



Italy – Tuscany: Nature, Culture, Chianti

You are sitting in a cosy tavern, letting your cycling day ease to a close. You truly deserve the spaghetti al pesto, and with it you are enjoying a glass of Chianti. You are without any doubt in the cultural jewel of Tuscany. Surrounded by silvery green olive groves and the violet of lilies, Tuscany has always been a magical place for people around the world.

On this tour you cycle through areas that lie way off the tourists' paths and experience the landscape with its immense cultural heritage - an unforgettable experience.

Duration: 8 days, 7 nights

Day 1 - Individual arrival at Montecatini Terme, by car or train to Florence and on to Montecatini Terme. Welcome meeting and fitting of hire bikes.

Day 2 - Circular route via Vinci. Cycle through the local olive groves and vineyards of Montecatini Terme along small paths and country lanes to Vinci, the birth place of Leonardo Da Vinci, before returning to Montecatini Terme.

Day 3 - Montecatini Terme to Pisa. Today you will cycle to Lucca and take a city tour before continuing to Lake Massacciucoli, also known as Lake Giacomo Puccini. Continue to Pisa where you can explore and visit the famous Leaning Tower.

Day 4 - Pisa to Casciana Terme. From Pisa you cycle along the river Arno and then on lonesome paths to the idyllic spa town of Casciana Terme.

Day 5 - Casciana Terme to San Gimignano. You leave Casciana Terme cycling through vineyards and over gentle hills to San Gimignano. Here the skyline is dominated by towers, historically built by noble families.

Day 6 - San Gimignano to Siena. Today you will travel through some beautiful countryside before entering Siena, an architectural paradise.

Day 7 - Siena to Florence. Through the hilly Chianti region, where they produce many wines including the famous "Chianti Classico", and on to Greve. Here you will explore the city before taking a bus journey to Florence.

Day 8 - Depart from Florence or extension of your tour.

Continued overleaf..

Includes:

- Welcome meeting
- Accommodation in 3*** hotels, Florence 2** hotel
- Breakfast buffet or extended breakfast
- Bike hire
- Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- All transfers (bus and train) as mentioned in the programme
- Mini bus backup
- Tour pack including maps, route description, places of interest, telephone numbers etc (one per room)
- E-signposting
- Hotline



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Parking/arrival and departure

Hotel underground car park €35 per week (only in Category A). Public parking spaces in the near of the hotel for about €8 per week. Parking spaces in the near of the hotel for about €25 per week (Category B).

Transfer from Florence to Montecatini Terme is by train (price per person about €5).

7 nights B&B price £833.00

Supplement for a single room £199.00

(Prices are per person, based on two people sharing twin or double room).

Extra nights are available on request. Please contact us via email: info@compass-holidays.com or alternatively phone us on +44 (0) 1242 250642

Dates for 2011:

Every Saturday from 16th April to 9th July and 27th August to 1st October.

Special arrangements available for groups of 6 or more upon request.

Ride info:

Tuscany has a dreamlike but also hilly landscape. During all tours, whether guided or individual, there is an accompanying mini bus always within reach, ready to take you along for a while if you wish. You cycle on lovely paths and country lanes from one famous city to another. There may be heavy traffic on entering or leaving a city.