



## Experience of 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, tranquility, 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. 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, D**



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, Florence **B, D**



On the third day of our tour, you can choose between relaxing at the farm or we can organize an extra day tour in Florence upon request. If you are interested on visiting museums, churches or any particular place in any city, it is advisable to inform us in advance as they require reservations in advance. Please, enquire to get a quote. In the evening you can enjoying a cooking class with our local chef, with whom you will prepare dinner.

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



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!

## Thursday: Hot Springs, Montalcino, Val D'Orcia **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!

In the afternoon, you can start preparing yourself for another wine tasting experience in Montalcino, where you will have a chance to learn all about the "Brunello" red wine.

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.

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



The last day of the tour will involve a visit to the picturesque town of Siena. 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 2020, DEPOSITS, AND PAYMENTS:

**April – October USD 2670,00 per person. Half Board. Fully Escorted tour.**

A surcharge of **700 USD** per person will be apply if you request a “private tour”.

**Departures-Guarantee with a minimum of 2 quests**

**From the 18 April-17 Oct 2020: Saturdays**

**Starts/Ends in Florence train station**

**Max 8 people**

Single supplement: **USD 300,00**

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, all dinners at the farmhouse 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. (9 hours day tour service)
5. Bi-Lingual Hosts for the duration of your tour
6. 5 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. One cooking class at the farmhouse with the chef Pasquale
10. 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:

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

**HISTORICAL TOUR GUIDE.** If you are interested to learn more about art and history of any city we can engage a professional local tour guide who can explain you deeply the history and the culture of this area. The price is \$95,00 USD per person (min 2 people). Max 3 hours service. If you want included the tour guide, please, let us know at least two weeks before the starting of the tour.

**DINNER OUT WITH THE LOCAL:** After each day tour, you can choose between having dinner at the farmhouse (included on the package) or going out to a family-run trattoria near the accommodation for a different traditional Tuscany food experience with the local guide. You can organize the dinner out directly to your local guide during the tour. The price for this extra service (pick-up and drop off) is \$58,00 USD per person (minimum 2 pax). The price doesn't include the dinner out.