtiers of Cosimo I, receiving as a prize a large palace in Florence and the fief in the Livorno area, with an act of investiture dated October 9, 1563. The Palazzo di Sassetta was renovated in the eighteenth century. On the façade there is a large family coat of arms in stone. The Palace was built on the foundations of the previous Orlandi Castle destroyed in 1503, in the sixteenth century when the Ramirez de Montalvo family had the entire village as a fief. They were originally from Spain and had moved to the court in Florence in the retinue of Eleonora da Toledo.

On the terrace there is an explanatory panel with the history of the palace and the family in Italian and English, while next to the gate we find the work of the "Door", the winning work of the 2nd symposium of sculpture in red marble. The work dealt with the theme of ancient crafts.

From the square you enter the village proper, through the medieval gate set among the remains of the old castle of the Orlandi, original lords of the place. Above the door a plaque to commemorate the citizens who gave their lives for peace and civilization during the war.

Via Borgo di Mezzo is characterized by low houses, and many sculptures elaborated in the numerous sculpture symposiums that have taken place in Sassetta over time that make it a real open-air museum of contemporary art.

Accessibility:

To visit the square and the work located next to the gate of the Palace it is necessary to pass a slightly bumpy ramp with a slope of 24% and then a smooth ramp of 100 cm length, variable width from 100/150 cm and slope of 15%.

From the medieval gate inside the village, the pavement is on stone blocks with a first section of ramp about 80 meters long and a maximum slope of 13%.

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15 Town Hall



16 terrace ramp



17 portrait of Eleanor of Toledo

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18 Information Panel



19 Ramirez Palace & statues



20 artwork "The Door"



21 plaque in memory of the ancient crafts



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22 Piazzetta



23 Entrance to the historic center



24 Medieval gate and ramps



25 via Borgo di Mezzo

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From Via di Borgo di Mezzo, immediately to the right, a ramp begins that leads us to another medieval gate in the historic center to be crossed to reach the **Church of Sant'Andrea** and the Oratory. In the access corridor of the Gate we find on the right side leaning against a red marble pedestal the work of the Nymph by Federica Toti. The nymph is a mythological figure of the Calissic, a female deity linked to nature.

The Church of Sant'Andrea, which today appears with a simple façade in Romanesque style, has no certain date of foundation. It was certainly enlarged and renovated in 1625 thanks to the Ramirez Montalvo family. The interior, equally simple in the typical Tuscan style of the 1600s, preserves a painting by Giovanni Battista Soldini (the stigmata of St. Francis) and a Madonna and Child between St. Jerome and St. Anthony the Abbot, by an anonymous sixteenth-century artist. Particularly valuable is the crucifix with the relic of the True Cross, made of rock crystal and donated to the church by the lord of Sassetta, the Marquis Antonio Ramirez da Montalvo (to whom it was in turn donated by Cosimo de' Medici). Walking along the left side of the religious building there is a small sliding iron door that connects the church to another hall probably added later. The interior offers a collection of sacred art, i.e. objects related to worship and devotion, including sculptures, liturgical objects such as chalices, sacred vestments, monstrances, sacred furnishings, altars and goldsmith's artifacts, all aimed at expressing faith through religious symbols and narratives. At the exit of the church on the right, a statue with the theme of the animated forest, made by Elisa Lorenzelli at the 1st symposium in July 2009.

The work represents the Sassetta forest with its wild nature and its luxuriant plants that take on human movements and sinuosity. The trees and the soil speak, wind in soft shapes and push upwards, bursting into the environment with vigorous energy. The artist pays homage to the generative thrust of the forest and shapes anthropomorphic lines to celebrate the inseparable bond of life between living creatures. On the left a beautiful white marble statue of a woman sitting on a low wall. From here you go back until you reach Via del Borgo di Mezzo again. At the end of the ramp, turn right and continue forward.

Accessibility

From Via di Borgo di Mezzo, immediately on the right, a 25-meter-long ramp begins with a slope of 20% and a handrail on the right side at a height of 80/100.

Church of S. Andrea: The church is not accessible to guests with reduced mobility as it has a staircase of 5 steps before the access portal, 4 of which are 18 cm high and the first

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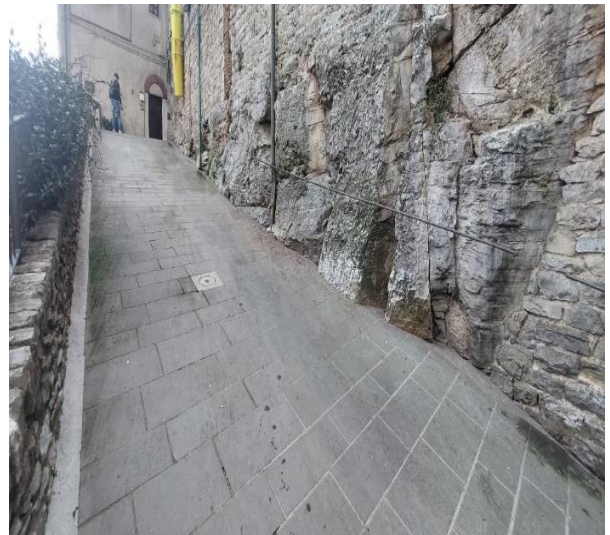




of variable height from 40 cm to 12 cm. To access the church it is necessary to go through another marble step 15 cm high.



26 Ramp to reach the Church of S. Andrea



27 Ramp to reach the Church of S. Andrea

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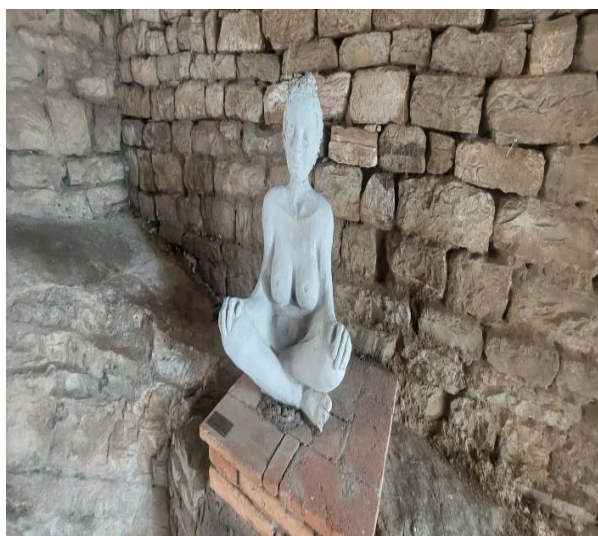
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20 Ramp to reach the Church of S. Andrea and statues



21 Medieval gate



22 Nymph Sculpture



23 entrance to the church square

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24 Ancient Oratory



25 church entrance with steps



26 façade and bell tower



27 inside the church

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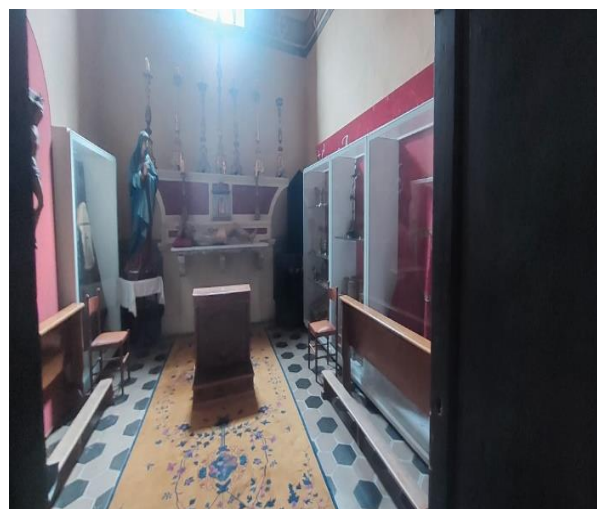
28 details of the church



29 Side altar



30 High Altar



31 Museum Room

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32 artwork "Il bosco di Sassetta"



33 Sculpture Woman sitting on the wall

Continuing along Via di Borgo di Mezzo, other statues decorate the room. Two statues are positioned along the right wall, one along the left wall. On the left wall we meet a statue representing a woman and an egg. Behind the statue is an explanatory panel that tells us about the peculiarity of the geomorphology of the village. Sassetta has geological formations that date back to over 145 million years ago with shades ranging from red to pink.

Further on there is another sculpture representing the animals of the forest, called ancient guardians of the kingdom. Made by Luca Calò in the 1st symposium of 2009.

The squirrel in the act of guarding an acorn is clearly visible, a beautiful representation of an expressly symbolic nature aimed at children with the aim of raising awareness among the new generations of the bond with nature.

The red marble of Sassetta is clearly visible not only in sculptures but also in houses. It has always been a marble appreciated, worked and used for some of the most important religious buildings in Tuscany. Still on Via Borgo di Mezzo, turning left, we find another sculpture: "La punta" by Marco Ravenna, winner of the popular jury prize obtained at the 1st symposium in July 2009.

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As the plaque resting on the wall illustrates, the theme of the sculpture is hunting, an ancestral tradition. The work represents a setter in a stationary attitude on wild and is a tribute by the artist not only to Sassetta but also to the adventure and life companion of the male inhabitants of the village: the hunting dog.

Continue ahead until you find a small street on the right where two other important sculptures are placed: Rebirth and Mother Earth

The "Rebirth" is the work of the artist Hyejin Kim, participant in the 3rd symposium that took place in July 2019. The work won the prize of the popular jury.

The plaque affixed to the stony wall illustrates how in the wooded meanders, the breath of nature, the voices of animals and the colors of the earth represent and symbolize the peace of life, where time stops together with silence to give us the sense of rebirth.

Continuing forward, still on the flat, we can admire another sculpture with the theme "Mother Earth" by Silvia Parente, sculpted during the 1st symposium in July 2009. The forest often hides vital activities from the eyes that quiver under the surface. As illustrated in the plaque next to the work, it is only the synergy between all the elements of nature including: water, air, earth, heat and sun that can give life to the generation process.

Mother earth is the seed of origin. The artist therefore through his work pays homage to the power of the earth and creates a symbol that represents the natural strength of the village, its resources, its uncontaminated territory.

Accessibility:

Obstacle-free course

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34 Via Borgo di Mezzo



35 Woman and egg statue



36 Detail of the statue



37 Statue of animals in the woods

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38 statue "the tip"



39 Plaque in memory of the hunt



40 Detour to the right of the route



41 statue "The Rebirth"





42 Explanatory plaque of the works



43 Sculpture dedicated to Mother Earth



44 Explanatory plaque of the works





Events

The main events in Sassetta include the "**October Festivals**", a series of appointments with the gastronomy of this beautiful part of Tuscany. Of the October Festivals, the doyenne is the "**Tordata**", whose first edition dates back to the late 60s; The protagonists of the festival are therefore thousands of roast thrushes, but not only, also guinea fowl and roasted chickens in the main square of the town, in a gigantic rotisserie. All accompanied by the generous wines of the hills surrounding the town: we remind you that the entire municipal area of Sassetta is part of the valuable DOC Val di Cornia. During the days of the festivals, there are also medieval re-enactments with the presence of figures in historical costumes, flag-wavers and on the final day also the Palio dei ciuchi among the ancient districts of the town.



45 events poster

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Accessible public places

In the village of Sassetta, the following public place with accessibility characteristics has been found:

- **Art Cafè Roma – accessible toilets not detected**

See tabs with details below.

LOCAL	
Room type and name	Art Cafè Rome
Location	Via Roma 42 57020 Sassetta (LI) Tel +39 0565 794266
Local access mode	Flat
Door type	Door that can be opened internally
Handle type	Vertical lever
Clear door light	80 cm approx.
Types of tables	4-leg
Table service	YES
Large print menus	NO
The restaurant has an outdoor veranda	YES
How to access	Flat through an open gap with a clear span of more than 90 cm
TOILETS	
There is an accessible toilet	Not detected

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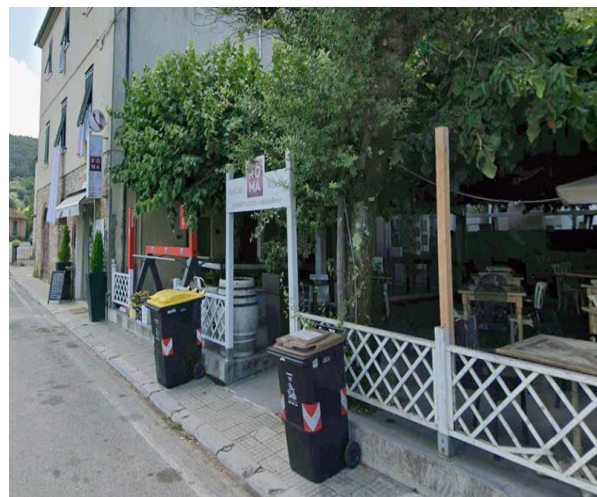
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46 Bar Holder



47 Veranda Esterna



48 Typical dish



49 tables and chairs

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Medical practices/healthcare facilities

Hospitals near the property	Cecina Hospital (LI) Via Montanara n. 52B, 57023 Cecina (LI) Tel. +39 0586-614.111 Riuniti Hospital of Livorno Viale Vittorio Alfieri 36, 57124 Livorno Phone +39 0586 223111
Dialysis facilities	LIVORNO HOSPITAL Nefer Nurse: Cristina Binitel. 0586/223208 Email: cristina1.bini@uslnordovest.toscana.it CECINA HOSPITAL Referentist of Nursing: Luigina Mintotel. 0586/614383 Email: dialisi.cecina@uslnordovest.toscana.it PIOMBINO HOSPITAL Referential nurse: Roberta Suttotel. 0565/67283 – Email: nefrologia.piombino@uslnordovest.toscana.it

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