



LA COLLEGIATA
San Gimignano – TUSCANY Region



Location

Who has never heard of San Gimignano ? When you arrive in this fortified village, whose 15 towers earned him the nickname “Medieval Manhattan” (and which originally were 72!), rivers of tourists are downloaded



from countless buses. Walking through its narrow streets understand the reason why of all this success. Settled in the sun-drenched Sienese hills of the Val d'Elsa, San Gimignano has a splendid Medieval atmosphere enwrapped by its 13th-Century wall. It is the Tuscany that tourists love most, set amidst fields of golden grain, vineyards and ancient borgoes; it is the Tuscany of beloved culinary traditions and singular tastes. "A masterpiece of creative human genius, it is unique testimony to a past civilization, and as an exceptional exemplar of both architectonic complex and landscape, demonstrates significant passages in human history." It is for such qualities that San Gimignano earned its place on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1990. A visit to San Gimignano is a complete immersion into the 1300s borgo ambience; in fact, the city, still mostly intact today, is one of the best representatives – in terms of planning and organization – of the European commune (essentially, the urban version of the feudal system) from the Middle Ages. The overriding characteristic of San Gimignano – that just about every visitor will notice from a distance – are its spectacular and unmistakable towers that watch over the scene. And each one has its own history. The town experienced a period of economic wealth and artistic flourish, above all in the mid-1300s, thanks to the merchants and pilgrims traveling along the Via Francigena; the route passed through San Gimignano, dividing it into two. It was also during this time that the town's foremost families challenged each other in building the highest tower, attempts to exhibit who held the most power. This Medieval-style Keeping-Up-With-the-Joneses resulted in the Torre Comunale - also known as La Rognosa - as a means to put a stop to future towers rising ever higher. According to official decree, no other tower in San Gimignano could surpass that of La Rognosa. Around the year 1300, 70 towers symbolized the 70 wealthy families inhabiting this territory. Today, only 13 remain standing. It was also in the same century that San Gimignano underwent a process of architectonic renovation, that comprised an expansion of the walls, the construction of numerous new palazzi, churches and convents – in the environs of Piazza della Cisterna and Piazza del Duomo - and their adornment with illustrious works of art. Indeed, great artists from the Sienese school came specifically to San Gimignano to paint the treasures that the world can still see today. They were Simone Martini, Lippo Memmi and Puccio Taddeo di Bartolo. Breathtaking religious, civic and military structures make for a captivating skyline, while the fruits of the land – saffron and Vernaccia – render San Gimignano an eternally sought-out destination, where travelers can live one of the most important epochs in human history, all while they enjoy some of the best of what life and nature have to offer. San Gimignano is famous for its Vernaccia wine production; known around the globe, Vernaccia is one of Italy's finest whites. It was even the first Italian wine to bear the title Controlled Designation of Origin (D.O.C.) in 1966, followed by the additional D.O.C.G. (the 'G' stands for Guaranteed) in 1993.

Property

In 1587 was erected, for the will of the people, a monastery in honour of Cappuccini monks who had helped the people in difficulty: a sort of self-taxation and a great choral opera. The witness of the first interventions are a stone engraving on the cistern in 1589 and the consecration of the convent in 1599. In the Middle Ages San Gimignano was a flourishing town on the Silk Road, but after that this path was diverted, the town underwent a serious crisis. We can admire the medieval appearance intact in its towers. It is good to see also the monastery and the adjacent church, La Collegiata, from which the name of the hotel, which is in a style prior to the late Renaissance. During the period of the plundering of ecclesiastical goods with the descent of Napoleon, the monastery was occupied and experienced a period of abandonment.

The tower dates back to the Nineteenth Century, and in fact it is possible to notice the different colour of the stones, which anyway come from the demolition of nearby churches and buildings. In the twentieth century the complex became a summer residence of the Guicciardini-Strozzi, as confirmed by a postcard found for the event in a flea market, portraying the image de La Collegiata, from which it is inspiration for the logo of the hotel. It was then purchased by an entrepreneur to realize a hotel but the project was not completed until, in



1988, two Florentines active in the Milano Finance decided to invest in the operation, and finally was born Hotel La Collegiata.

Rooms

20 rooms in classic, superior and deluxe rooms and a suite with a look at 360 degrees on the valley. Every room has an architectural detail or a color that makes it different from the other rooms. From the more rustic style of the dependence, to the two floor suite, which has a large Jacuzzi bath tub on the upper floor. All the rooms are furnished according to the sober style of the Tuscan countryside, with the typical colors of the palaces of Siena, like ochre, dark green and bordeaux, as well as some touches of blue. Modern bathrooms, all with shower. The rooms are air conditioned and are provided with safe, minibar, private telephone, wi-fi, widescreen LCD set with per view.

Price starting from: 260 euro per room per night with breakfast included

Amenities included:

- ✓ Classic rooms
- ✓ Free upgrade (upon availability)
- ✓ Welcome drink on arrival

Special campaign expressively made for Travel Counsellors

Surroundings & Activities

Suggest your clients nice places to visit around and interesting activities to complete the offer.

Surroundings:

Siena – 45km away

San Gimignano – 70km away

Cortona – 110km away

Florence – 60km away

Montevarchi (Prada outlet) – 70km away

Activities

Ferrari tour: on req.

Wine tasting and Tuscan lunch at winery: 60 euro per pax

Cooking class: 120 euro per pax

Pasty class in Siena (transfer not included): 85 euro per pax

And much more..

Map & Accessibility

Our transfers: prices per car, one way

Night supplement 25% apply for services from 8pm to 7am

Closest airport: **Florence**, 1hr 10 mins away

By sedan (max 2 pax with bags): 155 euro

Minivan (max 6 pax with bags): 180 euro



Closest railway station: **Siena**, 46 mins away

By sedan (max 2 pax with bags): 126 euro

Minivan (max 6 pax with bags): 153 euro

We highly suggest to rent a car to have the freedom to move.

Ask us the discounted fares we can grant.

