



DRIVE TO DISCOVER ITALY

TUSCANY ROAD TRIP: A DRIVE FOR FOOD & WINE LOVERS



Florence

1



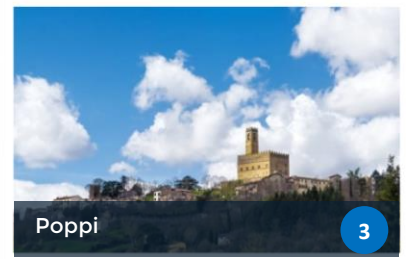
Pontassieve

2



Colle di Val d'Elsa

7



Poppi

3



Chianti

6



Arezzo Province

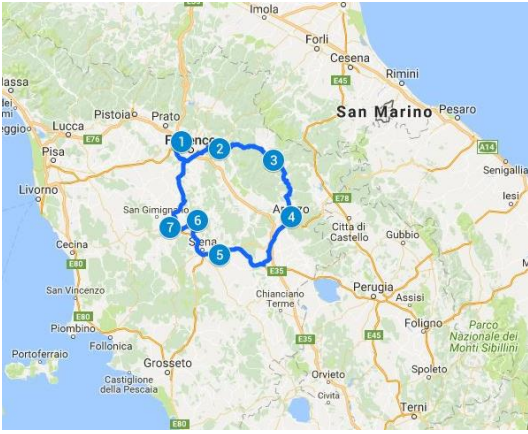
4



Siena

5





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Florence to Pontassieve	12 miles	35 minutes
Pontassieve to Poppi	24 miles	51 minutes
Poppi to Arezzo	24 miles	40 minutes
Arezzo to Siena	42 miles	1 hour 8 minutes
Siena to Chianti	17 miles	30 minutes
Chianti to Colle di Val d' Elsa	17 miles	41 minutes
Colle di Val d' Elsa to Florence	42 miles	56 minutes
Total Distance Covered:	178 miles	

Whether it's your first time in Italy, or you travel there often, you're probably aware that Tuscany is a special region which offers foodies and wine-lovers a special treat. Driving in Tuscany is the ideal way to explore the bistros, eateries, cafes and vineyards the region is known for, because it allows you to take in the iconic Tuscan countryside at an unhurried pace, and offers stunning pastoral vistas at every turn.

This round-trip driving itinerary through Arezzo, Siena, and beyond begins in Florence and offers a glimpse of the unique communities which make up the heart of this renowned region. Let Auto Europe be your guide on this food and wine-lover's [road trip in Tuscany](#), while you drive to discover Italy!

TO/FROM: Florence-Peretola Airport

In this road trip guide, you'll begin and end your journey at Florence-Peretola airport.

1. Florence

Ah, beautiful Firenze! The restaurants of Florence have everything a food and wine-lover could wish for, and we invite you to start your trip with a leisurely day or two spent exploring this fantastic city. Some of our favorite restaurants include La Bottega del Buon Caffè and Il Palagio, SandwiChic, Il Bufalo Trippone, or Panini Toscani. Lo Sverso and Note di Vino are notable wine bars in the city, and La Terrazza Lounge Bar offers beautiful views of the river from their outdoor terrace if you're looking for a way to unwind, enjoy some wine and drink in the Florentine atmosphere!

2. Pontassieve

In Pontassieve you'll be rewarded by a variety of high-quality watering holes and fine-dining eateries. Ristorante Al 588 is one of our favorites ... it's hidden like a treasure after a beautiful rural drive along a narrow road, and when you arrive you'll feel transported. Expect fantastic service!

A short drive north and you'll find the historic Nipozzano Castle & estate which is the perfect location to taste the lovely Frescobaldi wines.

3. Poppi

At this stop we recommend Brancaia winery for a tasting before dinner (we recommend registering in advance). After your tasting (and perhaps purchasing a bottle of Chianti for a picnic later in the trip), visit Il Capanno, a restaurant which offers fabulous, authentic food with a casual atmosphere. What we love about this well-reviewed restaurant, nestled in the trees in Casentino is that there's plenty of room outside to stretch your legs and enjoy a walk before or after dinner.

4. Arezzo Province

The entire Arezzo Province area offers stunning pastoral views that are iconic for the Tuscan region. The Town Hall (Palazzo del Comune), Cattedrale di San Donato, and Monumento a Francesco Petarca are all worth visiting, and after you've walked the city and worked up an appetite for more authentic Italian cuisine, enjoy Le Chiavi D'Oro, Ristorante Dario e Anna, or Saffron (high end) or grab a sandwich at Panini & Co or Dal Moro (and keep exploring!).

5. Siena

When you arrive in Siena (just over an hour in your Italy car rental), be sure to visit the Siena Cathedral, Biblioteca Piccolomini, and take time to walk the Piazza del Campo. Each of these landmarks will inspire you with the rich history of the city, and lend balance to the rural vistas you've enjoyed all day. If the timing is right and you're planning to stay in Siena for any length of time, plan to have breakfast at Antica Salumeria Salvini.

6. Chianti

Head North from Siena (enjoying a beautiful drive). Your next stop is in Chianti, Italy where you can tour the beautiful old Church of Saint Saviour, and indulge in some Italian comfort food (and wine) at Osteria Pastecceci da Soni, a beautiful restaurant that offers a nice change of pace from the other eateries we've recommended. If possible, dine outdoors!

7. Colle di Val d'Elsa

Today you'll explore Colle di Val d'Elsa (a stunning location in the province of Siena, Italy), and nearby San Gimignano. In Colle di Val d'Elsa be sure to visit Il Baluardo where you'll get your bearings of the historic city with a panoramic view (perfect place for photos), the Palazzo Campana, and dine at the Officina della Cucina Popolare, Arnolfo, or (more casual), Ristorante Pizzeria il Torrione.

From here, drive north to return to beautiful Florence.