

VAL D'ORCIA TO GAIOLE, THE EROICA TOWN

These white, dusted roads are home to one of pro racing's biggest dates, with steep climbs and full-blown attacks at every bend. The Strade Bianche of Tuscany is truly something special due to the region's rolling vistas and fine wines make this a must-see destination if you love gravel cycling. Strade bianche is Italian for "white roads," and it comes from the color of the dry limestone gravel that lifts into a fine white dust that lingers along the race course.

Discover the route of the [Strade Bianche professional race](#) – We put together this self-guided Bike Tour selecting the more appropriate sections from the race and also from the Eroica itinerary.



THE FAMED WHITE ROADS OF TUSCANY

The Permanent Route of l' [Eroica](#) is a unique experience that allows you to live the adventure of L'Eroica all year round – anyway we offer the tour from March to November.

Traditional L'Eroica course starts in the town of Gaiole and covers some of the most beautiful roads in the area of Chianti and Siena province, winding among historic vineyards, leading to the cypress-lined entrance of Castello di Brolio and Corte Pavone.

Quote from the Eroica home page "L'Eroica invite cyclists to rediscover the beauty of fatigue and the thrill of conquest. We look to the past of cycling to inspire the future of this beautiful sport"

WOW MOMENTS

- Shadow the hilly path of L'Eroica, Tuscany's internationally recognized vintage bike race
- ancient cellars, taste superb Tuscan wines, from Vino Nobile di Montepulciano to Brunello di Montalcino
- Experience the serenity of the Tuscan countryside and savor the flavors of authentic *pasta fresca*
- Explore the undulating white gravel roads of Tuscany – the famed *strade bianche* – and immerse yourself in Italy's most classic cycling local

DAY BY DAY

Day One – Pienza

Pienza & Bagno Vignoni

Meet & Greet in Pienza, the purest renaissance town in the world, for welcome and bike fitting. Pienza the “perfect town” is a remarkable example of Renaissance-era town planning. If you have even the least appreciation for beautiful architecture, it is a treat to stroll around its cobblestone streets. First short bike ride to Bagno Vignoni, a thermal spa town that dates back to Roman times, and **Madonna di Vita Leta** chapel. Lodging at hotel **Relais Il Chiostro** di Pienza

Distance 25 km /15 miles +558 m / -565 m

12 km asphalt and 13 km gravel

Day Two – Montepulciano & nobile wine

Montepulciano & Vino Nobile

Your tour starts with a circular ride from Pienza.

Spring brings red poppy blossoms to the vibrant green wheat fields of Tuscany, and nowhere is the bloom more brilliant than the hills of the Val d'Orcia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As we pedal through these corridors of proud cypress trees, the scenery may look familiar from such films as *Gladiator* and *The English Patient*. Follow the gravel tracks off the beaten path through a timeless slice of Tuscany and enjoy an espresso at La Foce, overlooking the roads we just conquered. By lunchtime you'll come to Montepulciano, the jewel of southern Tuscany, full of Renaissance palaces. After relaxing a while, return to Pienza with a stop in the village of **Monticchiello**, the quintessential Tuscan hill town. Lodging at hotel **Relais Il Chiostro** di Pienza.

Distance 51 km /31,5 miles +872 m / -875 m

17 km asphalt and 34 km gravel

Day Three – Pieve a Salti to Brunello Land

To get from Pienza to Montalcino we select the sections of Eroica called Lucignano d'asso and Pieve A Salti. You leave Pienza and after 6 km on paved road you will take white road toward Cosona and reach the little hamlet of Lucignano - a *caffè espresso* at little shop *emporio* - is a must. Once you reach the paved road you ride only one km and start the other Eroica gravel section Pieve a Salti - so beautiful landscape. 9 km up and down in the rural countryside! arrive in Buonconvento by lunch time. Now you have to face the climb to the famed wine town of Montalcino. a total of 10 km: 5 on paved and 5 km on gravel all through vineyards and wineries. Once in town we strongly suggest visit the fortress and admire the breathtaking view of the entire valley you've just biked.

Tonight at dinner reward yourself with at least a glass of Brunello - we have a list of our favorite. Lodging at **hotel il giglio or Vecchia Oliveira** in Montalcino

Distance 41 km / 25 miles +855 m / -807 m

17 km asphalt and 24 km gravel

Day Four – Castiglion del Bosco & Siena

L'Eroica—meaning “The Heroic”—is a celebration of the golden age of cycling. The event takes place every October when thousands of hardened cyclists travel back in time to ride these gravel roads on primitive machines of the past. The heavy lugged-steel bikes with down-tube shifters and impossible gear ratios are no match for the red wine in the participant's water bottles and the hardman mentality.

Today, we'll have our own taste of cycling's heroic origins as we join one of the most beautiful gravel sections of L'Eroica from the heart of Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany's most celebrated wine region, ride to the top Passo del Lume Spento starting the Castiglion del bosco gravel section- Castiglion del bosco is the biggest brunello winery & farm belonging to Ferragamo, the famous Italian fashion designer - once in Bibbiano another section called la Piana and reach Murlo after 30 km- *caffé* & visit! shortly you will face another legendary Eroica section to Radi, with some steep yet short up and down. at Ville di Corsano you deserve a light lunch. from here you have the last 12 km on secondary paved road to Siena

Lodging at **hotel Villa str** in Siena

distance 58,5 km / 36 miles +1,015 m / -1,229 m

32 km asphalt and 24 km gravel

Day Five – Gaiole, the Eroica town

Today the destination is the town where the Eroica starts

After your gourmet breakfast, head out into magical Chianti. You will exit from Siena via a eroica gravel section Pieve a Bozzone, Vico d'Arbia making your way through wheat fields before we hit the vineyards of this celebrated wine region. Reach Pianella after 15 km. From here you will take a long glorious section to Canonica A Cerreto, Vagliagli- all road through chianti classico vineyards - Counting castles and old hilltop hamlets! Get in Radda in Chianti for lunch time after 38 km ride - mostly gravel. relax .. you have only 8 km to Gaiole following the Eroica itinerary. Lodging at the charming **Hotel Castello Spaltenna**

distance 46,5 km / 28,5 miles +923 m / -874 m

12 km asphalt and 34 km gravel

Day Six – Chianti hills – Castello di Brolio

Today is consecrated to explore all the villages and hamlet of Chianti Senese- start from your "castle di Spaltenna" in Gaiole and reach Castello di Brolio after 10 km - here the caffè at agribar in front of winery is a must: all cyclists, locals and visitors seems to meet there. after you can ride into the gravel section of Eroica, is short and then you will ride on very secondary scenery roads until Castelnuovo Berardenga, it worth a visit and if you are there for lunch time offer many options. back to the saddle and encounter other small borgo: San Gusmé and villa a Sesta - back to Brolio: to return to Gaiole you have 2 options, one road downhill and flat so somewhat easy, or challenge uphill to Castagnoli, downhill to Castello di Meleto. Lodging at the charming **Hotel Castello Spaltenna**

distance 55 km / 34 miles +1013 m / -1012 m

44 km asphalt and 10 km gravel

Day Seven

Optional short loop Badia a Coltibuono

If you still have energy and feel your legs stronger you can have a short ride to Badia a Coltibuono a loop of 20 km. **Back to Gaiole** where you will leave bikes. Departure: bus available to reach Siena where you can take fast train to other town

Distance 21 km / 13 miles +395 m / -420 m

All paved road

PRICE & INCLUSIONS

Cost: € 1690 per person (price based on double accommodations)
single supplement euro 560

Inclusions:

six nights in excellent five, four & three-star superior hotels
six breakfasts
Route notes, maps, elevation gain and city map
RidewithGPS App – navigation off line
Sightseeing, restaurant and shopping suggestions
All Baggage transfers
Pick-up of bikes and gear in Gaiole
Keepsake Cicloposse water bottle
Sales taxes

Not Included

Bike Rental per entire tour: Gravel or E-bike euro 250; Trekking bike euro 180
city tax each village charge a tax per each day between euro 0,70 to 4,00.

DAILY MILEAGE:

30-35 miles on gently rolling terrain with some climbs. Additional mileage available.

TOUR DEPARTURES:

Any date between 15th March to end of October

HOTELS' WEB SITE

Pienza	Relais il chiostro
Montalcino	www.gigliohotel.com or https://vecchiaoliviera.com/
Siena	www.lavilladistr.it
Gaiole	www.spaltenna.it

upgrade luxury – price on request

Pienza	www.labanditatownhouse.com
Montalcino	www.mastrojannirelais.com
Siena	www.camporegio.com
Gaiole	www.spaltenna.it



THE TOUR STARTS IN PIENZA HOW TO GET THERE:

Best airports are Rome Fiumicino and Florence Peretola

From **Fiumicino airport** train Leonardo Express (takes about 30 minutes) starts each half hour and is direct from Airport to Termini train station.

From Fiumicino airport to train station: the first at 07.37, the last at 22.37

From **Florence Peretola** Tramvia direct to Florence train station Santa Maria Novella

To get in Chiusi by train: many trains from Rome and from Florence

look for timetable in English at official web site www.ferroviedellostato.it

some trains are marked IC (intercity: faster) or marked R (regional: slow)

Once in Chiusi you can take bus or taxi to get in Pienza

BUS: The bus fare is approximately 4 Euros per person. Take the bus from Chiusi to Montepulciano. There is a bus every 30 minutes. (Depending on your departure out of Chiusi, some buses will make a stop in Chianciano). The bus ride is 40 / 50 minutes.

Arrive at the terminal of Montepulciano: from Montepulciano bus terminal take the bus to Pienza: This is a 15 minutes ride. Buses leave at 9:00am, 1:35pm, 2:10pm, and 5:45pm.

Warning: the bus from Montepulciano to Pienza is not available on Sundays

TAXI: always available out the small station, cost is Euro 60/65

TOUR ENDS IN GAIOLE

bus and train are available: Bus: to Siena station where you can take direct bus to Rome or train to any other destination

LEVEL MODERATE TO CHALLENGING

Gently rolling terrain, some hills and climbs.

Entry-level skills recommended. Prepare for your trip with regular conditioning at least two months before departure.

Marked Leisure/Active

Varied terrain, hills and climbs.

May involve high altitudes and challenging conditions. Prepare as you would for a moderate trip, but intensify your program for specific benefits.

Marked Active/Avid