Tuscany and L’Eroica 2016
Ability Level: Intermediate to Advanced / Duration: 9 days / 8 nights

Tuscany and L’Eroica
A memorable flashback to the heroic times of cycling

Spend a week savoring Tuscan roads, food, and wine: from the quaint town of San Quirico D’Orcia to the Chianti area, along Via Chiantigiana (literally, “Chianti Street”), passing through medieval Siena, where an air lingers amidst the twisting streets of warm, brown brick, that you can see from the top of the Torre del Mangia, Siena’s famous tower.

This trip is a journey in search of the authentic cycling routes made famous by the giants of the roads like cycling legend Marco Pantani. Together, immerse yourselves in the spirit of “L’EROICA”, a special “race” celebrating the “heroic” times of cycling with vintage refreshments and wonderful but demanding white gravel roads.

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TRIP ESSENCE

• Stay in exclusive luxury hotels and countryside Inns
• Immerse yourself in the Tuscan life and learn more about Tuscan cuisine, wines and olive oil
• Discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Val d’Orcia and Siena, spin through the “Crete Senesi” and enjoy a memorable ride in the Chianti area
• Ride in the area of Brunello di Montalcino, the famous Tuscan red wine
• Experience riding on the “strade bianche”, terrain of the Eroica

WHAT’S INCLUDED

• Bike rental, see page 6 for details
• Vintage bike rental for the Eroica
• Service of local, professional guides throughout the program
• Ciclismo jersey and water bottle (vintage wool jersey available for purchase)
• All accommodations
• All breakfasts, 6 dinners, 3 lunches
• 2 wine tastings and 1 olive oil tasting
• Guided walking tour of Siena
• 1 cooking class
• 3 cycling clinics
• Guaranteed entrance to L’Eroica
• Shuttle to the start and at the end of the tour
• Van support during the tour and shuttle for non riders during L’Eroica

TRIP DETAILS

2016 Trip Dates
• September 25 - October 3
Check website for departure dates

Ability Level
• Intermediate to advanced depending on the Eroica route you select

Summary of Daily Distances
• Day 1: 12 miles
• Day 2: 33/45 miles
• Day 3: 40/47 miles
• Day 4: 25 mile optional ride
• Day 5: 38/45 miles
• Day 6: 33/40 miles
• Day 7: TBD, test vintage bike
• Day 8: 24/47/84/127 miles
• Day 9: Arrivederci!
Optional extra loops available

Trip Price
• $5,495
• Single Supplement: $900

Have something else in mind?
• Itinerary available as a private tour or...
• Create a custom itinerary with help from our experienced travel consultants!

Contact Us
1-800-866-7314
info@ciclismoclassico.com
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**DAY 1**

**SAN QUIRICO D’ORCIA WARM-UP RIDE**

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**Highlights**

Welcome to Tuscany!

Today we will get together at 12:30 pm in the hotel lobby for lunch and a brief introduction talk. In the afternoon we’ll have a bike fitting and warm-up ride to Pienza, a quintessential Tuscan town: benvenuti in the heart of Tuscany!

The beautiful Casanova is located in the Val D’Orcia area. In addition to a restaurant, this hotel features an outdoor tennis court, spa and bar/lounge.

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**DAY 2**

**LOOP TO MONTALCINO**

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**Highlights**

Today we ride in the UNESCO Site of Val d’Orcia. We’ll ride to Montalcino, hometown of the famous Brunello di Montalcino Tuscan red wine. From the top of the town we are rewarded with views of the Asso, Ombrone and Arbia valleys, dotted with olive groves, vineyards and small villages.

After lunch we head to the home of our guide, Giuditta, whose family owns a small winery called Nostra Vita, where they produce the best Brunello di Montalcino and Rosso di Montalcino. After the wine tasting the extra loopers ride to Pienza while the rest of the group heads back to the hotel.

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**DAY 3**

**SIENA**

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**Highlights**

En route to Siena today we discover the lunar landscape of the “Crete Senesi” which consists of a range of hills situated in a specific area of the Province of Siena. This characteristic clay with a distinctive gray coloration represents the sediments of the Pliocene sea which covered this area a few million years ago. We stop for lunch and olive oil tasting at an agriturismo, a family-run “farm stay”. Our final destination is the enchanting Siena not only renowned for its horse race called “Palio” but also for its monuments and the famous Piazza del Campo, where tourists, students and locals, hang out surrounded by beautiful and well-kept Renaissance-time historical buildings. Tonight we have a cooking class with our host Serena and her family.

We spend two nights at Hotel Athena, a 4-star hotel with views of the surrounding countryside and rolling hills. It’s located in the heart of the old town center inside the ancient city walls.
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DAY 4
SIENA & MONTERIGGIONI LOOP

Daily Mileage - 25 mile optional ride
Riding Terrain - Rolling
Hotel - See Day 3
Meals - B, D

Highlights
Today is a rest day in Siena. There is an optional loop ride out of Siena to the medieval walled town of Monteriggioni in the morning for those interested in cycling. We will have an afternoon walking tour with our local guide Nicoletta and will discover the Medieval atmosphere of this unique town. For additional sight-seeing in Siena climb to the top of the Torre di Mangia in the Campo for an unforgettable view, a visit to the Palazzo Pubblico to view the frescoes of Simone Martini, and a visit to the Pinacoteca Museum (wonderful collection of medieval art).

DAY 5
RADDAA AND THE CHIANTI AREA

Daily Mileage - 38/45 miles
Riding Terrain - Rolling
Hotel - Relais Vignale
• Location: Radda
• Duration: 4 Nights
• www.vignale.it/eng/hotel.htm
Meals - B, D, R

Highlights
Today we enter the famous Chianti area riding on the “Chiantigiana road,” through Castelnuovo Berardenga and Castello di Brolio where we stop for a tour and wine tasting before we make our way to Radda. The surrounding hills in the Middle Ages where part of the Chianti League: at that time it included the villages of Gaiole, Castellina and Radda located near Florence. Nowadays this area is famous for the Chianti Classico Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) reds of Italy.

The 4-star Relais Vignale is situated in the heart of the Chianti Classico region. It dates back to the 17th century and has been carefully restored, maintaining the atmosphere and charm of an elegant country manor house. The hotel is air conditioned, has a beautiful pool and gardens and a panoramic terrace to view the Tuscan countryside. Dinner is included.

DAY 6
PANZANO AND GREVE IN CHIANTI LOOP

Daily Mileage - 33/40 miles
Riding Terrain - Lots of ups and downs
Hotel - See Day 5
Meals - B

Highlights
Today’s ride offers an intense experience of the Chianti hills; uphills and downhills surrounded by miles of vineyards where we’ll witness the harvest: “la vendemmia” means weeks of intense work that reward the farmers’ year-round efforts, and a festa (party) for the local communities. Today our Eroica bikes will be delivered and you can start prepping for the big day!
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DAY 7

PRE-RACE DAY

**Daily Mileage** - TBD, testing vintage bikes on dirt roads. Optional ride on paved roads

**Riding Terrain** - Hilly

**Hotel** - See Day 5

**Meals** - B, D

**Highlights**

The eve of the ride is an important one: final prepping of our bikes, a relaxed ride around Gaiole to get to know your vintage bike before the big day. Most importantly, Gaiole hosts a plethora of colorful events; a market with historical bicycles and other equipment, people gathering from all over the world with their stories of cycling and passion, and the excitement of anticipation for the next day’s ride. We’ll also make sure we complete our intake of carbs and proteins for the event, relying on Tuscan specialties such as Ribollita, Pici and some Chianti wine.

DAY 8

L’EROICA!

**Daily Mileage** - 24/47/84/127 miles

**Riding Terrain** - Hilly

**Hotel** - See Day 5

**Meals** - B, D

**Highlights**

The ride starts and ends from the historic center square of Gaiole in Chianti, where you’ll ride with more than 5,000 other cyclists experiencing the thrill of L’Eroica. The route is a challenge, yet you’ll be fueled by stunning views of the Chianti hills, the town of Montalcino, Crete Senesi—and more! You’ll also pass miles of vineyards where the annual grape harvest will be taking place. Needless to say, the wine flows freely at the post-ride dinner (all meals included for riders)! For non-riders, the day will be a great opportunity to enjoy the Eroica expo, stroll through Gaiole, wander around the lovely roads and stop at a quaint viewpoint to cheer on the riders!

**Important information for the race**: a medical certificate is required in order to participate in the Eroica. Please speak to a Ciclismo Classico travel consultant for more information.

DAY 9

ARRIVEDERCI!

**Meals** - B

**Highlights**

The tour ends after breakfast around 9 am. We provide a shuttle to Montevarchi train station from where you can connect to Florence or Rome.
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ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO SAN QUIRICO D’ORCIA

Fly to Florence Peretola (FLR) and take a train (www.trenitalia.com) to Chiusi Chianciano train station (1.5 hours) to meet our only group shuttle* on day 1 at 11:30 am to the first hotel (40 minutes). Alternatively, from Rome (FCO) the train takes a little over 2 hours and you change in Roma Termini.

* Please inform the office if you plan on taking this scheduled group shuttle at least one month in advance via this form: www.ciclismoclassico.com/travel-plans

DEPARTING FROM RADDA

After breakfast around 9 am we provide one group shuttle to Montevarchi train station from where you can connect to Florence in 40 minutes or Rome in 2 hours.

BIKE INFORMATION

Bianchi Via Nirone 7
- Bianchi carbon fork, Shimano 105 triple groupset, an adjustable stem, and a wheel set laced with 32 spokes and 25mm tires. Included on all tours

Aluminum Hybrid
- More relaxed riding at a look-around-you pace, this is our custom-built, high-performance aluminum hybrid bicycles with straight handlebars. We also have woman-specific frame. Included on all tours

Bianchi Intenso and Vertigo
- The carbon frame guarantees maximum performance with minimum stress for the riders, thanks to Bianchi’s special C2C (Coast to Coast) frame design/geometry and different material combination. Carbon bikes are equipped with compact crank and 11/32 cassette. Available for $250
- Bianchi Intenso or Vertigo with Shimano included on all intermediate and advanced tours at no extra charge

Tandems
- Cannondale road or hybrid: racing posture with 700c wheels, or a more straight up position and 26 inch wheels.
- Co-motion Periscope: accommodates smaller team or even children. Available for $400
- Honey tandem: light and responsive and perfect for experienced tandem riders. Available for $400

eBikes
- Available on all easy and athletic beginner tours, some intermediate and advanced tours. Please contact us for more information. Available for $400

Bike type outside of Europe may vary, please contact us at 800-866-7314 for more information.

ON THE BIKE

Included
- Ciclismo Classico water bottle
- Two water bottle holders
- Map holder on handlebars (or Garmin Edge GPS)
- Handlebar bag
- Tire pump
- Combination bike lock
- Gel-padded saddle
- Choice of pedals
- Card with your tour leaders’ mobile phone numbers

Garmin Edge GPS
- Included on all carbon bikes and premium tandems (Co-Motion and Honey)
- $30 rental fee for other bikes

Pedal Options
- Flat pedals
- Half-toe pedals (without straps)
- Toe cage pedals

Things to Bring
- Helmet
- Optional: clipless pedals with shoes
- Optional: your own saddle
INSURANCE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Insurance
Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you via email once trip deposit is received. We recommend MH Ross, but travelers may choose the insurance carrier of their choice.

Cancellations and Refunds
All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to their cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. The purchase of short-term travel insurance policy is strongly recommended. Cancellation fees are determined as followed:

Days before departure – Cancellation fee
121+ days - 50% of the deposit*
91-120 days - 100% of the deposit*
61-90 days - 30% of the trip price
31-60 days - 60% of the trip price
31-44 days - 100% of the trip price

*You may transfer your trip deposit to another departure in the same tour season up to 90 days before your original departure with payment of a $100 per person transfer fee. Prices quoted are subject to adjustment without prior notification. OR your deposit (currently $600) may be carried forward to the following year as a credit toward the final balance of a tour. At the time of booking, we will ask for another $600 deposit to secure your spot. Carried-forward credits expire at the end of the year to which they are applied.

Alterations to the tour itinerary
Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

To review our policies, please visit http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/policies/

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at 800-866-7314. Or, mail your deposit and contact information to:

Ciclismo Classico
attn: Rosa
30 Marathon St
Arlington, MA 02474

At the time of registration, a deposit of $600 per person is due, payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or check, made payable to Ciclismo Classico, along with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days before departure payable by check, credit card, wire transfer or money order. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and a waiver form.