

Cycling Europe

FLORENCE TO SIENA TO PISA

SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 2019

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS 315 KMS



Discover the highlights of the Tuscan countryside on this route between two important art cities. Start in Florence, the cradle of Renaissance and cycle in the heart of Tuscany, the famous Chianti and one of Italy's best wine-producing areas. Siena, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, waits with its' wealth of art and architecture. 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 towns and villages like San Gimignano, Colle Val d'Elsa and Volterra, just waiting to be discovered. Along the way enjoy typical Tuscan fare of game, steaks, wild mushrooms, beans, truffles and homemade pasta plus opportunities to taste the rich reds and crisp white wines at the friendly 'enoticas'. Truly a tour to delight the senses!

Grade / Terrain

Moderate to energetic with lots of hills. Cycling on asphalt roads and a few gravel country roads.

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8
Difference in height, in ascent	x	670	700	610	170	990	140	x
Difference in height, in descent	x	500	540	710	360	620	630	x
KM	x	44	31	41	27	46	54	x

ITINERARY

Day 1: Florence

Arrive in Florence, city of medieval and Renaissance art.

Day 2: Florence – Greve in Chianti 44 km

Today your adventure leads you through the heart of the Tuscany which is rich in art, scents and traditions. Depart Florence to Impruneta, a town of terracotta art, where you can visit ancient villas and the Basilica. After approximately 10 km you will reach Mercatale, a small town surrounded by the Chianti hills. Here, you can taste three wine varieties and other products in the wine cellar of Palagio Castle. Arrive Greve in Chianti whose main public square is an irregular triangle shape.

Day 3: Greve in Chianti – Radda in Chianti 31 km

Today you will discover one of the best known areas of Tuscany: "strada del vino" (the road of wines). Depart Greve and cycle to the fortified medieval village of Montefioralle dominating Greve. Stop enroute in the splendid village of Panzano, then reach Radda in Chianti. The Classic Chianti, situated between Florence and Siena, appears like a hilly landscape varied and colourful. Here the famous wine has been produced since Etruscan times. In Radda in Chianti it is possible to admire the remains of the walls and medieval towers of the Pretorio Palace.



Day 4: Radda in Chianti - Siena 41 km

Today cycle from Radda in Chianti to Siena. The first stop will be at the Meleto's Castle, an ancient fortification transformed into a magnificent typical villa of the Tuscan countryside. Cycle to the fortified village of Castagnoli then continue until the famous Castle of Brolio. Here you can have a tasting in the Ricasoli wine cellar. In the afternoon you'll reach Siena, famous for its annual Palio horse race held in the main piazza. In Siena there are some of the most remarkable monuments in Italy: Piazza del Campo and Public Palace; Buonsignori Palace with the National Pinacoteca (where you can admire pictures of Duccio, Lorenzetti, S. Martini etc); the Cathedral built from the 12th century with a façade of white and dark-green marble; the Piccolomini Library; the Baptistry and the Museum of Metropolitan Work.



Siena - Piazza del Campo



Siena Duomo

Day 5: Siena – Colle Val d'Elsa 27 km

Leaving Siena, cycle over small hills and through little villages such as Sovicille, before reaching Abbadia a Isola, the ancient Via Francigena (Path To Rome) that flanks Mount Maggio. Along the way you can see Monteriggioni's castle, whose "cerchia tonda", approximately 570 m in diameter, was noticed by Dante. Arrive Abbadia a Isola, The town was an important place of rest

along the Via Francigena. Also notable is its church, which has a similar entrance to that of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Continue to Colle Val d' Elsa, an ancient Etruscan town allied since 1100 to Florence against Siena. There has been a great development from 1400 when the making of glass began, taking advantage of the force of river Elsa. It may be possible to visit a factory which manufactures crystal.



San Gimignano



Piazza Volterra

Day 6: Colle Val d'Elsa - Volterra 46 km

From Colle Val d'Elsa cycle to hilltop San Gimignano. It is a splendid example of a well-preserved Medieval city that is distinctive due to its four landmark towers. The walled town's thoroughfares are formed in a cross; from north to south, from Porte Saint Giovanni to Porte Saint Matteo, and east to west, from the Hill of the Tower to the Hill of Montestaffoli. The Via Francigena passes right through the town. Late afternoon arrive in Volterra, a city with over 3,000 years of history. Volterra is well known for its alabaster workshops. You can visit the Acropolis, the Roman theatre and the walls around the historical centre.



Day 7: Volterra - Pisa 54 km

Depart Volterra to Ghizzano, a village surrounded by vineyards. Continue along a beautiful route to reach Calcinaia on the Arno River which you follow to the confluence of the Era and Arno Rivers to reach Pontedera from where you take a short train trip to Pisa, city of the Leaning Tower.



Day 8: Pisa After breakfast the tour ends. Free time to visit the city: the Cathedral, the Baptistery and the famous Leaning Tower.

2019 SELF-GUIDED SCHEDULE

Depart every Saturday from April to October

2019 COST PER PERSON IN EURO

	Standard 3*	Deluxe 4*
Double / Twin Share	€865	€1189
Single Supplement	€220	€ 475
Extra night Florence (Double/Twin)	€ 74	€ 96/135
Extra night Pisa (Double/Twin)	€ 70	€ 84
Single cost on request		

BIKE COST

21 speed	€ 80
E-Bike	€ 200
Helmet	€ 15

2019 TOUR COST INCLUDES

- 7 night's accommodation, with ensuite
- Breakfast daily
- Tour Briefing Day 2 - 9.30am - information on tour and receive bikes
- Luggage transfers between tour hotels
- **GPS tracks via App, with tour map, itinerary, points of interest and services**
- 7 day service hotline
- Deluxe Category only – round trip taxi fare Hotel-Greve in Chianti City Centre

NOT INCLUDED:

- Entrance fees
- Train ticket from Pontedera to Pisa
- Tourist taxes
- **Paper Road Book – can be purchased in advance - €15**

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