

Tuscany — 7 Days

Seven days across Tuscany — a Renaissance duomo and a private cooking class in Florence, medieval towers and a world-champion gelato in San Gimignano, a wine-country overnight at a working Chianti agriturismo, Siena's shell-shaped piazza, the cypress-lined roads of the Val d'Orcia, and a leaning tower on the way home — with real hotels, real wineries, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

April – June & September – October

mild temperatures, blooming countryside in spring and the grape harvest in fall; July–August is hot and heavily touristed, winter sees many agriturismi and rural restaurants close for the season

FROM

\$1,450 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. rental car, 6 nights' lodging, a Chianti wine tasting, and a Florence cooking class

Day 1

Florence Arrival

A first afternoon in the Renaissance capital, arriving to a skyline still ruled by one red-tiled dome.

Rental Car Pickup — Florence Airport (FLR)

~20 minutes to the city center · from \$55 USD / day

Florence's small Peretola airport sits just north of the historic center — pick up the car now, but leave it parked for the next two days; the old town itself is walking-only, and the car only earns its keep once the trip heads into Chianti.

Europcar Florence Airport · [europcar.com](https://www.europcar.com)

Piazza del Duomo & the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore

~1.5 hours, self-guided · free to enter, ~\$20 USD to climb the dome

Brunelleschi's red-tiled dome, Giotto's marble bell tower, and the Baptistery's bronze doors, all facing one square in the heart of the old town — the obvious first stop, and worth returning to at dusk when the crowds thin out.

Dinner — Trattoria near Santa Croce

~1.5 hours · \$25–\$35 USD / person

A first-night plate of bistecca alla fiorentina or pappa al pomodoro at one of the family-run trattorias tucked around Piazza Santa Croce, a few minutes' walk from the Duomo.

Overnight — Brunelleschi Hotel

From \$220–\$260 USD / night, for 2 people

A boutique hotel built around a 6th-century Byzantine tower and a medieval church, two blocks from the Duomo — one of the few hotels in Florence with its own private museum in the basement.

Brunelleschi Hotel · brunelleschihotelflorence.com

Day 2

The Uffizi & a Florentine Cooking Class

A morning with the Medici's art collection, an afternoon along the Arno, and an evening spent learning to cook the region's food.

Uffizi Gallery — Timed-Entry Tour

~2.5 hours, timed entry · ~\$30 USD / person

Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Michelangelo's Doni Tondo, and room after room of Renaissance masterworks in the Medici family's former administrative offices — book the timed slot in advance to skip the walk-up line, which can run over an hour in high season.

Ponte Vecchio & the Oltrarno

~1.5 hours, self-guided · free

Florence's medieval bridge, lined with gold and jewelry shops that have traded there since the 16th century, then a wander into the quieter Oltrarno district on the far bank for leather workshops and artisan studios.

Market Tour & Cooking Class — Mama Florence

~4 hours · ~\$110 USD / person

A morning-market walk through Mercato Centrale followed by a hands-on class making fresh

Drive — Florence to San Gimignano

~1 hour via the SR2 & SP1 · self-guided

A straightforward drive south through Chianti farmland, with the walled town's 14 surviving medieval towers visible from the road long before the parking lots at its base.

San Gimignano Towers & Piazza della Cisterna

~2 hours, self-guided · free to walk, ~\$5 USD to climb Torre Grossa

A hilltop town that once had 72 stone towers built by rival merchant families competing for status — 14 remain, and the climb up Torre Grossa gives the best rooftop view over the surrounding vineyards.

Gelato — Gelateria Dondoli

~30 minutes · ~\$4–\$6 USD / cone

The workshop of Sergio Dondoli, a multiple-time world gelato champion, on Piazza della Cisterna — the saffron and Vernaccia-wine flavors are the shop's own inventions and worth the inevitable line.

Gelateria Dondoli · Piazza della Cisterna 4, San Gimignano

Chianti Wine Tasting — LivTours

~4 hours · ~\$140 USD / person

A small-group afternoon at a family-run Chianti Classico vineyard, walking the cellar and tasting through several vintages paired with local cheese and cured meats.

LivTours · livtours.com

Overnight — Agriturismo San Sano

From \$160–\$200 USD / night, for 2 people

A converted medieval hamlet in Gaiole in Chianti, with a pool overlooking the vineyards and its own small restaurant for a slower dinner than the day-trip crowds see.

Agriturismo San Sano · agriturismosansano.it

Day 4

Siena's Piazza del Campo

A shell-shaped medieval square, a striped marble cathedral, and a slow dinner before heading back to the vineyards.

Drive — Gaiole in Chianti to Siena

~45 minutes via the SR408 · self-guided

A scenic backroad south out of the Chianti hills into Siena, Florence's historic rival city.

Piazza del Campo & Siena Cathedral

~3 hours, self-guided · free for the piazza, ~\$18 USD for the Duomo complex

A fan-shaped brick square that hosts the twice-yearly Palio horse race, ringed by cafes, and a striped black-and-white marble cathedral a few blocks up the hill with an inlaid marble floor rarely fully uncovered outside of a few weeks each year.

Dinner — Il Campo

~1.5 hours · \$30–\$40 USD / person

A restaurant with outdoor tables directly on the Piazza del Campo itself — the view of the square at dusk is the draw as much as the Tuscan menu of pici pasta and grilled meats.

Il Campo · Piazza del Campo 50, Siena

Overnight — Agriturismo San Sano

From \$160–\$200 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night back at the vineyard hamlet in Gaiole in Chianti, a short drive north of Siena.

Day 5

Into the Val d'Orcia

A drive through the postcard hills south of Siena, and a hill-town evening built around a single ingredient: pecorino cheese.

Scenic Drive — Chianti to Pienza via the Val d'Orcia

~1.5 hours via the SR2 & SP146 · self-guided

The single most photographed stretch of road in Tuscany — golden wheat fields (or plowed brown earth, depending on season), lone farmhouses, and the winding cypress-lined driveways that appear on a thousand postcards, with pullouts near San Quirico d'Orcia for the classic shots.

Pienza Old Town & Pecorino Tasting

~2 hours, self-guided · ~\$10–\$15 USD for a tasting flight

A Renaissance "ideal city" commissioned by Pope Pius II, its main street lined with shops selling the region's pecorino di Pienza sheep's-milk cheese in every stage of aging, several offering tastings paired with local honey and jam.

Overnight — Relais Val d'Orcia

From \$170–\$210 USD / night, for 2 people

A countryside hotel just outside Pienza with rooms looking straight out over the Val d'Orcia's rolling wheat fields — the terrace at sunset is the reason to book a room with a view here rather than sleeping in town.

Relais Val d'Orcia · Pienza, Val d'Orcia

Day 6

Montepulciano & the Hot Springs of Bagno Vignoni

A historic wine cellar built into a Renaissance palazzo, and an afternoon soak in water that's been running hot since Roman times.

Wine Tasting — Cantina Contucci, Montepulciano

~1.5 hours · ~\$20–\$30 USD / person

A 13th-century palazzo cellar in the center of Montepulciano, still family-run, where Vino Nobile di Montepulciano ages in enormous oak barrels beneath frescoed ceilings — one of the oldest continuously operating wineries in the region.

Cantina Contucci · contucci.it

Bagno Vignoni & La Posta Hotel Day Spa

~2.5 hours · ~\$45–\$60 USD / person for spa access

A tiny village built around a steaming rectangular pool in its main square — fed by the same volcanic springs the Romans and Medici bathed in — where the historic pool itself is now look-but-don't-touch, but the adjoining hotel's thermal pools are open to day visitors for a soak with the same mineral-rich water.

La Posta Hotel Day Spa · lapostahotel.it

Dinner in Pienza

~1.5 hours · \$25–\$35 USD / person

A last relaxed evening back in Pienza's old town, with a table looking out over the same valley crossed by car two days earlier.

Overnight — Relais Val d'Orcia

From \$170–\$210 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night on the terrace above the wheat fields.

Day 7

Pisa & Departure

One last stop at Italy's most famous architectural mistake, then the drive back to Florence to close out the week.

Drive — Val d'Orcia to Pisa

~2 hours via the SI-PG-FI & FI-PI-LI · self-guided

A longer final drive west across Tuscany, timed to reach Pisa by mid-morning before the Piazza dei Miracoli fills with day-trip buses.

Leaning Tower of Pisa

~1.5 hours · ~\$27 USD / person to climb

The 12th-century bell tower that's been tilting since before it was finished, still open to climb its 251 spiral steps for a view over the Piazza dei Miracoli's cathedral and baptistery — timed-entry tickets for the climb are worth booking a day or two ahead in high season.

Departure — Rental Car Return, Florence Airport

~1 hour from Pisa · self-guided

A short final drive back to Florence to return the car, closing the loop on a week that ran from a Renaissance dome to a wine cellar to a tower that never quite falls over.