



GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL

TUSCANY

A Tuscan Journey
in a Magnificent Setting





Tuscany

A TUSCAN JOURNEY IN A MAGNIFICENT SETTING 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Chianti area, Poppi, Romena, Camaldoli, San Casciano dei Bagni, Siena

TOUR FEATURES

Vineyards following one another, olive and cypress trees dotting the hills, fortified villages and castles, breathtaking views .. we are in the magical land of Chianti ! An unforgettable journey fully immersed into the romantic atmosphere of this beautiful land and its history, including extraordinary culinary experiences, traditional local crafts, charming medieval villages as Poppi and San Casciano dei Bagni, beautiful timeless cities as Florence, Siena, Lucca and Pisa ... without forgetting the authentic experience of living in a beautiful Medicean Villa, immersed in an estate of vineyards and olive groves.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Grassina, The washerwomen village.
Arrival at the airport of Florence, Pisa or

Rome. FCO transfer to a Medicean Villa in Bagni a Ripoli area. Grassina is a fraction of the town of Bagno a Ripoli in the province of Florence. The place was born thanks to the merger in 1922 between two historic organizations in the town of Bagno a Ripoli area: the Choral Society of Mutual Aid San Martino in Strada, founded in 1888, and the Choral Society Grassina, founded in 1877. Grassina, until the beginning of the last century, was also known as a country of washerwomen as the proximity to two streams, the namesake Grassina and Ema, allowed to receive numerous items of laundry from the Florentine wealthy families. Dinner on your own, return to your Medicean Villa for an overnight.

Day 2 Catania and the Baroque

After breakfast, depart to Florence, the triumph of the Renaissance Florence is a wonderful and precious city that has

entirely maintained its past charm and splendor. A charming city that never ends to surprise, with its masterpieces of art, the colored marbles of the churches and the architectures that evoke the splendor and the role played in the development of culture and art of the Renaissance. Return to your Medicean Villa for an overnight. **(B)**



Piazza del Duomo with Cathedral of Santa Agatha in Catania





FLORENCE

Day 3 Cooking class and lunch at Medicean Villa

After breakfast, enjoy a cooking class in medicean villa with wine tasting and lunch. Discover the flavours of Tuscan food and wine! Join one of our local experts for a cooking class learning how to make fresh pasta at home, and then enjoy them with our wines. With 70 hectares of grapes and olives, the Estate produces two Chianti D.O.C.G. wines, “SuperTuscan” Bruzzico, Vin Santo, and an award-winning cold pressed extra virgin olive oil. Dinner on your own, return to your Medicean Villa for an overnight.

(B, CL, WT, L)

09:45 Welcome drink

10:00 Guided tour of the Villa including time in the historical ageing cellars and the new cellar used for the wine making process. You will also visit our ancient “Orciaia” used for storing the highly acclaimed extra virgin olive oil.

11:00 Cooking class

- Crostini Toscani
- Pasta fatta in casa – Ravioli (Hand-made ravioli)
- Involchini alla salvia Patate arrosto (Roulade with sage roasted potatoes)

- Tiramisu
- 14:00 Lunch of our prepared Italian specialties and Estate wines
- Chianti D.O.C.G.
- Chianti Colli Fiorentini D.O.C.G.
- GT Toscano Bruzzico
- Vinsanto del Chiant



Treasures of Tuscany

Day 4 Pisa, Lucca

After breakfast depart for Pisa. Take a walk through culture of the City of miracles. Pisa’s name derives from an Etruscan word meaning “out-fall”—the outlet formed by a river as it flows into the sea. Every four years Pisa celebrates its maritime origins by re-enacting naval battles between the four historic republics (Pisa, Venice, Genoa and Amalfi) during the Historic Regata on the Arno River. Piazza dei Miracoli (Square of Miracles)

is the home to many of the city’s most beautiful attractions. The baptistery shares the piazza with the imposing Camposanto (sacred burial ground) whose 43 blind arcades face the square. To the right of the Camposanto is the marble covered cathedral, a masterpiece of Pisan Romanesque architecture built in the early 1600s. The famous Leaning Tower rises directly behind the cathedral. Depart for Lucca.

Lucca, the city of the one hundred churches Lucca, one Toscana’s most enchanting small towns, is entirely surrounded by 16th century walls (baluardi) made by ancient stones, enclosing one of Italy’s finest medieval treasures.

The city is full of Romanesque churches, museums, monuments and is the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini (in 1858), one of Italy’s most famous opera composers whose 15th century house which is now a museum, at Corte S. Lorenzo, 9 (via di Poggio) in Piazza della Cittadella, where there is a bronze statue of Puccini in the center. Dinner at leisure, return to your Medicean Villa for an overnight.

(B, L)





PISA

Day 5 Wine tasting in a ancient estate in Chiantishire!

After breakfast depart for the Chianti area to a amous vineyards farm. New technology and recycled materials were combined to give new life to the old barn on the farm, where large windows were installed on the ancient walls. By a complex process of restoration a charming setting was created, perfect for a sensory experience such as wine tasting. Here you will find the olive oil and other homemade products and delicacies of the best Tuscan tradition.

The tour includes the historic cellars for vinification and aging, the gardens and grounds with an account of the history of the villa. The tasting includes 3 red wines and Vin Santo served with samples of cheeses, cured meats, pickles of



Chianti Vineyard

our production, bruschetta with Extra Virgin Olive Oil from the farm.

(B, WT, CT)

Day 6 Poppi, in the mystic and warrior Casentino

After breakfast depart for Poppi. Located in the center of the Casentino, one of the most beautiful valleys in Tuscany. The medieval village is a rare walled town, with the Castle of the Counts Guidi at its highest point, dominating over all. The Castle was designed by The celebrated Di Cambio family of architects, and was a “prototype” for the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. Built in the 12th century, its façade has two mullioned windows, with a high tower rising above it at the center. It is surrounded by a defense wall with Guef embattlements and a broad moat. Thanks to frequent restorations over the centuries, the castle is in excellent condition. It houses a library, the Biblioteca Rilliana, which has hundreds of medieval manuscripts and precious incunabula.

For groups: Medieval dinner

For individual: Wild game dinner

Molin di Bucchio

Nestled on the Arno River, Molin di

Bucchio is one of the oldest mills in the Casentino area.

In the past, among the holdings of the medieval Counts Guidi of Porciano, milling activity has been carried out by the Bucchi family for more than 700 years. Molin di Bucchio has also been an important trout breeding center. The last miller was Pietro Bucchi, known locally as ‘Pietrone’, who was also called the ‘philosopher’ for his long beard and aloofness.

Camaldoli, the old monastery

Camaldoli was founded one thousand years ago by Saint Romuald, and is a Community of Benedictine monks. There are two houses, the Hermitage and the Monastery, immersed into the depths of the forest. They represent the two fundamental dimensions of monastic experience, solitude and communion. Located In the monastery is the guesthouse, the great chapter house, the old pharmacy or pharmaceuticals laboratory, where the monks worked spices and medicinal plants to cure the sick of the old “hospitable”. The current pharmacy, with the precious walnut furniture, dates back to 1543. In the Baroque church are works





POPPI

by Vasari. In the Renaissance became an important cultural center and after 1520 was activated internally also a print shop.

(B, D)

Day 7 Anghiari, The town of the Battle painted by Leonardo Da Vinci

After breakfast de[art for Anghiari. A splendid medieval town situated in the territory marked by the Tevere and Arno Rivers. A strong bastion thanks to heavy, 13th century walls, it is a reference point for many historical events where the Tuscan flag was held up high over a borderland which lived in a delicate state of balance. On the 29th of June, 1440, the famous Battle of Anghiari, frescoed by Leonardo Da Vinci in Palazzo Vecchio, re-affirmed Tuscan hegemony over Tuscany. The passage of time has left important signs in the churches and buildings of the historic centre, developing an impressive urban layout which makes the town unique and unmistakable. Its squares and narrow streets are home to antique shops and furniture restoration workshops; the museums and churches contain masterpieces of paintings and sculpture; at every corner

you get fantastic views and breathtaking perspectives. Anghiari, surrounded by churches and castles, enjoys the wonderful scenery of the Northern Tevere valley, a natural amphitheatre permeated by Franciscan spirituality. A clean atmosphere and an abundance of age old woods dotted with monasteries.

Siena, the city of Palio

A traditional tour is inevitable if you will get to know the city of Siena for the first time. We will see the Basilica of San Domenico, where is preserved the relic head of St. Catherine Co-Patroness of Europe, the seat of the ancient Banca Monte dei Paschi, will walk to the Corso, the main street full of shops, and we will focus our attention on the famous Piazza del Campo, the square of the “Palio” and then we will get to the cathedral, with its many masterpieces. **(B)**

Day 7 Ciao Italy

After breakfast, departure for the airport of Florence, Pisa or Rome FCO **(B)**



Anghiari, Arezzo, Tuscany

OPTIONAL TOURS GUIDED TOUR OF CORTONA

Duration: half day

Welcome to Cortona, a small town by Etruscan origin located in the south eastern Tuscany, exactly in the Chiana Valley, not too far from the borders of



Sienna



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Round-trip airport to hotel transfers from Florence, Pisa or Rome FCO
- Seven nights hotel accommodation 3 or 4* hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Two lunches
- One dinner
- Full-day tour of Florence
- Half-day cooking class with wine tasting
- Half-day siteseeing tours of Pisa and Lucca
- Visit of the famous vineyards farm in Chianti and wine cellar. Tasting of wine and typical products

- Visit the Borgo of Poppi and Romena
- Visit a textile laboratory of typical tuscan fabrics "Casentino"
- Visit of the mill and miller house in molin di Bucchio
- Visit the village of Camaldoli
- Siteseeing of Siena

NOT INCLUDED

- Car rental (this is available upon request)
- Car rental with chauffeur (available upon request)
- City tax to be paid directly in hotel
- Extra, tips and anything else not listed under "What's Included"

Legend

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch
D	Dinner
CL	Cooking Lesson
HD	Half-day tour
WT	Wine Tasting
CT	Cheese Tasting



Basilica di San Frediano, Lucca



OPTIONAL TOURS

GUIDED TOUR OF CORTONA

Duration: half day

Welcome to Cortona, a small town by Etruscan origin located in the south eastern Tuscany, exactly in the Chiana Valley, not too far from the borders of Umbria and Lake Trasimeno. Cortona ancient city of Etruscan origin, still preserves its ancient walls. It has over time hosting several personalities from the Renaissance with Luca Signorelli and Beato Angelico, and the Baroque with Pietro Berrettini, up to Futurism with Gino Severini. You can admire their masterpieces at the Museum of the MAEC and the Diocesan museum, but also in the various churches located throughout the city center.

GUIDED TOUR OF PIENZA

Duration: half day

Pienza is a unique city with stunning architecture, great shopping and iconic attractions. Thanks to its Renaissance heritage, it has been attracting visitors with its obvious charm for well over 500 years. Whether your group is staying here for a few hours or a few days, we have put together a range of ideas to help you make the most of your time in the town, in the surrounding region and in the whole province of Siena. Our friendly, knowledgeable guides, will be delighted to share this small jewel of a city with you!

GUIDED TOUR OF SAN GIMIGNANO

Duration: half day

San Gimignano is the famous medieval town of beautiful towers in the heart of the Tuscan countryside nearby Siena. The foundation of San Gimignano is lost in the mists of time. Legend has it that in 63 BC the two brothers Muzio and Silvio, young patricians fled from Rome because accomplices of Catiline, took refuge in Valdelsa and built two castles: the castle of Pile and that of Silvia. The

development of San Gimignano took place mainly in the first three centuries after the year 1000, in a strategic geographical location. The city, bounded by the first wall and kind of riding hilly variant of the Via Francigena, became one of the main places of transit and stopover for all travelers

GUIDED TOUR OF MONTEPULCIANO

Duration: half day

The area of Montepulciano, with its undulating and verdant land, its vines and its aromas reminiscent of spring all year round, is certainly one of the most fascinating destinations for couples on a romantic getaway, but also for those who wish enjoy a holiday away from the noise of the city, immersed in a soothing green. Spend some unforgettable moments to the sound of nature, walking through the wonders offered by nature and tasting the excellent dishes and wines.

GUIDED TOUR OF PISA

Duration: half day

Pisa's name derives from an Etruscan word meaning "outfall" -the outlet formed by a river as it flows into the sea. Every four years Pisa celebrates its maritime origins by re-enacting historic naval battles between the four republics (Pisa, Venice, Genoa and Amalfi) During The Historic Regatta on the River Arno. Piazza dei Miracoli (Square of Miracles) is the home to many of the city's most beautiful attractions. The baptistery shares the square with the imposing Camposanto (sacred burial ground) 43 Whose blind arcades face the square. To the right of the cemetery is the marble-covered cathedral, a masterpiece of Pisan-Romanesque architecture built in the early 1600s. The famous Leaning Tower rises directly behind the cathedral.

GUIDED TOUR OF LUCCA

Duration: half day

Lucca, one Toscana's most enchanting

small towns, is entirely surrounded by 16th century walls (baluardi) made by ancient stones, enclosing one of Italy's finest medieval treasures.

The city is full of Romanesque churches, museums, monuments and is the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini (in 1858), one of Italy's most famous opera composers whose 15th century house which is now a museum, at Corte S. Lorenzo, 9 (via di Poggio) in Piazza della Cittadella, where is a bronze statue of Puccini in the center.

GUIDED TOUR OF ANGIARI

Duration: 2 h

Anghiari is a splendid medieval town situated in the territory marked by the Tevere and Arno Rivers. A strong bastion thanks to heavy, 13th century walls, it is a reference point for many historical events where the Tuscan flag was held up high over a borderland which lived in a delicate state of balance. On the 29th of June, 1440, the famous Battle of Anghiari, frescoed by Leonardo Da Vinci in Palazzo Vecchio, re-affirmed Tuscan hegemony over Tuscany.

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GUIDED TOUR OF SIENA

Duration: half day

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EVENTS

ANGHIARI – Palio of Vittoria, June

It is one of the oldest of Tuscany Palios and you run walk from the site of the battle, the majesty of the Santa Maria Vittoria, to the square of the “market” (now Piazza Baldaccio Bruni), walk-ing and running in the street uphill called “the Cross”, by virtue of the church on the top linked to the paths of St. Francis in this valley.

POPPI (Badia Prataglia) - Mangialonga, August

Thanks to its culinary tradition, Badia Prataglia with all its “castles” offers a wonderful gourmet walk between stone houses and balconies fragrant. In ten stages you can taste the flavors of traditional dishes of Badia, including tortelli to the plate but also: cocktails, appetizers, polenta with wild boar sauce, roast pork, lemon sorbet, grilled meat, and sweets and wine at will.

POPPI - Il gusto dei Guidi, August
Exhibition of Tuscan Wines and traditional and organic products of Casentino.

POPPI (Moggiona) – Festival of the Porcino mushroom, August
The Porcini Mushroom Festival is the

most important event organized in Moggiona. During the three days of the festival you can taste both lunch and dinner, many specialties porcini mushrooms.

SIENA – Palio, August

The Palio is not an event revived and organized for tourism: it is the life of the people of Siena in time and in different aspects and feelings. It has ancient origins with some regulations still valid since 1644, when it was over the first prize with horses, as well as still happens, in unbroken continuity. The territory of the City is divided into seventeen contrade with the boundaries established in 1729 by the Notice of Violante of Bavaria, Governor of the City.

AREZZO – Giostra del Saracino, June-September

The Giostra del Saracino is the main reenactment of the city of Arezzo. The event takes place twice a year: the second Saturday of June at night edition (Joust of San Donato) and the first Sunday of September edition daytime (Tournament of Our Lady of Consolation). The jousting tournament attracts thousands of visitors, fascinated by the historical procession, they poured into the city streets. Heatedly by hundreds of people in medieval costumes and dozens of horses, punctuated by the sound of trumpets and intoxicated color of the flags, the procession is able to give life to the city back in time and to immerse tourists in Arezzo and atmosphere unique and festive.

POPPI (Stia In Casentino), Biennale europea d'arte fabbrile, September
With the aim to give the right visibility to this ancient but very current the European Biennial of Art Fabbrile of Stia, 3 to 6 September 2015 renews the appointment with the blacksmiths from all over the world, with fans Forged, art as well as furniture.

POPPI (Raggiolo in Casentino (Ar) e Stia in Casentino), October – Festa Saggia, November

This event is divided into Castagnatura and Castagnata Stiana. You can participate in the Festival Castagnatura for various reasons: to taste the chestnuts and the products derived from this, experience the pleasure of an ancient tradition, visit the village of Raggiolo medieval, to visit the mill in the country, Ecomuseum Chestnut. The Castagnata of Stia involves the entire country casentinese with cooking chestnuts, the sale of these products and those products derived therefrom, craft markets, street performances and more.

POINTS OF INTEREST

THE WATERFALLS OF ACQUACHETA

(Recommended seasons: spring, summer)

Duration: full day

Difficulty level: medium

The Acquacheta is the most important affluent of the Montone and before reaching S. Benedetto in Alpe it makes a jump of over 70 meters in the homonymous waterfall. The waterfall, described by Dante in the 16th canto of Inferno, can only be reached through a hike of a couple of hours that goes up the valley reaching, just upstream of the waterfall, the suggestive Piana dei Romiti with the ruins of the ancient village.

ON SASSO FRATINO BORDERS

(Recommended seasons: spring, summer)

Duration: full day

Difficulty level: medium

Through this simple and accessible path in a forest, you can find trees of the main plant species, you will reach

the famous Integral Reserve of Sasso Fratino.



GASTRONOMY

LIGHT LUNCH/DINNER IN POPPI

In the past the village of Poppi was crossed by a river..in this special location there is today a typical restaurant, where you can enjoy a light lunch / dinner to taste the flavors of the Casentino remaining light!

GOURMET DINNER IN POPPI

Thanks to this tasting lunch or dinner you can taste all the typical products of the territory of casentino revisited with style and keeping up with the latest developments in the gourmet. If you are picky and want to enjoy the cuisine of this class it is for you!

TASTING OF 2 WINES ACCOMPANIED BY 3 TYPES OF CHEESE AND 4 TYPES OF SALAMI

Italy is the country of good food and good wine, and wine of Tuscany is one of the most famous in the world. Thanks to our offer you degustarne two types, accompanied by four types of sausages and 3 types of cheese.

TASTING OF 2/3 BEERS ACCOMPANIED BY CHEESES WITH HONEY, HAM AND LOMBINO OR GOTA

Not many people know this, but in Poppi was born one of the most delicious of Italian craft beers. Do you know the reasons to enjoy it? Because is 100% made in Italy, with great passion of the people who produce it and taste incredibly pleasing to the palate. Guests can sample 2-3 beers, depending on your taste, accompanied by local cheeses and salami.

- Vinsanto del Chianti

SPORT

TREKKING: CAMALDOLI AND THE SECULAR SPRUCES OF MONKS

(Recommended seasons: spring, summer)

Duration: half day

Difficulty level: easy

This is a destination of spiritual value, demonstrating by the strength connection between the hermits and the millennial forest. This place, situated in the National Park of Casentino Forests, is considered today a treasure of biodiversity.

TREKKING: THE VERNA AND THE SACRED FOREST OF SAINT FRANCESCO

(Recommended seasons: spring, summer)

Duration: half day

Difficulty level: easy

This is one of the most beautiful forest of the National Park of Casentino. The Forest is preserved over the centuries by the francescanian monks with religious dedication. A mixed and rare forest, which surrounds one of the most famous shrines in the world.



MEDICEAN VILLA



4* HOTEL POPPI AREA

