



ITALY

SELF-DRIVE TUSCANY (TOUR CODE: 11602)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Florence

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Nov 24 - 30 Nov 25

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 Rignano Sull' Arno at Hotel Villa Pitiana - 4* or similar
- Car Hire Credit of \$700
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- 1 typical welcome dinner at the hotel
- 1 lunch at "Osterie d' Italia" typical slow food restaurants in Florence or equivalent
- 1 light lunch in Pienza
- 1 lunch or dinner after cooking lesson
- 3 Guided Tastings of foods and/or wines from the Tuscany region
- 1 cooking class (morning or afternoon, upon availability of the venue)
- 1 half-day private guided tour of Firenze

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Arrival in Florence

Arrive in Florence Airport or Railway Station and pick up your car rental or meet your driver for your private transfer. Then, make your way to hotel in Chianti area with welcome dinner.

Overnight stay in Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Florence

Morning departure for Florence by your rental car or by private limousine or van service. Private **guided tour of Florence**. Walk through the historical centre of this amazing city and visit the Santa Croce church (outside), known as the "Pantheon of Italian Glories" where many illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the other religious buildings (the Baptistry, 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. Free afternoon to stroll along in Florence elegant streets. We then suggest a break at one of Florence's oldest ice cream parlours, "Perché no!" that offers more than 33 different flavours and a precise selection of raw materials (including pistachios from Bronte, a Slow Food Presidium product, saffron and cardamom). Return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **3**

Rignano Sull' Arno Siena San Gimignano Rignano Sull' Arno

Morning departure by your rental car or by private limousine or van service. In the morning, we suggest to visit **Siena** at

your leisure in the morning, one of the most important and most beautiful architecture in the city, including the Museum delle Contrade (each horse in the famous "Palio", runs for a different Contrada or district).

We also suggest to sample of some delicious traditional desserts like the **Panforte** in one of the most famous pastry shops in town. Free time for shopping.

In the afternoon, to 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 Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** or similar.

Breakfast



Day 4

Rignano Sull' Arno Radda in Chianti Greve in Chianti Rignano Sull' Arno

Morning departure by your rental car or by private limousine or van service. 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.

Proceed to Greve in Chianti where we suggest visiting the little historical town centre. Stopping at the historical butchers "Falorni" where since the 1729 they produce the specialties of the local [norcineria], the Prosciutto Saporito (Cured Ham) di Greve and all the cured products also in the various versions of pork from the **Surrounding Senese hills** as well as the wild boar, from the well-known Finocchiona to the Noble Salamis in Chianti, prepared with the noble parts of the pork, to the Salami to the Classical Chianti. Specialty: 'Bistecca alla Fiorentina' T-bone Florentine Steak, Italian veal. We suggest you to have a little tasting of salami. We also suggest **lunch at Trattoria Mangiando Mangiando**.

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

Overnight stay in Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **5**

Rignano Sull' Arno Montepulciano Pienza Rignano Sull' Arno

Morning departure by your rental car or by private limousine or van service. 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. Explore the wonderful town centre of Montepulciano. 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 cheese-making process. Enjoy your light lunch with pecorino cheese and wine tasting. In the afternoon, we suggest to stop in Montalcino famous for its Brunello, one of the best red wines in the world. However Montalcino, is also a beautiful art city, which dominates 3,000 hectares of vineyards (1,500 for Brunello alone). Return to the hotel.

Overnight stay in Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **6**

Cooking Class

Today in the morning or in the afternoon (according to venue availability) **join a cooking class** dedicated to the Tuscany tradition, followed by lunch or dinner.

Overnight stay in Rignano Sull' Arno at **Hotel Villa Pitiana** 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 Pitiana

Rignano Sull' Arno

Tuscan Holiday Villa, only 25 minutes far away from Florence, Villa Pitiana welcomes its guests in an uncontaminated place. As soon as you leave the main Valdarno road 69 and start climbing the hill from S. Ellero, you find yourself immersed in the countryside scenarios which made you select Villa Pitiana as the final destination of your journey.



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