



**VITORITALY®**  
Italy with Italians

## **1-WEEK LEONARDO TOUR**

Florence, Pisa, Lucca & Val d'Orcia

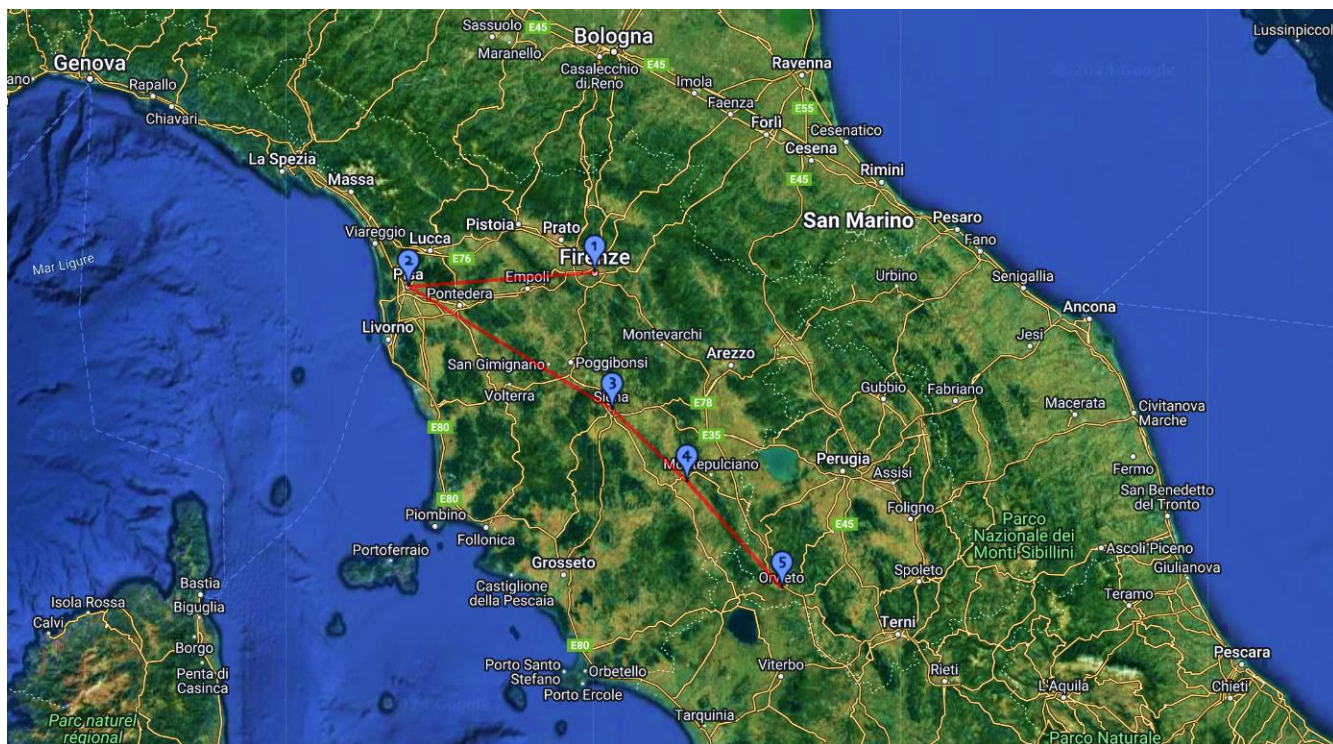
## **DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY**





From Florence, the Cradle of Renaissance, to Siena, home of the Palio, and Val d'Orcia with its fairytale landscapes.

Seven days at the discovery of Tuscany, the land of beauty!



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Florence, an open-air museum
- Pisa, how can it stand?
- Siena and San Gimignano, power in the Middle Ages
- Val d'Orcia, where Man and Nature blend with harmony
- Orvieto, the city "on the rocks"

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM
Day 1 <b>Florence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to Galleria dell'Accademia (Michelangelo's David)</li> <li>- Free time in Florence</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 2 <b>Pisa &amp; Lucca</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day private excursion to Pisa and Lucca</li> <li>- 2-hour private walking tour of Pisa city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> – Admission to the Leaning Tower</li> <li>- Free time in Lucca</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 3 <b>Siena &amp; San Gimignano</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day private excursion to Siena and San Gimignano</li> <li>- 2-hour private walking tour of Siena with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to the Duomo Cathedral</li> <li>- Free time in San Gimignano</li> <li>- Transfer to your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 4 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day private excursion to Val d'Orcia area</li> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a <u>Sommelier Guide</u>, with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle</li> <li>- Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 5 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Half-day E-Bike Tour in Val d'Orcia area with a picnic</li> <li>- 2-hour Tuscan Cooking Class</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 6 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit of a Pecorino Cheese Factory with tastings and lunch</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 7 <b>Orvieto</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day private excursion to Orvieto</li> <li>- 2-hour private walking tour of Orvieto city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> – Admission to the Duomo Cathedral</li> <li>- Transfer to your accommodation in Florence</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Accommodations in Double Room with Continental Breakfast (\*):**

- Days 1, 2 & 7: 3\* to 5\* Hotel in Florence city centre
- Days 3 to 6: 3\* to 5\* Relais in Val d'Orcia area

(\*) The Hotel List is available upon request

- **Transfers (\*\*):**

- Day 3: Transfer to your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area
- Day 7: Transfer to your accommodation in Florence

(\*\*) All transfers by private car (2 pax) / minivan (3 to 6 pax) / minibus (7 to 10 pax)

- **Private Guided Visits / Tours (\*\*\*) / Activities:**

- Day 1: 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide
- Day 2: Full-day private excursion to Pisa and Lucca - 2-hour private walking tour of Pisa city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide
- Day 3: Full-day private excursion to Siena and San Gimignano - 2-hour private walking tour of Siena with an Authorised Tourist Guide – Drop off at your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area
- Day 4: Full-day private excursion to Val d'Orcia area - 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a Sommelier Guide, with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle - Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings
- Day 5: Half-day E-Bike Tour in Val d'Orcia area with a picnic – 2-hour Tuscan Cooking Class
- Day 6: Visit of a Pecorino Cheese Factory with tastings and lunch
- Day 7: Full-day private excursion to Orvieto - 2-hour private walking tour of Orvieto city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide - Drop off at your accommodation in Florence

(\*\*\*) All tours by private car (2 pax) / minivan (3 to 6 pax) / minibus (7 to 10 pax)

- **Admission Tickets to:**
  - Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence
  - Leaning Tower in Pisa
  - Duomo Cathedral in Siena
  - Duomo Cathedral in Orvieto
- **Full emergency assistance 24 hours/day by our Back Office**
- **List of recommended restaurants and deli shops along the itinerary**
- **All taxes**

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All transfers and other services not specifically mentioned in the above program
- Meals, wine and beverages
- Porterage fees at every accommodation
- Camera or Video fees
- Tipping for local guides and drivers
- Laundry, telephone calls and other expenditures of personal nature
- Travel / Vacation insurance

## OPTIONS

- Pick up at Florence Airport /Railway Station on the day before the start of the tour
- Accommodation in Florence the night before the start of the tour
- Admission to Orvieto Underground
- Drop off at Florence Airport /Railway Station at the end of the tour
- Other options upon request

## TOUR MAIN FEATURES

### FLORENCE

Benvenuti in Italia, and welcome to Florence, the land of Giotto and Dante!

Despite its international fame and greatness, Florence is also a small city whose history has been interwoven with that of its passionate citizens for more than one thousand years.

In Piazza Duomo, you will be astonished by the **Duomo** with the incredible Brunelleschi's dome, a masterpiece of art and architecture whose building techniques are still covered by a veil of mystery. Beside it, Giotto's Campanile (Belltower) and the Baptistery, one of the oldest buildings in the city, with its famous bronze doors made by no and



Ghiberti in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Piazza della Signoria, you will walk in the middle of bronze and marble masterpieces by Giambologna and Cellini inside the marvellous **Loggia dei Lanzi** and will admire the imposing **Palazzo Vecchio**, one of the symbols of Florence and still the seat of government of the city. You may also spare some time to relax, visit a typical market for shopping, stroll through the city's pedestrian streets, and cross the oldest bridge in Florence, "**Ponte Vecchio**" (Old Bridge), rich in jewellery shops.

Your itinerary will include **Galleria dell'Accademia**, hosting Michelangelo's David, the most famous sculpture in the world. The

David was uncovered and shown to the Florentines on September 8, 1504, and with its height of 4 meters, the impeccable physical features and the political significance that the iconography of David had taken over the previous century left the Florentines of the time speechless and has done the same ever since with visitors from all over the world.

Florence is also the main Italian centre for the production of **high-quality leather goods**. Florentine artisans are so famous that many fashion brands have opened factories in the city or close to it due to their high skill and the continuous inspiration designers take from the town's masterpieces. The area around Piazza Santa Croce, in particular, hosts numerous leather shops and workshops.

Thanks to the tradition of Tuscan tanneries, there is no better place to find **shoes for all tastes** than Florence: from the creations, designed and produced by hand by skilled craftsmen, to the extensive collections available in stores, renewed every season. Above all, Ferragamo (also worth seeing the museum), Gucci and Prada for refinement and elegance. If you prefer a simpler style, many shops specialise in handmade shoes and sandals across the river Arno.

At lunch, you may enjoy "**Panino con Lampredotto**" in a typical Florentine market. At dinner, taste the simple yet unforgettable recipes of the Tuscan tradition, such as "**Crostini**", "**Panzanella**", and "**Peposo**". And remember, Florence is the home of "**Fiorentina**" steak! In case you are a vegetarian, don't worry: Tuscan cuisine offers tasty alternatives like "**Pappa al Pomodoro**" or "**Ribollita**" (read the article in our BLOG to know more about Tuscan Cuisine).



## PISA

Pisa is famous worldwide for its "**Torre Pendente**" (Leaning Tower), but its wonderful square, **Piazza dei Miracoli**, set over an ample greenfield, hosts three other whiter-than-white masterpieces of exquisite Medieval art: the Cathedral, the Baptistry and the "Camposanto" (Graveyard). They are so unique that their creation originated a new style, "Pisan Romanesque".

This area was chosen to construct the **Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta** strictly for its centrality; founded in 1064, it was intended to celebrate the grandeur of Pisa during the Marine Republic's epoch of power. "The temple of marble white as the snow"; that's how the structure is described on the gravestone of its architect, Buscheto di Giovanni Giudice. Consisting of five naves with its transept divided into three naves, it is surmounted by a splendid dome encircled by a loggia. The Duomo's façade and exterior lateral sections feature elaborate decoration in marble (which can also be seen on its interior), mosaics, and bronze.



In front of the Cathedral stands the **Baptistry**, also in a particular version of the Romanesque style. Initiated in 1152 by Diotisalvi, the Baptistry was finally completed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century; Gothic elements were added then. Of cylindrical form and circled by arcades of columns, this structure in white marble even boasts impressive acoustics.

The **Camposanto** closes the northern end of the complex's piazza. This monumental cemetery, begun in 1278, is bordered by a marble fence and houses a cloister at its centre. Unfortunately, most frescoes that once coloured its walls were destroyed in a fire in 1944 during the battle for Pisa.

Ultimately, the true symbol of Pisa is the **Campanile**, the Leaning Tower, which completes the image of this city. Because of land sinkage beneath it, the Tower stands at a significant incline. Its construction started in 1173, but the Tower was not completed until the second half of the 1300s. In cylindrical form, the blind arcades of its lower part mutate into six floors of loggias, repeating motifs from the Duomo. Inside, a spiral staircase of 294 steps leads to the heights of one of the most famous towers in the world, where the lovely belfry and a spectacular view of the surrounding landscape await.

In Siena, the city of the Palio, you will walk on the famous **Piazza del Campo**, the concave square where horses run twice a year in a dangerous race that symbolizes the city's freedom. On the days of the Palio, the whole town goes crazy; read about it in our [BLOG](#).



Indeed, you will not forget the colour of frontages and roofs, the renowned colour "Sienna", a pigment first produced during the Renaissance, that makes the city lovely and warm. And don't forget to taste the Senese sweets: "cantucci" (biscuits with toasted almonds), "ricciarelli" (soft biscuits with icing sugar), "panforte" (cake with fruit nuts and spices) and "cavallucci" (biscuits with honey, walnut, candied fruits and spices). Travellers who love dessert will be delighted!

In the afternoon, you will stroll with your head upwards along the streets of one of the most beautiful cities in Tuscany, San Gimignano, also known as the "Medieval Manhattan", thanks to

its old and impressive 14 towers that dominate the town skyline. Initially, the towers were 72, and they were built by patrician families, probably to demonstrate their wealth and power. Seven of San Gimignano's towers are around Piazza del Duomo; the tallest one is **Torre Grossa**, 54 meters high, dating back to 1298.

## VAL D'ORCIA

Val d'Orcia is one of the most fascinating places in Italy, included by UNESCO in the list of World Heritage Sites. Its landscape is a part of the agricultural hinterland of Siena, redrawn and developed when it was integrated into the city-state's territory in the 14th and 15th centuries to reflect an idealized model of good governance and create an aesthetically pleasing picture. The landscape's distinctive aesthetics, flat chalk plains with almost conical hills and fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Their images have come to exemplify the beauty of well-managed Renaissance agricultural landscapes.

In **Montepulciano**, our friend Francesca will lead you to discover this beautiful town full of stories, legends and thousand flavours, introducing you to the excellent products of this unique land: olive oil, pecorino cheese and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.



Then, you will get to **Montalcino**, one of the prettiest hill towns in Tuscany. Around the village, rows of olive trees, precious grapevines and yellow fields create an enchanting landscape. Here, you may visit a Brunello winery to taste the most famous Supertuscan wine, probably the best Italian red!

Finally, you will stop in **Bagno Vignoni**, a tiny and charming village where the main square is a pool 49 meters long and 29 wide. Several hot springs, whose therapeutic qualities have been renowned since antiquity, bubble up from its bottom! All this creates a pleasant sensation; leaving will be hard!

Later on, you may experience the rhythms and beauty of authentic Tuscan food in an authentic **Cooking Experience** set in a real farmhouse in the heart of Italy, surrounded by rolling hills, vineyards and olive trees.



## ORVIETO

Orvieto in Umbria is perhaps the most beautiful hill town in Italy, perched up on a volcanic rock, its history dating back to the Etruscans.

Although just an hour from Rome, the architecture is different, with many of the buildings constructed out of “tufo”, a volcanic rock. Orvieto’s main attraction is its 14th-century **Cathedral** – a masterpiece of Gothic architecture with a glistening façade of stained glass, mosaics and sculptures. Another attraction is **St. Patrick’s Well**, a 62-meter-deep (203 feet) feat of engineering characterized by two spiral staircases that wind around the well (yet never meet), with 248 steps down to the water. A pleasant guided tour along a straightforward route makes it possible to know Orvieto’s underground world, created by its ancient inhabitants over about 2,500 years of uninterrupted digging. A tour at the discovery of a millenary, surprising and unexpected “Underground City”, you will surely enjoy it!



At lunch, don't miss “*salumi di cinghiale o cervo*” (boar or deer sausage) and *pecorino cheese* and taste the region's prized white *truffle oil* together with the delicious white wine of the area, *Orvieto Classico*!

The tour is over, but the memories of a fantastic journey will accompany you for a lifetime!

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