



TUSCANY WINE TOURS

**Wine enthusiasts cannot miss a tour in Tuscany:
Bacchs's elixir is produced from one end of the region to the other !**

Our wine tours, will bring you discovering the main tuscany wine areas from the most famous Chianti, to Val D'Orcia and Montalbano. You will taste the best wines, being taught on the magic process of making wines. Our itineraries runs through magnificent scenary and enchanting view, medieval villages and fortified manors, ancient castle and opulent villas.

We are at your disposal for TAILOR-MADE tours visiting the most important wine areas in Tuscany.

We offer exclusive visits to private noble estates, castles and ancient villas; sommelier courses or lectures; special menus for privates and groups.

Tuscany produces five of Italy's DOCG wines: Brunello, Carmignano, Chianti and Chianti Classico, Vernaccia di San Gimignano (the only white) and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Tuscany also boasts some 38 DOC wines. An important development since the end of 1980s has been the rise of Supertuscan, a long-lived wine of high quality.

The best of them, Chianti Classico, comes from seven zones in many different guises. The backbone of the Chianti reds is the Sangiovese grape, although other grapes types are mixed in varyingly modest quantities to produce different styles of wine. Everybody knows Gallo Nero (Black Cock) the emblem shared by the Chianti Classico wines and exported all over the world.





WINE AND FOOD EXPERIENCE - 16/22 JULY 2007

16th July

Meet your tour escort and the participants in Piazza delle Carceri (Prato) and depart for a full day excursion to the **Montalbano area**, a land of vineyards and olive trees. En route you will visit the medicean **Villa Ambra**. Isolated in a dominant position, the Villa is considered one of the ripest fruits of Florentine humanism.

Continue to **Carmignano** to visit one of the best renowned **winery farm** of the area, strolling among terraces of olive-groves and vineyards. The production is particularly oriented towards **high level quality DOCG (Carmignano DOCG), some valuable IGT, vinsanto DOC, extra-virgin olive oil, flavoured oil and a wide choice of typical hand-made food products**.

The farm owners will guide you visiting the vineyard and oliveyard with description of different kind of grapes and olive plant; in the cellar you will be taught on the wine production method (from bottling operations to wine aging)

At the end of the tour, a light lunch and a wine tasting will be offered you: bruschette with extravirgin olive oil, cheese and ham, a choice of vegetables and 2 different Docg/Igt wines.

In the afternoon, drive to **Artimino**. Enjoy a glass of **Vin Santo** (holy wine) a special dessert wine also used in Mass traditionally served with almond based "cantuccini" biscuits, in the ancient cellars of **Villa La Ferdinanda**, erected as a hunting lodge for the Grand Duke Ferdinando during the 1596.

At the end of the visit, transfer to the hotel. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.

17th July

Breakfast in hotel.

Today will visit the most famous Tuscany wine area: **the Chianti region**.

Driving along the "**Strada Chianti-giana**", a spectacular wine trail, you will meet ancient castle-villages; medieval villages and ancient towns. In **Greve**, you will visit a fortified manor well known for its wine; the property owner will be very happy to accompany you visiting the ancient cellars and the vineyards. After a wine tasting, continue towards **Castellina, Radda and Gaiole in Chianti**.

Visit the **Castello di Meleto**: Like a fairytale, Meleto Castle announces itself in the enchanting Chianti landscape at the end of a pleasant driveway lined with cypresses and junipers, amid sun-kissed fields and vineyards. The vineyard of Meleto produces approximately 6000 kg of grapes pro hectare (2.741 acres) gathered by hand and destined to the production of the three great lines of Meleto wine cellars.

Buffet lunch at the castle.

Proceed to your Hotel near Siena. Accommodation, dinner and overnight

18th July

Breakfast in hotel.

Departure to you next destination: Siena and San Gimignano.

Arriving in **Siena**, you will be met by an expert **local guide** for a city tour.

You will immediately notice an ancient and mysterious atmosphere floating through the little, narrow streets and squares. You'll feel as if you've stepped backwards in time. Draped on its three hills, Siena is a very beautiful city to visit, a flamboyant medieval ensemble of places and towers cast in warm, brown, Siena-coloured bricks. The city is dominated by the Gothic Cathedral (Duomo), the taut needle of the Torre del Mangia and yet the shell shaped Piazza del Campo, where every year (on 2nd July and 16th August) the "Palio" horserace, take place.

Enjoy your lunch *al fresco* on the square (NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE) !



Continue the tour driving to **San Gimignano**. Free time at leisure to visit the characteristic medieval borough: the narrow streets are animated by numerous artisan and food shops...it will certainly be very amusing to wander about

Proceed to a **local farm** to visit the estate's vineyard, magnificently situated just in front of the medieval town of San Gimignano. A well appreciated wine tasting including the famous **Vernaccia of San Gimignano**, one of the best known Tuscan white wines, will be served in the veranda.

Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

19th July

Breakfast in hotel.

Today you will visit **Val D'Orcia**, another important area for wine production.

In the morning visit **Pienza**, a superb example of Renaissance architecture – the ideal city – designed and built in the mid-15th century by the Florentine architect Bernardo Rossellino on the orders of Pope Pius II, Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, who was born there in 1405. The most important buildings are grouped around Piazza Pio II: the cathedral, the Palazzo Piccolomini and Palazzo Borgia.

In the afternoon continue to **Montepulciano**: a medieval town set atop a narrow ridge of volcanic rock, combining Tuscany's superb countryside with some of the region's finest wines.

Time at leisure to visit the ancient historical centre without missing stops in the various enoteche to sample the **Vino Nobile di Montepulciano** and other local wines.

Accommodation in hotel. Dinner and overnight

20th July

Breakfast in hotel.

In the morning enjoy a short excursion to **Bagno Vignoni**, a tiny spa town dating back to Roman times. The hot sulphurous water bubbles up into a picturesque pool built by the Medici in the town main square (ENTRANCE TICKET NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE).

In the afternoon drive to **Montalcino** home of the world-famous **Brunello**. Produced only in the vineyards surrounding the town, it is said to be one of Italy's best reds. Plenty of enoteche (wine bars) around town provide you with the chance to taste and buy Brunello as well as the other main local wine, the **Rosso di Montalcino**.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

21th July

Breakfast in hotel.

Departure to Florence

Optional sightseeing tour of the city

Hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight

22th July

Breakfast in hotel.

Individual transfer to the airport/train station.



Package price: Euro 760,00 per person sharing a double room

Single room supplement: Euro 140,00

The price includes:

- Tourist coach throughout the itinerary
- English speaking tour manager throughout the itinerary
- 6 nights hotel accommodation on hb basis (3 course meal, no drinks)
- Wine tasting and light lunch the 1st day
- Wine tasting and buffet lunch the 2nd day
- Wine tasting in San Gimignano the 3rd day
- Lunch in Pienza (3 course meal) the 4th day
- 3 hrs city tour with english speaking local guide in Siena
- 2 hrs city tour with english speaking local guide in Pienza

The price does not include:

- Drinks within meals except for the wine tastings
- Entrance ticket to the Spa in Bagno Vignoni
- Entrance fees to monuments, churches, exhibition
- Everything not mentioned at the paragraph “the price includes”

THE TOUR WILL BE OPERATING WITH A MINIMUM OF 15 PARTICIPANTS.

The tour will be conducted in English.

German, french and spanish speaking tour escorts are available with a minimum of 15 participants speaking the same language.

**OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING TOUR IN FLORENCE: Euro 35,00 per person
Including 3 hrs city tour with guide and bus transfer to the hotel**