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Day 3 - Discovering villas and abbeys: Bagnaia and San Martino al Cimino

Just a short drive from Viterbo lies the picturesque village of Bagnaia, home to one of Italy's most enchanting Renaissance treasures. At the heart of this location is Villa Lante, celebrated for its breathtaking gardens that perfectly balance artistry and nature.

With ornate fountains, meticulously designed terraces, and stunning architecture, Villa Lante promises an unforgettable experience for anyone captivated by beauty and design.

As you make your way toward the stunning Cimino Mountains, you'll discover the historic village of San Martino al Cimino a

charming locale that blossomed under the patronage of Princess Donna Olimpia Maidalchini Pamphilj. Dominating the village is the magnificent Cistercian Abbey, founded in the 13th century, renowned for its striking yet elegant architecture that evokes a sense of timelessness. Furthermore, San Martino al Cimino lies along the renowned Via Francigena Route, an ancient pilgrimage path that winds through Viterbo and links several picturesque towns within the beautiful Tuscia region. Come explore this captivating destination where history and natural beauty intertwine!



**Città di
VITERBO**

European Capital
of Culture 2023
Candidate City

**Viterbo
in 3 days**



Photo: Federico Bottarelli

Day 1 - Unveiling Viterbo's medieval heart: the historic center and museums

Immerse yourself in the enchanting medieval core of Viterbo, nestled within the historic San Pellegrino district. Here, you'll find a captivating labyrinth of cobblestone streets flanked by towering houses and picturesque stone arches. As you wander through this charming area, be sure to explore several noteworthy sites:

- The Popes' Palace, Cathedral of San Lorenzo, and Museum of Colle del Duomo: step into history at the very location of the first conclave, where decisions that shaped the papacy were made.
- Palazzo dei Priori: this majestic palace has been the seat of Viterbo's civic authorities for centuries and continues to play that role today. Inside, the Museo dei Portici showcases remarkable masterpieces: sebastiano del Piombo's "Pietà" and "Flagellazione di Cristo."
- Teatro dell'Unione: nestled in Piazza Giuseppe Verdi, this stunning example of 19th-century theater architecture is a true gem that should not be missed.
- Sanctuary of Santa Rosa and Museo del Sodalizio dei Facchini: here, delve into the fascinating tradition of the Trasporto della Macchina di Santa Rosa, a UNESCO-recognized cultural heritage. Each year on September 3rd, the Facchini triumphantly carry the Macchina, a towering 30 meters (98 ft.) tall and weighing around 5,000 kg (11,000 lbs), through a mile-long path in the heart of the medieval town.
- Museum of Ceramics of Tuscia: discover the rich heritage of local craftsmanship in this museum, which highlights the unique "Zaffera" technique used in ceramics.
- National Etruscan Museum of Rocca Alborno: for archaeology enthusiasts, this museum offers a treasure trove of Etruscan artifacts, including finds from the necropolises of Castel d'Asso and Norchia.



Day 2 - Viterbo's thermal baths: a journey of wellness and history

Experience the rejuvenating magic of Viterbo's thermal waters, renowned for their mineral-rich, sulfurous properties that have been celebrated for centuries for their healing effects on skin, joints, and respiratory health. In 2023, Viterbo proudly joined the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA), further establishing its reputation as one of Europe's top thermal destinations.

Explore the area's free natural hot springs:

- Bullicame: this spring, immortalized by Dante in the Divina Commedia, offers inviting natural pools with temperatures hovering around 55°C.
- Carletti Pools: with delightful temperatures ranging from 30-40°C, these pools provide a more relaxed outdoor bathing ambiance.
- For a touch of luxury, indulge in various thermal pools and spa treatments, where temperatures can soar up to 58°C before being adjusted for therapeutic benefits. Prime spa facilities in Viterbo include Terme dei Papi, Terme Salus, Tuscia Terme, and Terme Oasi.
- Whether you prefer the serenity of nature or the opulence of a fully equipped spa, Viterbo's thermal baths offer the ideal setting for rejuvenation.