



lonely planet

# Florence & Tuscany



**Florence**  
pull-out map  
New-look  
guide  
Comprehensive  
listings

## Tours

English-language **walking tours** (☎0575 2 66 77; [www.coloritoscani.com](http://www.coloritoscani.com); adult/child under 12yr €10/free) are conducted every Monday from 11am to 1pm between May and October. The ticket includes entrance to Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca. Bookings essential.

## Festivals & Events

### Giostra dell'Archidado CULTURAL

A full week of medieval merriment in May or June (the date varies to coincide with Ascension Day) culminates in a crossbow competition.

### Festival of Sacred Music MUSIC

([www.cortonacristiana.it](http://www.cortonacristiana.it)) Held in early July each year.

### Tuscan Sun Festival CULTURAL

([www.tuscansunfestival.com](http://www.tuscansunfestival.com)) Music and art festival held in late July–early August each year.

## Sleeping

### TOP CHOICE Casa Chilenne B&B €

(☎0575 60 33 20; [www.casachilenne.com](http://www.casachilenne.com); Via Nazionale 65; s €80-85, d €88-110; 🍷🍷🍷🍷) Run by American-born Jeanette and her Cortonese

husband Luciano, this wonderfully welcoming B&B has it all – great hosts, a central location, comfortable rooms, a lavish breakfast spread and keen prices. Each of the five rooms has a satellite TV, but there's also a communal lounge with TV, small terrace and cooking corner.

### Hotel San Michele HOTEL €€

(☎0575 60 43 48; [www.hotelsanmichele.net](http://www.hotelsanmichele.net); Via Guelfa 15; d €99-250; 🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠 closed Jan–mid-Mar; 🍷🍷🍷🍷) This is Cortona's finest hotel. Primarily Renaissance, but with elements dating from the 12th century and modifications over subsequent centuries, it's like a little history of Cortona in stone. Rooms are airy and comfortable, if a little faded. Prices vary wildly due to special offers and festivals. Parking is €20 per night and there is wi-fi only in the foyer.

### Dolce Maria B&B €

(☎0575 63 03 97; [www.cortonastorica.com](http://www.cortonastorica.com); Via Ghini 12; s €70-80, d €90-100; 🍷🍷🍷) A 15th-century *palazzo* tucked into a warren of streets near Piazza Signorelli, this slightly musty but highly atmospheric B&B is operated by a friendly husband and wife team who also operate the downstairs restaurant. The six

## WORTH A TRIP

## ASSISI

Thanks to St Francis, who was born here in 1182, this medieval hilltop town in the neighbouring region of Umbria is a major destination for millions of pilgrims. Its major drawcard is the **Basilica di San Francesco** (Piazza di San Francesco), which comprises two churches filled with magnificent Renaissance art. The **upper church** (☉8.30am-6.45pm Easter-Nov, to 5.45pm Dec-Easter) was built between 1230 and 1253 in the Italian Gothic style and features superb frescoes by Giotto and works by Cimabue and Pietro Cavallini. Downstairs, in the dimly lit **lower church** (☉6am-6.45pm Easter-Nov, to 5.45pm Dec-Easter), there's a series of colourful frescoes by Simone Martini, Cimabue and Pietro Lorenzetti.

To book English-language guided tours of the basilica, contact its **information office** (☎0758 19 00 84; [www.sanfrancescoassisi.org](http://www.sanfrancescoassisi.org); Piazza San Francesco; ☉9am-noon & 2-5.30pm Mon-Sat) or fill out the form on the website. The **tourist office** (☎0758 13 86 80; [www.assisi.regioneumbria.eu](http://www.assisi.regioneumbria.eu); ☉8am-2pm & 3-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-1pm Sun) on Piazza del Comune can supply general information about the town.

Assisi is a popular overnight destination, so you'll need to book ahead during peak times: Easter, August, September and the Feast of St Francis (4 October). For a comfortable and well located sleeping option, try **Hotel Alexander** (☎0758 1 61 90; [www.hotelalexanderassisi.it](http://www.hotelalexanderassisi.it); Piazza Chiesa Nuova 6; s €60-80, d €78-140; 🍷🍷). To eat, head to **Trattoria Da Erminio** (☎0758 1 25 06; [www.trattoriadaerminio.it](http://www.trattoriadaerminio.it); Via Montecavallo 19; 4-course set menu €16; ☉closed Thu, Feb & 1st half of Jul) for traditional Umbrian dishes, or to trendy **MagnaVino** (☎0758 1 68 14; Corso Giuseppe Mazzini 12; meals €25; ☉noon-4pm & 6pm-2am) for modern Tuscan creations; the latter is also a great place for an *aperitivo*.

Sulga buses connect Assisi with Florence (€12.50, 2½ hours, twice weekly). A Zona a Traffico Limitato (ZTL; Limited Traffic Zone) applies in the historic centre, but there are plenty of paid car parks (€1.15/10 per hour/day) just outside the walls.