

# WineWorldTours.com



## Exclusive Florence, Siena & Chianti 7-night Itinerary

### Day 1 – Saturday

Pending your AM arrival, we'll greet you at airport custom exit and take you to your hotel in Florence – the 5-star Grand Hotel Villa Medici in time for a 2:00PM (approx.) check-in. The day is free to unwind from your flight, step out into the city for a short walk to the Duomo, and start your leather goods and jewelry browsing on the Ponte Vecchio. Your evening is free so you can choose the type of dining you'd prefer to start your wine and culinary adventure - we will of course provide several recommendations and make your reservations for you.

### Day 2 – Sunday

After breakfast and more time to acquaint yourself with Florence, your private guided tour of the world famous Uffizi Gallery will envelop you in some of the finest masterpieces of Renaissance art. Dinner will again be on your own but we will provide several recommendations.

### Day 3 – Monday

We check out of our city hotel and depart for the hills of Chianti, arriving at S. Gimignano, arriving in mid-morning before the crowds get there. You'll have time to browse the streets of this wonderful mediaeval town with its famous towers, and sample the delights of the many purveyors of fine charcuterie, cheo airports/hotelsese and other temptations along the cobbled streets. We'll meet for a tasting of the town's signature grape, Vernaccia, just before noon, then leave you to enjoy lunch as your whim takes you; with our suggestions and reservations available if needed of course.

After lunch we'll meet again and drive to Siena, with a stop at one of the top wineries in the village of San Donato; either Casa Sola or Casa Emma. We continue to Siena, where you check in to your new accommodation. After you've had time to unpack we meet again to drive out to another great Chianti producer, Fonterutoli, where we'll tour the estate (which includes an ancient Roman road) and enjoy dinner at their trattoria with a selection of excellent vintages.

### **Day 4 – Tuesday**

After breakfast and a little free time to roam the streets of Siena in the quiet of the morning, we return to the hills of Chianti, arriving at Greve in the heart of the Chianti Classico by late morning. Here we are treated to a special visit with the Acuti family, owners of Vecchie Terre di Montefili. Nestled in an idyllic valley outside Greve, we learn about the wonderful terroir and the wines that it produces. After our tour we drive to Panzano with one of the Acuti family where we lunch with their friend Dario Cecchini the most famous butcher in Chianti. Dario made worldwide headlines in recent years, both with his warm welcome and showman's character and his meats, which include the "MacDario" burger... without a doubt the world's top hamburger, served in his little restaurant behind the shop. You should also try to pluck up the courage to taste from the pile of fat – yes, fat! – he keeps in the chill display. You have to be there to understand...

Just outside the village we make a stop at Fontodi, one of Chianti's most famous producers, who also happen to raise the Chianini beef that's a specialty of the region. The original tiny winery has been expanded with a state-of-the-art facility, and the wines this family make just keep getting better.

We return to Siena in the late afternoon, and the rest of the evening is free for you to enjoy the city on your own, and dine at your choice of restaurants.

### **Day 5 – Wednesday**

Today is Wednesday... market day in Siena; one of the all-time best markets in the world. You'll have time this morning to wander through the stalls, or to continue your exploration of the historic parts of the city if you prefer. We'll leave mid-morning to drive out to the Chianti countryside where you will enjoy a hands-on cooking lesson in a charming local farmhouse, learning to prepare authentic Tuscan cuisine from a chef who will entertain you as you learn his secrets. You will of course enjoy the fruits of your labor as you lunch with the chef and his family after the lesson, then you will visit another winery before returning to Siena; this time in the east of the appellation either in Greve or Radda. Optionally, we can substitute the winery with a visit to one of Tuscany's amazing ceramic workshops.

You will likely not feel like a big dinner tonight, so we leave the evening open for you to choose your own preference of restaurants in Siena.

### **Day 6 – Thursday**

After checking out of our hotel we can either spend more time in Siena this morning, or depart straight away for a visit to a winery or to another artisan – crystal, ceramics, chocolate, charcuterie... let us know which you would prefer. Lunch will be either at a winery or a traditional local restaurant, depending on the program you choose.

In the afternoon we head south to Montalcino to check in to our outstanding accommodation at "Il Borgo "on the estate of Banfi. We'll have time for a visit to a winery in the afternoon. Then, you're free to explore the village and find your own trattoria for dinner (we can give you some hints on the locals' favorites of course).

### **Day 7 – Friday**

Brunello di Montalcino is often known as the king of Tuscan wines, and today you'll not only find out why, but do so from the father of the entire appellation, the fabulous house of Biondi Santi. Just outside the village, this estate created the style and brand of Brunello when in 1888 Ferruccio Biondi-Santi released the first example of wines made from a special breed of Sangiovese known as Brunello or Sangiovese Grosso which he had planted in his vineyards. He was officially recognized as the creator of modern Brunello in 1932, 25 years after his death.

As important as Biondi Santi is, it's not the only great wine here, and we will take you to sample two more fine producers on this final day of our adventure. We end the day with a farewell dinner together in the Michelin-starred restaurant of our accommodations at Banfi, with a special selection of wines matched to the menu.

### **Day 8 – Saturday**

We have to bid a sad but fond farewell to Tuscany today. Depending on your schedule we may have a little time for last minute browsing and shopping in the town before we head out for our transfer to Florence airport.

Note: If you are departing by air from Florence, be aware that the transfer from Montalcino will take approximately 2 hours

### **Inclusions:**

- Transfers – from and to airports/hotels
- 6 days chauffeur & bi-lingual guide with private car.
- 7 nights in 5-star accommodations
- 7 breakfasts
- 4 lunches (1 with cooking class)
- 2 dinners with wine
- 2-3 artisan visits
- Private guided tour of Uffizi Gallery
- 11 winery visits

## Exclusions:

- Meals and wine not stated as included.
- Personal items: tips, taxes, laundry /dry cleaning, and liquor not stated as included

**Restaurants, hotels and winery owner/wine consultant lunches may change based on availability of seats, rooms, or individuals. Substitutes will be of equal or greater value and interest.**

## Wineries You May Visit

Tua Rita  
Gualdo del Re  
Petra  
Jacopo Banti  
Volpaiole  
Banfi  
Biondi-Santi  
Altesino  
Vecchia Oliviera  
Val di Suga  
San Leonino  
Poggio Antico  
Frescobaldi  
Dievole  
Rocca delle Macie  
Fonterutoli  
Coltibuono  
Ricasole  
Castello di Ama  
Riecine  
Vignavecchia  
Volpaia  
Cinelli Colombini  
Casanova Di Neri  
Torciano