

"JUST THE PALIO" July/August

spyns

Anyone can take you to Italy, but few do it like us: deeply, madly, passionately. Join our 5-day adventure to experience il Palio di Siena, the world's oldest horse race, while staying in the medieval splendor of Siena's old city. Look out your window and wonder, "what century is this?" as church bells ring in the distance.

Day 1: Siena Walking Tour Your Spyns guide, and personal concierge, meets you at Siena's train station and drives you directly to your hotel. A scarf from your district (or 'contrade') will be waiting in your room. After freshening up, join an afternoon walking tour of Siena's Duomo cathedral and square (Piazza del Campo). Free night for dinner.

Day 2: Practice Palio / Contrade Dinner Attend one of the many practice races before touring your contrade's museum. Learn the rich 700-year history of il Palio followed by a hearty lunch on Siena's main square. See first-hand how the race's organizers have transformed the Piazza del Campo by covering it with earth. Enjoy an afternoon nap or some light shopping before spectacular outdoor contrade dinner and an evening of wine, food and song.

Day 3: Palio Race Day After a hearty breakfast, join in the endless processions & parades leading up to the afternoon race. Once settled in your balcony seat near the starting lines, watch a pre-Palio procession that hasn't changed for hundreds of years with our guides explaining the complex history of this Italian pageant. Then watch in awe as thousands of Siennese cheer, scream, and weep as their horses race around the medieval square.

Day 4: Choose your own adventure At Spyns, we love our options so today you can do as little or as much as you want. Join a late morning cooking class and lunch in Siena or hop in the Spyns van for a wine tasting at Castello di Meleto in nearby Gaiole in Chianti. You'll be back in plenty of time for the group's send off dinner in a private location that we won't even consider putting in our itinerary for fear of losing it!

Day 5: Departure Sleep in late, have breakfast in bed, or get in that last bit of shopping before transfer to the train station and your final destination.

Hotel Information: The Hotel Chiusarelli***: a grandiose Tuscan-style villa built in the 1870s. Its 55 rooms make it the perfect boutique hotel from which to explore Siena's many sights and, of course, the Palio.



TOUR AT A GLANCE

Dates

June 29-July 3
Start/Finish: Siena

Price

US\$1989 (pp/do)

What's Included

**Hotel, Breakfasts,
Guides, Train
station Transfers,
1 dinner, 2 lunches**

What You'll See

**Medieval Siena
Palio Horse Race
Pre-Palio Dinner
Siena's Duomo,
Piazza del Campo**

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Spyns is an active travel company based in Whistler, British Columbia (Canada) and Beaujolais, France. We specialize in guided luxury tours with an emphasis on unique & personalized service. We've been organizing European adventures since 2003 and have grown to become an industry leader for Palio tours. We know our clients and understand that you want to experience more than just the regular sights. With us, you're not just seeing Italy, but living it.