

# Dante Alighieri Siena

An aerial photograph of Siena, Italy, showing the Piazza del Campo and the Palazzo Pubblico tower. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white filter and features three white diamond-shaped graphic elements. The text "Siena is Heritage" is centered in the middle of the image.

# Siena is Heritage

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# Luca Bonomi

**PRESIDENT OF  
DANTE ALIGHIERI SIENA - LEARNING ITALY**

Our school, founded in 1979, has been an integral part of my life since I joined in 1982: it's more than just a workplace. Alongside my dedicated colleagues, our shared mission is to create an international Italian "piazza" right here in the charming, intimate setting of Siena.

We are committed to sharing our passion for the Italian language and culture with the utmost professionalism. By staying updated on the latest teaching methodologies, we ensure a dynamic and tailored educational experience for our students, addressing their individual needs and aspirations. All of this is achieved without compromising the warm, inviting, and familial atmosphere that defines our school.

From assisting students in selecting the right course or programme to arranging their accommodations, we guide them through every step of their academic journey. Our commitment extends beyond academics, fostering a welcoming environment that embraces students of all backgrounds, irrespective of gender, religion, or ethnicity.

Benvenuti!

*Luca Bonomi*

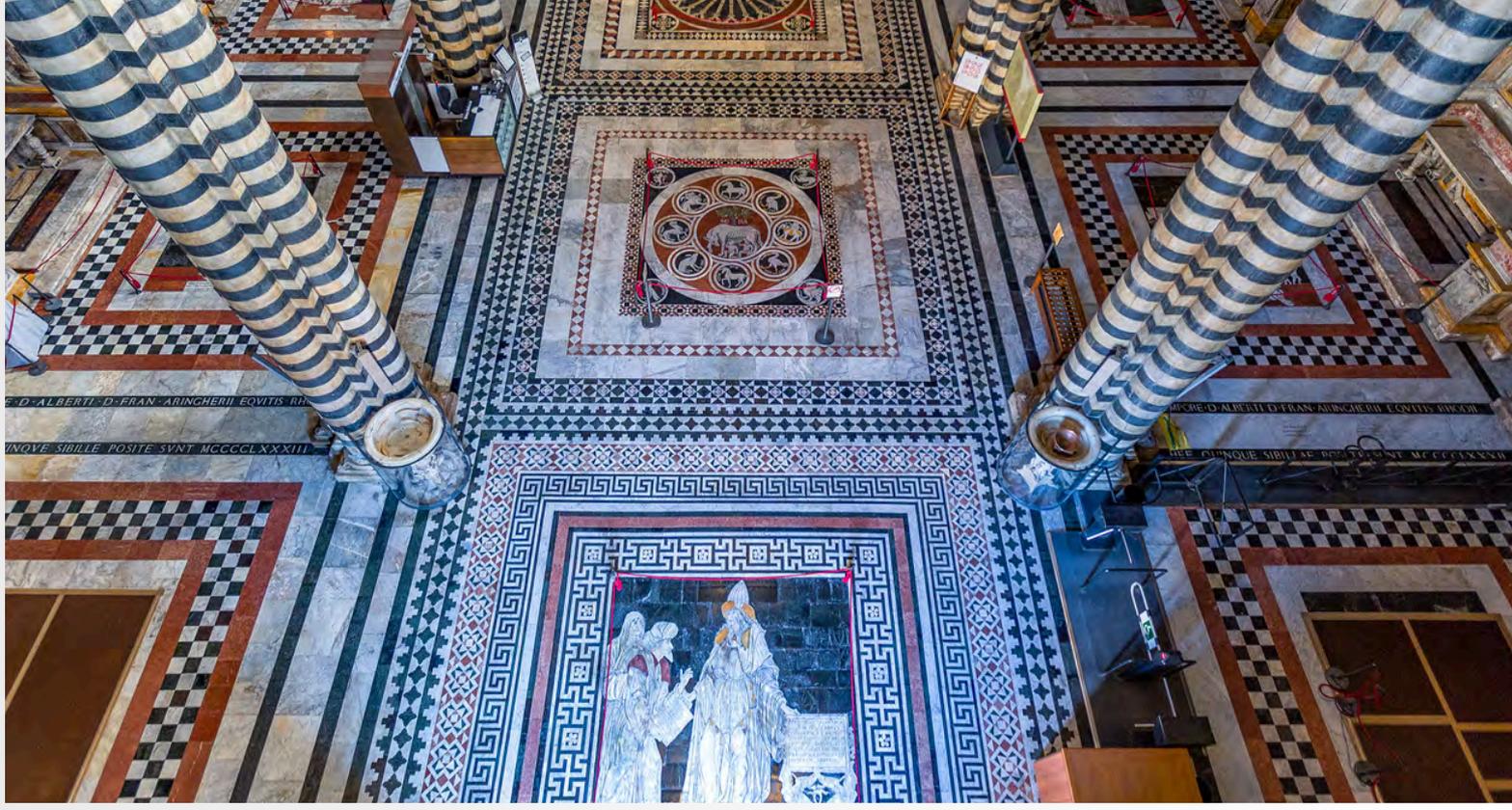




# THE SCHOOL IN SIENA

Not many Italian cities can match Siena's unique blend of **cultural, artistic, and naturalistic richness**. Alongside these attributes, Siena stands out for its **cozy, people-oriented atmosphere**. Its manageable size and walkable city centre create an immersive experience in Italian culture. Located just a 5-minute walk from the main landmarks, our school in the heart of Siena offers students the feeling of having lessons in a picturesque postcard scene. **Dante Alighieri Siena - Learning Italy** provides an ideal environment for language progress in a professional setting infused with the warmth of Italian hospitality.







# A TREASURE IN TUSCANY

Siena stands out as a one-of-a-kind city, inviting you to **immerse yourself in centuries-old traditions** deeply woven into its society. As you explore, you'll encounter **breathtaking art and architecture** that defines its unique character. The surrounding Sienese countryside, arguably **the most picturesque part of Tuscany**, is adorned with numerous hilltop towns, each one a distinct treasure. Whether you're a culture enthusiast, a trekker, a cycling enthusiast, or a food lover, **Siena has something to inspire your passion.**





# Social Programme

## MONDAY 14:00

Orientation tour for new students through Siena's historic centre, with tips and information about the city

*every monday!*

## TUESDAY 15:00

- Lecture on Dante's Divine Comedy *or*
- Lecture on the Palio and the contrade *or*
- Cultural differences between northern and southern Italy

*and many other topics*

## WEDNESDAY 16:00

- Tasting of wines and/or Tuscan cheeses and cold cuts *or*
- Walk through the city's secret alleys, *or* discover the Contrada fountains while eating ice cream

*and many more walks together*

## THURSDAY 16:00

- Guided tour of the city's Cathedral *or*
- Guided tour of public museums and Contrada museums

*and many more spots*

## FRIDAY 17:00

- Italian Aperitif *or*
- Pizza all together in nice restaurants

*and many more meals together*



# ANNUAL EVENTS IN SIENA

- **Palio di Siena**, twice per year (July 2nd, August 16th)
- **Siena International Photo Awards** (end of September through mid November)
- **Strade Bianche**, official cycling race for the UCI world tour (beginning of March)
- **Eroica**, Amateur bicycle race with vintage bikes (beginning of October)
- **Mercato nel Campo**, Italian delicacies and craftsmanship market (December 2nd and 3rd)
- **Wine and Siena**, wine tastings in historical palaces (end of January)
- **Chigiana International Festival**, chamber and classical music (July through September)
- **Siena Music Summer Festival** in the Medici Fortress (June through October)
- **Uncovering the Floor of the Cathedral of Siena** (July and from August 18th to mid October)





 learning italy





# SIENA IN NUMBERS

## 20 Facts about Siena

- **70k** Effective population
  - **5 millions** Yearly visitors
  - **1st** Position as safest city in Tuscany
  - **12 years** Since becoming carbon neutral area
  - **2** International music academies
  - **6** Art galleries
  - **4** Cinemas
  - **2** Theaters
  - **7** Public Museums
  - **17** Private Museums
- 

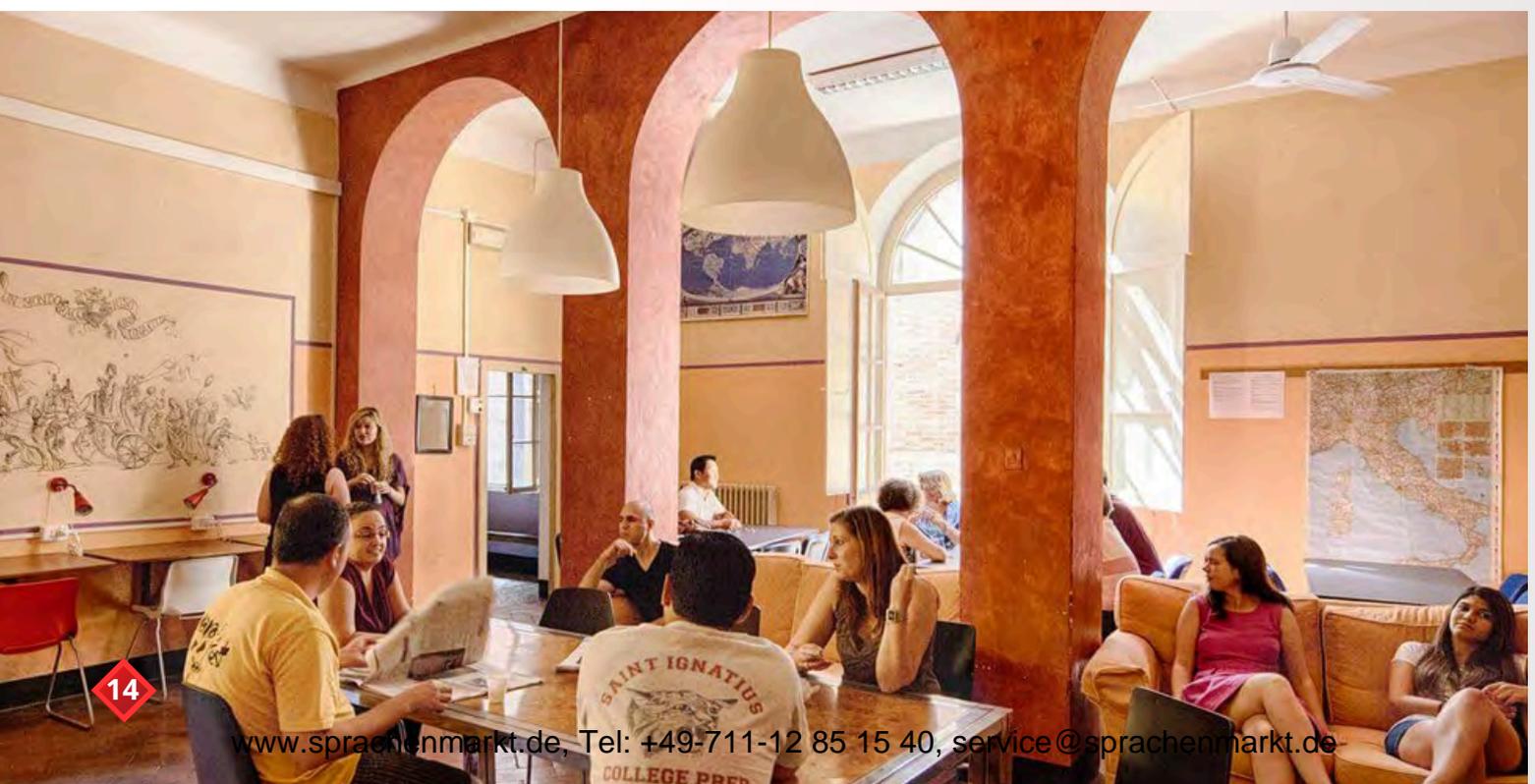
- 
- 
- **8.4°C** Average winter temperature
  - **22.3°C** Average summer temperature
  - **5** Michelin-mentioned restaurants
  - **10** Nearby thermal baths
  - **6** Officially certified typical products
  - **7** Officially certified typical wines
  - **4 UNESCO** sites in its province
  - **35** Nearby historical villages
  - **1.20 min** Distance from the coastline by car
  - **1.15 min** Distance from Florence by public bus

# OUR BUILDING

Lying in a structure with more than 800 years of history, Dante Alighieri Siena is situated in the oldest part of the city, providing a **breathtaking panoramic** view of the countryside.

Just 500 meters from both Piazza del Campo and the Duomo, this institution spans **over 900 square meters**, offering students access to **14 sunlit classrooms**, each equipped with PC/projector setups.

The facility features 11 high-speed Wi-Fi access points, 2 student lounges, 1 professional kitchen, 2 terraces, 2 pianos, and 1 foosball table.





# TEACHING METHODOLOGY

**Dante Alighieri Siena – Learning Italy** structures its language lessons in alignment with the Common European Framework for Languages. The teaching methodology embraces an integrated approach with a special **focus on the communicative aspect**. From the earliest stage, instruction occurs almost exclusively in Italian, facilitated by the diverse international student body. **All instructors, possessing university degrees, are native speakers** deeply committed to cultivating a positive learning environment and to sharing their love for the Italian language and culture. The school aims to create an educational context where students and teachers interact on the same level, fostering a rich exchange of language and cultural insights.

## What you will gain:

- Shape your success!
- Tailored language learning for your unique needs
- Personalized attention to achieve your goals
- Boosted confidence in Italian proficiency
- Enjoyable networking and social activities with new friends





# LEARNING ITALIAN

Dante Alighieri Siena - Learning Italy employs a continuous enrollment system, allowing students to initiate their courses every Monday, except for absolute beginners who must adhere to specified starting dates.

## Course Organization

Max students per class: 15

Minimum per class: 4

Minimum age: 17 (release form required)

Lesson duration: 50 minutes



# Standard

This **popular language course** consists of 20 group lessons per week. Lessons run in the mornings leaving the afternoons free to participate in the Cultural and Social program. This course is designed for those who are looking for a good combination of studying and relaxing.

# Combined

These courses are designed for those who wish to make the most of the opportunity to learn the language through a **combination of group and individual lessons**. Just as in the Standard course, these courses consist of 20 group lessons per week, supplemented with 4 or 8 individual lessons per week in the afternoons.

**LANGUAGE COURSES**

# Long-term courses

Taking a long-term course is one of the **most effective and economical** way to develop fluency in Italian, the perfect way to make the most of your time abroad! When you study with us for a Semester or Trimester you will be able to take every opportunity to perfect your Italian both in the classroom and in the city. Learn Italian intensively from 12 to 24 weeks.

# Tailored courses

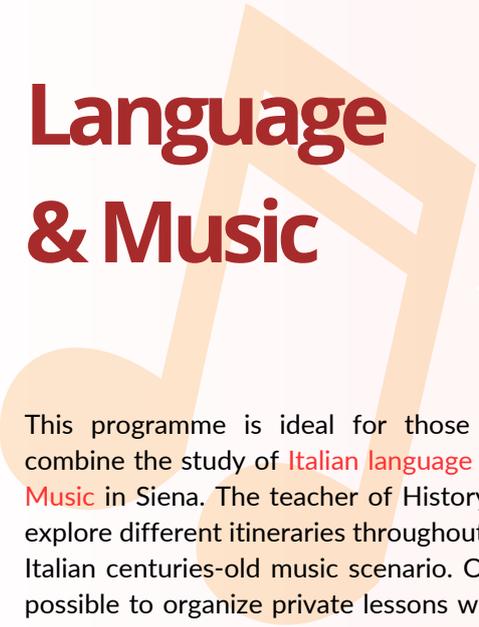
In our private language lessons - which can be one-to-one or in mini-group - we provide a **personalized approach** to meet the unique needs of each student. Lessons are tailored to individual preferences fostering a relaxed learning atmosphere. **Our expert teachers cover a broad range of textual competencies**, spanning from medicine to economics, opera, history, journalism, and more. The school boasts extensive experience, having collaborated with international companies, embassies, the Catholic clergy, journalists, members of the European Parliament, as well as internationally renowned artists and opera singers.

# Language & Culture



This program offers a holistic Italian language and cultural experience, combining afternoon cultural lessons with morning Italian group classes for a comprehensive approach. It provides a rich and multifaceted learning journey that fosters both **linguistic proficiency and a deep understanding of Italian heritage.**

# Language & Music



This programme is ideal for those who wish to combine the study of **Italian language and History of Music** in Siena. The teacher of History of Music will explore different itineraries throughout the incredible Italian centuries-old music scenario. On request it is possible to organize private lessons with a local lyric opera singer.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMMES**

# Language & Cooking



In our Language & Cooking program, students immerse in Italian language and culinary arts. Mornings focus on language study, while **twice-weekly evening cooking classes** offer hands-on experience to enhance language learning. Interactive sessions include ingredient exploration, recipe guidance, and preparing authentic four/five-course meals with skilled chefs.

# Italian & Mindfulness

The Language & Mindfulness programme offers a **transformative experience** for those hesitant about learning Italian in Italy or seeking a serene environment. Led by mindfulness experts, this two-week program combines Italian lessons with weekly mindfulness sessions incorporating mindful movement and breathing exercises for improved mental and physical balance.

Bildungsurlaub accredited 

## Siena Magnifica 35+

In the Siena Magnifica programme, the focal points include improvement in the Italian language, exploration of Siena's history and art, and the unveiling of the secrets of Italian cuisine.

This comprehensive experience goes beyond conventional language learning through the creation of an immersive and holistic exploration that allows participants not only to become more proficient in Italian language but also to **embrace the cultural nuances that make Siena truly "magnifica"**.

**UNIQUE PROGRAMMES**

## Alma Siena 50+

top  
Rated

Alma Siena 50+ is a tailored programme for **mature lifelong learners**, blending Italian language classes with cultural experiences. Over two weeks, participants explore Siena's landmarks, enjoy cooking classes, wine tasting, and an excursion in the Sienese territory for a comprehensive cultural immersion.

## A Month in Siena Experience

A Month in Siena is a journey into the richness of Italian language and culture, offering students a period of four weeks to immerse themselves in discovery. Inspired by the book by Hisham Matar, the 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winner, students embrace a unique experience of cultural growth. This programme aims to find **equilibrium between active engagement and leisure**, providing the opportunity for a more personal and intimate connection with Siena—its beauty, its people, and the compelling sense of 'uneasy reverence' it evokes.

New

# Junior Italian Programme

The two-week-long Junior Italian Programme is specially designed for underage students eager to immerse themselves in a formative experience with same-age peers in the beautiful Tuscan setting. This program blends Italian language lessons with on-site culture classes, engaging **afternoon activities**, and exciting excursions to **Florence and the beach**. To ensure that students enjoy their time without any hassles, **lunch is provided on all weekdays**, and a transfer service from Siena train station is included.

- Minor release form required
- Available to students aged 14-17
- Minimum number of participants to run the program: 4
- Minors requesting accommodation service must be placed in a homestay with half-board service.

## sample schedule

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Full day in Florence w\ Galileo Galilei Museum	Full day at the seaside
Welcome lunch	Lunch at school	Lunch at school	Pizza class	Lunch at school		
Orientation tour	Lesson on Site: Visit of Siena Cathedral	Afternoon at the swimming pool	Visit of a Contrada Museum and Church	Treasure Hunt in the City Center		

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons	Italian language lessons
Lunch at school	Lunch at school	Lunch at school	Lunch at school	Farewell lunch
Reading laboratory	Horseback ride	Lesson on site at Civic Museum w/ climb to the tower	Hiking along the Elsa river w/ guide	Gelato masterclass

**UNIQUE PROGRAMMES**

# OFFICIAL ITALIAN CERTIFICATE



## P.L.I.D.A. = Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri

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*P.L.I.D.A. Certification, a title recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Convention No. 1903 of 4/11/1993, the Ministry of Education, University and Research Convention Prot. No. 1906 of 9/10/2006 and the Ministry of the Interior DM 4/6/2010.*

PLIDA, or Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri (Società Dante Alighieri Diplomas), is an official language certification issued by Società Dante Alighieri certifying the holder's proficiency in Italian language as a foreign language. The diplomas could only be obtained after passing a standardised language test.

## The certificate allows

- to indicate the student's Italian language knowledge in the most transparent way on his/her curriculum vitae
- to enrol in an Italian University or AFAM Institute without having to take the Italian language exam
- to obtain the long-term residence permit (those who submit the PLIDA Certificate from A2 level [or B1, B2...to C2] will be exempted from the language tests organised by the Prefectures)
- to obtain the Italian citizenship, if you meet all the requirements, by submitting a level B1 certificate.



# LIVE WITH YOUR ITALIAN TEACHER

## ALL INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME

### *Home tuition programme*

This Italian immersion programme in Cura di Vetralla provides a fantastic opportunity to enhance your understanding of **Italian language and culture within the comfort of a welcoming Italian home**, while maintaining your privacy. Immerse yourself in a typical Italian-speaking environment and learn in a relaxed atmosphere, receiving undivided attention from your professor who will also share Italian cooking tips! The lesson plan is customized to meet students' individual needs and interests. **Full board** (continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner) is INCLUDED; accommodation is provided in a small private apartment with a **private bathroom** and kitchenette.

# CULINARY EXPERIENCE

A group of students in a professional kitchen setting, wearing white aprons and light-colored shirts, are focused on preparing pasta. One student in the center is holding a long, thin sheet of yellow pasta dough. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at the work. The scene is brightly lit, and the atmosphere is one of active learning and teamwork.

Students are offered 4-hour-long hands-on cooking sessions and will eat together the 4-course meal they cooked. Water and wine are included.

- 100% Italian chef
- Italian recipes, Tuscan recipes
- Apron and recipe book included
- Fully equipped professional kitchen

Students will prepare:

- mixed appetizers
- first course with 2 kinds of pasta (hand kneaded, dry, or rice)
- dessert
- wine and water

# D.A. SIENA

## ACCOMODATION SERVICE

Upon request, Dante Alighieri Siena offers an accommodation research service. **Our school carefully selects partners** to ensure the best service and the best quality, without any intermediaries involved.

**Our school offers different options:**

### Homestay

Living in a homestay is the preferred accommodation of many of our students as it allows for complete Italian immersion, both linguistically and culturally. Sharing breakfast and/or dinner with your hosts fosters a familial atmosphere, creating lasting memories. **Among the students electing this service, there are also embassy personnel requiring intensive linguistic training.**

While our homestays are strategically situated with a maximum travel time of 15 minutes by public transportation from the city center, the **vast majority of our partners are conveniently located within a 10 to 15-minute walk from the school.**

A homestay can be hosted by a family, a retired couple, or a single woman. To ensure the perfect fit, **we carefully match each student with their ideal host.**

- Experience the warmth of Italian hospitality
- Enjoy your own furnished room complete with a comfortable bed, ample storage, and study space
- Engage in Italian conversations with your hosts
- Embrace the opportunity to speak only Italian
- Immerse yourself fully in an Italian-speaking environment during your stay



# SHARED APARTMENTS

We partner with multiple landlords, offering shared apartments (up to 7 occupants per flat) within a 20-minute walk from the school. Apartments feature shared kitchens and bathrooms, along with amenities such as oven, washing machine, and Wi-Fi. This type of accommodation is reserved to students under 35 years of age.

# ON QUOTATION OPTIONS

Our accommodation service is ready to offer you the most suitable solution based on your preferences. You can choose from:

- private apartments
- B&Bs
- hotels
- villas
- studio apartments

Simply inquire with our dedicated staff for personalized proposals.



# PLANNING YOUR STAY

If you are arriving from outside the Schengen Area and require a visa to enter Italy, **our staff is available to assist you with the necessary documentation.** You can visit the website [www.vistoperitalia.esteri.it](http://www.vistoperitalia.esteri.it) to know if you need to apply for a visa.

For those traveling by car, please be aware that the historical center of Siena is a restricted traffic zone. You will need to park your car outside the city center, but there are various parking lots available. Feel free to consult with our staff to identify the most convenient option for you.

The closest airports are Florence, Pisa, and Rome. We will gladly arrange for you a car transfer service from all airports and train stations in Italy.

## From Florence

Take the T2 tram line until "Alamanni-Stazione" stop. Rides are every 5-10 minutes depending on the time and day, tickets are available at vending machines at every stop. Then reach the bus station "Autostazione" (right across the street) and take the direct bus line 131R headed to Siena city center. Bus tickets are sold at the bus station, the ride is 1h 15m.

## From Rome

There are two daily direct rides from Terminal T3, bus stall No. 10. The operator is 'Tiemme,' and tickets must be purchased in advance on [www.booking.tiemespa.it](http://www.booking.tiemespa.it). Also Flixbus provides a direct bus line service from Fiumicino airport, for tickets and timetables, visit [www.flixbus.it](http://www.flixbus.it).

## From Pisa

Reach Pisa railway station "Stazione Centrale" with the train shuttle "Pisamover", tickets can be purchased in the airport. Then take a train to Empoli, where you have to change and get on the train to Siena train station, the ride is 1 hour and 40 minutes. For train tickets and timetables, visit [www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it).

## From Bologna

Take the monorail shuttle train to Bologna Centrale Station, from there board a train to Florence. Upon arrival in Florence reach the bus station "Autostazione" (right across the street) and take the direct bus line 131R headed to Siena city center. Bus tickets are sold at the bus station, the ride is 1h 15m.



**Via Tommaso Pendola, 37**  
**Siena, 53100 (Italy)**