

# Decanter

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*John Malta: tourists can stay at his magnificent Castello Vicchiomaggio.*



## TUSCAN WINE TRAIL

Of all Italy's wine regions, Tuscany has the most to offer the wine-loving tourist  
Stephen Hopley reports

**T**he landscape of Chianti has changed dramatically since the time when Pinturicchio used it as a background for his paintings. Then the vines were trained to poplars and maples around the edges of fields of corn and large areas were covered with forest. Cypressess and olive trees were missing from the scenery. Now, as elsewhere, vines are trained in regimented rows on the most suitable slopes, while the olive groves are slowly recovering from the great frost a few years ago. It is a charming area to visit and is, undoubtedly, the area of greatest change and excitement in the Italian wine world today.

Chianti Classico is only one of seven recognized regions for the production of Chianti, but it is the most famous and the Chianti Classico Consorzio imposed strict quality control conditions on its members even before the DOCG regulations came into