

## 2011 – Southern Tuscany Lakes and Castles on the 'Brigands path' silver

### DATES 2011:

From 05<sup>th</sup> of March – 26<sup>th</sup> of November (weeks go from Saturday to Saturday)

Price / rider / week	€ 1.160
Rider / week / half board	€ 980
Price non-rider / week / half board	€ 600
Single room supplement (double bedroom single use)	€ 100
Daily cleaning	€ 70

### Conditions:

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7 nights (from Saturday to Saturday)
- Accommodation in double room in the restored farmhouse (twin share, bathroom en suite)
- Breakfast included
- Daily cleaning not included
- Half board or full board, table wine included (picnic lunch when necessary; lunches will be served either in local restaurants or at the castle; dinner served at nearby local restaurants)
- Welcome drink and guided tour of the castle
- Extra bed: € 30 / person / day
- All children pay the same price as adults



#### RIDING

- 5 riding days: 1 full (4/5 hours), 4 half days (2/3 hours) & 1 day off
- Italian/English/German/Spanish speaking guide
- Level: from beginners (lessons in the arena) to experts
- 2 Outdoor riding schools: 1) 25x60 m, 2) 33x60 m, with jumps
- Tack: English
- Horses: mixture of through bred and warm blood crosses, ponies for the children
- Pace: moderate with trots and canters
- Helmet required
- Min/Max riders: 1-5
- Max weight of the riders: 100 Kg



#### INSURANCE

Insurance not included. Available on the sport for € 60 / person.

#### FACILITIES ON THE SPOT

- Swimming pool (from June the 1<sup>st</sup> – September the 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Tennis court (€ 10 / hour)
- Mountain bikes (€ 20 / person / day)
- Mini football pitch
- Volleyball
- Ping pong
- Billiard
- Guided tour of the Bolsena Lake (prices and more information at the Castle Reception)



## OTHER FACILITIES

- Meeting point: Grotte di Castro
- Closest Airports: Rome Fiumicino or Rome Ciampino
- Closest railway station: Orvieto
- Transfers from and to Rome Airports / Orvieto train station available as a supplement:
  - Roma Ciampino € 180
  - Roma Fiumicino € 180
  - Orvieto train station € 60

**Note: good train connections from Rome to Orvieto; time: about 1hour**  
**Still it is advisable to rent a car at the airport.**

## Riding week plan

\*This itinerary is an example and the location is subject to change

### Saturday



Check-in in the afternoon, welcome drink at the Castle, briefing with the guide/instructor about the riding and the accommodation details, choice of the horses for the next days, dinner.

### Sunday

#### Morning

#### THE THREE WATERS ALONG THE BRIGANDS PATH (18 km)

##### DESCRIPTION:

On this mini trekking we will easily reach the hills framing at west the plateau on which the castle is situated. A fantastic spot for a breathtaking bird's eye view, all the way from the beautiful crater of the Bolsena Lake on one side to the surrounding hills of the little Mezzano Lake on the other side. Provided a sufficiently clear day the sea can be seen at 40km in the distance like a glowing mirror.

Starting from the castle, after 1km we will reach a large track winding through the beautiful hills and small woods on a steady and soft ground perfect to let the horses canter, if wanted. At the end of the track we will enter a big wood named Selva di Onano.



### Monday

#### PANORAMIC VIEW / HALF DAY (20 km)



##### DESCRIPTION:

Once left the castle following an old track we reach the hills framing our plateau to the west. Through the chestnut woods we arrive at the top where we have a breathtaking view of the area, from the beautiful crater of the Bolsena Lake on the southern side to the hills surrounding the little Mezzano Lake on the northern side. On a clear breezy day the sea can be seen some 40km away to the west like a glowing mirror reflecting the sun. Then ride up through valleys and hills and onto a plateau to take in the spectacular scenery, including the

towering Amiata Mount, the Radicofani fortress and the distant castle of Torre Alfina. From the hill again we follow a large track winding through the fields taking us back to the castle.

**Tuesday**

**Morning  
AROUND ONANO (20 km)**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Once on the Brigands track we go north through the hills, after crossing the provincial road.

Having a beautiful scenery of mountains and hills in front of us, a nice track will take us around Onano.

Onano is a fortified village with a medieval castle in the middle, providing an interesting site for the riders. Centuries ago, it was an important stronghold of the Monaldeschi family who ruled this area for a long time during the middle ages.

Narrow crossings will alternate beautiful open fields with a view. Once at the little medieval church Madonna delle grazie we will follow the track north through enchanting countryside back to the castle.



**Wednesday:**

**LAKE BOLSENA / FULL DAY (30 km)**

**DESCRIPTION:**

From the Castle of Santa Cristina we will follow an old trail down through the crater of the Bolsena Lake, the biggest volcanic lake in Europe. Breathtaking views of the lake will accompany our excursion all the way. Here and there scattered around the countryside archaeological sites with Etruscan tombs to remind our riders how old this beautiful land is.

Once at the bottom, the picnic lunch will be served on the beach of the Lake. A swim in the Bolsena Lake (summer) can be part of the day before hopping back on your horse. On the way back the magnificent Farnese renaissance palace in Gradoli will catch our attention while crossing the village. Once at the top of the crater of the lake an old track through the woods will take us back to the castle.



**Thursday:**

**Day off for local excursions.**

The surroundings of the castle are full of interesting archaeological and historical sites.

Just a few suggestions:

- the village fortresses of Pitigliano, Sorano, Sovano
- visiting the marvellous Italian gothic church of Orvieto
- the famous town of Civita di Bagnoregio, also called the 'Dying Town'



**Friday:**

**AROUND GRADOLI / HALF DAY (20 km)**



**DESCRIPTION:**

Following an old Etruscan trail, we ride up through the thick woods to the top of the crater surrounding the Bolsena Lake. Here, we enjoy an exquisite scenery including vineyards, Etruscan tombs, the prominent volcanic lake and the panorama dominated by the famous Farnese Palace in Gradoli.

A gift made by the Pope in 1500 on his nephew's wedding : what a present! We return to the castle riding through the vineyards, vegetable gardens and enchanting woods. Enjoy a canter across a tunnel made by oak trees above an old shepherd's path.

**Saturday**

Breakfast, check-out by 11.00am.

**ATTENTION:**

**All excursions are subject to change according to the weather, horses and riders conditions.**