

Italy Just For You

# Tuscany Itinerary



7 Nights, 6 Days



FLORENCE + VAL D'ORCIA

Where to stay, where to eat,  
fun things to do and see



[italyjustforyou.com](http://italyjustforyou.com)





# Florence & Tuscany

DISCOVER ONE OF  
ITALY'S ICONIC CITIES  
ON YOUR WAY TO THE  
UNFORGETTABLE  
VAL D'ORCIA



- How To Get There
- Driving vs. Trains
- Where To Stay
- Where to Eat
- What to See
- Considerations for Traveling with Kids and Seniors
- Activities Not to be Missed



*Ron and Jane*

italyjustforyou.com



# DAY ONE-ARRIVAL IN FLORENCE

## ARRIVAL BY TRAIN

Be sure you are arriving at Santa Maria Novella Station.

- As you exit the tracks, turn left. Exit the train station and find the taxi station to the left at the back of the station. You can only obtain taxis here, not by flagging them on the street. Use an official taxi (white) and ask how much before you get in.
- Walking is an option, but keep this in mind: Wheeling luggage over cobblestones is not easy especially if you have heavy luggage.

## ARRIVAL BY PLANE

- Make a choice for how you will transport yourself into central Florence: If you haven't already, this is good place to exchange dollars for euros.
- TAXI COST: \$22 + more for bags. Use official taxis (white) and always ask how much it will cost before you get in. Takes about 10 minutes and will take you directly to your accommodation.
- IF YOU ARE A WOMAN ALONE AT NIGHT THIS IS THE RECOMMENDED MODE OF TRAVEL.
- TRAM (TRAM T2): COST \$3. May be additional luggage charges. Runs every 5-10 minutes, 5:00 AM to midnight. Takes about 20 minutes and will take you to Santa Maria Novella Train Station. From there, you may need a taxi if you have a lot of luggage.

## ARRIVAL BY CAR

- Driving in central Florence is not permitted, so this would be a perfect place to return your rental car. If you are keeping your car, be sure your accommodation has parking spaces. Then provide your car license plate number to your hotel, who will notify the local police, and you will receive a temporary permit to enter the ZTL (No Traffic Zone). The hotel will provide further information.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

This is up to you, depending on the time of your arrival.

- Check into your accommodation. Remember you will need your passport for this step.
- Then...Begin to explore Florence on your own.
- Cross the Ponte Vecchio and enjoy the ambiance. Stop and have an aperitivo (appetizer).
- Dinner Suggestion: Trattoria 4 Leone in the Oltrarno district (which you have booked via email from home). Have the pear pasta!



# Savor the Beauty and Culture of Florence

Discover the allure of Italy's most captivating city as you explore its best attractions and sample its delicious food!



All activities below are appropriate for **kids**. Make choices according to your child's age. All are appropriate for **seniors**, but please note the Cupola climb is strenuous (463 steps) and claustrophobic.

## Day 2

- ✓ Start your day with breakfast at your hotel or Cafe Gilli, then a visit to the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David
- ✓ For lunch, head to the food court at Mercato Centrale. While there, browse the San Lorenzo leather markets
- ✓ Visit the Duomo to admire inside and out (free). Option: Climb the Cupola (Dome)
- ✓ For dinner tonight, try Trattoria La Casalinga

## Day 3 is all about choice!

- ✓ Visit the Uffizi Gallery if you are an art buff
- ✓ OR schedule a food tour.
- ✓ OR schedule a cooking class.
- ✓ Your food tour or cooking class can be your lunch or dinner tonight, but here is a dinner recommendation in case you need it. Trattoria La Casalinga Via De' Michelozzi 9r
- ✓ In the evening, visit Piazza della Repubblica to see the carousel and enjoy the ambiance.



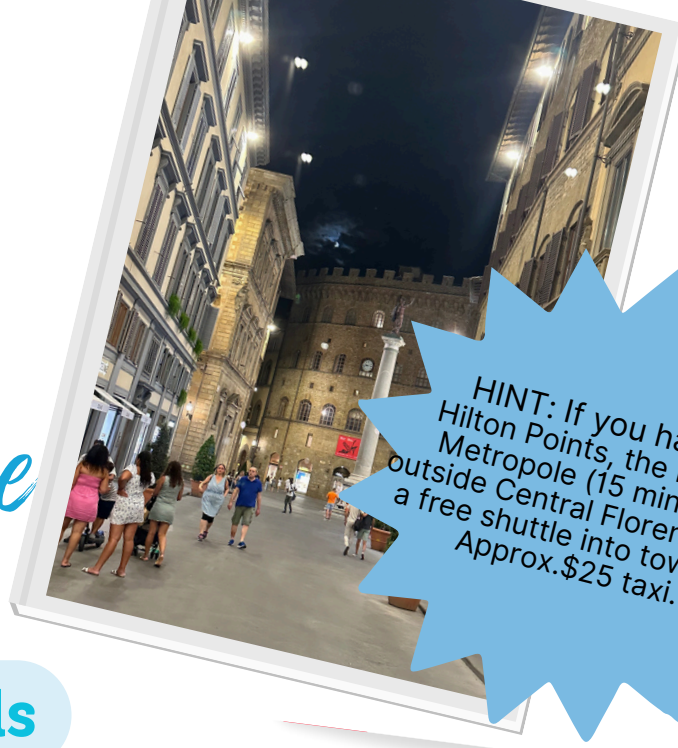
Book Your *Vacation* Now!  
See "Florence Tours"  
for booking details on  
tours, classes, and  
attractions, and "Where  
to Eat in Florence" for  
locations of eats.

For the perfect  
ending of your day, try  
the rooftop bar at  
Rinascente  
Department Store in  
Piazza Repubblica

See Where to Eat  
in Florence.



# Save time by taking our suggestions of well-reviewed *Hotels in Florence*



**HINT:** If you have Hilton Points, the Hilton Metropole (15 minutes outside Central Florence) has a free shuttle into town OR Approx. \$25 taxi.

## Mid-Priced Hotels

1. [Hotel Davanzati](#)
2. [Hotel David](#)
3. [Santa Maria Novella Hotel](#)

### Why they're great:

- ✓ Daily breakfast
- ✓ Air-Conditioning
- ✓ Free cancellation (available on Booking.com)
- ✓ Trip Advisor "Traveler's Choice" Award and 9.0+ rating on Booking.com Centrally Located

## Our Favorite Florence Hotel

### [Hotel Pendini](#)

Don't miss this great find! A magical blend of old and new right in the center of Florence. Check prices here.

### Why??

- ✓ Daily breakfast
- ✓ Air-Conditioning
- ✓ Piazza della Repubblica right by the carousel
- ✓ Free cancellation on Booking.com

Winners of Trip Advisor's "Best of the Best" Award

## Luxury Hotels

1. [Hotel Calamala](#)
2. [San Firenze Suites & Spa](#)
3. [Golden Tower Hotel & Spa](#)

### Including:

- ✓ Extra Amenities
- ✓ Four/Five Star Comfort
- ✓ Centrally Located
- ✓ Daily Breakfast
- ✓ Free Cancellation Available on Booking.com





Italyjustforyou.com

# Florence Tours

All with free cancellation  
All with GREAT reviews!

## Walking Tours

- **Essential Florence Walking Tour with an Expert Local Guide**
- **The Best tour in Florence: Renaissance & Medici Tales - guided by a STORYTELLER**

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

## Galleria Accademia

- **Skip the line, Don't skip the David**
- **Michelangelo's David Early Viewing Semi-Private Accademia Tour**

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

## The Duomo and Cupola Climb

- **Florence Duomo Tour with Dome Climb and Skip the Line Ticket**
- **Florence Duomo Complex Private Guided Tour**

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

## Uffizi Gallery

- **UFFIZI Private Tour in Florence Italy**
- **#1 Uffizi Gallery Tour | 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed! | 8ppl Max**

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

## Food tours & Cooking Classes

- **Florence: Markets and Food Tasting Tour.**
- **Wanna Be Italiano - The original Cooking Class & Market Tour in Florence**

[Booking and Prices here.](#)

[Booking and Prices here.](#)



# Where to Eat in Florence

## For Coffee/Lunch

- Caffe Gilli

Via Roma, 1 (Piazza della Repubblica)  
Est. 1733 Great Espresso & Pastries

- Mercato Centrale

Historic (and fun) food market in the  
San Lorenzo Markets



**Trattoria 4 Leoni--  
Our Favorite for Dinner!**

## For Dinner

- Trattoria 4 Leoni

Order the Pear Pasta!

OR

- Trattoria La Casalinga  
Via dei Michelozzi 9R

### **BOOK NOW**

Use the Fork.com  
or Email  
Restaurants



## **Best Gelato...and a hint!**

**Our Favorite Gelato is found at:**

**Gelateria dei Neri, Via dei Neri, 9**

HINT: Stay away from gelato stands with high, heaping, neon gelato, because it probably is not fresh. Look instead for gelato containers that are even to the top, or covered.



## **About Wine Windows**

- ✓ One unique attraction you will find in Florence is the miniature doors in the side of some buildings, known as "wine windows". Knock on the "Window" & place your order. Enjoy outside.
- ✓ Suggested, with link to Google Maps:  
Babae Wine  
Osteria Belle Donne



# You will fall in love with the Val D'Orcia

## The Real Italy--Away From all the Crowds

The UNESCO Heritage Site known as the Val D'Orcia is famous for its breathtaking views, majestic cypress trees and golden farmhouses, and charming smaller towns. Truly one of the most beautiful places in the world.. **DON'T MISS IT!**



## How to Get to the Val D'Orcia-Three Ways-- By **Train** or **Car** or **Tour**

**BEST OPTION:** To fully appreciate the beauty of the region, you will need a **car**. You can travel to various villages, stop for photo ops., enjoy the ambiance, stay among the locals, sip their wine and taste their food.. If you don't have a car, you'll wish you did!



### Renting a Car in Italy

You can rent a car from home and have it waiting for you when you arrive. Check with your insurance agent to see how much coverage you will need. We find DiscoverCars very reliable.



[\*\*CLICK HERE TO RENT\*\*](#)

### Driving in Italy IS EASY

Italians drive on the right side of the the road. You will need an International Driver's License to drive in Italy. See the Resources Page. for more.



## Tours that Go to Val D'Orcia from Florence

If you can't rent a car, a tour is your next best option. The buses and trains do not go to all the little towns or photo ops. and take all your time. **Here are a few well-reviewed options for tours from Florence..**

- [\*\*Magic Tuscany Tour\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Best of Tuscany: Full Day Private Tour to Val D'Orcia\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Val d'Orcia private tour: Montalcino, Pienza and Montepulciano\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Full Day Tour to Val d'Orcia and Gladiator's Fields with Wines\*\*](#)

## Taking the Train



Montepulciano is a good starting base to see the Val D'Orcia. The train from Florence takes about 3 hours and costs about 20-25 Euros. Book with [\*\*RailEurope\*\*](#) from home. From Montepulciano, you can rent a driver or join tours to see the Val D'Orcia. See "Val D'Orcia Tours".



## DAYS 4-5-6



Discover, Experience, and Cherish Memories in VAL D'ORCIA!

### DAY FOUR

- Drive to Monticchiello from Florence. Check in to your accommodation.

Then drive to Pienza or Montalcino for the day before returning to Monticchiello for dinner at Daria's. In Pienza, explore the town (See pg. 13.). In Montalcino, visit a wine bar and explore the town..

### DAY FIVE

- Drive to Montepulciano
- Visit De Ricci Winery and its historic cave.
- Have a picnic at Caseificio Cugusi Silvana
- Continue on one of the Val D'Orcia Drives. See Page 10..
- Dinner in Monticchiello at La Porta.

### DAY SIX


- After a leisurely breakfast, drive to Florence to return your rental car, and head to the airport to head home.
- OR extend your trip to Siena, Pisa, Lucca, and San Gimignano..

ONE OF THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN  
THE WORLD AWAITS!

See p.11 for Directions to  
Restaurants in Val D'Orcia.t

italyjustforyou.com





Keep an eye out for  
Cypress-lined drives



Chapel of Madonna of  
Vitaleta

*Val D'Orcia Drives, otherwise  
known as the Full Monti!*

#### Montepulciano to San Quirico

##### Via Pienza

Starting in Montepulciano, follow SP 146 toward Pienza. Look for a sign to your premier picnic spot, and farm, Cucusi Silvana. Continue on to Pienza, one of our favorites. See our article on Pienza (Pg.13).  
**HInt:** Continue on SP 146 and look for Chapel of Madonna of Vitaleta. You can see it from the road, or walk closer.

#### San Quirico to Montalcino

Follow SS 2 to Via Della Circonvallazione, then SP 14 to Montalccino.

#### **Nearby Attractions**

Directions to  
Sant' Antimo Abbey

Or Book a Wine Tour!

Brunello Wine Tour &  
Lunch in a Tuscan Castle.

Montalcino: Guided  
Winery Tour and Wine  
Tasting.

Click to see maps

#### Pienza to Montepulciano

##### Via Monticchiello

Follow SP 18 and SP88 to Montepulciano, taking the turnoff to Monticchiello. An easy route allowing browsing time in all three towns.

#### **Senior and stroller alert:**

Pienza is easiest for walking, Monticchiello has a slight incline and Montepulciano is steep! (Sometimes golf carts are available in Montepulciano near the city gates for a cost).





# YOUR VAL D'ORCIA CHECKLIST

*Where to Stay, Where to Eat, Fun Things to Do*

## OUR FAVORITE PLACE TO STAY IN VAL D'ORCIA-- LA CASA DI ADELINA-- MONTECCHIELLO

- Gourmet Breakfasts, Made to Order
- Superb Host
- In the Heart of Val D'Orcia between Pienza and Montepulciano
- Free Parking (Some Walking & Stairs Involved}
- Children Welcome
- 600 Year Old Home
- VERY affordable

## OTHER PLACES TO STAY:

- Podere Spedaleone Pienza
- Tenuta Santo Pietro Pienza
- Cugusi BnB Montepulciano

(Adults only).

- Hotel I Due Cigni

Montepulciano

## WHERE TO EAT IN VAL D'ORCIA:

Book on the free Fork app.  
or email restaurant from home..

Daria's Monticchiello

La Porta Monticchiello

La Buca di Enea Pienza

Taverna di Fucile Montepulciano

La Sosta Rest/Wine Bar Montalcino

## FUN THINGS TO DO:

- Go on a Tuscany Drive and Enjoy the Breathtaking Sights!! (See Previous Page.)
- Take a Hike!
- Go on a Picnic!
- Take a Vespa Tour
- Rent a Bike!

**See Val D'Orcia  
Adventures  
Next Page**





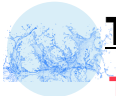
# Adventures in Val D'Orcia



## Magic Tuscany Tour

**Dreaming of Val D'Orcia, but don't have a car (Or you just want someone else to drive?) Here is a tour from Florence, with pick-up available.**

Review from Get Your Guide, Sherilyn: "BEST TUSCANY TOUR. If you are looking to see & experience the true sights of Tuscany this is the tour to book. Marco was incredible at taking us off the beaten tracks to the best photo spots in Tuscany. He went above and beyond to even providing his own camera for photo taking and takes really amazing photos for his guests. Truly a magical experience..."



## Tuscany Natural Spring Tour

**Tired of the Crowds or the Heat in the Summer? Try a Spa Day From Florence:**

Review from Carla on Trip Advisor: "Best day of our trip so far!"

## Romantic Vespa Tour and Wine Tasting



**Want something a little different? From Montepulciano:**

Review from Viator, Abbey: "This was an amazing experience! The highlights were the quick stops in Montepulciano and Pienza on the Vespa portion of the tour, the lasagna lunch, the beautiful views from the Vespa. The tour guide was great and very nice. It was a private tour just myself and my husband which was nice. Only one Vespa for us both but that was probably for the best. **This was definitely one of the highlights of our 10 day Italy trip highly recommend!"**

## Wine Tour E-Bike Experience



**This tour has Five Star Reviews!--From Montepulciano**

Maps are provided and guide is optional. From Viator: Camille says: "Wow, wow, wow, is how I have to start this review!"

## Pienza: Tuscan Cooking Class of Homemade Pasta & Cantucci

From Get Your Guide: Srikanth says: "One of the best activities we could do as we wanted to spend the day not running around touristic spots for a change. The chef was funny and good at what he was doing. The property is amazing and views from the dining table are breathtaking. **Highly highly recommend."**





ITALYJUSTFORYOU.COM

# Your Tuscan ADVENTURE AWAITS

*Ciao! Ron and Jane*

**Further Resources for  
Your Trip are Available at  
[Italyjustforyou.com](http://Italyjustforyou.com)**

- ★ [How to Plan for a Trip to Italy](#)
- ★ [How to Prepare for a Trip to Europe](#)
- ★ [Is it Easy to Drive a Car in Italy?](#)
- ★ [Travel Memories Through Photos](#)
- ★ [How to Talk to Strangers While Traveling](#)

## **In-Depth City Info:**

- ★ [What to See and Do in Florence](#)
- ★ [Florence-- A Great Italy Trip to Remember](#)
- ★ [Siena in One Day--A Different Perspective](#)
- ★ [What to Do and See in Amazing Pienza](#)
- ★ [Monticchiello--One of the Best Towns in Tuscany](#)

