

"Florence & Siena" July/August 2009 *spyns*

Anyone can take you to Italy, but few do it like us: deeply, madly, passionately. Join our 4-day adventure to experience Renaissance Florence and il Palio di Siena, the world's oldest horse race. Look out your Palazzo window and wonder, "what century is this?" as church bells ring in the distance.

Days 1 & 2: Florence Your Spyns guide, and personal concierge, meets you at Florence's train station or airport. Quick transfer to the city center and Hotel Laurus. A Spyns favorite, this modern hotel is located just steps from the Duomo cathedral, Ponte Vecchio and Michelangelo's David. Enjoy a private walking tour of Florence to see the sights. You'll have plenty of time to explore the city on your own before cocktails and rooftop dinner. The following morning, join an optional trip to Florence's central market (one of Italy's largest) before late morning transfer to Siena. **Siena Walking Tour** 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 3: 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 4: 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 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: Florence Hotel Laurus**** A modern, centrally-located hotel in central Florence with unbeatable location. **Siena** 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.



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.



TOUR AT A GLANCE

Dates

June 29-July 3/09

August 13-17/09

Start: Florence

Finish: Siena

Price

US\$1989 (pp/do)

What's Included

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

What You'll See

**Florence (David,
Ponte Vecchio,
Duomo), Medieval
Siena, Palio Horse
Race, Pre-Palio
Dinner, Siena's
Duomo, Piazza del
Campo**

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