

Racing Breaks

Palio di Siena
Castel Monastero Package



Palio di Siena



About the Palio di Siena

The Palio di Siena is a race like no other. This unique event takes place twice annually, with the first race held on 2nd July and the second on 16th August.

The origins of the race are medieval and date back to 1581 meaning there is a huge amount of history and culture surrounding this pinnacle event. Horses and jockeys run three laps around the famous 'Piazza de Campo' of Siena, on a temporary surface. With nail biting corners and high speeds, there is a much greater risk of riders being unseated however, an unmounted horse is still able to cross the line first and win!

The town of Siena is made up of seventeen 'contrade' or city wards that have been rivals for many years. Ten horses are drawn for the race; as a field of seventeen is too many, with mercenary jockeys riding bareback and wearing traditional colours of the contrade they have been paid to represent.



Castel Monastero Resort & Spa



About the Resort

Located approximately 30 minutes outside of Siena, Castel Monastero is a luxury resort in the middle of the Chianti region.

Back in the 11th century it was a monastery surrounded by the peace and quiet of the hills near Siena. It then became a castle and the country residence of the noble Chigi family, and later a romantic hamlet in the Tuscan countryside. The glorious past of Castel Monastero can be seen all around.

To see it for yourself all you have to do is pass through the walls that protect the ancient hamlet and stand in the square lined with splendid buildings. Then step into any of the rooms or suites, or the wonderful detached villa, and revel in the charm, colours and style of real Tuscany.

You are in the heart of Chianti. Stretching out before your eyes are vineyards, woods and fields straight from a Medieval fresco, and a splendid square, with its café, restaurant and even a little church. You'll soon realise you're not just in a spectacular room, you're in the heart of the most beautiful part of Italy.

Each bedroom is furnished in Tuscan country style with historic materials and precious textiles creating a warm, intimate atmosphere. Every room boasts a magnificent view of the piazza di Castel Monastero or the surrounding countryside.

The resort boasts two restaurants; "Contrada" and "La Cantina". The former offers gourmet dishes and is a charming, elegant establishment with classic flavours of Tuscan Cuisine. La Cantina has a more relaxed atmosphere and is based in the medieval wine cellars of the resort.

The Package



Packages Include

- Return Flights from the UK to either Florence or Pisa
- Private return airport transfers
- Three nights accommodation at Castel Monastero
- Buffet breakfast each morning
- Dinner in the Contrada Restaurant at Castel Monastero
- Wine tasting at a local winery
- Spa treatment at the Castel Monastero Spa
- Access to the “acqua benessere” indoor Spa.
- Dinner in one of the “Contrada” the night before the Palio
- Access to an exclusive apartment in Siena on the day of the Palio
- Cocktails and refreshments throughout the afternoon
- Light buffet dinner following the conclusion of the racing
- A window space overlooking the Piazza del Campo to watch the historic race

Price per person: £2.895.00

Based on 2 sharing a Superior Room

Price per person: £4.495.00

Based on single occupancy in a Superior Room

Example Itinerary

Please find below an example travel itinerary for our Palio di Siena package based at the Castel Monastero. All trips can be tailored to your individual needs.

Tuesday 30th June / Friday 14th August 2020

- Depart on a direct flight from the UK to either Florence or Pisa Airport.
- Upon arrival you will be met in the arrivals hall and transferred via private car to Castel Monastero.
- On your arrival evening you will enjoy a dinner in the Contrada Restaurant at Castel Monastero.

Wednesday 1st July / Saturday 15th August 2020

- Following breakfast you will be collected mid-morning and transferred to a local winery for a tour followed by wine tasting.
- Upon return to the hotel you can take advantage of your Spa Treatment at the Castel Monastero Spa.
- That evening you will be transferred to one of the "Contrada" to experience a unique dinner the night before the main event.

Thursday 2nd July / Sunday 16th August 2020

- Today is the day of the Palio - around lunchtime you will be collected and transferred to Siena to take your place in the luxurious apartment overlooking the Piazza del Campo.
- Cocktails and refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon in the build up to the historic race.
- You will then take your spot in your window space overlooking the square to take in the Palio di Siena!
- Following the race you will enjoy a light buffet dinner with a selection of local delicacies.

Friday 3rd July / Monday 17th August 2020

- You will have your final morning at leisure before being collected by private car and transferred back to the airport to catch your flight back to the UK.

It is possible to add on extra nights either side of this example itinerary if desired.

Bedroom Types

Superior Room

Offering a comfortable 25-30 square metres of space, the Superior Room is ideal for two people and offers a large bedroom furnished in Tuscan country style. Historic materials and precious textiles create a warm, intimate atmosphere, and the bathroom is fitted with a bathtub and shower. Every room boasts a magnificent view of the piazza di Castel Monastero or the surrounding countryside. The bedrooms come with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

Included as standard within packages



Deluxe Room

For a charming, relaxing stay in 32-45 square metres. The Deluxe Room is ideal for a couple and includes the possibility of adding a cot. The furnishings and materials create a warm atmosphere with their simple Tuscan brightness. Many of the bathrooms feature a separate bathtub and shower. Some bedrooms may be connecting. The beauty of the countryside and of the piazza di Castel Monastero can be admired from the windows, like in an ancient castle. The bedrooms come with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

£100 Supplement per person

Prestige Room

A haven of absolute Tuscan refinement and elegance. Our Prestige Room offers a surface area of 45-51 square metres divided into several spaces, including a bedroom and small lounge. It can host up to three guests, with the addition of a third bed or cot. All of the bathrooms are fitted with a separate bathtub and shower, and some also feature a beautiful window. Magnificent views of the fields and vineyards surrounding Castel Monastero, and of its medieval piazza, complete the charm of the Prestige Room. The bedrooms come with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

£250 Supplement per person



Bedroom Types

Junior Suite

A magnificent environment measuring 50-63 square metres, divided into bedroom and a lounge, ideal for up to four guests. Rustic Tuscan style shines forth in every detail, along with its most refined materials, from ancient types of wood to terracotta and textiles. The bathroom also has a separate shower and bathtub. Some bedrooms may be adjoining or connecting. The peaceful countryside of Castel Monastero and its charming historic piazza can be admired from the windows. The suites come with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

£400 Supplement per person



Executive Suite

A magnificent 57-78 square metre apartment divided into bedroom and a large lounge. The most refined materials, textiles and details decorate every area with their rustic Tuscan charm. The bathroom has a separate shower and bathtub. The bedrooms may be adjoining or connecting. Some suites may accommodate up to four people (with sofa-bed). Like in a historic fresco, a magnificent view of the fields, vineyards and piazza di Castel Monastero can be enjoyed from the windows. The suites come with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

£900 Supplement per person



Royal Suite

A small haven, in complete harmony with the beauty of Castel Monastero. The suite is regal in size, measuring 74-79 square metres, and is divided into bedrooms and a lounge, all bathed in a distinguished atmosphere. The elegance of the furnishings and materials highlights the history and taste of Tuscan tradition. The bathroom has a separate shower and bathtub. A view of the countryside surrounding the hotel and its ancient piazza completes these wonderful suites. Every room comes with free Wi-Fi access, a flat-screen LCD television and a mini-bar.

£1750 Supplement per person

Resort Restaurants

Culture, emotion, memory: these are all found in fine Tuscan cuisine and its wines.

They are also found in Castel Monastero and its gourmet restaurants, “Contrada” and “La Cantina”.

Completing the pleasure of a day at Castel Monastero is the tearoom at the spa with its infusions of aromatic herbs grown on the estate, and a wine bar in which the best aperitifs and the most famous labels of Tuscan wines may be sampled.



Contrada

Facing the piazza, true to the most authentic Italian tradition, “Contrada” is Castel Monastero’s gourmet restaurant.

The charming, elegant establishment is divided into two lounges, also available for private dinners. On the menu are classic flavours of Tuscan cuisine, re-worked in a modern key. Maximum attention is paid to local products, which are selected directly by our chefs. A delightful tasting of typical wines, oils and cheeses is an opportunity not to be missed.

Dinner in this restaurant is included within your package on your arrival evening.

Resort Restaurants

La Cantina

An evocative setting with a relaxed atmosphere. In the medieval wine cellars of Castel Monastero, where the estate's Chianti has rested for centuries, a delightful restaurant serving Tuscan cuisine has been opened.

The architecture, with its high vaulted ceilings and visible stone walls, will take you back in time. The dishes are eternal masterpieces of unique Italian tradition: from "pici" pasta with bread and tomato sauce, to Chianina meat. The wine list is extraordinary.

Ideal for a quick lunch or a laid-back dinner.



The Ultimate Experience

A trip to Castel Monastero is more than just the Palio...

You will enjoy a guided journey into the Tuscan Wine-making tradition and find out all about the history and territory of each wine - as well as having a taste!

You can't forget to relax though, and could there be a more beautiful and harmonious place to de-stress and rejuvenate yourself? Included in your stay is a 60 minute treatment at the Castel Monastero Spa, and to complement your treatment you also receive access to the amazing "aquae monasterii" - a high density sea oil pool, designed exclusively for the Castel Monastero.

Finally you can't visit Italy without sampling some of the incredible cuisine! On your arrival evening you will be treated to dinner in the fantastic Contrada Restaurant at Castel Monastero. In addition to this, the night before the Palio you will head into Siena to dine in one of the local "Contrade".



Your Palio Experience



You will experience the Palio di Siena directly from an apartment overlooking the famous "Piazza del Campo".

With hospitality included you will enjoy Cocktails and refreshments throughout the afternoon as the anticipation builds for the historic race. You will then taken your place in a window space to watch the action unfold!

Following the conclusion of the race you will be served a light buffet dinner with a selection of local delicacies.

There truly is no better way to experience the excitement of this unique event!



Racing Breaks



www.racingbreaks.com / 0800 193 6646