Driving Tuscany

Taking in Tuscany’s two great medieval rivals, Florence and Siena, Chianti’s wine-rich hills, and the Unesco-listed Val d’Orcia, this drive offers artistic masterpieces, soul-stirring scenery and captivating Renaissance towns.

Start Florence
Distance 185km
Duration Four days

1 Start in Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Admire Brunelleschi’s Duomo dome, wander around the Galleria degli Uffizi and greet Michelangelo’s David at the Galleria dell’Accademia.

2 Pick up the SR222 (Via Chiantigiana) and head south to Chianti wine country. Stop off in the centuries-old wine centre of Greve, then continue south to Siena.

3 The medieval cityscape of Siena is captivating. Be inspired by the Duomo’s intricate facade, bustling Piazza del Campo and fine art in the Museo Civico.

4 Take the SR2 (Via Cassia) to Montalcino, known to wine buffs around the world for its celebrated local drop, Brunello.

5 Head east to the Val d’Orcia and pretty Pienza. Magnificent Renaissance buildings in and around Piazza Pio II went up in just four years in the 15th century and haven’t changed since.

6 Steeply stacked Montepulciano harbours a wealth of palazzi and fine buildings, plus views over the Val di Chiana and Val d’Orcia. Finish up with a glass or two of the local Vino Nobile.

Take a Break... Enjoy a meal at Osteria di Passignano (055 807 12 78; www.osteriadipassignano.com; Via di Passignano 33; meals €85, tasting menus €90, wine pairing €140; 12.15-2.15pm & 7.30-10pm Mon-Sat) in Badia a Passignano, 20 minutes from Greve.

Classic Photo: The stunning Val d’Orcia offers views of undulating fields, stone farmhouses and rows of elegant cypresses.