For many, a luxury farmhouse escape to Italy’s Tuscany region is one of those dream vacations, the kind that you must simply make once in a lifetime. And there’s nothing more perfect for that bucket list journey than Montestigliano, a quaint estate set among the undulating Tuscan countryside and vineyards.

**The Heart of Tuscany**

Tuscany is in central Italy, the epicenter of Renaissance Italy. Montestigliano is about an hour outside of the Tuscan capital of Florence, and it is the perfect place for you to immerse yourself in the heart and soul of Tuscan life whether you’re planning a long vacation, a short trip or searching for a unique wedding venue.

Montestigliano, a farm from the 1700s situated on more than 2,475 acres, operates as a private holiday retreat by the Donati family. It sits about 7.5 miles from the town of Siena and life here is a bit slower. Days are utterly blissful, filled with local cuisine, peaceful vistas, delicious wine and long walks.

The farm is comprised of 11 accommodations ranging in size, each of which has been restored. You can choose the noble two-story Villa Donati that sleeps 14 and opens to a lovely back-yard garden or perhaps Casa Luisa, with its spectacular sunsets and outdoor loggia. You might select the small Casa Massimo near the chapel with its fireplace or the newest stand-alone Casa Emilio. No matter which you choose, every apartment has easy access to the landscape’s cypress avenues, olive groves, fig trees and ancient terraces.

**Experience Tuscan Culture**

Your time at Montestigliano can be as casual or as structured as you like. Awake each morning to a homemade breakfast featuring farm fresh eggs, local cheese, warm pastries and fruit. Dinners feature olive oils from the farm’s orchards. Arrange for a bruschetta tasting, a cooking course or a wine tasting. Or, venture into town for a traditional Tuscan neighborhood meal, complete with music and homemade limoncello.

Hiking and cycling is a given in the open spaces surrounding Montestigliano. The Donatis can arrange for you to rent a bike or can help point the way for a peaceful meander through the woods.

**Explore the Countryside**

For something completely unique to Tuscany, set forth on an excursion to Degusta la Cinta Senese. The Cinta Senese are indigenous pigs that were almost extinct. Thanks to a breeding program, they are now a delicacy. Take a tour of the farm, learn about the healthy meat, and sample the wares.

Take a stroll through nearby Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the cathedral dates back to the 1300s. Make your way to Piazza del Campo, the town’s fan-shaped center, with its magnificent Torre del Mangia. The famed Palio horse race runs here each year, turning the tranquil town a bit crazy with the Tuscan version of the Running of the Bulls.

Indeed, there is something magical about Tuscany – grab a flute of prosecco and sit back to watch the sun cast shadows across the hills. Here in Tuscany, you connect the heartiness of the earth with the expansiveness of the heavens in a way that doesn’t happen anywhere else. Learn more at www.montestigliano.it.