

## THE FAMILY CREST

The golden cross with thorns on a red field has always been the Guadagni coat of arms. It recalls the church of Croce alla Spina ("Cross with Thorn") in the town of S. Martino a Lubaco, where the Guadagni originated.

Often we find the Guadagni crest drawn on a tournament shield, held by a sitting leopard whose head is closed in a helmet. A silver unicorn head with the motto "Exaltabitur" (latin for "Shall be exalted") stands on the helmet. The motto was chosen by Vieri in 1409 when he was sent as commissary in the field against Ladislao, king of Naples. By his motto Vieri meant that he was going to be exalted by his loyal acting.

Sometimes the whole unicorn is represented on the helm. In this case it has a dragon wing on the back. On each point of the wing there is a feather. I saw a few Guadagni crests being held by a dragon, with the German motto "ich mach nicht" ( I can't do anything). The French branch of the family used to have two lions holding the crest.

Because they were adopted by the Torrigiani the Guadagni also took the former's crest. It consists of a blue shield with a silver tower with five "Guelph battlements", a door and a window, and three gold stars, one on top of the tower, the other two on either side.