

"Le Capannelle" Dog Center in Montorsaio: a 5-star resort for dogs and cats

Giovanni Nati knew that sooner or later the inspiration would arrive and just like that, in 1998, during a holiday / study in northern Italy to educate / train himself with his dog, he understood that "Le Capannelle di Montorsaio" (we are in Tuscany, near Campagnatico, fourteen kilometers from Grosseto) would become the first Dog Center in Maremma: a farmhouse for dogs and cats!

BY MARINA VALMARANA

The Agritourism Company "Le Capannelle" of Montorsaio is located in Tuscany, fourteen kilometers from Grosseto. Talking with Giovan Battista Nati, owner of Le Capannelle, I have discovered that this place, where now a high quality dog center stands, is also a place rich in history.

"Originally the farm was an ancient post office, where, as early as 1300, travelers and their horses found refuge along the way from Siena, or from Monte Amiata, to Grosseto. In this place rich in history, we wanted to create a breeding and a hospitality center for pets, immersed in the green of Maremma, a real farmhouse "for four-legged" animals.

The first written local attestations date back to the visit of Bartolomeo Gherardini to the Community of Montorsaio in the year 1676 A.D. (from cf) when Siena, sovereign of these territories, verified through its representatives the solidity of their possessions. At that time, the "Ostaria delle Capannelle", being part of the Montorsaio court, was described as a vineyard cultivated place, in which there were four households and not many people.

Several other memories from books and newspapers of the 19th century passed on the testimony of many wayfarers' adventures and brigandage acts of old times, all of that available in our farmhouse for any consultation during your welcomed visit".

The words of Giovanni intrigue me: it is nice to see this historical aspect so deeply rooted and still present in this place, so I decide to do my own little personal research and I find out that:

"The Nati family was linked to the patronage of the Capannelle, on which many curious stories were told. For example, on the 7th of August, 1832, in the area of Chiusa and Casalini, on the vineyard roads, which climbs from the Capannelle of Montorsaio, Pasquale Giannetti, nicknamed Milanima, killed his partner Luigi Appirelli, called Girelli, due to a game issue arisen in the Capannelle tavern. In that summer the inn was owned by Lino Benocci and his wife Vittoria, daughter of Giovanni Vaccari and Margherita Corti. 85 "The Rota of Grosseto (the institution for crimes at that time) condemned Mr Giannetti to five years of confinement in Massa Marittima."

In 1825, the Capannelle tavern belonged to Giovanni Vannucci, son of Domenico, who also owned many lands around the territory and in 1843 Giovambattista Nati bought it, while in 1858, after the death of Giovambattista, occurred in 1856, the property passed on to his son Francesco Innocenzo Ferdinando.

Today, the whole Giovan Battista family has been reduced to a single male, who has the same name of his grandfather and still lives in the Capannelle of Montorsaio".

Source: Montorsaio and his families by Tamara Gigli Sanesi - Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities - Archive of Grosseto - Administration of the Civic Uses of Montorsaio, Grosseto 2007

Today Giovanni lives in Le Capannelle with his three sons Francesco, Lorenzo and Riccardo.

The historical location of Le Capannelle helps us to understand the reason for Giovanni's attachment to this piece of Maremma. Born and raised in Grosseto, in 1989 he decided to start a restoration that is still ongoing.

A lover of the countryside and passionate about the area, he has always respected this place and the spirit contained in it. The idea and the goal have always been to recover, to save, not to destroy and then rebuild, with the intention that the past and the present were not so distant.

When the renovation begins, Giovanni wants to turn this country house into a place of interest and work, not just for holidays, in this way the connection with Le Capannelle would become even stronger.

Giovanni knew that sooner or later the inspiration would arrive and just like that, during a holiday / study in northern Italy to educate / prepare himself with his dog, with his wife

Michela, to train their Dobermann, he understood that Le Capannelle would become the first Dog Center in Maremma: a farmhouse for dogs and cats!

Therefore, Giovanni and Michela decide to devote themselves to hospitality, breeding and dog trekking. The breeding, followed with great passion by Michela, was based on Border Collie and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen.

In 2011, the professional and personal separation between Giovanni and Michela took place. Giovanni continues with the hospitality at Le Capannelle, Michela moves to another place and continues with success and passion her activity as a dog breeder and educator.

From that moment on, the prepared and competent staff, who already cooperated with the dog structure, becomes a real "team" under the direction of Giovanni with a single objective: to offer hospitality, courtesy and high quality standards at an affordable cost.

To this date, Francesca, Sonia and Agnese are essential and

indispensable for the functioning of the dog center.

Giovanni continues his story:

The beginning was characterized by a huge economic investment, higher than expected, in order to have a quality center and, at the same time, to preserve a place rich in history".

Talking about the present, we can see how thankful Giovanni is to his collaborators for the work they do:

"When the animals are guests of the center, it often takes place, where necessary, a sort of re-education. Francesca, Sonia and Agnese are not just looking after our four-legged guests, using their love and passion, they can take care of examples of strong "aggressive behaviour" from some specimen. Using elements such as a correct management of the dog, the affection, the respect of the rules and the controlled freedom, we can encourage every complicated specimens to trust again the man and to slowly lose the excessive aggressiveness".

••••

Giovanni Nati: "The Center wants to become a reference point for all dog lovers, initiatives promoter and meetings where dog fans can exchange information and suggestions that could help them to interact better with their four-legged friends".

Taking a walk in the Center, Giovanni explains to me that: *"the guests are heterogeneous and also the duration of the stay is very variable. The main reason that leads the four-legged animals to Le Capannelle is basically the "owners" vacation. It can also happen that a person can not take care of his little friend because he has to be hospitalized or because of a move, a transfer where he is unable to take the animal with him, the birth of a baby (especially in cases of aggressive animals)".*

There are 30 boxes for dogs, with 12 independent spaces for stretching, then there are 8 large boxes for cats with every comfort (balconies, scratching posts...).

"The Center is a model structure, efficient and modern, in accordance with the laws in this area.

The boxes have an area of eight square meters each, with a quartz concrete base, treated with a suitable water-repellent paint (not to keep germs and bad smells) and equipped with heating for a comfortable stay even in the coldest periods. For the most demanding, we also have fully enclosed boxes, which are heated too. The walls and roofs are insulated, our daily care is to clean and disinfect the boxes.

Every morning all the dogs are taken out of the boxes to be conducted in the so-called "stretching spaces", green areas intended for play and socialization, while the workers provide for the boxes internal cleaning and the

preparation of the "chow". We provide a high quality food, but if necessary you can bring your dog's regular meal. If required, we can perform treatments, but only if prescribed by the veterinarian.

Instead, if you want to have the dog checked at our structure, we provide the brand new veterinary clinic, exclusively intended for our guests, and not available to external visits".

One of the things that has struck me most about this reality is the great importance that Giovanni and his collaborators give to the affective aspect towards not only the 4-legged guests but also their families. I am constantly in touch with their families to tell them how the puppies are, photos are sent regularly to make them

feel less alone and to alleviate the melancholy. It is very important that the owner is kept up to date on his four-legged friend.

I asked Giovanni what plans he has for the future.

"For the future, in addition to the continuous improvement to increase the quality of our guests stay, we plan to build some semi-detached wooden houses with small garden of relevance dedicated to small dogs, other areas of stretching and constantly refining the existing structure. However, I would like to highlight how the ordinary maintenance of the structure in itself, combined with that one of the green that frames it, takes up a lot of time!"

We stay in touch with every other dog center to keep up with the best

technical and structural solutions, techniques in continuous dynamic evolution that guarantee the highest quality of services. From the constant comparison with the other dog fans and dog lover experts, the "Dog Culture" develops and evolves.

The Center wants to become a reference point for all dog lovers, initiatives promoter and meetings where dog fans can exchange information and suggestions that could help them to interact better with their four-legged friends".

After my visit, I have reflected on how many beautiful initiatives and important realities there are in our territory.

For any further curiosity, I advise you to personally visit Le Capannelle, you will surely discover a beautiful world for our four-legged friends, a very high quality "resort"!

Info: Capannelle di Montorsaio -
Fraz. Montorsaio 36, 58042

CAMPAGNATICO

(Grosseto), Toscana; Giovanni:
+39 333 2958259 Staff: +39 333

2958260; sito:

www.lecapannelledimontorsaio.it

it - mail:

info@lecapannelledimontorsaio.it

it; GPS +42° 87' 47.24",

+11° 20' 62.99"; Facebook e Youtube:

Centro Cinofilo Le Capannelle di
Montorsaio