

ITALY - CHIANTI CASTLES AND WINE TASTING

ITINERARY

Day 1

Return transfers are included from Montevarchi train station. The usual collection time on arrival day is 17:00, although this could be earlier should all guest arrival times allow.

Alternatively you can make your own way by rental car directly to Centro Ippico della Berardenga and we will give you driving directions.

Many people fly to Pisa and we suggest flights arriving before 14:00 to allow you plenty of time to transfer by bus to Florence train station (c.€10 one-way) and then by train from Florence to Montevarchi train station (c.€6 one-way). Flights to Florence can arrive later in the afternoon as it is just a short taxi drive from the airport to Florence train station.

Your return flights from Pisa should depart after 14:00 to allow you plenty of time for the journey from Montevarchi. Flights from Florence should depart after midday.

Alternatively, we can arrange private transfers to/from Pisa airport or Florence airport per vehicle (up to three people) payable locally.

Arrive at Berardenga Equestrian Riding Centre in the afternoon and settle into your room. At c. 19:00 have a welcome drink and meet the owners and your guides. Later at c. 20:30 enjoy dinner together.



Berardenga farmhouse has three ensuite rooms, one with a private entrance. Two further rooms share a bathroom and are ideal for family groups or friends travelling together.



The communal living area has sofas and easy chairs for relaxing with a glass of Chianti wine, and a large dining table where meals are taken. There are a range of books to browse through, and an open fire to warm up a chilly evening.



When not riding, walking or cycling, you can relax around the salt-water swimming pool.



Day 2

After breakfast your first morning ride is to the Abbey of Badia d'Ombrone.



Return to the centre for lunch and then in the afternoon ride to the medieval Castello di Montalto, perhaps meeting the lady of the manor.

Day 3

Today is a full day ride over the rolling hills and landscapes to Arceno, a centuries old property, where you breathe in history and beauty.

Today's wine tasting will be in a fantastic location at Tenuta Di Arceno with view over the olive groves. There are also two avenues of grand cypresses which, given their great value and beauty, are protected by law.

www.tenutadiarceno.com

Later you may stop to visit and maybe have an aperitif in the medieval village of San Gusme before arriving at the Etruscan site of Campi for a picnic lunch. The view is magnificent, spreading over 360° from Monti del Chianti to Siena, to Monte Amiata.

Your ride home will again pass through part of the Arceno estate.



Day 4

Today is a half day ride to the medieval village of Montebenichi. Return to the centre for lunch.



In the afternoon you have a non-riding visit to Castelnuovo Berardenga where you can shop or perhaps have a drink at the bar in the piazza.

Later enjoy a wine tasting at Pacina Farm. [Www.pacina.it](http://www.pacina.it) This was formerly a monastery and is now a farm producing organic wine, olive oil, cereals and pulses. The Tiezzi family produce a wonderful natural wine, although in small quantities. The farm is featured in the film *Resistenze Naturale* by Jonathan Nossiter.

Day 5

Today a full day ride with a picnic.

The wine tasting will be at the very well known Felsina wine farm (www.felsina.it) which is the wine you enjoy at your accommodation at Berardenga.



Day 6

A full day ride with a picnic. You follow an ancient Etruscan road with an amazing view of the valley, Chianti hills and Siena.



You also ride through the village of Rapale, probably the last example of an untouched ancient village. The ride also takes you through the “Crete senesi”, an area famous for its sheep’s milk cheese.

Day 7

This morning’s half day ride is to the monastery Borgo Monastero, through forests, olive groves and vineyards. Return to the centre for lunch.



In the afternoon go by car to visit Siena, the best preserved medieval town in Italy and also known for the Palio.