



TO TUSCANY  
RENTAL VILLAS IN TUSCANY

# BE A SMART TOURIST

Tips from a local:

Driving on Tuscany's famous unpaved/White Roads



Tuscany has a variety of roads. In some of the hilly and mountainous areas, you will stumble upon the famous white roads of Tuscany which are unpaved gravel country lanes. The white roads of Tuscany are preserved as a national treasures and often used for vintage events to recreate an atmosphere of passed times. They also serve to preserve the natural environment as no paved materials are deposited to make the road.

Although they are beautiful and characteristic within their natural

setting, it's important to know what you're up against when driving on them. We have put together some tips that may help you while you are in Tuscany, and we hope you find them useful.

## **Unpaved/White roads are divided into 4 categories:**

### **1. Unpaved, even**

### **2. Unpaved, uneven**

High clearance vehicle recommended

### **3. Unpaved, uneven, uphill segments**

High clearance vehicle recommended and experienced drivers recommended

### **4. Unpaved, uneven, steep uphill segments**

High clearance vehicle only, experienced drivers recommended, minimum vehicle weight/power ratio 20kg/KW

For categories 3 and 4 please check your Kw/Kg RATIO at

<http://www.carfolio.com/>

Make sure you have a car with enough power to get up the steep country roads, and that it provides sufficient acceleration when you need it.

If possible, opt for a 4x4 car if you're staying in a mountainous region.

Smaller cars may be better for narrow, winding country roads.

### **Tips from a local:**

- Try not to dramatically change your speed, and maintain a consistent distance from the side of the road.
- If you are driving on an unpaved gravel road, keep in mind that there will be a lot less traction.
- It's wise to take a wider berth around corners.
- Try if possible to go over bumps and around turns without stopping or slowing too much, or you may find your tyres spin when you try to speed up.
- If you do meet a car coming the other way, always give right of way to whoever is going up a hill (unless there is an obvious place for them to pull over).
- You may find you have to reverse back down the road - don't feel under pressure to do this quickly. Take your time.

- Read the villa descriptions on our website to check to see where they are located and whether the road you need to drive down is challenging.

Example:

**Approach road:** Unpaved, uneven, high clearance vehicle only, steep uphill segments, experienced drivers recommended, minimum vehicle weight/power ratio 20kg/KW. Download a guide here.

## Weather conditions

If the weather is dry for long periods, the gravel will be loose which will mean you may be more likely to spin out.

Rain can obviously cause a build-up of surface water making the road slippery or create dips in the road.

Following heavy rain, puddles can hide large holes in the road, so do take extra care.

Your best bet is to check the weather in advance of your arrival so you know what to expect.

If snow is forecast then you'll need snow chains as a backup.

We'd also advise arriving within daylight hours. Most gravel roads have no lighting, so driving on them at night is more hazardous.

For more info, email [conciierge@to-tuscany](mailto:conciierge@to-tuscany) or visit <https://www.to-tuscany.com/>