

Medieval Tuscany, Castellare di Tonda, Italy

Itinerary

Time to settle into your apartment and relax before dinner at c. 8pm in the on-site Castellare Cucina restaurant.

Please note that the itinerary may change depending on the weather at the time and other local conditions, but always with your best interests in mind.

Sunday

Your first ride starts in the arena usually followed by a short ride through the estate. This morning is a quiet ride giving you the opportunity to get to know your horse and to feel comfortable with the style of riding.

In the afternoon ride through the estate, with more chances for slightly faster riding. Back at base untack and wash off your horse (your guide will be on hand should you require assistance with this).



Monday

Today you may go on a full day ride to San Vivaldo Monastery, riding down through tufo sand trails bordered by Tuscan vineyards and open fields. Riding up over the Carfolo river, pass under Castelfalfi and into the Bosco Gucci, a protected forest rich with local fauna and some impressive three hundred year old trees.

The trail leads down into the San Vivaldo reserve, passing through old logging trails cut into the middle of pristine forests. This ride has some spectacular views of the rolling hills, and passes the medieval ruins of Vignale borgo and Vignale castle.

Stop for lunch at a shaded picnic spot above the Monastery. Later ride through a local Cinta Senese pig farm and twist and wind back through forest trails to Castellare di Tonda.



Tuesday

Perhaps another full day ride today, this time to the old Barbiolla estate. The trail starts by passing under the stables and down to the Castellare di Tonda lake, before winding up through forest trails until you reach the village of Sughera. Ride through the outskirts of the village, and then over the confines between Pisa and Florence into the Barbiolla game reserve. Here the terrain opens up, and the views reach out as far as Volterra and San Miniato, and there may be a chance for some lovely canters.

Have lunch beside an old abandoned Tuscan farmhouse before riding back to Castellare di Tonda.



Wednesday

Today the horses have a rest day and you will be driven to Castelfiorentino train station where you can catch the regional train to either Siena or Florence. The transfer is usually around 9am, but do check the train times with the reception staff so you can arrange the transfer time accordingly. The transfer back to Castellare di Tonda from the station will be at c.6pm.



Thursday

Today's ride may take you through long stretches of Chianti vineyards and then down through the Castelfalfi estate to the Casa di Rogli for lunch. The farmhouse is located at the bottom of a well-stocked game reserve and it is possible that you will see wild boar, deer, and mouflon (wild sheep).

Pass underneath an ancient stone village with its own castle that dates back to the Longobard period, and then along narrow forested trails that lead down to the lake where the 2002 Pinocchio movie (Roberto Benigni) was filmed. The trail is rich in panoramic views, and again the terrain changes dramatically, opening up to wide fields full of flowers and sandy dirt roads lined with Cyprus trees, and hedgerows of sloe berries, rosehip and blackberries.



Friday

This morning's ride could pass through open vineyards, fields and thick shaded forests that wind past pretty Tuscan stone farmhouses.



In the afternoon a final sunset ride. Perhaps enjoying some relaxing canters through the estate and finishing the week back at Castellare di Tonda with locally produced drinks overlooking the Tuscan hills.



Saturday

After breakfast you are transferred to the airport for your flight home.