

**VITORITALY**<sup>®</sup>  
Italy with Italians

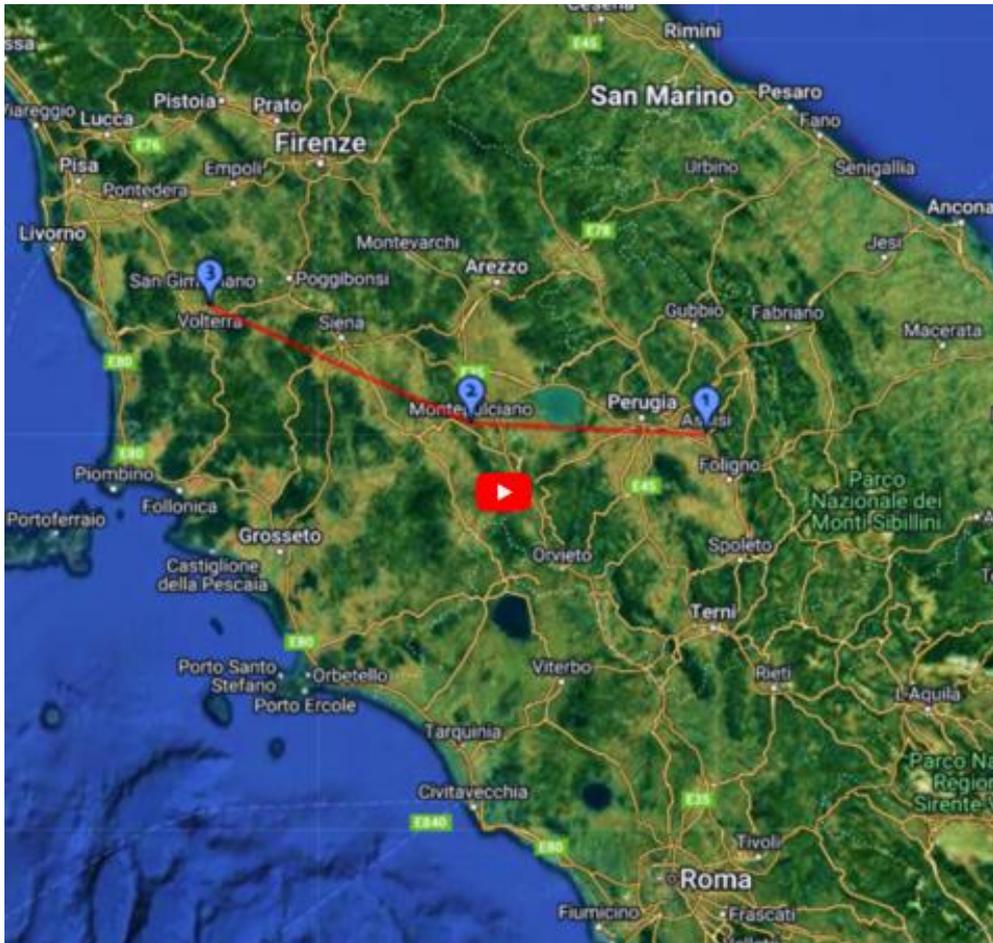
# 1-WEEK ITALIAN EXCELLENCES TOUR CENTRAL ITALY

Umbria and Tuscany

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY



From Umbria, the land of Saints, to the marvellous sceneries of Chianti and Val d’Orcia. Enjoying harmony between man and nature through food and wine in Central Italy.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Umbria, the green heart of Italy
- Assisi, the extraordinary land of Francis
- Val d’Orcia, where Man and Nature blend with harmony
- Chianti, winemakers for 1,000 years

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM
Day 1 <b>Todi</b>	- Pick up and transfer to your accommodation in Assisi – Stopover in Todi - Visit of an Umbrian olive oil mill with tastings <i>Overnight in Assisi area</i>
Day 2 <b>Assisi</b>	- Full-day private E-bike excursion to Assisi and Bevagna area - Visit of a Sagrantino di Montefalco winery with tasting <i>Overnight in Assisi area</i>
Day 3 <b>Assisi &amp; Deruta</b>	- Full-day excursion to Assisi area and Deruta - Truffle hunt experience with lunch in Assisi area - Visit of an Artisan Ceramics Laboratory in Deruta <i>Overnight in Assisi area</i>
Day 4 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	- Transfer to your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area - 2-hour Tuscan cooking class with dinner in Val d'Orcia area <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 5 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	- Full-day excursion in Val d'Orcia area - 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a <u>Sommelier Guide</u> , with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle - Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 6 <b>Volterra and San Galgano</b>	- Full-day excursion to Chianti area – Stopovers in Volterra and San Galgano - Admission to San Galgano Abbey - Visit of an alabaster laboratory in Volterra <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 7 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	- Full-day private E-bike excursion in Val d'Orcia area with a picnic - Visit of a local olive oil mill with tastings <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Accommodations in Double Room with Continental Breakfast (\*)**:
  - Days 1 to 3: 3\* to 5\* Hotel / Country House in Assisi area
  - Days 4 to 7: 3\* to 5\* Hotel / Country House in Val d'Orcia area
- (\*) The Hotel list is available upon request
- **Transfers (\*\*)**:
  - Day 1: Pick up and transfer to your accommodation in Assisi – Stopover in Todi
  - Day 4: Transfer to your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area
- (\*\*) All transfers by private car (2 pax) / minivan (3 to 6 pax) / minibus (7 to 15 pax)
- **Private Guided Visits / Tours (\*\*\*) / Activities**:
  - Day 1: Visit of an Umbrian olive oil mill with tastings
  - Day 2: Full-day private E-bike excursion to Assisi and Bevagna area - Visit of a Sagrantino di Montefalco winery with tasting
  - Day 3: Full-day excursion to Assisi area and Deruta - Truffle hunt experience with lunch in Assisi area - Visit of an Artisan Ceramics Laboratory in Deruta
  - Day 4: 2-hour Tuscan cooking class with dinner in Val d'Orcia area
  - Day 5: Full-day excursion to Val d'Orcia area - 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a Sommelier Guide, with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle - Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings
  - Day 6: Full-day excursion to Chianti area – Visit of an alabaster laboratory in Volterra and San Galgano
  - Day 7: Full-day private E-bike excursion in Val d'Orcia area with a picnic - Visit of a local olive oil mill with tastings
- (\*\*\*) All tours by private car (2 pax) / minivan (3 to 6 pax) / minibus (7 to 15 pax)
- **Admissions tickets**
  - San Galgano Abbey
- **Full emergency assistance 24 hours/day by our Back Office**
- **List of recommended restaurants and deli shops along the itinerary**
- **All taxes**

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All transfers and other services not specifically mentioned in the above program
- Meals, wine and beverages
- Porterage fees at every accommodation
- Camera or Video fees
- Tipping for local guides and drivers
- Laundry, telephone calls and other expenditures of personal nature
- Travel / Vacation insurance

## OPTIONS

- Pick up at Rome Airport /Railway Station at the start of the tour
- Accommodation in Rome the night before the start of the tour
- Drop off at Florence Airport/Railway Station at the end of the tour
- Other activities upon request

### UMBRIA

Benvenuti in Italia, welcome to Umbria!

Umbria is the greenest region of Italy, and its citizens are famous for their hospitality.

This morning, your first stop will be **Spoletto**, a medieval hill town in the Umbria region, famous for its summer music festival, "Festival dei Due Mondi". Thick walls and a magnificent gorge surround the city, and fine medieval and Roman monuments sit along the streets. The Duomo is one of Spoleto's most pleasing sights: dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century,



the Cathedral is set against a backdrop of hills and valleys. The Rocca is high above the town, a Papal fortress used as a prison until the 1980s. A massive bridge, Ponte delle Torri, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, functioned as a bridge and aqueduct; we can walk on it for breathtaking views of the valley and gorge below.

You may have lunch in Spoleto: here, you can try a typical Spoleto food, "torta al testo" (bread prepared with water, flour, salt, pepper, and olive oil and cooked on a particular marble stone in a wood-burning oven); it is sometimes stuffed with ham, sausage, or simply with herbs prepared in olive oil.

Then, you'll head for **Deruta**, famous for its splendid, brightly coloured maiolica. The production of ceramics in Deruta goes back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In those times, small "bottegas" produced objects of everyday use: jugs, bowls, and basins. Maiolica reached its apex in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with artists making various motifs, such as mythological figures, battles and religious scenes.

In Deruta, you will visit a maiolica laboratory, discovering all the creative processes of the fascinating craftsmanship of ceramics, from the creation of models to the exit of the artefacts from the oven.

Tonight, for dinner, you may enjoy "salumi di cinghiale o cervo" (boar or deer sausage) and pecorino cheese or taste the region's prized white truffle oil. Don't forget to sip the red wine Rubesco Riserva or the red Sagrantino di Montefalco.

## VAL D'ORCIA

Val d'Orcia is one of the most fascinating places in Italy, included by UNESCO in the list of World Heritage Sites. Its landscape is a part of the agricultural hinterland of Siena, redrawn and developed when it was integrated into the city-state's territory in the 14th and 15th centuries to reflect an idealized model of good governance and create an aesthetically pleasing picture. The landscape's distinctive aesthetics, flat chalk plains with almost conical hills and fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Their images have come to exemplify the beauty of well-managed Renaissance agricultural landscapes.

In **Montepulciano**, our friend Francesca will lead you to discover this beautiful town full of stories, legends and thousand flavours, introducing you to the excellent products of this unique land: *olive oil, pecorino cheese and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*.



Then, you will get to **Montalcino**, one of the prettiest hill towns in Tuscany. Around the village, rows of olive trees, precious grapevines and yellow fields create an enchanting landscape. You may visit a *Brunello* winery to taste the most famous *Supertuscan* wine, probably the best Italian red!

## VOLTERRA



Not far from San Gimignano is Volterra, Tuscany's oldest continuously inhabited town, with settlements documented since 1,500 B.C. It's, therefore, an excellent way to know not only about Volterra's history but also about Tuscany as a whole.

We will visit **Piazza dei Priori**, the main square, the centre of civic power since the 8<sup>th</sup> century, and Porta all'Arco, the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Etruscan gate to the city walls, its 12<sup>th</sup>-century **Cathedral** and the ruins of the **Roman Theater** (40 B.C.) and **Roman Baths** (3rd century A.D.). Volterra is famous for its

unique handmade pieces carved into this semi-transparent stone. alabaster; you will find beautiful shops selling artefacts and

## SAN GALGANO

On the way to Val d'Orcia, we will take a diversion to one of the most fascinating spots in Tuscany. Here we are in **Chiusdino**, to see the famous Abbey of San Galgano. What a stunning place! Dating back to 1218, the Abbey was considerably wealthy until the 14th century, so much so that it was disputed between the Papacy and the Republic of Siena. Unfortunately, a remarkable decline followed so much splendour: local people used it as a warehouse of building materials, even selling the roof of lead to make ammunition and transforming it into what we see today. For those who see it for the first time, it is awe-inspiring due to its isolation



and the absence of a roof. Finding yourself inside a church and having the sky as a cover is not usual, and when the evening comes, the stars offer a fantastic show. But why did the Cistercian monks decide to build such an imposing complex in that secluded valley? The answer is simple. Very close to it, a church, the hermitage of Montesiepi, whose first nucleus is due to the same saint (and his direct followers), already existed. In its Chapel, also called "Rotonda" because of the circular shape of the central structure, an old iron sword is encased in stone, a clear reference to the legend of Excalibur, the mythic sword of King Arthur!

The tour is over, but the memories of a fantastic journey will accompany you for a lifetime!

See more about your destinations on our [YouTube channel](#).

Arrivederci for another tour with **VITOR, Visit Italy on the Road**.

You experience every journey three times:  
when you dream it,  
when you live it,  
and when you remember it

*Ciao da Vitor*



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