

## Discover Cortona, Montepulciano & Siena

Starting from Cortona on the border with Umbria you will discover Montepulciano, Pienza, Montalcino & val d'Orcia; le crete area through a landscape of sculpted curves designed over the centuries by wind, rain, and man.

The mystique of this land lies not only in its landscape, but also in its nature, its vineyards and its history: oak woods, olive groves and vineyards watch over enchanting hillsides, medieval villages and historical monuments.

Glorious ending in Siena a medieval city with beautifully preserved Gothic architecture, with the famous Piazza del Campo where is disputed "Palio" horse race

### Wow Moments

- Learn the rich history of Cortona, Land of the Tuscan Sun
- Explore the medieval hilltop villages of Tuscany, each uniquely beautiful
- Scenic cycling through the stunning landscape of the Val d'Orcia
- The stark and alluring "lunar" terrain of the Crete Senesi region



### Day One – Cortona

We'll meet you at charming **Villa Marsili** (you can arrive by the train to Cortona/Camucia station) After the fitting of bikes and orientation you're free to explore this delightful hill town, made famous by Frances Mayes in her bestselling novel *Under the Tuscan Sun*, Stroll the winding narrow - and steep! - medieval streets, then enjoy a fabulous dinner at one of our recommended restaurants. Lodging at villa Marsili in Cortona

**Day two: lake Trasimeno and valle di pierle****Total distance:** 50.0 km +1042 m / -1038 m

Ride to valle di pierle and his splendid castles "Rocca". The history of Val di Pierle is closely linked to the history of the splendid castle (la Rocca) that dominates the valley. The castle was built prior to the 10th century and belonged to the marquises of Monte Santa Maria Tiberina. Another climbs and reach the top of hill Cima di Tuoro from where you will be able to enjoy a stunning view of the Lake and its islands From the top enjoy the nice downhill to Tuoro sul Trasimeno. You are in Umbria region now. in Tuoro you can stop in the village at the beach. On the saddle again and back to Cortona on gentle terrain with last climb to Cortona. Lodging at villa Marsili in Cortona

**Day three: Pienza & Montepulciano.****Total distance:** 63.6 km +1049 m / -1021 m

Ride from Cortona to Pienza via Montepulciano, through vineyards. This splendid little town – whose artistic and architectural heritage led it to be called the *Pearl of the Cinquecento* – has preserved its beauty intact. Leave the hilltown taking soon a beautiful scenery back road leading you to Monticchiello: you are now at one door to Parco naturale e artistico della val d'Orcia, it is an Unesco site with this main justification: " The Val d'Orcia is an exceptional reflection of the way the landscape was re-written in Renaissance times to reflect the ideals of good governance and to create an aesthetically pleasing pictures." Imagine cycling up and down in a scene from painting to get to the perfect Renaissance town Pienza, now famous also for the delicious sheep milk cheese: "pecorino". Lodging hotel Il chiostro in Pienza

**Day four: val d'orcica & Radicofani.****Total distance** 63.8 km +1022 m / -1029 m

Circular bike ride into Orcia valley: is a completely country ride and for the first 15 km you will ride downhill and very easy gentle rolling hills. Then the gentle climb to reach **Radicofani**, a medieval and enchanting village with a 1200 dating Rocca. After a stroll around the stately old town, you'll head back into the country, along some of those winding cypress-lined roads and stop in another medieval village Contignano. Have a light lunch to stoke your legs and back in the saddle take another scenery road back . Lodging hotel Il chiostro in Pienza

## Day five Montalcino & brunello wine

**total distance** 44.4 km +920 m / -876 m

first pause in fairy-tale **Bagno Vignoni**, a miniature spa that is among the most unique towns in Europe, then push on to the monastery of **Sant'Antimo**, where you might catch one of several vesper services performed each day by the monks.

The famed wine town of **Montalcino** is your highlight: visit the fortress to see a breathtaking view of the entire valley you've just biked.

Lodging hotel il giglio

## Day six – Monte Oliveto Abbey & Siena.

**Total distance** 56.7 km +1035 m / -1217 m

bike ride from Montalcino to Siena via Monte Oliveto Maggiore and Asciano

On the way you'll coast along the forested crest of a ridge, home to the famed **Monte Oliveto Maggiore** monastery. visit the beautiful buildings and admire frescos. Afterwards, you'll travel through the fascinating area called Le Crete, Tuscany's answer to the Badlands. Often described as Italy's best preserved medieval city, **Siena** rivaled Florence for dominance in Tuscany during the 1300s. leisurely stroll about this medieval art city in the afternoon and to visit Piazza del Campo square, Torre del Mangia and the famous Duomo. The main square is famous because here it is held twice a year the disputed "Palio" horse race, which opposes the 17 "contrade" of this fascinating city. Lodging hotel Villa STR in Siena



### Price

Cost: Euro 1650 per person (price based on double occupancy)  
single supplement euro 550

### Included in the Price:

Six nights in excellent four & three-star superior hotels

Six breakfasts

Route notes, maps, elevation gain and city map

RidewithGPS App – navigation off line

Sightseeing, restaurant and shopping suggestions  
All Baggage transfers  
Delivery bike & equipment in Cortona  
Pick-up of bikes and gear in Siena  
Keepsake Cicloposse water bottle  
Sales taxes

## Not Included

*Bike Rental per entire tour*

Hybrid bike euro 180 / Race bike, Gravel, e-bike euro 240

**Daily Mileage:** 34/35 miles on gently rolling terrain with some climbs. Additional mileage available.

**Total distance in 5 stages** 277 km /173 miles

**Tour Departures:** Any date between 15th March to end of October

## Hotels' web site

Cortona [www.villamarsili.net](http://www.villamarsili.net)

Pienza [Relais il chiostro](http://Relais il chiostro)

Montalcino [www.gigliohotel.com](http://www.gigliohotel.com) or <https://vecchiaoliviera.com>

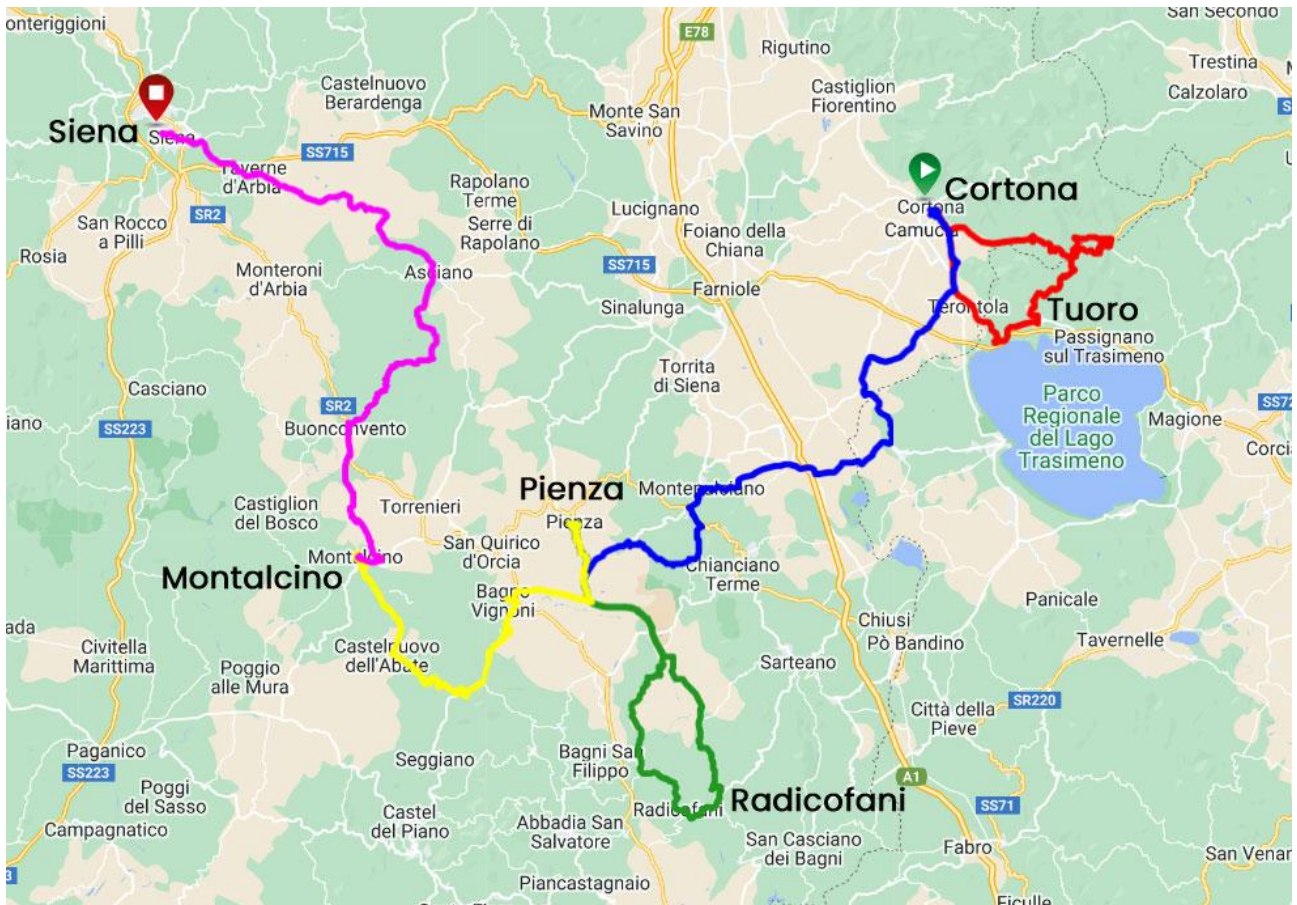
Siena [www.lavilladistr.it](http://www.lavilladistr.it)

**luxury upgrade – price on request**

Pienza [www.labanditatownhouse.com](http://www.labanditatownhouse.com)

Siena [www.camporegio.com](http://www.camporegio.com)





**Begin** Cortona      **End** Siena

**Airport Arrival/Depart** Florence airport and Rome airport (FCO)

**The tour starts in Cortona - how to get there:**

Best airports are Rome Fiumicino and Florence Peretola

From **Fiumicino airport** train Leonardo Express (takes about 30 minutes) start each half hour and is direct from Airport to Termini train station.

From Fiumicino airport to train station : the first at 07.37, 08.07, 8.37....the last at 22.37

From **Florence Peretola** faste tramvia to Florence Santa Maria Novella train station

How to get to Cortona by train: many trains from Rome and from Florence

look for timetable in English at official web site [www.ferroviedellostato.it](http://www.ferroviedellostato.it)

some trains are marked IC (intercity: faster) or marked R (regional: slower)

best option is Cortona - Camucia at the bottom of hill town- about 4 km from Cortona village.

Once you arrive you can take the cab to hotel. Please bring also tel. number of hotel in case cab is not available they can send you one.

**Tour ends in Siena**, station just out the wall. Is possible go to Florence where all major train line to different destinations

Also train to Rome or bus direct to Rome.