

**D****2009 – Mid week Italian break**

**DATE 2008: From 12.Apr to 12.Jul and from 23.Aug to 01.Nov**

<b>Price per rider:</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Price non-rider with full board</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Single room supplement</b> (Double bedroom used as single)	<b>100</b>

**\* prices in Euro per person per period**

If you are looking for a short break to a rural hideaway set deep in the Italian countryside between Tuscany and Umbria and you like the idea of staying in a castle then please read on.....

Abandoned Etruscan settlements, lakes formed in volcanic craters and medieval edifices adorn the landscape of this enchanting Italian landscape. Located one and a half hours from Rome the splendid 17<sup>th</sup> century castle (complete with fairy tale turret) will be 'home' throughout your stay. The castle has two swimming pools, a tennis court and ample gardens and for those wishing to ride, a well run stables with professional instruction and miles upon miles of breath-taking trail riding awaits you.



### **Horses and Castles**

Running from February to November with a break in July and August in the summer when the heat reduces to a minimum the hours available for a nice ride .



### **Sunday**

Afternoon arrival (transfers from Rome airport available as a supplement but it is advisable to rent a car if you want to visit the area. ). After checking in you will be served with a welcome drink and then receive a briefing from your guide\instructor who will be looking after you throughout your stay. Later today you will be able to choose from a short hack or a lesson in order to introduce you to your horse.

## Monday



Today the program starts with a full day trek .You will be riding to Lake Mezzano, this is an area of great interest both historically and naturally. The lake was formed in a volcanic crater and is now a historical site with traces of human settlements dating back to the pre-etruscan era. We will be riding through the chestnut woods on the hillsides that surround the lake before descending onto the beaches that surround the lake. We will stop for lunch at a small rural restaurant overlooking the lake where the horses can enjoy a rest in their shady corral whilst we eat, relax and maybe enjoy a refreshing

swim if the weather allows it.

## Tuesday

This morning we will be heading off along The Brigands Trail as we ride north towards the fortified village of Onano. Centuries ago this fortified village was an important stronghold of the Monaldeschi family who ruled this area throughout the middle ages.

We will return to the castle in time for a nice Italian lunch.

This afternoon you can either relax at the castle or explore the area by yourself ,in the area there are plenty of historical sites dressed with beautiful views .



## Wednesday:



Today we will follow an old trail down towards the crater of Lake Bolsena, the biggest volcanic lake in Europe. Breath taking views of the lake will accompany our excursion all the way. Scattered throughout the countryside, archaeological sites with Etruscan tombs will serve to remind us of how ancient this beautiful land really is. Today lunch will be served on the beach in a typical local restaurant and again there will be the opportunity to swim in the lake.

## Thursday:

Sadly today it is time to bid farewell to your castle home. If time allows we can offer you another ride out this morning, or if you would prefer, a lesson in the arena.

### Included in the Price:

**4 nights accommodation** in twin rooms with ensuite facilities

**Full board** including table wine (picnic lunch on some rides)  
Welcome drink and guided tour of the castle.

**5 riding days**, 2 full riding days (4/5 hrs. per day), 2 half days (2 hrs. per day), introductory ride.

**Multi-lingual guide.**

**Lessons** available in the arena from beginners to intermediate



**The horses** are a mixture of thoroughbred and warm blood crosses all chosen for their excellent temperaments, their patience and their delight for travelling through this enchanting countryside!

**The tack** is English tack.

There are **two outdoor arenas** and lessons are available for all ages and levels in both dressage and jumping.

**The maximum weight** allowed is 100kg and

**The numbers** of riders on each excursion is between 1 and 5.

Facilities at the castle include:

- 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



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