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Chianti Hills Trail

7 days / 6 nights / 5 days riding

Max weight 90kg

Airport Pisa or Florence



Overview

This enchanting part of Tuscany is a land where nature and human craftsmanship have harmoniously intertwined for centuries, creating a landscape that is as breathtaking as it is historic. Rolling hills covered in vineyards, ancient stone farmhouses, and winding country roads define a region that has inspired poets, artists, and travelers for generations. With a history that stretches back over a thousand years, this is a place where medieval villages, centuries-old monasteries, and Renaissance architecture stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time.

Most notably, it is home to some of the finest Chianti wines in the world, where time-honored winemaking traditions continue to thrive.

With this unique experience, we invite you to immerse yourself in these wonders, embracing the ancient and unhurried rhythm of travel on horseback. Riding through these storied landscapes allows for a deep connection with the land, the history, and the timeless traditions that make this region so extraordinary.

To complete this immersive experience, riders will have the opportunity to **taste locally produced wines during lunch stops**, savoring the authentic flavors of Tuscany. From full-bodied Chianti Classico to elegant local vintages, each sip is a tribute to the land and its centuries-old traditions. Paired with fresh regional cuisine, this moment of indulgence offers the perfect way to relax, reflect, and appreciate the richness of the journey.

This horseback adventure is more than just a ride—it is a journey through time, culture, and the very soul of Tuscany, with unforgettable flavors and landscapes at every turn.

Guides & group size

Sergio is your host for this holiday and will be your guide. Incredibly knowledgeable about the region's history, he will make this trip truly unforgettable.

2-6 Riders & maximum weight 90kg

You will be riding beautiful quarter horse, English thoroughbreds, Arabian, Anglo-arab and Sicilian.

Accommodation & Dining

For the stay of our guests, the Agriturismo La Selva, within the estate, offers various types of accommodation. In ancient and typical Tuscan farmhouses, welcoming and comfortable rooms are available apartments, all with private bathrooms and fully furnished. After returning from a day of trekking on horseback, the swimming pool with a garden is available to our guests.

You will also enjoy delicious Italian cuisine and have the chance to taste the local wines.



Itinerary:

Day 1

Check-in and meeting of riders and guide with a delicious dinner with of course wine !

Accommodation at the estate.

Day 2

Departure for the first day's ride at 9.30. The first part of the route crosses Pian del Lago, where until the mid-18th century there was a lake (or rather a swamp) called Verano which was completely reclaimed at the behest of the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo.

This stretch of the Via Francigena will lead us first to the Chiocciola Castle with its cylindrical tower located on the eastern side which contains a beautiful 'spiral' helical staircase and then to the Monteriggioni Castle built between 1214 and 1219.

After lunch and still on the Via Francigena, we pass through Abbadia Isola. "Abbadia" stands for abbey, the church being a Cistercian foundation, while "Isola" reminds us of the fact that it originally stood on the marshy Lake Verano. Accommodation at the estate.

Day 3

The Via Francigena will lead us, in the territory of Castellina in Chianti, to Villa Trasqua whose first records date back to the year 1001. Since then, the link between this farm and the territory has never been broken, continuing the production of Sangiovese and Chianti wines today 100% organic, which will accompany today's lunch.

The journey proceeds along the vineyards of this part of the Sienese Chianti, crossing oak and holm woods, to reach the horse rest point. Accommodation at the estate.

Day 4

After lunch, which will be accompanied by the wines produced on this estate, we set off again to reach the horse stopping point in Mociano. This location is important for the Siena people because the selection and training activities for the horses of the Palio di Siena are carried out here.

Accommodation at the estate.

Day 5

Today from Chianti we move to the Crete Senesi, south-east of Siena. The name "Crete" derives from the clay present in the soil formed between 2.5 and 4.5 million years ago this entire area was covered by the sea.

The landscape, depending on the seasons, can have a grey-blue colour, almost lunar or green, with gently rolling hills, oaks, cypresses, and isolated farms.

After the lunch stop, we cross the territory of San Rocco a Pilli, an area already inhabited in Etruscan and Roman times, to then reach the horse rest point in Rinidia, home to an important farm that produces organic products.

Accommodation at the estate.

Day 6

Today is the last day of the trip and to return to the equestrian center we travel along part of the Via Francigena on the Sienese Montagnola. Having crossed Ponte allo Spino, an early medieval village, the paths will lead us to the Villa Cetinale built in 1676, to the Romitorio di Cetinale, an eighteenth-century religious building and to the Parish Church of Pernina, a church whose first records date back to 1078.

After lunch the route continues on the Montagnola Senese, until reaching the Hermitage of San Leonardo al Lago whose first certain information dates back to the year 1112. The Via Francigena will lead us to the equestrian center passing through the Pyramid, an obelisk in memory of the reclamation of the Lake Verano.

Accommodation at the estate.

Day 7

Breakfast and departure



Transfers and flights

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flights to/from as follows:

You may arrive at either Florence or Pisa airport at any time.

For your departure please book a flight after breakfast. Please take into account transfer times of 1h30 to Pisa and 1h to Florence.

*Transfer 250€ one way (2025 price)

Alternatively, you may arrive by car. Check-in is from 15:30 to 18:30. If you wish to arrive by train, please arrive at Siena train station, the pick up is free.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Italy for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/italy/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & tipping

The local currency in Sicily is Euro. Your holiday is fully inclusive and we recommend not to bring too much cash with you, just enough if you wish to buy drinks outside of mealtimes or souvenirs etc.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion.

Riding declaration

“I am an experienced rider and able to mount & dismount unaided. I have a firm seat and I’m confident and in control at all paces over rough terrain (including rising trot, light seat canters and gallops) and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others.”

Booking conditions

You are booking with the riding holiday operator, these are their booking conditions:

1. By booking a trail, each participant confirms that he/she is an experienced rider, comfortable riding at walk, trot and canter in open spaces. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should it consider a participant to be below the required standard of riding ability.
2. All participants undertake to ride in a manner that is safe and respectful towards the horses and other participants on the trail. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should it consider a participant to be riding in a manner that is unsafe.
3. Riding helmets are not mandatory but are recommended. Any participant that decides to ride without a helmet does so fully at his/her own risk.
4. All participants must comply with a strict weight limit of 90kg. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should he/she surpass this weight limit.
5. All participants must have in place a valid insurance policy (travel or otherwise) that covers them for horse riding abroad.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

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Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit.

The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

28 days or more - 30%

less than 28 days - nil

Travel insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



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