

# Italian Wines and Culinary Program in Tuscany

**A week in Tuscany between charming towns and vineyards**

This program is inspired by personalized visits to some of the best vineyards and charming towns of Tuscany. You will see some of Italy's main highlights in Florence and Siena, but this itinerary is more about the culture of the region. The love of the land has been passed from generation to generation. You will therefore delve into the Chianti region, the Brunello region, and the Montepulciano region, and you will have wine and food tasting along the road. You will meet the locals that love to have you as their guest and, of course, they will be proud to show you their land and their amazing Tuscany products.

This will be a great experience for you!



## 7 nights/8 days itinerary

### DAY 01: BENVENUTI! WELCOME TO ITALY!

Upon arrival at Florence's Airport, you will be picked up by your private driver and taken to your centrally located hotel in Siena where your tour director will welcome you. You will have some time to rest and relax. (Arrival in Rome's International Airport – pick-up and transfer to Siena upon surcharge). In the afternoon, after a brief with your tour director about your week's exciting activities, your private tour guide will meet you at the hotel for



a walking tour. Siena is one of the most important towns in Tuscany. You will discover the main "campo" where the 'Palio' horserace around the main piazza occurs annually as well as delve into the Cathedral and Basilica di San Domenico. Donatello, Bernini, and Pinturicchio all left artistic masterpieces that you will enjoy. Dinner is not included in the tour and your tour guide will be more than happy to show you a typical Sienese restaurant where have a delicious meal. Overnight in Siena.



Gone Traveling Tours

[www.gonetravelingtours.com](http://www.gonetravelingtours.com)

+1-404-682-4471 - [info@gonetravelingtours.com](mailto:info@gonetravelingtours.com)

## DAY 02: TUSCANY / MONTALCINO & BAGNO VIGNONI

After breakfast, you head to the charming town of Montalcino. This lovely village is home to Sangiovese 'Grosso grapes' known as "Brunello" to the locals. It is these grapes that make one of the finest red wines in all of Italy, the famous 'Brunello di Montalcino' considered one of the world's best wines. After taking in the breathtaking hilltop town of Montalcino with its medieval fortress and walls, you will learn the art of making the Brunello wine in one of the best wine estates in the area. Your visit will start with the visit of the vineyards, the cellar, and a wine tasting accompanied by traditional Tuscan cold cuts and cheeses! During the drive to your hotel in Bagno Vignoni, you will stop at the impressive medieval Abbey of Sant'Animo, located at 5 miles from the via Francigena, the pilgrim route to Rome.

You will be free for dinner.

Overnight in Bagno Vignoni.



## DAY 03: PIENZA & MONTEPULCIANO

After another delicious breakfast, your drive will be to the charming town of Pienza. You will walk along the narrow street of this cozy town well-known for the birthplace of Pope Pius II and famous for its Pecorino cheese, a tasty cheese made with sheep milk voted the best cheese in the world! Your lunch will be served in a local animal farm. During the guided tour of the farm, you will see with your own eyes what it means to live a peasant life today in the Orcia Valley. Your day continues to Montepulciano. After your check-in at the hotel, you will spend the evening in Montepulciano walking along the cobbled street of this medieval town. Overnight near Montepulciano.



## DAY 04: MONTEPULCIANO & CORTONA

Today after breakfast, you join a program that takes you on a hectic but fun 4 hours cooking class with a famous local chef. Your lunch will be based on what you have prepared, and you will surely enjoy your Tuscan meal in a Montepulciano region wine estate. Before the cooking class, your hosts will show you the vineyards and the cellars. They produce the Montepulciano wine, and you will delight in a wine tasting! After saying goodbye to your friends, you will drive to another charming town well-known for the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" ... that is right! It is Cortona! You will have time to discover this beautiful town on your own and dine in one of the local restaurants.



Overnight near Montepulciano.

## DAY 05: SAN GIMINIANO, MONTERIGGIONI & IMPRUNETA

After another delicious breakfast, you will be driven to the Chianti region. During your trip there, you will have sightseeing to the superb medieval fortress hamlet of Monteriggioni. The 14 towers of this fortress were described by Dante in his Divine Comedy as the 'Giants of Inferno.' You will be impressed, however, with the scenic and idyllic Tuscan panorama. Your drive continues to San Gimignano, the city of a hundred towers and, also, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This day is dedicated to one of Tuscany's well-known and appreciated



wines in the world, the Chianti. You will be delighted by tasting some of the different premium blends. The panoramic backdrops are amazing! Afterwards, you continue your journey to Impruneta, a charming town well-known for its terracotta art. It is now time for our tour of Terracotta Kiln.

Overnight in Florence.





## DAY 6: FLORENCE

After breakfast, your private guide will meet you at the hotel for a 4-hour walking tour in heart of Florence to discover its different aspects of this Renaissance city. From the Lucky Porcellino (Little pig) fountain and the Scandal Stone as far as the Signoria Palace to the Ponte Vecchio with its jewelry shops, you will be amazed by this lovely city. You will explore the Duomo complex featuring the gates of Paradise, the church of Dante's family, and much more. During your walk, you will stop in different shops to taste some of the traditional products. You will not need your lunch today! In the afternoon, you will have the rest of the day to continue to discover this amazing city on your own! Overnight in Florence.



## DAY 7: FLORENCE

After your relaxed morning in Florence, where you will have the chance to visit some of the world-famous museums like the Uffizi or the Accademia, your lunch will be served in one of the most ancient olive oil estates in Tuscany. The family has been making olive oil since the Renaissance and the family company currently manages 11,000 acres of agricultural land in Tuscany. You will learn about the process of making the olive oil and you will have your tasting of different olive oils. Going back to Florence, you will visit a leather factory where marvelous leather products are designed and made. Overnight in Florence.



## DAY 8: RETURN TO THE USA

Breakfast at the hotel. Depending on your flight, you will be transferred to Florence airport with an incredible number of pictures and a beautiful souvenir of this stunning region! (Depart from Rome's International Airport – pick-up at Florence and transfer to Fiumicino Rome Airport upon surcharge).

## YOUR PROGRAM DETAILS

Departure dates:

Any day of the year

Price Starting from:

*\$5,650.00\* per person in double accommodations (based on 2 people traveling together)*

*\$3,800.00\* per person in double accommodations (based on 4 people traveling together)*

\*Triple accommodation or Single accommodation on request

\*Flight from/to the U.S.A not included

## PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights hotel and Tuscany resort on a 4-star basis as per itinerary, in double rooms (price for single or triple occupancy on request).
- Hotel will include the Hotel NH Siena\*\*\*\* in Siena or similar, Hotel Le Terme\*\*\*\* in Bagno Vignoni or similar, Borgo 3 Rose\*\*\*\* in Montepulciano or similar, and Hotel Santa Maria Novella\*\*\*\* in Florence or similar, and all breakfasts included.
- 5 lunches
- All transportation around Tuscany as per itinerary, transfer from/to Florence airport.
- Tour Leader from the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to the 4<sup>th</sup> day.
- Guided walking tour in Siena.
- Tour of the wine estate, wine tasting and light lunch in Montalcino, Montepulciano, and San Gimignano.



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- Tour of a Tuscany animal farm with lunch at Pienza.
- Cooking class in Montepulciano with lunch.
- Visit to the terracotta shop at Impruneta.
- Guided walking and food tour in Florence.
- Guided tour and lunch at the olive oil estate near Florence.

## PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Airfare.
- Travel insurance (highly recommended for each individual).
- Documents of a personal nature such as passports, visas, etc.
- Dinners are not included in the program.
- Tips to the driver and to the tour guides.
- Transportation from and to Rome Fiumicino International airport or another Italian airport beside Florence airport.
- Anything not specifically mentioned as included under 'price includes'.

## PAYMENT DETAILS:

### Payment schedule:

- 20% deposit to sign-up
- Balance due 45 days before trip begins.
- Less than 45 days before departure, the total payment is due

## CANCELLATION POLICIES:

- Cancellation must be requested in writing
- Deposit is 100% refundable until 60 days before the program. Afterwards deposit is not refundable.
- 50% of the balance is refundable for cancellation between 45- and 20-days prior departure
- The balance is not refundable for cancellation from 19 to 0 days before departure

