

# Butterfield & Robinson

SLOW DOWN TO SEE THE WORLD



## Tuscany Hike & Bike

**Duration:** 7 Days / 6 Nights  
**Start/Finish:** Florence, Italy

### Your Journey

With lush rolling hills, medieval towns and meandering roads keeping it all together, Tuscany is a biker and hiker's idyll. There is something eminently peaceful in riding and walking through hilltop towns that have stood watch here since the Middle Ages, passing vines tended by generations of winemakers, and savoring traditional cuisine made from the freshest and tastiest local ingredients. This is the region you imagine when you think of Italy; home to olive groves and cypress trees, Roman battlefields and Renaissance churches, and a who's who of charming villages.

### Day 1

#### Welcome to the Val d'Orcia

Upon arrival in Florence, you'll be met by private coach and escorted approximately 90 minutes to the south of Tuscany and our home for the next three nights, the Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by the Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici, the property is set amongst restorative hot springs, offering a therapeutic welcome after a long journey. Enjoy a poolside lunch at your leisure before taking a casual walk through the property grounds or indulging in a perfumed olive oil massage at the Mediterranean Spa. Tonight, we'll experience the culinary creativity of Chef Emanuele Venditti at the property's Ferdinando I restaurant.

*Incl: L, D*



## Day 2

### San Casciano dei Bagni and Monte Cetona

Breakfast will be served before this morning's meeting, after which a fresh buffet lunch will provide fuel for our first bike and hike of the journey. This afternoon offers a warm-up ride in the San Casciano dei Bagni area allowing all to explore the rolling terrain surrounding the charming thermal town and the opportunity to get comfortable with your new wheels. Walkers will make their way to the top of Monte Cetona to enjoy breathtaking views of the Val di Chiana, as far as Assisi and Perugia and the impressive Mount Amiata. Tonight, we recommend dinner at one of several San Casciano dei Bagni restaurants specializing in traditional dishes such as *pici* and other hand-made pastas. Many of the town's quaint restaurants offer al fresco dining with spectacular sunset views of Amiata.

**Activity:** 23km warm-up ride or 4km walk

*Incl: B, L*

## Day 3

### Orvieto

After breakfast this morning, both bikers and walkers will travel through vineyards and verdant countryside to the remarkable hilltop town of Orvieto. Situated atop a large volcanic tuff, the medieval town is home to the stunning 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic cathedral, Duomo di Orvieto. Built in part from the local blue volcanic rock, the church is regarded as one of the most beautiful in Italy. We'll have time to visit Orvieto's famous underground labyrinth of caves and tunnels before enjoying a late lunch in one of several local trattorias. We'll transfer by coach back to the hotel, arriving in time for a dip in the pool before venturing out for dinner in town or enjoying more of Chef Emanuele Venditti's traditional dishes at the hotel.

**Activity:** 43km bike ride and 8km walk

*Incl: B, D*



#### **HOTEL** | *Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa*

Located at the southern end of Tuscany in the Val d'Orcia, Fonteverde's exquisite setting amongst rolling hills and mineral-rich hot springs offers a welcome retreat after a long journey. Nearby, medieval villages and charming hamlets have set the scene for many foreign filmmakers.

Day 4

**Crete Senesi and Farmhouse Picnic**

This morning, we embark on a one hour drive north to the start of our ride and walk. Bikers will begin just outside of the village of Trequanda and will ride past vineyards and olive groves and through the picturesque villages of Chiusure, San Giovanni d'Asso (famed for its truffles) and Montisi (known for its olive oil). Walkers will begin in beautiful Montisi where they will be greeted by a local olive oil producer for a tour of his farm. Leaving the farm, walkers will make their way on foot to join the bikers for a picnic lunch at a noble home and working Tuscan farm. After sampling locally made meats, cheeses and olive oil, opt for more riding and walking through the famed Crete Senesi en route to Castel Monastero, our home for the next three nights. Just ten minutes from our hotel, the charming town of Castelnuovo Berardenga offers a variety of dinner options, from casual pizzerias to Michelin starred restaurants.

**Activity:** 20-25km morning ride, moderately hilly. Optional 30km afternoon ride. 8km country walk.

*Incl: B, L, D*



Day 5

**Rolling Hills of Chianti and Siena**

This morning offers riding and walking through the rolling hills of Chianti, with its wooded groves and hilltop vineyards. We'll visit the well-known villages of Gaiole and Radda, both postcard-picturesque, and we'll give you our suggestions for lunch on your own in either. Late afternoon, we'll make our way into the beautiful town of Siena, famed for the Palio horse race, where we'll enjoy a privately guided visit of the city, followed by a sunset cocktail and wine tasting. Siena offers an abundance of dining options for dinner on your own.

**Activity:** 35 or 43 moderately challenging ride or 8km walk through the heart of Chianti

*Incl: B*



## Day 6

### Val di Chiana and Final Night Celebration

Bikers depart this morning to ride across the Val di Chiana, passing abandoned farmhouses, fields of wheat and sunflowers, and tiny villages such as Santa Caterina and Brolio. The walkers will transfer to just outside of Pietraia to walk through vineyards and olive groves in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. All will rendez-vous at the Avignonesi winery for a tour of the centuries-old cellars. We'll explore the unique room where they age the grapes for vin santo, and see the rotisserie designed by Leonardo da Vinci! Following, a cooking demo lunch at Avignonesi's terrace prepared by acclaimed chef Luca Biancucci, bikers enjoy an easygoing route back to the hotel and walkers continue to explore the surrounding hills before being transferred back to Castel Monastero. This evening, to celebrate the end of our journey, we gather for a traditional Tuscan feast. With private use of La Cantina Restaurant, set in the property's medieval wine cellars, we'll share rustic, local dishes in local, family-style fashion!

**Activity:** 30km easygoing morning ride, 30km easygoing afternoon ride. 8km walk

*Incl: B, L, D*



#### **HOTEL** | *Castel Monastero, Siena*

Castel Monastero encompasses a rich history dating back to the 11th century. It was once a monastery and then a country residence for the noble Chigi family. Now, it's a gorgeous luxury resort with ancient walls and a charm that is entirely Tuscan. You'll see it for yourself through picture windows showcasing the vineyards, fields and woods right outside your guestroom.

## Day 7

### Homeward Bound

After breakfast together at the hotel, we deliver you to the airport in Florence. Farewell and safe travels.

## The Details

Start/Finish: Florence

### LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

This trip is rated Moderate. The bike rides will present rolling hills with a few climbs (but have no fear as a support vehicles will be on hand) while the walks will feature several ups and downs on a mix of country roads and trails. E-bikes are available to rent for those interested in electric assist cycling.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ All hotel accommodation – 6 nights
- ✓ 4 lunches + wine, including welcome buffet lunch on Day 1, post-meeting lunch on Day 2, gourmet picnic lunch on Day 4 and cooking class on Day 6
- ✓ 4 dinners + wine, including welcome dinner on Day 1, dinner at the Fonteverde on Day 3, local dinner on Day 4 and final night farewell dinner on Day 6
- ✓ 2 wine tastings
- ✓ ½ day meeting, including venue rental fee, coffee & tea, AV
- ✓ Services of B&R guides and support vehicles (assume 1 B&R guide for every 12 guests)
- ✓ Use of a bicycle and helmet
- ✓ Use of two lightweight, telescoping walking sticks
- ✓ Detailed maps, route suggestions and water bottle
- ✓ All special events and private tours; guided visit of Siena
- ✓ All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off (including rolling transfers from Florence Airport to Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa and from Castel Monastero to Florence Airport)
- ✓ All baggage transportation
- ✓ Wifi at each hotel
- ✓ Snacks and bottled water while biking and hiking
- ✓ All gratuities for baggage, porters and hotel service

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ International flights
- ✓ Cancellation insurance
- ✓ Items of a personal nature
- ✓ **Gratuity for your B&R guide(s)**
- ✓ Taxi transfers to and from dinners at leisure

### PRICING

*Prices are per person and based on double occupancy*

*Please note, there is an additional fee of **US\$300/bike** for the rental of an e-bike. B&R can provide one for each guest if required.*

**60-80 guests - US\$4265pp**  
Based on Double Occupancy

Single Supplement: US\$755

Additional Concessions:

- ✓ 2 staff at 50% off the group rate
- ✓ 8 complimentary site inspection nights, based on availability

Please note that your final itinerary may vary slightly from this one as we continuously research and develop each trip, customizing your experience to match your interests and tastes. Inclement weather—though we'd like to think there won't be any—may also necessitate minor alterations. ©2014 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.