

# Chianti Castles and Wine Tasting, Italy

## Itinerary

### Sunday

You are collected from Montevarchi train station in the afternoon (or you may choose to self-drive).

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.



### Monday

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.



### Tuesday

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](http://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.

### Wednesday

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.



### Thursday

Today a full day ride with a picnic.

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



### Friday

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.



### Saturday

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.



### Sunday

After breakfast you are transferred to Montevarchi train station.