

Self-Guided Florence to Siena Bike Tour
Duration: 3 Days/2 Nights (optional extra night)

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hiking and cycling in italy

Chianti Classico!

The loveliest route from Florence to Siena is the old Chianti road known as *la Chiantigiana*. This ancient road meanders through a quintessential Tuscan landscape of vineyards, olive groves and breathtaking vistas. This cycling adventure shows you the quiet beauty of the wine making region known as Chianti as you slowly pedal from Renaissance Florence to Medieval Siena. You tour a winery in a 15th century villa, sampling their ruby-red Chianti Classico and peppery extra virgin olive oil. You explore two medieval villages fortified by the Florentines with stone ramparts and castles. You dine on classic Tuscan cuisine including Florentine steaks, aged cheeses, and fresh home-made pasta. Your Tuscan tour ends as you roll into Siena, a traffic-free medieval masterpiece. Siena features a perfect piazza, an exotic black and white striped cathedral, and a maze of brick streets dotted with medieval palaces. Frequent trains and busses make for an easy departure after your tour.

Want an easier tour? Add a night in Castellina.

For an easier tour add a third night. Instead of riding 27 miles (43 km) from Greve to Siena on day 2, stop overnight in the medieval village of Castellina. Split the 27-mile ride into two easier rides of 12 and 15 miles (19 and 24 km).

See website for information and prices.

Route Rating

Moderate: Two rides, 15 and 27 miles (24 and 43 km) over hilly terrain. *Optional extra night*

Meet / Finish

Florence / Siena

Highlights

- Winery visit with guided wine and oil tasting
- The towns of Greve, Castellina, and Siena
- Beautiful vistas of vineyards and olive groves
- Peaceful country back roads

Other Questions?

Toll free 1 888 421 2418
info@charnestours.com



Day 1 **Greve**

Faltignano to Greve *15 miles (24 kilometres)*

We meet in the morning in the center of Florence and shuttle to our bicycle storage in the countryside where you are fitted on your bike. Our first stop will be 16th century winery. The area between Florence and Siena is called Chianti and is known for its extraordinary namesake wine, the Chianti Classico. Chianti wines feature alluring bouquets and rich flavors. The winery also produces its own smooth and mild olive oils. We tour the winery and sample their wines and oils. Lunch at the winery is included on the first day. Over lunch your tour coordinator will review the details of the tour passing out route notes and maps. After lunch a scenic downhill takes you to the town of Greve where your bags will be waiting for you. Before dinner you might want to visit the fortified village of Montefioralle (20-minutes by foot). Montefioralle is an 11th century walled hamlet with cobbled streets. If wine is more your style stop at the Enoteca Falorni (Piazza delle Cantine, 2), Greve's best wine shop. Buy a card and try different wines from the automatic wine dispensers.

Hotel

Albergo Del Chianti

Greve (1 night)

Located in an 11th Century building on the main piazza of Greve. This family-run hotel features a pool and air conditioning. The owners serve wine and olive oil from their nearby farm.

www.albergodelchianti.it

The Ride

Day 1: 15 easy miles, with a short uphill followed by a long, breathtaking downhill into the town of Greve.



Day 2 Siena

Greve to Siena

27 miles (43 kilometres)

After a buffet breakfast in the hotel you pack your bags and leave them in the lobby. Today's ride takes you down the road known as *la Chiantigiana* past two ancient villages. Four miles (6 km) south of Greve you enter Panzano. Panzano was originally a medieval castle and still preserves some of its old walls and towers. The town's most illustrious citizen is Dario Cecchini, variously referred to as the Michelangelo of meat or the Poet-Butcher of Panzano. Look for Dario at his *Antica Macelleria Cecchini* (Cecchini's Historical Butcher Shop), a store in Via XX Luglio. Later in the morning you arrive in the village of Castellina. Once part of a ring of Florentine defenses, Castellina has retained much of its medieval character. Its tall castle, La Rocca, and a vaulted passageway, Via della Volta, have been restored but not spoiled. Today the castle is home to an archeological museum. For a small admission fee you can visit the museum and climb the castle towers for 360 degree views. Just outside of town you can explore Etruscan tombs that date from 700 BC. The tombs are free and open to the public. Castellina is at the halfway point of today's ride and is a great place to stop for lunch or picnic supplies. After lunch the road winds through the Chianti countryside past vineyards and stone farmhouses. In the distance you will be able to see the distinctive medieval towers of Siena. Your ride ends at a four-star hotel in the historic center of Siena.

Hotel

Hotel Athena

Siena (1 night)

A modern four-star hotel with all of the comforts. The Athena is located in the historic center and offers a beautiful terrace with views of Siena.
www.hotelathena.com

The Ride

Day 2, 27 mi (43 km)

Two climbs take you through the towns of Panzano and Castellina in Chianti. Want an easier ride? Consider adding an overnight in Castellina (see website for pricing).

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Day 3 Bike Tour End

After breakfast in the hotel you check out and continue your travels. The hotel desk can help you with your travel planning.

DEPARTURE ON LAST DAY OF TOUR

Your bicycle tour will end in the town of Siena. You can depart Siena by train or bus. Travel times are listed below:

Siena to Firenze (bus): 1 hour 15 minutes

Siena to Firenze (train): 1 hour 10 minutes (fastest train)

Siena to Rome (bus): 3 hours

Siena to Rome (train): 2 hours 53 minutes (fastest train)

Note: If you are travelling to Firenze (Florence) the bus is usually faster and easier. The bus stop is more centrally located and the busses are air-conditioned.

Why Self-Guided?

Explore Tuscany at your own pace. We provide detailed route notes, a cell phone, luggage transfers, great accommodations, restaurant suggestions, and sightseeing notes. You choose the dates. We take care of the details.

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