

SIENA, ITALY

Dates & Price:

June 24 - July 11, 2010 - \$3,400

About the City

Siena – a city of distinction – is a multi-faceted place that harmonizes medieval treasures hidden behind historical walls and modern day amenities located throughout the city center. The city is built upon three hills in the heart of Tuscany about 43 miles south of Florence. Filled with superior examples of Gothic architecture, Siena is also home to one of the most unique public spaces in all of Italia and the world – the Piazza del Campo – that is shaped like a shell.

The summer months bring a wealth of festivities and events as this Tuscan city comes to life. Siena was a proud, wealthy, and warlike independent state during the Middle Ages, until its final defeat by Florence. Medieval Siennese art (painting, sculpture, architecture, etc.) is unique and of great historical significance. Nowadays, it is a requirement that new buildings within the city walls be built to look Medieval, so as to maintain the city's character and beauty. Siennese people are fiercely proud of their city and have a strong sense of neighborhood and community. The Palio Festival, held twice a year in the summer, is all about neighborhood pride and rivalry. It constitutes the unbroken continuation of a medieval tradition associated with religion, pageantry, trash talking, and bragging.

Although Siena is a small city it has a large student population. This helps to create an intimate and studious environment that is perfect for learning Italian. There are a plethora of places to go and things to do in your free time – from socializing at restaurants and pizzerias to exploring local cafés and shops, and discovering theatres and cinemas to visiting famous museums and art galleries. Siena has it all!

What Students Say,

"The school in Siena was wonderful! The classes really challenged my language skills and the teachers were so friendly and helpful. They really made learning the language and culture fun!"

"Getting the chance to travel to Italy is a once in a lifetime opportunity and this trip made every penny worth it. I loved experiencing a new life and a different culture. This trip helped prepare me for college and opened me up to studying different languages." - Jenny, Dallas, TX

"Italy really opened my mind to lots of new ideas and people. I realized people all around the world are so different yet so similar."

Program Description

Prerequisites:

Must be completing grades 9-12 and have at least two years of a high school Romance

Language (Latin, Spanish, French, Italian) or equivalent.

Academic Information:

School: Dante Alighieri Language Institute

Curriculum: Italian Conversation and Culture. Classes are taught Monday-Friday, 4 hours a day, by teachers who hold advanced degrees in teaching Italian to foreigners. Classes are with other program participants and are broken up by skill level.

Academic Credit: Students receive 40 contact hours on their transcript which they may use to petition for up to 2 hours of college credit.

Dante Alighieri Scuola d'Italiano:

Dante Alighieri specializes in teaching Italian language and culture to foreign students. They maintain a very low student to teacher ratio with no more than 10 students per class to ensure that students receive personal attention. The classes are fun and they are designed to help students speak and use the language of study. Students will have access to the library/study room facilities as well as computers at school. The school also provides optional cultural activities in the afternoon that students may participate in such as theater outings, local festivals, cooking classes, etc.

Home stay Family:

The home stay families are carefully selected by the housing coordinator. The families are well experienced in hosting foreign students and are committed to help in learning the language, serving you great food, and adopting you into their way of life. Remember that families come in all shapes and sizes and an open mind to try new things is important! In Siena, your home stay family will serve you breakfast & dinner (lunch will be on your own with other group members.)

Program Itinerary

Summer 2

Day 1	Depart USA for Rome
Day 2	Arrive Rome FCO Airport. Transfer to Hotel in central Rome. Experience ancient Rome - take
Day 3	Medieval and Renaissance Rome walk - Piazza del Popolo to Campo de' Fiori. Have lunch at
Day 4	Travel to Siena to meet your home stay family making stops along the way to explore. Spend

	time getting to know your home stay family and start communicating in Italian!
Day 5	First day of classes at Dante Alighieri Language Institute. Spend the afternoon getting oriented with a tour around the city.
Days 6-9	Regular morning classes and afternoon activities. Explore Siena and two of its neighboring towns in Tuscany in the afternoons with your director. This week you will experience the amazing Palio Festival in Siena by attending preparations, races, and joining in the local celebrations! (July 2)
Day 10	Full day excursion to explore Florence. Enjoy a personalized tour with Sra. Hudec as you visit Uffizi, Accademia, Santa Croce, and Santa Maria Novella. Return back to Siena in the evening.
Day 11	Enjoy an optional relaxing Sunday day trip to the beach to see the Etruscan Tumuli or nearby town!
Days 12-16	Regular morning classes and afternoon activities. On Friday, enjoy the last evening with your home stay family and new friends in Siena!
Day 17	Depart Siena for Rome.
Day 18	Depart Rome for USA with beautiful memories of Tuscany and Italia!

*For the Siena, Italy program breakfast & dinner are provided in the home stay family, students will eat near school with other group members for lunch. Lunch is not included in the program cost.