

UMBRIA AND TUSCANY TRIP IN FIAT 500 CABRIO ...PERFECT FOR TWO!

ITINERARY

Day 1- Pronto per un bel viaggio? Umbria

For your convenience, we will pick you up at Rome Fiumicino Airport and take you to **Città della Pieve**, a small charming village in the heart of **Umbria**. Your private transfer will last 2 hours, so once you have checked in at the hotel, take a walk around the property, enjoy the **spa and swimming pool, or get a massage**.

Then, if you still have time and energy, stroll through the streets of **Città della Pieve**. Città della Pieve is an **ancient village where the Etruscans and Romans established their camps** a long time ago. It is the birthplace of Pietro Vannucci, known as "Il Perugino", the 15th century painter renowned for his shadow painting and for his most famous pupil, Raffaello Sanzio.

The village is still largely **surrounded by walls from the 12th century**; its center has several monuments dedicated to **the Saints Gervasio and Protasio**. Il Perugino's most famous fresco, "**The Adoration of the Magi**," was found in the town's **Church of San Sebastiano before being housed in Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria**.

Città della Pieve is also known for the **production of saffron**, which was used by Il Perugino for the **yellow ochre in his paintings**. Today, this precious spice is protected by the "Council of Saffron." Try our favorite meal – **saffron risotto!**

Dinner and overnight in a deluxe room at **Hotel Vannucci**.

For over 100 years, Hotel Vannucci has welcomed guests with **gracious service and delicious cuisine**. It is a **charming and romantic boutique hotel housed in the historic Villa Mirafiori**. Located in the center of historic Città' della Pieve, on the border of Umbria and Tuscany and near Perugia, the hotel is perfectly located to explore both regions.

Day 2-Orvieto loop tour - Umbria

Once your Fiat 500 Cabrio is delivered, you can start your tour:

Città' Della Pieve ↔ **Montegabbione** ↔ **Montegiove** ↔ Pornello ↔ Ospedaletto ↔ **Orvieto** ↔ **Ficulle** ↔ Monteleone d'Orvieto ↔ Città' Della Pieve ↔ **67 miles**

Montegabbione and Montegiove

Montegabbione, a small town of medieval origin, is set apart from the area's usual tourist routes. Montegiove is a must – you will want to check out "**The Scarzuola**," a former **convent** founded by St. Francis in 1218 and restored in 1956 by the architect Tommaso Buzzì.

Orvieto

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Even from far away, you can spot the imposing promontory, formed by volcanoes long ago, that forms the seat of the town of Orvieto. The city and its territory are characterized by a **strong tradition of food, wine, and fine crafts.** The town used to be one of the twelve important Etruscan cities.

Orvieto was later conquered by the Romans, who deported all of its inhabitants to what is now Bolsena. In the Middle Ages, Orvieto enjoyed a **period of splendor** around the 14th century. During World War II, the area was bombed. However, the oldest section of the city, situated on top of a rocky massif, was spared, preserving this **historical and artistic site.**

Sites not to be missed include: the **Duomo of Orvieto** (13th-18th centuries), the **Palazzo Comunale, Palazzo del Popolo, Torre del Moro, Torre di Maurizio,** and the **necropolis.**

Ficulle:

Ficulle is a **medieval village** on a ridge, immersed in the **green of the surrounding mountains.** Modern life having failed to disrupt the lives of its inhabitants, there is **no frenetic pace.** **Instead, you will find fresh air, agriculture, handicrafts, and natural dishes,** all sheltered by the village's old walls, which contain a **labyrinth of alleys and small squares with old houses.**

The **whole village is a "monument;"** the **Church of Santa Maria Vecchia** and **medieval Castel Maggiore** are its main attractions. The symbol of **Ficulle is pottery.**

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Vannucci.

Day 3- Lake Trasimeno and Montepulciano loop tour and wine tasting – Umbria

Citta' Della Pieve-**Panicale**→ San Feliciano→ **Passignano sul Trasimeno**→Tuoro sul Trasimeno→**Petrignano di lago**→ la villa→Maranzano→ **Montepulciano**→Citta' Della Pieve- **98 miles**

Lake Trasimeno is Italy's fourth largest lake and also part of the **Regional Park of Lago Trasimeno.** From its waters emerge three islands – **Maggiore, Minore, and Polvese.**

Lake Trasimeno officially entered the "**Living Lake**" network in 2006. The **quality of its water** and the presence of **flora and fauna of great biological interest** make this lake a **pleasant habitat** for humans and other living beings.

Panicale

Panicale is **Umbria's most beautiful natural terrace** (1,414 feet high) and a former military stronghold. Do not miss **Perugino's** beautiful fresco **masterpiece,** representing the **martyr of the saint in the church of San Sebastiano.**

San Feliciano

San Feliciano is a town historically associated with fishing. Be a fisherman for one day by taking a boat trip with a real fisherman! This is a great opportunity to try using a **fishing net** and to take

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a **tour of the island Polvese**. And If you like **birdwatching**, "**La Valle**" will be your ornithological oasis.

Passignano sul Trasimeno

From Passignano sul Trasimeno, you can take a boat to visit the island of **Maggiore**, an **authentic fishing village**.

Your day will end with wine tasting in **Montepulciano**, a **medieval and Renaissance** hill town which **sits high on a 1,985-ft. lime stone ridge**. Montepulciano is a **major producer** of food and **drink**. While renowned for its pork, cheese, "pici" pasta, lentils, and honey, **it is probably most known for its wine**. **Connoisseurs consider its Vino Nobile among Italy's best!**

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Vannucci.

Day 4-Val di Chiana loop tour

Citta delle Pieve→Perugia-Cortone→Arezzo-San Casciano→**129 miles**

The **Val di Chiana** was extensively settled by the **Etruscans** and Romans. Today, it extends over the territory of **22 municipalities** in the provinces of Arezzo and Siena in Tuscany, as well as Perugia and Terni in Umbria. From the north, the valley runs south from Arezzo and west of Cortona, both of which **have magnificent views over the plains of the valley floor**.

You will first visit **Perugia**. Etruscans founded Perugia in the 6th century. The Romans later built paved roads, **the forum, cisterns, the Roman amphitheatre** outside Porta Marzia, **thermal baths, and the mausoleum**, which is located under **Saint Peter's bell tower**.

Perugia lies on a hill 1,640 feet above sea level, totally surrounded by the **old town**, and partly **surrounded by Etruscan and medieval walls**. The old town is a typical **medieval village, one of the most beautiful in Italy**. Entering through Porta San Pietro, the first monument to visit is the **Basilica of San Domenico**, where many statues and valuable works by local artists are housed. The nearby cloisters and monasteries are now home to the **National Museum of Umbrian Archaeology**, which houses archaeological finds from **the Neolithic and Bronze Ages**.

Do not miss the **Piazza Matteotti**, known in antiquity as Sopramuro (above the walls), with the **Palazzo dell'Università Vecchia**, built in the **fifteenth century**, and the **Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo**.

From there, walk to some of Italy's most important squares – **Piazza IV Novembre** and its **Maggiore Fountain** by **Giovanni and Nicola Pisano**.

Your next stop will be **Cortona**. Among the many villages of the Val di Chiana, **Cortona** is particularly fascinating. It includes a variety of palaces, the **Cathedral**, the **Diocesan Museum**, and the **Church of Saint Francis**. The **Museum of the Etruscan Academy and City (MAEC)** is definitely worth a visit too.

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Drive to **Arezzo**, an extraordinary **city of art** renowned for its **goldsmiths and antique traders**. Arezzo is home to valuable monuments, including the imposing **Medici Fortress**, the **Cathedral**, the **Diocesan Museum**, and the **Basilica of San Domenico**. The **Archaeological Museum** showcases the importance of the city during the Etruscan era. The **State Museum of Medieval and Modern Art** provides an overview of the artistic production from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

The **Church of Saint Francis** is the ideal starting point for an itinerary focused on **14th century painter Piero della Francesca**, as it preserves the **Legend of the True Cross**, one of the greatest **masterpieces of early Renaissance art**.

Do not miss a visit to the small town of **Caprese Michelangelo**, the birthplace of **Michelangelo Buonarroti**. A museum in the old castle is dedicated to **the artist**.

Dinner and overnight in a deluxe room at **Villa il Poggiale**. Villa il Poggiale is a **designated historic mansion** located a few miles from Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance. **The mansion is meticulously restored**; you will appreciate the **Italian hospitality of a true country house**. **Light, space, and cozy corners** are a **complete delight**. As befits a region that inspired the fathers of Italian painting, the house contains **beautifully adorned doors**, large halls and **walls colored with soft pastels made from natural pigments**. **Canopies and curtains display fabrics from small Tuscan artisan workshops**. The salons and ground-floor rooms are **lushly festooned with Oriental silks**.

Day 5- Florence tour

San Casciano In Val di Pesa→**Florence**→**Impruneta**→San Casciano In Val di Pesa- **26 miles**

You will be amazed by **the rich artistic heritage of Florence**, also called **the city of art**. Once you have visited the major attractions of the city – **il Duomo, il ponte Vecchio, la Galleria degli Uffizi, Il Battistero** – we suggest you explore a more authentic and less known part of the city.

The Oltrarno neighborhood has welcomed several contemporary artists over the years. Here you will find the street art of Frenchman **Clet Abraham**, the workshop of **master jeweler Alessandro Dari**, and the bronze sculptures by Belgian artist **Jean Michel Folon**. You can also relax in the beautiful **Giardino delle Rose**, between Piazzale Michelangelo and Porta San Niccolò.

Sant'Ambrogio

In the Sant'Ambrogio borough, next to Santa Croce, you will find one of the city's **nicest food markets and observe many Florentins go about their daily lives**.

Around the Palazzo Vecchio - Via Tornabuoni

Here you are in the heart of the city, where many of Florence's best monuments and museums reside. Don't miss **Piazza della Signoria** or **the city hall** with its many sculptures, including a

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famous copy of *David* by Michelangelo Buonarroti. And for those who love **fashion**, you must visit the **Gucci Museum**.

Enjoy a break at **Caffe Rivoire**, and order the speciality, a "**cioccolata calda**." Its recipe has been kept secret for many years.

San Lorenzo district

This area is famous for its **leather market** and for the **best ice cream in town**. Take a break at **Gelateria Beetle**, via Ricasoli 60. A gelato is almost mandatory to complete your Florence visit!

Santa Maria Novella district

You must visit the beautiful **church of Santa Maria Novella**, renown for its **Renaissance facade and frescos by Giotto and Masaccio**. And make sure to stop by **the Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella** in Via della Scala 16, the **oldest pharmacy in Florence**.

Impruneta

Before heading back to San Casciano in Val di Pesa, stop by **Impruneta**, a village famous for its **Terracotta**. Our favorite place in Impruneta is the **fornace Mario Mariani**. Here, Mario continues the tradition of craftsmanship **in an 18th century clay oven**.

Buffet dinner and overnight at Villa il Poggiale.

Day 6- Chianti loop tour and wine tasting

San Casciano In Val di Pesa→**Castellina in Chianti**→Greve-San Casciano In Val di Pesa- **41 miles**

Welcome to the region of the **Chianti Classico**! Today, you will discover the Chianti villages, and at the end of the day, you will **enjoy a wine tasting!**

To get the right to produce Chianti, strict rules must be followed:

Chianti must be composed of at least **80% Sangiovese grapes**, the typical grape of the region. Other than the Sangiovese grape, the winemaker may use other kinds of grapes like **Merlot and Canaiolo**.

The Sangiovese grape owes its reputation to the earth in which it grows. **The sandy ground** gives a **floral bouquet**, the **limestone** gives the **scent of wild berries**, while **tuffaceous** ground gives a **flavor of tobacco and spices**. The **scent of violets** remains the most distinct characteristic of the Sangiovese grape.

Castellina in Chianti

Castellina is a **village dating back to the 11th century**. It used to belong to the **Nobles Trebbio**. This village also played an important role during the war between Florence and Siena, and because of its strategic position, it became **Chianti's administrative center**.

Several medieval castles and Roman churches are scattered around Castellina (Monternano, Pietrafitta, Grignano, the St. Agnes, and Lilliano San Leonino in Conio).

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To purchase a good wine, we highly recommend **the Fattoria Le Fonti** in via dei Macelli. It is a small family-run winery that produces only 40,000 bottles of wine per year. The wine is very high quality.

Greve in Chianti

Greve is well known for **olive oil production**, including the Chianti and Chianti Classico. Greve expanded, thanks to the **many trade routes**, such as Volterrana and Via Francigena.

Pass by the **church of Santa Croce** in Greve, and visit the **small village of Montefioralle**, a well-preserved medieval military center.

Buffet dinner and overnight at Villa il Poggiale.

Day 7- San Gimignano/Siena Tour - Tuscany

San Casciano In Val di Pesa→**San Gimignano**→**Certaldo**→**Siena**→Citta' Della Pieve-**123 miles**

San Gimignano, recognized by UNESCO as "**World Cultural Heritage City**" is located in the heart of the **valley D'Elsa**. **The Dome, Palazzo Comunale, museums** and art reflect the different **churches of the city** in all its **splendor**.

Let yourself be tempted by the white wine, **Vernaccia di San Gimignano**.

Visit **San Gimignano 1300**. This museum hosts a large and **beautiful painted clay model** with stunning realism and sophisticated lighting. You will discover urban planning, architecture, and **historical and social context of the citizens of San Gimignano in 1300**.

Certaldo

Certaldo is a charming village built in red brick with three doors. The most important monument of the city is the **Palazzo Pretorio, which dates back to the 12th century**. **Giovanni Boccaccio** (1313-1375), the great poet who wrote **the Decameron**, lived and died there; his house is also worth visiting.

Siena

Siena's heart is its **central piazza, Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio run**, a horse race run around the piazza two times every summer. Rebuilt during the rule of the **Council of Nine**, a quasi-democratic group **from 1287 to 1355**, the nine sections of the **fan-like brick pavement** of the piazza represent the council and symbolize the **Madonna's cloak**, which shelters Siena.

The Campo is dominated by the **red Palazzo Pubblico** and its tower, **Torre del Mangia**. The civic palace, built between 1297 and 1310, still houses the city's municipal offices. Its internal courtyard has entrances to the Torre del Mangia and to the **Civic Museum**. If you feel energetic, **a climb up the 500+ steps of the Torre del Mangia** will reward you with a **wonderful view of Siena and its surroundings**.

The **Civic Museum** offers some of the greatest Sieneese paintings. The Sala del Concistoro houses one of **Domenico Beccafumi's best works, ceiling frescoes critical of Siena's medieval government**.

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Dinner and overnight in a deluxe room at Hotel Vannucci.

Day 8-Grazie e arrivederci!

Private transfer from your hotel to Rome Fiumicino airport

DETAILS

- ❖ **Tour duration:** 8 days/7 nights
- ❖ **Price starts at USD:** \$1,953 per person double occupancy
- ❖ **Group Size:** Private tour - 2 people
- ❖ **Start on:** All year long
- ❖ **Country visited:** Italy - Umbria and Tuscany regions
- ❖ **Comfort:** 3-and 4-star hotels
- ❖ **Level of difficulty:** Easy
- ❖ **Transport:** Private transfer, Fiat 500 Cabrio
- ❖ **Accommodation:** Private double room
- ❖ **Additional Information:** Passport needed

- ❖ **What's included:**
 - 7 nights of accommodation, paying half board, on the basis of 2 people double occupancy
 - Private transfers from FCO airport to your hotel and return
 - 6-day Fiat 500 Cabrio rental with GPS (delivered at the hotel), Unlimited mileage, third party liability insurance + theft and fire
 - 2 wine tastings (Montepulciano and Chianti region)
 - A detailed road book

- ❖ **What's not included:**
 - Personal expenses
 - Drinks not included during dinners
 - Personal insurance
 - International airfare
 - Entrances fees

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❖ **Tips from the team**

-At restaurants, you will often be charged for bread, tap water, and kitchen cutlery. So do not be surprised!

-When you park your car, pay attention to the signs and ask a carabinieri (policeman) if necessary. Vehicles are easily towed away!

The dinners will have 3 courses or will be buffet style. If I were you, I would save space for the dinner and have a picnic for lunch!

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