Leisure/Enogastronomia

**Dagli ASSAGGI agli AFFRESCHI**

**SIENA, VALD’ORCIA e AREZZO**

Leisure/Food and wine
**From TASTINGS to FRESCOES SIENA, VALD’ORCIA AND ARREZZO**

4 days/ 3 nights

**1st day SIENA**

The tour begins from the splendid Siena and most precisely from the Square San Domenico. You will lose yourself in the alleys through the street Banchi di Sopra you can reach the Square SAlimbeni on which background rises the Palace Salimbeni from the fourteenth century today a seat of the Mount of Paschi of Siena.

The Palace Tolomei the most antique private palace of the city: exists from the 1205 year today is a seat of the Savings Bank of Florence.

In the Duomo Square rises the Cathedral, one of the most splendid creations of the gothic Italian architecture, absolutely between the most beautiful in Italy which main attraction is the unique Floor, but is discovered only in some periods of the year.

The tour of the cathedral normally includes the Piccolomini Library.

The tour concludes in Square of the Field between the most beautiful medieval squares, of a big scenographic effect with its characteristic form of seashell, where the historic Palio of Siena runs.

During the day a break for lunch in a typical cellar of Siena.

**CURIOSITY:**

Siena: the Palio of Siena, the famous Horse Race in the Square of Fields is organized two times a year and brings tourists from all around the world.

Siena has 17 contradas and each has its own history and emblem.

Typical dish: the pici and panforte od Siena.

**2nd Day MONTEPULCIANO AND PIENZA**

(30 km journeys from Chianciano – 60 km from Siena)

Montepulciano is a medieval city of rare beauty which for sure should be visited! An unique village with an elegant Renaissance palaces, antique churches, splendid squares and small hidden angles. From Montepulciano, you can enjoy a fairy landscape of the Val d’Orcia and Val di Chiana. The village can be visited on foot.

Right after you pass the gates of Montepulciano, a break in the underground city for a mini tour with a degustation. The tour in the cellars is suggestive and lasts 30 min. at the end of the visit it is possible to taste the wine of their cellars, included also the Vin Santo and some toast. For those who like to buy typical products is at disposal.

Lunch in a cellar based on typical local products.

In the afternoon a visit of Pienza, considered the ideal city of urban planning. The cathedral is in the center of the city. To visit the Palace Piccolomini a summer residence of Pope Pio and the palace Borgia.

The center’s streets offer pieces on the val d’Orcia which deserve to be photographed.

**CURIOSITY:**

Pienza: every Sunday in the square there is a market of product at 0 km. the Pienza’s pecorino is an excellence of the culinary of the zone.

**3RD Day TOUR VAL D'ORCIA -BAGNO VIGNONI – SANT’ANTIMO AND MONTALCINO**

(45 km journeys from Chianciano – 45 km from Siena)

The visit starts from a “jewel”: Vignoni Bath a very famous thermal locality characteristic for its square-stroll from which flows thermal water at 52 grades!

Proceeding to the splendid Abbey of S.Antimo which the legend wants to be founded by Carlo Magno and then rebuilt during the Romanian era in onyx and alabaster. Rich of art operas, S.Antimo hosts the new French Order of the monks of Cluny which has here its own central seat.

Lunch in a cellar in Val d’Orcia.

The visit continues in the afternoon with Montalcino: walking through the city you can admire many architectonic works of Middle Age, starting from the walls of belt which still conserve the antique gates and towers, the Town hall (a building of public architecture from the end of XIII century), the Loggias from the Popolo Square (with arches from the XIV and XV centuries), the Cathedral in neoclassic style (built on an antique church from the XI century), the Sanctuary of Madonna of the rescue(built in the XVII century on a church from the XV century), the Saint Edigio’s church (the church of Siena’s people, from the XIV century), and the beautiful churches from the XIV century of Saint Agostino (with frescoes of the Siena’s school from the XIV century) and Saint Francesco, with the annex Convents opened to beautiful cloisters.

**CURIOSITY:**

Vignoli Bath: renowned thermal locality, it is worth to take a bath in one thermal establishment. Its water have important curable properties.

Sant’Antimo: the religious ceremonies are of particular suggestion which are celebrated in Latin, together with Gregorian songs in medieval music tones.

Montalcino: renowned locality for the production of Brunello of Montalcino. It is good to make a break in one of the many cellars in the territory.

**4th Day AREZZO**

(70 km journeys from Chianciano – 70 km from Siena)

Arezzo: the historic center is rich of history and monuments from roman era. We will right away go on foot and visit with the guide the Pieve of Saint Maria Assunta, a splendid example of Romanic with a beautiful politic of Pietro Lorenzetti from Siena and the Grande Square with the Vasari Loggias.

Don’t miss the church of S. Domenico with the splendid “painted Cross” of Cimabue and the basilica of Saint Francesco where tourists from all around the world arrive to admire the Frescoes of Piero della Francesca.

A goodbye lunch based on typical local products and return to the origin destination.

**CURIOSITY:**

Arezzo: not everybody knows that Arezzo was the set where Benigni filmed the movie “La vita è bella”.

Folklore: Saracino is the typical medieval tournament of Arezzo; every first weekend of the month, there is also the Fair of antiquities.