

# Culinary Tuscany & Rome



tuscany, chianti area

## 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – Tuscany and Lazio

### 1 DAY: FLORENCE – VICCHIO DEL MUGELLO

Pick up your car rental at the Florence airport and make your way to the city centre. Early in the afternoon, you'll take a tour of Florence including the Uffizi Gallery. First you'll discover by bus the beautiful and green hills of Florence, the picturesque Etruscan-Roman village of Fiesole that towers above Florence and the Arno Valley. Heading back to the city, you'll go through the famous Lungarno (way along the Arno River) and reach the Basilica di Santa Croce. Our walking tour will continue to Piazza Signoria, heart of the city social life. Here you will admire the architecture of Palazzo Vecchio and the famous statues of Loggia de' Lanzi. Our guide will finish the tour inside the Uffizi Gallery, where we will admire without queuing the impressive and magnificent paintings of Leonardo, Giotto, Michelangelo, Botticelli and Raffaello. Dinner in a delicious restaurant the heart of Florence where you can taste the famous "Fiorentina" or "Tagliata". Overnight at Hotel Villa Campestri.

### 2 DAY: VICCHIO DEL MUGELLO

After breakfast, you could take a cooking class focused on how to use olive oil in preparing different dishes followed by lunch composed of your creations. Your afternoon will start with a visit to the

first Italian "oleoteca" in Villa Campestri to finish with a tasting olive menu dinner. Overnight at hotel.

### 3 DAY: VICCHIO DEL MUGELLO – AIR BALLON EXPERIENCE – MONTEPULCIANO

After breakfast, you'll be ready to take your hot air balloon experience over the Tuscany countryside. At the end of this unique experience you could relax yourself with a typical Chianti "merenda". Have lunch on your own and transfer to Montepulciano to visit a wine cellar, taste local products and Nobile di Montepulciano wine. Enjoy dinner on your own and overnight at Hotel Villa Cicolina.

### 4 DAY: MONTEPULCIANO – PIENZA – MONTALCINO – MONTEPULCIANO

After breakfast, departure to discover the two scenic, artistic and culinary jewels of the Val D'Orcia: Pienza and Montalcino. Free visit of Pienza to admire the squares and historical buildings that preserve the secrets of the art of Rossellino and traces of the noble papal power. This artistic and natural heritage is joined by taste and fragrance: one typical Pienza's product is the famous cheese "Pecorino". Stop in a typical shop to taste some culinary specialties. Transfer to Montalcino, sanctuary of Brunello wine, presently considered the best wine in the world, has

its ancestral roots in the passion of the inhabitants of Montalcino and in the ancient winemaking tradition, handed down from one generation to the next. Lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon visit one of the best wineries on the territory and taste the prestigious wine, produced from Sangiovese grapes, stands on a charming hill that will let you relish its natural wholesomeness. Overnight at Hotel Villa Cicolina.

### 5 DAY: MONTEPULCIANO – CHIANTI AREA – ROME

After breakfast drive to Chianti area to discover the beautiful ruby colour and the characteristic fragrance with hints of violet that are the distinguishing marks of the identity of one of the most famous wines in the world: Chianti. You'll taste this refined product in one of the best wine cellars of the area, accompanying the wine with a selection of "bruschettas", typical cheeses and Tuscany salami and sliced cold meat.

Enjoy a gourmet lunch in a Michelin starred restaurant. Drive to Florence train station, drop off your car and take high speed train to Rome. Upon arrival transfer to Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio.

*"Guarda il color del sol che si fa vino, giunto all'umor che da la vite cola"*

[Dante Alighieri, Italian poet]



#### **6 DAY: ROME**

After breakfast, start a guided visit to Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel & St. Peter's Basilica. The purpose of this tour is the visit of the Vatican Museums and a large part of the Vatican City, one of the European microstates, situated on the Vatican Hill in the west-central part of Rome, whose borders closely follow the city wall constructed to protect the Pope from outside attack. Leaving the Piazza San Bernardo, adorned by Moses' Fountain the itinerary will continue passing by Via Bissolati, Via Veneto and the Villa Borghese. After this ample panoramic view, we will visit the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Galleries. There you will admire the modern entrance built in occasion of the Jubilee of the year 2000, the Galleries of the Chandeliers, of the Tapestries and of the Geographical Maps, the Sobiesky Hall and the Immaculate Conception Hall. We will then stop to admire the Sistine Chapel, seat of the Conclave, with the famous frescoes of Michelangelo. Passing inside the Vatican Museums we will arrive into the Basilica of Saint Peter, commonly called Saint Peter's Basilica, is one of four major basilicas of Rome. It is the most prominent building inside the Vatican City and built on the ruins of Old Saint Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon, free time to discover the city and the fabulous shops. At 18.00 stop for a wine and cheese

tasting in a traditional "enoteca" (Wine Bar) located in the eighteenth century Palazzetto Giangiacomo, in the heart of Rome. It is a family run wine bar that started as a wine-shop over fifty years ago and was transformed into its present status by the third generation. The Wine Bar shelves are lined with carefully selected bottles produced by prestigious and emerging wineries. Tasting of three wine and typical cheese. Overnight at hotel.

#### **7 DAY: ROME COOKING SCHOOL**

After breakfast, the chef invites you to live an unforgettable experience out of the beaten tracks. Firstly you'll be taken to a nice visit to the enchanting places where Romans love to go: grocery shopping, a real experience in the heart of the city. Your cooking class will take place few steps from Spanish steps, in a old house, once luxury home of a roman princess. At the end of the lesson you'll taste what you prepared and will cheer with Italian wine "from a higher point of view". In the afternoon discover with local guide the secrets of Rome by Vespa! Rome was not built for taxis and buses but for chariots, carriages and... Vespas! Take your place in the passenger seat of the world's most famous scooter for a 4 hour tour of Rome. Travelling no faster than 30 km/h, on the back of a Vespa being

ridden by one of our expert riders, you will make your way through narrow alleyways and into immense squares...and, of course, this being Italy, there will be stop-off for coffee. Free dinner and overnight at Hotel.

#### **8 DAY: ROME AND COME BACK AT HOME**

After breakfast, private transfer to airport. Arrivederci!

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rome, colosseum

## HIGHLIGHTS DAY BY DAY

DAY	Accommodation
1° - 3°	Hotel Villa Campestri, 4 stars, in Vicchio del Mugello
3° - 5°	Hotel Villa Cicolina, 4 stars, in Montepulciano
5° - 8°	Hotel Massimo d'Azeglio, 4 stars in Rome
1° - 8°	Accommodation in standard room in bed & breakfast
DAY	Services/Excursions/Experiences/Meals as follow
1° FLORENCE	HD Tour in Florence in the afternoon with professional guide and Uffizi Gallery ticket. Dinner in restaurant to taste "Fiorentina" & "Tagliata" (3 course menu, drinks not included)
2° VICCHIO	Cooking class (2 hours ) in Villa Campestri and lunch. Extra virgin olive oil tasting in Villa Campestri (1h30'). Dinner in Villa Campestri (oil olive menu)
3° TUSCANY COUNTRYSIDE	Air balloon experience with tuscan "merenda" (1 hour for flight but 3 or 4 hours is necessary to organize the excursion). Visit and taste in wine cellar in Montepulciano
4° PIENZA & MONTALCINO	Cheese taste in a typical shop in Pienza. Lunch in restaurant in Montalcino. Visit and taste in winery in Montalcino
5° CHIANTI AND ROME	Visit and tasting in wine cellar in Chianti. Gourmet lunch in a Michelin starred restaurant. High speed train from Florence to Rome. Private transfer from Rome train station to Hotel in the city centre
6° ROME	Guided visit Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica - Skip the line (Includes: transport from the Hotel to the Vatican area, entrance with no line, professional guided tour, headsets to better hear the guide). Wine & cheese tasting
7° ROME COOKING SCHOOL	Rome Cooking lesson & Grocery tour. Vespa tour
8° ROME	Private Transfer from hotel to Rome airport
1° - 5°	Car rental (cat E) - Pick up and drop off at airport, unlimited mileage, CDW, THW & taxes

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