

Self-Guided Florence to San Gimignano Bike Tour
Duration: 3 Days/2 Nights

charnes tours
hiking and cycling in italy

Two Night Tuscan Adventure

Cycle the rolling hills of Tuscany as you slowly make your way from the Renaissance splendors of Florence to the medieval masterpieces of San Gimignano. Chianti is best known for its rich wines, however it is also a cyclist's paradise. Quiet country roads zigzag through vineyards and olive groves. Picturesque villages offer inviting piazzas and traditional Tuscan cuisine. Tour a winery in a 16th century villa and sample their ruby-red Chianti Classico wines. Try their peppery extra virgin olive oil on freshly baked Tuscan bread. You spend the first night in the sleepy village of Certaldo. Off the beaten tourist trail, Certaldo's red brick streets and medieval palaces have been perfectly preserved. A short scenic ride takes you further south to San Gimignano one of Italy's most beautiful hill towns. Within the town's walls rise 14 medieval stone towers. The rides are short (19 and 9 miles) and the scenery is spectacular. For those who want to ride more three optional rides are available. Ride to the ruins of an abandoned medieval town, cycle to a local winery, or pedal to Colle di Val d'Elsa, a hilltop village famous for its crystal glassware production.

Route Rating

Moderate: Two rides (19 and 9 miles) over hilly terrain.

Meet / Finish

Florence / San Gimignano

Highlights

- Winery visit with guided wine and oil tasting
- The Tuscan hill towns of San Gimignano and Certaldo.
- Beautiful vistas of vineyards and olive groves
- Peaceful country back roads

Other Questions?

Toll free 1 888 491 2760
info@charnestours.com





Day 1 Certaldo

Faltignano to Certaldo *19 miles (30 kilometres)*

Your tour begins with a morning pick up in the center of Florence. We then transfer by van to our bicycle storage in the Chianti countryside. Your tour coordinator fits you on your bikes and you're off. We stop in a grandiose Tuscan villa and tour their winery and olive mill. Lunch at the villa is included on day one. Over lunch your tour coordinator reviews the details of the trip providing written route notes and maps. After lunch you are on your own as you pedal through rolling countryside on your way to Certaldo. Note: You will be going up a short, steep uphill and will probably need to walk the bikes. Certaldo is a small village set along the Via Cassia, the ancient road to Rome. Your hotel is in a converted watermill dating from the 1500s. The hotel has a large garden with a pool.

Hotel

Hotel Certaldo
Certaldo (1 night)
Located in former watermill, the Hotel Certaldo features beautiful modern rooms in a historic setting. The hotel has air-conditioning, a large garden, and a swimming pool.
www.hotelcertaldo.it

The Ride

Day 1: A hilly 19 mile (30 km) ride through Chianti. Two challenging climbs. You may need to walk the second hill.

Day 2 San Gimignano

Certaldo to San Gimignano

9 miles (15 kilometres)

After a buffet breakfast you pack and leave your luggage in the lobby. During your ride your bags will be transferred to San Gimignano. You have two cycling options today. You can take an easier but less scenic ride, or opt for a big hill that leads to beautiful vistas of the valley below. Either way you will be treated to magnificent views of San Gimignano's towers. Towers were typical of medieval Tuscan villages, however most were lowered or knocked down over the centuries. San Gimignano has the best medieval towers in Italy. Arrive in time for lunch and spend your afternoon exploring the town. A gelateria next to your hotel makes sorbets with aromatic herbs. Try raspberry and rosemary or blackberries and lavender. If nine miles of cycling wasn't enough three optional loop rides are also available. One of the optional rides takes you into the nearby woods. You lock the bikes and hike to an abandoned medieval ghost town where you can see the remains of a castle, church, cistern, and mill.

Hotel

Hotel Leon Bianco

San Gimignano (1 night)
You stay in an 11th Century palace on San Gimignano's most beautiful piazza. The building has been carefully restored preserving it's special character.

www.leonbianco.com

The Ride

Day 2, 9 mi (15 km)

Choose between a big hill with big views or a smaller gradual hill on your short ride to San Gimignano.





Day 3 Bike Tour End

On day three you check out of the hotel and continue your travels. Frequent bus service makes for easy travel from San Gimignano (75 minutes to Florence, 90 minutes to Siena).

DEPARTURE ON LAST DAY OF TOUR

There is no train station in San Gimignano so you will have to take a public bus. Private cars can be arranged if you prefer. Bus travel times are listed below:

San Gimignano to Florence: Hourly, 75 minutes

San Gimignano to Siena: 5 per day, 90 minutes

San Gimignano to Volterra: 4 per day, 2 hours

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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