

## A custom itinerary

Most of our clients prefer to see Tuscany at a balanced pace, alternating between days of touring churches, castles and art museums, with more energetic days of biking or hiking. We work with you individually, to decide where to go and what to do. A 9-day trip might include the following:

**On Day 1** we depart from USA to Florence, Italy with a morning arrival in Florence on **Day 2**. A private driver will be waiting to take you to your hotel in Florence, in the centrally located Piazza Santa

Maria Novella. **Day 3** brings us a guided tour of Renaissance Florence, with an afternoon visit to Fiesole, the town overlooking Florence. In the afternoon, we depart for San Gimignano, (4 nights) with its skyline of 14 towers. On **Day 4** you will enjoy a private guided bike tour, exploring Val d' Elsa's rolling hills through olive groves. and

stopping for lunch in the charming medieval village of Col d' Elsa. On **Day 5** we spend more time exploring Chianti. We visit the abbey of Sant'Antimo and the lovely town of Montalcino. We stop in the charming towns of Greve and Castellini in Chianti and visit famous wineries such as Brolio Castle for lunch and wine tastings. On **Day 6** we visit Siena and tour the town of the Palio, held in the Piazza del Campo. On **Day 7**, we depart for Montepulciano (2 nights), an ideal base for forays into southern Tuscany. Enjoy an afternoon biking or hiking tour of the Orcia Valley hill towns: Montepulciano, Pienza and Montecchiello. We stop for lunch and wine tasting at a favorite vineyard. The morning of **Day 8** includes a private guided tour of the lovely southern Tuscan towns of Buonconvento, Pienza, San Quirico de' Orca, the ancient abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, and the Roman spa town of Bagno Vignoni. On **Day 9**, we depart Montepulciano for travel back to the US.



## Tour Details

**Trip Length:**  
7 to 21 days

**Group size:**  
from 2 to 20

**Price:** pricing depends on trip length, size of your group, time of year, level of accommodations, and many other factors. Please call or email to discuss.

### Includes:

- overnight stays in restored, 3 or 4 star hotels, villas or agriturismos (working farms).
- private transfers
- multicourse, gourmet dinners with wine
- 2-3 days of private guided bike tours or guided hikes
- 2-3 days of touring Siena, Florence, the Chianti region, and hill towns
- bicycle rental, including pickup and delivery, helmets, maps and private guide

**Our tours are custom designed for your particular interests and desires.**

**There is no minimum participation and no risk of cancelation.**

Contact:

**Marie Palumbo Lyons, JD, CTC**

Italy Destination Specialist

703 629-1037

fax 703 319-1715

mlyons319@gmail.com



ASTA Member

# Highlights of Tuscany

Visits to medieval hilltowns:

San Gimignano, Montepulciano,  
Pienza, and Montalcino

Vineyard tours and wine tastings  
in the Chianti region

Tours of Siena and Florence

Custom, private guided biking and  
hiking day trips



VACANZA

Independent tours of Italy for the discerning traveler



**Vacanza's Highlights of Tuscany tour will find you under the Tuscan sun as you cycle or hike through some of the world's most beautiful countryside of gently rolling fields lined with cypress trees and sunflowers.**



**On biking or hiking days, your private guide will plan a custom route for you and your companions. We understand that this is a vacation, not a race, and the emphasis is on scenic routes on quiet backroads at a pace matched to your comfort level.**

On days off from biking or hiking, ancient walled towns perched atop the hills make for interesting visits to museums and churches.

Our clients are often based in San Gimignano, one of Tuscany's prettiest hill towns with perfectly preserved towers, and breathtaking views. The biggest and highest of Tuscany's hill towns, Montepulciano is also an ideal base for visiting the towns south of Siena.

Trips are planned to local wineries to sample the renowned red wines of the area. Day trips are by private driver, so you can have that extra glass of wine with no need to worry about driving!

Vacanza takes pleasure in finding the best authentic, Tuscan restaurants, known to few visitors, and offering regional specialties such as hand rolled pastas, Parmesan and pecorino cheeses, and prosciutto.



#### **How do I decide?**

*Explore Siena's cobblestone streets, jam-packed with palaces and churches?*

*Enjoy a sunset stroll over the bridges of the Arno River?*

*Hike the gently rolling green hills surrounding charming medieval towns?*

*Marvel at Renaissance masterpieces in Florence's palaces and churches?*

*Sample the renowned red wines made from Sangiovese grapes, handmade pastas and local cheeses and meats?*

**You don't have to choose!**

**Vacanza, LLC is arranging a special departure offering the historic and artistic highpoints of Florence, Siena, and the Chianti hill towns, as well as guided biking or hiking trips through the Tuscan countryside.**



**VACANZA**