



A Tuscan Harvest – 8 Days ***Chianti, Castles and Tuscan Cooking***

This is classic Tuscany with the tour celebrating the region's unmistakable landscape, abundant vineyards and strong culinary heritage. The hikes take us off the beaten track to remote castles, formal gardens and the vineyards of Chianti where we meet local winemakers to taste their wines and olive oils. A free day in Siena offers the chance to explore this medieval jewel and see the Piazza del Campo where the legendary Palio horse-race is run twice each year. We have fun evening with a local chef making our own pasta in the sixteenth century kitchen of a private country villa. We get to enjoy a variety of fabulous restaurants along the way which showcase the very best of Tuscan cooking and the region's world-famous wines. New for 2021 is dinner on the final evening in the outstanding Arnolfo Ristorante – one of very few 2 Michelin-starred restaurants in Italy.

What is included?

- **7 nights' accommodation** in two charming hotels
- **Two experienced and knowledgeable guides** who will look after your every need and bring this stunning area to life
- **All meals including wine**
- **Gourmet picnic lunches** each day and snacks en route
- Dinner in a variety of **superb restaurants**, including Arnolfo Ristorante with 2 Michelin stars
- All **Museum visits** and wine tastings as per itinerary
- **Support vehicle**, enabling you to walk as little or as much of the trail as you please
- **Transport to/from Pisa** in air-conditioned minibus
- Comprehensive **pre-trip information**.

Tour Highlights

Beautiful hiking in classic Tuscan countryside

Visit to Siena with private guided tour

Cooking class with delightful local chef and dinner in one of Italy's finest restaurants

Accommodation

Villa Le Barone: Historic family-owned villa in the heart of Chianti with lovely gardens and pool

Palazzo San Lorenzo: Four-star hotel with spa facilities, formerly a noble residence, in the medieval town of Colle Val d'Elsa



Itinerary

Day 1

We meet at Pisa Airport (Arrivals) at 9.30 am or Pisa Centrale Train Station at 10am. Our first stop is in the village of Passignano with its medieval abbey nestled amongst the vines. After a tour of the abbey we enjoy a delicious lunch in a local Osteria. In the afternoon we continue our drive through Chianti to our beautiful hotel just outside the town of Panzano, where we stay for 4 nights. Time to settle in and perhaps have a dip in the pool before enjoying a welcome drink in the garden and dinner in the hotel.



Day 2



After breakfast we walk into Panzano and experience its small, lively market and delightful shops, including the now famous Chianti Butcher – Dario Cecchini. From the village we continue on through rolling countryside, following farm trails and quiet country lanes with panoramic views of northern Chianti. We picnic in the countryside before arriving in the piazza of the bustling town of Greve-in-Chianti. Time to explore before we drive back to the hotel. Dinner in a restaurant in Panzano this evening. **(8.5km/5.2 miles)**

Day 3

We head out from the hotel on foot. Firstly we enjoy expansive views over stunning scenery before following a quiet trail through the woods, climbing gently to a small hamlet. We visit a boutique wine producer for a private tasting before a leisurely lunch at the renowned Ristorante Lamole, high in the Chianti hills. We return to the hotel by minibus and there is time to relax in the gardens. In the evening we stroll to a charming church nearby with magnificent views over the vineyards bathed in the evening sunshine. After our long, lazy lunch we enjoy a light evening picnic as the sun is setting. **(7.5km/4.6 miles)**



Day 4



Today we hike in the more rugged region of Eastern Chianti. We pass through perfectly preserved villages en route to the magnificent Brolio Castle, owned by the Ricasoli family since the 11th century. Brolio Castle provides stunning views to Siena, the Tuscan Crete to the south and to the Chianti hills to the west. We visit the gardens and family chapel before returning to our hotel. Dinner in the hotel restaurant **(14.5km/9 miles)**

Day 5

We depart Villa Le Barone after breakfast and drive to **Siena**. Explore this **World Heritage city** with a private tour of some of the lesser-known artistic gems. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a lively trattoria in the heart of the medieval city. Free time in the afternoon to shop and visit the sights before we head to Colle Val d'Elsa, and check in to the four-star Palazzo San Lorenzo in the old part of town where we stay for 3 nights. Dinner in a local restaurant this evening in Colle.



Day 6



Today we visit the beautiful gardens of Celsa, a privately owned castle enjoying sweeping views to Siena. From here our walk takes us through the Montagnola hills. We see the gardens of Villa Cetinale and a remote country church before passing areas once mined for the precious marble used in Siena's cathedral. We have our picnic in a peaceful hamlet before descending through the woods with views across to San Gimignano. Later in the day we enjoy a fabulous hands-on cooking class with a local chef and dine on the fruits of our labour, matched with delicious wines from Chianti Colli Senesi. **(13 km/8 miles)**

Day 7

Our final hike follows a section of the famous medieval pilgrim route, the Via Francigena, passing vestiges of castles and abbeys as we travel through history on foot. Picnic in the countryside before heading to a local gelateria for the best ice cream in the region and maybe a coffee too! In the afternoon we follow a pretty trail along the course of the river Elsa to arrive back in Colle Val d'Elsa. Our final dinner is at the magnificent Arnolfo Ristorante, one of very few restaurants in Italy with two Michelin Stars. **(16km /10 miles)**



Day 8

We return to Pisa Airport for 11 o'clock, followed by Pisa Centrale Train Station.

Walking

Shortest day: 7.5km/4.6 miles

Longest day: 16km/10 miles

There are 5 days of walking on the trip and one free day. In terms of terrain this is one of our gentler itineraries. There are some long days of hiking, however, as on all tours there is always van support with the opportunity to walk a half-day and spend the afternoon at the hotel. We walk on strade bianche (gravel roads), through vineyards, along woodland tracks and quiet tarmac roads. This area of Tuscany is one of rolling hills with some significant ups and downs. Sturdy walking boots, with good ankle support, are recommended. Many guests like to hike with walking poles and these are very useful, especially on steeper sections and on the occasional stony or muddy descent.

Weather

Autumn is a delightful time to walk in Tuscany. Warm, sunny days with cooler mornings and evenings.

Max 21° Min 15°. Rainfall 55mm

Useful links on our website

[Pisa](#) City page

[Siena](#) City Page

[Lamole Restaurant](#) Blog Post

See all our [Tour Dates](#) for this and other tours

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