

## Tuscany 2018

We love Italy, the culture, the beautiful scenery and the quaint towns and no area of Italy better sums this all up than Tuscany.

We flew out from London Stansted in late June for a weeks visit to Tuscany, on a two centre holiday.



Our first destination was [San Quirico D'Orcia](#). It was quite a mammoth journey to get there from [Pisa airport](#), incorporating 4 trains and a taxi ride, but it was certainly worth the effort. San Quirico D'Orcia is a very beautiful quaint little town in rural Tuscany.



The locals were very warm and friendly and the atmosphere was peaceful, we enjoyed some lovely walks in the countryside from the hotel, [Hotel Palazzuolo](#), taking in the views and photographing.

We also found the many Tuk Tuk's driving around the area very interesting!





Whilst in San Quirico we took a bus ride to Siena and found ourselves visiting around the time of the [Palio di Siena](#), a famous horse race that takes



place in the centre square of [Siena](#). Preparations for the race were in full swing and the locals who had arrived ready for the race the next day all carried flags of their region with them.

Following a quiet few days in San Quirico we moved on to [Montecatini de Terme](#) near Pisa.



This reminded us very much of a 1970's seaside resort (just without the beach). We stayed in the Hotel Belsoggiorno. The restaurant at the hotel was particularly good, Andrew ordered Steak Tartare on the first night and it was prepared for him at our table by the Maitre d', adding to the show!

Whilst there we spend a day each visiting Florence and Pisa.

We travelled to [Pisa](#) by train from Montecatini and enjoyed walking around the city and visiting the famous [Leaning Tower of Pisa](#). We had expected prices for food to be very high close to the tower but were pleasantly surprised that we were able to obtain a very good lunch and a very reasonable cost. Piza (especially around the tower) was as you would expect busy, but was certainly worth a visit. It's interesting to note that it is not just the tower that leans but the trees close to it are leaning as well.



[Florence](#) is the typical Tuscan city, with many renaissance buildings. Architecturally it is probably the most scenic city in Italy. Whilst we were here we visited [Michaelangelo's David](#) as well as the Duomo and [The Ponte Vecchio](#). We enjoyed a very nice lunch near the Ponte Vecchio beside the river, where Andrew enjoyed a Frutti Di Mare (Fruits of the sea) lunch it was very fresh and in fact there was an octopus tentacle still wiggling on his plate.

After lunch we asked our waiter for suggestions of where we could go and he recommended walking up to the viewpoint at [Piazzale Michaelangelo](#), this was



a very steep walk with many steps but



was certainly worth it and is probably the most famous view of Florence possible.

Back in Montecatini we enjoyed the fact that this little town, so easily accessible to both Pisa and Florence was pretty quiet and very friendly. There was a good local market which we enjoyed wandering through.



We also enjoyed the ride in the [funicular](#) to enjoy the views at the top of the hill in Montecatini Alto, this is certainly worth taking the time to do if you are visiting Montecatini.

All too soon it was time to return to the UK, but of all of Italy, Tuscany certainly holds a soft spot in our heart's and we look forward to returning and exploring further.

