



**MARQUIS UGO DI TUSCIA
THE FOUNDER OF MODERN TUSCANY
21 December**

Ugo Marquis di Tuscia, of Tuscany (953/4-1001), made Florence the centre of his government, transferring the court from Lucca, the traditional city seat of the marquises of Tuscany. An indissoluble link with his chosen city is still to be found in the colours of the Marquis's coat-of-arms, the white and red which have since become the heraldic colours of Florence. Ugo of Tuscany was a valiant warrior and outstanding for the equity of his rule. After his death, he was at length considered the prototype of the perfect prince. Dante himself, two centuries later, was to locate the "Great Baron" as he called him, in his *Paradise* (XVI, 127-129) and in 1481 Mino da Fiesole carved his tomb in the church of the Badia in Florence, which owed its foundation to the Marquis. The effigy of Ugo of Tuscany (now in the Uffizi Gallery) was painted in 1590 by Cristofano Allori for the monks of the Badia, who some years later, in 1618, commissioned another image, in marble, from Raffaele Petrucci, to be housed in the main cloister of the convent, where it remains to this day.

On the anniversary of the death of Ugo of Tuscany, the monks of the Badia have always celebrated a mass in his honour, attended by the citizens, and now also attended by representatives of the Municipal authorities and the Historic Procession of the Florentine Republic. On 21 December, the day dedicated to the marquis, the Florence City Council, in collaboration with those who continue to keep alive the memory of the figure of Ugo of Tuscany, wishes to involve both citizens and visitors in a series of initiatives organised both in the city and the surrounding area, in the sites connected with the Marquis's life. Each year study seminars are organised, and itineraries of a historic, religious and tourist nature, 'in the footsteps of Ugo'.