



# A Taste of Tuscany

Enjoy delicious food and sample fine wines on this very special holiday which includes two meals in local restaurants and two wine tastings

**Tuscany** needs little introduction. The birthplace of the Renaissance and an inspiration to countless artists, Tuscany isn't just beautiful scenery and historical cities, it is home to some of the best food and wine in Italy.

Italian cuisine conjures up images of colourful pizzas, pasta dishes with exquisite sauces and ice cream in every flavour imaginable, but there is so much more to taste and enjoy on this fabulous escorted holiday to Tuscany. And where better to sample the celebrated wines of Tuscany than in some of the vineyards that actually produce them?

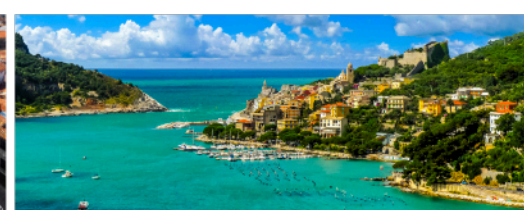
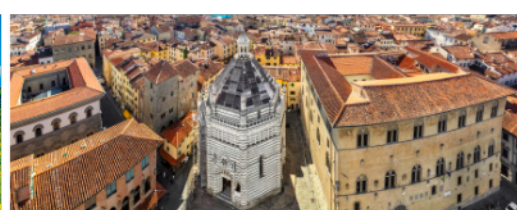
The famous reds, including *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano* and *Chianti*, are the most renowned names. Tuscany also produces what is said to be the finest olive oil in the whole of Italy. For centuries the farmers here have grown and taken care of their olive trees and pressed the fruits for extra virgin olive oil. Learn to recognise a quality oil, hear about production, and finish by tasting the golden drops of Italy!

## 4 Star Hotel Puccini, Montecatini Terme

The 4\*Hotel Puccini is an elegant and comfortable hotel located in the centre of Montecatini Terme. In the evening the restaurant offers a taste of the typical flavours of Tuscany, complimented by the local wines of the Chianti area. There is a bar and lounge and you are assured of a peaceful nights sleep in a classically designed bedroom which has a flat screen TV, Wi-Fi, bathroom and safety deposit box. This hotel has been rated 'Excellent' by TripAdvisor. A limited number of Superior Twin/Double bedroom and Standard Single bedrooms are available at a supplement.



**Montecatini Terme**, which lies in the centre of one of Italy's loveliest regions, is our base for this leisurely holiday in Tuscany. Set in a valley of olive groves and surrounded by the beauty of the Tuscan landscape, Montecatini Terme has a relaxing, peaceful atmosphere with plenty of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants all within easy reach of our hotel. Renowned for its springs, spas and thermal baths, it is overlooked by the ancient hilltop town of Montecatini Alto, and the two towns are connected by a funicular railway.



To book please call **01352 756864** quoting **IWFS**



## Included in the price:

- Excursion to Vinci & Pistoia
- Excursion to Portovenere & Lerici
- Excursion to the Chianti countryside
- Excursion to Volterra & San Gimignano
- Wine tasting in two vineyards
- 7 nights accommodation in the 4\* Hotel Puccini in Montecatini Terme
- Twin/double bedroom with en-suite bathroom
- 7 buffet breakfasts and 5 evening dinners in the hotel
- One dinner in a local restaurant
- One lunch in the Vicchio Maggio wine estate and vineyard
- Return flights from Manchester to Pisa
- One piece of 15kg hold luggage and one piece of hand luggage per person
- Transfers between airport and hotel
- Air-conditioned coach on the excursions
- Services of a Mistral Tour Manager

## Itinerary & Excursions

### Day 1 - Fly to Pisa

On arrival at Pisa airport you will be met and transferred to our hotel in Montecatini Terme, where we stay for seven nights.

### Day 2 - Vinci & Pistoia

On this relaxing excursion, we visit the Tuscan hilltop town of Vinci, birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Surrounded by hills filled with vineyards and olive groves, the town's main Piazza features a wooden replica of Vinci's Vitruvian Man.

In the afternoon we visit the little known Tuscan gem of Pistoia. Pistoia features town walls, striped churches, frescoes, medieval watchtowers, arcaded piazzas, all packed into its small centre - it is often referred to as 'Little Florence'.

### Day 3 - Portovenere & Lerici

Portovenere is a charming small harbor on the Ligurian coast, adorned with vibrant medieval houses and a seaside fortress. You'll have leisure time to discover this enchanting village, characterised by its pastel-painted houses surrounding the harbour. Take a stroll along the picturesque waterfront promenade, with Byron's Grotto nearby, which provided inspiration to the renowned poet.

Lerici is a town nestled in the stunning Bay of La Spezia, celebrated for its natural beauty. This idyllic town has its origins in medieval times. The town is situated along a spectacular coastline, surrounded by a national park resembling an unframed painting with pine forests, olive trees, and charming hamlets. The waterfront square is adorned with trompe-l'oeil frescoed structures and seaside cafes.

### Day 4 - Day at leisure.

Spend the day soaking up the delights of Montecatini Terme, or for those wanting to explore further afield, there are direct trains to Florence so you can explore this fascinating city at your own pace.

### Day 5 - Volterra & San Gimignano

Volterra's well-preserved medieval ramparts surround its winding cobbled streets which are dotted with Roman, Etruscan and medieval buildings.

After our visit we continue our journey through the Tuscan countryside to San Gimignano, which is regarded as Tuscany's most beautiful hill-top town, with its amazing skyline of 13th century towers. Inside the ancient walls picturesque houses line the narrow cobbled streets in this UNESCO World Heritage site. We've also arranged a tasting of the locally produced olive oil and the rich, red Chianti wines and refreshing white wines at a vineyard near San Gimignano.

### Day 6 - Chianti & A Taste of Tuscany

This is a truly delightful day exploring the romantic Chianti countryside of rolling hills, broad green valleys, medieval hilltop villages, seemingly endless olive groves and mile upon mile of vineyards in one of Italy's most prestigious wine regions. Our journey takes us right into the heart of Tuscany, where we'll visit traditional wine villages which produce the famous Chianti Classico red wine, including Greve where Giovanni da Verrazzano, the Italian explorer who discovered Hudson Bay in New York, lived. We will also visit the famous Vicchio Maggio Estate, where we will taste a selection of their superb wines before enjoying an included Tuscan style, three course lunch with wine in the Estate's own restaurant.

### Day 7 - Montecatini & dinner

Today is at leisure in Montecatini. This evening, make your own way to the historical Montecatini Alto by the funicular railway where we have arranged a 'farewell dinner' in a local restaurant.

### Day 8 - Fly home

**Departs: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
flying from Manchester

8 days, price from  
**£1649<sub>pp</sub>**

**Book today with a low deposit**  
of just £250pp

Manchester airport flight times  
Depart UK: 10:05      Arrive UK: 15:40

Single Supplement: £299

Superior Room Upgrade: £125pp



Transfers: The transfer time from the airport to your hotel is approximately 45 minutes.



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All bookings are subject to Mistral Holidays 'Air Holidays' terms and booking conditions - please see [mistralholidays.co.uk](http://mistralholidays.co.uk) for full details