

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SIENA AND CHIANTI, ITALY

LOCATION: Siena is the capital city of the province of Siena, and is located in the Chianti region, about thirty miles south of its ancient rival, Florence. The old walled city occupies the juncture of three ridges in the western foothills of the Tuscan Apennines. Elevations are around 1,100 feet above sea level, making the town a bit cooler than the cities of the plains.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:22	10:29	11:54	13:24	14:41	15:22	15:05	13:59	12:34	11:05	9:45	9:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:19	6:05	6:41	7:34	8:49	10:20	11:41	10:49	8:44	6:43	5:37	4:57
AREA OF BLUE SKY	46%	48%	45%	46%	50%	59%	72%	72%	62%	51%	47%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	26°	28°	31°	37°	44°	51°	57°	57°	52°	45°	36°	30°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36°	37°	41°	46°	53°	59°	65°	65°	60°	54°	45°	40°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	45°	47°	53°	60°	69°	76°	83°	82°	74°	60°	53°	47°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	57°	63°	71°	80°	87°	92°	92°	83°	72°	63°	56°
FROSTY MORNINGS	28%	25%	8%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	17%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	71%	65%	55%	52%	51%	45%	39%	39%	50%	62%	69%	73%
DRY DAYS	72%	72%	69%	64%	66%	73%	87%	86%	78%	65%	67%	70%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	86%	83%	80%	81%	84%	93%	92%	87%	79%	78%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.33	0.33	0.41	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.21	0.22	0.43	0.63	0.66	0.46
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%	5%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	21%	22%	15%	16%	12%	12%	15%	14%	17%	19%	20%	22%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 55% in December, to a high of 77% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 24° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 94° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be a degree or two cooler than the actual ones during the warmer months. During the cooler weather of any time of year, valley fogs and mists are quite common in the early hours. These tend to burn off before noon. During the warmer weather, afternoon cumulus clouds dapple the skies. The combination of these two phenomena makes late morning and early afternoon the clearest and sunniest time of day. Winter does not have the same meaning in Tuscany as it does in northern Europe. Some annuals will die back, but others (including barley and wheat) continue to grow and flourish—to be harvested in the spring or early summer. Most of the trees and other woody plants are evergreen (including olives and citrus), and there is no general “fall” of leaves. Winter, though cold on occasion, is primarily the rainy season. Snow flurries are common, but snow on the ground past noon of the day following its fall is quite rare.