

The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents:

# Italy: the Grand Tour

Tuscany, Cinque Terre, Rome



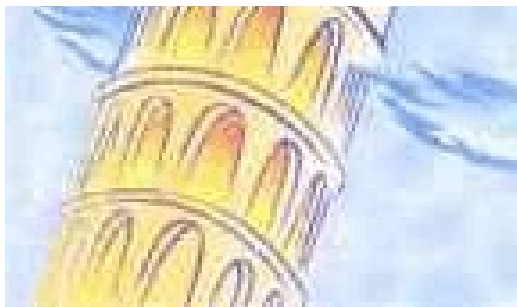
June 8- 19, 2011 -12 days

\$3,699\*/person

★ Visit: Lucca, Chianti Region,  
The Cinque Terre, Florence, Pescia,  
Pisa, Siena, Viareggio, Volterra, San  
Gimignano, Rome and Vatican City

★★ Tour Includes:★★

- ♥ Round trip airfare San Francisco to Italy on Lufthansa Airline
- ♥ 8 nights in Tuscany and 2 nights in Rome 4 Star Hotels ★★ ★★
- ♥ All buffet breakfasts
- ♥ All Italian Dinners in Tuscany
- ♥ Full time Tour Escort and private English Speaking guides
- ♥ Wine and Olive Oil tasting
- ♥ Sightseeing Tours and Museum Tickets
- ♥ Welcome Cocktail Party



🌸 Optional Tour to Venice offered if at least 20 passengers are interested

\* Prices are per person based on a minimum of 25 passengers: \*Tour price does not include taxes and fuel charges which will be approximately \$504 (subject to change by airlines) and Tips for Driver, Wait Staff and Guides \$150.

## The Italian Cultural Society

Phone: 916 (916 482-5900)

E-MAIL: [italy@winfirst.com](mailto:italy@winfirst.com)

fax 916 (916 482-5909)

[www.italiancenter.net](http://www.italiancenter.net)

## ITINERARY

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**Day 1: Depart from San Francisco** for our flight to Florence, enjoy on-board Dinner and Breakfast and in-flight movies.

**Day 2: Arrival at Florence Airport** and transfer to the Villa delle Rose, where we will be staying for the next 8 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 four course dinner at the hotel. **Welcome to Italy!!**

**Day 3:** Full day excursion to **Lucca**: After our buffet breakfast, depart by private motorcoach for the charming, walled city of Lucca. A half-day guided tour of the Lucca includes a 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 di Lucca" (the Holy Face a venerated wooden crucifix that is been in Lucca since 742), the lovely San Frediano church with its mosaic front, the beautiful facade and square of San Michele, the home of Giacomo Puccini, then we'll stroll the city's most famous street, Via Fillungo, and the Roman amphitheater, and if you wish, climb the mysterious Torre Guinigi. Lunch on your own.

Or **Optional Lunch**: Join Patrizia for lunch at Lucca's most famous restaurant: *La Buca di Sant'Antonio* is a Star Michelin-rated Gourmet Restaurant (the restaurant dates back to at least the 1700's and is one of the oldest in Italy). An authentic, traditional Lucchese 6-course lunch includes all the Lucca and Montecarlo wines and bottled water you like. Plus additional time for afternoon shopping and sightseeing will be made. We will also offer an optional concert of Puccini's most beautiful arias this evening in the San Giovanni Church. ~ Breakfast and Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

**Day 4:** Excursions to **Viareggio and Pisa**: Today we drive to the prestigious summer coastal resort of Viareggio where international jet-setters spend their summer holidays. You can shop at one of Italy's best outdoor marketplaces, walk on the white beaches of the Mediterranean's 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, the Cathedral and the world famous Leaning Tower. If you have the energy, climb the 296 steps to the top of the tower for breathtaking views of Pisa. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.



**Day 5:** A full day excursion to **Florence**: Upon arriving in Florence meet our local 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. Nearby, see Dante's home and stroll in his footsteps in a maze of neighboring streets. Become awestruck by the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Lily Flower (commonly known to travelers as the Duomo), considered one of most impressive examples of Italian Gothic Style, the Campanile, also called Giotto's Bell Tower and the baptistery with the *Gates of Paradise* by Lorenzo Ghiberti. See the elegant Signoria Square with the Public Palace and the Loggia Del Lanzi, which is an open air museum of marble and bronze statues. This 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). . Then, we will say "arrivederci" to Florence. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

**Day 6:** After breakfast, depart for full day excursion to **Siena and the Chianti Wine Road**. According to legend, Siena was founded by Senus, the son of Remus who was one of the legendary founders of Rome along with his twin brother Romulus. We'll marvel at the famous Piazza del Campo which manages to squeeze into it thousands of screaming spectators and a racetrack for the famous Palio, which takes place twice a year on July 2 and August 16. The Piazza is dominated by the Mangia Tower.. We will visit the Duomo, Siena's great cathedral, begun in the 12th century in the Romanesque style but transformed in the 13th century into one of the finest examples of Italian Gothic. The church's interior is adorned with black and white marble, and its marble floors have decorative inlays by Domenico Beccafumi. Truly, the Duomo is of the world's most thrilling cathedrals! Lunch on your own. Siena is famous for its delicious Panforte (a dessert cake) 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 enjoying one of the most beautiful areas in Tuscany - the heart of Chianti Hills. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our 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 picturesque Etruscan town whose ancient walls still stand, while discovering the historical downtown with the Priori Palace, the Duomo or the Guarnacci Museum, which you can visit on your own. Lunch on your own. In the afternoon, we continue in the heart of the Tuscan countryside to San Gimignano, one of the most charming hilltop towns made famous for its towers built by competing noblemen, yet today bountifully rich in works of art, exclusive shops and a formidable gastronomic tradition. San Gimignano is famous for its excellent local white wine called *Vernaccia di San Gimignano*, saffron, honey and wild boar called “cinghiale”. We will visit the ancient medieval center with its beautiful squares and picturesque narrow streets, the Palazzo del Popolo (People’s 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. San Gimignano boasts the gelateria (ice-cream parlor) which has won first place as the “WORLD’S BEST GELATO!” That alone warrants a visit! Leisure time to shop and sightsee. ~Breakfast and Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.



**Day 8:** After an early breakfast, we will depart by private motorcoach for the coastal city of **La Spezia** (Vallejo’s sister city) which is in the region of Liguria, just northwest of Tuscany. From La Spezia we will board a ferry boat to visit three of the charming villages of **Le Cinque Terre**. We begin with Riomaggiore which is not only the most southern village, but probably also the most ancient one. Next, charming Vernazza with its tiny port and stone arches is considered the most beautiful of the villages. The third village we visit is Monterosso al Mare, best known for its lovely beaches and scenic charm. You will have time to shop, sightsee and enjoy the culinary delights of this region, like pesto, focaccia and exceptional seafood. ~Breakfast & Dinner

**Day 9:** We will give travelers a day of leisure to enjoy the charms of this spectacular area. Our villa hotel is just minutes away from charming Collodi, the hometown of Carlo Lorenzini, better known as Carlo Collodi, the author of **Pinocchio**. Travelers may wish to return to Lucca, or to Florence or explore the beautiful thermal spa town of neighboring Montecatini. The hotel’s location near both train and bus service makes exploring convenient and easy. The villa’s lovely swimming pool and private gardens are also a lovely oasis for those seeking rest and relaxation. (We can also arrange a very special **optional tour to Venice** if a minimum of 20 people are interested. This will be discussed when we arrive in Italy.) ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia

**Day 10:** After breakfast, depart Pescia and say good-bye to the Villa delle Rose. We travel by private motorcoach to Rome, We set off for sightseeing in **Rome’s Historical Center**. There's no doubting it: Rome means history. Etruscan tombs, Republican meeting rooms, Imperial temples, early-Christian churches, medieval bell towers, Renaissance palaces, Baroque basilicas, incredible fountains and piazzas. IEven if only for a few days.... do as the Romans do... live “*la dolce vita*” enjoy! Discover Rome’s unforgettable squares like the 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. As we walk the Colosseum area, our Rome guide will bring to life the magic and energy of The Eternal City. Lunch and Dinner are on your own to allow you to take advantage of your time in Rome. (Optional gourmet dinner near the Trevi Fountain followed by night tour will be offered.)

**Day 11:** After breakfast, we will visit **St. Peter’s and the Vatican City - State** which contains the world's richest collection of art. Prepare to be overwhelmed at the sight of the colossal Basilica and square of St. Peter, where you will marvel at the Sistine chapel, yet quietly moved by the sublime Pietà, Bernini's glorious and mystical Baroque Canopy and the burial site of St. Peter. See the colorful Swiss Guards. Our guide will be delighted to pass on suggestions for good 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.*

The afternoon is for leisurely shopping or for visits to the Museums. ~Lunch and Dinner on your own. (Optional farewell dinner with live singing and entertainment in Rome will be offered.)

**Day 12 :** Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for the flight home. **Arrivederci Roma!**

**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



\* All Sightseeing days subject to changes\*

TOUR CONDITIONS June 8, 2011

**Italy: The Grand Tour  
Tuscany, Cinque Terre, & Rome**

**TOUR PRICE:** \$3699 Per person, double occupancy, based on current exchange rate and subject to change: \$2457 land only  
**Single Supplement \$400**

**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

**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 76 days prior to departure \$100  
75 days to 65 days prior to departure \$250  
64 days to 40 days: 50% Penalty  
39-days or less or **NO-SHOW:** 100% Penalty

**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: Italy Grand Tour 8Jun11

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact: Patrizia Cerruti (916) 482.5900**



**Mail to:**

**Covina Hills Travel  
940 N Grand Ave  
Covina, CA 91724**

Phone 626.967.2755

800.688.8728

info@CovinaHills.com

Fax 626.915.0292