

SIENA, CHIANTI & FLORENCE

FEATURES

- Breathtaking art cities
- Varied and interesting countryside with superb walking
- Great wines and food
- Fine hotels

ITINERARY

Day 1 Drive from Pisa airport to Siena (2 hrs).

Day 2 We follow quiet rural tracks across hills with stonewalled olive groves, vineyards and oak forest to the wine estate of Dievole (12.4 miles, 6 hrs).

Day 3 We climb through woods to the fortified Romanesque church of San Polo in Rosso and walk through vineyards to our historic hotel (7.5 miles, 4 hrs).

Day 4 We walk up to a ridge, descend into a valley, and continue past stone farmhouses and vineyards to Panzano (12.9 miles, 6 hrs).

Day 5 Free day. Optional short walk to Greve along high ground with panoramic views over northern Chianti (5.8 miles, 2.5 hrs).

Day 6 We follow paths through olive groves to forested hills, descend into a small fertile valley and climb to Strada-in-Chianti (14.7 miles, 8 hrs).

Day 7 We follow the Ema Valley to the small town of Grassina, then across hills, descending into the heart of Florence – via the Ponte Vecchio (12.6 miles, 6.5 hrs).

Day 8 Return to Pisa airport (1 hour).

Special Offer!

FREE extra night extension at the end of the trip in The Grand Hotel Minerva in Florence (normally €500 per room). It is a 5-minute walk to Florence train station, from where there are direct trains to Pisa airport (journey time 1 hour, cost €5). Extension does not include return transfer to Pisa.

FOOD & WINE







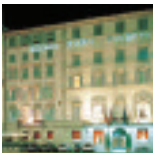
Chianti's cuisine is a microcosm of Tuscan cooking in general, the basis of which can be found in the fields and hillsides through which you will be walking: wheat, olives and vines. Add to this base of bread, pasta, and wine a plentiful and changing supply of locally grown vegetables and fruit, game from the forests and, of course, the ubiquitous olive oil, with its peppery, spicy bite.

We walk through vineyards producing some of the superb red wines of the area, including the fruity Chianti Classico.

8 DAY TRIP

- Destination airport: Pisa
- Fitness: 35+ (see pages 14–15)
- Days of walking: 5 + 1 optional
- Shortest / Longest day's walk: 2.5 / 8 hrs

ACCOMMODATION

NIGHT 1 Siena	NIGHT 1 (UPGRADE) Siena
	
Athena ★★★★	Grand Hotel Continental ★★★★★
NIGHT 2 Dievole	NIGHT 3 Gaiole-in-Chianti
	
Villa Dievole ★★★★	Castello di Spaltenna ★★★★
NIGHTS 4 & 5 Panzano	NIGHT 6 Strada-in-Chianti
	
Villa Le Barone ★★★★	Villa Il Leccio Residenza d'Epoca
NIGHTS 7 & 8 Florence	
	
Grand Hotel Minerva ★★★★	

For extension hotels in Siena, Florence and Pisa see pages 160–161

ON FOOT BETWEEN TWO OF ITALY'S GREAT ART CITIES

We travel from Siena, the best-preserved great medieval city in Europe, to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, along paths through the picturesque Chianti hills, with vineyards, olive groves and forests, punctuated by castles, fortified stone villages and cypress trees. We traverse the Chianti Classico wine-growing area, passing through the vineyards, and sampling a range of magnificent wines each evening.



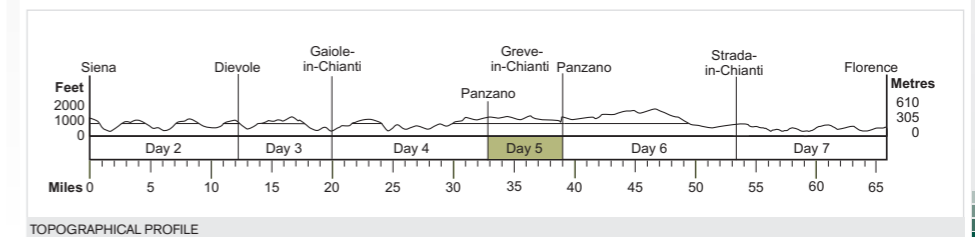
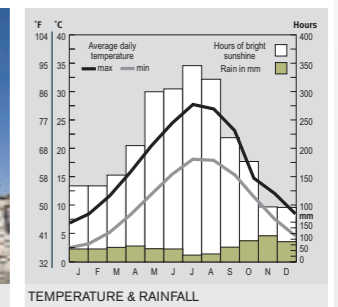
THROUGH PICTURESQUE CHIANTI HILLS AND VINEYARDS



DESCENDING INTO THE HEART OF FLORENCE



THE DUOMO IN SIENA



TERRAIN

Forested limestone hills, the lower slopes covered with vineyards and olive groves. A wide selection of farm and forest paths and tracks, small gravel roads and some asphalt in and around towns.

DATES

2012 TRIP DATES	(excluding flights)	DFS supplement (per night)
12th May to 19th May	£3,195 / \$5,590	£53 / \$93
25th Aug to 1st Sep	£3,195 / \$5,590	£53 / \$93

NIGHT 1 OPTIONAL UPGRADE AT THE GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL (Per room per night)
 Classic: £170 / \$295 | Executive: £230 / \$400 | Deluxe: £340 / \$595