



ITALY

SELF-DRIVE TUSCANY (TOUR CODE: 11602)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Florence

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Mar 2022 - 24 Dec 2023

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Self-Drive

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

A self-drive itinerary to explore a region of sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, charming old cities, masterpieces of art and gourmandise!

Highlights

- Staying at the **charming hotel Villa il Palagio** in the Chianti area, boasting a wide green park with an amazing outdoor swimming pool & bar for Villa Il Palagio's guests to enjoy!
- Chance of sampling several **Slow Food Presidia products** - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" such as *the Certaldo Onion*, *The Pienza Pecorino* and many more!
- Explore **Montepulciano**, a characteristic medieval city at a height of 605 metres above sea level offering amazing views over the surrounding hillsides!
- Walk through the historical centre of **Florence** and explore the main highlights such as *Santa Croce church*, *the Baptistery*, *the Duomo* and *Giotto's bell tower* - during your **private guided walking tour!**
- Take in the splendid views as you drive to **San Gimignano**, a *UNESCO world heritage site*, famous for the still intact medieval town and, then, to **Siena**, recognized by the UNESCO as a "heritage of the humanity"
- Sample the **Brunello**, one of the best red wines in the world, and other wines of the **Montalcino** vineyards
- Take part to a **cooking class** dedicated to the **Tuscany tradition**

Kick off with a welcome dinner in the magnificent Florence, then overnight at your stunning Tuscan villa in the countryside. Visit the "Cradle of the Renaissance", Siena, famous for the Palio horse race and enjoy a lunch with some of the traditional local produce such as the Certaldo onion (Slow Food Presidium), and the organic olive oil in the village of San Gimignano.

Drive through the Chianti Hills, Montepulciano and Montalcino, known all over the world for their prestigious wines and taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes. Then, walk through Pienza, the perfect example of a renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino cheese producer, learn something about the cheesemaking process, and sample the fare.

Slow Food is an organization that promotes local food and traditional cooking. It was founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy in 1986 and has since spread worldwide. Promoted as an alternative to fast food, it strives to preserve traditional and regional cuisine and encourages farming of plants, seeds, and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem. It promotes local small businesses and sustainable foods. It also focuses on food quality, rather than quantity. It was the first established part of the broader slow movement. It speaks out against overproduction and food waste. It sees globalisation as a process in which small and local farmers and food producers should be simultaneously protected from and included in the global food system.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights in Chianti at Villa il Palagio - 4* or similar
- Car Hire Credit of \$700
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Dinner after the cooking lesson
- Slow Food welcome dinner at the hotel
- Light lunch in family-run farmhouse in San Gimignano
- Lunch at "Osterie d'Italia" typical Slow Food restaurants
- Cooking class in Florence
- 3 Guided Tastings of foods and/or wines from the Tuscany region
- Private guided tour of Florence

ITINERARY

Day 1 Florence Rignano sull'Arno

Arrive in Florence and pick up your car rental. Then, make your way to hotel in Chianti area.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Rignano sull'Arno Florence Rignano sull'Arno

Morning departure for Florence. Private **guided tour of Florence**. Walk through the historical centre of this amazing city and visit the Santa Croce church where many illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the other religious buildings (the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower - outside) and the houses of power in the old city (the Piazza della Signoria).

Lunch at typical restaurant (***Slow Food** is an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking*).

Free afternoon in Florence, then return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **3**

Rignano sull'Arno Siena San Gimignano Rignano sull'Arno

Visit **Siena** at your leisure in the morning, one of the most important and most beautiful architecture in the city. On the way to **San Gimignano** along the ancient Via Francigena, lunch with some of the traditional local produce such as the Certaldo onion (***Slow Food Presidium** is an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking*), and the organic extra

virgin olive oil from San Gimignano in a little family-run farmhouse. Visit and have a talk on the techniques used in producing organic olive oil.

In the afternoon, at your own pace visit the famous towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum: storyboards, multi-media exhibits, street scenes and a ceramic recreation of the city as it was back in 1300. Return to the hotel.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Breakfast



Day 4

Rignano sull'Arno Radda in Chianti Greve in Chianti Rignano sull'Arno

Entire day dedicated to discovering the Chianti hills along the **Via Chiantigena** (an ancient road connecting Siena with Florence crossing over the Chianti hills). Visit a winery in **Radda in Chianti** where you will meet the wine producer and visit to the cellars, at the end enjoy a wine tasting.

In the afternoon visit winery in Greve in Chianti for a wine and oil tasting. Return to the hotel and overnight.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Breakfast



Morning departure for **Montepulciano**, one of the most characteristic and intact medieval cities in Italy which from a height of 605 metres above sea level offers amazing views over the surrounding hillsides. Visit typical winery for a free tasting, and then explore the wonderful town centre of Montepulciano.

Free Lunch and, then, proceed to **Pienza**, the perfect example of a renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino cheese producer, learn something about the cheesemaking process, and sample the fare (**Slow Food** is an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking). Return to the hotel.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Breakfast



Morning departure for **Montalcino**, famous for its Brunello, one of the best red wines in the world. Montalcino, however, is also a beautiful art city, which dominates 3,000 hectares of vineyards (1,500 for Brunello alone). Free time and Lunch.

Return to Florence area and **join a cooking class** dedicated to the Tuscany tradition, followed by dinner.

Overnight stay in the **Chianti area** at Villa il Palagio or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 7

Rignano sull'Arno

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and our services come to an end.

Breakfast



ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Villa Il Palagio

Rignano sull'Arno

Il Palagio is an ancient villa surrounded by vineyards in the scenic Tuscan countryside. Set in a village and surrounded by a circular stone wall, the estate hosts a church, two country houses and a park with a swimming pool. A world frozen in time: ancient, but recently renovated.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- This package is excluded from the **"CHANGE OF MIND"** Portion of our Peace of Mind Booking Plan.
- **FLEXI CAR HIRE CREDIT:** This self-drive package includes a \$700 (\$100/day) Flexi Car Hire Credit. This provides the flexibility of selecting a vehicle based on your own preferences and requirements. As each location has vehicle limitations, please speak to our team for options.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package