

0	Starting point: Montalcino, roundabout at the beginning of Viale Pietro Strozzi. At the roundabout, take the second exit on the right, following the directions for Abbazia di Sant'Antimo (Abbey of Sant'Antimo); continue straight ahead. Once you have reached Castelnuovo dell'Abate, at the crossroads turn right towards the Abbazia di Sant'Antimo; turn right again continuing along the downhill road until reaching the Abbazia. Petrol Station
10,000	Go back to the crossroads of Castelnuovo dell'Abate ; then, at the crossroads, turn right , following the directions for Monte Amiata
15,000	Pass the railway crossing in the town of Monte Amiata and continue straight ahead
18,500	At the crossroads turn left following the directions for Castiglione d'Orcia
	At the crossroads turn left , and take the SS323 road towards Castiglione d'Orcia . Arrival in Castiglione d'Orcia at Km 26 Petrol station at Km 26
30,000 •	Once passed the town of Castiglione d'Orcia , at the crossroads at the end of the street, turn left towards San Quirico
31,000	At the deviation on the right towards Pienza-Monticchiello , turn and continue straight ahead ; pass the tower located on the right and continue in the same direction
36,000	At the crossroads turn left towards Pienza-Monticchiello , taking the SP18 Orcia delle Macchie road and continue straight ahead
37,000 💿	At the deviation on the right towards Monticchiello , turn and continue straight ahead along the SP88 road; at the crossroads, turn right towards Monticchiello . Once you have entered the residential area of Monticchiello , proceed along the uphill road; then, once reached the top, turn right and then take the first street on the left , entering the parking area (at Km 43)

48,000 •	Go back along the same street until reaching the second crossroads (where you had previously turned right) and turn right towards Pienza ; continue straight ahead along the SP18 road, ignoring deviations and go up to Pienza . At Km 53 arrival in Pienza . Petrol Station at Km 53
54,000 •	Continue straight ahead along the same street, which runs along the walls of the town and at the crossroads with Via San Gregorio (recognisable thanks to the presence of an ice cream parlour on the right and Piazza Dante Alighieri on the left), keep to the left towards San Quirico along the SS146 road and continue straight ahead . At Km 63 arrival in San Quirico
64,000	Continue along Via delle Carbonaie and at the second deviation on the right turn towards Montalcino ; then, turn right again and take Via Cassia, turning right towards Montalcino and continue straight ahead along Via Cassia
64,300	Continue straight ahead along Via Cassia
70,000	Turn at the exit for Montalcino on the right and take the SP14 road towards Montalcino , passing the residential area of Lama
75,500 🗪	At the roundabout, turn at the second exit towards Montalcino and continue along the same street. Continue straight ahead along the uphill street, arriving all the way to the top of it. At Km 77 arrival at the roundabout with a statue in its centre, located at the beginning of the

historical city centre of **Montalcino**



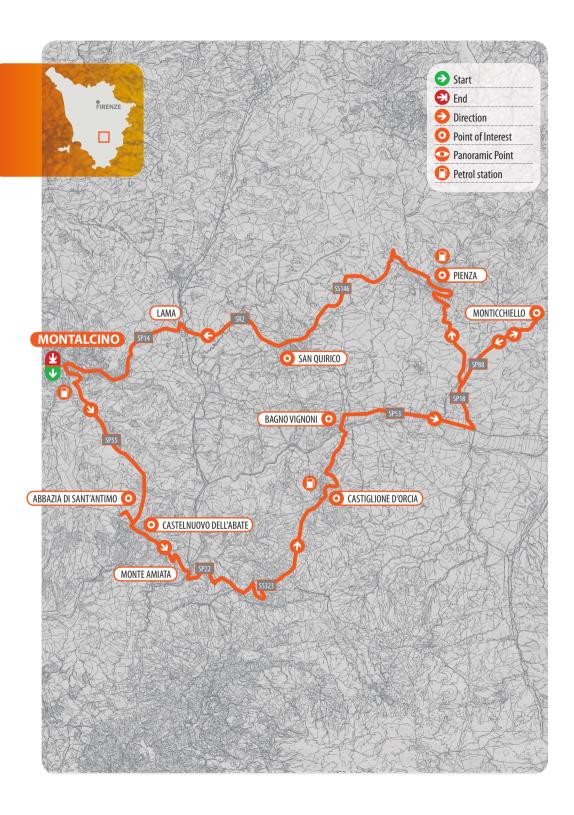


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VAL D'ORCIA

Anyone that has at least once passed through Val d'Orcia surely must have felt a strange sensation, which reminds of old times, and ancient world wrapped in the mist of fantasy, in an unforgettable atmosphere that can be magically relived every time these small streets are travelled. These streets seemed designed with a skilled and delicate paintbrush on the sweet hills of this valley. This is the scenery through which this itinerary winds and it is the background of the journey of the solitary knight, Guidoriccio da Fogliano, painted by Simone Martini in the fresco kept in Palazzo Pubblico in Siena. The valley is a harmony of nature, culture, and art: intact natural landscapes are spotted by castles and parish churches, treasures of architecture and history, which become part of a unique composition that every spectator falls in love with.

TOTAL LENGTH OF THE ITINERARY: **77 Km**

TRAVELLING TIME: 3 hours of itinerary, excluding stops

MONTALCINO

The territory on which the town stands was already inhabited in ancient times by the Etruscan people. Two are the possible origins of the city's name: one associates it to *Mons Lucinus*, as tribute to the goddess Lucina or linked to the term *lucus*, that is "sacred forest"; the second hypothesis associates it to *Mons llicinus*, linked to the evergreen oak plant (in Latin *ilex*).

Montalcino experienced a period of splendour and freedom during the medieval period thanks to its position on the old Via Francigena, which connected Rome to France. This independence was lost afterwards, since the city fell under the domain of Siena; this domination was so strong to make Montalcino the refuge place of the nobles from Siena, who established the "Repubblica di Siena riparata in Montalcino". Today, the town is famous for its position within the most important wine production area, where the Brunello di Montalcino is produced. Unmissable is the XIV century Fortress, the Duomo (Cathedral), and the nearby Abbazia di Sant'Antimo (Abbey of Sant'Antimo).

MONTICCHIELLO

The town of Monticchiello, a district of Pienza, is surely very interesting to see. It is a medieval hamlet, located in an elevated position, which still preserves the traces of its origin: the walls, towers, main gate, citadel, and the atmosphere of a far away past, magical and quiet that only a medieval town can offer

PIENZA

The history of the city of Pienza is completely different from the one of the nearby towns; its origins are not medieval: during the XV century, the town was nothing more than a small hamlet called Corsignano. The radical change occurred when its most illustrious citi-

zen was born, Enea Silvio Piccolomini, who became Pope Pius II. The history of the town is linked to the story of this Pope, who ordered his trustworthy architect, Bernardo Rossellino, to build a new part of the city above the old one. This is how Pienza obtained a Renaissance aspect, still perfectly preserved today, and which included it in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The history of the town and, therefore, also any change, was interrupted with the untimely death of Pope Pius II, who in only three years made Pienza the town of Ideal and Utopia.

