



**CORK+COMPASS**

BY WINE ENTHUSIAST

# An Escape to Tuscan Wine Country

*with Danielle Callegari*

October 22-27 2026



*Photo credit: Lucy Plato Clark*





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October 22-27 2026 | 6 Days, 5 Nights

## Introduction

Step into the heart of Tuscany this October with one of Wine Enthusiast's inaugural Cork & Compass Travel escapes, where harvest season is the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wine journey. Guests will experience Tuscany at its most vibrant, staying at the five-star restored medieval Castello di Spaltenna, which is set amidst elegant gardens surrounded by rolling vineyards and olive groves. Led by Wine Enthusiast writer-at-large Dr. Danielle Callegari, this exclusive trip offers access to renowned wineries such as Avignonesi and Col d'Orcia, where you'll taste world-class Brunello di Montalcino and Super Tuscans, and immersive visits to charming medieval towns like Siena and Montepulciano. As the vineyards come alive with the harvest, explore the rich terroir of Tuscany through private tastings, behind-the-scenes tours, wine-paired dinners at local culinary gems, and plenty of wine conversation with Dr. Callegari and fellow wine enthusiasts.



## Your Expert

**Danielle Callegari** is a writer-at-large and reviewer on the Wine Enthusiast Tasting Panel. She reviews wines from Italy, including Tuscany, Lazio, Abruzzo, Campania, Basilicata, Molise, Puglia, Calabria, Sardinia, and Sicily. Every year, the Wine Enthusiast Tasting Panel blind tastes and rates roughly 25,000 wines and spirits from across the globe. Its reviews are widely recognized in the industry as reputable and from trusted experts. Dr. Callegari is also an associate professor in the Department of French and Italian at Dartmouth College and Communications Director of the Dante Society of America. Her teaching and research focus

on premodern Italian literature and food and beverage studies. In addition to her many articles and contributions to academic and trade presses, she is author of *Dante's Gluttons: Food and Society from the Convivio to the Comedy* (Amsterdam University Press, 2022) and the forthcoming *A Bite-Sized History of Italy* (New Press, 2026). She is also the co-host of *Gola*, a podcast on Italian food and beverage culture. Dr. Callegari splits her time between New York City and Italy, and is fluent in both English and Italian. Wandering through the picturesque towns of Panzano, Valdarno, Arezzo, Il Borro, Montalcino, Siena, and Montepulciano while tasting wine and learning about the region's rich culture and history from Dr. Callegari will be a first-hand experience that no guidebook can replicate.



# Highlights

Photo credit: Lucy Plato Clark



**Exclusive Tastings:** Enjoy private visits to legendary estates, where iconic wines like Brunello di Montalcino and Super Tuscans take center stage.



**Timeless Terroir:** Explore historic wineries committed to tradition and innovation, from organic viticulture at Col d'Orcia to the elegant Bordeaux-style blends of Tenuta Sette Ponti.



**Personal Connections:** Meet esteemed winemakers and estate proprietors, personally introduced by your expert host, Danielle Callegari, for an insider look at Tuscan winemaking.



**Authentic Cuisine:** Savor rustic, wine-paired feasts with exquisitely authentic Tuscan flavor.



**Scenic Splendor:** Journey through Tuscany's breathtaking landscapes, from the rolling vineyards of Chianti to its medieval hill-towns, creating a picture-perfect wine country escape.



# Itinerary



*Photo credit: Lucy Plato Clark*

## Day 2: Discovering Valdarno Elegance & Tradition

Today's journey leads us to Valdarno, a region of rolling hills, ancient villages, and wines of remarkable depth. At Il Borro, an enchanting medieval village meticulously restored by the Ferragamo family, a guided tasting unveils the estate's elegant Lamelle Chardonnay and the rich, full-bodied Il Borro Toscana IGT, poured alongside their exquisite olive oil. Continue to Tenuta Sette Ponti, a prestigious estate known for its masterful Super Tuscans. Here, we explore the estate's cellars and savor wines like the refined Oreno, a bold Bordeaux-style blend, and the expressive Crognolo, a Sangiovese-driven delight. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local osteria.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Castello di Spaltenna  
**Wineries:** Il Borro, Tenuta Sette Ponti

## Day 1: Benvenuti in Toscana!

Upon arrival in Florence, transfer independently to the enchanting Castello di Spaltenna, a historic estate nestled among rolling vineyards and cypress-lined hills. The afternoon invites relaxation—time to unwind, soak in the serene surroundings, and anticipate the journey ahead. As evening falls, the tour begins with a curated welcome tasting at the hotel. Here, the first sips of Tuscany reveal themselves—elegant, expressive wines showcasing the region's depth and artistry. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant to experience vibrant Tuscan flavors. Cork + Compass host Danielle Callegari will talk about the wines poured with dinner and how they pair with the dishes on the menu.

**Included Meal:** Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Castello di Spaltenna







*Photo credit: Lucy Plato Clark*

## Day 3: The Majesty of Montalcino: Brunello & Beyond

Today, we venture into Montalcino, home to some of Italy's most revered wines. Our exploration begins at Col d'Orcia, one of the region's pioneers in organic viticulture. As we visit the estate's historic cellars, we uncover the philosophy behind their exceptional Brunello di Montalcino, tasting the elegant Brunello Vigna Nastagio and the bold, age-worthy Poggio al Vento Riserva. A curated tasting of six wines is complemented by a traditional Tuscan lunch, highlighting the harmony of wine and regional cuisine. The afternoon brings a visit to Siena for an independent dinner, with time to wander the medieval streets and admire the beautiful central square.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Castello di Spaltenna  
**Wineries:** Col d'Orcia

## Day 4: The Essence of Chianti Classico

After a relaxed breakfast, journey into the heart of Chianti Classico, where history, innovation, and terroir-driven wines take center stage. Our first stop is the historic Bindi Sergardi estate, where generations of winemaking tradition come alive. A tasting of five wines—including the elegant Chianti Classico La Ghirlanda and the opulent Calidonia Gran Selezione—is paired with authentic Tuscan fare. After a light lunch, continue onto the magnificent 900-hectare estate of Castello di Albola, once home to some of the most famous noble families of Tuscany and now producing exceptional high-altitude Chianti. After some free time at the hotel, set out for dinner nearby.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Castello di Spaltenna  
**Wineries:** Bindi Sergardi, Castello di Albola







## Day 5: Montepulciano

Today, we explore the renowned Avignonesi estate, celebrated for its *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano* and commitment to organic winemaking. Our visit includes a tour of the vineyards and historic cellars, followed by a wine-paired lunch featuring elegant selections like the bold *Vino Nobile*, the velvety *Desiderio Merlot*, and the luscious *Occhio di Pernice Vin Santo*. In the afternoon, take some free time at the hotel or in Montepulciano, one of Tuscany's most charming medieval villages. Wander its cobbled streets, visit wine shops, or soak in the stunning countryside views. Return to the hotel to gather for a farewell dinner, where Danielle will share some of her best-kept secrets from the world of Tuscan wine. Toast to an unforgettable journey celebrating Tuscany's finest food, wine, and hospitality.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Castello di Spaltenna  
**Wineries:** Avignonesi

## Day 6: Alla prossima!

Depart hotel for individual flights home.

**Included Meal:** Breakfast





# Accommodations



## Castello di Spaltenna

### TUSCANY

Castello di Spaltenna, a beautifully restored medieval castle in Gaiole in Chianti, offers an authentic Tuscan experience in a five-star setting. Surrounded by rolling vineyards and olive groves, it combines historic charm with modern luxury. Guests can savor Michelin-starred cuisine at Il Pievano, relax in the spa, or enjoy the luxe indoor and outdoor pools. Elegant rooms and suites feature rustic details and panoramic countryside views. With its tranquil ambiance, wine cellar, and proximity to Chianti's scenic trails, this enchanting retreat is perfect for those seeking history, fine dining, and relaxation in the heart of Tuscany.

*Please note that this property does not have elevators. All guest rooms are accessible only by stairs. For your convenience, luggage will be delivered to your room upon arrival. If you have mobility concerns or need additional assistance, please let us know in advance so we can ensure a comfortable stay.*







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## Pricing

**Double Occupancy: \$8,450**

**Single Occupancy: \$9,480**

**Deposit: \$1,000**

→ **RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

*This tour is limited to 25 travelers.*

## What's Included

- ▶ All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- ▶ Meals as noted in the itinerary
- ▶ All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- ▶ Expertise of Cork + Compass wine expert, travel director and local guides throughout the tour
- ▶ All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- ▶ All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- ▶ Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility on tour
- ▶ Assistance from an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements (including flights), extra hotel nights and other services
- ▶ Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list

## Have more questions?

Reach out to our travel management company.



[corkandcompass@academic-travel.com](mailto:corkandcompass@academic-travel.com)

*While we strive to follow the planned itinerary, changes may occur due to the unpredictable nature of travel. Rest assured that if any modifications are necessary, we are committed to delivering an exceptional experience of the same caliber. **Full terms & conditions are available online.***