

## Honeymoon Tour Culture & Nature in Umbria

Exploring Umbria: 8 days /7 nights

*This tour combines natural beauties with cultural visits of medieval towns of Umbria. Our tour is particularly relaxing because you will stay one week in Assisi and explore around at your choice. You will experience a tour in carriage drawn by horses, a day tour by bike with wine tasting, you will go on a walking tour with a professional hiking guide and enjoy a guided tour of beautiful and charming city of Assisi. Quiet streets, mountains, hills covered by cypresses, olive trees and vineyards and excellent food will make this experience unforgettable. A one of a kind honeymoon in the green heart of Italy.*



### **Departures:**

Daily, all year round

### **Participants:**

2 pax

### **From day 1 to Day 8:**

7 nights in your honeymoon hotel with swimming-pool and Spa situated in Assisi, within a walking distance from the historic centre.

## Description of Sights

**Assisi:** Assisi is a beautiful medieval town, built on the slopes of Mount Subasio. Assisi, with its imposing aspect, its medieval towers and palaces, a magnificent fortress above, can be seen from far away. Assisi is a spiritual city, strongly linked with Saint Francis and Saint Clare. The city can be visited on the day of your arrival or on your last day. The jewel of the city is certainly the Basilica of Saint Francis with frescoes by Giotto, Cimabue, Lorenzetti and Simone Martini.

**Spello:** (10 km from Assisi)

From Assisi, by bike, scooter or car you can easily reach and visit Spello. Take your time to wander through the little streets of Spello and visit the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where Pinturicchio left us one of his masterpieces, the Baglioni Chapel.



**Bevagna and Montefalco** (20 and 30 km from Assisi)

On your walking tour (full day) you will reach Bevagna, with Roman origins, whose main square with its two Romanesque churches and the town hall palace features a pleasant medieval aspect. Later, you will get to Montefalco, also called 'balcony of Umbria', for the magnificent view you can enjoy from here. The beautiful and simple Franciscan Church was decorated in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century with splendid frescoes by Benozzo Gozzoli and Perugino.

**Perugia** (25 km from Assisi)

Perugia is the main city of Umbria, a young, lively, vibrant place. The medieval town centre with its little alleyways is at the highest point of the town. The renaissance palaces, churches, museums and many galleries make a lasting impression.

**Todi and Orvieto** (about 60 km from Assisi, we recommend a full day trip)

**Todi** is a lovely town situated on a hill, which in 1992 Prof. Richard S. Levine of U.S. Kentucky University defined as "the most livable town in the world". Todi is another Etruscan town, but was founded between the 8th and 7th centuries BCE by the Umbri (whose settlements were on the other side of the Tiber from the Etruscans) and named Tutere, which means 'boundary town'. In 340 BCE the town developed significantly when it was conquered by the Romans. It acquired the name 'Colonia Julia Fida Tuder (1st century BCE) and was granted the right to mint its own currency. The town's most beautiful Roman constructions were built after it became part of the Roman Clustumina tribe.

**Orvieto** was known by the Romans as 'Volsinii'. The town, now in the Province of Terni, was near a famous sanctuary, Fanum Voltumnae, the chosen venue every year for many Etruscans to celebrate religious rites, games and events. From the 8th to the 6th century BCE the town enjoyed considerable economic development. Remains of the Etruscan civilisation can be found in the rocky crags and above all in the nearby necropolis.



### **Description of Activities included in the package**

**1. Day bike tour with wine tasting:** The tour includes a route that will guide you through the beautiful Umbrian landscape with agricultural fields, vineyards and many olive trees, which have become now the symbol of the region of Umbria.

The Day Tour departs from our bike deposit in Rivotorto, close to Assisi. On your bikes, you cycle to Santa Maria degli Angeli with its impressive dome of the Franciscan Basilica, visible from afar. This church encloses the 'Porziuncola', a 9th century little church of high historical and artistic value and one of the most sacred places for the Franciscans, because to St Francis and St. Clare it has given rise to a new spiritual life.

The route continues along quiet country roads and never fails to surprise you with the beauty of the landscape that alternate colours and flavours with the change of seasons: from intense green shades of springtime to the light brown and grain gold of summer, red and purple in autumn to the nostalgic tones of winter.

Surrounded by an harmonious alternation of rolling hills and medieval towns your view opens up to Spello, declared by emperor Caesar 'Splendidissima Colonia Julia'. This village, among the most beautiful of Italy, known for its marvellous alleys, where the stone walls are dotted with colourful flower pots, retaining many remnants of the glorious Roman past and famous works of art in palaces and churches from 13th to 17th century. You cross the historic centre and then join the Via degli Olivi (Olive Trees Road) from which you have magnificent views of the valley below. Finally you make a stop at a family-run organic winery, where you still feel the strong and true winemakers spirit of the past, where the grape still grows according to nature and the wine has a variety of scents and flavours.

You visit the winery, talk with winemakers, taste some of their excellent wines and last but not least you will bring home a gift... 1 bottle of their organic wine. After the wine-tasting you cycle back to our wine-store or -with a little supplement of 5 Euro p.p.- we will pick you up and bring you back to our bike store or the station.

The Day Bike Tour 'Cycling and Tasting-wine' is a pleasant day forgetting stress and tension dedicating yourself to nature, relaxation and taste !



## 2. Day walking tour from Bevagna to Montefalco with professional tour guide

(including pick up and return transfer to your hotel):

Our tour guide will come to your hotel to pick you up. You will drive together to Bevagna, which unlike most Umbrian towns isn't built on a hilltop, but rather at the confluence of the rivers Topino and Timia. During Roman times Bevagna was a prosperous town, because it was situated along the busy trade road, the via Flaminia, which connected Rome with the Adriatic coast. The heart of this town is the square Piazza Silvestri with its beautiful fountain and two Romanesque churches.

From Bevagna you will walk towards Montefalco, through a slightly hilly landscape, but the olive groves will soon make way for vineyards. The hills surrounding Montefalco are famous for the production of the excellent wines Rosso di Montefalco d.o.c. and Sagrantino d.o.c.g. To reach the town you have to climb, because Montefalco is -predictable- built on a hilltop. The St. Francis church is now the seat of a fine museum housing, among other things, frescoes by the Florentine painter Benozzo Gozzoli. Don't forget to taste one of the delicious Montefalco wines in one of the many wine bars.

Walking time: 3½ hours (14 km / 8,7 miles)



### 3. Guided tour of Assisi, with professional tour guide

You will explore Assisi and its secrets accompanied by a professional tour guide. Assisi is a romantic medieval city built on the slopes of Mount Subasio overlooking the Valle Umbra. It is a city where there is a harmonious combination of history, traditions and arts. You can discover this beautiful city wandering through its alleys, streets and later make a stop at one of the cosy squares, where bars are inviting to sit down and enjoy an ice cream, cappuccino or a good glass of local wine. There is much to see: the Basilicas of St. Francis and of St. Clare, the fortress, the Cathedral, many interesting museums and the Roman Forum.



### 4. Romantic tour in carriage drawn by horses

A beautiful tour on a 19th century carriage drawn by a beautiful horse around Assisi will be really an unforgettable experience for you. You will live a romantic time, just like in the past, when cars did not exist. An ecological, silent, fun way to explore the surroundings of Assisi. The lush countryside of Assisi is the ideal framework for a carriage tour.



## Hotels:

**Assisi** **Hotel \*\*\* quality**, nestled in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity among the olive groves of Assisi's hills, is located only 900 meters from the historical centre of Assisi and near to the tourist sporting centre. The hotel has 26 rooms and suites with en-suite bathrooms, mini-bar, colour TV and air-conditioning. The hotel has a restaurant offering fine gastronomic specialties from Umbria, a bar, swimming pool, car park and spa/wellness centre. One day with Wellness path for the couple and sole use of the Spa included in the price.

Upgrades:

**Assisi** **Hotel \*\*\*\*\*:** All the 18 suites are unique: a perfect blending of history, design and technological comforts. This exclusive 5-star resort came about from a careful restoration of the ancient Saint Catherine monastery, which was originally constructed in 1275 for a community of Benedictine nuns. Each room is provided with a hair dryer, safe, climate control, memory effect bedding and pillows, free internet access, wellness center kit and a multichannel LCD television. There is free access to Nun Spa Museum every day (Nun Path with Tepidarium, Caldarium, Sudatorium, Frigidarium, multi-massage heated pool, Jacuzzi pool and herbal tea room).

## Descriptions of itineraries and detailed maps:

Maps and descriptions of sights (English, Italian, German and Dutch) will be given upon arrival at your hotel.

## Prices p.p. 2017

In Double room	Price
In *** Hotel with Spa	1115,00
In Luxury ***** Hotel with Spa	2873,00

## Included in the price:

- 7 nights with breakfast in romantic 3 star quality Hotel near the centre of Assisi (within walking distance) or in a luxury 5 star Hotel in Assisi.
- Full assistance on site during the tour, briefing at the beginning and delivery of maps, information etc.
- 1 day bike tour with food and wine tasting (bike and wine tour)
- Full day tour on foot with professional tour guide, discovering natural beauties of Umbria (Bevagna and Montefalco), including pick up and drive back to your hotel
- 1 guided tour of Assisi with professional tour guide
- 1 romantic dinner in elegant restaurant in the historic centre with glass floor view over beautiful mosaics going back to Roman times (drinks not included)
- 1 Romantic tour in carriage drawn by horses
- Ecologico Tours Honeymoon gift