

# Tuscany: Medieval Towns and Charming Countryside

Tuscany is a beautiful region of Italy that is characterized by a very attractive and varied landscape. You can visit many beautiful places like the Tuscan Apennines, where you have the possibility of trekking and hiking, or the Casentino area, one of four main valleys of the province of Arezzo, where is the famous Natural Park.



The National Park of the Casentino Forests is formed by centuries-old firs, beeches and chestnut trees. The holiday in Casentino gives you the opportunity to do many and different activities, including incredible mountain bike excursions.

Tuscany also gives a wide choice for the tourists to visit beautiful cities such as Florence, Pisa, Siena, but also many small medieval villages, very distinctive and rich of history such as San Gimignano, located near Siena.

San Gimignano is the world-famous medieval town, with its towers and its beauty right in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. You have the chance to visit a Cathedral, Museum of Sacred Art and beautiful Towers. In San Gimignano you have also the possibility of food-and wine-tasting and shopping among the stands of local traditional craftsmanship.

Tuscany is also known as the land of the ancient Etruscan civilization. In the city of Cortona, near Arezzo you can find many historical relics related to the civilization of the Etruscans who lived and left their traces in Tuscany.



The Melone Il del Sodo is certainly the most charming and fascinating work that we can admire in the countryside around Cortona. It is also possible to visit the Etruscan Academy Museum and MAEC: here

you can admire meaningful and very important works of art, just remember the famous Etruscan bronze chandelier of the fourth century BC and various handicrafts that arrive from the Etruscan tombs discovered in the countryside of Cortona.

In Arezzo instead you can admire its most important monuments, such as the Tuscan gothic-style Cathedral, in which you can enjoy the important art works and paintings and the windows decorated with figures of Guglielmo de Marcillat. It's possible to discover the local handicrafts, to admire the frescoes on the "Leggenda della vera Croce" (Legend of the True Cross) by Piero della Francesca and the Houses of Giorgio Vasari and Francesco Petrarca.

The most important historical event of the city is the "Giostra del Saracino", which has ancient origins. It begins with the exciting carousel with its 400 characters in medieval clothing. The city is divided into four areas, called "quartieri", driven by a fierce competition. At the district winner goes the coveted "golden spear", the trophy up for grabs each year.

For all these sites rich with history and magic, Tuscany is perfect also for honeymoon: there is in fact a legendary place for weddings. For couples looking for the most charming places of Tuscany to get married, it is possible to organize weddings in the most fascinating structures as the ancient village of Lucignano.

The curious legend of the Tree of Love characterizes this place, so "getting married" in Lucignano means to do it in the most important places of the ancient village as the Council Chamber of the ancient Municipal Palace. Inside the small Municipal Museum, the new couple will promise everlasting love in front of the magnificent Tree of Love, a masterpiece of Gothic jeweller's art.



Here the typical Tuscan farmhouses will host the couples and their guests in a refined, genuine and very warm atmosphere. The newlyweds can taste the typical products ranging from the gorgeous Chianina steaks with olive oil to the Chianti wine and Brunello wine.

Finally we cannot forget the beautiful places of the Tyrrhenian Sea where you can spend an enjoyable holiday. The Tuscan Archipelago is also well known, made up of small islands and features. Here visitors have the opportunity of mini-cruises to visit Elba Isle and Isle of Giglio.

**By Saracino Viaggi Incoming Tour Operator**

Saracino Viaggi Incoming Tour Operator organizes many tours for singles, couples or groups around Tuscany. It is important to remember that they are all tailor-made packages.

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