

Tuscany on the road



Atlas of Tuscany en plein air

Tuscany for travellers
in camper vans and caravan

An aerial photograph of a dark-colored camper van driving on a winding asphalt road through a scenic Tuscan landscape. The road is bordered by a wooden guardrail. To the left of the road is a vineyard with golden-yellow autumn foliage. To the right are green bushes and olive trees. In the background, there are rolling hills covered in dense green and yellow trees, with distant mountains visible under a clear sky.

visittuscany.com



Atlas of Tourism En Plein Air in Tuscany

Exploring Tuscany on the road: freedom and adventure in camper vans and caravans

Tuscany, with its breathtaking landscapes, historic towns and enchanting villages, is the perfect destination for a camper van or caravan adventure. The 'Guide of Tourism En Plein Air in Tuscany' is your ideal travelling companion, ready to help you discover the region, giving you the freedom to explore it independently and create precious memories. Your journey on the road starts here: choose from the many routes designed to fulfil every adventurer's desire. Whether you are passionate about culture, food&wine or unspoilt countryside, you will find the route that suits you. The guide will provide you with all the information you need to organise your trip, including practical tips on where to stop and park. Succumb to the charm of Tuscan culture, local traditions, authentic flavours and the warm welcome of its communities. The 'Guide of Tourism En Plein Air in Tuscany' is more than just a guidebook: it is an invitation to experience an extraordinary and unforgettable journey. Embark on a unique experience; explore Tuscany in total freedom and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Images, travel ideas and maps in collaboration with **PleinAir**

Share your adventures

#camperToscana #caravanToscana

#myTuscany



Regione Toscana



TOSCANA
PROMOZIONE TURISTICA



TUSCANY

NEVER-ENDING RENAISSANCE

“Travelling in freedom,
without sacrificing the comfort
of a fully-equipped vehicle.”

Discover the Atlas of Tuscany En Plein Air
www.visittuscany.com/en/interests/in-camper-and-caravan/

Travelling by camper van and caravan in Tuscany



Travelling at your own pace, with the freedom to get off the beaten track for a true adventure. Exploring Tuscany by camper van means enjoying the clean air of the parks, the mountains, the sea, entering into harmony with the rhythms and dimensions of nature, without sacrificing the comforts of a fully-equipped vehicle. Tuscany is the ideal destination for those who choose to travel by camper van or caravan thanks to extensive experience of tourist accommodation, camper areas with facilities, agricamping (rural campsites) and agrisoste (rural camper van parks). Travelling tourism in Tuscany means the discovery of 3 national parks, 3 regional parks, 2 provincial parks, 36 state nature reserves, 37 regional nature reserves and 52 protected natural areas of local interest, 10 walking trails, almost 20,000 kilometres of cycling routes. Tuscany is the region with the most wooded areas in Italy, the only region in which all the national and regional parks have been awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and was the first region to adopt a landscape plan, with seven nature parks recognised as world heritage sites. In addition, Tuscany works hard to promote local produce among travelling visitors: thanks to rural hospitality, open-air travellers can stay overnight on farms and enjoy sampling locally-sourced and top quality food.

 **20.000**

KM CYCLING ROUTES

 **215**

CAMPER
VAN PARKS

 **37**

REGIONAL NATURE
RESERVES

 **8**

NATIONAL, REGIONAL -
PROVINCIAL PARKS

 **36**

FREE SHORT-STAY
RURAL SITES

 **171**

CAMPER AREAS WITH
FACILITIES, CAMPER
SERVICE POINTS

www.visittuscany.com/en/accommodations/index.html



Camper van and caravan tourism manifesto

This manifesto is the result of a process of co-design and engagement of operators offering accommodation and facilities for camper and caravan tourism, promoted by Toscana Promozione Turistica.

The objective is to identify the cornerstones of the tourist offering aimed at travelling tourists who choose Tuscany as a destination for their holidays en plein air. The project seeks to tell the story of a region that has taken up the challenge of improving the experience for those who travel by camper van or caravan, through choices involving tour operators, local farmers and many municipal authorities in the region. This focus also stems from the fact that Tuscany is home to 'Camper Valley' where most of the recreational vehicles in Italy, and a significant share of those used elsewhere in Europe, are manufactured. An authentic welcome in full harmony with a great past and with new tourism trends, as represented by the promotion campaign 'Tuscany – Never-Ending Renaissance'.

manifesto values

• AUTHENTICITY, FREEDOM TO TRAVEL, INCLUSIVENESS

Thanks to its wide range of authentic experiences and dedicated services, Tuscany is the ideal destination for camper van and caravan users as a choice of freedom to travel and freedom in life. Tuscany offers these tourists quality accommodation, such as campsites, parks with facilities (municipal or private) and agricamping/agrisoste (rural campsites and parks) at agriturismo locations (rural tourist accommodation/restaurants), where they can enjoy dedicated hospitality, products and services, thanks to clear criteria guaranteed by regional regulations. Tuscany focuses on inclusive 'for all' tourism that is attentive to people with special needs.

• SLOW TOURISM AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

For Tuscany, tourism 'en plein air' means a wealth of things to see and do outdoors in nature: 3 national parks, 3 regional parks, 2 provincial parks, 36 state nature reserves, 37 regional nature reserves and 52 protected natural areas of local interest, 10 hiking trails, 20.000 kilometres of cycling routes. Tuscany is ready to offer its visitors in camper vans or caravans boundless landscapes for unforgettable active,

sporting and adventure tourism experiences.

• GETTING TO KNOW THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In addition to its great international destinations, Tuscany also offers a dedicated reception system spread throughout the region (with more than 200 campsites and the same number of agri-campsites, more than thirty rural camper parks and about a hundred public parking areas) that allows visitors to discover alternative routes and hidden treasures, getting a real feel of the local spirit and sharing in Tuscan culture and craft traditions.

• AUTHENTIC AND TRADITIONAL FOOD&WINE

Tuscany has organised itself to enable tourists travelling in camper vans and caravans to discover its world-famous local produce: it is the only Italian region to have regulated rural hospitality for campers through the three solutions: agricampeggio (rural campsites), agrisosta (rural camper parks) and 24-hour short-stay parks. Thanks to rural hospitality, plein-air tourists can not only be able to stay overnight on farms, but can also enjoy trying predominantly locally-sourced, seasonal food of high quality. These traditional flavours will accompany

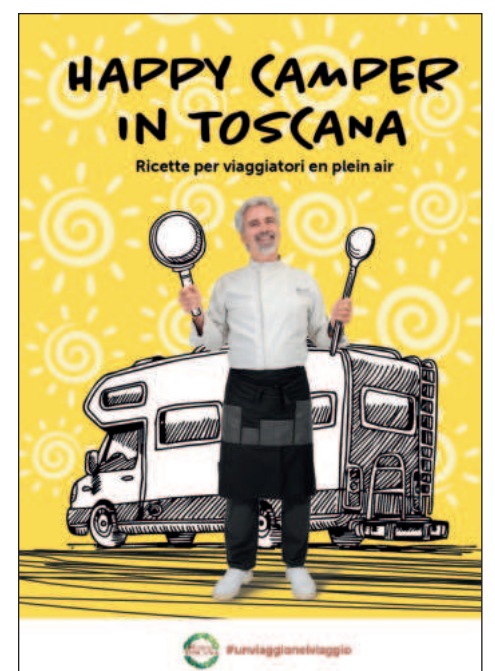
their tour throughout the region thanks to the Vetrina Toscana project, with over 2,000 member businesses, which promotes regional food and wine experiences. A free downloadable 'Happy Camper in Toscana' cookbook has been produced, which shares the best local foods and recipes with visitors to the region.

• SUSTAINABILITY

Tuscany has long been committed to caring for the environment: it is the region with the most wooded areas in Italy, the only region in which all the national and regional parks have been awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and was the first region to adopt a landscape plan, with seven nature parks recognised as world heritage sites. One of the objectives of this manifesto is to promote a way of travelling that leaves a mark but not a footprint.

• SAFETY

Tuscany is committed to offering a travel experience based on reliability, transparency, attentive hospitality and health services that are among the best in the country. By adhering to the charter of values, it guarantees the cleanliness and maintenance of the parking areas to ensure well-being and safety during your stay.



“Happy Camper in Toscana”: an on-the-road recipe book. Download the free recipe book produced by **‘Toscana Promozione Turistica**



The discovery begins

Places not to be missed, routes and tips for your trip



Choose your itinerary

The landscape of Tuscany is as varied as the different routes it has to offer. Here are 7 ideas for Exploring Tuscany by Camper Van and Caravan.



In a camper van between the Terre di Pisa and Valdinievole

Ideas for a holiday en plein air of culture, nature and wellness
An idea for those who don't want to miss out on anything when they go on holiday. From tours of extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage sites to family attractions, with walks through vineyards and olive groves, country bike rides and relaxing spa experiences. With the opportunity to sample fine quality local food and wine.

Pisa
Pisa is a city on a human scale, perfect for cycling. Piazza dei Miracoli, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a must-see, but the city also boasts a historical centre with beautiful squares and fine buildings. Don't miss the Piazza dei Cavalieri and the Palazzo della Carovana, home of the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. We also recommend walking along the city walls. Parking is available in Via di Pratele, entering from the Largo Monasterio roundabout.

Monte Pisano and the Charterhouse of Pisa
Monte Pisano and the Charterhouse of Pisa, in Calci Monte Pisano has hiking and mountain bike trails that reach 800 metres above sea level. The cultural hub of the area is the Charterhouse of Pisa, in Calci, founded in 1366 and home to the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa, with its spectacular hall of large cetaceans. The best base location is Vicopisano, which has an area with facilities (Piazza Comunardo Ferrucci). At the Charterhouse of Pisa, you can park in the visitor car park (be careful, the road is narrow and somewhat difficult to manoeuvre).



South coast in a camper van: an ode to a slower pace

Ideas for an unforgettable holiday en plein air between the Etruscan Coast and the Maremma
Swimming in the clear blue sea and treasures of art and history, discovering mining archaeology and stunning landscapes from the villages on high. The beauty and freedom of travelling in a camper van, easily exploring coastal locations thanks to the abundance of parking with facilities, rural campsites and car parks.

Baratti and Populonia Archaeological Park
In addition to its scenic beauty, the archaeological heritage of this area is of unquestionable value. You can visit the Necropolis of San Cerbone and then walk up to the Acropolis, which overlooks the Gulf of Baratti and the Tuscan Archipelago. Please note: from Easter to September, camper vans are not allowed to drive on the road into the park; they can stop in the car park at the entrance. For the rest of the year, parking is available inside the park.

Venturina Terme and Campiglia Marittima
The thermal baths of Venturina are perfect for a bit of relaxation, and have a large area with facilities for camper vans. Inland, you can go right back to the Middle Ages at Campiglia Marittima, a beautiful village overlooking the Val di Cornia. There is also a car park open to camper vans on the outskirts of the village. Discover the nearby Parco Archeominerario di San Silvestro (archeological and mining geopark) . Along the route to the site, there is a large marked car park on the right (Via di San Vincenzo - SP20) that also allows camper vans to park near the entrance and the bar/restaurant.



Villages, art and nature... en plein air

Ideas for a camper van or caravan trip to Cortona, Arezzo and the Casentino area
You will discover evidence of Etruscan civilisation and the masterpieces of artists such as Pietro Lorenzetti and Piero della Francesca; the ancient manor houses and the Casentino Forest National Park, taking advantage of the municipal parking areas with facilities or the comfortable rural campsites in the area.

Cortona
This beautiful village is centred around Piazza della Repubblica and Piazza Signorelli. The former is dominated by the 12th-century Palazzo Comunale with its imposing staircase and bell tower; there is also the Palazzo Passerini, known as the Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo. From here, it is a short walk to Piazza Signorelli, with the theatre and Palazzo Casale, home to the Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca. On the plain rise the Etruscan tumuli, or 'melons', including the Tumulus II del Sodo with its spectacular staircase-terrace. Parking areas: you can leave your vehicle in the Santo Spirito car park for the duration of the visit or use the public transport stop near the parking area at the entrance to the Sodo Archaeological Park.

Castiglion Fiorentino
Once through the Porta Fiorentina, you walk up to the Piazza del Municipio where you can admire the Logge Vasariane. The walk includes the ancient fortress, the church and cloister of San Francesco and the Palazzo Pretorio; you can linger in the pinacoteca housed in the church of Sant'Angelo, or enjoy lunch in a restaurant looking out from the walls. Parking areas:

Sterpaia Park
A swim in the crystal-clear waters on the amazing 'Blue Flag' beach in Sterpaia Coastal Park is an irresistible temptation. The landscape is surprisingly varied, with dunes, forests and clearings leading down to the sea. There are services, stands selling food and drinks, picnic areas and bathing establishments with disabled access. In addition, you can leave your camper van in nearby parking areas or in camping facilities not far away.

Massa Marittima
The area, part of the Parco delle Colline Metallifere Grossetane (Mining Geopark), is one of the most important mining districts in Europe, exploited since ancient times. The municipalities included in the park include the village of Massa Marittima, one of the most significant artistic centres in the Maremma. The tour has to start from the central square, overlooked by the Palazzo Vescovile, the Palazzo Comunale with the Bargello Tower and the Palazzo Pretorio, which is home to the Archaeological Museum and tourist office. After a stop at the headquarters of the Strada del Vino Monteregio di Massa Marittima (Monteregio di Massa Marittima Wine Tour), the walk through the historical centre can continue by visiting the other treasures found in this extraordinary village. There is an area for camper vans (Piazzale Monacelle, Viale Risorgimento) a few minutes from the historical centre.

Scarlino and Cala Violina
You can explore the Bandite di Scarlino, a protected area rich in Mediterranean scrub. The reserve has a dense network of paths and leads to the stunning bay of Cala Violina. Access to the beach is restricted in summer and reservations must be made in advance via the website. Visitors can use the unpaved car park inside the Bandite di Scarlino Nature Reserve, or opt for one of the tourist facilities in the area.

Castiglione della Pescaia and the Diaccia Botrona Nature Reserve
The beautiful district of Castiglione della Pescaia has been awarded the Blue Flag for care for the environment. From the old village, follow the course of the Bruna river inland to the Diaccia Botrona Nature Reserve, a wetland area equipped for bird watching. You can park in the area outside the village (Via Orsa Maggiore, Paduline district) and from there go by bike to see the historical centre and the nature reserve.

In Castiglion Fiorentino, the car park in Piazza Garibaldi can only be used for the duration of the visit.

Arezzo
Arezzo is a city rich in art and history. Don't miss Piazza Grande, the frescoes by Pietro della Francesca in the church of San Francesco, the Duomo, the Medici Fortress and the crucifix by Cimabue in the basilica of San Domenico. A municipal parking area with facilities is located in Via Giovanni da Palestrina. A series of escalators reach the historical centre in a matter of minutes.

Bibbiena
Going up the river Arno, we can circle the villages of Casentino and walk through forests in a landscape of intense spirituality to the hermitages of Camaldoli and La Verna. In the village of Bibbiena, the main points of interest are the Piazza del Comune, the Tarlati Tower, the church dedicated to San Lorenzo, the 'Piero Albertoni' Archaeological Museum of Casentino and the Italian Centre of Art Photography. A short distance from the village is the sanctuary of Santa Maria del Sasso. Parking area with facilities: via Palazzetto, at the Bibbiena Carburanti service station, behind the Il Casentino shopping centre. The SR142 is the most convenient road to reach the Hermitage of Camaldoli, which is also the departure point for hiking routes. Reachable by camper van from Bibbiena along the SP208 (ample paid parking spaces nearby), the Sanctuary of La Verna is where the Poverello of Assisi received the stigmata.

Poppi
The Conti Guidi castle is one of the symbols of Poppi: Dante Alighieri found refuge here during his exile. Passing through the Lion's Gate to the castle, the inner courtyard features a scenic staircase leading to the large frescoed Salone delle Feste and the Rilliana Library that houses precious artefacts. The top of the bell tower offers extraordinary views over the valley. The La Crocina parking area with facilities is a short walk from the centre of Poppi.

Pratovecchio e Stia
These two small villages are located in an ideal setting for nature lovers. In Stia, don't miss the steep Piazza Tanucci. In Pratovecchio, there is the impressive and majestic Castle of Bomena. There are two parking areas between Stia and Pratovecchio. The first is in Via Londra, near the Canto alla Rana Park, where in summer you can take a dip in the river Arno. The second is in Piazza del Mulino in Pratovecchio, along the Arno cycle path, currently still under construction.



In a camper van in the hills of Chianti Classico

Ideas for a camper van or caravan trip to the places that produce one of the world's most famous wines

Stroll among the vineyards, taste great wines, visit some of Italy's most prestigious wineries, at a slow pace, with no time constraints, with the freedom that only a camper van can offer.

Gaiole in Chianti
Strolling through the small centre, from the neo-Gothic church of San Sigismondo, you reach Piazza Ricasoli, then the gateway to the village and the nearby Gallo Nero (Black Cockerel), a wrought-iron work more than three metres high by artist Fabio Zaccari. The Gallo Nero is the symbol of Chianti Classico DOCG, one of Tuscany's wines of excellence, whose production area straddles Florence and Siena. A wine tasting in one of the village's wine shops or cellars is therefore an absolute must for lovers of good wine. There is a parking area in Via Michelangelo Buonarroti, in the car park by the sports field. A new video-monitored parking area with lighting was recently opened with access from Via Alcide De Gasperi

Greve in Chianti
The village of Greve in Chianti offers many opportunities. A stroll around Piazza Matteotti, a coffee under the arcade, a tasting of cured meats at the historic Antica Macelleria Falorni. The parking area for camper vans is in Via Montebeni, adjacent to the municipal swimming pool. Then we recommend walking up to Castello di Verrazzano, an estate of two hundred and thirty hectares that has kept its boundaries intact for almost a thousand years. The



Fumaroles, Etruscan antiquities and medieval towers

Ideas for a camper van or caravan trip to Pomarance, Volterra and San Gimignano

Etruscan antiquities, traditional handicrafts, fumaroles and spectacular medieval towers: here are some ideas for a camper van trip that is best appreciated in mid season.

Pomarance
The pleasant village of Pomarance is located in the centre of the 'Valle del Diavolo' (Devil's Valley), so called because of the fumaroles found in the area. A scenario so evocative that it provided Dante with inspiration for some of the landscapes in 'Inferno'. Strolling through the historical centre, you can admire the three gates, the Piazza di San Dalmazio, the Church of San Giovanni Battista and several Renaissance palazzi. A convenient car park is located right in front of the entrance to the village (Viale della Costituzione - SR439). In the hamlet of Larderello, where the geothermal plants are located, we recommend a visit to the Geothermal Museum, which takes curious visitors on a fascinating multimedia journey through history and technology. The area around Pomarance is covered by woods and forests and offers over 200 kilometres of trails that can be travelled on foot, by bicycle and on horseback.

Volterra
Although this medieval village stands tall on the horizon, it reveals, however, through its atmosphere more than in its archaeological remains, persisting ties to its grand Etruscan past, which was abruptly interrupted by the Roman invasion. Veláthri, one of the main city-states of

family from which it takes its name includes the explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano, who in 1524 discovered the bay of New York (hence the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, the bridge linking Brooklyn and Staten Island)

Radda in Chianti
In Radda in Chianti, stroll along the medieval walkways to discover this beautiful village. The heart of the village is Piazza Ferrucci, dominated by the ruins of the original castle and overlooked by the 14th-century Palazzo dei Podestà, the historic seat of local government, and the Propositura di San Niccolò with its neo-Gothic façade. One hundred metres from the village is a dedicated parking area (in Via degli Ulivi). Nearby, we recommend at least a visit to Volpaia, a fortified village of medieval origin, today famous for the production of one of the world's best wines.

Castelnuovo Berardenga
Visit the elegant complex of Villa Chigi Saracini with its Italian garden and 19th-century park, the medieval tower and Piazza Castellare. Castelnuovo Berardenga is also home to a unique museum, the Museo del Paesaggio (Landscape Museum), housed in a building from the late 19th century. There is a parking area for camper vans in Via delle Fonti, Pianella. One of the most remarkable facts of Castelnuovo's medieval history is the very large number of castles built in the area, as well as numerous Romanesque parish churches. We therefore recommend that you also take the time to visit the surrounding area.

Castellina in Chianti
Within the walls, the town has preserved the architectural layout from the Middle Ages, when it was Florence's outpost in the Senese territories. Visitors are welcomed by the medieval Church of San Salvatore, destroyed during the last war and rebuilt in neo-Romanesque style. In Via delle Volte, the ancient walkway leads to the exit onto Via Ferruccio and from here to the late-Renaissance Palazzo Ugolini-Squarcialupi. An alleyway leads up to the 14th-century fortress, home to the town hall and the Archaeological Museum of the Chianti Senese. Visit the Tumulus of Montecalvario, on the outskirts of the town, not far from the parking area with facilities for camper vans (Strada Regionale 222 Chiantigiana km 43). Castellina in Chianti lies in a richly wooded area, dotted with remains of Etruscan civilisation, an ideal location for those who love slow tourism.

ancient Etruria, has become the beautiful village of Volterra, known for centuries for its alabaster work. Known and used six or seven centuries before the Christian era, the alabaster of Volterra made a comeback a couple of centuries ago and the local workshops are always crowded with delighted tourists. The village is gathered within 13th-century walls, dominated by the Medici Fortress, punctuated by tall tower-houses and dotted with Renaissance residences. The older Palazzo dei Priori, Palazzo Pretorio and Torre del Porcellino, which overlook the Piazza dei Priori, the historic and beating heart of Volterra, make it certainly one of the most beautiful squares in Italy. The various city museums are worth visiting, starting with the Etruscan Museum. Outside the city centre, the splendid ruins of the Etruscan Acropolis and the Roman Theatre are not to be missed. There is a camper van area in the Docciola car park in Viale dei Filosofi. The surrounding area includes in particular the small villages of Saline di Volterra and Montemiccioli.

San Gimignano
The road to San Gimignano, the UNESCO heritage town since 1990, is framed by vineyards that produce Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG. Entering this characteristic medieval town, still surrounded by its original walls, is like being catapulted back in time. One distinctive feature of San Gimignano are the towers that rise above the roofs of the houses and make it recognisable even from afar. It is no coincidence that it has been nicknamed the Manhattan of the Middle Ages. In the 14th century, there were 72, today there are 13 towers left. Walking the ups and downs of the centre, you get to Piazza della Cisterna, with its distinctive triangular shape, enclosed by buildings including, in particular, the Devil's Tower. In the adjacent Piazza del Duomo you can admire the basilica of the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta, built in Romanesque style on top of a flight of steps. In the same square, there is the Palazzo del Podestà, home to the Museo Civico. Above it rises the Torre Rognosa. In Piazza del Duomo, you can also visit the Torre Grossa (the highest tower in the town), which offers a beautiful panorama of the Senese landscape. Also worth visiting are the chapel of Santa Fina inside the cathedral (work of Ghirlandaio) and the church of Sant'Agostino. While you visit, you can stop in the parking area near the campsite Il Boschetto di Piemmas, Santa Lucia district.



Camper van trip to Mugello and Fiesole

Ideas for a camper van or caravan trip through mountains, hills and to Lake Bilancino

Ideas for getting around in the Mugello valley, north of Florence, through mountains, hills and to Lake Bilancino. A perfect place for lovers of nature and outdoor activities, on foot, by bike or on horseback.

Firenzuola
Little Firenzuola, capital of pietra serena as it is called, houses the museum of the same name in the lower ground floor of the beautiful fortress. Today, it is considered an ideal place for exploring the high ground of Mugello and beautiful natural sights, such as the Sasso di San Zanobi or some of the myriad panoramic views along the 126 kilometres of paths perfect for hiking. There is a camper van parking area in Viale Sandro Pertini, at number 24.

Lake Bilancino
The lake was built to increase the water supply of the Florence, Prato and Pistoia areas and inaugurated in the late 1990s. It is a bathing alternative to the seaside, where you can relax and play outdoor sports, surrounded by greenery. There are places to eat and drink and establishments with facilities, as well as public beaches. Visitors can have a go at sports fishing or hire pedal boats, sailboats, windsurfs, canoes, kayaks and SUPs for fun outings on the water. There are also bike rentals for enjoying a cycle around the lake. There is a parking area in Viale Antonio Gramsci in Barberino di Mugello.



Pienza and the Val d'Orcia in a camper van

Ideas for a camper van or caravan trip through the World Heritage hills

In the hilly countryside of the Val d'Orcia, an ideal destination for slow tourism that combines art and fine food and wine, you can discover Pienza and the other villages in the area recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Pienza
Pienza, one of the most interesting villages in Tuscany, has deservedly been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And in turn, it is set in a UNESCO landscape: the Val d'Orcia. In the village, next to the elaborate and elegant Pozzo dei Cani, the place to start is the Palazzo Piccolomini, not only for the magnificence and decorations of its rooms and internal courtyard, but also for the view from the loggia and internal garden. The cathedral is also worth a visit, among other things, for certain hugely valuable paintings, such as the Madonna and Child between Saints Anthony Abbot, Bernardino, Francis and Sabina by Matteo di Giovanni. Other splendid paintings and great works of art are housed in the Diocesan Museum, which occupies the rooms of the Palazzo Vescovile. The walk along the walls at the foot of the cathedral is not to be missed, as is the short walk down towards the ancient parish church dedicated to Saints Vito and Modesto. In recent decades, Pienza has also become famous for its excellent products: pecorino and mature cheeses, but also cured meats. There is a parking area in the pay car park outside the walls in Via Mario Mencatelli (not open on Fridays because of the market).

Monticchiello
Pienza is also the ideal departure point for discovering the beautiful surrounding countryside. About ten kilometres from the

Borgo San Lorenzo
Borgo San Lorenzo is the largest town in Mugello. Among the ancient streets of the historical centre, there is the impressive Pieve di San Lorenzo, dating back to the 10th century. Also not to be missed is the 14th-century Palazzo del Podestà, which displays all the noble coats of arms of the Florentine families that have governed the town over time. One of the various villas worth visiting, there is Villa Pecori Giraldi, which houses the Museo della Manifattura Chini, where you can admire vases, mugs, and ceramic and stoneware jugs. There is a parking area in Via Caduti di Montelungo. The countryside surrounding the town is dotted with ancient parish churches. The enchanting area is ideal for walking, hiking and cycling.

Parco Mediceo di Pratolino
The Parco Mediceo di Pratolino, recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, is part of Villa Demidoff, a splendid estate located in Vaglia, a short distance from Florence. The historical garden of the Medici villa is home to ancient trees, lawns and historic buildings, including the chapel of Buontalenti. The highlight is undoubtedly The Giant of the Apennines, a fountain statue by Giambologna that looks down on us from 10 metres, rising among magnificent oaks over a pond dotted with lotus flowers. There is a large car park near the entrance to the park. Please note: the park surrounding the villa is open to the public free of charge from April to October.

Fiesole
Fiesole sits atop a hill surrounded by countryside dotted with beautiful historical villas. The town's treasures include the Cathedral of San Romolo, the Palazzo Vescovile and the ancient Church of Santa Maria Primerana. Continuing the walk towards the ancient acropolis, you can admire the Basilica of Sant'Alessandro, the church with the convent and the Missionary Museum of San Francesco. Also not to be missed is the Archaeological Museum. While visiting, you can park in the ordinary car park in Via degli Artigiani, at number 1, or you can use the tourist parking with facilities for camper vans. On the outskirts of Florence, Fiesole is an ideal spot for country walks and bike rides, for example to Monte Ceceri or the Caldine.

village, a gentle path through hills and farmland leads to the few houses of the fortified village of Monticchiello, where a cassero (defensive watchtower) dating back to the mid-13th century looks over the quiet village that guards the church of Saints Leonard and Christopher, with a façade adorned by a Gothic portal. Monticchiello is famous for the performances in the Teatro Povero, which for decades has transformed the village into an open-air stage for telling stories of everyday life.

San Quirico d'Orcia
San Quirico d'Orcia is crossed by the Via Francigena. The sights not to be missed include the Collegiate Church of Saints Quirico and Giulitta and, alongside it, Palazzo Chigi. Continuing the walk, you reach Piazza della Libertà, the heart of the village, where we find the Church of San Francesco, which houses a beautiful Virgin Mary attributed to Andrea della Robbia. But the entire historical centre, particularly picturesque with its cobbled streets and beautiful stone fountains, is worth an unhurried visit. We also recommend a visit to the Horti Leonini, an Italian-style Renaissance garden surrounding the Church of Santa Maria Assunta. A municipal parking area with facilities is located at the entrance to the village in Via delle Scuole.

Montalcino
Montalcino, home to Brunello wine, is one destination in the Val d'Orcia not to be missed. The tour can start at the former convent of Sant'Agostino, which houses the Civic and Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art: an archaeological collection of prehistoric, Etruscan-Roman and medieval artefacts, as well as a section of paintings, sculptures and terracotta pieces from the 14th-16th centuries. The former convent is also home to the Temple of Brunello, an immersive and emotional journey of discovery of the king of wines and of the local area. Nearby, there are the Palazzo dei Priori and the Cathedral of the Santissimo Salvatore and the fortress of Montalcino, an interesting example of pentagonal military architecture, with towers and an external patrol walkway offering a beautiful view of the Senese countryside. The camper van parking area is located in Via Osticcio. Less than ten kilometres from the village, near Castelnuovo dell'Abate, you can enjoy the peaceful and spiritual atmosphere of Sant'Antimo Abbey, one of the most interesting Romanesque churches in Italy. We suggest you visit during the recitation of the liturgy of the hours performed by the monks in Gregorian chant.