

Medieval Tuscany, Castellare di Tonda, Italy

Itinerary

On arrival settle into your apartment and relax before dinner which is available from 6.30pm in the on-site Castellare Cucina restaurant. You will meet your riding guide on Sunday morning.

Please note that the itinerary may change depending on the weather at the time and other local conditions, but always with your best interests in mind.

Sunday

Your first ride starts in the arena usually followed by a short ride through the estate. This morning is a quiet ride giving you the opportunity to get to know your horse and to feel comfortable with the style of riding.

In the afternoon ride through the estate, with more chances for slightly faster riding. Back at base untack and wash off your horse (your guide will be on hand should you require assistance with this).

Lunch is to your own account today.



Monday

Today you go on a full day ride. This could be to San Vivaldo Monastery, riding down through tufo sand trails bordered by Tuscan vineyards and open fields. Ride into the Bosco Gucci, a protected forest rich with local fauna and some impressive three hundred year old trees.

The trail leads down into the San Vivaldo reserve, passing through old logging trails cut into the middle of pristine forests. This ride has some spectacular views of the rolling hills and passes the medieval ruins of Vignale borgo and Vignale castle.

Stop for lunch at a shaded picnic spot above the Monastery.

Later ride through a local Cinta Senese pig farm and twist and wind back through forest trails to Castellare di Tonda.



Tuesday

Another full day ride today. This time to the old Barbialla estate. The trail starts by winding up through forest trails until you reach the village of Sughera.

Ride through the outskirts of the village, and then over the confines between Pisa and Florence into the Barbialla game reserve. Here the terrain opens up, and the views reach out as far as Volterra and San Miniato. There may be a chance for some lovely canters.

Have lunch beside an old abandoned Tuscan farmhouse before riding back to Castellare di Tonda.



Wednesday

Today the horses have a rest day.

You could ask reception to book a taxi to take you to Castelfiorentino train station where you can catch the regional train to either Siena or Florence.

These transfers are payable locally. Lunch is to your own account today.



Thursday

Today's ride may take you through long stretches of Chianti vineyards and then down into the Egola valley before winding your way through forests and vineyards and stopping at the lake on the estate for lunch.

In the afternoon continue to the oil press on the neighbouring Castelfalfi estate and then meander through the forests of the Carfalo valley. This is a predominantly wooded area which is home to plants and animals of an impressive biological diversity, such as a rare species of salamander found only in this area.



Friday

This morning's ride could pass through open vineyards, fields and thick shaded forests that wind past pretty Tuscan stone farmhouses.



On your final afternoon ride you may enjoy some relaxing canters through the estate, finishing the week back at Castellare di Tonda.

Lunch is to your own account today.



Saturday

Depart after breakfast.