



Clockwise from above: Eerie sculptures at Campo del Sole; Passignano's waterfront; boats docked in San Feliciano's harbour; Castiglione del Lago's magnificent town hall; the streets of Castiglione del Lago



local *trattoria*, serving truffle shavings or truffle flavoured oil, drizzled over fresh hand made pasta. Combined with a glass of the crisp local white wine and a lake view, life doesn't get much better than this. Keep an eye out for local truffle festivals too. Local tourist boards should publish information.

WINE HEAVEN

When it comes to wine, you are already spoilt for choice, being within a stone's throw of so many renowned Tuscan wine producing areas, such as Chianti, Montalcino and Montepulciano, which boast some of the best wines in the world. Although the actual area round the lake doesn't

have a great reputation for its wines, a lot of work has been done in recent years to increase the quality. If you like red, try the local Sangiovese and Lanaiole or if you prefer white, go for Grechetto.

So, Lake Trasimeno. An undiscovered paradise full of contrasts and surprises, unspoilt and laid back, yet with a vibrant programme of events to suit every taste. Friendly, welcoming people, great food and drink and all within a couple of hours of Rome. So if you fancy a break which will recharge your batteries like no other, leave the tourist hoards far behind and head for the lakeside. But a word in your ear. If you're down the pub and George Clooney saunters in, just don't let on, okay! **TIM**