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## TOUR ITINERARY



Europe / Italy / Tuscany

# **Classic Tuscany Bike Tour**

Essential Italy: What Locals Love Beyond Siena and Florence

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn the family recipes that have been handed down over generations as you cook with our friend Lina in her 15th-century home
- Spend a night in historic Pienza, a place of architectural heritage named for the Pope who made it his mission to transform the town into an ideal Renaissance city
- Pedal through UNESCO-recognized landscapes of wheat fields where scenes from *Gladiator* were famously filmed
- Meet Paolo and his mother at their olive mill for a home-cooked lunch and olive oil tasting featuring products grown on the farm





### ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

#### **Arrival Details Departure Details** Airport City: Airport City: Rome or Florence, Italy Rome or Florence, Italy Pick-Up Location: **Drop-Off Location: Chiusi Train Station** Florence Piazzale Michelangelo Pick-Up Time: Drop-Off Time: 0 0 11:00 am 1:30 pm

**NOTE:** DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

#### **Emergency Assistance**

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or **emergency@duvine.com**.



#### TOUR ITINERARY

#### **Tour By Day**

DAY 1

La Dolce Vita

Meet your guides at the Chiusi train station for a transfer to the tiny village of Montefollonico. Here, an authentic Tuscan welcome awaits with lunch on the scenic terrace of a centuries-old olive mill. After, get fitted on your bike and set off on a ride through the classic Tuscan countryside—you'll feel as though you've traveled back to the 13th century pedaling on the cobbled streets of tiny Petroio and greeting locals as they tend their olive groves. Choose your own adventure with longer or shorter ride options that lead to our boutique hotel in the heart of Pienza, tucked in amongst the town's Renaissance architecture. This evening, watch the sun set over the Tuscan hills as we dine *al fresco* on the terrace of a local organic farm.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner Destinations: Pienza, Petroio Accomplished: 19 miles / 29 km, elevation gain: 1,919 feet / 585 meters Shorter Option: 14 miles / 22 km, elevation gain: 1,332 feet / 406 meters Accommodations: Bandita Townhouse

#### DAY 2

## Montalcino: Castles, Brunello, and Home-Cooking

Set off riding through the Val d'Orcia, an area so beautiful that UNESCO designated it a World Heritage Site—you may also recognize it from the movie *Gladiator*'s famous wheat field scene. Climb up to the craggy medieval fortress of Castiglione for a coffee stop (a key component of Italian cycling culture), then enjoy an endless downhill through the olive groves. The final push brings us to our favorite Brunello winery, where the reward for our efforts is a gorgeous tasting lunch. Spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool or getting pampered at the spa of our five-star castle hotel. This evening we'll head into Montalcino for a cooking class and dinner in the 15th-century home of our friend Lina.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner Destinations: Montichiello, Castiglione d'Orcia, Montalcino Accomplished: 24 miles / 39 km, elevation gain: 2,247 feet / 685 meters Longer Option: 38 miles / 62 km, elevation gain: 3,487 feet / 1,063 meters Accommodations: Castello di Velona

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## <sup>DAY</sup><sub>3</sub> Hilltown Loop

Today's loop ride begins with a climb to Montalcino, followed by a downhill section through vineyards into the Asso Valley (home to some of Italy's finest truffles). Pedal along the valley floor, then follow a scenic ridgeline to our friend Paolo's olive mill for lunch cooked by his mother and a tasting of organic olive oil. After lunch, revel in majestic views towards the dormant volcano of Monte Amiata as we pedal to medieval San Quirico. From here, complete the full loop ride or opt for a quick shuttle back to the hotel. This evening, treat yourself to some rest and relaxation at the hotel before another satisfying dinner.

#### Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations**: Montalcino, San Giovanni d'Asso, Castelmuzio, San Quirico **Accomplished**: 33 miles / 53 km, elevation gain: 2,893 feet / 882 meters **Longer Option:** 50 miles / 81 km, elevation gain: 4,497 feet / 1,371 meters **Accommodations: Castello di Velona** 

#### DAY 4

## Across the Crete Senesi: Monks and Masterpieces

Say goodbye to the Castello di Velona as we ride through the mystical morning light that bathes the Romanesque Abbey of Sant'Antimo. Pedal across the Brunello region before we stop to visit the Renaissance frescoes at the Abbey of Monte Oliveto. Crossing into Chianti Classico country, the views turn positively panoramic, and we'll pedal through the wide-open landscapes of the *Crete Senesi* to a well-earned lunch at a family-run winery. Tonight, spend the evening in Siena as you wish: dine on your own, explore the medieval city, or have dinner right at our hotel.

#### Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

**Destinations**: Buonconvento, Monte Oliveto, Asciano, Siena **Accomplished**: 29 miles / 46 km, elevation gain: 2,083 feet / 635 meters **Longer Option:** 48 miles / 77 km, elevation gain: 3,972 feet / 1,211 meters **Accommodations: Borgo San Felice** or **Le Fontanelle** 

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# <sup>DAY</sup><sub>5</sub> Chianti Classico: The Tuscan Heartland

Olive and cypress trees surround us as we ride deep into the hills of Chianti. We'll see plenty of fortified hamlets and castles—relics of Florence and Siena's 300-year struggle for regional dominance and ownership over the birthplace of Chianti Classico wines found in ancient cellars around the area. Pedal past countless estates as we weave our way through forests and vineyards, completing our loop for lunch back at the hotel. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon at the pool or spa before regrouping for a final dinner with our friend Serena featuring top wines and generous Tuscan hospitality.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner Destinations: Castelnuovo, Brolio, Castagnoli Accomplished: 31 miles / 50 km, elevation gain: 2,673 feet / 815 meters Longer Option: 40 miles / 64 km, elevation gain: 3,575 feet / 1,090 meters Accommodations: Borgo San Felice or Le Fontanelle

DAY 6

## **Ride to Florence**

On our last day, choose between a late morning at the hotel or ride all the way across Chianti for a triumphant finish in Florence's Piazzale Michelangelo. Whether you rode here or took a transfer, we say our goodbyes with the stunning Florentine skyline as our backdrop as guides see you off to your next adventure.

Meals: Breakfast
Destinations: Panzano, Greve, Florence
Optional Ride: 32 miles / 52 km, elevation gain: 2,470 feet / 753 meters
Longer Option: 43 miles / 69 km, elevation gain: 3,477 feet / 1,060 meters

