



DREAM ITALIA

A Wine Tour in Tuscany

October 24-29, 2008



Greve in Chianti



Arrival Day

Greve in Chianti & Castellina in Chianti

Chianti Classico, Super Tuscan

- Meet your tour director at **Florence** Airport or Train Station. Transfer by private coach through the Tuscan countryside to our first stop in **Greve in Chianti** where you can enjoy some free time for shopping in the unique triangular shaped piazza. Greve was the town that gave birth to the revitalization of the Chianti region as a favoured destination.
- We will also visit a nearby Chianti Classico estate where we can enjoy a tour of the cellar and tasting of the wines. This small estate enjoys a highly favourable exposure. The rocky, hard-to-work soil and its southern exposure are ideal for grape varieties like Sangiovese, Canaiolo, Trebbiano, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay. These factors plus the estate's use of organic farming techniques, contribute to the production of fine, robust wines. Famous for its production of a special Vin Santo made from red grapes - especially good with chocolate.
- We will proceed to **Castellina in Chianti**, our home base for the tour, Etruscan artefacts discovered here prove that the ancient civilization existed here 2000 years BC. Today you can see the remains of the medieval fortified wall that now houses a tunnel passageway lined with shops and restaurants.



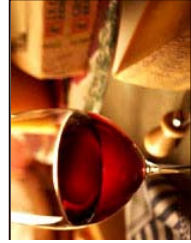
- We will have some time to settle into our hotel, and freshen up before gathering together for a Welcome Dinner.

Walking: Light





Montalcino



Pienza, Montepulciano & Montalcino

Vino Nobile & Brunello di Montalcino

- This morning we will depart early for a visit to the **Val d'Orcia** region of Tuscany, home to two famous red wines. We will visit 3 important towns of the area all known for something unique. This delectable wine region is approximately a 1.5 hour drive from the Chianti, but well worth the visit!
- Our first stop is **Pienza**, where we can taste the famous pecorino di Pienza sheep's milk cheese and have a stroll through the picturesque village. You may recognize the main piazza from Franco Zeffirelli's film, *Romeo & Juliet*.
- After seeing the sights in the Piazza Pio II, named after the humanist Pope Plus II, be sure to walk along the pretty little streets and alleys behind and to the left of the cathedral to see the remarkable views.
- We will enjoy lunch together in a lively trattoria in charming Pienza.
- From there it is a brief ride to **Montepulciano**, known for its velvety red wine, Vino Nobile, and its views over the rolling hills of Tuscany and nearby Umbria. Built along a ridge at nearly 2000 ft. above sea level, it is one of the highest of Tuscany's hilltop towns.
- After a stop at the San Biagio Abbey at the foot of the hill, we proceed to the main piazza of Montepulciano at the highest point of the town.



Pienza



- We will have a tour of a XIII Century Winery, one of the "founding fathers" of Vino Nobile, having a major role in making it world famous. The Palazzo of the winery was once inhabited by the Grand Pope Giulio III and by the Grand Duke Ferdinand I.
- Free time for shopping and exploring the long winding streets.
- We'll stop to visit **Montalcino**, an alluring hilltop town crowned by a 14th Century forteza, blessed with magnificent views over the Crete, and explore and walk through the narrow and winding steep streets.
- Home to one of the most praised red wines in Italy, the Brunello di Montalcino, which we will taste at a local enoteca inside the Fortress.

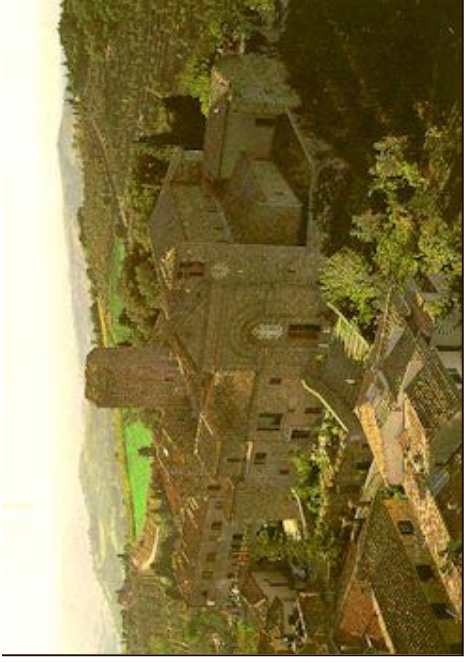
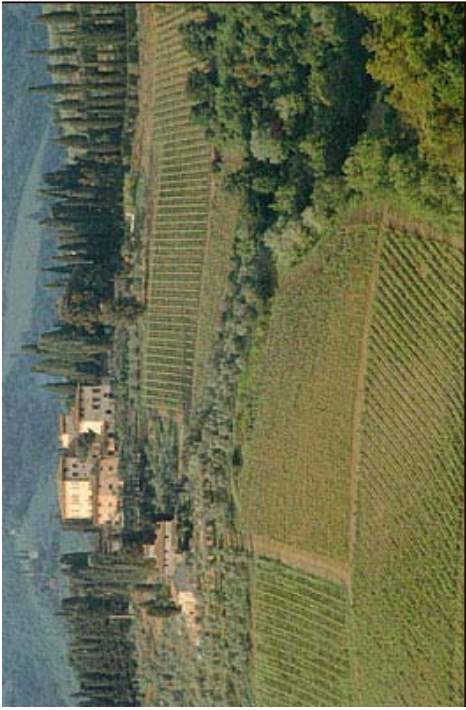
- Back to the hotel. Its ok to sleep on the way home!
Walking: Moderate

Val d'Orcia



Montepulciano





Panzano in Chianti & Radda in Chianti

Panzano in Chianti

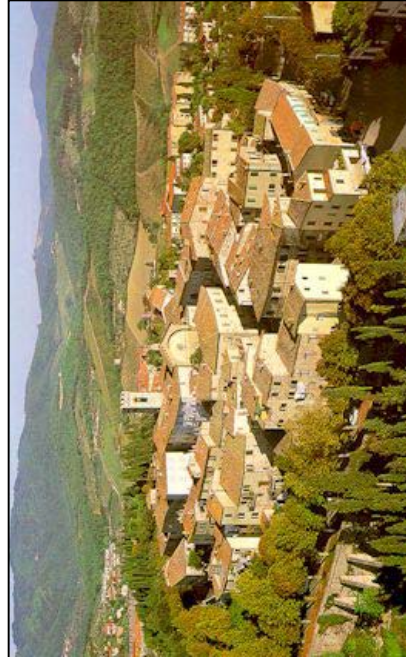


Chianti Classico, Super Tuscan

- This morning we will visit **Panzano in Chianti**. Stroll around the town with a stop at the famous macelleria, Dario, the butcher. Sunday is market day, so you can wander through the village market or enjoy a cappuccino.
- We will depart for a short ride to a classic Chianti Classico vineyard. The Villa, surrounded by an elegant Italian garden in a stunningly beautiful corner of the Chianti countryside, offers an authentic testimony to country life during the Renaissance period. The main part of the villa dates back to the 14th century.
- We will head through the rolling hills to **Radda in Chianti**. Formerly belonging to the Guidi family, it came under Florentine control in 1203. After being fortified in 1400 it was, from 1415 onwards, head of the League of Chianti, and it preserves the remains of its ancient walls.
- We will head back to Castellina and have some time to relax at the hotel, stroll around the town and have dinner at your leisure.



Radda in Chianti



Walking: Light to Moderate





Siena



Siena &

Paneretta Castle

Chianti Classico, Canaiolo, Super Tuscan



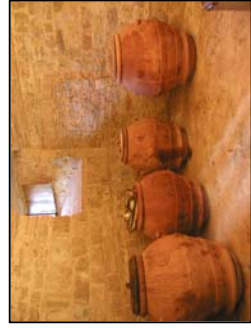
- This morning we will visit **Siena**, known for its burnt sienna colored buildings, Il Campo - its beautiful main piazza surrounded by medieval palaces and home to the Palio horse race which has taken place in the main piazza every summer since medieval times.
- We will enjoy a visit of the town followed by free time for a snack, shopping or to explore the artistic and architectural treasures. Roam the maze of streets, enjoy a café in Il Campo or visit the beautiful Gothic cathedral perched like a diamond on one of the rolling hills of Siena.
- Later this afternoon we have a special opportunity to visit the magnificent Castello della Paneretta, a beautifully restored private residence. This outstanding and elegant castle sits on the border between Florence and Siena and held a strategic position during the 300 year long civil wars.
- We will enjoy a tour of the castle grounds, cellars and enjoy the wine.



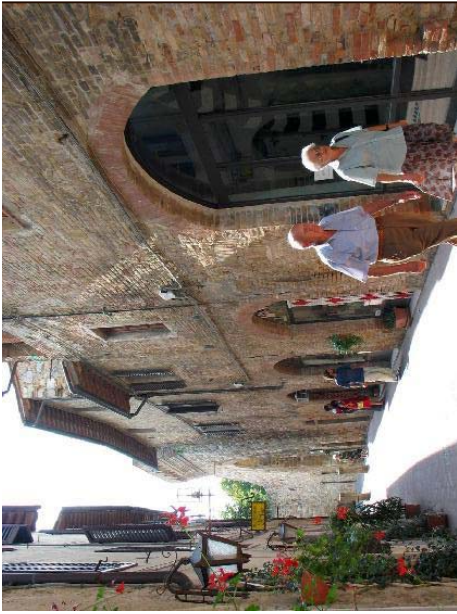
Paneretta Castle



- Free time tonight to explore the trattorias of Castellina
Walking: Moderate



Paneretta Castle's olive oil cellar and vintage wine bottles



San Gimignano



San Gimignano & Monteriggioni *Vernaccia White Wine*

- This morning we will visit the celebrated medieval town of **San Gimignano**, nicknamed "the medieval Manhattan" for its ancient towers that spear the skyline, about 14 of the original 72 remain.
- Free time to shop and explore this charming little town.
- Lunch in a local farmhouse nearby with wine tasting of the local Vernaccia di San Gimignano. Vernaccia is one of Italy's highest quality white wines and is produced exclusively in the territory surrounding San Gimignano.
- We will proceed to **Monteriggioni**, a gem of a hilltop town where you will see the perfectly preserved medieval walls and buildings within that are the best preserved example of their kind in all of Italy. The tiny hamlet has a nice selection of artisan shops, wine shops and restaurants.
- We'll return to the hotel to freshen up and tonight we will enjoy a Farewell dinner together.

Walking: Moderate



San Gimignano



Monteriggioni



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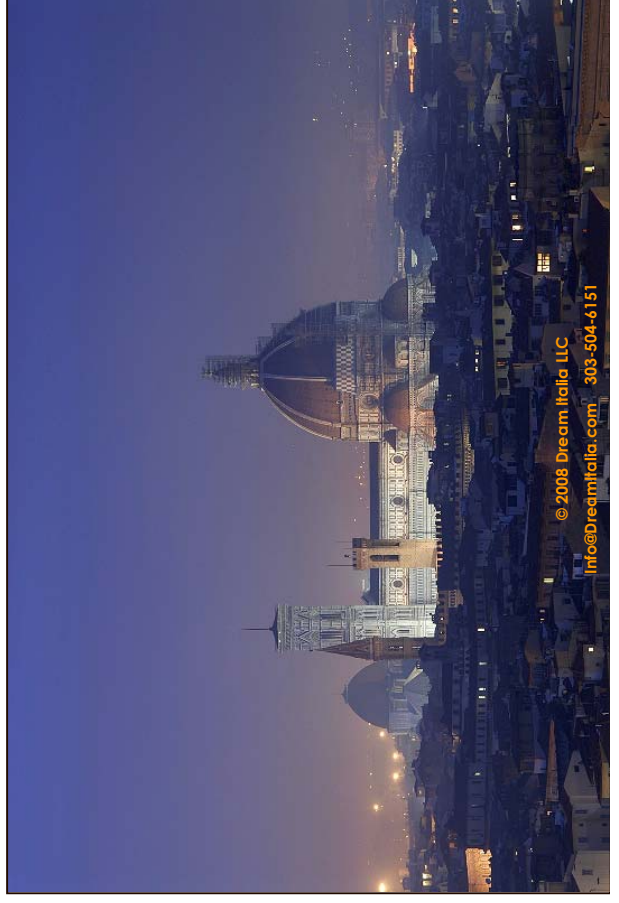
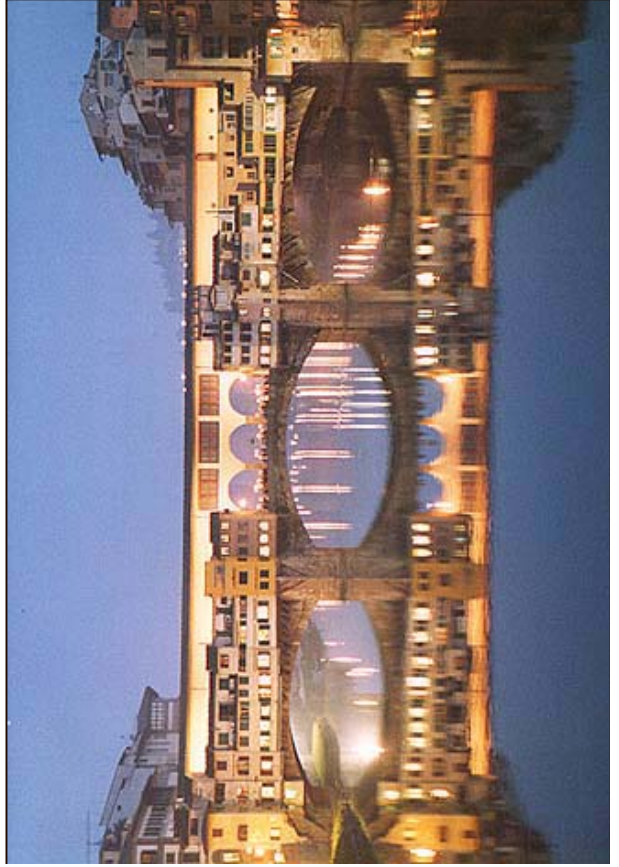




Return to Florence - End of Tour

• This morning we will say goodbye to wine country and return to **Florence** Airport or Train Station where we will bid farewell until we meet again.

• Tour Ends





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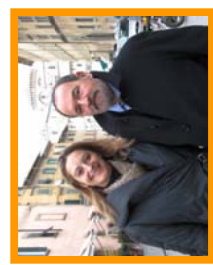


6 days, 5 nights

Tour begins and concludes in Florence (SMN Train station)

Tour Price Includes

- **A small, friendly group**, allowing us to go places not readily accessible to larger groups
- **Full time services of a professional and friendly Dream Italia tour guide** – our lively, local expert will make the history, art & culture come alive
- **5 nights accommodation** at a 3 Star hotel such as the charming, former palace, Palazzo Squarcialupi, which is part of the history of Castellina in Chianti. It is situated in the historical town center, on a road running along the XV century City Wall. It has medieval origins, and was renovated in the 15th Century into a palazzo. Free entrance to Spa, sauna, jacuzzi, Turkish bath, & aromatherapy steam shower, located in the ancient cellars of the Palace. Based on double occupancy per bedroom.
- **Some Meals**. All breakfasts, Welcome & Farewell Dinners.
- **All group transportation**, in a private coach with expert driver.
- **Visits to 4 wine regions**, Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile, Brunello di Montalcino and Vernaccia.
- **All city tours, admissions, wine tastings** * Panzano * Castellina * Montepulciano * Pienza * Montalcino * San Gimignano * Siena * and more



Dream Italia team

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Tour Price Does Not Include

- Airfare or transportation to Florence, Italy
- Some meals (see inclusions for details)
- Personal Expenses and Shopping
- Spa bathrobes, slippers and towels are available for rental.

\$2299 per person

- Based on double occupancy
- Single supplement (private room) \$600 (limited availability)
- 50% of tour price per person is required to reserve a space on the Tour.
- Balance is due 90 days prior to start of tour (July 23, 2008)
- Please carefully read Registration Form for complete details, including cancellation and refund policies.

Itinerary Changes

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual walks and sites may vary due to season, special events or weather. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance, and unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.