

About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: <u>info@hiddentrails.com</u> Website: <u>www.hiddentrails.com</u>

Address

659A Moberty Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Ride and Relax in Chianti - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITSR11 8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,070.00 Dates: Available all Year

Trip Rating: •••••
Difficulty: ••••
Lodging: ••••

Tack: English
Horses: Italian and French Anglo
Arab and warm...
Pace: Moderate with trots, cantrers
and shor...
Walk,Trot,Canter,Gallop,





Introduction

Tuscany, Italy

The farmstead, which was built at the end of the nineteenth century and home of the Chianti riding centre and farm, is situated in the serene Chianti region in the center of the Siena, Florence, and Arezzo triangle. Surrounded by meadows and woods with a view to a medieval castle, the farm is in the rare position to offer its guests the silence of nature, the sound of birdsong, the neighing of horses and rushing of the river flowing. Here you are welcomed to spend a week in rural Chianti country surrounded by horses, good company and some of the most famous vinevards in Italy.

A wine tasting of the famous Brunello in Montalcino is only 40 minutes away. If culture and history call you, the medieval town of Sienca is only a 20 minute drive from the riding center - go explore and take in the ancient atmosphere of the Duomo and the plaza. If you time it right, you can even be part of the Palio horse race in Siena-what a spectacle! Excellent instruction is available to you by Donatella Zambon, who is an accomplished equestrian and has taught hundreds of riders from both beginners and advanced. She chooses and prepares her horses personally. Once trained they are never sold! You can opt to learnt op ride, improve riding, specialize in eventing instruction, or explore the beautiful landscape on horseback!

The location of the farm makes it an ideal base for cycling and hiking, and for those who wish to mix cultural tourism with outdoor pursuits.

Accomodation



Accommodations

This is a stationary ride, so all nights are spent at the same location.

Description

The farmstead of Santa Margherita was built at the end of the 19th century and is now the home of a riding centre and farm. It is situated in the Senese Chianti at the centre of the Siena, Florence, and Arezzo triangle. Surrounded by meadows and woods with a view over an ancient medieval castle, it offers a quality to its guests of nature's silence (by our choice the rooms do not have television), the twitter of the birds, the neighing of the horses, and the flow of the rivers.

The buildings have recently been renovated without altering their original form. The farm house is divided into apartments so that guests will be able to enjoy the complete privacy during their stay at the riding centre. All apartments have their own private space outside with a table and chairs.





Division of apartments:

-Alloro Apt: Alloro bedroom + sitting room with sofa bed - can accommodate 2+ 2 guests - 48 sq. m

-Grande Noce Apt : 3/4 bedrooms (Suite, Rosa Chinae bedroom) with adjacent sitting room and kitchen - 180

-Cottage: two floors with view of our pasture + Castello for 2/3 guests - 50 sq. m

Our desire was to create a harmonious setting in 6000 square feet, for a limited number of guests who are looking to stay in a friendly, but at the same time discreet environment. We are also a certified organic farm and we try to respect the environment in the way we run our farm holiday accommodation. Castelnuovo Berardenga town council organizes cultural and social activities in the area and there are two well-known spa swimming pools ten minutes away.

We love animals and have a lot, so we are unable to accept dogs or other pets, but if you are looking for such accommodation there are two neighboring farms which offer two apartments where it is possible to take animals.

Room Occupancy

The single supplement fee is mandatory for every solo traveler.



If you choose the full board option, all meals are included.

If you choose the option with no meals included, you can decide to purchase meals locally for an extra fee.

Meals can be purchased at the farm: breakfast €10 pp, lunch €30 pp, dinner €45 pp or guests are welcome to explore the restaurants in the surrounding villages.

We cook traditional Italian food. Our food is prepared with as many organic ingredients from the gardens as possible. The farm has been certified as an organic property since 2000.

Breakfasts typically consist of bread with butter, jam and juice complete with yogurt and cakes prepared by us, using many local products.

Dinners are typical Tuscan gourmet dishes that will satisfy the most demanding pallets.

<u>Dietary Restrictions</u>
We can cater to dietary restrictions if given prior notice.



Riding







This week is generally proposed from Saturday to Saturday. Remember that Monday is the rest day for the horses.

Riding Center

Sadio and Donatella personally guide and receive their guests and riders. They speak French and English and have been running the Horse Riding Centre since 1992. The Riding Centre is affiliated with the Italian Federation of Equestrian Sports.

The riding center has a covered riding arena, which allows us to give lessons all year whatever the climatic conditions.

Lessons are in small groups with riders of a similar riding level. Every rider whatever his/her level is carefully looked after.

Horses

We currently have 20 horses. Once horses join the center they are never sold and periodically they are trained and worked by our instructors. They work both in the school and in the countryside, and spend some hours every day in the fields to relax and play. We like our horses to be happy!

We choose our horses not according to their breed but by looking at their attitude to work in the flat and in the countryside. For this reason in our stables you will find many different breeds: Anglo-Arab, Thoroughbred, Warmblood, Murgesi, Arab, Holsteiner etc. We make sure that our horses have good mental balance so they can change riders easily. Our horses are friendly and easy to handle.

Tack & Equipment

Saddles are Kieffer or Appaloosa Prestige.

There are many short chaps and helmets available at the Riding Center.



Itinerary

This week is a combination of horseback riding and free time to visit this beautiful corner of Tuscany. The program includes 10 hours of riding total, including lessons, trail rides or a combination of both.

Once at the riding center, you will be able to discuss the program you want to take. The program usually takes place from Saturday to Saturday, with Monday being the rest day for our horses.

See some program examples below:



<u>Beginner Program</u>: 10 hours included, extra riding or lessons available at additional cost. This is for riders who want to see tangible results at the end of the week. The program starts with 2 lessons a day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and groups have a maximum of 3 students per group of the same level. The instructor teach with a gradual personalized system that has been tested by years of experience, allowing the student to progress.

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Normally after the first 3 days of lessons the students go out for his/her first trail ride and in the following days the program alternates lessons and trail rides.



Intermediate Program: 6 lessons + 3 half-day hacks of approx. 2.5 hours each

For those with riding experience who want to take their riding skills to the next level. Often the art of learning to ride can leave large gaps. We believe that we have the power to bridge these gaps, by explaining and making you train with serenity and competence.



Trail Ride Program: 6 half-day hacks OR 1 full-day hack with picnic + 2 half-day hacks + 2 lessons

For those who already have experience and want to visit those angles of Tuscany that are only visible on horseback. Thanks to the big network of routes and country roads, we can arrange a variety of routes for the rider to discover the story, culture, and architecture of Chianti while being immersed in nature and far from the noise of the asphalt roads. The routes are always accompanied by a licensed guide. Our horses are experienced trail horses and are used to alternate their work in the riding school with rides in the countryside. For this reason, our horses are not frightened by a wild boar in the wood and can give you the pleasant sensation of enjoying a peaceful trail.

We specialize in working with riders on the flat; but we can also offer some small technical jumping combinations to help with the balance of the horse and the riders.



Things to see around the Riding Center

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

You can walk the streets and lanes of medieval Siena, or taste a glass of Chianti at the Brolio Castle, or Brunello at Montalcino, visit the Cistercian abbey of Mont Oliveto, enter into the heart of Chianti through the Volpaia village, or visit the famous cities of Florence, Cortona, San Gimignano or Arezzo. These attractions are all located less than 1 hour drive from our riding centre.

Other Info

Meeting: Castelnuovo Airport: Florence / Pisa

Train station: Montevarchi or Siena Transfer: Montevarchi or Siena train station Distance: Pisa 1.5 hrs / Florence 1 hr

Best to rent a car in Florence or Pisa. If you prefer we can arrange a transfer from Florence or Pisa. There are good train connections from Pisa or Florence to Siena or Montevarchi - free

pick up from there at 5pm.

Tack: English

Horses: Italian and French Anglo Arab and warm blood

Pace: Moderate with trots, cantrers and short gallops

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop |

Level: (2.5 to 3 out of 5) Low Intermediate

Age: Min 14
Weight: 195 lbs / 88 kg

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 7 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ITSR11

Rates include: Accommodations, all meals depending on option chosen, 6 riding days (10 hours lessons or hacking) & Transfers from/to Montevarchi train station

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip (Full board option)	€1880	\$2070
	Single supplement Non-rider	€275 €1440	\$300 \$1585
B 2024	8 day trip (No meals option)	€1125	\$1240
	Single supplement Non-rider	€275 €690	\$300 \$760

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Rates Note:

Shorter stays possible with minimum of 3 nights
Transfer rates given as an indication - rate might vary depending on fuel cost, number of people...

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Tourist tax (mandatory)	€15	\$15
2024	Transfer from Montevarchi train station included at 5PM		
2024	Transfer from Florence Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€180	\$185
2024	Transfer from Florence Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€200	\$210
2024	Transfer from Pisa Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€260	\$270
2024	Transfer from Pisa Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€260	\$270
2024	Transfer from Rome Fiumicino Airport (1-3 pax), per person, roundtrip	€480	\$495
2024	Transfer from Rome Airport (4-8 pax), per person, roundtrip	€450	\$465
2024	Private lesson, pp, per hour	€80	\$90
2024	Extra full day ride with picnic, pp	€200	\$220

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	03/27/2024 - 04/03/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (Full board option)
B 2024	03/27/2024 - 04/03/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (No meals option)
B 2024	04/13/2024 - 04/20/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (No meals option)
A 2024	04/13/2024 - 04/20/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (Full board option)
A 2024	06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (Full board option)
B 2024	06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (No meals option)
B 2024	06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (No meals option)
A 2024	06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (Full board option)
A 2024	09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (Full board option)
B 2024	09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip (No meals option)

Min/Max: 4/7

Possible to add more dates on request

Rates do not include: Spa treatments (nearby), Airport transfers, Tourist Tax & Gratuities

Reservation Form

Tour:	Code #:	fro	n: to	:
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	moom /	Date Height Weigh	3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	or o
1. 2.				
3.				
Special Diets:				
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate How often do you ride?		low long have you n other riding tours		ip when?
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the loc	al airport/station:	I would like the tra	insfer to be included: Y	ES NO
In an emergency, name and phone number o	f contact:			
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have	to sign the reserv	ation form - make copies	if needed
With my signature I confirm my reservation o I made all participants aware of the risk invol with the Hidden Trails <i>Booking Conditions</i> an	ved with these out	door adventure ad	tivities. All participants I	nave read and agree
brochure or as listed on the Internet. I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational A Last Name and First Name (The Traveler)		d Indemnity Agreer	nent at least 10 weeks bef	ore trip starting date.
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