



## Experience the Real Tuscany

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience life as a local in a beautiful private apartment in a genuine Tuscan farmhouse.
- Commence your journey of discovery in the spellbinding medieval villages of Arezzo and Anghiari.
- Immerse yourself in the history of Tuscany when you experience San Gimignano and Volterra up close and personal.
- Learn about the fascinating customs and traditions of an ageless Tuscan village.
- Lose yourself in the rural allure of Val D'orcia.
- Intrepidly explore the fascinating medieval city of Siena and the stunning surrounding landscape.
- Tour the world-famous vineyards and sample Italy's finest tipples.

**B= BREAKFAST L= LUNCH D=DINNER**

### ITINERARY

**Saturday: Collection from Florence Train Station D**



Your adventure will commence at the stunning Central Station of Florence, where you will be collected by our knowledgeable local driver. From the station, you will be shuttled

to your authentic Tuscan farmhouse base, where you will have a chance to explore the private apartment that you will call home for the next few days.

The farmhouse will give you the first glimpse of what awaits: peace, tranquillity, and stunning countryside vistas. You will also benefit from modern amenities such as a swimming pool, restaurant, laundry facilities, and full Wi-Fi access.

## Sunday: Discovering Arezzo and Anghiari **B, D**



The week will get off to a great start with a visit to the south-east towns of Arezzo and Anghiari, two of Tuscany's most beautiful areas. First on our itinerary will be Arezzo, where you will have an opportunity to meet a local historical guide who will let you in on the secrets of this fascinating historic town and once sworn enemy of Florence. Arezzo has a long and established history in the goldsmith trade, and this has contributed to its status as one of the wealthiest cities in Tuscany. While its Medieval town center was sadly devastated during the second world war, a large number of notable monuments, museums, and churches remain dotted throughout the town, giving visitors a chance to catch a glimpse of times gone by. Arezzo is perhaps most famous for the **Church of San Francesco**, in which you can find a mesmerizing Early Renaissance fresco cycle that depicts the *Legend of the True Cross* as painted by **Piero Della Francesca**.

After taking in the riches of the church, we will venture uphill to **Piazza Grande**; onward to the **Medicean Fortress**, a **cathedral** that was constructed in honor of San Donato; then back down to the **Roman Amphitheater** and the **Church of San Domenico**, where we will find Cimabue's wooden *Crucifix*.

Despite Arezzo's fascinating history and beautiful sights, it is seldom included on the itineraries of contemporary Tuscan tours. As such, you'll benefit from exploring the town away from large groups of tourists and sightseers while also getting up close and personal with its various hidden gems.

After lunch, we will head to another medieval treasure, Anghiari, which is positioned in the Tuscan Valtiberina valley, approximately 30 km from Arezzo toward the border of Umbria and Tuscany. Anghiari is a distinctive village that is perched atop a striking hill that has formed over centuries with the Tiber River at its base. Surrounded by imposing 13<sup>th</sup>-century walls, Anghiari's steep medieval history is preserved in a unique and alluring way. Each of the inimitable stone houses that line the roads feature

characteristic small windows and wooden shutters. The doorways and balconies of the homes are adorned with bright floral displays, giving the streets of Anghiari a vibrant and charming beauty. Anghiari is widely regarded as one of Italy's most beautiful villages and has earned an **Orange Flag** distinction from the Italian Touring Club, which described it as a "*medieval treasure lying between the Arno and Tiber.*"

When we've explored all Anghiari has to offer, we'll head back toward the farmhouse. However, along the way, you'll have a chance to visit a customary local winery in the Chianti Aretino area, where we'll have our first taste of some of the famous wines of Tuscany.

## Monday: Exploring San Gimignano and Volterra **B, L**



Next on our visit to some of Tuscany's most enthralling areas will be a visit to San Gimignano, a little walled village that sits serenely halfway between Siena and **Florence** and **Siena**. San Gimignano is renowned for its captivating medieval turrets that tower above the other medieval buildings and provide visitors with an unforgettable view of the city and the surrounding valley.

The tower houses are what remains of the history of San Gimignano's patrician families who, at the pinnacle of the town's glory, constructed in the region of 72 towers as a testament to their prosperity and authority. While only 14 of the original towers remain, the town maintains its medieval aesthetic and unique façade.

Formally named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1990, San Gimignano's patrician families provide intrepid travelers with an ideal opportunity to immerse themselves in history while also providing visitors with a chance to sample some of the area's famous produce, including **saffron** and the **Vernaccia di San Gimignano** white wine.

We'll ensure that you get plenty of time to discover the remarkable village of San Gimignano independently before your tour manager takes you to enjoy a spot of lunch of local products and delicious wines at a family-run winery.

The next place on our itinerary will be Volterra, a delightful town that is located in the heart of the **province of Pisa**, relatively close to **Florence**, **Siena**, and the coast. Here, we will discover the town's renowned Etruscan origins and the many remnants of this fascinating era in history. Volterra is particularly intriguing due to its strange layout, which is directly reminiscent of its Etruscan history. Today, you can still see some of the town's **magnificent defensive walls, which were constructed as far back as the 5th to 4th centuries BC**. Notable sites include the **Porta dell'Arco** and **Porta Diana** city

gates; the **Acropolis**, which houses numerous buildings and the groundworks of two ancient temples; and various **Roman remains**, such as the **Roman Theatre**, which is constructed in the shape of a natural amphitheater and dates back to the first century AC.

## Tuesday: Cooking class and the unforgettable “sagre” summer festivals **B, D**



On day three of the tour, you can put your feet up and enjoy a day of relaxation around the farm. Alternatively, we'll alight the train and spend the day discovering the delights of Firenze. In the evening, you will have a chance to participate in a cooking class under the watchful eye of a local chef, who will help you prepare a delicious local dinner. If you're fortunate to be in Tuscany between the festival months of June and September, we'll head out to join the locals as they celebrate their energetic summer festivals.

## Wednesday: The Chianti Region **B, L,**



If it's the lure of delectable wines that has drawn you to Tuscany, you won't be disappointed when we spend the next day of our trip sampling some of the region's most famous wines. Today, we will immerse ourselves in the cherished history of Chianti's wine production when we visit some very special cellars, wineries, and castles. In

addition to tasting the fine wines of the region, you'll also have a chance to savor Chianti's delicious extra virgin olive oil.

After indulging in the distinctive produce of Chianti, we will pay a visit to Greve, the home of Tuscany's most renowned butcher and deli shop... another great place to sample Tuscany's delicious wares!

On the way back to the farmhouse, we'll take a detour to a local family-run trattoria, at which you'll indulge in an unforgettable Tuscan supper.

## Thursday: Hot Springs, Montalcino, and Montichiello **B, D**



Today is all about relaxation as we visit one of Tuscany's most naturally beautiful hot springs.

We'll start the day by driving to the 'Bagni di San Filippo' Natural Spring, which is located in the area of Val D'orcia in the proximity of the town of Bagni San Filippo. Here, you'll lose yourself amid the waterfalls, calciferous formations, and small pools of hot water. Venture deeper along the paths, and you'll be met with an immense calcium formation that is known affectionately as the "White Whale." The springs swell up from the ground below at a temperature of 48°C. Take a dip and relax! Alternatively, you can pamper yourself and enjoy one of the various spa treatments that the Spa (Terme San Filippo) has on offer.

The various services on offer at Terme San Filippo span a large natural parkland that features hot water canals and the characteristic vegetation of the Val D'Orcia. The thermal treatments that are available include mud baths, spa baths, and a variety of aerosol inhalation therapies. There is also face and body treatments and specialized beauty products on offer. After lunch, you can take a quick shower at the Spa center before preparing yourself for another afternoon of wine tasting in Montalcino, where you will have a chance to learn all about the "Brunello" red wine and visit the beautiful village of Montichiello.

You will be transported back to the farmhouse base in the late afternoon, so you have a chance to take a short break before enjoying a sumptuous Tuscan dinner in a local trattoria or at the farmhouse itself.

## Friday: Siena and Monteriggioni **B, D**



The last day of the tour will involve a visit to the picturesque town of Siena where we will meet up with a local historical tour guide to learn all about the city's fascinating secrets. Siena has a reputation for being Italy's finest medieval city, and it's easy to see why. At the heart of Siena, we find the **Il Campo** central piazza, which is famous throughout the world for the Palio run that is held here twice every summer. Fans of the James Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*, will vividly recall the images of the Siena and Palio that appeared in the film. The city spans three hills, which meet in the immense Piazza del Campo, where the Roman forum once lay. The piazza was rebuilt during the rule of the quasi-democratic group Council of Nine between 1287 and 1355. The resulting design portrays the nine sections of the fan-like brick pavement of the piazza to represent the council, which combine to symbolize the Madonna's cloak, Siena's protector. The red Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia tower dominate the Campo. Like the Piazza del Campo, the Duomo of Siena and the Palazzo Pubblico were constructed during the rule of the Council of Nine. Much like the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence, the civic palace, which was developed between 1297 and 1310, is home to the city's municipal offices to this day. Entrances to the Torre del Mangia and the Civic Museum can be found in its courtyard. If you're feeling particularly energetic, you can ascend the 500+ steps to enjoy a jaw-dropping view of Siena and the surrounding landscape.

In the afternoon, we will progress to Monteriggioni, one of the territory's most notable walled castles. Sitting atop a hill that gracefully emerges from the surrounding countryside between the beautiful city of Siena and Colle Val d'Elsa, the Monteriggioni is immaculately preserved as though time has stood still. Its seamless circular perimeter takes on the appearance of a manmade construction; however, it was crafted according to the curves of the natural ground. The complete fortified wall consists of 14 towers, which were once patrolled by the guards, and two gates: The Franca or Romea Gate, which faces Rome, and the Florentine Gate, which is named such due to its position facing toward Florence.

After a fascinating day exploring these historical marvels, we will return to the farmhouse accommodation for a final Tuscan dinner together.

## Saturday: Drop off at Florence train Station **B**

Breakfast → Drop off

We will end the tour with a hearty breakfast before parting ways at Florence train station.

## PRICES 2019, DEPOSITS, AND PAYMENTS:

April – May – July – August – October USD 2340,00 per person. **ALL INCLUSIVE** (check the details below)

June- September USD 2440,00 per person. **ALL INCLUSIVE** (check the details below)

A surcharge of **400 USD** per person will be apply if you request a “private tour”.

Departures-Guarantee with a minimum of 2 guests

From the 27 April-19 Oct 2019: Saturdays

Starts/Ends in Florence train station

Max 8 people

(taxes included, US dollars price variable due to dollar conversion). Single supplement: **USD 200,00**

Once we have checked the regular documentation included your travel insurance, 25% deposit of the overall tour cost, is required. No booking will be reserved until the prescribed deposit is received.

Balance of the payment will be due within 30 days of booking confirmation.

Deposits and balance of payments are accepted by bank transfer or credit card via Paypal with a 4% surcharge.

A payment of a deposit indicates an acceptance of all the conditions.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES:

All tours are based on a Saturday to Saturday stay with us tour

Pick up at Florence Station – Click here for more information: [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)

- Check IN: 3.00 pm
- Check OUT: 10.00 am

Contact us if you need advice to reach the pickup point

## TOUR GROUPS:

Our tour groups have been designed for a group of minimum 2 people and no more than 8 people per week to ensure that client needs and enjoyment is always our top priority.

## INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:

1. Private Villa/Apartment in a 4star farmhouse accommodation.
2. All continental breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners in local traditional restaurants with set menu composed and house wine included.
3. Transfer from the local station to the accommodation and back.
4. Daily transfer with a comfortable minivan or car from the accommodation to the different locations of the tour and back
5. Bi-Lingual Hosts for the duration of your tour
6. 6 day tours to itinerary locations
7. On arrival at each location: remain as a group with tour leaders, alternatively explore independently and re-group at a pre-arranged time and location
8. Wine tasting at selected vineyards/ establishments
9. Two historical local tour guide for Arezzo and Siena
10. One cooking class at the farmhouse with the chef Pasquale
11. GST, Tax, Tolls, Petrol

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

All items not detailed in inclusions

Personal spending

All transfers other than to the local train station

1. Airfares
2. Airport taxes
3. Travel insurance.
4. Entry fees to museums/galleries and other places wherever entry fees apply
5. All lunches and meals not specifically listed above.
6. All personal expenditure.
7. Refer to specific tour.

## OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Once the tour has been booked, we will send a form with all the details of the tour day per day included extra activities you might be interested.

Activities beyond the specified tours listed on this website are subject to additional costs.