FROM THE NORTH

Coming from the North (E45), I take the exit at Ponte Pattoli and turn right. I slowly pass the level crossing where, when it's closed, I see a colorful motorized train passing by, bringing the countryside kids to school in the morning and taking them back home for lunch. I continue straight and at the end, I reach an intersection. I turn left, keeping Unicredit agency always to my left and shortly after, the 24-hour self-service gas station. I carry on and cross the bridge over the Tiber River. At the first junction after the bridge, I turn right and pass through the ancient village of Ponte Pattoli. A bit further ahead, the road widens, and on the left, I see the church; I continue straight and take the uphill road towards Cordigliano. At the first left hairpin turn, I find a tall bell tower, and here, sometimes I meet a grandma struggling uphill to reach the cemetery a bit further ahead; I stop and offer her a ride, always well-received.

I continue climbing for a while on this peaceful winding road amidst woods and olive trees, driving slowly because often a hedgehog, a porcupine, or a deer can suddenly appear! Continuing to climb through the tiny village of Cordigliano, once past it, when I'm almost at the top, on the left, I see a large stone house and shortly after, a sign indicating Casamassima Agricultural Company; I don't take that turn but continue straight until I reach the top, where the road widens, and on the left, I see the shelter of the bus stop (L). There, I make a 180° right turn to take the uphill road where two signs indicate Montebagnolo and San Marino.

I take the road uphill for the first stretch, then it levels out. I go straight ahead, and at the end of the straight stretch, a series of curves start again, followed by a small straight with the sign for San Matteo (and via dei quattro cipressi on the left). I continue, and on my right, I see a small grove of young firs that look like paintbrushes. A bit further ahead, after a slight left curve, I see a brown tourist sign indicating Agriturismo La Fonte on my right. Fifty meters ahead, I see a dirt road where Marco has put up a handmade sign saying La Fonte with an arrow pointing to that dirt road.

From there, I drive along the dirt road for 3.3 kilometers (don't worry, it's better maintained than the Umbrian provincial roads!) during which the only junction I encounter is at the bend of the castle around a beautiful oak tree, where I keep to the right to continue along the "main" road and after continuing to descend for about 1 km, I arrive at La Fonte gate.

FROM THE SOUTH

Coming from the South (E45), I won't take the exit for Perugia. Instead, I'll keep going towards Cesena and get off at Ponte Felcino. I'll stick to the left to pass under the overpass, then after 50 meters, I'll turn right towards Perugia. I'll keep going STRAIGHT on the main road for a couple of kilometers. I'll spot an IP gas station on my left; I'll keep going straight and I'll see Gesenu company (if I don't see it, I'll definitely smell it because it's where they do the first collection of urban waste, and in the summer, it's quite the olfactory experience!). I'll continue straight for about 500 meters until I see a road on the right indicated by the sign for Montelaguardia. I'll take that road, and in front of me, I'll see a mural of a friendly sperm whale, and I'll start climbing for about 3 kilometers along the road that passes the soccer field with a giant hole in the center (subject of a photograph by my son Tobia that we used to decorate one of our apartments: L'Ulivo) and winds through 3 hairpin bends amidst gentle olive groves.

At the top of the climb, I'll arrive at the village of Montelaguardia. I'll pass through it all, seeing a big church on the left with a sign for CVA, then on the right, a small elementary school, and just after that, also on the right, the sign for L'INSOLITO CAFFÉ, a very welcoming bar/wine bar/pizzeria/stationery/kiosk, well-run by the owners Paolo and Rita who've always been very keen on sourcing extremely high-quality products, our trusted bar. Keep it in mind for breakfast, aperitifs, pizzas, or even just for grabbing newspapers and coffee.

After passing The Insolito Caffé, I'll keep going straight for about 500 meters passing the street dedicated to Gisa Giani (on my left) that always makes my daughter Bea smile, and I'll continue until I see the road widen on my right with a bus stop (L) shelter.

Ahead of me, there are two roads; I'll take the one going up on the left, indicated by signs for San Marino and Montebagnolo.

I'll take the road uphill for the first stretch, then it levels out. I'll go straight ahead, and at the end of the straight stretch, a series of curves start again, followed by a small straight with the sign for San Matteo (and via dei quattro cipressi on the left). I'll keep going and on my right, I'll see a small grove of young firs that to me look like paintbrushes. A bit further ahead, after a slight left curve, I'll see a brown tourist sign indicating Agriturismo La Fonte on my right. Fifty meters ahead, I'll see a dirt road where Marco put up a handmade sign saying "La Fonte" with an arrow pointing to that dirt road.

From there, I'll drive along the dirt road for 3.3 kilometers (don't worry, it's better maintained than the Umbrian provincial roads!) during which the only junction I'll encounter is at the bend of the castle around a beautiful oak tree; I'll keep to the right to continue along the "main" road, and after continuing to descend for about 1 km, I'll arrive at La Fonte gate.