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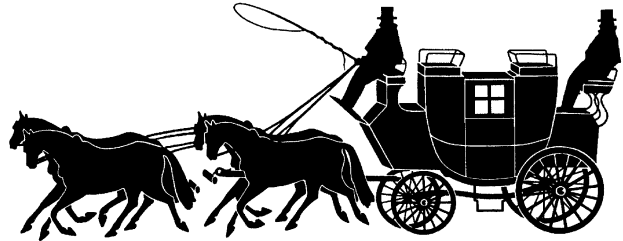
Through Tuscany by Four-in-Hand Hunting Breaks

Tour #9.1: Part 1

Siena - Maremma

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The Tuscan Adventure

Preface:

This is a tour through Tuscany as the normal tourist will never see. You drive our well-trained four-in-hand teams, put to shooting breaks, along the backtracks, you will be hosted by the families of the vintners and castle owners, by the countesses and princes, you will be treated as a guest and not as a tourist. Do not expect the luxury of a 5* hotel, you will be accommodated sometimes in simple farmhouses, sometimes without private facilities for each room, but this is the entrance fee to see Tuscany as it really is. You will gain atmosphere. The wine and food you will be served is the food the Italians eat, and the wine the Italians drink, things you will never get in an European or American Italian restaurant. You will always feel welcomed and never exploited as a tourist. You will travel at speed allowing you to see the flowers along the road and to chat with the people working in the fields.

Our horses are of the Old Oldenburg breed, the classical old German coach horse, and of the Kladruber breed, the horse once pulled the state carriages of the Austrian emperors.

Our carriages are the classical shooting (or hunting) breaks, seating 8 persons and pulled by a team of four. You will have as much opportunity to drive these teams yourselves as you wish. On each carriage there will be one of our staff to assist you if requested and to show you the directions.

Luggage transfer is provided by us, so please mark your suitcases clearly with your name. You do not need too much luggage as nowhere a formal dress is expected. Details please see out of our "dress code". If you want to take more than one suitcase per person we recommend to repack your suitcases, so that you do not need all of them every day. The other, not needed luggage can stay in our escort vehicles.



In the swamps of the Maremma

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6 Days, 7 nights

The Tuscany tour leads on four-in-hand hitched carriages from Siena through the countryside into the Maremma, the wide open land between the coast and the forested hills south and east of the city of Grosseto. For the nights we have mostly private castles, vineries, stud farms and private estates with oil- and wine production. Some of the ways used are former mule tracks, steep, narrow, grown-over, so a big mail-coach cannot make this route. We therefore use hunting- or shooting breaks, seating 6 each, hitched with a four-in-hand team of horses. Luggage will be transferred by car from place to place. In some of the overnight stations we are guests of the owners, of the padrones, we are taken into their families and we are treated more as guests than as tourists. The meals are excellent, rich and always made out of local products. During the day we will sometimes picnic in the fields with wine, bread, ham, olives. Tour program is operated with full board; that is all meals and beverages are included.



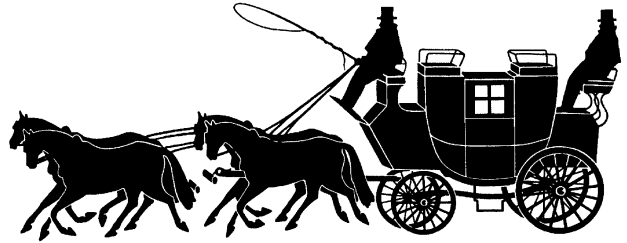
Curious semi-wild Maremma cattle eating the horses' hay during a picnic stop

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Itinerary:

Tuesday, Day 1:

Guests make their own way to Siena. A day for own activities in Siena, maybe a visit of the famous Piazza del Campo, where during the summer the "Palio", the horse race takes place. We meet around 07.00 pm in the ****hotel "Garden" with a great view of the historic town of Siena. Dinner in a typical restaurant in the old town.



Piazza del Campo in Siena

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Wednesday, Day 2: Siena – Pentolina

28 miles

We start around 10.00 am from the riding stable a bit outside of Siena, and drive into the wooded area of the Montagnola, along quiet country roads southward. Quiet roads, steep gravel tracks let us stop at the river Merse to take a picnic while we are watering the horses from the river.

Another 2 hours along an ancient road and we arrive at Tocchi, a hidden medieval castle, where we will have dinner and stay the night.

The entrance into the castle yard is so narrow, that we cannot make it with a four-in-hand.



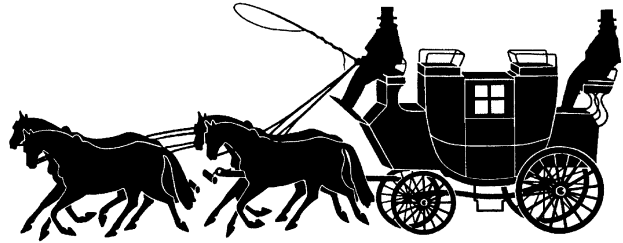
Castello di Tocchi

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Thursday, Day 3: Pentolina - Peruzzo

29 miles

After leaving this imposing place we ride a mile or so along the road and then off into the „Jungle“: Narrow tracks and dense oak forests for a couple of hours. Now and then we cross a creek, sometimes the bridges are washed away, and all hands have, to help to fill the gap with rocks and poles, to allow the carriage to cross the stream. After leaving the forests, we have a wide view and if visibility is clear enough, we sometimes can see the sea in the far distance. Shortly after noon we enter the private estate of Peruzzo. An estate of 12.000 acres. Signora Marucchi herself will welcome us and urge us to join her for lunch. Beautiful rooms with much private atmosphere, a breath-taking view over 12.000 acres olive oil groves and wine fields as well as oak trees. A superb Italian hospitality. We will stay here two nights.



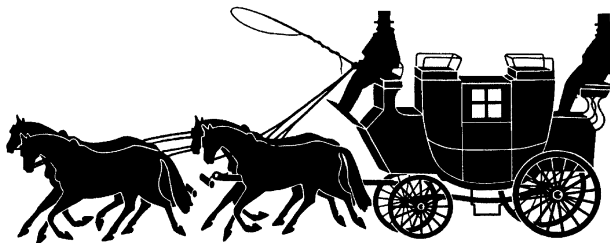
Ready for Lunch

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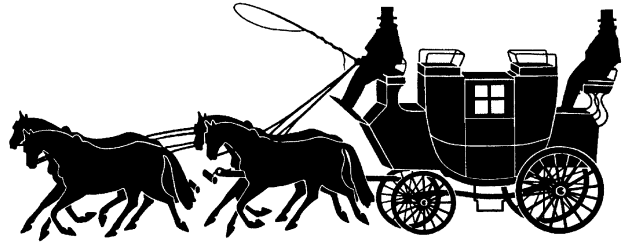
View from Peruzzo

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Friday, Day 4: Peruzzo

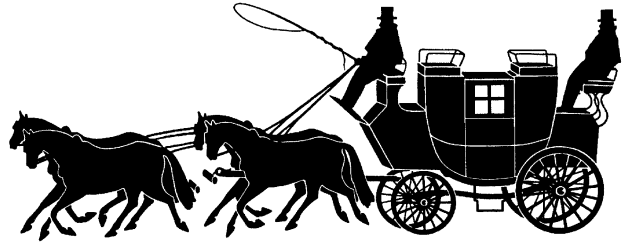
Relaxing, walking through the huge vineyards and the Macchia, the dense oak forests, taking a ride by car to some neighbouring villages, or a visit to Roselle, to the Etruscan excavations with the tombs, the Roman amphitheatre, the old Roman roads. In the evening, again, a typical Tuscan dinner.



Managing a Ditch

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Saturday, Day 5: Peruzzo - Campagnatico

30 miles

We take an early morning leave of the estate of Peruzzo and drive through wide flat country: land which has been recultivated and drained after a more than thousand years of malaria infected swamps. Now dairy land on both sides of the track. Lonely country, with almost no towns. Very few are built on top of the hills, more like fortresses than farm villages, to protect themselves from the raids of the pirates of North Africa and from the malaria down in the swamps. At a little farm along the gravel road we take a picnic and try the wine of the young farmer, who is breeding thorough bred. In the afternoon we pass in a little walled-in place called Paganico. Another two hours later we arrive at the medieval town of Campagnatico where we will spend the night in the villa of the Contessa Luisella Querci delle Rovere Galli.



Getting ready in the yard of the Villa Bell 'Aria in Campagnatico

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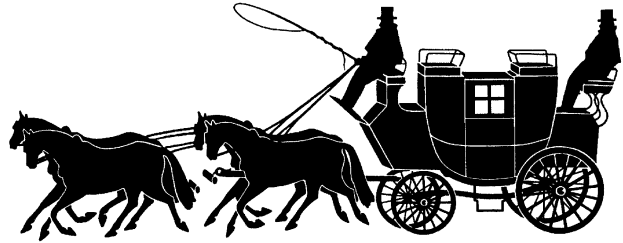
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Sunday, Day 6: Campagnatico - Alberese

30 miles

As we have a long distance ahead of us we will start rather early. Open country, hidden farms, rough roads. No taverns, no towns anywhere! We will have a picnic in a winery, in its wine cellar en route, where we can unhitch and water the horses. In the evening we approach Alberese, a small place, consisting out of a former palace of the Austrian arch-dukes (where we will be accommodated), some houses, and a large estate, owned by the government of Tuscany, with hundreds of wild bulls and huge herds of horses, the Maremma cattle and the Maremma horse! Here the „Butteri“, the Italian mounted herders (like cowboys) are still working as they did for some hundreds years.



A low underpass near Roccastrada

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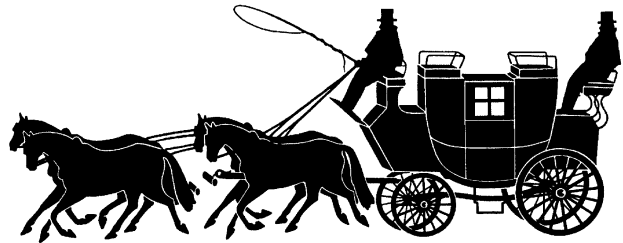
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Replacing a broken a shoe

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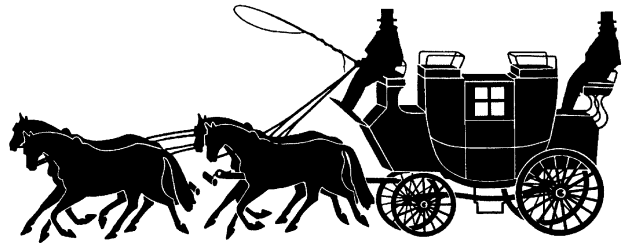
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Heading Seawards

Monday, Day 7: Alberese – Parco Uccellina

25 Km

We will spend two nights here. The morning offers an opportunity to those with a minimum of riding experience to join one of the Butteri (Cowboy) for a ride from 07.00 am to 11.00 am, sharing with him his daily work. The carriages will start for a ride into the (very restricted) natural reserve of Uccellina about 11.00 am, with a picnic in the caves inside the reserve. The evening will bring a farewell dinner in Rispectia, in a well known restaurant for sea-food, to those who will leave the party next morning.

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At the sea shore of Uccellina nature park

Tuesday, Day 8:

After breakfast the tour of the first part will end. The next railway station is in Grosseto, with train departures nearly every hour either to Rome or to Pisa or Geneva.

Included:

- 6 day journey with four-in-hand shooting break and a pair hitched German hunting carriage
- 7 nights en route (1 x 4*-Hotel, 7 nights in private accommodations)
- full board with all beverages
- all permits for private properties and natural reserves
- all cultural programmes
- English, German, and Italian speaking staff
- Minimum participants: 6, maximum participants: 15 guests

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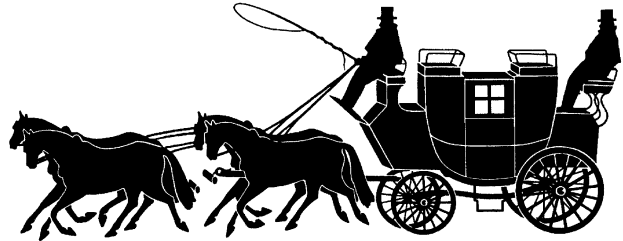
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Through Tuscany by Hunting Breaks

Tour #9.1: Part 2

Alberese (Maremma) – Siena

Monday, Day 1:

Gateway is Rome airport, about every hour a fast train leaves Rome for Grosseto (ca. 110 miles), from Grosseto rail station one can take a cab to Alberese (ca. 9 miles), if your arrival at Grosseto fits into our schedule, we will be pleased to transfer you from the rail station to Alberese.

Or you fly into Pisa and take a train to Grosseto.

Arrival at Alberese, a small former Habsburger garrison for a Cavalry and an Artillery regiment of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany, consisting out of a little palace, some accommodations of the former military staff and a big estate with semi wild horses and cattle, owned by the Regional government of Tuscany. We will stay in the little summer palace "Palazzo Gran Ducale".

Evening: dinner in an excellent seafood restaurant in Rispeccia.

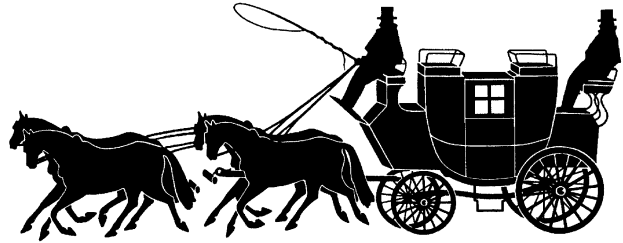


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Tuesday, Day 2: Parco Uccellina

Distance: 16 miles

Ride with the four-in-hand shooting breaks (seating 6 passengers plus driver + groom) through the Natural reserve of Parco Uccellina along the coast of the Tyrennic Sea. By special permit we are the only ones allowed to drive with our carriages into this Natural Reserve: we will pass huge umbrella pine forests, the dunes, the sandy coastline, will have a picnic near the caves.

Evening: dinner in a local tavern.



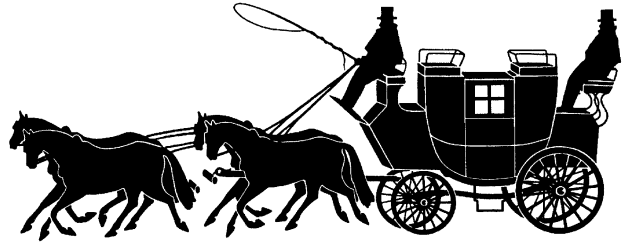
Picnic in the Natural Reserve Parco Uccellina

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Approaching the Ombrone ford

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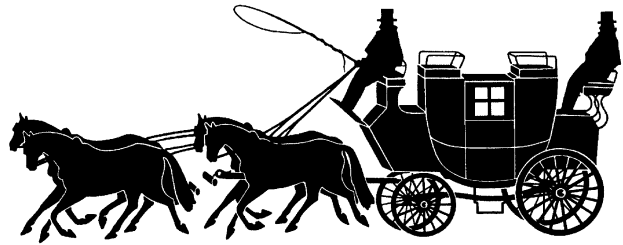
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Crossing the Ombrone River

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The Butteri, the Italian mounted herders of the Maremma

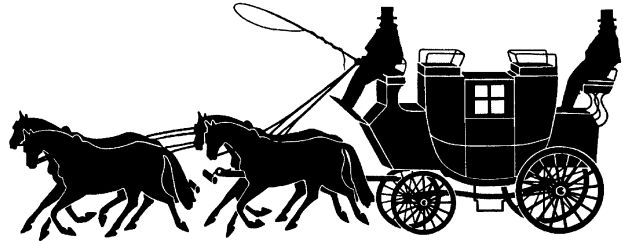


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Wednesday, Day 3: Alberese – Campagnatico

Distance: 30 miles

Drive along old merchant tracks out of the middle ages, crossing the river Trasubbie, lunch in a little local tavern along the road.

Evening: overnight in the Villa Bell Aria of the Contessa Luisella Querci di Rovere Galli, a charming lady hosting us in her family villa inside the little walled-in town of Campagnatico

Dinner in a local ristorante.



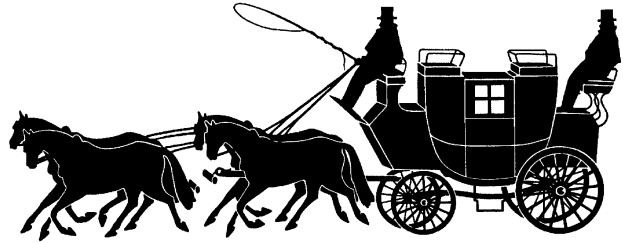
The Carriages drive up in front of the Villa Bell'Aria in Campagnatico

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Thursday, Day 4: Campagnatico – Castello di Argiano

Distance: 30 miles

We are leaving Campagnatico, driving through Paganico, a medieval walled-in town out of the times of the Sienese fights against the Florence city

state, to Argiano. Crossing the river Ombrone (depending on the water status!), picnic at the banks of the river. Following a drive through the nearly endless vineyards of the castle of Banfi, formerly owned by a noble family, the last member of the family, Theofila of Banfi, was head of the house hold of pope Pius X. Now it has been restored to perfection by an Italo-American trust, financed by Japanese money. Center of the famous Tuscan red wine “Brunello”.

Overnight: castello di Argiano, this castle was the Southern most out post of the Sienese city republic during the renaissance times, now owned by an English-Italian couple, she, Sarah Sesti, is out of a famous English horse breeding family, he, Guiseppe Sesti, is a multi-talented vintner, writer (a famous book about the Zodiak in all the various cultures and traditions of the globe), organizer of a Summer opera festival, member of the Cardellini-singers and, and, and full of good stories. Dinner with the family in the old (now deconsecrated) chapel.



Crossing the Ombrone River

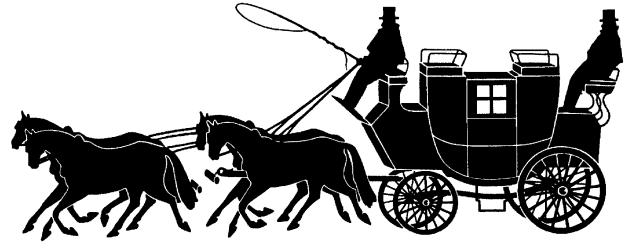


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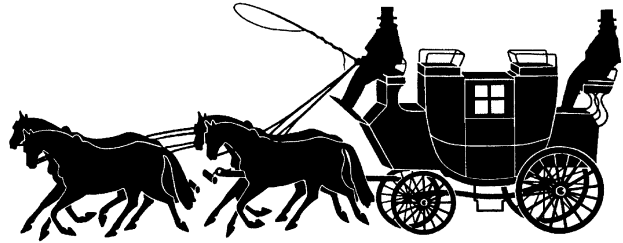
Crossing the Ombrone River (Low Water)

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Friday, Day 5: Argiano

Distance: 0 miles

A second day at Argiano. Around lunch outing (by car) to the monastery of San Antimo, a basilica out of the 8th century, now lived-in by Cistercian monks, where we can listen the Gregorian chants. Lunch in a nearby tavern On the way home we can stop a the wine town of San Angelo in Colle. Evening: dinner with the family, visit of the Cardellini, an a-capella folk singers group of the Monte Amiata, the highest mountain in Tuscany.



Castello di Argiano



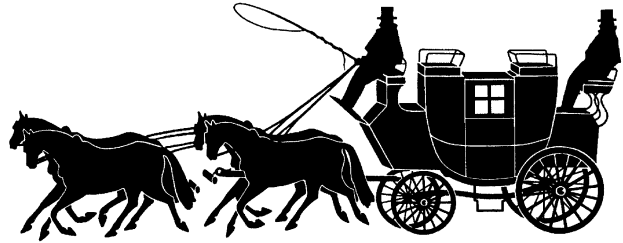
The chapel of Argiano

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Saturday, Day 6: Castello di Argiano – Pieve a Salti

Distance: 27 miles

Drive from Argiano via the castle Giocondo of the Marchesi di Freschobaldi and through their vineyards; along the ridge above the Ombrone valley.

Stop for a picnic near Castiglion dell Bosco

We go down on a winding road to the Ombrone bridge, up again and then on top of the ridges to Murlo and Lupompesi. A historic country hotel is awaiting us.

We have the opportunity to visit a Etruscan museum in Murlo.



The Garden of the Albergo Bosco della Spina

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Sunday, Day 7: Pieve a Salti – Castello di Formigniano

Distance: 24 miles

Carriages drive from Lupompesi along quiet roads to Montespescini; Lunch picnic in a private farm, later through wide and dense forests to Tocchi, a small hidden settlement. Overnight either in the Villa Ferraia or in the Castello di Tocchi.



Villa Ferraia

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Monday, Day 8: Castello di Formigiano – Siena

Distance: 17 miles

We leave Castello di Formigiano, an old Roman Road leads us to the River Merse, where we will stop for a picnic. We will have lunch in a private farmhouse, Evening: overnight in a 4* hotel just outside the city of Siena, a wonderful view at the citadel of Siena and the dome. Dinner in a typical ristorante in the historical old centre of Siena.



Cypresses along our road

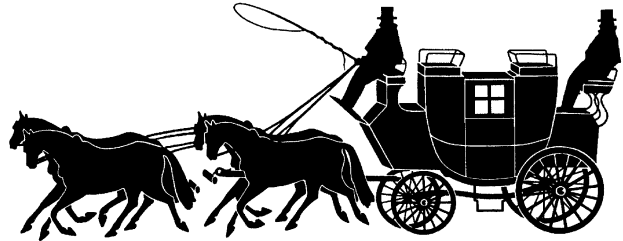
Tuesday:

Individual departure.

You may fly out of Florence (ca. 40 miles from Siena, frequent commuting motor-coach connections from Siena). If requested, we can arrange a bus transfer.

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Our carriage journeys have been repeatedly awarded:

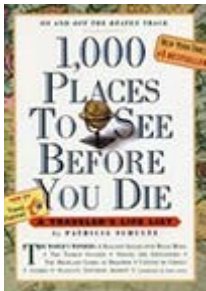


1988: "Best Cultural Travel Idea"

Awarded by the Guild of Finnish Travel Writers during the
Travel Fair Matka 1988 Helsinki



**1999: US National Trust for Historic Preservation chooses
Coaching in Bavaria as one of the „Best Thinking Tours in Europe“**



2003: "1000 Places you have to see before you die"

Recommended in the Travel Guide of the New York Times



2004: „Thuringian Market Award for Tourism“

Awarded by the Thuringian Ministry of Economic



2013: MyDays: “Quality Partner”

2015: MyDays: “Excellent Partner”

2016: MyDays: “Excellent Partner”

2017: MyDays: «Excellent Partner»

2018: MyDays: «Excellent Partner»



2016: „Excellent“

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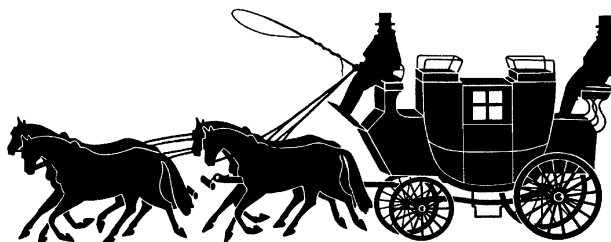
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The Beach of the Tyrrenic Sea