

The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents:

# Thanksgiving in Tuscany



November 18- 26, 2011  
-9 days \$2,699\*/person  
★ Visit: Chianti Region,  
Florence, Lucca, Pescia,  
Pisa, Siena, Vinci,  
Volterra, San Gimignano

★★★ Tour Includes:★★★

- ♥ Round trip airfare San Francisco to Italy
- ♥ 7 nights in Tuscany in 4 Star Hotel
- ♥ All Breakfasts and Dinners
- ♥ All ground transportation in Tuscany via Private Motor bus
- ♥ Full time Tour Escort and English Speaking guides
- ♥ Full course lunch and wine on working Olive Oil Estate
- ♥ Wine and Olive Oil tasting



❁ *Optional Single Day Tour* to Rome available must have minimum of 20 passengers

\* Prices are per person based on a minimum of 25 passengers: \*Tour price does not include taxes and fuel charges which will be approximately \$566 (subject to change by airlines) and Tips for Driver, Wait Staff and Guides \$130.

## The Italian Cultural Society

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# Welcome to the Heart of Italy!

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Discover the heart of Italy with this Italian Cultural Society exclusive tour. This tour highlights the romantic, legendary region of Tuscany with an optional tour to Italy's famous capital city of Rome: the Eternal City. These regions are brimming with the finest Italian art, history, culture, scenic beauty, wines and culinary delights.

In Tuscany travelers will anchor at one hotel to discover this famed region. See Florence, known as the "little flower." Florence 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. You will enjoy a sunset in the world famous Chianti wine region. Come discover the magic of Tuscany!

## ITINERARY: (Not in order.)

**Day 1:** Depart San Francisco for flight to Florence; enjoy Dinner and Breakfast and in-flight movies.

**Day 2:** Arrival at Florence 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 for lunch at Lucca's famous "La Buca di Sant'Antonio" a 1 Star Michelins Rated Gourmet Restaurant (the restaurant dates back to at least 1700s and is one of the oldest in Italy). Traditional Lucchese 8 course lunch with all the wine and bottled water you like. Plus additional time for afternoon shopping and sightseeing. 50 Euros. Also an Optional Puccini Concert in this Puccini's hometown!

**Day 4:** Vinci and Pisa: Today you will discover hidden Tuscany as well as visit Pisa and one of the most famous Italian landmarks. In the morning we will visit the medieval village of Vinci; birth place of Leonardo da Vinci and travel through the beautiful Tuscan country side few travelers ever get to enjoy. After a visit Vinci's famous Leonardo Museum, we will visit a stunning hillside olive estate. This classic Tuscan "*frantoio*" produces excellent olive oil and specialty products. Here you will enjoy a full course Italian lunch prepared just for our group by the owner's wife and sister and served on the estate's beautiful hillside terrace (weather permitting). You will see the olive oil press and sample many of the estate's own products. After lunch, we head to the famous town of Pisa with its fantastic "Campo dei Miracoli" with the famous trio: the Baptistery, the Cathedral and the world famous Leaning Tower. (Those wishing to climb the 296 steps to the top of the tower need to purchase tickets in Pisa at 15 euros per person). ~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 baptistery 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 Romulus. 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 the. 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 Michelanagelo, 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 Tuscan sunsets in the heart of Chianti Hills. ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia.

**Day 7:** Day at Leisure to explore this fabulous part of Tuscany, see local sights and shop.

**(Optional Day Trip to Rome – the Eternal City).** This one day all inclusive tour allows you to see the Colosseum, the Trevi fountain and many of this city's unforgettable sights. Visit the Vatican and Sistine Chapel) ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel in Pescia-

**Day 8:** 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 you 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 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 9:** 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 Nov 18, 2011

**Tuscany Wine Region**

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

\$2,699 Including Air  
\$2,025 Land Only  
Single Supplement \$350.00

**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 \$250 per person is required when making the reservations. Space is limited and on first come first reserved basis. **All payments must be by check.**

**BALANCE DUE:** 65 Days prior to departure **All Payments must be by check**, credit cards are not accepted for payment on this tour. 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 \$250 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

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Res. form: Tuscany 18Nov11

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\$250 deposit per person due with reservation  
**Make Checks Payable to Covina Hills Travel**

I am sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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