

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails

Explore the World on Horseback

Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

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Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

### Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Chianti Castles Ride & Wine Tasting - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITSR10

8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,645.00

Dates: May-June, Sept-Oct

Trip Rating: ●●●●●

Difficulty: ●●●●●

Lodging: ●●●

Tack: English

Horses: Italian and French Anglo

Arab and warm...

Pace: Moderate with trots, canters and short...

Walk, Trot, Canter, Gallop,

Airport: Florence / Pisa



## Introduction

Tuscany, Italy

Set in an 18th century Tuscan farmhouse in Chianti. Meadows, woods and beautiful gardens with a views of a medieval castle surround the equestrian centre.

This is a certified organic property since 2000, and 2014 Trip Advisor Green leaders. You will discover typical Tuscan food, with a special attention to quality and the substitutable of the ingredients. Our heat and energy production come from renewable energy sources. The buildings have been renovated in harmony with the original form. Our desire was to create a harmonious setting, for a limited number of guests who are looking to stay in a friendly, and at the same time tranquil environment. This is the perfect place to take a walk, to cycle and experience nature and countryside. You can relax around our salt-water swimming pool.

We offer a program that explores an area more than 400km2, without having to pack and unpack everyday but enjoying staying in a comfortable, ancient country house tasting superb Tuscan food and wine, and riding well trained horses that during the year also compete in military and dressage. Each day we will ride a new route along old tracks and show the rider the variety of our territory, which is rich in historical Medieval buildings, vines, olive trees and woods, villas, and farms (Podere). All of this away from traffic and large crowds and we pass the best Chianti wine farms with excellent tasting wine.

*Non Rider Options:* The location of the farm makes it an ideal base for cycling and hiking, and for those who wish to mix cultural tourism with outdoor pursuits.

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

This is a stationary ride, so all nights are spent at the same location.

### Description

The farmstead of Santa Margherita was built at the end of the 19th century and is now the home of a riding centre and farm. It is situated in the Senese Chianti at the centre of the Siena, Florence, and Arezzo triangle. Surrounded by meadows and woods with a view over an ancient medieval castle, it offers a quality to its guests of nature's silence (by our choice the rooms do not have television), the twitter of the birds, the neighing of the horses, and the flow of the rivers.

The buildings have recently been renovated without altering their original form. The farm house is divided into apartments so that guests will be able to enjoy the complete privacy during their stay at the riding centre. All apartments have their own private space outside with a table and chairs.







#### Division of apartments:

- Alloro Apt: Alloro bedroom + sitting room with sofa bed - can accommodate 2+ 2 guests - 48 sq. m
- Grande Noce Apt: 3/4 bedrooms (Suite, Rosa Chinae bedroom) with adjacent sitting room and kitchen - 180 sq. m
- Cottage: two floors with view of our pasture + Castello for 2/3 guests - 50 sq. m

Our desire was to create a harmonious setting in 6000 square feet, for a limited number of guests who are looking to stay in a friendly, but at the same time discreet environment. We are also a certified organic farm and we try to respect the environment in the way we run our farm holiday accommodation. Castelnuovo Berardenga town council organizes cultural and social activities in the area and there are two well-known spa swimming pools ten minutes away.

We love animals and have a lot, so we are unable to accept dogs or other pets, but if you are looking for such accommodation there are two neighboring farms which offer two apartments where it is possible to take animals.

#### Room Occupancy

The single supplement fee is mandatory for every solo traveler (not possible to share room with a stranger).



#### Meals

All meals are included.

We cook traditional Italian food. Our food is prepared with as many organic ingredients from the gardens as possible. The farm has been certified as an organic property since 2000.

Breakfasts typically consist of bread with butter, jam and juice complete with yogurt and cakes prepared by us, using many local products.

Dinners are typical Tuscan gourmet dishes that will satisfy the most demanding pallets.

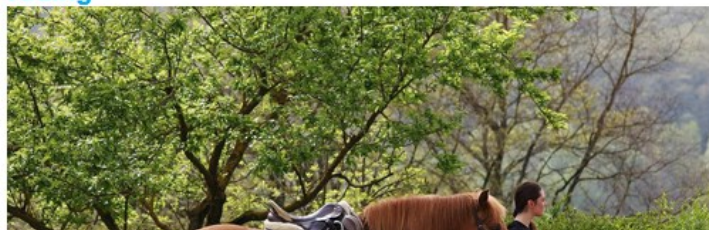
Wine is included with dinner.

#### Dietary Restrictions

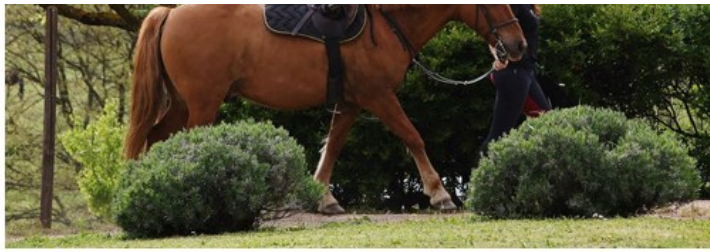
We can cater to dietary restrictions if given prior notice.



#### Riding







This week is generally proposed from Sunday to Sunday.

#### Riding Center

Sadio and Donatella personally assist and receive their guest and riders. They speak French and English and have been running the Horse Riding Centre since 1992. The Riding Centre is affiliated with the Italian Federation of Equestrian Sports.

#### Horses

We currently have 20 horses. Once horses join the center they are never sold and periodically they are trained and worked by our instructors. They work both in the school and in the countryside, and spend some hours every day in the fields to relax and play. We like our horses to be happy!

We choose our horses not according to their breed but by looking at their attitude to work in the flat and in the countryside. For this reason in our stables you will find many different breeds: Anglo-Arab, Thoroughbred, Warmblood, Murgesi, Arab, Holsteiner etc. We make sure that our horses have good mental balance so they can change riders easily. Our horses are friendly and easy to handle.

#### Tack & Equipment

Saddles are Kieffer or Appaloosa Prestige.

There are many short chaps and helmets available at the Riding Center.



### Itinerary



*Sample Itinerary - subject to changes*

#### Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

Arrival at the riding center in the afternoon. Around 7 pm we will get together and offer you a welcome drink before we join you for dinner around 8:30 pm.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

#### Day 2 (Monday): Ride around the Riding Center

Half-day riding takes us to the romantic abbey of Badia d'Ombrone. Lunch at the riding center and in the afternoon we ride to our neighbor at the medieval Castello di Montalto for a visit and tea with the lady of the manor.

*Riding approx 2 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*



**Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride to Arceno**

One full day of riding on rolling hills and landscapes that take you to Arceno (a centuries old property), where you breathe in the history and beauty. This property is located in the heart of Tuscany, in the Sienese Chianti area, between Florence and Siena. It extends for more than a thousand hectares. We will have a wine tasting in a superb location with the view of vines, olives, and two tree-lined avenues with their double line of cypresses that are protected by law given their great value and uncommon beauty. We stop for a visit and maybe an aperitif in the medieval village of San Gusme (11th century) and then arrive at the Etruscan site of Campi, where we have our picnic lunch. The view is magnificent, spreading over 360 degrees from Monti del Chianti to Siena to Monte Amiata.

*Riding approx 5-6 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

**Day 4 (Wednesday): Half-day ride to Montebenichi & Visit of Montepulciano**

Half-day riding in the morning takes us to the medieval village of Montebenichi. Lunch at the riding center and in the afternoon we visit Montepulciano and enjoy some wine tasting.

*Riding approx 2.5 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

**Day 5 (Thursday): Ride to Felsina Wine Farm**

One day riding with a picnic in the Chianti Classico at FELSINA wine farm.

*Riding approx 5-6 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

**Day 6 (Friday): Ride across Crete Senesi & Rapale**

We pass through the "Crete senesi", a completely different area, famous for their sheep cheese. Then, we head to an ancient Etruscan road with an amazing view of the Chianti hills and Siena, on sunny days. Finally, we pass through the village of Rapale, one of the last remaining untouched ancient villages.

*Riding approx 5-6 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

**Day 7 (Saturday): Half-day Ride to Monastery Borgo Monastero & Visit of Siena**

Half day riding in the morning at the monastery Borgo Monastero through forest, olives, and vines. Lunch is eaten at the riding center and, in the afternoon we visit Siena by car. Siena is thought to be the best well-preserved medieval town in Italy.

*Riding approx 2.5 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Farmhouse in Santa Margherita*

**Day 8 (Sunday): Departure**

Departure after breakfast

*Meals included: Breakfast*

**Non Riders**

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

Things to do besides horse riding, which can however take over a major part of the day, we can suggest:

- A walk, for which we can supply our written guide.
- Short excursions, for which we can supply our small written guide, which we call 'around us'.
- Excursion by bike, a really easy way for visiting our hills.
- Rapolano Spa, 10 minutes by car, with its modern facilities and hot pools at Antica Querciolaia and San Giovanni.
- Explore the medieval city of Siena, only 20 minutes by car.
- Explore the Chianti area which extends in the directions of Florence for more than 50km.
- Explore Arezzo, 30 minutes by car.
- Explore Florence, 50 minutes by car / train
- Explore Montepulciano and Montalcino, 30 minutes by car.
- Explore Monteriggioni and San Gimignano, 30 and 50 minutes by car.

**Other Info**

**Meeting:** Castelnuovo

**Airport:** Florence / Pisa

**Train station:** Montevarchi

**Transfer:** Montevarchi train station

**Distance:** Pisa 1.5 hrs / Florence 1 hr

Best to rent a car in Florence or Pisa. If you prefer we can arrange a transfer from Florence or Pisa. There are good train connections from Pisa or Florence to Montevarchi - free pick up from there at 5pm.

**Tack:** English

**Horses:** Italian and French Anglo Arab and warm blood

**Pace:** Moderate with trots, canters and short gallops. Riders must know English riding techniques - posting to the trot, two-point canter ....

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop |

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 3 out of 5) Good Intermediate

**Age:** Min 14

**Weight:** 195 lbs / 88 kg

**Riders:** Min 4 riders

Max 7 riders

## Local Events

Going to be near Sienna in July or August? Don't miss **Il Palio!**

The Palio di Siena (known locally simply as Il Palio) is a horse race held twice each year on July 2 and August 16 in Siena, Italy, in which ten horses and riders, dressed in the appropriate colors, represent ten of the seventeen Contrade, or city wards.

The exciting race, in which the jockeys ride mixed-breed horses bareback, involves circling the Piazza del Campo, on which a thick layer of dirt has been laid, three times and usually last no more than 90 seconds. It is not uncommon for a few of the jockeys to be thrown off their horses while making the treacherous turns in the piazza and indeed it is not unusual to see unmounted horses finishing the race without their jockeys. A winning horse does not need to have its jockey! This race is unlike any other.

A magnificent pageant, the Corteo Storico, precedes the race, which attracts visitors and spectators from around the world. Tens of thousands pack the square to get a taste of the action, creating a vibrant atmosphere.

Ask us to organize your Chianti Country Ride before or after.

[HISTORY](#) [TRAILING](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT/BOOKING](#)

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ITSR10

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals including table wine with dinner, 4 full days riding plus 2 half day rides, 3 wine tastings & Transfer to/from Montevarchi train station  
Riding helmets can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€2405	\$2645

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Rates Note:If these dates do not work for you, you can book a regular Ride & Relax week any week during the year. Or we can set additional dates for groups of 4 pax and more during autumn or spring

Transfer Option

Description

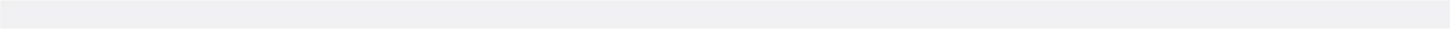
2024	Tourist tax (mandatory)	€15	\$15
2024	Non-Rider (wine tasting not included)	€1440	\$1585
2024	Single Supplement	€275	\$300
2024	Transfer from Montevarchi train station included at 5PM		
2024	Transfer from Florence Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€180	\$185
2024	Transfer from Pisa Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€260	\$270
2024	Transfer from Rome Fiumicino Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€480	\$495
2024	Transfer from Florence Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€200	\$210
2024	Transfer from Pisa Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€260	\$270
2024	Transfer from Rome Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€450	\$465
2024	Transfer from Rome Ciampino or Centro Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€450	\$465

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	04/28/2024 - 05/05/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/12/2024 - 05/19/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/26/2024 - 06/02/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/22/2024 - 09/29/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/29/2024 - 10/06/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/06/2024 - 10/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/20/2024 - 10/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 4/7

Rates do not include:Gratuities, Tourist Tax, Insurance (mandatory) & Airport transfers





# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Interm.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

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Office hours:  
Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm  
Pacific Standard Time



