



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. 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 guided tour of artistic gems

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 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



We walk into Panzano and experience its small weekly market and delightful shops, including the now famous Chianti Butcher – Dario Cecchini. From the village we follow quiet country lanes and farm trails with panoramic views of northern Chianti. We picnic in the countryside by a remote chapel. In the afternoon a short walk brings us back to the hotel. Later in the day we drive to the lively town of Greve-in-Chianti. There is time to visit the renowned wine cellars and browse the shops before dinner in a local restaurant.
(8km/5miles)

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.
(8.5km/5.2 miles)



Day 4

We head out on foot from the hotel. Our trail leads across rolling hills from castle to castle, passing through vineyards and olive groves with far-reaching views towards Florence and the Apennine mountains. We picnic near a fortified village overlooking the countryside before continuing along an ancient trail through the woods to arrive at the imposing castle of Verrazzano. We visit the gardens and wine cellars and enjoy a glass of wine before returning to our hotel. Dinner in the hotel restaurant. **(14 km/9 miles)**



Day 5



We depart Villa Le Barone after breakfast and drive to **Siena**. We explore this **World Heritage city** with a tour of some of the lesser-known artistic gems and enjoy a delicious lunch at a lively trattoria. Free time in the afternoon to shop and visit the sights before we head to Colle Val d'Elsa. We 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

A beautiful walk through pretty farmland takes us past some lovely villas and farmhouses with fabulous views to San Gimignano and beyond. We picnic in the gardens of a private villa before returning to the hotel. Later in the day we drive to a charming country villa to enjoy a fabulous hands-on cooking class with a local chef. We taste some local wines from the Chianti Colli Senesi and dine on the fruits of our labour. **(10km/6.2miles)**



Day 7

Our final hike follows a section of the famous medieval pilgrim route the Via Francigena. We hike from the fortified village of Monteriggioni towards Colle Val d'Elsa, 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 there is time to explore the beautiful medieval town of Colle Val d'Elsa with its craft shops and glass workshops. Our final dinner is at the magnificent Arnolfo Ristorante, one of very few restaurants in Italy with two Michelin Stars. **(10km/6.2miles)**



Day 8

We return to Pisa Centrale Train Station for 11 am.

Walking

Shortest day: 8km/5 miles

Longest day: 14km/9 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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