

DIGNO GO  
GOURMET BIKE TOURS

# TUSCANY

LUXURY



## Day 1

**Today's Ride:** 18 Miles (1,800' Elev. Gain)

Your unforgettable adventure in gorgeous Tuscany begins with your arrival by train in Chiusi. We transfer you seamlessly to nearby Villa Cicollina, where you start your vacation off properly with a sumptuous, but light Tuscan lunch – including authentic fare like bruschetta – and a toast with a glass of the region's most refreshing sparkling wine, Prosecco. While you're at the villa, be sure to take some time to admire the view from the terrace of beautiful neighboring Val di Chiana.

Leaving the villa you start the week with a nice simple loop touring the surrounding area passing through the town of Montepulciano, the perfect picture of an authentic Tuscan town. The aristocratic families of the region once summered at this very destination, leaving their very own unforgettable stamp on the beautiful ceiling frescos, period artwork, and furniture.

Later that day, you join a local winemaker for a tasting and tour. Don't forget to sample the signature Vino Nobile, as well as the Vin Santo.

Dinner is at an authentic trattoria in one of the villages nearby.

## Day 2

**Today's Ride:** 35 Miles (3,600' Elev. Gain)

**Short Option:** 19 Miles (1,800')

**Long Option:** 42 Miles (4,300')

Your second day in glorious Tuscany starts with a simple, but delicious breakfast before you prepare to bike your way from Villa Cicollina to nearby Pienza. On the way, you ride into nearby Petroio and Castelmuzio where you see Sant Anna in Camprena (where scenes of the Oscar-winning film *The English Patient* were filmed) before arriving in Pienza.

When you arrive in Pienza, you may choose a trattoria for lunch on your own before exploring the town in more detail. Beautiful Pienza is the birthplace of one of Tuscany's most famous cheeses, Pecorino. It is also

the birthplace of the illustrious Pope Pius II. Today, it is a shining example of a rustic town that exemplifies the ideal of the Renaissance period to this day.

In the afternoon, coast through the town of Monticchiello. Next, you must prepare for a truly lovely experience, as the following leg of this route takes you through an uphill stretch that is world famous for its beautiful cypress trees and surrounding countryside. If it looks familiar, it could be because it's appeared in many movies and magazine photo shoots over the years!

Later, arrive at your hotel for an authentic cooking class and a sumptuous dinner in the gardens of your villa.

## Day 3

**Today's Ride:** 28 Miles (2,900' Elev. Gain)

**Short Option:** 19 Miles (2,000')

**Long Option:** 38 Miles (4,300')

Your third day in Tuscany opens with another positively delightful breakfast before heading toward Montalcino, another local region well known for wine production. On the way there, you pass through the lovely town of Rocca D'Orcia, a little hamlet that has been considered the "capital city" of the Orcia Valley area for roughly 200 years. Its major claim to fame is the fact that it was used as a strategy center along the Via Francigena, the historically renowned road connecting Rome to France. The area on the whole is also famous for the production of Brunello, a robust and respected local wine.

In the afternoon, you embark on a brisk downhill coast followed by a moderately challenging uphill stretch, at the end of which you arrive at your lodgings for the night – Castello di Velona. Originally, this hotel was an 11<sup>th</sup> century fortress. Today, it's not just a hotel, but also a prime location where you can enjoy a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape, including Monte Amiata – Tuscany's highest peak. Relax and enjoy the pool for a moment as well, before attending a robust meal at the hotel restaurant. Before dinner, you have the opportunity to visit the Abbaye of Sant antimo and listen to the resident monks engaging in a beautiful and relaxing round of Gregorian chanting.

## Day 4

**Today's Ride:** 34 Miles (2,500' Elev. Gain)

**Short Option:** 25 Miles (1,500')

**Long Option:** 43 Miles (3,500')

Your fourth day in spectacular Tuscany begins with breakfast and an invigorating morning ascent up to the nearby town of Montalcino, where you'll get the chance to experience an authentic 14<sup>th</sup> century fortress. From there, you spend some time exploring the Crete Senesi ("Sienese clay"), an area that is characterized by the best of untouched Tuscany at its best including hills, words, a semi-desert, and surrounding waters – all once covered by the neighbouring sea many years ago.

Along the way you enjoy a refreshing light lunch on your own before continuing to explore the neighbouring area. Take in more of the nearby Sienese hills, as well as a number of landmarks that will emerge at random as you go. These include fortified villages, charming parish churches, and even ancient farming complexes – all testaments not only to the area's rich history, but to the accomplishments man is capable of.

Finally, you arrive at your hotel for the next two nights – the Borgo San Felice, a location consisting of an authentic medieval hamlet, as well as a chapel.

Evening brings with it an opportunity to explore the town of Siena. Siena is built around the famed Piazza del Campo, one of Europe's most noteworthy medieval squares. Legend says that it was founded by the sons of Romulus and Remus themselves, the founders of Rome.

Tonight's dinner is on your own, so as you walk through town look out for a restaurant or ask your leaders.

## Day 5

**Today's Ride:** 30 Miles (2,600' Elev. Gain)

**Short Option:** 17 Miles (1,400')

Your final day in Tuscany presents you with an opportunity to experience the area's most famous wine-producing area, Chianti. You ride your way over a chain of beautiful rolling hills and through a progression of

refreshingly, peaceful local roads before arriving in Radda in Chianti, the capital of Chianti Classico. On the way, make sure to stop at a local shop for a glimpse of some traditional painted Tuscan ceramics.

Later, cruise your way back to the Borgo San Felice for an afternoon Chianti tasting in the cellars of your hotel.

Bring your vacation to a fitting close with dinner at the hotel's gourmet restaurant but also with some terrific shopping and playful exploration of the many, hidden medieval walkways here.

## Day 6

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel Borgo San Felice one last time before meeting up with your trip leaders. From here, a short drive to the Firenze train station marks the end of the tour and of this unforgettable trip through Tuscany.

## Trip Accommodations

### 4 & 5 Star Hotels



**Villa Cicolina \*\*\*\* (2 Nights)**

Phone: +39 0578 758620

[www.villacicolina.it](http://www.villacicolina.it)



**Castello di Velona \*\*\*\*\* (1 Night)**

Phone: +39 0577 835553

[www.castellodivelona.it](http://www.castellodivelona.it)



**Hotel Borgo San Felice \*\*\*\*\* (2 Nights)**

Phone: +39 0577 3964

[www.borgosanfelice.com](http://www.borgosanfelice.com)

## Included/Not Included

### Price Includes

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- Multiple daily routes
- A fully equipped bicycle: the Fuji Absolute 1.1 Disc
- Handlebar bag, helmet and water bottle
- Garmin GPS with easy to follow directions
- 1 leader for every 3 guests
- Snack & drinks during the day
- Gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Guided tours, tastings and entrance fees
- A leader offering minivan support
- Luggage transfers
- Porterage
- Minivan transfers during the trip
- Local guides and experts
- An email a few days prior to your trip

### Price Excludes

- Transportation to & from pick-up/drop-off locations
- Pre or post trip lodging
- Minibar, massages, non scheduled activities, etc
- Alcoholic beverages
- Road bike or e-bike
- Gratuities for your Leaders



## Meeting & Departing Information

### Meeting Location

Meet your DIGnGO Trip Leaders, in front of the Chiusi Chianciano Terme train station **ticketing office** at 11.30 AM. From here, shuttle 30 minutes to the start of our first bike ride. Be sure to wear your cycling outfit so you are ready to ride.

### Arriving Late to the Meeting Location

If you have a delay on the first day of the trip, please email or call your trip leaders as their contact information will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to the trip start.

If you arrive late to the meeting location and do not see your trip leaders, you may take a taxi to the first night's hotel.

### End of the Trip

The trip ends at the Firenze train station. DIGnGO Trip Leaders provide transportation, arriving at about 12.00 PM. Please make sure to book a train no earlier than 12.30 PM.

### How to get to the Meeting Location

Trains run from Firenze to Chiusi Chianciano Terme many times a day. You may buy your train ticket(s) at the train station, on your date of travel but we recommend that you buy it before. To make a reservation, EU citizen should go to [www.voyages-sncf.com/en/](http://www.voyages-sncf.com/en/). If you leave outside of the EU, go to [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com). Please note that tickets become available 3 months in advance. Delays can occur if there are any timetable changes or the railway company has scheduled track maintenance.

### How to Get to Downtown Firenze From the Airport

The cost of a taxi to get to downtown Firenze is around \$55 (USD). For taxi service we recommend that you either book a taxi before your arrival online with this company [www.rentcarinflorence.com](http://www.rentcarinflorence.com) or that you take a taxi at your arrival.

## Travel Essentials

### How to Pack

Due to the limited space in our minivan, we ask you to limit the number of bags you bring to 1 suitcase and 1 carry-on luggage. In order to deliver your bags to your room, we ask that each bag has a clear luggage identification tag.

### What to Wear for Dinner

Please remember that whether you dine at a Michelin-starred restaurant or at a local bistro you should feel comfortable. Men should wear dress pants with a shirt or a polo. Jackets are not required. Women should wear a dress, skirt, dress pants with a nice top. Sneakers, shorts and jeans are not recommended for dinners.

### What to Wear while on the Bike

In order to feel comfortable, we recommend that you buy a pair of padded cycling shorts. There are many brands out there but a good quality one is best if you don't want to feel sore after a day of biking. We also recommend wearing a cycling jersey. In case of bad weather, a windbreaker and a rain jacket will keep you warm and dry.

### Meals

Dinners are a combination of amazing local restaurants and gourmet meals. The first lunch is included. 4 lunches and 1 dinner are not included, for you to try local cuisine on your own. Alcoholic beverages are at your own expense.

### Spa Treatments

Please note that spa treatments are not included in the trip price. If you wish to make an appointment, we recommend that you call your hotel and make a reservation ahead of time. However, make sure to book an appointment after 5.00 PM.

### Tips & Gratuities

Please note that your trip leaders also rely on tips. Gratuities may be given at your discretion at the end of the trip according to the trip leaders professionalism. Industry standard is 5-10% of the trip price per team of leaders.

## Destination Facts

### Climate

The climate is warm and temperate and there is significant rainfall throughout the year.

*To convert from Fahrenheit to Celsius in your head you can subtract 30 from the Fahrenheit figure and halve the result.*

Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
High F	55	57	61	65	75	82
Low F	37	37	41	44	52	58
Prec. (In)	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,8	1,4	1,5
Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High F	88	88	80	72	62	55
Low F	63	65	58	53	45	39
Prec. (In)	0,8	1	3,9	2,5	4,5	3,2

### How to Dial Internationally

All phone numbers provided by DIGnGO are listed using the following format:

+ Country Code (0)# ## ## ## ##

Wherever you are calling from, make sure to dial + or 00 - *country code of country to which you are calling (ex. 33 for France) - local number.* If you see a (0), you must drop this digit when dialling the number.

### Electric Current

Please note that in Europe electricity runs on a 220-volt. Most higher-end electronics have built-in voltage adapters so the voltage difference doesn't matter, however, you will still need a plug adapter. Before traveling to Europe, check the voltage of the electronics you will bring along with you. Your electronics will display the voltage in which your device operates. It will be printed near the plug or on the power brick.

## Documents, Cancellation & More

### Travel Documentations/Visa

All guests must have passports valid for six months following the departure date. Even though a visa is usually not required if you are staying less than 90 days in the country, you are advised to check with the consulates of the countries you will visit to determine which documents you must obtain.

### Travel Insurance

Contact our office to receive a copy of the All-Inclusive plan full description of coverage.

### Cancellations & Refunds

In case of cancellation, the cancellation fees are as follows:

- 91+ days before departure: Non refundable amounts
- 90 to 61 days before departure: 30% of the trip price
- 60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of the trip price
- 30 to 0 days before departure: 100% of the trip price

In case of cancellation, please note that exceptions to this policy cannot be made for any reason.

On the rare occasions when DIGnGO must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, which constitutes full settlement. DIGnGO is not responsible for any personal expenses incurred in preparation for any cancelled trips.

### Transfers

You may transfer from one trip to another up to 91 days before the departure of the trip, after that our cancellation policy applies.

### Itinerary Changes

In some rare unforeseen circumstances some activities, restaurants, hotels, etc... might change. In case of hotel, we will make sure you get to stay in a hotel of the same standards.

### Valuables

Valuables are 100% your responsibility. During the trip, do not leave any valuables in DIGnGO vans as we do not assume responsibility for any damage, loss or if they are stolen.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can you pick me up at a different location?**

No, everyone is coming from a different location so your trip leaders will meet all of you at the starting location.

### **At the end of the trip, can you drop me off at a different location?**

No, your leaders can't go to different locations, that is the reason why there is a drop off location for everyone.

### **I have to take a train at 7.30 AM & drop off time is 12.00 PM, can the trip leaders take me early?**

Unfortunately we cannot accommodate multiple shuttles. If you need to go earlier, contact the front desk of your hotel as they will be glad to book a taxi for you.

### **Do you recommend bike shoes for riding?**

It takes time to get used to riding with bike shoes and unless you are used to riding with bike shoes, sneakers are fine. However, if you decided to bring your bike shoes, you also need to bring your own pedals.

### **Should I bring a helmet?**

Helmets are included but if you would rather bring your own, you're welcome to do so.

### **Can I adjust my bicycle stem?**

Our touring bikes come with an adjustable stem allowing you to raise the handlebar so you have a more upright riding position.

### **What do you mean by multiple daily routes?**

Each day we offer a range of mileage options and you decide how much activity you want to do.

### **Do you include alcoholic beverages?**

DIGnGO includes alcohol during some activities. However, during lunch and dinner, it is not included and it is your responsibility to pay the bill.

### **How does it work for extras at the hotel?**

Extras are your responsibility and the bill needs to be settled before you leave the hotel.

### **Should I bring my luggage down or leave it in the room when we change hotel?**

Please bring it down to the lobby or have the staff of the hotel bring it down for you. Your trip leaders will then take care of the bags.

### **Should I carry my helmet, seatpost bag and water bottle in the room at night?**

Please do, those are yours for the entire week and in order not to mix them with everyone else, we ask to bring all the materiel with you in the room. The only thing that you need to give your trip leaders is the Garmin GPS as they need to charge it for the next day.

### **Is there a minivan along the route during the day?**

Yes, do not hesitate to ask for a ride if you need one.

### **Can I ride at my own speed?**

Each bike has a Garmin GPS with pre-loaded routes allowing you to find your way.

### **Do we start cycling early?**

Most days, you start cycling between 8.30 & 9.00 AM

### **How to ride pain-free?**

A pair of padded cycling shorts is definitely a great investment.



## Cycling Safety

### The Rules

- Wearing a helmet on a DIGnGO trip is required.
- While you're riding your bike, ensure that you are using good judgment and being aware of your surroundings. The unexpected can happen in an instant and maintaining alertness will ensure that you, and those around you, are safe.
- Do not wear headphones while riding as they will likely drown out important sounds and distract your attention.
- Avoid riding side by side but instead try to "ride single file". Leave enough space between yourself and the rider in front of you for a car to fit.
- If you are traveling downhill, increase the distance between yourself and others to ensure your ability to stop, should someone ahead of you brake suddenly.
- Be courteous to other riders and motorists, especially near intersections, driveways, parked cars, and other places as they may not be aware of you.
- In some countries, you will find intersections with no traffic signals. In that case, please note that other vehicles have the right away.
- Stop at all red lights and stop signs.
- Make sure to yield to pedestrians.
- As you are about to turn, communicate your intention to others around you by using recognised hand signals.
- Avoid road obstacles such as potholes, rocks, etc. While going over rough terrain, such as gravel, sand, or rocks, make sure to downshift.
- While riding downhill make sure that you are using both brakes in order to control your speed and avoid "glazing over".

## Pre & Post Trip Lodging Options

### Room Rate Guide

(Per Night)

0 to 100€.....	€
101€ to 200€.....	€€
201€ to 300€.....	€€€
301€ to 400€.....	€€€€
401€ to 900€.....	€€€€€

### Chiusi

Villa Il Patriarca

[www.ilpatriarca.it](http://www.ilpatriarca.it) | Rates: €

La Locanda Di Cetona

[www.iltigliodipiazza.it](http://www.iltigliodipiazza.it) | Rates: €

Hotel Vannucci

[www.hotel-vannucci.com](http://www.hotel-vannucci.com) | Rates: €

### Firenze

JK Palace

[www.jkplace.com](http://www.jkplace.com) | Rates: €€€€

Palazzo Vecchietti

[www.palazzovecchietti.com](http://www.palazzovecchietti.com) | Rates: €€€€€

Portraite Firenze

[www.lungarnocollection.com](http://www.lungarnocollection.com) | Rates: €€€€€

Helvetia & Bristol

<https://www.starhotelscollezione.com/> | Rates: €€€

1865 Residenza D'Epoca

[www.1865.it](http://www.1865.it) | Rates: €€

Antica Torre di Via Tornabuoni

[www.tornabuoni1.com](http://www.tornabuoni1.com) | Rates: €€€

Hotel Unicorn

[www.hotelunicorn.it](http://www.hotelunicorn.it) | Rates: €

Hotel Alba Palace

[www.hotelalbafirenze.it](http://www.hotelalbafirenze.it) | Rates: €

Hotel Bretagna

[www.hotelbretagna.net](http://www.hotelbretagna.net) | Rates: €



# DIGnGO's Packing List

## Travel Documents

- This document
- Passport
- Visa
- Air transportation confirmation details
- Rail transportation confirmation details
- Pre/post trip lodging confirmation details
- Cash (€)
- Credit Cards

## Electronics

- Plug adapter
- Cell Phone & charger
- Camera & charger

## Cycling Clothing

- Padded cycling shorts
- Cycling jersey
- Cycling Jacket
- Bike shoes & pedals
- Sneakers
- Cycling gloves
- Rain jacket
- Cycling pants
- Arm warmers

- Leg warmers
- Shoe covers & booties
- Cycling headband or cap

## Personal Items

- Medication
- Eyeglasses, contacts, contact lens solution
- Sunscreen
- Swimsuit
- Travel journal/notepad and/or reading material
- Bike Helmet