

Taste of Tuscany Tour

September 30 - October 11, 2012

September 30

Leave from Philadelphia Airport and take an overnight flight to Rome. Arrive in Rome on October 1.

Day 1 / October 1

Tarquinia

We land in Rome airport where our private bus will meet us and tour guide Ellen. From Rome we will drive the countryside to Tarquinia, One of the most ancient of the Etruscan cities. We will enjoy a light lunch and tour of this ancient city. From there we head to Suvereto where will check in to our Hotel to get settled and rest a bit before we enjoy a wonderful dinner in a local trattoria.

Day 2 / October 2

Bolgheri

Breakfast in our hotel. Today we will visit an olive oil press and do an extra virgin olive oil tasting in the AM. After lunch we will visit a top winery in Bolgheri, tasting the fabulous wines of that region: Sassicaia, Michelse Satta, Gaja, among others. That night we will enjoy a family style dinner in the local town.

Day 3 / October 3

Suvereto and Populonia

Breakfast in our hotel. Then we will wander the winding streets of this historic town of Suvereto. We will experience a cooking class in the home of a typical Tuscan housewife. We will prepare a traditional Italian meal from local ingredients and sit and enjoy our creations paired with the fabulous wines of this enchanting region. In the afternoon we will visit the amazing Etruscan village of Populonia, which dominates the sea and the Tuscan coast. After that we are back to our hotel to freshen up and enjoy a good Tuscan dinner with wines included in the Slow Food Movement.

Day 4 / October 4

Pisa and Lucca

Breakfast in our hotel. We leave the coast of Tuscany and head to Pisa where we will enjoy a guided visit to the famous tower of Pisa. We will enjoy a lunch in this beautiful region and then visit the area know for delicious chocolates for a tasting and a tour. Next we head to Lucca to check into our hotel and have dinner in a local restaurant in the beautiful walled city of Lucca.

Day 5 / October 5

Lucca and Montecarlo

Breakfast in our hotel. Lucca is famous for its Renaissance era city walls. Napoleon conquered Lucca in 1805 and gave the principality to his sister. Lucca is a place to get lost in the streets with discoveries at every turn. We will enjoy a typical Italian breakfast in our hotel and then we are off to explore this fantastic city. There is much to see & enjoy in Lucca; the glittering mosaics of San Fediano, San Michele's intriguing facade, the beautiful duomo, Antifeatro, an elliptical piazza built on the site of the former Roman Amphitheater.

In the afternoon we will drive the serpentine roads with an enchanting panorama to Montecarlo village located in the countryside of Lucca. Montecarlo is a medieval town with its fortress and town walls smoothly incorporated into the Lucchesi hills. We will experience our first of many wine tastings and enjoy a fabulous lunch at the boutique winery. Dinner will be in the walled city in a local trattoria with food that specializes in Tuscan and cuisine from Lucca.

Day 6 / October 6

Florence and Siena

We leave Lucca and head to the Renaissance city of Florence. We will have a guided tour of this fascinating art filled city and enjoy lunch in a local trattoria. We will have some free time to explore before we head to Siena. There we will check in and enjoy our dinner in a local restaurant with delicious local wines.

Day 7 / October 7

Siena

After breakfast in our hotel, we will discover this gorgeous Tuscan Hill town. First settled in the time of the Etruscans 900 BC, it is known for its Romanesque architecture, the beautiful cathedral and the Piazza del Campo, where the world famous Palio races take place. We will enjoy our dinner in a trattoria featuring Siennese cuisine. Lunch is on your own; dinner will be in a local trattoria.

Day 8 / October 8

Pienza and Montepulciano

Today we visit Pienza known for its creamy, pungent delicious cheeses. We will visit a Pecorino cheese farm for a tasting of these magnificent cheeses. In Italy, Pecorino, the famous sheep's cheese, is synonymous with Pienza. Bernardo Rossellino designed this gem of a town at the request of Pope Pius II. The city is so picturesque that Romeo & Juliet & The English Patient were both filmed here.

Next we head to Montepulciano for lunch & wine tasting, where we visit the historic cellars of Contucci. Montepulciano is positioned between two valleys, the Val d'Orcia and the Val di Chiana. Historically this city was bitterly contested for by both Siena & Florence. It is popular destination with fourteenth century frescoes and a dramatic main square, the Piazza Grande. On a clear day you can see Lake Trasimeno in Umbria. We will sample some of Montepulciano's famous DOGG wine, the

esteemed Vino Nobile di Montepuliciano. Tonight is a free night with dinner on your own.

Day 9 / October 9

Rome

We depart for the coast of Tuscany to the Eternal city of Rome. After we check into our hotel in the center of Rome, we will have the rest of the day to explore and shop before our dinner in a family owned trattoria in city center.

Day 10 / October 10

Rome

After breakfast in our hotel we will enjoy a guided tour of Rome. Arrangements can be made to see the Vatican, if desired. As this is our last full day, we will have the afternoon free to explore and shop with lunch on your own. We will make recommendations for lunch, but don't eat too much as tonight will be our farewell dinner in this timeless and exciting city!

October 11

Departure from Rome airport

Sunday, September 30, 2012 to Thursday, October 11, 2012

Included:

- Private bus transfer to & from Rome airport on arrival and departure.
- Private bus for all our travels.
- Ellen, our private tour guide, throughout the trip
- Breakfast every morning
- 10 nights hotel accommodations, beautiful boutique 3 star B & B'S
- All tours and excursions
- Lunch and dinner as described in itinerary
- All wine tastings, cheese tastings, chocolate tastings, olive oil tastings
- All cooking classes
- All wines with meals
- Guided tours of Florence & Rome

Price does not include:

- Airfare or Trip Insurance
- Gratuities for driver and guide
- Extras in hotel: mini bar, phone calls, internet, laundry.

Price per person is \$4400.00

Single supplement is \$800.00

I will be traveling on USAIRWAYS from Philadelphia to Rome direct.

I truly believe that this is a trip of a lifetime so Clint & I will be hosting 2 dinner parties (also included) in my home so that we can all meet one another and also to give you as much information about this trip as possible. We will discuss what to bring, what to wear, what to buy, what to expect.

I will also be in constant touch throughout the coming months with articles, stories, trivia and little bits and pieces of Italy to excite you and entice you and make this trip all the more real to you!

When this trip is over I will host another "Picture Party" so we can share our pictures, our memories and relive our romantic, wonderful time spent in Bella Italia!!

Space is limited and there is a minimum requirement of 16 people for this trip.

Your initial deposit of \$250 will be returned if we do not have enough people for this trip.

TO RESERVE A PLACE ON THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME, PLEASE COMPLETE THE RESERVATION FORM AND RETURN WITH A CHECK FOR \$250 BY NOVEMBER 30, 2011

A DEPOSIT OF \$1250 IS DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2012.

THE FINAL BALANCE IS DUE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012.