

# COMMUNICART.IT FACILITIES

## 2015



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*Choose from our Great Insider's Tips...  
to make your Own Personalized Guide to Tuscany*



**Real Taste of  
TUSCANY**  
communicart.it

IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL GUIDES AND FULLY AUTHORIZED  
COMPANIES, WE CAN HELP YOU DISCOVER THE BEST TUSCANY HAS TO OFFER



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Communicart is Official Partner of: **Real Taste of Tuscany.com**



## FESTIVALS, TRADITIONS & CULTURE

### Tickets For Main Events In Tuscany

With advanced booking, you don't have to risk missing out on the best events of the year. Let us secure your tickets to amazing historical recreations and other main events during your stay, before they sell out. These include the Palio horse race in Siena, the Jousting matches (Giostra del Saracino) in Arezzo, the Florentine Historical Soccer matches in Florence (Calcio Storico Fiorentino) and many others. We can also easily organize transportation to and from the event, and local guides who can give you a better understanding of their significance. We can also help you to take part in the festive mood, by sitting in on special dinners (such as the *contrada* feasts at the Siena Palio). We also have access to special tickets in apartments overlooking the Siena Palio, for the ultimate in VIP treatment



### Tickets to Major Museums

As with events, tickets to major museums can be reserved in advance to take the stress out of sightseeing



### **Exclusive City & Art Tours for Exploring our 'Cities of Art'**

We collaborate with select professional guides and fully authorized companies who can organize a multitude of personalized tours in our region. Visit Florence, Siena, Pisa and Lucca, but do not miss the secret corners of Tuscany, like the small towns and villages with their endless hidden treasures (from art & culture to gourmet shops, artisan workshops and local producers)



### **Discover The Sky & The Stars of Florence (Firenze)**

The Astrophysics Observatory of Arcetri was founded in 1872 and is situated close to the Villa Il Gioiello, where Galileo was actually held under house arrest during the final years of his life. It is now the most important of the Italian observatories and it organizes every month guided tours, by day and by night. The Florence Planetarium organizes guided tours about the observation of the sky, the history of astronomy and instrumentation. The library and multimedia room are available for consultation





## FOOD & WINE - ART - CRAFTS



### ‘Spend a Day with an Artisanal Tuscan Producer’ in your exclusive Villa

We bring together professional Tuscan chefs and local food producers to create unforgettable meals in beautiful, historic villas. Special guests can include experts in wine, cheese, meat and olive oil production as well as talented chefs from unique bakeries, pastry shops in the area and maitre chocolatiers



### ‘Meeting The Producers’: A Great Reason For Every Season

Discover Tuscan specialities with the author of the books -"A Great Reason for Every Season. Florence & Tuscany- Events & Specialities Guide" to understand and experience what inspired her to write the guides: the producers who made it all possible and her never-ending discoveries of events and specialities in the region. Travel around the area with a van and driver, visit the author's countryside and get to know the unique artisans, family-run businesses and local food producers of Tuscany. For an half-day, a full day or even a 2-3 or 7 days trip of experiences, options include visit to handicraft workshops (shoes, iron, wood, ceramics, linen, hats), the best meat producers, cheese makers, pastry workshops, maître chocolatiers, aromatic herbs and chilli peppers connoisseurs, farmhouses and more...and of course a wide selection of charming accommodation for you and your group in our region during the journey



## REAL TASTE OF TUSCANY EXPERIENCES

Particular events dedicated to the Real Taste of Tuscany Experiences, an experience offered by our authentic Tuscan producers who share with us their secrets through live demonstrations, stories, combined with a dinner created by the exclusive chefs of the location, exclusively using their products.

For this special evening, chocolatiers and ice cream makers, the most sublime pasta makers, the most experienced *cheese makers and butchers in Tuscany are available to share with us their culinary skills and, very important, to give us some tips on how to use their secrets at home to try to replicate their dishes and their special recipes*. A true immersion into a unique experience, in short, a genuine Real Taste of Tuscany Experience!



The Experience is organized in an **unique location in the centre of Florence** or **in a villa in the Surroundings of Florence** and it is a 4 hours experience, from 7.30 pm till 11.30 pm. It is reserved for 20, 40 or 60 people depending on the location and includes an aperitif, live demonstrations and stories about their products offered by the producers and full dinner.



**During the evening:**

Verano Bertagni cheese maker will show us how to create a true flavored cheese



A Chocolate created with research and passion,  
thanks to Elisabetta Cafissi owner of La Molina Chocolate



Tips to make a real artisanal beer at home  
through the history of Demonia  
unique brewery.

and much more...!

**A beautiful dinner will complete the event, created a famous chef made with the products of the producers.**

At the end of the evening *opportunity to buy the products of our Real Taste of Tuscany Producers tested during the evening.*

*For each subscription you will receive the Real Taste of Tuscany Fan card that guarantees discounts and info on our upcoming events!*



### **Catered Meals for Events, Parties & Special Occasions: Prepared by The Best Local Producers**

For a relaxing, authentic and truly memorable meal, let us organize a catered lunch or dinner together with the wonderful people who make the very products you will be enjoying! Enjoy their expertise and their company for a truly unique experience.

Looking to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion while visiting us in Tuscany? For an unforgettable event, select local experts are prepared to create a menu featuring the freshest seasonal ingredients, custom-tailored just for you and your guests. Perfect for small and large groups, this service brings your group side to side with our knowledgeable and friendly wine and food producers for a lunch, dinner or aperitivo hour you will never forget. Of course even the wine list can be personalized for you as we can choose between the best producers of Chianti Classico wines, Brunello and the most particular Pinot Noir. Of course, everything can be realized according to your budget, as in our region it's possible to find very good quality wines at a reasonable price!



### **The Real Taste Of Tuscany Kit**

Don't wait until you get home and unpack your suitcase to start enjoying what Tuscany has to offer: we'll deliver a special package to your villa while you are here, a 'kit' with a selection of the best products that we've come across during the research for our guidebooks. Think of it like the ultimate welcome gift introducing you to area highlight such as: salami, cheese, olive oil, wine, biscuits, breads, pasta, jams, organic body products and shampoo, perfume and more - plus our guidebook about Tuscany where you can continue learning about what makes this area amazing.

We'll drop the kit off at your hotel or villa before your arrival.

The kit can be purchased even through our shop on line and will be delivered directly to your home abroad.

The kit delivered in Tuscany as in your country can be personalized according to your needs and the types of specialties you prefer. And, as a special bonus, we'll throw in a copy of our Florence guidebook for free!!



### **Wine Tastings: From Great Tuscan Wine Estates to Boutique, Family-Run Vineyards**

We can help you get the most out of Tuscan wineries, from the famous vineyards of Chianti and Montalcino to the emerging Etruscan Coast and the wonderful village of Bolgheri. Our guides will share their tips about typical Tuscan grapes, such as Sangiovese and Canaiolo, on visits to our favourite wine estates that make Chianti, Brunello, Morellino, SuperTuscan I.G.T. wines and more. These tastings are also a chance to get lost along one of the winding roads in wine country, dropping in on local producers and occasionally stumbling upon wine-fuelled family get-togethers



### **Cooking Classes to Learn about Tuscan Cuisine and Tuscan Specialities such as Wine, Cheese, Steak, Vegetables, Pasta & Chocolate**

We will provide you with your own personal chef who will lead you and your special group step-by-step in the Italian art of blending flavours and who will teach you about the land and the people who have made your meal possible. From the careful selection of seasonal ingredients to the choice of wine to pair it with, our chef will guide and enlighten.

Alternatively, if you already have a background in Tuscan cuisine and are interested in learning more about a particular aspect such as wine, cheese, meat, vegetables, pasta and chocolate, we can organize a specialized lesson with a real Tuscan producer (like an authentic butcher or a cheese maker) to make the most out of your lesson!



## Tuscan Olive Oil Experience

You can't throw a stone in Tuscany without hitting an olive tree, so it's no surprise that olive oil is a local passion. Made only from the fruit of the olive tree (like a freshly squeezed juice), olive oils vary greatly in flavour and spiciness depending on the varieties (such as Tuscany's most common four: Frantoio, Moraiolo, Leccino, Pendolino) and climate. This experience will put you in contact with the olive growers and processors, who will point out how to identify a fresh, and therefore good, olive oil, and just how important it is to treat the olives well on their way into the bottle. Whether on raw veggies, a Fiorentina steak, bread soup (ribollita) or Tuscan white beans, the right olive oil makes the difference. Come and discover its beneficial properties and taste some of Italy's best oils!



## Additional Tuscan Specialties to Discover: Saffron, Honey, & The Iris

Some of Tuscany's lesser-known exports are just as wonderful to explore, and we can hook you up with just the right producers for a memorable and educational experience. The symbol of Florence, the iris, has a colourful history and is still zealously cultivated by gardeners around the city, both for its beauty and for its essence, used in products from perfume to chocolate. The San Gimignano area has been a source of quality saffron since the Middle Ages, and the beautiful crocus pistils can be used in countless local recipes. These include saffron honey, which highlights yet another Tuscan culinary strength. Locals harness their bees to create elixirs from flowers of chestnuts, acacia, wildflowers and much more – a perfect pairing with the fantastic, semi-aged pecorino cheeses Tuscans are famous for. Join us on a trip to learn more, visit the people behind these wonderful products, and, of course, taste, taste, taste...



## Truffle Adventures

Tuscany is an important truffle hunting area, and the best truffle season runs through the fall during the months of October and November, when it's typical to see markets, auctions and festival dedicated to this rare and delicious fungus. Join our guide on a fun and educational Truffle walk around the Florentine hills. You will dive right into the truffle experience thanks to the knowledge of a local expert and authorized truffle hunter, always accompanied by his prized hunting dog. The outing includes a taste of truffle sandwiches and a glass of red wine. Truffle experience could include also a welcome truffle aperitif with an introduction to this tuber: its history, its origins, the various types of truffles, suggestions for truffle conservation. A truffle walking in the forest and a lunch with truffle as the main ingredient could be also organized



## Pizza, Fresh Pasta Cooking Classes & Bread Workshops with local producers

Learn at a pastificio, Tuscan pasta workshops/bakeries, just how the experts make pasta in midst of an authentic family run business. You will learn how to make local pasta specialties with the wheat germ, the heart of the grain, using an ancient technique that Italians still cherish to this day.

Bread making courses can also be organized to learn how to make wholesome organic bread cooked in an old fashioned wood-burning oven. Experienced bakers will arm you with the right skills for making different types of bread, with aromatic herbs, various kinds of grain and cereals, including wheat, spelt, rye and barley and more...

These are personalized courses for children and adults to let you discover the knowledge of the best artisans in the region like, for example the unique pasta maker of Strada in Chianti, the fantastic pizza artisan of Greve, the owner of a beautiful estate full of unique animals in the area of Pari, which is a real expert in biological and organic home made breads or the true grain connoisseur from Valdichiana area which makes breads and focacce with the typical Verna grain. This kind of services takes place directly at their workshops and they are truly experience for both kids and adults



### **The Wine Train**

The Wine Train - From Siena to the Montalcino -Torrenieri Station

Two train cars travel from the Siena train station to Torrenieri-Montalcino, the site of the Winestation, crossing the heart of the emerald Val d'Orcia, in a trip that puts you in contact with traditional flavours and enchanting panoramas. The Train includes a visit to the abbey of Sant'Antimo and the medieval hill-town Montalcino, while the Tuscany Slow Train is a day trip from Florence to visit Siena, the Winestation, Montalcino and then back to Florence



### **Exploring a typical Tuscan Farm and its Wines & food Specialities**

Visits to an agricultural estate set amongst vineyards and olive groves, only few kilometers from Florence, in the 'Chianti' wine producing area. A chance to visit their vineyards, olive groves, the cereal crops and woodlands. At the farmhouse is possible to make tastings of their products, wine, oil, salamis, cheeses and to be in contact with all their animals like cows and chickens to live in a natural way the countryside



### **American & Tuscan Brunch Delivered to Your Door**

You can have pancakes, cupcakes, cereals, orange juice, scramble eggs, cheesecake and all the Tuscan specialities -both salted and sweet- in the form of a customized brunch, delivered straight to your Tuscan lodgings





## NATURE & SPORT - WELLNESS

### **Biking and Hiking in unique Landscapes with a private Custom Luxury Tour**

In collaboration with a luxury cycle tour provider located in Florence, a Tour Planning Expert creates for you the itinerary that matches your needs.

These fully Guided or Self Guided Tours include Tuscany's cities of art as Florence, San Gimignano and Siena and much more. Another way to explore the Chianti Classico area, worldwide known for its wine and authentic food. As Tuscany is hilly, some climbing preparation & basic fitness is essential



### **Wellness Treatments in Florence and Surroundings**

Let us pamper you with the most advanced cosmetology, beauty rituals, personalized treatments and premier quality products in a warm, refined atmosphere with attentive staff ready to meet your every need. Special chocolate and wine-based treatments are available in addition to hamam, an indoor warm pool, relax lounge and the chromatic therapy system



### **Personalized Treatments, Massages & Yoga Classes on Site at Your Villa or in Florence**

Many beauty and wellness treatments, as well as personal yoga sessions, can be organized for you in the privacy of your villa.

Prices vary depending on the number of treatments and typology of request.

For private yoga sessions (suitable for individuals or small groups) in an air-conditioned, private garden studio in the San Frediano neighbourhood of old Florence (a 5 minute walk from the Santo Spirito Church), we will set you up with a certified yoga teacher with an extensive international experience.

She will personally tailor sessions to your needs and abilities to ensure that your session is an enjoyable

## The Nature Train

The Nature Train - Siena & Val d'Orcia

The Nature train offers the chance to travel on old fashioned locomotives, allowing you to hop on and off at the different stations as you please (even using ordinary trains in the Siena province). It is a wonderful discovery for those who would like to visit many places, linking their travel with other activities like hiking, biking, visiting museums and tasting local food and wine direct from the source



## Rafting and Kaying in Florence and Beyond

For those who want to see Florence and Tuscany from the water, and get some exercise while they're at it, it is now possible to take groups soft rafting and kayaking. Highly qualified guides and river rescue experts, guarantee your safety and your satisfaction. Destinations include traveling down the Arno past the Ponte Vecchio (rafting, smooth ride), the areas of Sieve and Serchio in the Florentine countryside where you can learn about the various flora, fauna and ecosystems of the area (rafting, exciting rapids, swimming), and finally a kayak course through Lake Bilancino



### **Discover the Arno River With an Antique Boat**

For those who prefer to let someone else do the rowing, we can organize a renaiolo tour of the Arno river, that leaves from the Ponte alle Grazie, passes under the Ponte Vecchio, and hits the Ponte alla Carraia then heads back again (from April to September). Tours last 45 minutes, and can carry a max of 24 people in two boats. In the evenings, aperitivo hour can be enjoyed on the boat or at the rowing club's restaurant followed by dinner



### **Tuscany from the Sky: Flights on Hot Air Balloons Over our Land**

A more adventurous way to see the countryside is with a hot air balloon tour, departing from the hillsides near Florence up to about 500 meters in the air and then traveling north (Florence, Fiesole and Mount Morello), south (Chianti), or east (along the Arno river). Trips can be as short as 40 minutes or extended to far away destinations like Pisa, Lucca, the Valdarno (the landscape that inspired the renaissance artist Piero della Francesca), Siena, and San Gimignano, not to mention the far south of Tuscany with views of the medieval village of Volterra and the beautiful colours of the Maremma region. Morning flights are celebrated with a special breakfast, while evening flights end with a bottle of wine and some local specialties while the crew packs up. Take off time in spring/summer is just after sunrise or two hours before sunset, while in autumn and winter flights are possible at any time of day. Trips are fully insured, and our operator uses the latest in balloon technology as well as the highest quality aircraft, pilots and crew



### Teaching Farm with Safari Night Tour

A night safari tour on the hills of Florence on a 4X4 Jeep, accompanied by the owner of a terrific estate. A unique chance for children and adults to visit the farm animals (ducks, ostriches, rooster, hens, goats, Amiata donkeys and limousine cows) and admire the thick cypress woods that surround the property's lovely pond



### Exploring a typical Tuscan Farm and its Animals

Visits to an agricultural estate set amongst vineyards and olive groves, only few kilometers from Florence, in the 'Chianti' wine producing area. A chance to visit their vineyards, olive groves, the cereal crops and woodlands. At the farmhouse is possible to make tastings of their products, wine, oil, salamis, cheeses and to be in contact with all their animals like cows and chickens to live in a natural way the countryside



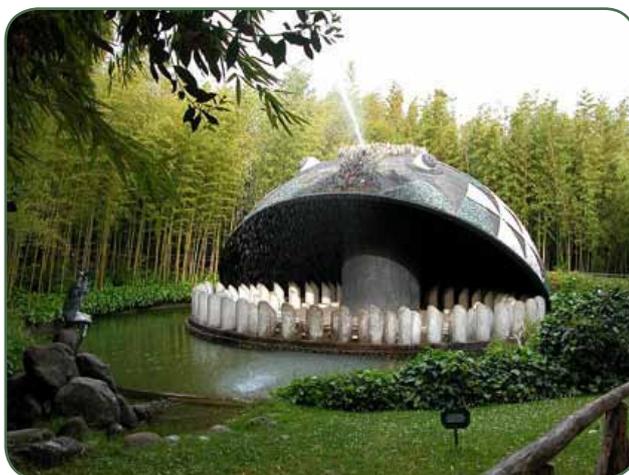
### **Pinocchio Park (Collodi, Pescia, Pistoia)**

Inaugurated in 1956, the Pinocchio Park is no ordinary theme park, but rather a precious masterpiece created by artists of great character working together.

The literary itinerary, marked out by mosaics, and sculptures set amidst the greenery, emerges from an inspired combination of art and nature. The path is winding, and the dense vegetation means that every stage on the route leads to an unexpected surprise, with the very plants and trees contributing to create the atmosphere and the episodes in the story of the Adventures of Pinocchio. The Park itself is the site of constantly renewed cultural activities that are always mindful of its roots: exhibitions of art and illustrations inspired by children's literature and the Story of Pinocchio, puppet-making workshops, puppet and marionette shows and minstrels enliven the visit to the Park, depending on the season. The park is open every day from 8.30 until sunset.

Also in Collodi is the historic Garzoni Garden (and adjacent Villa), a superb example of the eighteenth-century Italian garden: one of the most beautiful in Italy, which represents a happy union between Renaissance geometry and the spectacular quality of early Baroque.

The garden is a work of art of rare equilibrium, where the greenery, the flights of steps, the water plays and statues form a truly unique ensemble



### **Sailboat Chartering & Nautical School**

We offer services for charters with a skipper or bareboat, as well as the new offering that permits guests to book single cabins on a larger boat. Sailing around the magical archipelago of the Tuscan coast, discover the islands of Elba, Il Giglio and the Pontine. But keep in mind that tours to Ischia, Capri and the Amalfi Coast (which is located on Italy's south-western coast between the Sorrento peninsula and Salerno) can also be organized



### **Excursions to Lake Bilancino (North of Florence)**

#### **Canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, fishing, biking around**

Lake Bilancino is today a rich tourist attraction that offers numerous outdoor sports. Besides competitive fishing, in fact, the lake offers a number of water sports such as canoeing, sailing and windsurfing, fishing, biking around the lake.

**Beach:** Bahia beach is located in the locality of Nebbiaia and offers the possibility of leasing umbrellas, beach chairs, cabins, hot showers and 2 pedal boats. A lifeguard is at your service, and dogs are allowed on the beach. The beach includes an eating-place for lunch and dinner. Lease of pedal, windsurfing and canoeing. Open: April 1st - September 30th.

**Kayak Course:** in the peaceful setting of Bilancino Lake you will learn the basic technical gestures of paddling and basic safety maneuvers. At the end of the course the learner will be autonomous to easily manage the kayak in flat water



### **Migliarino San Rossore Park, Massaciuccoli (Pisa)**

The core of the park is the ex presidential estate of San Rossore, an area of 4700 hectares.

The Tuscan Region took it over in 1999 and now manages the 23000 hectares of the entire park. About 10.000 hectares are forested and a similar area is under cultivation while the remainder of the park is marshland.

The vegetation is Mediterranean but there also are plants associated with continental climates.

The San Rossore estate is not freely accessible and it is only possible to visit, with a guide, at certain times.

**Horse and Carriage Rides,** a fun day out is an old-fashioned carriage ride through the San Rossore Park.

The carriages can carry up to 25 people and are pulled by horse.

**Horse Back Riding,** the center is located in the original stables, Scuderie Reali dei Savoia, built in the 1800's. **School Trips,** the visitors' center of the San Rossore Park hosts a variety of activities dedicated to children





## USEFUL & TRANSPORT SERVICES

### The Real Taste Of Tuscany Card

This is a special card, to become a Real Taste of Tuscany Fan!!!

It is a card that provides a 10% discount by unique Tuscan producers highly selected from Real Taste of Tuscany staff and many other advantages for our guests included a copy of our book about Florence!!!



### Insider's Guidebooks: Florence & Tuscany

Our unique guidebooks, one dedicated to Florence and the other to the entire region of Tuscany: "A Great Reason for Every Season. Events & Specialities Guide" focus on the reasons why it's worth exploring the city and the region at different time of the year, citing the local producers, restaurants, shops and events that bring Tuscany alive all year long. These events show off what Tuscans do and enjoy best, and these books help you explore 365 days worth of fun, festivities and, of course, the high quality food, wine and artisanal specialties that abound



### Airport Transfers

Let us take the stress out of your arrival by arranging a driver to pick you and your group up and drop you off at your hotel or villa



### **Bike, Tricycle, Cart, Carriage and...Luxury Car Rental**

We can organize seamless many services for our clients, both with and without a driver, as well as valet parking 365 days a year (a must in a city like Florence where looking for parking can easily ruin an otherwise great day). Additionally we are pleased to offer a unique electric car rental service - the perfect way to get around city quickly, quietly and with as small a carbon footprint as possible



### **Vespa & Scooter Rentals**

For those looking for a faster, chicer kind of transportation, it is also possible to rent motorcycles and Vespas



### **Around Tuscany riding a real Vespa**

The best way to experience this favourite of Italian vehicles, is to take off and explore our beautiful landscape winding along the roads the curve their way through the picturesque countryside. Whether on your own, using a GPS navigator, or alongside a friendly tour leader, there are several itineraries to peak your interest: Etruscan Tuscany, Tufa Villages, Natural Hot Springs and the Chianti Vespatour



### Explore the Florentine Hills driving a Fiat 500s

Starting off from a 15th century villa on the Florentine hills, and meandering down walled country roads, with panoramas resplendent with monasteries, olive groves and grapevines, you can enjoy the thrill of driving one Italy's most recognizable compact car. A guide will entertain you with history and local knowledge, catching a view of the city glittering like a jewel from Michaelangelo's plaza before entering the city in style by ancient gates, where you may be surprised to find yourselves the attraction! For more independent explorers, it is possible to rent a Fiat 500 and go solo



### Summer Camps and Classes for Children (and Adults) & Exclusive Accommodation for families and friends

In collaboration with Canadian Island of Florence & Communicart.it

Guests traveling with kids and looking for educational experiences can take advantage of full-immersion summer camps for children and teens, Italian language classes, kindergarten programs and school trips in Florence, Italy. But summer camps and language courses aren't just for kids anymore as these life-changing experiences can be extended to anyone looking for a unique learning experience in Tuscany.

Then if the parents of the children has to find a villa or an accommodation for them during their stay here in Tuscany, will be a pleasure for us to find the best accommodation that matches your needs, through our unique selection of lodging that we promote! Your second home is here in Tuscany! Just connect to Communicart.it and send us an email with your needs. For our staff will be a pleasure to find for you and your family and friends the perfect villa for you!

Communicart is a marketing agency based in Florence dealing with the promotion of the Tuscan region, especially in the areas of hospitality, craftsmanship, food & wine and events.

Our pay-off is “**an insider's point of view**” because we have set out to promote unique estate and create offbeat maps and guides together with these authentically Tuscan owners, producers and operators, who have shared their priceless advice and trade secrets. Villas, apartments, charming hotels and farmhouse everyone can find his best accommodation and we help you find it with our insider's tips!



\*\*\* DO YOU NEED OUR STAFF TO HELP YOU IN CREATING YOUR PERSONALIZED GUIDE TO TUSCANY AND YOU NEED OUR INSIDER'S TIPS AND UNIQUE SERVICES?

\*\*\* DO YOU WANT TO BECOME REALTASTEOFTUSCANY FAN AND GET OUR REAL TASTE OF TUSCANY CARD?



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