



Down - To - Earth - Wine - Vacations

Tuscany Wine Tour

Sample Daily Itinerary

The epitome of mediterranean landscapes, Tuscany evokes panoramas of gently rolling hills, willowy cypress trees, picturesque villas, lively gregarious people, and food and wine to die for.

The heart of Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, and much more. This deluxe Tuscany Wine Tour puts you in touch with the people, wines, and food that make Tuscany the magnificent region it is. From beautiful hotels in Florence, San Gimignano, and Pienza, you will enjoy famous Tuscan wines and discover new ones.

The Heart of Tuscany

Taste and compare powerful Brunellos, elegant Vino Nobiles, traditional Chianti Classicos and innovative Supertuscans. On our Tuscany Wine Tours, you will take part in fun, eye-opening wine tastings, spirited conversations with wine makers, exquisite meals, and intriguing cultural visits in the heart of Tuscany. More than just savoring the wines, you will gain a deep understanding of life in Tuscany and all the elements that make it a must visit.

Winemakers' Insight

We are thrilled to have Claudio Gori and Giorgio Carratelli, two of Italy's most knowledgeable wine experts, designing our Tuscany Wine Tours for us. In this week of wine tasting in Tuscany, you will profit from the insight of traditional wine makers and cutting edge modern producers alike.

Classic Italian Masterpieces

The picturesque Tuscan hillside is the setting for an enlightening visit to Castello del Trebbio. In the wine regions of Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, you will taste a wide spectrum of classic Italian masterpieces and incredible Supertuscans. From beautiful hotels in Florence, San Gimignano, and Pienza you will explore the region's history and culinary traditions with the insider help of our local wine experts.

Come to the heart of Tuscany to taste for yourself why this is one of the most talked about wine regions in the world.

Day 1 Florence

Highlights:

- > **Welcome Aperitivo with Classic Tuscan Dinner in Florence**
- > **Guided Tour of the 'other' Florence**
- > **Maurizio Masi**

Come early and take advantage of your hotel's great location. Right on the bank of the Arno River and just a few steps from the Ponte Vecchio and the Uffizi, you are set to take in all the charm of Florence. We will get together this afternoon for an intriguing guided tour of the 'other' Florence, highlighting some of the undiscovered jewels of this fascinating city. Your Tuscany Wine Tour really gets going this evening with Maurizio Masi as guest of honor. Maurizio is one of **Chianti Rufina's foremost winemakers**, and will share his thoughts about the Italian wine business. Your first dinner is at a great restaurant, just across the river.

Day 2 The Spectrum of Tuscan Wines

Highlights:

- > **Lunch & Wine Tasting Tips:** at the Castello del Trebbio
- > **Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Vinci**
- > **Wine Tour:** Azienda Castelvecchio

Your day trip into the Tuscan hills begins with a stop at the amazing 12th century Castello del Trebbio. We will tour the castle, where the Pazzi family plotted to assassinate the Medici's in 1478. Today, they produce wine and olive oil and you will brush up your tasting skills with a short, fun lesson. After a delicious Tuscan feast here, we are off to Azienda Castelvecchio, a **dream estate in Carmignano**. Here, local Sangiovese was blended with Cabernet Sauvignon long before the Supertuscans. Before we head back to Florence, you will love your visit of the **Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Vinci**, Leonardo's home town, marveling over Leonardo's inventions that have been painstakingly recreated. We will have suggestions for dinner in Florence.

Day 3

Chianti and San Gimignano

Highlights:

- > **Wine Tours:** Fattoria di Luiano, Zonin's Fattoria il Palagio
- > **Lunch & Wine Tasting Tour:** Massanera
- > **Medieval San Gimignano**
- > **Dinner:** in the center of San Gimignano

You will enter Chianti Classico and the home of some of Italy's famous Supertuscans today. The Fattoria di Luiano sits at the top of a hill, amidst a sea of vineyards. Lunch is at nearby Massanera, where owner Carlo Cattaneo will talk about their Chiantis and Supertuscans, as well as Massanera's long history. It goes back to the powerful Medici family, the French Revolution, and World War II to the present. On your way to San Gimignano this afternoon, taste the Chianti Colli Senesi, Vernaccia di San Gimignano (Italy's first D.O.C.), and various international varieties at Fattoria il Palagio. **World Heritage site San Gimignano** is spectacular, with its Medieval towers, ceramic shops, and art galleries. You will be here two nights so you will have time for San Gimignano's cultural and culinary delights. Dinner tonight will include some of the local saffron, as well as top Vernaccias, Chiantis...

Day 4

Chianti Classico

Highlights:

- > **Wine Tour:** Tenute Folonari's Tenuta di Nozzole; the Bonollo Distillery
- > **Guided Tour of San Gimignano**

Famous for its medieval towers, San Gimignano will come to life for you this morning with a private tour. Take it easy the rest of the morning, or continue exploring this "Medieval Manhattan". Kick back at the hotel this afternoon, or join us for visits to the Folonari family's Tenuta di Nozzole and the Bonollo Distillery. The Folonaris have been producing wine since the late 1700's. Here, you will also taste wines from their other properties, including the **Supertuscan Cabreo**. We will end the day with an enlightening tour of the Bonollo distillery and a look into the world of Cognac, Whisky, and Grappa. See the entire distillation process and taste some of their excellent single variety grappas.

Day 5

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano

Highlights:

- > **Wine Tours:** Cantina del Redi; Podere Poggio Alla Sala
- > **Lunch & Wine Tasting Tour:** At Cantine Gattavecchi
in the heart of Montepulciano
- > **Tuscan Olive Oil Mill and Tasting**
- > **Beautiful Medieval Montepulciano**
- > **Renaissance Pienza**

You are off to **Pienza** this morning - with great food and wine along the way. A trip to Tuscany wouldn't be complete without seeing and tasting the local olive oil production on the way to Montepulciano. In 1685 Francesco Redi proclaimed **Vino Nobile di Montalcino 'the king of wines'**. In fact, our next stop this morning is the impressive Ricci Palace and its **Cantina del Redi**, dedicated to him in the 17th century. Luca Gattavecchi is a traditional producer steeped in generations of wine making. You will enjoy lunch at the family cellar in the heart of Montepulciano, and taste their impressive wines from Podere Poggio Alla Sala as well. Your luxurious **4-star hotel is a renovated convent** in the heart of charming Pienza. Renaming Pienza in the 15th century, Pope Pius II had his home town of Corsignano rebuilt as a perfect model of Renaissance architecture.

Day 6

Brunello di Montalcino

Highlights:

- > **Wine Tour:** Fattoria dei Barbi, Podere Sanlorenzo
- > **Lunch:** Vasco Sassetti's family trattoria
- > **Pecorino Cheese**
- > **Guided Tour of Renaissance Pienza**
- > **Sant'Antimo Abbey**
- > **Dinner:** Special final dinner in Pienza

Today is dedicated to the illustrious **Brunello di Montalcino**. But first, you will enjoy a short guided tour of lovely Pienza. Then, the great wines of Montalcino await you, starting with an exceptional tasting at Fattoria dei Barbi. Vasco Sassetti is a reserved man who makes delicious top quality wines. We will enjoy an array of them over a traditional Tuscan lunch at his family's trattoria and learn how pecorino cheese is made too. Just across the way is the peaceful Sant'Antimo abbey. We will make a brief stop there and, with a little luck, hear the monks' Gregorian chant. To cap off the day, we will stop at the fortress in Montalcino, and Podere Sanlorenzo, a magical blend of tradition and modern technology. Look forward to a fantastic final dinner tonight on our luxury hotel's terrace. The wines will all have special meaning for you, as you will have seen where they all come from.

Day 7

After breakfast today, take advantage of a complimentary shuttle to Siena's central train station. Stay a couple of days to visit this gem of medieval and renaissance art, or simply take a train to your next destination. Regardless, we look forward to seeing you again in Burgundy, Bordeaux, or the Rhône Valley.

Includes:

- * 2 nights hotels each in Florence, San Gimignano, and Pienza
- * 6 full breakfasts
- * 4 lunches together, dining with local wine experts
- * 3 dinners together at our experts' favorite restaurants
- * Daily wine tastings, led by local Tuscan Wine Experts
- * Wine tasting tips at the Castello del Trebbio
- * Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Vinci
- * Olive Oil Mill
- * Pecorino Cheese
- * Expert information about wine tasting, vineyard decisions, the harvest, wine making, distribution...

Price:

\$3995 based on double occupancy. Single supplements \$375

Dates:

May 9th - 15th, 2010

June 20th - 26th, 2010

September 5th - 11th, 2010

October 10th - 16th, 2010

October 21st - 27th, 2010

Reserve Your Spot:

Questions? Please give us a call at 1-800-449-7147 or email us at info@InsiderWineTours.com