

2010 – Medieval Castle Tour

DATE 2010:

01/05 - 08/05
 22/05 - 29/05
 29/05 - 05/06
 19/06 - 26/06
 03/07 - 10/07
 28/08 - 04/09
 11/09 - 19/09
 18/09 - 25/09
 09/10 - 16/10
 16/10 - 23/10



Weeks go from Saturday to Saturday

Price per rider per week:	2125
Single room supplement (Double bedroom used as single)	225

* prices in Euro per person per week

Conditions:

ACCOMMODATIONS

- We overnight in two different medieval castles, and a fortress: Castle Santa Cristina, the Fortress of Sorano and Castle Proceno.
- Accommodation in **Double or single room**
- **Full board** included tablewine (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.



RIDING

- **6 riding days:** 6 Full Riding days (4/5 hrs per day)
- **Italian/English speaking** guide.
- **Level:** expert – strong intermediate. Comfortable in walk, trot and canter
- **Tack:** western - english
- **Horses:** mixture of haflinger, appaloosa and maremmano
- **Pace:** moderate with trots and canters
- **Helmet required**
- **Min/Max riders:** 4-10
- **Max weight of the riders:** 100 Kg



FACILITIES ON THE SPOT:

- Swimming pool (01st June - 30th September),
- Tennis court (10€ per hour)
- Ping pong
- Billiard.



OTHER FACILITIES

- Meeting point: Orvieto
- Closest Airport:s: Rome Fiumicino or Rome Ciampino
- Closest railway station: Orvieto

Transfer from Rome Aiports / Orvieto train station available as a supplement (one way)

- From Roma Ciampino 120€
- From Roma Fiumicino 120€
- Orvieto train station 0€

Note: good train connections from Rome to Orvieto, time aprox 1hr. Still it is advisable to rent a car at the airport

Riding week plan:

Saturday



Arrival in Rome Fiumicino airport or Orvieto and transfer to Grotte di Castro and to S.Cristina Castle, where you will be accommodated for the next three nights. You meet with your guide, take a first glance at the horses and enjoy a great dinner before your overnight.

Sunday

LAKE BOLSENA



DESCRIPTION: Day ride to Lake Bolsena. From the castle we ride through the neighboring farmland, through chestnut woods and using an ancient track which will carry us right above the crater of Lake Bolsena, the largest volcanic lake in Europe. The descent of the crater will start from the village of Gradoli dominated by an

impressive renaissance palace ,that it was meant to be the wedding gift of Pope Paulus III Farnese to his nephew around the middle of 1500.

While riding, we will witness some breath-taking views of the lake and surrounding area and of the two islands Isola Bisentina and Martana.

The shore of the lake will be reached after crossing the fields just before the water , we will then border the lake ending on the beach where horses will be set into a canter before crossing a ford where a small river joins the lake .After that we finally reach our mid day stop .

Lunch is served on the terrace of a typical trattoria right on the beach ,where Antonietta the cook will serve delicious local food . In the right season if you wish to cool off in the water, a swim in the lake can be done before starting riding back up.

As we head up back to the castle , you will note many Etruscan tombs scattered throughout the countryside some reused by farmers as cellars for their wine but still serving as a reminder of the ancient history which abounds in this area

You will be Passing through the archeological area of Pianezze literally full of Etruscan tombs dating back 2600 years.

Once at the top of the crater, we turn right through some vineyards where again a breathtaking view of lake Bolsena will provide a wonderful opportunity to rest the horses and take some photographs .

After crossing the vineyards we reach the shepherds' trail in the woods that will lead you back to the Santa Cristina Castle estate

Monday

LAKE MEZZANO

DESCRIPTION : Day ride to Lake Mezzano. The Lake Mezzano area is of great interest both historically and naturally. The lake was once a volcanic crater and historical site with human settlements going back to the pre-etruscan era (aprox 2700 years ago) later it was submerged by water due to earthquakes. It is now part of the Selva del Lamone regional park due to it's beauty and to the fact that many birds find a shelter there .

Our excursion takes horses and riders through the beautiful countryside , up into the wooded hills which surround Onano. Here, the horses have the opportunity to canter along a wonderful natural passage surrounded by trees. At the top of this plateau, we have a chance to take in the dazzling scenery, before we carry on down past local farms into a very old wood made by huge chestnut trees that leads us into a flat open plain which offers a great scenery. Here, if desired, horses can canter up the old tracks, before we reach the marshlands and vineyards which surround the lake Mezzano itself.

In a fantastic position on top of a hill overlooking the lake is the small farm where the restaurant is based. Here we stop for a nice lunch with a fantastic view while our horses rest in a paddock .



During the warmer months you can also swim in the lake with its crystal clear waters. In the afternoon, we ride back following the old Brigands trail, taking in a few historical sights on the way.

Tuesday

SORANO

DESCRIPTION: Ride from S Cristina to Sorano. This day will offer you a fantastic mix of good riding and a plunge in history. After leaving the castle hilly woodland, the ground opens up into a more scenic view with the Tuscan mountains in the background. The tracks are more levelled and the ground allows an easy trot with some canter. Our lunch break will be organized in a fantastic historical spot next to the ruins of a medieval castle named Vitozza, a picnic perfectly prepared will be laid out with tables and chairs on a lawn on top of the hill where the ruins are. Vitozza is a magical place, a medieval strong hold built with two castles around the 11th century A.D. by the Aldobrandeschi powerful family. Later in the centuries it was a refuge to many people escaping from the destruction of the continuous warfare going on between clans in the area.



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After lunch a gentle track will lead you towards the area of Sorano. Horses will sleep in a farm few km from the hotel.

A unique hotel just inside the medieval Orsini fortress of Sorano will provide your accommodation for the next two days. The position is incredible: the place is on the side of a big gorge created by river Lente overlooking the ancient village of Sorano. Dinner will be served in a restaurant next to the fortress.

Wednesday:

AROUND SORANO

DESCRIPTION : Full-day ride in the unique area of Sorano with its age-old, narrow roads cut into the tuff rock and brought to perfection by the Etruscans and with the innumerable gravesites all over the hills. You will cross through the village of Pitigliano bordering the ancient walls. You will



have lunch near Pitigliano .Again a nice picnic will be laid out in a beautiful spot on a hill .
Back in Sorano for dinner in the same restaurant in the village.

Thursday:

PROCENO

DESCRIPTION : From Sorano we depart in the morning to the Castle of Proceno. We ride through rocky hills into the valley of the river Lente - with marvelous view on the mountains of Amiata and Cetona. Pic nic lunch in the vicinity of Castellottieri .The way then goes uphill in the afternoon sun, with a stunning view over soft cornfields and sheep pastures.Finally you will reach the castle of Proceno , your next accommodation.

Proceno is a stunning XI cent. Castle at the center of the omonimus village .Your accommodation is in one of the many apartments inside the castle itself.It used to be the last stronghold of the pope before Tuscan enemy territory strategically positioned above the via cassia , the old roman road.



Friday:

CASTLE TO CASTLE

DESCRIPTION : A descent into the river Stridolone valley and up on the other side through hilly woodland takes us to an 18th century ex-convent. In the distance we can see the Fortress of Proceno. After a lunch stop our ride takes us through the most unspoiled Tuscan countryside. Crossing the Montorio game reserve, if we are lucky pheasants, fallow-deer, and boars will be spotted while riding by. We will reach the outskirts of the village of Onano and the XVI



century, little country church of Madonna delle Grazie from where we will have a beautiful view of the medieval village walls. Now the country road turns north into enchanting countryside on the border between Lazio and Southern Tuscany. Soon we reach Castello Cristina for our farewell dinner and last night sleep.

Saturday

Morning, Check out

ATTENTION: The excursions can be changed according to weather, horses and riders conditions by the riding management of the castle.