

One of the most popular regions in Italy, it stretches from sea to mountains. Its attractions include scenery, historic cities, art, wine, and of course food.

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### **Cortona**

One of the oldest hill towns in Tuscany made famous by Francis Mayes book and later a film "Under the Tuscan Sun". Etruscan tombs, olive groves, Renaissance Churches and centuries old piazzas are just some of the points of interest.

### **Florence**

Artistically and historically important. Piazza della Signoria is its most famous and located in the middle of the historic district. Beautiful sculpture here abounds including a copy of Michelangelo's David. The dome of Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore is one you should visit if you think you can manage the 463 steps to the top. The images of Heaven and Hell are ones you won't soon forget. The Ponte Vecchio is the only surviving bridge from medieval days; it's lined with shops selling jewellery of all kinds. The Uffizi Gallery holds one of the most important collections in the world, Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Giotto, Raphael and many more. The Academy Gallery is where the world famous statue of David lives as well as other sculptures by Michelangelo.

### **San Gimignano**

Known as the city of towers due to the 14 medieval towers that still exist creating a unique skyline. The tallest is 54 meters high and dates from 1298. Wealthy families of the time erected these to flaunt their wealth, a sort of status symbol. You can find a fresco of the towers from the 15th century as they were then in the 11th century Dome La Collegiata. Those interested in the dark side of humanity can visit the torture museum with its large display of implements of torture. La Rocca is the remains of a 14th century Fortress and affords great views. There is so much to see and do in this region it's impossible to mention them all.

### **Siena**

A medieval town famous for its summer horse race Il Palio, in existence for centuries. Piazza del Campo is in the heart of Siena and surrounded by cafes, restaurants and historical buildings. Siena's Gothic town hall boasts the 2nd highest bell tower in Italy (102 meters). You can climb 505 steps for an incredible view of Siena.