



# *French Wine*

## EXPLORERS

### TREASURES OF TUSCANY

7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS | PRIVATE TOUR

AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

Tuscany's history, traditions and culture extend to magnificent cities, medieval hilltop villages and hamlets scattered around an iconic countryside. This is Italy's heartland.

Explore three contrasting wine regions: Southern Tuscany, ancient home to the legendary Brunello di Montalcino and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano; Chianti Classico, and the Maremma, Tuscany's coast, where Italy's viticultural iconoclasts first created Super Tuscan wines. This tour offers full immersion in Italian wine culture, with barrel tastings, comparisons between indigenous and international grape varieties, and in-depth tours.

This is the ideal tour for the wine and food lover!

# TREASURES OF TUSCANY ITINERARY\*

## DAY 1, WELCOME TO TUSCANY

- Arrive on your own and check into **The Hotel Poggio ai Santi**. *Poggio Ai Santi lies less than 2 miles inland from the seaside town of San Vincenzo, which is halfway between Livorno and Grosseto on Tuscany's coastline. The hotel offers over 7 acres of botanic gardens that continue into an olive grove and scrubs; part of over 80 acres of land hugging the hills, with the sea, Elba and Corsica as a backdrop.*

## DAY 2, BOLGHERI: HOME OF SUPER TUSCANS

B

- **Bolgheri** is the town that put Maremma and **Super Tuscans** on the map, and today we'll visit two of its brightest stars.
- First, we start off at one of the foremost producers of the area such as **Le Macchiole or Grattamacco**. The **terroir of Bolgheri is like Bordeaux**, perfectly suited to growing quality international varieties. Today a Super Tuscan wine comes in many styles ranging from 100% Sangiovese, to blends of **Sangiovese with international varieties, to Italian versions of the classic Bordeaux blend using on international varieties (primarily Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot)**.
- Following another tour and tasting, pause for lunch at a local restaurant featuring specialties of the region.
- After lunch (lunch additional), enjoy free time in the village of Bolgheri. Return to your hotel with free time to relax before dinner at the restaurant of the hotel.

## DAY 3, BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

B

- Today is dedicated to Brunello! **Brunello di Montalcino** ranks as one of Italy's most prized and most expensive wines.
- Brunello di Montalcino can age for between 10 and 30 years. These wines mature into an amply flavored wine of deep ruby to brick-red color complemented by a rich and complex bouquet. Brunellos stand in a class of their own. You will enjoy an amazing guided visit and tasting at **one of the best producers of the area such as Silvio Nardi, Poggio di Sotto or Col d'Orcia**.
- Following lunch at a local restaurant, you will have free time to **visit the charming town of Montalcino** with its incredible views of the surrounding hills and valleys.
- Then check into your **Relais and Chateau member Hotel Borgo San Felice**. *Located in the heart of the Chianti Classico, Borgo San Felice combines all the pleasures of la dolce vita. The property is made up of an entire medieval hamlet including its old chapel, large pool, cellars and its vineyard surrounding it.*

## DAY 4, MONTEPULCIANO

B, L

- **Montepulciano**, the Renaissance city where the day's tour begins, is a particularly well-preserved hilltop town surrounded by one of Tuscany's most enchanting landscapes: the Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana valleys.
- The area is noted for its red wines, the most famous being **Vino Nobile di Montepulciano**, a medium-body wine rich in color, with a good tannin structure. Your first tour and tasting will be at a **boutique property to discover Vino Nobile**.
- Then we'll arrive at the countryside estate of **Avignonesi**, famous for its benchmark **Vino Nobile** and **Vin Santo**, as well as its experimental vineyards, where disappearing grape varieties are being resurrected. After a tour, the winery will serve us lunch accompanied by their wines.
- After lunch, travel to **Siena** for some free time to discover the walled city and dinner on own. Discover the **13th-century Piazza del Campo, Siena's stunning main square**, where the famous Palio horse race is still held each summer. The Campo is dominated by the Palazzo Pubblico (Town Hall) and its majestic bell tower. Then on to the cathedral, one of the most sumptuous examples of Italian gothic architecture, built between 1180 and 1370.

## DAY 5, CHIANTI CLASSICO

B, L

- The term "Classico" refers to the oldest and/or the central part of a zone or area.
- So, the **Chianti Classico** zone, which lies between the popular tourist cities of Florence and Siena, is **the oldest part as well as the center or heart of the general Chianti wine region**. Chianti Classico wine must have **at least 80 percent Sangiovese grapes**. The 80 percent Sangiovese is a minimum - the percentage can be as much as 100 percent. Native red grapes like Canaiolo or Colorino or some "international" varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot or Syrah can be used to fill out the remainder of the blend.
- By now you will welcome the later start time as we travel to one of the **foremost producers such as Castello di Ama for a private wine tour followed by a wine tasting lunch with flagship wines** of the estate. Following lunch visit the flagship estate of **Antinori for a tour and tasting** before returning to your hotel for an evening on own.

## DAY 6 SAN GIMIGNANO AND FLORENCE

B, L

- **Spend time to discover the famous village of San Gimignano**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most splendid examples of an ancient walled town.
- Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" or "Tuscany's Manhattan" it boasts an exceptional skyline, is certainly one of the **most well-preserved towns in the whole of Italy** and has, in fact, been used as a background in many movies. During your free time here, stroll the maze of quaint cobblestone streets at leisure, discovering the many tall towers, once homes, which characterize the town. Breathe in the authentic atmosphere and then set off to savor a genuine Tuscan lunch and wine tasting in the charming premises of a delightful boutique winery.



Following lunch, **transfer to your hotel in Florence, the St. Regis**. Arrive early afternoon for free time to discover Florence and all it has to offer for museums, shopping and wonderful restaurants.

## DAY 7 FLORENCE

**B**

Your tour ends after breakfast today. Continue your journeys with fond memories of the treasures of Tuscany and its entire splendor.

### YOUR 7 DAY, 6 NIGHT LUXURY TOUR OF TUSCANY INCLUDES:

- 2 nights' accommodations at 4\* Boutique Hotel Poggio ai Santi in the Bolgheri region
- 3 nights' accommodations at 5\* Relais and Chateau Borgo San Felice
- 1 night accommodations at 5\* Hotel St. Regis Florence
- All VIP tours and tastings at the regions' finest wine estates
- Buffet breakfast each day | 3 lunches with premium wine
- Deluxe air-conditioned transportation throughout
- An English-speaking professional guide throughout the tour
- A full packet of information on the region and wine tasting sent to you in advance of the tour, all local taxes, all gratuities for included restaurants

**Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$6990.00 per person**

**Price based on 4 guests, double occupancy: US \$6590.00 per person**

**Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$5990.00 per person**

*(Monday through Friday tour dates are preferable, as more wine estates are open. Saturday is also possible if necessary.)*

*Subject to availability. Single supplement: please inquire. For groups of 7 or more guests: please contact us for a price quote. Not included: any personal expenses, or any services not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.*

Legend for meals included in your tour: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

## WINE ESTATES

We include only top-quality wine estates in our programs. Tours and tastings are scheduled by special arrangement, and some estates, including any mentioned in the Itinerary, may not be available on your dates. Once you book your program with us, we will contact the estates to determine which are available. If there are specific estates you would like to visit, please let us know, and we will contact your preferences first when arranging visits and tastings for you.

**To reserve this program: contact us at [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com)**

**Tel.: 1-877-261-1500 or 410-745-5406 (outside the USA)**

**We look forward to planning this special trip for you!**

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