



TUSCANY

...THE LANDSCAPES, THE WINE AND THE TRADITIONS

The first image that comes to mind when you think of Tuscany is its beautiful and timeless countryside – a rolling landscape of hills dipped in soft morning mist, smattered with lush vineyards, silvery olive groves and tree-lined avenues of cypress trees.

Nestled in the heart of Italy, west of the Apennine Mountains, this enchanting region encompasses all of the many unique qualities of Italy. The stunning landscapes, the ancient medieval villages perched on the hilltops, the Renaissance art cities such as Florence, Siena and Pisa with its famous leaning tower, to name but a few.

Travelers are almost projected back in time when walking or cycling in this untouched region. Rich in history and tradition, Tuscany has entranced and inspired artists for centuries, including Leonardo da Vinci and

Botticelli, whose artwork is showcased in churches, galleries and museums. Befitting a slower pace of life, this is a place so beautiful you could happily get lost in it for hours. You'll often see locals riding their bicycles to the morning markets or heading home after work and in some towns artisans still cut pasta by hand.

Immaculate vines snake down hillsides and the air is perfumed with wine while historic olive groves glisten and fields are ablaze with sunflowers. The instantly recognizable red-tiled roofs of the honey-colored stone farmhouses are scattered around the landscape.

Pedal or walk past Romanesque churches, San Gimignano's soaring towers and beautifully-preserved hamlets sitting in dense forests and cypress-studded hills.

Wind through the tangle of alleys home to alabaster workshops, secret chapels and chat to local shop owners as you pick up some local produce.

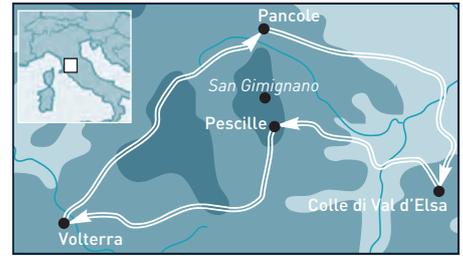
The best known of the Italian regions, Tuscany is famous for its wines and food. The region's food is based on *cucina povera*, a tasty rural cuisine that uses natural ingredients such as olive oil, pulses and vegetables, wild porcini mushrooms and salt-cured meats such as *salumi* or *prosciutto*. Stop by for a tasty snack such as lightly toasted Tuscan bread rubbed with raw garlic and a drizzle of freshly-pressed olive oil, washed down with a glass of Chianti or Montepulciano, the famous Tuscan wines.

SECRETS OF SAN GIMIGNANO CYCLING

CYCLING ACTIVITY LEVEL
1 1+ 2 2+ 3



Colle di Val d'Elsa



YOUR HOLIDAY DAY-BY-DAY



DAY 01 ARRIVE IN VOLTERRA

Arrive at the **Park Hotel Le Fonti** in Volterra. There's time for a wander round its myriad of cobbled alleys and hidden squares before dinner (included).

DAY 02 VOLTERRA TO PANCOLE 41KM/26MI

Down into the Era Valley before climbing to pretty Castagno and the well-preserved spa town of Gambassi Terme, with its C12 church and gardens. Pick up the Via Francigena to freewheel down to medieval Certaldo before a final climb through olive groves to the hamlet of Pancole. You spend the next two nights at the **Hotel Le Renaie** with evening meals included.

DAY 03 AT PANCOLE

Relax by the pool today, or cycle past orchards and vines to fully discover Certaldo – take the funicular for spectacular views across the Val d'Elsa.

DAY 04 PANCOLE TO COLLE DI VAL D'ELSA 32KM/20MI

Explore the panoramic wine country between Pancole and Colle di Val d'Elsa, following the official, mainly off-road, Chianti Wine Route. Lunch in Poggibonsi and visit the unfinished C15 fortress before reaching the **Relais Della Rovere** for the next two nights (dinner included).

DAY 05 AT COLLE DI VAL D'ELSA

Explore the medieval town, take the bus to Siena or Florence, visit the medieval town of Monteriggioni, or laze by the hotel's pool.

DAY 06 COLLE DI VAL D'ELSA TO PESCILLE 40KM/25MI

A gradual climb takes you up to Casole d'Elsa with its C12 church, and its impressive fortress. Then wind gently up to Pescille, with a backdrop of the medieval towers of San Gimignano, to reach the **Hotel Pescille**. You stay here for two nights with dinner included at a local restaurant.

DAY 07 AT PESCILLE

San Gimignano is a short cycle away – explore its myriad of narrow streets and many hidden cobbled squares before returning to your hotel for a dip in the pool.

DAY 08 PESCILLE TO VOLTERRA 38KM/24MI

Ride to San Gimignano before climbing up through classic Tuscan landscapes, then there's a descent into the Era Valley and a final climb to Volterra and the **Park Hotel Le Fonti** for dinner.

DAY 09 LEAVE VOLTERRA

- ★★★★☆ customer rating
- Exclusive Headwater Rep Service
- Exhilarating cycling through totally unspoilt countryside
- San Gimignano's soaring towers; Volterra's Etruscan treasures; great art cities of Florence, Pisa and Siena
- Fabulous hotels, all with stunning pools

YOUR HOLIDAY, YOUR WAY

This trip is also available as a 10-night tour, spending an extra two nights in Colle di Val d'Elsa. Explore the cathedral, museums and Renaissance buildings or hop on the bus to Siena or Florence.

PRICES FROM

\$2,015 per person

With departures every two days from May 11th to October 14th 2018

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- 8 nights hotel-to-hotel accommodation in a mix of *** and **** hotels
- All breakfasts and evening meals
- Services of your local Headwater Representative
- High quality bikes
- GPS route directions and maps
- RideWithGPS navigation app
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Headwater Wine Collection Service

OPTIONAL UPGRADES

- Nearest arrival airport: Pisa airport
- Local transfers from Pisa airport to hotel/return. Inquire for details and timings.
- Sole occupancy of a double room \$56 per person
- Room upgrades at selected hotels
- Extra nights in Volterra or San Gimignano
- City break add-ons in Florence, Siena or Pisa

WHERE YOU STAY

