

# Shopping with Lulu

by Jenny Schutz

**N**o one can be as savvy about how to "work" Lucca as someone who was born here and has lived here all their life. Where to find this or that, the best of it. Well, that's Lulu.

When we go out, she pulls me to the left, then left and right again to get on to the Fosso, then left again onto Via Elisa and down the street to a store called *Mediterraneo* at #43. This is where to find spectacular *mozzarella* and other fantastic goodies from Napoli. Owner *Ciro* always has a slice of *mortadella* or *prosciutto* for Lulu. She literally drags me in there. I'm waiting for his *rotolo* – heaven!

After a tearful goodbye to *Ciro*, Lulu takes me back down the street to the *Erboristeria Essenza* at #3 where the owner *Simonetta* is sure to have a healthy cookie or cracker for Lulu. Then I drag her out and

she drags me to the right, back down the Fosso to the *Madonna dello Stellario* to the bar called *Caffetteria La Piazzetta* across the street, for a little break from the shopping. She is met at the door by *Freccia*, the maître'd, who escorts her in. I have a *caffè* and Lulu gets right to work cleaning up the pastry crumbs on the floor.

Then it's on to see her friend *Giampiero* at his *frutta e verdura* store on *Via Della Fratta* #26. Lulu knows what beautiful fresh produce is and *Giampiero* always has something for her, a piece of carrot, some grapes, dried fruit or maybe a slice of apple.

In the evening we walk up on the Wall for a while and come down behind *San Frediano*. At the corner of the piazza and *Via Fillungo* is *Farmacia Giannini* and Lulu goes right to the door. A pharmacy? Yes! They sell cookies for people with special diets, like



*Caffetteria La Piazzetta*

gluten free. She has friends there and this time it's *Ughetta* who gives her a treat.

Back out on *Via Fillungo*, Lulu pulls me to the left onto *Via Mordini* to #8. If you think a *farmacia* is a crazy place for a dog to get a cookie, you'll appreciate that only those really in the know would think to go into the *Ghilardi Foto Studio*. *Dr. Dolittle*, a.k.a. *Lucio*, is behind the door of his shop with a supply of dog cookies.

We walk back home down *Mordini* onto *Via della Fratta* and pass *Gelateria Momo*, just opening for the season. Ah, tomorrow's another day...

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*Mediterraneo*

*Erboristeria Essenza*

*Frutta e Verdura*

*Farmacia Giannini*

*Ghilardi Foto Studio*

