



Castello di S. Cristina

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Southern Tuscany Riders & Non riders Family Special: while you ride your dear ones enjoy a beautiful holiday!

DATE 2008: From 12.Apr to 12.Jul and from 23.Aug to 08.Nov

Weeks go from Saturday to Saturday

It is a special package for families where some members ride and others don't.

Riders can enjoy 1,5 hours riding every day, lessons (beginners) or excursions; Pony school, Dressage or Jumping lessons while their kids or parents enjoy the swimming pool (June\September) as well as tennis,court, billiard, mini football pitch, etc.

If the rider would like to go for a full day excursion, family can reach the place by car and join in for lunch at our lunch stop at a local restaurant.and discover some very interesting places.

Nicely furnished and comfortable cottages are available for family holidays , self catering or half board. Explore one of the less inhabited Italian regions: Alta Tuscia in Southern Tuscany. Your riding days will be spent in the territory surrounding S.Cristina castle, a centuries old estate still owned by the the ancient and noble Caterini family, whose new generation with a passion for horses has turned into an enchanting resort.

Conditions:

RATES:

	LOW 12 Apr - 17 May 27 Sep - 08 Nov	HIGH 17 May - 21 Jun 23 Aug - 27 Sep	TOP 21 Jun - 12 Jul
Price per week for a 4 people family :	1000	1100	1600
Extrabed (per person per day)	25	25	25
Extra riding person	35	35	35

* prices in Euro per apartment per week (cottage 4 people)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodation in cottage self catering with 2 doublebedrooms (sleeps four people) with bathroom, living room, diningroom, kitchen, in the farmhouses below the castle, welcome drink and guided tour of the castle.

Not included:

- meals and breakfast not included;
- HB with breakfast (+ €30 per person per day), dinner at the nearby restaurant.
- Only breakfast + €5 per person
- Pic nic lunch €15 per person
- Heating not included, to be paid on consumption.
- Full day riding excursion 5 hours pays extra €60 per person including lunch



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RIDING

- **6 riding days**, 1,5 hrs per day, 1 person, € 35 per day per extra person;
- **Italian/English/German** speaking guide.
- **Horses**: locally bred, maremmano, sella italiano, ponies haflinger
- **Pace**: moderate with trots and canters
- **Min\max riders: 2 – 5**
- **Level**: intermediate
- **Tack**: English
- **Max weight of the riders**: 100 Kg
- **2 Outdoor riding school**: 1) 25x60, 2) 33x60 with jumps
- Weekly insurance included.

FACILITIES ON THE SPOT:

- Swimming pool (01st June - 30th September),
- Tennis court (15E per hour)
- Mountain bikes (20E per person per day)
- Mini football Pitch
- Volleyball
- Ping pong
- Billiard.
- Guided tour of Bolsena Lake (prices and more information at the Castle Reception)

OTHER FACILITIES

- After 29 September available heated indoor sw pool at 3 km.
- Meeting: Grotte di Castro
- Airport: **Rome** (Ciampino for cheap airlines)
- Train station: **Orvieto**

Note: good train connections from Rome to Orvieto, time aprox 1hr
Still it is advisable to rent a car at the airport.

Riding excursions available around the Castle:

1) THE THREE WATERS ALONG THE BRIGANDS PATH: (18 km)

DESCRIPTION: With this minitrekking we will easily reach the hills framing at west the plateau on which the castle is situated. A fantastic spot for a breathtaking view of the area, going from the beautiful crater of Lake Bolsena on one side to the hills surrounding the little lake Mezzano on the other side. Provided a sufficiently clear day the sea can be seen at 40 km in the distance like a glowing mirror.

Starting from the castle, after 1 Km. we will reach a large track winding through the beautiful hills and small woods on a steady and soft ground good to let the horses canter, if wanted.

At the end of the track we will enter a big wood named Selva di Onano.

This will lead us to a panoramic site at the top of the hills watching west towards the sea (visible on a clear day) where horses can rest and riders enjoy the view of the land sloping down into the maremma plains before the sea, on the right lake Mezzano encased by woods.

From there on another track unwinding through a long and narrow valley at the bottom of the hills we will reach the castle.



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2) NOCCHIETO & S.MARTINO

DESCRIPTION: This excursion follows north part of the old outlaws track initially along the hills and later with a zig zag into the bushes and valleys hidden in between the oak woods.

This track was used by famous outlaws of the last century to escape from the guards chasing them from the plains of Maremma. Soon we will reach the old farm named Nocchieto, ruined but still fascinating in its architecture leaning against the tufo rock.

The road changes from rock into soft ground and the horses can now be pushed into gallop until the old fountain, where they can stop for a rest. Here turning on the right we will enter a hidden and narrow line of gorges used by the shepherds. At the end we will reach the top of a hill with a beautiful view of Mount Amiata.

With a few ups and downs following an easy track, we will reach the farm of S.Martino from where through a road carved into the rock we will reach again S.Cristina.

3) TO THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH OF S.MARIA DELLE COLONNE

DESCRIPTION: From the castle we will climb up on the hill right in front through the old road carved into the rock. Beyond the hill we will find the old Brigands path that after passing by the old farmhouse of S.Prospiero will turn on the left.

After going down through the cultivated fields the countryroad climbs again into the chestnut woods where the horses, if wanted, can be pushed into canter giving the riders the thrill of a nice ride through woods alternated with panoramic openings.

At a point the road starts going downhill and it is carved into the tufo rock as the roads were in the old times.

At the bottom of the slope we find a fountain and a small medieval church, S.Maria delle Colonne. From there with a wide tour we will reach again the chestnut woods on the hill top. Another track will lead horses and riders through valleys of potatoes fields back to a farm and then to the castle.

4) TO THE PANORAMIC VIEW

DESCRIPTION: Who takes part in this excursion is rewarded with a magnificent breathtaking panoramic view filling your heart. Following the communal bridleway, we will reach the woods of Onano. From there crossing a few fields we can reach a small track going slightly uphill ideal for a canter in the woods. Once at the top of the hills while horses regain their strength at a walk we turn right.

Along the hills' cliff and at a certain point we turn right with a road cutting down and up onto this final hilltop where the great view is. You can see all the region from there, from side to side. Mountains, lakes, woods, and castles: it's all there at your feet, S.Cristina Castle in the distance in front of you. With this enchanting sight in your eyes the guide will lead you down the hills back home.

5) TO S.LUIGI FARM

DESCRIPTION: From the castle we cross the hill overlooking the castle with a fantastic landscape framing the background. Mount Amiata, the Radicofani fortress, the castle of Torre Alfina are part of this wonderful picture. After the hill we join a track crossing hills and valleys. The road turns on the left and after a while the horses can be pushed at a canter on the soft but steady ground between the chestnut woods. After a few kilometres the woods give ground to the pastures full of sheep, there we reach S.Luigi a dairy farm where fabulous "ricotta" cheese is produced.

From there the old estate track will take us back to the castle along the hills.

6) AROUND ONANO.

DESCRIPTION: Once on the Brigands track we go north through the hills, after crossing the provincial road

A beautiful scenery of mountains and hills in front of us, a nice track will take us around Onano.

Onano is a fortified village with a medieval castle in its middle, providing an interesting site for the riders. Centuries ago, it was an important stronghold of the Monaldeschi family who ruled this area for ages during the middle ages.



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Narrow crossings will alternate beautiful open fields with a view. Once at the little medieval church Madonna delle grazie we will follow the track north through enchanting countryside back to the castle.

7)GRADOLI ABOVE LAKE BOLSENA

DESCRIPTION: We will follow an old Etruscan trail zig zagging through the woody hills, shaped by the volcanic eruptions ages ago. That will take us above the village of Gradoli and its fabulous renaissance Farnese palace.

Among vineyards and vegetable gardens riders have a beautiful view of the lake and its islands. A long loop on the hills above the lake will take us back to the castle.

FULL DAY EXCURSIONS (extra €60 per day per person including lunch)

1) LAKE BOLSENA total distance aprox.30 km

DESCRIPTION: From Castle S.Cristina we will follow an old trail down through the crater of lake Bolsena, the biggest volcanic lake in Europe. Breath taking views of the lake will accompany our excursion all the way. Here and there scattered around the countryside archaeological sites with Etruscan tombs to remind our riders how old is this beautiful land.

Once at the bottom lunch will be served on the beach of the Lake in a nice typical restaurant. A swim in the lake Bolsena (summer) can be part of the day before topping back on your horse. On the way back the magnificent Farnese renaissance palace in Gradoli will catch our attention while crossing the village. Once at the top of the crater of the lake an old track through the woods will take us back to the castle.

2) FROM CASTLE TO CASTLE total distance aprox 40 km

DESCRIPTION: An incredible experience. In this excursion you will have the opportunity to travel with your horse from Castle S.Cristina to another fortress: Castle Proceno.

We will reach the outskirts of the village of Onano and XVI cent. little country church of Madonna delle Grazie from where we will have a beautiful view of the medieval village walls. Now the country road turns north into enchanting countryside on the border between Lazio and Southern Tuscany.

Crossing Montorio game reserve, if we are lucky pheasants, fallow- deer, and boars can be spotted while horseriding. A fabulous excursion that will take us through the most unspoiled Tuscan countryside, wading a ford in the Stridolone river before making the hilltop overlooking the fortress of Proceno. After lunch we will cross the river again on a easy wade and climb the side of a plateau through thick vegetation taking advantage of an old track once used by farmers.

From there at a trot bordering vineyards and fields we will reach first an ex XVIII cent. convent and then head to S.Cristina castle from the north east.

3) LAKE MEZZANO total distance aprox 30 km

DESCRIPTION: Lake Mezzano is an area of great interest both historically and naturally. The lake was once a volcanic crater and historical site with human settlements going back to the preetruscan era (aprox 2700 years ago), now submerged by water due to earthquakes. From Castle S.Cristina through the hills thick with chestnut woods, we will descend upon a plain where the lake lies.

There, if wanted, horses can be pushed into a canter following the old track crossing the plain before the lake along the fields and vineyards. Bordering Selva del Lamone Naturale Reserve we will stop for lunch above the lake in a magical atmosphere. A small rural restaurant overlooking lake Mezzano will provide us with a beautiful view and a juicy lunch under the shade of the trees overlooking the lake. From June to September who wants can have a refreshing swim in the lake when the season allows it.

In the afternoon the group will take the horses back through the wooded hills.

ATTENTION: The excursions can be changed according to weather, horses and riders conditions by the riding management of the castle.