

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Cine-tour of Valdelsa Valdicecina

Perfectly preserved medieval hamlets, squares that feel like natural movie sets, silent alleyways, castles, breathtaking landscapes, and countrysides that tell centuries of history.

The Cine Tour in the Valdelsa and Valdicecina territory guides visitors through the discovery of these extraordinary places, crossing Volterra, San Gimignano, and Monteriggioni, three of Tuscany's most iconic hill towns.

Driving between all three locations takes roughly 1 hour and 20 minutes in total, making it an easy and enjoyable day trip.

Program

Volterra

Volterra's ancient stone turns centuries of history into a timeless cinematic stage.

Perched atop a hill dominating the surrounding landscape, Volterra keeps the untouched charm of ancient Etruscan and medieval towns. Its thousand-year-old walls, stone squares, and the striking natural scenery of Le Balze have captivated numerous international directors over time, transforming the historic centre into a film set.

This extraordinary monumental heritage brought to life the dramatic atmosphere of masterpieces such as Luchino Visconti's *Sandra* (*Vaghe stelle dell'Orsa*) and the thriller *Portrait of a Veiled Woman* (*Ritratto di donna velata*), which highlighted iconic landmarks like Palazzo Viti, Piazza dei Priori, and the Roman Cistern.

From the rural landscapes chosen by Ermanno Olmi for *Cammina Cammina*, to the global craze of *New Moon* (*The Twilight Saga*) and the TV series *Medici*, the medieval alleyways, the Porta all'Arco, and the Palazzo dei Priori have become pop culture icons.

Contemporary productions are also well known, such as the unsettling horror film *Speak No Evil*, which found its ideal setting for psychological tension between the Roman Theatre and Via delle Prigioni.

[Open Map - Volterra](#)

San Gimignano

San Gimignano's iconic medieval towers create an authentic film set.

Leaving Volterra, the journey continues toward San Gimignano, universally known as the "Manhattan of the Middle Ages" thanks to its famous towers. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the town boasts one of the best-preserved medieval skylines in Europe. It has been chosen repeatedly by filmmakers for its remarkable ability to transport viewers back in time without relying on artificial sets.

This exceptional authenticity provided the backdrop for classics like Henry King's *Prince of Foxes* and Franco Zeffirelli's poetic *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, both of which utilized the historic center for key locations. The town also donned an air of suspense in Brian De Palma's thriller *Obsession* and took center stage again with Zeffirelli in the acclaimed *Tea with Mussolini*.

[Open Map - San Gimignano](#)

Monteriggioni

Monteriggioni's legendary medieval walls bring historic cinema and gaming alive.

The final stop of the tour is Monteriggioni, one of Italy's best-preserved medieval castles. Its imposing fortified walls and the small village nestled within still evoke the feeling of stepping directly into the 14th century.

Over the years, the town has become one of Tuscany's most recognizable medieval settings, inspiring major cinema with works like Mario Soldati's *Tragica notte* (1942), filmed around Chiocciola Castle and the surrounding countryside, and Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty* (*Io ballo da sola*, 1996), which celebrated the fortified village, Scorgiano, and the Sienese hills.

This timeless charm has also captivated the gaming world: Ubisoft Montréal's Assassin's Creed II (2009) and Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood (2012) drew direct inspiration from the medieval village and its 14 iconic towers for their maps.

[Open Map - Monteriggioni](#)

INFO AND BOOKING

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