

## Italian Castle Hideaway Break

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If you are looking for a horse riding holiday in a rural hideaway set deep in the Italian countryside between Tuscany and Umbria and you like the idea of staying in a castle then please read on.....

Abandoned Etruscan settlements, lakes formed in volcanic craters and medieval edifices adorn the landscape of this enchanting Italian landscape. Located one and a half hours from Rome the splendid 17th century castle (complete with fairy tale turret) will be 'home' throughout your stay. The castle has two swimming pools, a tennis court and ample gardens and for those wishing to ride, a well run stables with professional instruction and miles upon miles of breath-taking trail riding awaits you.



This riding break is suitable for intermediate to advanced riders. We offer a learn to ride package for beginners that offers a mixture of lessons and gentle trail rides.

### The Brigands Trail

This riding holiday runs from 6<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> July and from 28<sup>th</sup> August – 27<sup>th</sup> November.



#### Itinerary

##### Saturday

Afternoon arrival at the picturesque castle location. After checking in you will be served with a welcome drink and then receive a briefing from your guide/instructor who will be looking after you throughout the week.



##### Sunday

This morning you will be heading out along The Brigands Trail towards the picturesque Lake Bolsena. This is a fantastic spot with breathtaking views of the area stretching from the beautiful crater of Lake Bolsena on one side, to the hills surrounding Lake Mezzano on the other side. On a clear day you can see the sea 40 km away, shimmering like a mirror. As you head back along this ancient 'outlaws highway' you will be winding your way through beautiful hills and woodland which offers great opportunities for cantering.



##### Monday

Today you will be riding to Lake Mezzano; this is an area of great interest both historically and naturally. The lake was formed in a volcanic crater and is now a historical site with traces of human settlements dating back to the pre-etruscan era. We will be riding through the chestnut woods on the hillsides that surround the lake before descending onto the beaches that surround the lake. We will stop for lunch at a small rural restaurant overlooking the lake where





the horses can enjoy a rest in their shady corral whilst we eat, relax and maybe enjoy a refreshing swim. After lunch you will be following an old track that crosses the plain by the lake and heads through fields and vineyards perfect for a faster pace of riding.

### Tuesday

Once again this morning we will be heading off along The Brigands Trail as we ride north towards the fortified village of Onano. Centuries ago this village was an important stronghold of the Monaldeschi family who ruled this area throughout the middle ages. You will be riding through beautiful open fields till you reach the little medieval church, Madonna delle grazie, then you will be following the track north through enchanting countryside back to the castle.



### Wednesday

Today we will follow an old trail down towards the crater of Lake Bolsena, the biggest volcanic lake in Europe. Breath taking views of the lake will accompany our excursion all the way. Scattered throughout the countryside, archaeological sites with Etruscan tombs will serve to remind us of how ancient this beautiful land really is. Today lunch can be taken on the beach at a local restaurant and again there will be the opportunity to swim in the lake. As you head to the top of the crater the magnificent Farnese renaissance palace in Gradoli is sure to catch your attention. Once at the top of the crater of the lake an old track through the woods will take us back to the castle.



### Thursday

Today is a free day. The owners offer a number of local excursions including a trip to an ancient Etruscan settlement in their four by four vehicles, olive oil tasting or a visit to the marvellous Italian gothic church of Orvieto. Alternatively, mountain biking is offered for the more energetic guests!



### Friday

We ride today from castle to castle, a fabulous excursion that will take us through the most unspoiled of Tuscan countryside, wading a ford in the Stridolone River before reaching the hilltop overlooking the fortress of Proceno. Along the way you may spot pheasant, fallow-deer, and wild boars. After lunch we will cross the river again and climb the side of a plateau through thick vegetation taking advantage of an old track once used by farmers.



### Saturday

Sadly today it is time to bid farewell to your castle home, but if you can't bear to go home just yet we can organise an additional night or two for you in Rome.



## Prices

### Cost per person in shared twin £ 1250

*Included in the price:*

- 7 nights accommodation in twin rooms with en suite facilities (Saturday to Saturday)
- Full board including table wine (picnic lunch on some rides)
- Welcome drink and guided tour of the castle.
- 5 riding days, 3 full riding days (4/5 hrs. per day), 2 half days (2/3 hrs. per day)
- Multi-lingual guide.
- Lessons available in the arena from beginners to intermediate

*Not included:*  
•Maid Service

Transfer cost is 120€ per car return from Rome Airports. Please note if you have a private transfer i.e. – 1 person the transfer cost will be 60€ each way.

There is a single supplement charge of £135

### **Note**

The price above includes clean towels once a week and bathroom soaps and shampoos are provided. There is no daily cleaning of your room or room service with change of linen on this package. Extra clean towels will be provided on request at a price of €15 per set of 3 pieces. Breakfast will include cereals, fruit, yoghurts, bread, toast, butter, jam as well as a selection of croissants and cakes.

Alternatively for those wanting additional services we offer a 'gold package' that costs £220 per week per room and this includes:

A daily room cleaning service with three changes of towels and bed linen per week.

Breakfast includes the above plus scrambled eggs or boiled eggs, ham, salami and cheeses.

Optional activities at the castle on the horse riding holidays Italy packages include:

- Swimming pool (01st June - 30th September)
- Tennis court (€15 per hour)
- Mountain bikes (€20 per person per day)
- Mini football Pitch
- Volleyball
- Ping pong
- Billiards

The horses are a mixture of thoroughbred and warm blood crosses all chosen for their excellent temperaments, their patience and their delight for travelling through this enchanting countryside! The tack is English tack. There are two outdoor arenas and lessons are available for all ages and levels in both dressage and jumping. The maximum weight allowed is 100kg and the numbers of riders on each excursion is between 1 and 5.

**ATTENTION:** The excursions on the horse riding holidays Italy packages can be changed according to weather, horses and riders conditions by the riding management of the castle.



equestrian escapes

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