

# Walking Tour in Chianti Tuscany 4

**6 days / 5 nights:**

**\$1790 per person b&b or \$2070 with dinners included\***

**\*5% discount when 4 people or more book and deposit together**

This magnificent walk passes through some of the most celebrated countryside in Europe, a unique landscape of rolling hills, forests, vineyards, olive groves, isolated farmhouses, medieval market towns and ancient villages, all moulded by over three millennia of settlement. You will be picked up in Florence and taken to Impruneta on Day 1 and dropped in Siena on Day 5. The Chianti is not only a place of extraordinary natural beauty, it is also very rich in history. It has been inhabited since the Etruscan times, but its formative times were in the Middle Ages, when it was settled by some of the most powerful monasteries of the times and was the battleground for fighting between the ambitious cities of Florence and Siena. On the walk, you pass some of the most attractive villages and towns in Italy, magnificent abbeys and famous castles.

## **The walks:**

This is a grade 2 walk. The walks are from 6 to 12 kms (2.5 to 4 hours). Except for the first day, most of the trail is clearly marked with walking signs. It generally follows good unsealed country roads, although there are several sections which wind along smaller paths. There are no steep climbs although on Day 3 there is a sustained walk up to the ridge of the Chianti Hills. Much of Day 4 winds through forests.

## **The accommodation:**

The Hidden Italy use the best accommodation available. On Days 1, 3 and 5 you stay in family run 3-star hotels overlooking the towns' main squares; on Day 2 you stay in a comfortable b&b; on Day 4 you stay in a beautiful agriturismo (with pool) in the forest of the Chianti Hills; and your last night in Siena is in a restored medieval palazzo in the middle of the historical centre of the city. All rooms have an en suite bathroom.

## **The food:**

You are in the heart of the Chianti district so the food and wine is magnificent. Generous breakfasts are included each day (you'll need them for your walks). With notice, the hotels will be able to prepare a cut lunch for the walk. Dinners are not included in the standard however, if you select the 'Dinners option' (which we strongly recommend) this will include 3 course meals alla carte (ie free choice) in some of the finest restaurants in the area. The dinner option also means you'll have a guaranteed booking each night.

## **What's included in this walk?**

- five nights accommodation
- all breakfasts
- recommendations for lunch and dinners
- reading lists and historical and cultural notes
- maps and detailed walking instructions
- daily transfers of baggage between hotels
- transfer from Florence to Impruneta, Day 1; transfer to Siena, Day 6
- 24 hour backup from local manager

# The Tuscany Walking Tour - Florence to Siena Itinerary

## Day 1

Transfer from Florence to Impruneta a pleasant town a short drive from Florence. Your family hotel has views of the town's famous basilica in the central piazza, dating from the 11th century, which contains a miraculous image of the Madonna, fragments of the True Cross and masterpieces by Luca della Robbia and Michelozzi.

## Day 2

Today is a gentle start to your Chianti visit, a short walk over undulating hills, through forests, vineyards and wheat fields to a small quiet farming town. Your accommodation is in a small family-run b&b in the centre of the town. (2.5 hrs, 6 kms).

## Day 3

Today you walk enter the heart of the Chianti district, walking through vineyards and past one of the oldest and wealthiest abbeys in Tuscany (where you can have lunch and visit) before finishing for the day in a busy market town, one of the centres of wine growing in the region. Your hotel overlooks the main square. (3.5 hrs, 12 kms)

## Day 4

Today's walk starts with a long climb to the ridge of the highest range of hills in the Chianti district, passing through hamlets and forests on the way. From here you are rewarded with spectacular views over the valley of the Greve River. You continue along the ridge following the route of a Roman road, passing through pine forests and past the ruins of an 11th century abbey until you reach the highest point of the Chianti. *Unfortunately, the small hotel here closed over winter. You will be picked up at the abbey at 15.00 and taken back to where you stayed Day 3 for another evening.* . (3.5 hrs 9kms)

## Day 5

*You will be picked up at your hotel in Greve and taken to Villa San Michele at 09.00.* An easy day, continuing along the ridge heading down through pine and oak forests, past a hamlet that sits on the historical border between Siena and Florence, until you emerge at a magnificent wine estate in a converted medieval abbey, where you can have a light lunch. Your base for the night is another pleasant market town an hour's walk further down into the valley. (3.5 hrs, 10 kms)

## Day 6

Today's fascinating walk takes you past three famous medieval castles (each now the seat of a major wine estate). You start walking through classic Chianti countryside passing vineyards, farm houses with panoramic views before climbing up into chestnut, pine and oak forests and finally finishing at a splendid castle, which has been in the Ricasoli family since 1141 and in whose vineyards the Chianti Classico wine was first developed in the 19th century. Your walk finishes in a small village under the castle, where you'll be picked up from and driven to Siena in the afternoon. (3 hrs, 7 kms).

## Day 7

This morning, after breakfast, you will be able to continue your holiday - Siena is connected to Florence and Rome by regular buses and trains.