

## UNKNOWN TUSCANY

### **DAY 1.- ROME - SARTEANO - STROVE**

Presentation at the airport at the time that will be indicated to take the flight to Rome where the bus awaits us in which we will go to Sarteano, a medieval town in whose historic center we find the church of San Martino that houses inside the famous Annunciation of the painter Beccafumi (16th century). However, the main attraction of this town is the Archaeological Museum located in the Gabrielli Palace from the 16th century and which shows the finds from the Bronze Age, Etruscans and Roman times discovered in the vicinity of the town. After the visit we continue to Strove, DINNER AND ACCOMMODATION.

### **DAY 2.- STROVE - SAN GIMIGNANO - MONTERIGGIONI - ABADIA ISOLA - SAN LEONARDO AL LAGO - STROVE - SIENA - STROVE**

BREAKFAST and departure to San Gimignano, the city of towers of which 15 of the 72 that it once survived and in whose medieval center we have its 12th century Collegiate Church with subsequent reforms and whose interior is completely covered with frescoes from the Simone school Martini, Bartolo di Fredi and Domenico Ghirlandaio among other painters from the Sienese school. In the old Town Hall we find the Civic Museum with paintings from the 13th to the 17th centuries with works by Filippino Lippi, Gozzoli, Pinturicchio, etc. LUNCH and continuation to Monteriggioni, a fortified town from the 13th century and one of the best examples of a medieval town in terms of its preservation in all of Italy. We will walk through its alleys and visit the late-Roman church of Santa María. Not far away we have the old Isola Abbey in Lombard style from the 11th century with a fresco from the 16th century. We will continue with the ancient hermitage of San Leonardo al Lago from the 13th and 14th centuries, inside which frescoes by Lippo Vanni and Mateo di Giovanni are preserved. Return to the hotel and a short rest before heading to Siena where we will take a short walk through its historic center and have DINNER in a local restaurant. Return to Strove, ACCOMMODATION.

### **DAY 3.- STROVE - CHIANTI SENESE - STROVE**

BREAKFAST and departure to the Chianti Senese area, a hilly area famous for its views and its wines. We will begin our visits with Castellina in Chianti of Etruscan origin and where we find the Archaeological Museum that tells us about the history of this territory, highlighting those of Etruscan origin. We will continue to Radda in Chianti, a small medieval town surrounded by walls and where we will walk through the streets of its historic center before continuing to the Abbey of San Lorenzo in Coltibuono from the 11th century and to Castello di Meleto, a former noble residence. LUNCH. In the afternoon we will go to Castello di Vertine and Pieve di Spaltenna with Romanesque church. We will continue with Castello de Brolio, an imposing fortress begun in the 11th century, although the most visible part today is a historicist reconstruction from the 19th century. We will also visit a winery and we will be able to taste the wine of this area before returning to Strove, DINNER and ACCOMMODATION.

### **DAY 4.- STROVE - CHIUSDINO - SAN GALGANO - COLLE VAL D'ELSA - STROVE**

BREAKFAST and departure to Chiusdino, a characteristic Tuscan town that preserves its medieval urbanism practically intact, in whose dominant position we find the pre-forestation of San Miguel, inside which we have the head of San Galgano, a knight-hermit born in the town. Neighboring we have the church of San Sebastián from the 15th century and the birth house of San Galgano, an imposing building from the Romanesque period. We continue to the Abbey of San Galgano, one of the most famous and suggestive Gothic constructions in Italy built on the tomb of San Galgano who created the hermitage of Montesiepi around 1180 when he nailed his sword into a rock to turn it into a cross, symbol of his conversion and that still can be visited today. The Abbey is known today as the Abbey without a roof and in its complex we must not forget the frescoes by Lorenzetti. LUNCH en route and continuation to Colle Val d'Elsa, world famous for its glass production and which is the birthplace of Arnolfo di Cambio to whom its main square is dedicated. We will take a walk through this town where we will discover imposing medieval buildings, towers and fortifications, including the Glass Museum that we will visit. After the visit return to Strove, DINNER AND ACCOMMODATION

### **DAY 5.- STROVE - SERRE DI RAPOLANO - ASCIANO - MONTE OLIVETO MAGGIORE ABBEY. BUONCONVENTO - STROVE**

BREAKFAST and departure to Serre de Rapolano, a town born of a Byzantine fortress and where we will take a tour of its historic center and visit the Museo della Grancia, an ethnographic museum that shows us the historical processes of local agriculture with an emphasis on the production of wine and oil. After the visit we continue to Asciano of Etruscan origin and which has the Collegiate Church of Santa Agueda and the Corboli Museum dedicated to archeology and sacred art with works by Lorenzetti, Giovanni di Paolo, etc. After the visit we will have LUNCH and in the afternoon we will go to the nearby Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore that rises solitary between a forest of cypresses and which was founded in the 14th century, becoming a cultural center of great importance in the 15th and 16th centuries. The complex highlights the cloister, refectory, church, etc., drawing attention to the cycle of frescoes on the history of Saint Benedict, which was started by Signorelli and ended by Sodoma. Continuation to Buonconvento, a small medieval town that preserves its 14th century walls and where we will take a walk through its historic center with buildings such as the

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Church of San Pedro and San Pablo, the Praetorian Palace, etc. After the visit return to Strove, DINNER AND ACCOMMODATION.

**DAY 6.- STROVE - SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA - BAGNO VIGNONI - CASTIGLION D'ORCIA - SANT'ANTIMO - MONTALCINO - STROVE**

**BREAKFAST.** Today we leave for San Quirico d'Orcia with the Romanesque Collegiate Church of San Quirico and Santa Giuditta inside which we have interesting Baroque works of art and the 15th century triptych, the work of Sano di Pietro and dedicated to Saint Quirico, a 5-year-old boy martyred by the Romans. Next to it we have the 17th century Palacio dei Chigi, the Leonini Gardens and the churches of San Francisco and Santa María. After the visit we continue to Bagno Vignoni, a thermal center already used in Roman times and around whose pool all the buildings that make up this small town were born. We continue to Rocca d'Orcia where we will make a brief panoramic stop of this enclave before having LUNCH en route and heading to the Abbey of Sant'Antimo, which tradition makes the founding of Charlemagne at the end of the 8th century and which preserves important elements built during its millennial historical stage, highlighting the church with its frescoes and a capital by the master of Cabestany. We will end with Montalcino, a fortified town in the Seneses in the 14th century and the homeland of Brunello, one of the most famous wines in the area and where after the visit we will have a tasting of their wines. Return to Strove, DINNER AND ACCOMMODATION.

**DAY 7.- STROVE - MONTICCHIELLO - PIENZA - MONTEPULCIANO - STROVE**

**BREAKFAST** and departure to Monticchiello which preserves the characteristics of a medieval fortress with the church of San Leonardo and San Cristobal from the 13th century, inside which we find fragments of frescoes from the 14th and 15th centuries. We continue to Pienza, the origin of the famous Pecorino cheese, of which we will do a tasting and visit its Cathedral whose façade is one of the oldest Renaissance designs preserved in Italy and inside which we find five altarpieces from the 15th century Sienese school. Attaching we have the Piccolomini Palace designed by Alberti for the nephews of Pope Pius II and which has been the seat of this noble Italian family for centuries. Inside we have interesting works of art, highlighting the Museum of the Siena State Archive, which has works by the greatest painters of that city such as Lorenzetti, Sano di Pietro, Beccafumi, etc. LUNCH and continuation to the church of Corsignano where we will make an exterior visit of this 12th century Romanesque-style monument. We continue to Montepulciano with its 16th century Cathedral and its old wineries that we will visit and where we will have a wine tasting before heading to the Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Biagio, a temple designed in the 16th century by Sangallo the Elder with a circular plan. After the visit we return to Strove, DINNER AND ACCOMMODATION.

**DAY 8.- STROVE - CHIUSI - ROME**

**BREAKFAST** and departure to Chiusi where we will take a walk through its historic center and visit its Cathedral, a Romanesque building with Roman elements and paintings from the 19th century imitating Roman mosaics, with an authentic one under the main altar. In its Museum important sculptures from Roman, Longobard and medieval times are preserved, as well as a collection of highly valuable sacred books. After the visit we continue to the Rome airport to take the plane

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