

# **GOLF IN TUSCANY**

## **SPORT, ART, SHOPPING AND TUSCAN FLAVORS BOTH FOR GOLF LOVERS AND THEIR PARTNERS**

### **1° DAY: ARRIVAL**

Check-in in the Hotel, placed in the sunny luxuriant country-side near Pistoia and Montecatini, among olive groves, cypresses and vineyards. Meeting with our assistant and accommodation in the rooms. Dinner and overnight in Hotel.

### **2° DAY: PISTOIA AND MONTECATINI GOLF CLUB**

Morning: breakfast in hotel and then guided walking tour in **Pistoia**, a very charming and well-preserved medieval town full of fine artworks, excellent restaurants and quality shops. You'll visit the old medieval town: the central Piazza San Francesco, with its interesting Franciscan Church, the Romanesque church of S. Andrea, housing a precious pulpit carved by the sculptor Giovanni Pisano, one of the town's greatest works of art. You'll also visit Piazza del Duomo, the heart of the old center, with its Cathedral, Baptistery and intact medieval palaces and then the nearby Piazza della Sala, where you'll get in touch with a typical picturesque Italian fruit and vegetable open market. You'll also see the Ospedale del Ceppo (the Ceppo Hospital), famous for Giovanni della Robbia's startlingly colorful earthen glazed frieze. You'll visit the basements of this ancient Hospital: along an interesting route, you'll discover the secret underground architectures of this old building, including the prestigious Hall of Anatomy, designed as a true 'anatomical theater', and the special and valuable collection of surgical instruments dating from the seventeenth-century.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch in a typical Tuscan tavern in Pistoia's old center (not included).

Afternoon: transfer to the nearby Montecatini and golf round at the **Montecatini Golf Club**. The perimeter of the golf green measures about 6000 meters (about 6405 yards) and follows the natural outlines of the land, creating a difficult and demanding course with natural obstacles that set a trap also for the skilled golfers in at least five of eighteen holes.

*For no-golfers*: a relaxing half-day at the famous **Grotta Giusti Natural SPA resort**, a natural paradise immersed in the green of the Tuscan country-side on the slopes of Monsummano Terme hill. Surrounded by the greenery of a centuries-old park, the Grotta Giusti Resort is an enchanting and perfectly equipped SPA center with a feature that makes it unique: the ancient grotto, which envelops the guests in a beneficial and detoxifying thermal steam bath. You'll enjoy the health benefits of the warm thermal waters springing directly from the fascinating old grotto.

Dinner and overnight in hotel.

### **3° DAY: LE PAVONIERE GOLF CLUB AND THE MEDICI VILLA OF POGGIO A CAIANO**

Morning: breakfast and check-out from the Hotel. Departure for the nearby Prato and golf tournament at **Le Pavoniere Golf Club**. The golf course flanks an ancient park, where the fairway is undulating and the sand fine. The eighteen holes have been designed by the world famous player Arnold Palmer: perfect lines of play, greens protected by insidious bunkers and strategic water obstacles. The course is challenging and perfect for testing your ability searching for the perfect round.

*For no-golfers*: relax by the swimming pool, with a large solarium, at Le Pavoniere Golf Club.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch in a typical Tuscan restaurant in the country-side near Prato (not included).

Afternoon: visit of the wonderful Medici **Villa of Poggio a Caiano**, built by Lorenzo the Magnificent at the foot of the Albano hills, beautifully situated in a large estate between Florence, Prato and Pistoia. You'll see the interior of this Villa, with its rare ancient furniture and its fine frescoes celebrating the Medici family, painted by some of the most important Florentine artists of the sixteenth-century. At the end of the visit, transfer to the wonderful hills surrounding Florence. Overnight in hotel.

### **4° DAY: FLORENCE AND POGGIO DEI MEDICI GOLF CLUB**

Morning: After breakfast at hotel, departure for an half-day tour in **Florence**, the celebrated capital of Tuscany, the city of art known all over the world like a nonpareil open-air museum. Before starting the classical walking guided tour of the old town, you'll be able to have a wonderful view over Florence and its surrounding hills from the famous panoramic large square called Piazzale Michelangelo. Then a local guide will show you the wonders of the old town: starting by the celebrated medieval Basilica of Santa Croce, moving to Piazza della Signoria, the heart of the political Florence, and then reaching the famous medieval bridge Ponte Vecchio and finally the Piazza del Duomo, the religious

center of Florence, with its wonderful Gothic Cathedral, its Romanesque Baptistery and the majestic Giotto's Campanile.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch in a typical Tuscan tavern in Florence's old center (not included).

Afternoon: golf round at the acclaimed ***Poggio dei Medici Golf Club***, set in the heart of the beautiful green Mugello region and home of the Ladies Italian Open from 1999 to 2003. Designed by the Italian architect Alvisse Rossi Fioravanti and by the professional player Baldovino Dassù, the course allows for four different playing routes within its 18 holes. As you play on this fascinating course, you can also appreciate the typical Tuscan scenery, viewed from a vantage point. You'll play on a world-class Golf Course deep in the countryside, only a few kilometres from Florence.

*For no-golfers*: pleasant afternoon dedicated to ***shopping in Florence's old center***. In Florence, Fashion is a type of art, that is part of the city's cultural heritage. Only in Florence you can find stores and boutiques of the most important Florentine designers, especially in Via Tornabuoni (Tornabuoni Street), lined with famous boutiques: Ferragamo, Cavalli, Gucci, Prada, Enrico Coveri, Patrizia Pepe, Emilio Pucci, who represent Italian fashion in the world. Florentine shopping will also bring you to Ponte Vecchio, that, thanks to its precious jewellery, represents the heart of the artisan Florence. The Goldsmith art is famous all around the world and still today preserves its original characteristics.

Overnight in hotel.

**All our tours have been designed and developed with the following basic features:**

- **3 / 4 STARS HOTELS**
- **HALF BOARD, with the possibility of full board**
- **GUIDED TOURS AS PER PROGRAM**
- **TRANSFERS BY COACH or TRAIN**

**We can expand or decrease our offer according to some variables or specific requests: the period of stay (low, medium or high season), the number of participants, the ability to integrate the program with extras like cooking classes, entrances in museums not listed in the programs and so on.**

**Send us an email with your personal request and we'll respond within 24 hours with an ad hoc quote just for you! Customize and make your holidays in Tuscany special and unforgettable with the expertise and advise of *Tour in Tuscany!***

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