

Italy – Tuscany And Chianti

8 Day Lifestyle Bike Tour From Montecatini To Florence



Let us set the scene... you are sitting in a cosy tavern as the cycling day eases to a close and you truly deserve the spaghetti al pesto accompanied by Chianti-wine. Without any doubt you are in the cultural jewel of Tuscany, which has always been a magic place for people from all around the world.

To bike through this landscape with its immense cultural heritage is an unforgettable experience. Wonderful historical monuments are often discovered, or by surprise a castle or stylish villa emerges from behind the woods. The typical Tuscan landscape with its many olive groves, offers an ambience where you can enjoy seclusion as you bike away from the main roads.

Tuscany has a mainly hilly landscape, so during your tour our accompanying mini bus is always within reach if you wish to take a break from your bike. We cycle on side roads, cycle ways and sleepy country roads from one famous town or city to another. On entering or leaving a city, you may experience heavier traffic.



Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Montecatini Terme

Travel to Florence and continue on to Montecatini Terme. On arrival you will receive all tour information and will be fitted to your bikes.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Dinner

No cycling

Day 2: Montecatini Terme to Vinci to Montecatini Terme

Today we ride on small paths through the olive groves from Montecatini Terme to Vinci, the birth place of Leonardo da Vinci. Then we return to Montecatini Terme.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 55km

Day 3: Montecatini Terme to Pisa

By bicycle (or alternatively by train) we travel to Lucca. We explore the city (by bike) before riding to the lake of Massacciucoli (also known as Lake of Giacomo Puccini) and then on to Pisa. In the evening we are taken on a city tour ('Piazza dei Miracoli', Aslant Tower).

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 50 - 70km



Day 4: Pisa to Casciana Terme

From Pisa we cycle along the Arno River before continuing on 'quiet paths' to the idyllic spa town Casciana Terme.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: approx 40km

Day 5: Casciana Terme to San Gimignano

Today we cycle through vineyards and rolling hills to San Gimignano. Once upon a time, every noble family owned their private tower in this medieval town. Today, these towers stand high above the houses' rooves and are embossed with the character of San Gimignano.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: approx 55km

Day 6: San Gimignano to Siena

Today's bike ride takes us through Tuscany's wonderful heartland to the architectural delight of Siena. A city tour in Siena is scheduled for the evening.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: approx 45km

Day 7: Siena to Florence

Sadly this is our last day of cycling as we ride through the hilly Chianti-region, which is the home of the 'Chianti Classico', to the town Greve. For the final leg of the tour from Greve to Florence, we are transferred by bus.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: approx 50km



Day 8: Florence and Departure

We begin our departure day in style with a morning city tour of Florence, after which it is time to say good bye.

Accommodation: Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

No cycling



Tour Information

Included in Tour Price:

- Accommodation in double or twin share rooms (3 - 4 Star)
- Breakfast daily & at least three-course evening meals, often in restaurants/trattorias
- Support vehicle during the whole tour
- Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- All transfers (bus, train) as per itinerary
- Tour guide
- Entry fees & guided tours as per itinerary (Vinci-Leonardo museum, Lucca, San Gimignano)
- City tours in Florence and Siena, short city tour in Pisa

Not included in the tour price

- Bike hire available on the tour (please see information below)
- International Flights and/or Travel Visas (where applicable) or Travel Insurance
- Single Supplement
- Drinks & snacks during cycling
- Travel Insurance
- Tips for guides and restaurant / hotel staff

Bike Hire

Our bicycles are touring bicycles, light weight, equipped with 21-speed derailleurs and freewheel. Upon request 7 speed bicycles with hub gear, back-pedal brakes and 2 V-brakes are available. Please check your booking confirmation. On some tours only Unisex bicycles (no Gents or Ladies frames) are available. All rental bicycles are equipped with comfort gel saddles and a diameter of the seat-post of 27.2 to 31.4 mm. Feel free to bring your own saddle incl. adapter. Water resistant easy to mount pannier, a carrier and a handle bar bag complete the equipment. Please note that our bicycles are not equipped with a computer!

Ladies Bike



Pannier Bags



Gents Bike



Tour Grade:

This tour is graded **2 moderate** (on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being extreme).

- **Moderate Tours** have an expectation that you have an interest and possibly some experience in the activities. Routes chosen require a reasonable level of fitness and experience on different terrains, suitable for increasing your abilities and pushing new limits.
- **Fitness Required:** Routes chosen will require a reasonable level of fitness and experience on different terrains, suitable for increasing your abilities and pushing new limits.

Grade 1 = easy, few inclines, short distances (20-40km), no technical difficulty

Grade 2 = moderate some inclines, moderate distances (40-60km), no technical difficulty

Grade 3 = challenging, several inclines, longer distances (100km RB / 50km MTB), some technical difficulty (e.g. single trail or hair pin turns)

Grade 4 = hard, long inclines, long distances (100km+), technical difficulty

Grade 5 = HIGH ALTITUDE (4000M +)

Tour Confirmation

A deposit of 25% of the tour price is required for us to reserve your place on your selected tour departure. Please refer to our website for our booking Terms & Conditions.

Tour Map



Tour Dates and Prices

COUNTRY: Italy / Tuscany
DAYS 8
CODE ITALS
FROM Montecatini
TO Florence
TOUR GRADE: 2
PRICE \$2907
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$651
BIKE HIRE \$140
DEPARTURES: 2010: 01May-08May, 15May-22May, 29May-05Jun, 12Jun-19Jun,
26Jun-03Jul, 04Jul-11Jul fully booked, 28Aug-04Sep, 11Sep-
18Sep, 25Sep-02Oct