

Montalcino Hiking

Duration: 5 Days/4 Nights

charnes tours
hiking and cycling in italy

Hot Springs, Hill Towns, and More!

South of Siena lies a remote valley full of surprises, with rolling landscapes, ancient spas, a perfectly preserved Renaissance town, and most amazingly of all, few signs of tourism. Today, the Val D'Orcia is a destination in itself, and its expansive, sweeping landscape is wildly compelling. The Rome-Florence railway line and most of the road traffic passes well to the east, making the Val D'Orcia a paradise for hikers and cyclists. Its new-found vocation for tourism is reflected in a proliferation of boutique hotels, creative trattorias, and well-stocked wine bars. On this tour you hike quiet unpaved farm roads and footpaths. You climb the walls of a 14th Century castle, dip in the soothing waters at a thermal spa, tour wineries, and explore walled medieval villages. The walks will build up your appetite. Indulge in local dishes including T-bone steaks, wild boar ragu, spelt soups, and fried zucchini flowers. Pair the food with the wine that most critics cite as the best in Italy. Brunello di Montalcino is a wine made with 100% Sangiovese grapes in the hills surrounding Montalcino. The glorious landscapes, the villages, the food and the wine will all come together to make for an exceptional Tuscan experience.

Route Rating

Moderate: 3-5 miles per day of hiking with some steep ascents/descents.

Meet / Finish

Florence / Chiusi

Highlights

- Guided Brunello winery tour
- Swim in the thermal baths of Bagno Vignoni
- Wine and cheese tasting in Montepulciano
- The charming Tuscan hill towns of Montalcino, Pienza, and Montepulciano
- Scenic country walking trails

Other Questions?

Toll free 1 888 491 2760

info@charnestours.com



Day 1 Montalcino

Montalcino to Sant'Antimo 3 miles (5 kilometers)

We meet in Florence and shuttle to Montalcino (2.5-hour drive). Lunch in a family-run trattoria is included on Day 1. After lunch we hike downhill through rolling farmland to a monastery in a picture perfect setting. The Sant'Antimo abbey is considered to be the most beautiful Romanesque church in Italy. Before dinner we visit the fortress of Montalcino (called *La Fortezza*). We climb the walls of this medieval castle for breathtaking 360 degree views. On the ground floor of the castle is an inviting *Enoteca* (wine bar). A sommelier leads a guided wine tasting, including the famous Brunello wine. The wine is paired with local cold cuts (*prosciutto* and *salame*) and cheeses. Group dinner in Montalcino.



The Hotel

Hotel Dei Capitani
Montalcino (1 night)
Perched on the edge of Montalcino's ancient walls, the Capitani has incredible views over the Orcia valley and an outdoor pool.
www.deicapitani.it

The Hike

Day 1: A beautiful downhill hike takes your through a stone village on your way to Tuscany's most beautiful Romanesque church (2 hours).

Siena, Italy Weather

Mon	High °F	Low °F
Jan	45	37
Feb	46	37
Mar	50	40
Apr	55	44
May	64	52
Jun	71	58
Jul	77	64
Aug	77	64
Sep	70	59
Oct	62	52
Nov	52	44
Dec	46	39

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Day 2 Bagno Vignoni

Ripa D'Orcia to Bagno Vignoni *2 miles (3 kilometers)*

Our day begins with a visit to the historic cellars of the Biondi Santi, the original Brunello winery. In 1888, Ferruccio Biondi Santi produced a wine made only from sangiovese grosso grapes and aged it for four years in oak casks. A legend was born. Biondi Santi Brunellos are known for their ability to age. Even at 30, 40, and 50 years of age the wines retain their balance and structure. In the afternoon we hike downhill through woods and wheat fields. We pass an abandoned stone quarry before arriving in Bagno Vignoni, a thermal spa. Travelers have been rejuvenating in these thermal waters since Roman times. Water still flows through the ruins of a 19th Century mill. Our hotel has two thermal pools that are filled directly from the hot springs. Italians believe the hot mineral baths are good for your health. Have a soak and find out! Dinner on your own in Bagno Vignoni.

The Hotel

Hotel Posta Marcucci

Bagno Vignoni (1 night)

The hotel has its own thermal hot springs pool with breathtaking views of the countryside and the Rocca d'Orcia castle.

www.hotelpostamarcucci.it

The Hike

Day 2: A downhill hike through woods and farmland leads to a secluded thermal spa (2 hours).

Other Questions?

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Day 3 **Pienza**

Bagno Vignoni to Pienza *8 miles (13 kilometers)*

Leaving Bagno Vignoni the landscape opens up. Verdant wheat fields, yellow sunflowers, and brilliant red poppies create a collage of color across the rolling hills. Stone farmhouses with cypress lined driveways dot the top of every hillock. We ramble through gentle rolling hills on our way to Pienza. This charming village is widely known as the "ideal city of the Renaissance", the creation of the great humanist Piccolomini who later became Pope Pius II. Piccolomini had the money and influence to transform his birthplace village into this utopian town. Pienza is also known for its sheep cheese. Shops bursting with cheese fragrances line the main street. You can try many variations of the cheese known as pecorino, including fresh, aged, or even spicy! Dinner on your own in Pienza.

The Hotel

Chioistro di Pienza

Pienza (1 night)

This 4-star hotel is located in a 15th century convent and offers spectacular views over the Orcia valley. The hotel has a its own restaurant and pool. www.relaisilchiostrodiPIENZA.com

The Hike

Day 4: A rolling hike on farm trails and footpaths. The scenery is spectacular so be sure to bring your camera (3 hours).



Day 4 Montepulciano

Pienza to Montepulciano

Pienza – Montiechiello 3 miles (5 kilometers)

Montiechiello – Montepulciano 3 miles (5 kilometers)

A peaceful unpaved road leads from Pienza to the hamlet of Montechiello. Little Montechiello maintains its original walls and has a charming restaurant and cafe. Bright red geraniums add a dash of color to the ancient stone village. The road climbs leaving town. At the top of the hill we stop for a picnic lunch. Ahead Montepulciano rises sharply out of a broad vine covered slope. Centuries ago the town was highly contested between Florence and Siena. Today it retains an opulent Renaissance center and is famous for its noble wine, the Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. We tour Cantina Contucci, Montepulciano's oldest winery where they have been making wine for 41 generations! Your guide will be leaving before dinner. Before going he will be happy to assist you with your travel plans. Dinner on your own in Pienza.

Day 5 Hiking Tour Ends

Your walking tour ends in Pienza. After breakfast you can catch a bus to Florence, Siena, or Chianciano Terme. We recommend taking the bus to Chianciano Terme for the quickest connections.

There is no train station in Pienza. You can take a bus from Pienza to Siena (6/day, 90 min). From Siena you can take a bus or train to Florence (90 min.). A faster alternative is to take the bus to Chianciano Terme (45 min). From Chianciano Terme you can take a train to Florence (60 min.) or Rome (90 min).

The Hotel

Hotel Mueble il Riccio

Montepulciano (1 night)
This small family-run inn has old world charm with all the modern accoutrements. The hotel is located in a historic building just steps from the main-piazza.

www.ilriccio.net

The Hike

Day 4: A rolling hike on farm trails and footpaths. The scenery is spectacular so be sure to bring your camera. Picnic lunch with a view (3 hours).

