

Rail holidays of Italy

Expressions



Rail holiday to Tuscany



Rail holiday to Tuscany

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Florence

Chianti

Montalcino vineyards

Montecatini

Saturnia

Elba

Giglio



This rail holiday takes you on a journey to discover rolling hills dotted with olive and cypress trees, hill top towns with golden stone houses and working vineyards as you travel southwards through Europe to the rolling landscape of Tuscany. Tuscany is the perfect destination for a rail holiday because in addition to the obvious attractions of the scenery of Chianti and the art cities of Florence and Siena, you can also explore the less well-known regions south of Siena. We recommend that you travel by Eurostar to Paris before taking an overnight Thello sleeper to Milan and then transferring onto a train to Florence. An alternative option would be to travel via Munich, staying in a comfortable hotel before passing through the spectacular Gotthard Pass on your way to Tuscany. Once in Florence, collect your hire car then spend 7 nights at the Hotel Villa le Barone. You can return by the sleeper train, or talk to us for more options such as day time services through Switzerland.

PRICES

From £2,265 per person

Price based on two sharing a double or twin room.

First class rail travel can be added for a supplement. Other hotels in each destination are available on request.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week. For more information regarding rail services to and within Italy, view our train guide.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Rail travel on all trains including the Eurostar (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- Double sleeper compartment on Thello sleeper train
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast at the Villa le Barone in Tuscany
- Category B hire car for the duration of your stay in Tuscany (we can arrange a larger car for you on request)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- Transfers in Paris
- Meals other than breakfast at the hotels
- Early check in or late check out at hotels - though we can arrange this on request
- Supplements for alternative route options
- Any services not mentioned

OPTION 1 – Sleeper train

DAY ONE: Sleeper from Paris to Milan

You begin your rail holiday by travelling out on an afternoon Eurostar service from London St Pancras to Paris Gare de Nord. Following a change of station in Paris continue the rail journey by Thello sleeper train to Milan where you arrive around 6am. We recommend the two bed sleeper compartments on the Thello train as the most comfortable option. There is a washbasin in the compartments and shared toilets in each carriage.

DAY TWO: Milan to Florence by rail

You arrive in Milan early morning and continue on to Florence where you arrive at about 9am. Collect your hire car and drive to your hotel, the Hotel Villa le Barone, where you stay for 7 nights.

OPTION 2 – VIA MUNICH

DAY ONE: London to Munich by rail

Alternatively you can begin your rail holiday by leaving London on a morning Eurostar to Brussels. You change trains here and board the Thalys service that takes you across the Belgian-German border at Aachen. You change trains again in Cologne and head south through the towns of Mannheim and Stuttgart before arriving into Munich around 8.30pm. You check in to your hotel in Munich and spend one night here.

DAY TWO: Munich to Florence

The next leg of your train journey takes you through the heart of the stunning Austrian Alps. You head south from the Bavarian capital and cross the border into Austria at Kufstein. The railway guides you through high mountain scenery before dropping down through the Brenner Pass, from where you can admire the Dolomites, and onwards through Verona to Bologna. You change trains here and arrive into Florence at 5.30pm. Collect your hire car from Florence train station and drive to the Hotel Villa le Barone, your home for the next seven nights.

DAYS THREE TO EIGHT: Tuscany

Spend 6 days exploring the Chianti region and the fascinating art cities of Tuscany. Take the opportunity to discover the patchwork vineyards of Montalcino, the spas of Montecatini and Saturnia and the islands of Elba and Giglio. However you choose to spend your time in Tuscany, you will be inspired by the beauty of your surroundings



Infinity pool at Villa le Barone

and the way of life which is quintessentially Italian.

DAY NINE: Meet the sleeper at Milan

Return your hire car to Florence where you catch an evening train to Milan, before boarding the Thello sleeper train back to Paris at around 11pm.

DAY TEN: Return to London

You arrive into Paris Lyon at about 9.30am, and after changing stations you then take the Eurostar back to London where you arrive at lunchtime. We can arrange for you to catch a later Eurostar service if you prefer, perhaps giving you time to enjoy lunch in the famous Train Bleu restaurant.

OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in any of these destinations if you would like to spend more time there.

HOTELS

Details of the hotels in Italy and Germany can be found below.

Expressions

TUSCANY

Villa le Barone 4 star

The Villa le Barone is a charming property in a central location in the Chianti Classico wine producing region. In the 16th Century, the villa was the home of the famous Della Robbia family and it is now owned by their descendants. The 28 rooms are scattered across four separate buildings, surrounded by a shady garden with hammocks, a terrace and swimming pool. The hotel's restaurant, located in the old winery, serves typical Tuscan food and famous local Chianti wines. The Villa le Barone is a charming and relaxed hotel full of regional flavour, and a perfect base from which to explore the Chianti region.

Castel Monastero 5 star (OPTION)

Surrounded by rolling hills and vineyards the Castel Monastero in Chianti offers an authentic Tuscan experience in the elegant surroundings of a converted monastery. Now a hotel with 74 rooms and suites the hotel has not lost its sense of tranquillity or rustic charm. With a wide range of spa facilities and also cookery courses and wine tasting the hotel truly appeals to those looking for a traditional Tuscan experience.

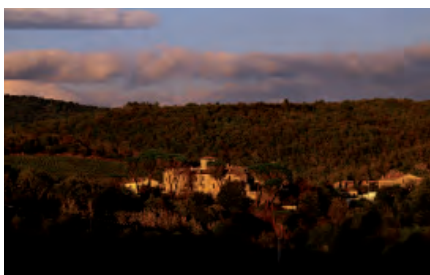
MUNICH (OPTION)

Eden Hotel Wolff 4 star

The Eden Hotel Wolff has been one of the leading names in Munich since its foundation in 1890. The Art Noveau building is ideally located opposite Munich Central rail station, making it the perfect stopover point from which to explore the city. The hotel has 210 rooms and suites on offer to guests in a variety of designs from classical through to elegant modern or Alpine stylings, whilst the hotel's restaurant the Peter & Wolff prides itself on the use of seasonal products from the regions suppliers in its menus.



Villa le Barone



Castel Monastero



Villa le Barone



Castel Monastero

MAP OF TOUR TUSCANY BY TRAIN

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to Italy starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the Inter-city trains, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

PRICE INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

From £2,465 per person for first class rail travel.

From £2,265 per person for second class rail travel.

Prices based on two sharing a double or twin room using the Thello sleeper.

What's included?

First or second class travel on all trains (as above) including Eurostar
Double sleeper compartment on Thello sleeper train
7 nights' bed and breakfast in a Classic Double Room at Hotel Villa le Barone
Category B car hire for the duration of your stay in Tuscany.

What's not included?

Optional extra nights
Transfers in Paris
Meals other than breakfast at the hotel
Early check in or late check out at hotels – though we can arrange this on request
Supplements for alternative route options
Any services not mentioned above



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
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HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441275

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.