

Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents

Tuscany's Wine Region With Rome



June 12 - 22, 09

11-days \$3599* pp.

Visit Lucca, Florence, Siena and Chianti Wine Road, Volterra and San Gimignano, Pisa, Cinque Terre & Rome, Incl. Vatican



Includes:

- ♥ Round trip Airfare from San Francisco on Delta Airlines
- ♥ 7 nights Hotel in Tuscany
- ♥ Breakfast & Dinners in Tuscany
- ♥ 2 nights in Rome
- ♥ Breakfast only in Rome
- ♥ Sightseeing Tours



* Prices per person based on min 25 passengers. Taxes & Fuel Charges Approx \$419 (Subject to change). Tips for Driver & Waiters: \$90, Tips for Guide: \$50



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of Travel Agents**

Welcome to the Heart of Italy!

This Italian Cultural Society exclusive tour brings you to Florence & Rome, two of the cities voted as the world's "best cities". Visit legendary Tuscany and the capital city of Rome: the Eternal City. All of these regions are brimming with the finest Italian art, history, culture, scenic beauty and culinary delights.

In Tuscany travelers will anchor at one hotel to discover this fabled region. See Florence, known as the "little flower." Florence was voted the world's best city and is a living museum, and the Cradle of the Renaissance. But it is only one of the many spectacular cities in Tuscany's rich bouquet!

Tuscany is also Pisa, with its famous leaning tower and the Piazza of Miracles. Tuscany is Siena with its stunning Piazza del Campo, where each July 2 and August 16, the breathtaking "Palio" the most exciting horse race in the world takes place.

Tuscany is a land of lush olive groves, sweet hillsides, Chianti vineyards, and romantic hamlets. Tuscany is the wonderful walled city of Lucca, nicknamed the city of "one hundred churches." Lucca is the birthplace of famed Italian composer Giacomo Puccini, who wrote "La Boheme," "Madame Butterfly," "Tosca" and many others.



On our grand tour of Tuscany, you will discover the rich Etruscan city of Volterra famous for its beautiful alabaster. You will enjoy San Gimignano; a charming city of magnificent towers and cobblestone streets lined with wonderful shops.

Rome's dazzling beauty is indeed eternal, but what makes Rome THE ETERNAL CITY is that she has been blessed with an immense wealth of the world's most magnificent artistic and architectural masterpieces from every period of history. There is no escaping the importance of this famous city. Rome means history: Etruscan tombs, Republican meeting rooms, Imperial temples, early Christian churches, mediaeval bell towers, Renaissance palaces and Baroque basilicas. But Rome is a city where a phenomenal amount of history, legend and monuments coexist with an equally phenomenal concentration of living energy. For a few days become a part of the living history of this city and live "LA DOLCE VITA!!"

SEE FLORENCE AND ROME VOTED "WORLD'S BEST CITIES" BY TRAVEL + LEISURE MAGAZINE

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart San Francisco for your flight to Italy; enjoy Dinner and Breakfast and in-flight movies on Delta Airlines

Day 2: Arrival at Pisa Airport and transfer to your hotel: Villa delle Rose, where you will be staying for the next 7 nights. Hotel Villa delle Rose is located in Pescia, a wonderful area at the foot of the Abetone Mountains, alongside the Pescia River. Enjoy welcome cocktails and a delicious three course dinner at the hotel. Welcome to Italy!! And to the Dolce Vita!!



Day 3: Full day excursion to Lucca: After your buffet breakfast, depart by private motorcoach for the charming, walled city of Lucca. Half day guided tour of the Lucca to walk on the famous walls built in the 16 century. See the church and Piazza of San Martino and visit Lucca's famous "Volto Santo", see the lovely San Frediano church with its mosaic front, The beautiful facade and square of San Michele St, see the home of Giacomo Puccini, Stroll the city's most famous street -Via Fillungo and the Roman amphitheater, climb the mysterious Torre Guinigi. Lunch on your own. ~Breakfast and Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

**Optional Lunch: Join Patrizia in her hometown of Lucca for an optional lunch at one of Italy's top restaurants, details to follow.

Day 4: Excursions to Viareggio and Pisa: Today we drive to the coast to the prestigious summer resort of Viareggio where the international jet set spend their summer holidays. You can shop at one of Italy's best outdoor marketplaces, walk on the white beaches of the Tyrrhenian Sea and stroll the fabulous boardwalk of the "Passeggiata Lungomare" (Enjoy Lunch on your Own) After lunch, visit the famous town of Pisa with the Fantastic "Campo Dei Miracoli", the Baptistry and the Cathedral and the world famous Leaning Tower. If you have the energy, climb to the top of the tower for breathtaking views of Pisa. ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

Day 5: A full day excursion to Florence. : Upon arriving in Florence meet your step-on guide to visit the famous Accademia Art Gallery which was founded in 1563 and was the first school in Europe to teach the techniques of drawing, painting and sculpture. The highlights of this museum are Michelangelo's colossal David and the Four Prisoners. See Dante's home and stroll where he strolled. Discover the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Lily Flower, considered one of most impressive examples of Italian Gothic Style, the Campanile, also called Grotto's Bell Tower and the baptistry w with the "Gate of Paradise" by Lorenzo Ghiberti. See the elegant Signoria Square with the Public Palace and the Loggia Del Lanzi, which is a real open air museum of marble and bronze statues. Magnificent day in Florence continues with a glance at the Uffizi Palace and a stroll over Ponte Vecchio (old

bridge famous for sumptuous gold shops). The last stop of our unforgettable Florence tour is for a last breathtaking view of Florence from the Piazzale Michelangelo from which we will say "arrivederci" to Florence. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.



Day 6: After breakfast depart for Full day excursion to Siena and the Chianti wine road: Siena- as legend has it, was founded by Senus, Remus's son. Remus was one of the legendary founders of Rome along with his twin brother Romolus. We will admire the famous Piazza del Campo where the famous Palio takes place twice a year on July 2 and August 16. You can purchase the colorful flags of the 17 contrade. Then we will see the public palace with the Mangia Tower, which is one of the tallest medieval Italian towers.

We will visit Siena's great cathedral begun in the 12th century in the Romanesque style but was transformed in the 13th century into one of the finest examples of Italian Gothic. The church's interior is covered with black and white marble, and its marble floors have decorative inlays by Domenico Beccafumi, treasures by Nicola Pisano and Michelangelo, painted frescoes by Pinturicchio, a magnificent baptismal font by Jacopo della Quercia, Donatello, and Lorenzo Ghiberti all make this one of the world's most thrilling cathedrals! Lunch on your own. Siena is famous for its delicious Panforte and delicate Ricciarelli almond cookies.

In the afternoon we will drive through the famous Chianti Wine Road, and stop at a typical farm for wine tasting and to enjoy one of the most beautiful areas in the heart of Tuscany's Chianti Hills. ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

Day 7: Full day excursion to Volterra and San Gimignano: Volterra is famous for its Etruscan roots and its beautiful alabaster. We visit this sleepy Etruscan town whose ancient walls still stand discovering the historical downtown with the Priori Palace, the Duomo or you can visit the Guarnacci Museum on your own. Lunch on your own.

Continue to San Gimignano, one of the most charming towns in the heart of the Tuscan region rich in works of art, good shops and with a formidable gastronomic tradition. San Gimignano is famous for its excellent white wine called Vernaccia di San Gimignano, saffron, honey and wild boar called "cinghiale". We will be stopping at a farm-winery to sample the Vernaccia! We will visit the ancient medieval center with its beautiful squares and picturesque narrow streets, the People Palace and the Duomo. Walk to the castle's ruins in the historical center and admire the breathtaking view of the hills and the vineyards surrounding San Gimignano. Time at leisure to shop and sightsee. ~Breakfast and Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

Day 8: After breakfast we will have an early departure by bus to La Spezia for the 10am ferry to visit three of the charming villages of Cinque Terre. We will visit Riomaggiore, Vernazza, and Monterosso. Riomaggiore is not only the most eastern village of the Cinque Terre but probably the most ancient one, next is Vernazza whose architecture is considered the most beautiful of the villages. The third village of Monterosso is best known for its lovely beaches and charm. You will have time for lunch in Vernazza and on the way home you will have a wonderful drive through the vineyards of Liguria to the highway to our hotel. A most enjoyable day. ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

Day 9: After breakfast depart Pescia for Rome by private motorcoach. Sight seeing in Rome's Historical Center. We will meet our "step on" Rome Guide for a walk through the Coliseum area to experience the magic and energy of The Eternal City. With our guide, we will discover Rome's unforgettable squares like Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the romance and mystery of the Trevi Fountain. Cross Rome's mighty Tiber river, and gaze at the Pantheon's unique Dome.. Lunch and Dinner on your own allow you to take advantage of your time in Rome. (Optional dinner in Rome's Trastevere neighborhood)

Day 10 After breakfast at hotel we will meet our "step on" guide to visit St. Peter's and the Vatican City State which contains the world's richest collection of art. See the colossal Basilica and square of St. Peter where you will marvel at overwhelming architecture, and see the sublime and moving Pietà, Bernini's glorious and mystical baroque Canopy and the burial site of St. Peter See the colorful Swiss Guards. We will be delighted to pass on good suggestions for restaurants, wine bars and other useful information. Remember there is a dress code to enter St Peter's and the Vatican. No Shorts, no bare shoulders, and knees must be covered for St. Peter's Basilica



Afternoon at leisure for shopping or for visits to the Museums situated in the Papal Palaces, including Raphael's Rooms, the ancient Greek and Roman Sculptures, the Gallery of Maps, with views of the Papal Gardens and the Sistine Chapel the incredible home to Michelangelo's awesome frescoed ceilings and the monumental Last Judgment will be possible. ~Lunch and Dinner on your own.

(Optional farewell dinner in Typical Roman-style Restaurant)

Day 11: Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for the flight home.

*** All Sightseeing subject to changes***

Note: Guest must be able to walk approximately 1.5 miles over uneven and cobble stone surface, inclines and 40 to 65 steps. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Due to the nature of this tour, it is not recommended for guest with walkers and wheelchairs

TOUR CONDITIONS June 12, 2009

Tuscany & Rome Italy

TOUR PRICE: Per person, double occupancy, based on current exchange rate and subject to change:

Jun 12 - w/air \$3599 - \$2318 land only

Single Supplement \$500.00

AIRFARE: is included based on Economy Class Round Trip, We will do our best to honor your seat request

PASSPORTS: U.S. Citizens must be in possession of a VALID passport, All other Nationalities must check with Italian consulate for proper papers

VISAS: NO VISA REQUIRED for U. S. Citizens, other, check with your local Consulate, this is your responsibility.

RESERVATIONS: A deposit of \$200 per person is required when making the reservations. Space is limited and on first come first reserved basis

BALANCE DUE: 65 Days prior to departure All Payments must be by **check**. If your payments is not received by due date, the reservation is subject to cancellation and deposit will be forfeited.

CANCELLATION: If cancellation in writing is received after deposit, \$75 per person penalty applies in addition to the following:

90 days to 65 days your deposit \$200 per person

64 days to 46 days 65% per person

45 days or less or NO-SHOW 100% per person

VALIDITY: TOUR is based on a minimum of 25 participants. In the event the minimum numbers of participants do not book this tour, the operator reserves the right to increase the tour price.

INSURANCE: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you take out comprehensive insurance (health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation). Applications will be provided for your convenience.

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Reservation form: Tuscany & Rome 12Jun09

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

\$200 deposit per person due with reservation
Make Checks Payable to Covina Hills Travel

I am sharing with _____

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____

Tour: Jun 12 _____

Contact: Patrizia Cerruti (916) 482.5900



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