

Tuscany & Siena



'Timeless countryside'

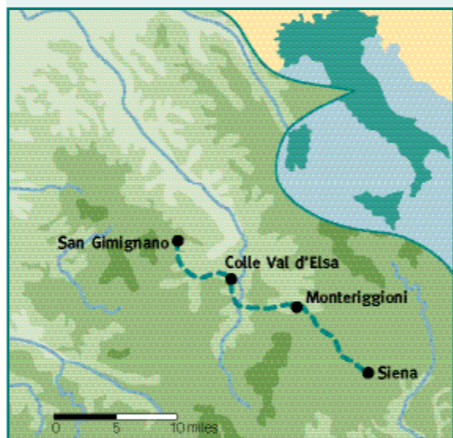
- Walk from hill-top San Gimignano to Siena, the best-preserved great medieval city in Europe
- Timeless countryside, as seen in the background of medieval paintings
- Hills crowned with medieval cities and villages – San Gimignano, Colle Val d'Elsa and Monteriggioni
- Patchwork of vineyards and olive groves, ancient forests, fields of wheat and barley
- Ancient festivals and traditions preserved in the towns and villages

SOME HIGHLIGHTS...

- SIENA**
The best-preserved great medieval city in Europe. An abundance of outstanding 14C and 15C art and architecture. Also see the Piazza del Campo, scene of the *Palio* horserace.
- SAN GIMIGNANO**
Walled, medieval town with world-famous towers.
- COLLE VAL D'ELSA**
Walled town with perfectly preserved, medieval 'tunnel' streets.
- MONTERIGGIONI**
Tiny, medieval village encircled by 13C walls surmounted by watchtowers.



'medieval duomo of black and white marble'



ITINERARY – Walking or Cycling

- Day 1 Arrive in San Gimignano**
- Day 2 Free day in San Gimignano**
Walking: Optional circular walk.
Cycling: Optional circular routes (6 or 10 miles).
- Day 3 San Gimignano to Colle Val d'Elsa**
Walking: Walk through forests and over hills with views over an almost unchanged medieval landscape to Colle Val d'Elsa (8.5 miles, 4.5 hrs).
Cycling: A long gradual climb to an extensive view, then descent through woods and across a plateau to Colle Val d'Elsa (26 miles, or shorter route 8.5 miles).
- Day 4 Colle Val d'Elsa to Monteriggioni**
Walking: Walk to Monteriggioni across an undulating fertile area of small farms via fine Romanesque abbey church (11.3 miles, 6 hrs).
Cycling: A pretty, winding road through farm and meadowland, olive groves, vineyards and open pastures to Monteriggioni (25.8 or 13.3 miles).
- Day 5 Monteriggioni to Siena**
Walking: Through forests, past two castles, open farmland and more woods. Wonderful views of Siena (11.3 miles, 6.5 hrs).
Cycling: Cycle through remote and beautiful country roads over wooded slopes of Monte Maggio leading to the outskirts of Siena (21.7 or 10.9 miles).
- Day 6 Free day in Siena**
Walking: Optional Siena city walk (3.5 hrs).
Cycling: Optional Siena city walk (3.5 hrs).
- Day 7 Departure day**



'timeless countryside'

ACCOMMODATION

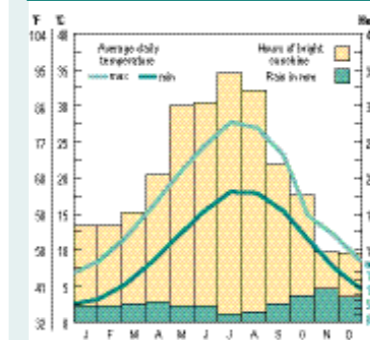
<p>STANDARD HOTEL</p> <p>San Gimignano Leon Bianco ★★★ Comfortable hotel in medieval centre. Nights 1&2 B&B</p>	<p>STANDARD HOTEL</p> <p>Colle Val d'Elsa Arnolfo ★★(★) Converted palazzo in Colle Alto. Night 3 B&B</p>	<p>STANDARD HOTEL</p> <p>Monteriggioni Il Castello Converted house within village walls. Night 4 Room only</p>	<p>SUPERIOR HOTEL</p> <p>Monteriggioni Hotel Monteriggioni ★★★★★ Well-situated with pool. Night 4 B&B</p>
<p>STANDARD HOTEL</p> <p>Siena Piccolo Hotel Etruria ★★ Simple hotel in medieval city centre. Nights 5&6 Room only</p>	<p>SUPERIOR HOTEL</p> <p>Siena Athena ★★(★) Modern hotel within city walls. Nights 5&6 B&B</p>		

TRIP INFORMATION

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & WINE

There are good (several outstanding) restaurants and *trattorie* everywhere on route: *si mangia bene!* Traditional Tuscan cooking with game, steaks, beans, wild mushrooms, truffles and homemade pasta. Good local Chianti wines. There are some especially notable *gelaterie* with a wide selection of homemade ice creams.

TEMPERATURE & RAINFALL



TERRAIN

Walking: hilly countryside is crossed by *strade bianche* (small gravel roads), mule tracks, farm and woodland tracks and paths, with some asphalt on the approach to towns, notably Siena.
Cycling: there is a mixture of small, asphalt country lanes, *strade bianche*, and short stretches of main road near towns.



GETTING THERE

Recommended Destination Airports:
Pisa Florence

FLIGHTS

From Pisa and Florence there are trains to Poggibonsi (1.5hrs), then a bus to San Gimignano (1hr).

TAXIS

From:	To:	Price:
Pisa Airport	First Hotel	from €100
Florence Airport	First Hotel	from €90

TRIP LENGTH: 7

HALF-BOARD NIGHTS (dinner included): 0

ROUTE OPEN: 01 Apr to 31 Oct

PRICES (Excluding flights):
Standard hotels AU\$1490 Superior AU\$1990

SINGLE OCCUPANCY SUPPLEMENT:
Standard hotels AU\$1490 Superior AU\$890

CYCLE HIRE: 7 Day: AU\$185