

Fulvius is a Roman banker who lives in the city of Rome. At weekends he takes the coastal road down to the Bay of Naples to enjoy relaxing in his countryside villa. Fulvius earns a great deal of money as a banker, so he is able to afford to run an estate over 4 acres (an area equivalent to 600 parked cars or almost 3 football pitches). Fulvius' villa is grand: it has a set of heated baths, mosaics which decorate its floor, large reception and dining rooms for entertaining guests, and also vast grounds to grow fruit and vegetables.

This weekend he is having his guests Drusus and his wife Drusilla over for a dinner party. He asks his wife, Lucia, to check that the slaves have cleaned the grand dining room and that the menu is prepared for the evening. Lucia checks in with the cook who informs her that the vegetables, which have been grown on the vast estate they own, are fully prepared, but that they are still waiting on the meat to arrive from the hunting party. Fulvius and Lucia's son, Marcus, went out at dawn with a group of slaves in the hope to hunt down a boar. They are expecting him back any minute. Whilst they wait a group of female slaves enter the kitchen with baskets of grapes they have collected from the villa's vineyard and the cook starts to squash the grapes to prepare the wine in time for dinner.

An hour later Marcus and the hunting party have still not arrived - everyone has been listening out for the sound of hooves on the ground outside the stables. It must be a tricky hunt! Lucia, in charge of the household, makes the decision to send Clemens and Castor, two slaves who help in the kitchen, down to the river on the west of the estate to hunt for some fish which the cook can prepare in case the boar does not arrive on time. She is reluctant to slaughter any of the livestock which they rear on the land in case Marcus does return in time with game from the hunt.

Fulvius and Lucia dress for dinner. They are keen to impress Drusus and Drusilla, who have also travelled all the way from Rome to attend the dinner party. Drusus does not have a countryside villa of his own, but is keen to invest in one as he knows owning land is a very profitable business. The guests arrive and Fulvius chats with him about the benefits he has owning land, as well as the ploughing and farming he is able to do on top of growing his own grapes to make wine. As they are chatting, there is a loud clatter from the kitchen. Clemens appears and announces that Marcus and the hunting party have returned - hooray! The fish from the river will now be served as an appetiser, and cook has plenty of time to prepare the boar from the hunt as the grapes from the vineyard have produced enough wine for the guests to drink whilst they wait. The dinner party is a success!