



Florence & Tuscany



The Tuscan landscape is dotted with cypresses, vineyard-covered hills and walled towns forming the backdrop for its classic Renaissance art which flourished in the 15th-16th centuries. Michelangelo Buonarroti, along with Leonardo Da Vinci, were two of the most

prodigious talents to influence the artists that followed through the centuries.

Many of their works can be viewed in Florence, one of the greatest artistic treasure-houses of the world. But Florence is not only history and culture; shopping here is a delight, especially amidst the tiny jewellery shops on the Ponte Vecchio; there are the Boboli Gardens - the finest in Tuscany - and the local cuisine and regional wines which are simply divine.



UNESCO World Heritage sites

The historic centres of Florence, Siena, Pienza and San Gimignano; the Medici Villas and gardens of Tuscany; the grand Piazza del Duomo in Pisa; and the Val d'Orcia.



Michelangelo's 'David'

No visit to Florence would be complete without seeing Michelangelo's most famous masterpiece. The statue, completed between 1501 and 1503, depicts David before his historic victory over Goliath.



The Palio

A twice yearly (2nd July and 16th August) horse race takes place in Siena's main piazza. This colourful medieval event celebrates competition between neighbourhoods (contrade) to win the coveted painted silk banner 'palio'.



Medieval hilltop towns

Visit the charming towns of Montepulciano, Montalcino, Cortona, Rocca d'Orcia and Pienza surrounded by the stunning bucolic Tuscan countryside.

Uffizi Gallery, Florence

This magnificent art museum exhibits great Renaissance art by the masters - from Giotto and Botticelli to Da Vinci and Michelangelo. A truly brain-draining experience but worth the viewing.

Brunelleschi Hotel, Florence

The Brunelleschi Hotel is a well known name in Florence with a fine reputation for quality and service. Located in the heart of Florence in the centre of the historical downtown area, it overlooks Brunelleschi's Cathedral, just a few steps from the Uffizi Gallery and other famous museums. The hotel has been designed around one of the oldest buildings in Florence, a 6th century Byzantine tower "La Pagliazza" and has many ancient walls and ceilings within the property.

Accommodation: 96 air-conditioned rooms including classic executive rooms, superior executive rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airports: 6km Florence / 105km Pisa
- 4-star superior hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£909 per person***



Degli Orafi Hotel, Florence

This historic building has retained many original architectural features including the partially restored remains of an ancient tower and the fabulous frescoes - dating from the 19th century - which adorn the walls of the breakfast room. There is a bar with a panoramic terrace overlooking the River Arno, Palazzo Vecchio and the Cathedral (Duomo). Its location couldn't be better placed next to both the Ponte Vecchio, with its charming shops and street vendors, and the Uffizi museum.

Accommodation: 42 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, classic rooms, executive rooms and deluxe junior suites.

- Airports: 6km Florence / 105km Pisa or Bologna
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi

Guide price from **£590 per person***

Athena Hotel, Siena

Located in a quiet area within the city walls and near the city gate of Porta San Marco, the Athena Hotel is the ideal choice for a city break or as part of a fly-drive holiday. This four star hotel is tastefully decorated throughout in either classic or modern style and the rooms are spacious and well equipped. Guests can enjoy the fabulous sunsets from the panoramic terrace affording fine views beyond the medieval city walls towards the surrounding Tuscan countryside.

Accommodation: 100 air-conditioned rooms including economy rooms, standard rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, executive rooms and family rooms.

- Airports: 68km Florence / 170km Pisa
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£1,044 per person***



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type (3 nights in Florence and 7 nights in Siena), flights from London Gatwick to Pisa (other airports on request) and private transfers (Florence) or car hire (Siena). Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

Pisa, Lucca & Volterra

Pisa is home to the iconic Leaning Tower, built in 1372. Lucca is known for its intact Renaissance-era walls, Roman street plan and the site of an ancient forum. Volterra, once Etruscan and later Roman, is now one of the best known centres for the turning and polishing of alabaster.

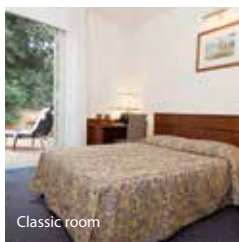
Grand Hotel Bonanno, Pisa

This centrally located 4-star hotel is within close proximity of Piazza dei Miracoli, Museo delle Sinopie, Orto Botanico (botanical gardens) and a 10 minute walk to the impressive Leaning Tower of Pisa. There are 87 modern and well-equipped guestrooms that have light wood furniture and a garden area with outdoor seating. Guests can take advantage of the free parking or use the close proximity of the train station to visit many neighbouring towns and villages in the area including Florence, Siena and Lucca.

Accommodation: 87 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 3.7km Pisa Airport
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- City location
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£485 per person***



Ilaria Hotel & Residenza dell'Alba, Lucca

Located in the historic centre of Lucca and within the ancient city walls, the Ilaria is a modern, comfortable hotel. The property, formerly the stables of Villa Bottini, is ideally positioned near the medieval gate of San Gervasio, within a few minutes walk of the shops and restaurants of this charming walled city and, more importantly, easily accessible by car. There are two large sun terraces (one with a Jacuzzi) facing the park, where breakfast can be taken in the summer.

Accommodation: 41 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airports: 34km Pisa / 68km Florence
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City location
- Complimentary WiFi

Guide price from **£700 per person***

Villa Nencini Hotel, Volterra

Villa Nencini is a beautifully restored, 16th century stone building with stunning panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The sunsets here are truly amazing. This charming owner-managed property provides an ideal base from which to explore this rich cultural area. The walled town of Volterra, a 10-minute uphill walk from the hotel, is an enchanting labyrinth of cobbled streets with various parks and a wide choice of restaurants and bars.

Accommodation: 35 rooms including standard rooms, family rooms and suites.

- Airports: 61km Pisa / 92km Florence
- 3-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£805 per person***



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type (3 nights in Pisa and 7 nights in Lucca and Volterra), flights from London Gatwick to Pisa (other airports on request) and car hire. Private transfers (Pisa and Lucca) or car hire (Volterra). Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

Etruscan Cities

Tuscany is considered to be the cradle of Etruscan civilization (9BC to 1AD). Ancient Etruria was centred on twelve great Etruscan cities, which included Arezzo, Cortona, San Gimignano and Volterra.

La Cisterna Hotel, San Gimignano

In the centre of San Gimignano is the ancient Cistern Square where La Cisterna Hotel stands, one façade overlooking the square and the other towards Val d'Elsa, some of the loveliest scenery in Tuscany. This 14th century building has been furnished in a style perfectly in keeping with the charm of its surroundings. A unique hotel and a town not to be missed.

Accommodation: 48 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms, superior rooms and comfort rooms.

- Airports: 75km Pisa / 70km Florence
- 3-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Town centre location

Guide price from **£813 per person***



Villasanpaolo Spa Resort, San Gimignano

The Villasanpaolo is set within a large park of cypress trees and olive groves with spectacular views over the Tuscan countryside and walled town of San Gimignano (4.5km). The property has been beautifully restored in keeping with the original features of this 20th century aristocratic Villa. The elegantly furnished rooms have been tastefully designed combining the old and the new to create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. There are well-maintained gardens with views of the towers of San Gimignano and the Certaldo valley.

Accommodation: 78 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airports: 68km Pisa / 63km Florence
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurants
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£982 per person***

Villa Marsili Hotel, Cortona

Villa Marsili, a charming historic residence dating back to the 14th century, is located within a 5-minute walk from the historic centre of Cortona. This elegant and stylishly decorated hotel has been restored to its original architectural splendour. The main hall and bedrooms are all individually frescoed and illuminated by Murano glass fittings from Venice as well as beautifully furnished with antiques.

Accommodation: 25 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms and suites.

- Airport 115km Florence
- 4-star superior hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Town location

Guide price from **£1,057 per person***



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Quality Wines

Tuscany is home to some of the world's most notable wine regions accounting for 33 DOC and 9 DOCG wines including Chianti, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Vernaccia di San Gimignano.

Palazzo Leopoldo, Radda in Chianti

The Palazzo Leopoldo, dating back to the 15th century, is centrally located in the medieval and charming village of Radda in Chianti. Surrounded by magnificent Chianti producing vineyards, the property has been beautifully decorated in the style of a noble Tuscan residence whilst preserving the building's original architectural features. A rich buffet breakfast is served in an authentic 18th century kitchen and at 'La Perla' restaurant guests will dine on traditional regional dishes complemented with a fine selection of Tuscan wines.

Accommodation: 33 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airports: 150km Pisa/ 70km Florence
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Indoor pool
- Restaurant
- Rural village location
- Spa
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£1,022 per person***



Borgo Tre Rose, Valiano di Montepulciano

Set in the heart of Tuscany between Montepulciano and Cortona, the Borgo is a medieval hilltop hamlet that has been restored and transformed into a relaxing country retreat. All the rooms have been created within six farm buildings and have been decorated in a classical Tuscan style with light wood furniture, terracotta floors and exposed beams. Traditional Tuscan dishes and an excellent selection of wines are served in the restaurant, which has a panoramic terrace offering stunning views over the surrounding countryside.

Accommodation: 39 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, junior suites and family suites.

- Airports: 131km Florence / 241km Rome Fiumicino
- Tuscan hamlet (3-star equivalent)
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£770 per person***

Fattoria Lavacchio, Pontassieve

Fields of vineyards and olive groves in the Florentine hills of Montefiesole surround the Fattoria Lavacchio. The estate covers 110 hectares, twenty-one of which are vineyards that cultivate a variety of grapes and produce some excellent wines, namely Fontegalli, Cedro (riserva), Chianti Rufina and Oro del Cedro. Wine tasting, tours of the olive oil factory, cookery courses, horse riding, mountain biking and pottery classes are some of the many activities offered.

Accommodation: 15 rooms (BB) including standard rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites and 5 large apartments - one-bedroom and two-bedroom (SC). Minimum stay: 7 nights (SC) and 3 nights (BB).

- Airports: 110km Pisa / 129km Bologna
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast (BB) or Self Catering (SC)
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£848 per person***



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Tuscan Delights

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

This is a region that has been endowed with a combination of natural beauty and an unparalleled artistic legacy. Our suggested itinerary includes places you would not want to miss plus some lesser known places that will reveal the real Tuscany.

Day One: Arrive at Pisa airport, collect your hire car and drive to your hotel. Lucca is a charming town, completely surrounded by 16th century walls, with narrow cobbled alleyways and elegant boutiques.

Day Two: Take the train to Pisa. No visit to Tuscany is complete without a visit to the famous Leaning Tower. Next to the tower are the Baptistery and Duomo, which combine to help make this one of the most attractive squares in Italy.

Day Three: Take the train to Florence. Visit the Duomo (designed by Filippo Brunelleschi), located next to the Campanile and Baptistery, the Piazza della Signoria (the historical centre of Florence), the Uffizi art gallery and the 14th century Ponte Vecchio which spans the River Arno.

Day Four: Enjoy a scenic drive through the beautiful Tuscan countryside en-route to the ancient hilltop town of Siena. This medieval town was built on three hills and at its heart is the huge square, Piazza del Campo. Twice a year the colourful horse race known

as the Palio takes place in this central square as competitors from each district within the town race around its cobbled streets.

Day Five: Spend the day exploring the Chianti region with its gentle hills interspersed with fields of vineyards and olive groves and small stone villages. Don't forget to taste the local wine en route.

Day Six: Drive north to the picturesque hilltop town of San Gimignano. This Etruscan town is characterised by its beautifully preserved towers. This charming medieval town is criss-crossed with narrow cobbled streets and lanes and the Torre Grossa (54m) provides stunning views over the Tuscan countryside.

Day Seven: Enjoy a scenic drive to Volterra. Stretching out along a high ridge, this ancient settlement has its roots in over three thousand years of history. In fact, it is possible to find traces from every historical period which gives the town a unique place in Tuscan history. Etruscan artefacts have been found in abundance in this area and the Museo Guarnacci houses a large collection of objects including some funerary urns, some of which date back to the 9th century BC.

Day Eight: Drive back to Pisa for your return flight home.



Tuscany

*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Pisa (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire
- 3-nights Ilaria Hotel, Lucca BB
- 2-nights Athena Hotel, Siena BB
- 2-nights Villasampaolo Spa Resort, San Gimignano BB
- Return train tickets to Pisa (Day 2)
- Return train tickets to Florence (Day 3)

Departures

Daily

Duration

7 nights

Guide price from

£1,057 per person*

Cortona

