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2009 - Southern Tuscany Lakes and Castles on the 'Brigands path'

DATE 2009:

From 04.Apr to 27.June and from 29.Aug to 28.Nov

Weeks go from Saturday to Saturday

Price per rider per week:	1150
Early booking (rider) till 10.01.2008	1000
Price non-rider with half board	700
Single room supplement (Double bedroom used as single)	120

* prices in Euro per person per week

Conditions:**ACCOMMODATIONS**

- 7 nights (from Saturday to Saturday)
- Accommodation in **Double Room** in the restored Farmhouse (twin share, bathroom ensuite)
- Breakfast included.
- **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.
- **Extrabed:** 30E per person per day
- **Prices for children:** the same

**RIDING**

- **5 riding days:** 3 Full Riding days (4/5 hr. per day), 2 Half Days (2 hr. per day)
- **Italian/English speaking** guide.
- **Level:** from beginners (lessons in the arena) to intermediate
- **2 Outdoor riding schools:** 1) 25x60, 2) 33x60 with jumps
- **Tack:** English
- **Horses:** mixture of throughbred and wormblood crosses, ponies for the children
- **Pace:** moderate with trots and canters
- **Min/Max riders:** 1-5
- **Max weight of the riders:** 100 Kg
- Weekly insurance included.



FACILITIES ON THE SPOT:

- Swimming pool (01st June - 30th September),
- Tennis court (15E per hour)
- Mountain bikes (20E per person per day)
- Mini football Pitch
- Volleyball
- Ping pong
- Billiard.
- Guided tour of Bolsena Lake (prices and more information at the Castle Reception)



OTHER FACILITIES

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

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



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

Sunday

Morning

1) THE THREE WATERS ALONG THE BRIGANDS PATH: (18 km)

DESCRIPTION: With this minitrekking we will easily reach the hills framing at west the plateau on which the castle is situated. A fantastic spot for a breathtaking view of the area, going from the beautiful crater of Lake Bolsena on one side to the hills surrounding the little lake Mezzano on the other side. Provided a sufficiently clear day the sea can be seen at 40 km in the distance like a glowing mirror.

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



Monday

LAKE MEZZANO FULL DAY (30km)

DESCRIPTION: Lake Mezzano is an area of great interest both historically and naturally. The lake was once a volcanic crater and historical site with human settlements going back to the preetruscan era (aprox 2700 years ago), now submerged by water due to earthquakes. From Castle S.Cristina through the hills thick with chestnut woods, we will descend upon a plain where the lake lies.



There, if wanted, horses can be pushed into a canter following the old track crossing the plain before the lake along the fields and vineyards Bordering Selva del Lamone Naturale Reserve we will stop for lunch above the lake in a magical atmosphere..A small rural restaurant overlooking lake Mezzano will provide us with a beautiful view and a juicy lunch under the shade of the trees overlooking the lake. From June to September who wants can have a refreshing swim in the lake when the season allows it.

In the afternoon the group will take the horses back through the wooded hills.

START: 9.30 A.M. from S.Cristina Castle

Tuesday

Morning 6) AROUND ONANO. (20 km)

DESCRIPTION: Once on the Brigands track we go north through the hills, after crossing the provincial road 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 its 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 (30 km)

DESCRIPTION: From Castle S.Cristina we will follow an old trail down through the crater of lake Bolsena, the biggest volcanic lake in Europe. Breath taking 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 is this beautiful land.



Once at the bottom lunch will be served on the beach of the Lake in a nice typical restaurant . A swim in the lake Bolsena(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 escursions.

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



pitigliano

Just a few suggestions

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



orvieto



civita

Friday:

FROM CASTLE TO CASTLE (40 km)

DESCRIPTION: An incredible experience. In this excursion you will have the opportunity to travel with your horse from Castle S.Cristina to another fortress: Castle Proceno.

We will reach the outskirts of the village of Onano and XVI cent. 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.

Crossing Montorio game reserve, if we are lucky pheasants, fallow- deer, and boars can be spotted while horseriding.

A fabulous excursion that will take us through the most unspoiled Tuscan countryside, wading a ford in the Stridolone river before making the hilltop overlooking the fortress of Proceno. After Lunch we will cross the river again on a easy wade and climb the side of a plateau through thick vegetation taking advantage of an old track once used by farmers.

From there at a trot bordering vineyards and fields we will reach first an ex XVIII cent.. convent and then head to S.Cristina castle from the north east.



START: 9.00 A.M. from Castle S.Cristina

Saturday

Morning, Check out

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