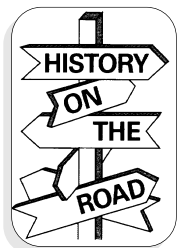


# HISTORY ON THE ROAD

## THE CASTELLO DI SPANNOCCHIA



Deep in the heart of Tuscany, Italy is a 1200-acre estate named Spannocchia. Currently managed as a living museum of the rural life of

Tuscany, conservation is the central theme of all activities on the estate. The owner of the estate, Count Ferdinando Cinelli, and the managers, Randall and Francesca Stratton, all members of the Forest History Society, are keenly interested in the estate's land-use history.

An agricultural estate (tenuta) for at least 800 years, Spannocchia passed in the early part of the 20th century from the Spannocchi family to Delfino Cinelli, a Florentine aristocrat and noted Italian writer of that period. The estate continued to be farmed under the mezzadria tenant farming system developed as early as the 1100s in Tuscany, a system which



PHOTO BY STEVEN ANDERSON

*Il Castello di Spannocchia is the center of the farm estate.*

defined rural life in the region for centuries. It was with the passing of that era in the first decades after World War II that Delfino's son, Count Ferdinando Cinelli, initiated a new course for Spannocchia as an educational and cultural center through its association with the Etruscan Foundation.

Approximately 900 acres of the estate is in woodland that is managed for firewood and traditional agricultural and building materials. It is part of the Tuscan Riserva Naturale Alto Merse nature preserve. A certified organic farm, the estate produces its own wine, olive oil, fruits and vegetables. The Stratton's also maintain traditional but endangered breeds of farm animals. Present day life at Spannocchia, attempts to show how the past of this historic rural community can be preserved and its traditions maintained while providing a viable existence within the modern world. Dr. Gil Latz, a Senior Research Associate at the Forest History Society,

will be investigating the land-use history of the estate through a Fulbright grant under the U.S./Italy Twinning Project.

Accommodations at Spannocchia are available to members of the Etruscan Foundation and anyone can join. Stays in the Villa and Fattoria at the farm center are available on a daily basis and include breakfast and maid service. Rentals of farmhouses are for a minimum of one week, from Friday to Friday. Visitors will enjoy one of the most beautiful, tranquil spots on earth, but should understand that Spannocchia is truly rural and not a vacation resort; it is rather a working historic farm, a wildlife preserve, and an educational center.

For further information see [www.etruscanfoundation.org](http://www.etruscanfoundation.org) or contact the Etruscan Foundation at (313) 882-2462 in Grosse Pointe Michigan; [etruscan@misi.net](mailto:etruscan@misi.net) or directly at Tenuta di Spannocchia at (39) 0577 799028; [etruscan@sienanet.it](mailto:etruscan@sienanet.it). □



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*Randall and Francesca Stratton by one of the estate's wine casks.*