

## Three days in Tuscany

*A special post-conference tour!*

October 25 – 27, 2014

During the last few weeks Paola and I have developed the program and, most importantly, booked all accommodation, guided tours, restaurants and (last but not least) wine tastings! We will travel by bus – but distances have been kept to an absolute minimum (only 575 km in 3 days). We have booked 20 rooms for around 30 participants – mostly double rooms but also a few single rooms. It will be strictly on a “first come – first serve” basis – so please register as soon as possible to secure your place.



### Day 1: Saturday, 25 October 2014 (210 km)

**09:30** Departure from the main conference Hotel, the NH Hotel De La Gare in Bologna. Drive to **San Casciano Val di Pesa** (Tuscany) to visit Antinori winery, a marvelous engineering piece of art. The 1 hour long visit includes wine visiting the production phases and wine tasting of Villa Antinori Bianco IGT; Peppoli Chianti Classico DOCG; Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico DOCG Riserva. The visit then continues to the Museum and Auditorium including the short movie “5 years in 15 minutes” about the making of the wineries.

**At 12:00** Departure to **Certaldo** in Val d’Elsa, only half an hour away from the Antinori winery, to have lunch in the old medieval town on top of a hill, accessible by cable car.

**After lunch at around 15:00** departure to **San Gimignano**, included in the UNESCO world heritage list, also known as the “Manhattan of the middle age” because of the presence of impressive towers symbolizing power and wealth. Free time for enjoying the town and for shopping wine and local goods.

**After the visit of San Gimignano at around 17:30**, departure to Hotel “Castello di Leonina Relais” located in Asciano near Siena. The hotel is elegant yet warm and friendly with only 21 rooms, furnished tastefully, each with fantastic views of the rolling hills and the famous “crete” in the Siennese countryside. Time for relaxation in the small wellness centre (Turkish bath and Sauna) before dinner a la carte at 20:00 the “Terrazze di Leonina” restaurant in the hotel.



Antinori winery Certaldo

San Gimignano

Hotel “Castello di Leonina”

## Day 2: Sunday, 26 October 2014 (175 km)

**At 09:00** we will leave the hotel to drive south through a lovely hilly area, the famous “**Tuscan Crete**” and the Montalcino wine district, to a wonderful pilgrimage destination named **Abbey of St. Antimo** (Montalcino - Siena) where resides a community of *Canons Regular Premonstratensian*, also known as *White Canons*, as noted by their dress completely white, or *Norbertini* by the name of their founder, St. Norbert. We will be in Sant’Antimo from around 10:00 to 11:00 and you can visit the Basilica, listen the Gregorian chants and/or walk in the wonderful countryside.

**After the visit at around 11:00** we will drive to **Bagno Vignoni** in Val d’Orcia representing one of the most suggestive and better preserved medieval villages in Tuscany.

We will then move to **Monticchiello**, a charming village famous for its winding roads, to have lunch in at a typical Tuscan “trattoria”.

**After lunch at around 15:00** departure to **Pienza**. This charming village is widely known as the “**ideal city of the Renaissance**”, the creation of the great humanist Enea Silvio Piccolomini who later became **Pope Pius II**. Free time for enjoying the town and for shopping.



Crete senesi

Sant’Antimo

Bagno Vignoni

Monticchiello road



Pienza

Montepulciano

De Ricci winery

**At around 16:00** departure to Montepulciano, where just a few steps from Piazza Grande, the main square in town, below the elegant Renaissance Palazzo Ricci, there is the monumental Cantina de’ Ricci, one of the most ancient and beautiful in the world, which is accessed through an impressive equestrian staircase that gradually leads the visitor to the discovery of an enchanted place.

**After the visit of the Cantina at around 17:30**, departure to Hotel “Castello di Leonina Relais” Time for relaxation in the small wellness centre (Turkish bath and Sauna) before dinner “le crete” at 20:00 the “Terrazze di Leonina” restaurant in the hotel.

## Day 3: Monday, 27 October 2014 (190 km)

**At 09:00** we will leave the hotel to drive to **Siena** (just 10 km away), a treasure trove of historical, artistic, religious and cultural, riches all to be discovered. A special guided tour will show you the best of Siena including Piazza del Campo and the Cathedral. You will also have additional free time to visit shops and streets of the old city and enjoy the magic atmosphere of this unique city.

**At 13:00** Departure to **Monteriggioni**, only half an hour away from Siena, to have lunch and visit shops and streets of the medieval village.

**After lunch at around 15:30** departure to **Bologna**.

We have only 150 kilometers back to Bologna. At around 17:30 we will be at Hotel De la Gare in Bologna.

**Note:** Those of you that have to leave with a late afternoon flight on Monday can take a taxi from the hotel to the airport (only 6 km away). Those of you leaving on Tuesday can stay one more night in Hotel NH De la Gare in Bologna at your cost.



Siena



Local food and wine



Monteriggioni

**Route Overview:**

Total: ~ 575 km

**Price:**

This tour is absolute business and sponsor free, so that we don't have to listen to product promotions during lunch or dinner!

The price for the entire tour is between **€ 490 per person** (with a minimum of 16 of participants) either if you are sharing a double room or you are in a single room.

The following is included:

2 nights bed and breakfast in 4\*\*\*\* Hotel Leonina near Siena + 1 free entry at hotel wellness centre  
Bus fare

1 Dinner a la carte at the Hotel Leonina, including water and wine

1 Dinner "le crete" at the Hotel Leonina, including water and wine

1 lunch in Certaldo + 1 lunch in Monticchiello area + 1 lunch in Monteriggioni area

Guided tour in Siena

Visit and wine tasting at Antinori winery and Visit and wine tasting at Montepulciano winery

**Reservations:**

Please check availability with Michela [secretary@waterideas2014.com](mailto:secretary@waterideas2014.com) and then transfer the exact amount to the following bank account:

Labelab Srl bank details: Euro account -

Bank : Cassa di Risparmio di Cesena, Filiale Imola 3 - Account Name: Labelab Srl

Account Number - IBAN: IT64 Z 06120 21005 CC4050000188 - BIC SWIFT: CECRIT2C

You can obtain a tailored invoice (e.g. technical tour!)

We are looking forward to having you on this tour in Tuscany!

FOR INFO: Marco Fantozzi +39 339 5923610 [marco.fantozzi@email.it](mailto:marco.fantozzi@email.it)

Michela Giangrosso +39 3357277330 [secretary@waterideas2014.com](mailto:secretary@waterideas2014.com)

**Links:**

<http://www.antinorichianticlassico.it/>

<http://www.sangimignano.com/>

<http://www.cretesenesi.com/>

<http://www.bagnovignoni.com/>

<http://www.dericci.it/>

<http://www.comune.certaldo.fi.it/>

<http://www.castelloleonina.com/>

<http://www.antimo.it/>

<http://www.monticchiello.org/>

<http://www.terresiena.it/>

<http://www.monteriggionycastle.com/>