

# TRUFFLE HUNTING IN TUSCANY

DEPARTURES 89/100: Elusive and rare - go hunting for your own truffles with the assistance of the Savini family

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[DEPARTURES 100] He who finds a truffle, finds a treasure. And not just because this underground fungus is worth a fortune, but because of the excitement felt when at last you hold this intensely perfumed delicacy in your hand.

Maps are no good for finding truffles. What you need is a good dog like Giotto, who likes to find all kinds of truffle, from the highly-prized white to the black, asking for just a few biscuits in return.

Giotto is the mongrel of the Savini family, truffle hunters for four generations, who all year round organise unforgettable Truffle experiences in the woods between Florence and Pisa, with lessons in identifying the elusive fungi, exploring their ecology and training techniques for the dogs, followed by a tasting menu of dishes based on truffles.

An unmissable stop can be found in the recently opened family museum, where a replica of the largest truffle on record, found in 2007 by the Savini family themselves, is on display. At close to 1.5 kilograms, this likely-record breaking truffle (the official record remains with a 1.3kg white truffle found in Croatia) was later sold at auction for USD 330,000, which was then donated to charity.

**Visit the Savini Tartufi webpages**