

Self-Guided Tuscany Hiking

Duration: 5 Days/4 Nights (extra night available)

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hiking and cycling in italy

Hill Towns of Tuscany

Explore central Tuscany at your own pace as you hike from village to village on peaceful country roads and footpaths. This five-day Tuscan adventure begins in Greve the unofficial capital of the Chianti winemaking region. You ramble through picturesque valleys on your way to the hill towns of Panzano, Lamole, and Radda. Along the way you tour a winery, visit a castle, and spend the night in an 18th century Tuscan farmhouse. In addition to its landscape Tuscany is known for its mouth watering cuisine. Try aged pecorino cheese with fresh pears and a drizzle of Italian chestnut honey. For classic Tuscan fare order a *bistecca alla Fiorentina*, a Florentine T-bone steak, white cannelloni beans, and a bottle of Chianti. Bring your camera and your appetite, Tuscany awaits.

Other Questions?

Toll free 1 888 421 2418

info@charnestours.com

Route Rating

Moderate: 3-10 miles (5-16 km) per day of hiking with some steep ascents/descents.

Start / Finish

Florence / Radda in Chianti

Highlights

- Chianti winery tour and tasting
- The towns of Greve, Panzano, and Radda
- Dario Cecchini's Solo Ciccia restaurant in Panzano
- The Ristoro di Lamole (Lamole restaurant)
- Panoramic views of vineyards and olive groves
- Peaceful country back roads and footpaths





Day 1 Greve

Greve to San Cresci *3.5 miles (5.7 kilometers)*

Travel on your own by bus from Florence to Greve (busses every 30 minutes). Check into your hotel. Hike one hour, round trip, to the fortified village of Montefioralle, birthplace of the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. To see more hike to the Romanesque church of San Cresci. Back in Greve visit the Enoteca Falorni Chianti's largest and best wine shop. Buy a prepaid card and sample wines from their automatic wine dispensers. Pair the wine with local cheeses, cold cuts, and breads. Greve has a nice assortment of small restaurants offering traditional Tuscan cuisine. Your hotel is located in the center of town and has a relaxing pool. In the warm months you can eat breakfast al fresco.

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Hotel

Albergo Del Chianti

Greve (1 night)
Located in an 11th century building in the center 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 Hike, Day 1

San Cresci Loop

3.5 miles (5.7 km)
A beautiful loop hike takes you to Montefioralle (a walled hamlet) and the Romanesque church of San Cresci.

Day 2 Panzano

Greve to Panzano *3 miles (4.8 kilometers)*

Leave your bags in the hotel lobby. They will be transported to your next hotel and will be there when you arrive. Hike two hours on a quiet farm road past vineyards and olive groves. Today you climb 270 meters (900 feet) affording you beautiful views of the rolling hills. Panzano has an enticing central piazza. Enjoy a light lunch at a café on the piazza. After lunch explore the remains of Panzano's castle, do an optional hike, or just relax by the hotel pool. Italy's most famous butcher, Dario Cecchini, lives in Panzano and runs an exceptional restaurant called Solo Ciccia. The food, ambiance, staff, and prices are great. It will be certainly be high on your list of your best meals in Italy. Solo Ciccia is a steak house, but offer vegetarian dishes as well. Reservations and a big appetite are strongly encouraged (dinner at Solo Ciccia not included).

Hotel

Villa Sangiovese
Panzano (1 night)
This hotel is situated on the main piazza and features a beautiful pool with a panoramic view.
www.villasangiovese.it

The Hike, Day 2

Greve to Panzano
3 miles (4.8 km)
A scenic uphill takes your through vineyards and olive groves.

Optional Hike, Day 2

Pieve di Panzano Loop
3.2 miles (5.2 km)
A loop hike leads to the Pieve di Panzano, a 12th century church.



Day 3 Lamole

Panzano to Lamole *4 miles (6.5 kilometers)*

Check out of your hotel leaving your luggage behind. It will be moved to your next stop in Lamole. Follow an unpaved farm road along a ridge, passing a working goat farm. The goats provide milk for Tuscany's creamy *caprino* cheese. Your hike ends in the small village of Lamole. Lamole sits on a natural terrace high in the Greve river valley. When you reach the village at 600 meters (2,000 ft) above sea level you have magnificent views of Panzano, Greve, and the Chianti hills. Tonight you are not in a hotel. Instead you stay in an 18th century Tuscan villa. An optional hike takes you higher to Monte San Michele, a national park with views of the Arno River valley. Lamole is well known for its restaurant, Il Ristoro di Lamole. We will make a dinner reservation for you (dinner not included). The sunset from the restaurant patio is simply sublime. The restaurant also has a small grocery store where you can stock up on supplies.

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Hotel

Le Volpaie

Lamole (1 night)
This old farm house has been converted into a B&B. The rooms have terra cotta floors and wood-beamed ceilings.
www.fattoriadilamole.it

The Hike, Day 3

Panzano to Lamole

4 miles (6.5 kilometers)
Hike uphill along a peaceful farm road following a ridge. Later zigzag through woods before arriving in Lamole.

Optional Hike, Day 3

San Michele Loop

6.5 miles (10.5 km)
A loop hike takes you up to Monte San Michele where thick woods give way to spectacular vistas.





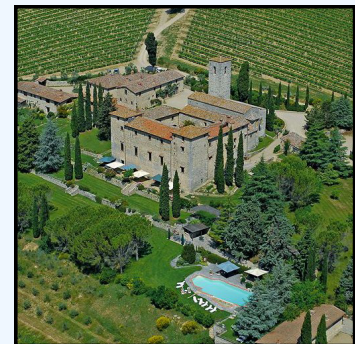
Day 4 Radda in Chianti

Lamole to Radda in Chianti *9.7 miles (15.6 kilometers)*

Leave your suitcases behind and head down the farm road for Volpaia, a fortified village on a hillside. This small medieval hamlet has been meticulously restored and sits off the beaten tourist path. In Volpaia enjoy a winery tour with a guided wine tasting. The town boasts two superb restaurants as well as a café for snacks. Explore the maze of narrow stone streets that zigzag through the village. After a leisurely lunch continue your hike to Radda. You spend the night in a 15th century palace that has been lovingly transformed into a four-star hotel. Less touristy than other Tuscan hill towns, Radda is the perfect place to wind down after four days of hiking.

Want to hike more?

Add a fifth night and hike from Radda to Gaiole. Stay at the five-star Castello di Spaltenna. The hotel is located in an ancient monastery and has a pools and a spa.



Hotel

Hotel San Niccolo

Radda (1 night)

This four-star hotel is located in a 15th century palace. The rooms have wooden ceiling beams, terracotta floors, and marble bathrooms with Jacuzzi tubs or showers.
www.hotelsanniccolo.com

The Hike, Day 4

Lamole to Radda

9.7 miles (15.6 km)

A canopy of chestnut and popular trees leads you to the hilltown village of Volpaia. Later hike past vineyards to Radda.

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Day 5 Hiking Tour End

After breakfast in the hotel check out and continue your travels. We will be happy to help you with your travel plans.

DEPARTURE ON LAST DAY OF TOUR

Your hiking tour will end in the town of Radda in Chianti. You will need to take a bus to continue your travels. Private car transport can also be arranged. Busses are limited so you will need to plan accordingly.

Bus travel times are listed below:

Bus, Radda to Firenze: 1 hour 30 minutes (3 per day)

Bus, Radda to Siena: 1 hour (5 per day)

Optional 5th Night Hike to Gaiole in Chianti

For a special treat extend your tour by one night and stay at the Castello di Spaltenna Resort & Spa. Spaltenna is located in a 10th century monastery and has indoor and outdoor pools, a full service spa, and a superb restaurant.

The hike to Spaltenna is 7 miles (11 km). Along the way you can visit a 10th century castle complete with a perimeter wall, watchtower, and gates. See website for current prices.

Optional cooking class?

Spend the evening with an Italian chef. Create a three course meal using fresh local ingredients
See website for prices and details.



Why Self-Guided?

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

