

## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 CORTONA  
 Day 2 CORTONA  
 Day 3 PIENZA  
 Day 4 BAGNO VIGNONI  
 Day 5 RIPA D'ORCIA - MONTALCINO  
 Day 6 MONTALCINO LOOP - MONTE OLIVETO  
 MAGGIORE  
 Day 7 SIENA  
 Day 8 ARRIVEDERCI

### Day 1: CORTONA

Welcome meeting at 1:00pm in the lobby of our hotel and begin an afternoon guided tour through the Etruscan-Roman village of Cortona (1600 ft above sea level). We check out the four well-preserved city gates (oriented to the four points of the compass) and embark on our first climb into the hills above and below Cortona to admire two exquisite Renaissance churches Santa Maria Nuova and Santa Maria delle Grazie. Joining the locals, we take a "passeggiata" along a remaining Etruscan wall.

### Day 2: CORTONA

Along today's walk we start in Cortona (650m, 2130ft) and traverse the undulating slopes of Monte Sant Egidio, taking in awesome views of the Valdichiana plains below. We take a break on top of the mountain (107m, 3470ft) for our Ciclismo Classico picnic lunch. Returning to Cortona (650m, 2130ft), we have some free time to visit the outstanding local Etruscan and renaissance art museums.

### Day 3: PIENZA

Our day begins with a quick shuttle and visit to Montepulciano (650m, 2130ft). We visit one of the masterpieces of early Italian renaissance, the church of S Biagio by architect Sangallo. From here, we begin our hike through field and gentle hills towards Montichiello (544m, 1785ft). After lunch, we continue towards Pienza (500m, 1640ft) through the phenomenal "crete" landscapes. In the evening Italian lesson and dinner with Roberto at our favorite local trattoria.

### Day 4: BAGNO VIGNONI

With stunning Mount Amiata in our sights we hike from Pienza (490m, 1610ft) in to the Val d'Orcia and pass cypress trees and grain fields on our way to San Quirico (425m, 1395ft). We climb up out of town to explore the Tower of Vignoni Alto (Vignoni on High) before winding down to a well-earned splash in the soothing baths in the tiny spa town of Bagno Vignoni (306m, 1005ft). Van shuttle to Pienza.

### Day 5: RIPA D'ORCIA - MONTALCINO

Today we move from the western to the eastern side of the Orcia region. From Pienza, a quick shuttle takes us to Ripa d'Orcia (408m, 1340ft). We start our walk down

through woods to the bottom of the valley, cross the river and climb up the other side to come in view of Sant Antimo (305m, 1000ft). After lunch, we continue our walk up to the walled Etruscan village of Montalcino (532m, 1745ft). We visit the medieval fortress and enjoy a wine-tasting in its well-known enoteca. An excellent dinner at our favorite restaurant awaits!

### Day 6: MONTALCINO LOOP - MONTE OLIVETO MAGGIORE

We start out from tiny old farmer's village of Monterongriffoli. In the morning we walk for two hours along a partially shaded rolling path with nice views over the Crete Senese, the area's very characteristic barren landscape of natural erosion. After lunch we walk for one more hour to Monte Oliveto, and visit the monastery. Evening cooking lesson in Montalcino.

### Day 7: SIENA

Quick shuttle to Siena. In the late afternoon, our local Sieneese friend takes us on a walking tour of the Cathedral and enchanting Piazza del Campo, explaining the city's interesting social and political history and customs. Take the afternoon to explore the city.

### Day 8: ARRIVEDERCI

Why not extend your Tuscan journey with a few extra days in Siena or a visit to see Florence's Renaissance treasures For those continuing on, we will shuttle you to Siena's train station after breakfast and assist you with any post tour travel needs.

**Total mileage: 48**

**Daily average: 6**

### Included:

- All accommodations
- Five dinners & two picnic lunches
- 1-2 wine tastings
- Italian lessons
- Evening of traditional local music
- Guided tours of Cortona, Siena, Montichiello
- Shuttles while on tour
- Shuttle to Siena train station at end of tour

### Not Included:

- Wine and alcoholic beverages
- Most lunches
- Airfare
- Transfers to the starting point or from the finishing point unless specified; we can assist you in planning and arranging for any necessary shuttles
- Helmets (Bring your own, Can not be rented in Italy)
- Personal expenses (laundry, supplies, phone calls, etc.)
- Guide tip

Price per person	Db1	Sgl	Tr1
Land Only	\$2,985	\$3,385	N/A

April 24  
 May 8, 22  
 June 5  
 September 11, 25  
 October 9

Special departures on request with supplement

### Selected Hotels

SAN MICHELE	Cortona (2 nights)
CHIOSTRO DI PIENZA	Pienza (2 nights)
HOTEL VECCHIA OLIVIERA	Montalcino (2 nights)
ATHENA	Siena (1 night)