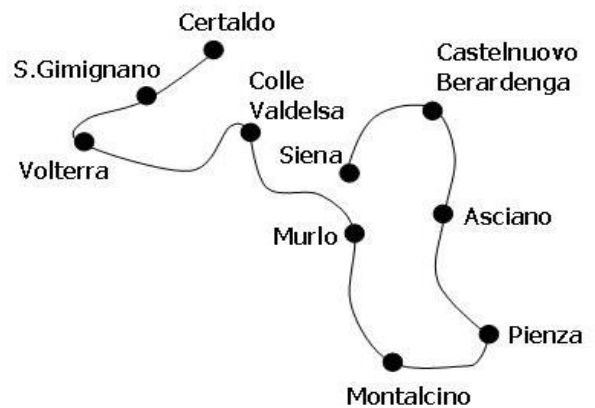


Cycling Europe

SIENA & TUSCANY

ITALY'S SENSORY SENSATION

SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR, 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS 2020 - 315 KMS



The Tuscan countryside is a patchwork of vineyards and olive groves, ancient forests, fields of wheat and barley. There are wonderful views over rolling hills, many crowned with medieval cities and villages – San Gimignano, Pienza, Monteriggioni and Colle Val D'Elsa. There is wealth of art and architecture which all starts on your first day in Siena, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. Your journey takes you through the Val d'Arno, Val d'Orcia, the old Roman Road - the Via Francigena, and Chianti.

You will be cycling through some of Italy's best wine-producing areas with many opportunities to taste at the friendly 'enoticas' - Brunello from Montalcino, Vino Nobile from Montepulciano and Chianti from Chianti of course! In the evenings enjoy typical Tuscan fare of game, steaks, wild mushrooms, beans, truffles and homemade pasta. Sight, taste, smell, touch - sound-this tour is a sensory sensation!

Grade / Terrain

Grade is moderate but expect some steep climbs. Cycling on country roads, gravel roads and short stretches of main roads near towns. Tuscany is hilly and the route has been planned to avoid as many hills as possible. There are 5 – 15 km per day on dirt roads.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Siena

Arrive in Siena – afternoon free for exploring the city. Visit the fabulous Duomo with its marble floors and the Piazza del Campo where the centuries-old Palio horse races are held annually.

Day 2: Siena – Castelnuovo Berardenga – Asciano

Cycle through the typical southern Siena landscape known as the 'crete senesi'. You reach the southern boundary of the Chianti region at Castelnuovo. The name Castelnuovo means new castle and dates back to 1366 when the Siena Republic ordered its construction. Allow time to visit some of the many historical and cultural monuments Castelnuovo has to offer such as the Romanesque church of Pieve A Pacino, the medieval village of San Gusme and its fine villas. Continue to Asciano.

Cycling: 49km – Ascents up to 830 m



Day 3: Asciano – Monte Oliveto – San Giovanni d'Asso - Pienza

Cycle to the great abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore where an ancient order of monks survives. There are some fine Renaissance frescoes as well as the beautiful proportions of the abbey itself. Pienza is a wonderfully preserved tiny Renaissance 'city' with a fine Duomo, museum and Palazzo.

Cycling: 52km – Ascents up to 800 m



Day 4: Pienza – San Quirico – Montalcino - Buonconvento – Murlo

Cycle along *Via Panoramique* on *strada bianca* to the medieval walled town of San Quirico, which has a 12C collegiate church with a stunning façade. Steep climb to Montalcino among the famous Brunello vines. This superbly sited medieval town has a castle (1361) and Civic Museum. Delightful roll down to the tiny town of Murlo.

Cycling: 56km – Ascents up to 750 m.

Day 5: Murlo – Radi – Sovicille – Monteriggioni – Colle Val D'Elsa

Cycle the outskirts of Siena through woods and open farmland with views towards Siena. Stop at the tiny 13C walled village of Monteriggioni with its distinctive watchtowers. Continue to Colle Val D'Elsa and enjoy an evening stroll through the cobbled streets of the charming Old Town.

Cycling: 64km – Ascents to 680 m.



Day 6: Colle Val D'Elsa – Casole d'Elsa – Ulignano – Volterra

Cross a valley and two ridges to Volterra. Explore its' medieval streets, Etruscan walls, gateways and tombs. It has an outstanding archaeological museum and art gallery, cathedral and alabaster workshops that Volterra is known for.

Cycling: 47km – Ascents to 1110 m.

Day 7: Volterra – Il Castagno –San Gimignano -Certaldo (train to Siena)

Cycle through forests and over hills of almost unchanged medieval landscape to San Gimignano a walled medieval town whose 'towers' are a landmark. Allow time to wander the charming streets and visit the Romanesque Collegiata adorned with fine frescoes, Palazzo del Poppolo and church of Sant Agostino. Continue to the hill town of Certaldo. Transfer by train to Siena (ticket not included).

Cycling: 47km – Ascents to 600 m.

Day 8: Siena

Arrangements terminate after breakfast in Siena.



2020 SELF-GUIDED SCHEDULE

Standard (6 nights 3*, 1 night 4* accommodation)

Start any day from 01 March to 15 October

Deluxe (6 nights 4*, 1 night in 3* with pool + superior room accommodation)

Start any day from 28 March to 10 October.

2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

	Standard	Deluxe
Double / Twin Share	€850	€950
Single Supplement	€180	€245
High Season Surcharge 10 Apr-31 Aug	€ 40	€ 45

BIKE COST

24 speed with 1 pannier & tool kit	€ 135
E-Bike with 1 pannier & tool kit	€ 250

2020 TOUR COST INCLUDES

- 7 night's accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Luggage transfers between tour hotels
- Detailed cycling notes and route maps (1 set per room)
- GPS tracks available to download to your device
- 7 day service hotline

NOT INCLUDED:

- City Tourist Tax: €2-4 Euros per night, per person, to be paid direct to hotel
- Entrance fees to churches & museums
- Train ticket from Certaldo to Siena

Book through:

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