

# TUSCANY SARDINA CORSICA TOUR

16 days / 14 Riding Days



**Riding in Italy** provides a depth of experience unmatched by few places in the world. First, there is the roads of Sardinia and Corsica. Twisty and challenging, they exhilarate the senses with every kilometer. Then there is the scenery. Rolling hills of Tuscany shimmer in pale yellow and olive green while medieval-era villages rise out of what was once the land of ancient Romans and Etruscans.

But if that weren't enough to make you go, Italy provides history like no other country. The birthplace of the Renaissance, cities like Florence, Siena and Pisa offer art and architecture in abundance, not to mention food and wine. By savoring a different regional specialty every day, it is possible to experience the freshness and diversity of true Italian cuisine. Come with us on an adventure that is more than just a motorcycle ride. It is an experience for all your senses, and a memory to last a lifetime.

## TOUR MAP



CULTURE

ROADS

LANDSCAPE



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### DATES in 2010

April 9 - 24

October 12 - 27

or any time May - Oct for Self guided tour

### COUNTRIES

Italy, France (Corsica)

### TOUR STARTS / ENDS

Venice

### REST DAYS

5; Florence, Siena, Cala Gonone, Alghero, Corte

### ROUTE

Mileage: 2.700 km (1.700 miles)

Daily rides: 250 - 340 km (155 - 210 miles)

The whole tour runs on asphalt.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Riding on Sardinia, Venice, Florence, Siena, Leaning Tower in Pisa, Riding on mountainous Corsica, Chianti region.

### ACCOMMODATION

Very comfortable, middle-class hotels, mostly 4 star, some hotels in historical districts.

## DAY BY DAY

**Day1:** Arrival to Venice

**Day2:** Venice – Florence

**Day3:** Florence rest day

**Day4:** Florence – Siena

**Day5:** Rest day in Siena

**Day6:** Siena - Livorno (ferry crossing to Livorno)

**Day7:** Olbia – Cala Gonone

**Day8:** Rest day in Cala Gonone

**Day9:** Cala Gonone – Alghero

**Day10:** Rest day in Alghero

**Day11:** Alghero – Bonifacio

**Day12:** Bonifacio – Corte

**Day13:** Rest day in Corte

**Day14:** Corte – Lucca

**Day15:** Lucca - Venice

**Day16:** Flight home from Venice

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## TUSCANY SARDINA CORSICA TOUR DAY BY DAY

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival to Venice

Fly in to the beautiful city of Venice. We'll meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, we may be able to direct you to the ferry for an afternoon of strolling in Venice. In the evening we meet for a tour briefing and welcome dinner at a classic Italian Trattoria.

### Day 2: Venice – Florence

We are up early today, and from Venice we ride south. Here you'll start to experience the fabulous riding which makes Italy famous as a touring destination. As we pass through Bologna, we can stop and tour the Ducati factory and museum. Bologna is famous for its distinctive cuisine, including lasagna and tortellini. After lunch, the road gets nice and twisty through the Apennine Mountains, a range of mostly green and wooded mountains which form the backbone of Italy. Great riding begins here and continues for the next two weeks! In the evening we pull into Florence, a colorful and beautiful city with a rich Renaissance history.

### Day 3: Florence rest day

Ride out of Florence on the curvy, low mountain roads, experiencing the legendary beauty of the Tuscan countryside. One can ride for what seems like forever, only stopping for lunch in a small village to sample the wonderful fresh farm produce this area has to offer. Or spend the rest day in the fabled city of Florence and see all the attractions that are on offer. Start with a stroll to the Cattadrade di Santa Maria del Fiore, or Duomo, with its famous colorful, towering cupola. Then take a walk over Italy's most famous Old Bridge, the Ponte Vecchio. If art interests you, the Galleria Degli Uffizi houses the greatest collection of Renaissance art in the world. And don't miss Michelangelo's 'The David' at the Galleria dell'Accademia.

### Day 4: Florence – Siena

Today we take to the sweeping roads between Florence and Siena. Some of the best motorcycle touring can be found here, undulating roads through the scenic vineyards of the Chianti wine growing region, and through Caprese Michelangelo, the birth place of the famous artist. Along the way, small castles sometimes house a winery or a traditional Tuscan restaurant. Here, it is possible to sample some Chianti with our traditional Tuscan dinner. In the evening we pull into Siena.

### Day 5: Rest day in Siena

On the rest day, a ride through the Montepulciano and San Gimignano area provide fantastic hilly terrain and pretty little villages set amongst fields of alfalfa and sunflowers. Turn after wide turn leads us through the undulating terrain that Tuscany offers. Or simply enjoy Siena, one

of Italy's most enchanting medieval towns. Stroll in the Piazza del Campo, the sunny main square where the locals gather, or wander the warren of narrow, medieval alleyways.

### Day 6: Siena - Livorno (ferry crossing to Sardinia)

From Siena, we head northwest to Livorno. If you didn't ride on the rest day, now is the time to experience the rolling green hills and picturesque farmland that makes the Tuscan countryside legendary. In Livorno, we board an overnight ferry for Sardinia, and watch the coastline of the mainland melt into the Mediterranean. We spend the night on the boat in comfortable cruise cabins.

### Day 7: Olbia – Cala Gonone

Some of the best roads in the whole of Italy can be found in Sardinia, and the fantastic riding is the main reason we are there. Geographically distinct from the mainland, Sardinia is made up of vibrantly green gorges and valleys, and spectacular stretches of unspoiled coastline. Here you will experience the narrow twisties, hairpin turns, and cliff hanging precipices of some of the most exciting motorcycle roads in the world. We disembark the ferry at Olbia, then head out to get our first taste of this fantastic riding.

### Day 8: Rest day in Cala Gonone

The town of Oliena provides a base for exploring the western side of the island. We'll spend a full day here to really explore and truly appreciate the amazing riding. Turn after turn of tight arcs takes us through the mountainous interior, and the views are stunning. Sardinia has a proud history dating back to Paleolithic times, marked by circular stone fortresses called nuraghe. Thousands of these remain, scattered throughout the island, and provide interesting exploration during rest stops.

### Day 9: Cala Gonone – Alghero

Today we head to the eastern side of the island via more of the terrific interior mountain roads. You'll experience thoroughly active riding, as the road coils through the rugged terrain, heading briefly south then turning sharply east through mountain twisties, to the coastal town of Alghero. Tonight, seafood is on the menu, and we stay at a beautiful coastal resort hotel, providing a wonderful and scenic night's rest after a big day of vigorous and memorable touring.

### Day 10: Rest day in Alghero

Our rest day provides a nice choice for everyone. If it is more intense riding you require, head out of town and attack the curves again, this time on roads that hug the rugged seaside cliffs past solitary beaches. For non-riders, relaxing at the beach or swimming in the hotel pool provides for an enjoyable day. Alghero's historic center

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juts out into the sea. Take a tour to the Grotte di Nettuno, an underground fairyland.

### Day 11: Alghero – Bonifacio

One last extraordinary Sardinian ride leads us to the coastal town of Castelsardo. Soon we take a scenic ferry to Corsica, a proud island with an independent identity, now part of France. In contrast to our days in Italy, here we'll ride through villages which have a French feel. We end the day in Bonifacio, a seaside city perched on towering limestone cliffs. Take a boat ride out into the azure Bouches de Bonifacio, the 12 km wide straight between Corsica and Sardinia, to view this unique seaside town.

### Day 12: Bonifacio – Corte

Like Sardinia, Corsica provides for some fabulous once-in-a-lifetime rides. Often known as the Mountain in the Sea, Corsica has more mountains and rivers than any Mediterranean island. From Bonifacio, we ride inland to Corte, in the mountainous heart of the island. Once again, we'll experience the high emotions that come from riding some of the most challenging island-mountain roads, narrow routes which wind tight corners through jagged peak vistas.

### Day 13: Rest day in Corte

From our base in Corte, we'll explore the rest of the island. Once again, fully experience the serpentine roads that this island has to offer. Stay out in this wonderland as long as you like. Or if staying off the motorcycle after our many days of challenging riding suits you, take a hike in the mountains around Corte or just relax and fully enjoy a much deserved rest.

### Day 14: Corte – Lucca

One more half day of mountain twisties gets us to the coast. The scenic ferry ride from Bastia leads us back to mainland Italy, where we'll wind our way once again through the scenic Tuscan countryside, to the city of Pisa. Here we stop and take in one of the most delightful oddities in the world, the Leaning Tower. For lunch, finish off your vacation sampling of Tuscan cuisine with panini or antipasti, if you haven't tried them already. From Pisa we continue to Lucca, another beautiful, old town in the north of Tuscany.

### Day 15: Lucca - Venice

In the morning, we ride to the town of Maranello, the home of the Ferrari factory and museum, which we can visit. Take in the last of beautiful Tuscany on our ride home. The sight of this unforgettable landscape will stay with you forever. We ride towards Bologna and end once again in romantic Venice.

### Day 16: Flight home from Venice

Depart Venice. Spending one or two nights in Venice at the end of the tour is of course a great idea, especially if you have not done so at the beginning. Take a boat ride on the Grand Canal, Venice's main waterway lined with Renaissance palaces. You can disembark at the Piazza San Marco and stop to appreciate the intricate architecture of Basilica di San Marco. Then wander the streets, marveling at the sheer number of tiny arched bridge ways over the many, meandering canals.

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## 2010 TUSCANY SARDINA CORSICA TOUR MOTORCYCLE PRICES (per person in EUR)

Motorbike	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle two up.	Sharing a double room and riding the motorcycle solo.	Staying in a single room and riding the motorcycle solo.
Honda CBF 600 S Suzuki V-Strom 650	3.440	4.030	4.530
BMW F 650 GS Honda CBF 1000	3.510	4.170	4.670
BMW F 800 GS	3.620	4.380	4.880
BMW R 1200 GS BMW R 1200 R Yamaha FJR 1300	3.690	4.530	5.030
BMW R 1200 RT	3.830	4.810	5.310
Your Own Motorcycle	2.850	2.970	3.470
<b>Self-guided tour</b>	<b>app 20% discount applies for tour prices above, <a href="#">contact us</a></b>		

**Group discounts available.**

### **The 16 day Tuscany Sardinia Corsica Tour includes:**

- Late model motorcycle with lockable hard luggage and/or tank bags plus a Third party liability insurance and Comprehensive vehicle insurance.
- Competent guide on a motorcycle.
- Support van for luggage and 1 or 2 passengers.
- 15 nights accommodation in quality, mostly 4\*\*\*\* hotels.
- 15 breakfasts in the hotel.
- 10 dinners, mostly in traditional local restaurants.
- 3 ferry rides (according to tour program).
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure (on first and last day of the tour).
- Highlighted maps of the region
- Extensive tour booklet.

### **Not included in the tour price:**

Air ticket, dinners on rest days, most lunches, drinks, gasoline, tolls, personal spending, tips.