

## FLORENCE AND TUSCANY





### A DAY IN LUCCA AND PISA

Spend a memorable day exploring Lucca and Pisa, two of Tuscany's jewels. Depart your hotel by private Mercedes car or minivan with English speaking driver and travel to Lucca. Still off the beaten tourist track, the town boasts a relaxed atmosphere and is rich in artistic and architectural treasures. Set off on a private guided tour to discover the town's most remarkable sights, on foot or by bike. Led by your dedicated local guide you will be able to admire Piazza Anfiteatro, built over the ancient Roman theater, the Torre Guinigi (exteriors), the Duomo di San Martino (interiors), the picturesque "antique dealers' street", and Lucca's most extraordinary feature: its massive, perfectly preserved, 40-meter high city walls, today a pedestrian park! Enjoy a delicious typical lunch in Lucca's best trattoria and then travel on to Pisa, renowned throughout the world for its unique, unrivaled landmarks. Explore Pisa's singular sights led by the knowledge and insider's view of our best local guide. Discover the superb, unforgettable, Piazza dei Miracoli (the Miracle Square), crowned by the stunning leaning tower, and uncover the history and treasures which lie inside the stupendous Duomo and Baptistery.

#### **DURATION** 8 hours

**INCLUSIONS** 

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guides in Lucca and Pisa
- Pisa Cathedral and Baptistery tickets
- Lucca Cathedral tickets
- Reservation for lunch (lunch to be paid directly on site)

#### **OPTIONAL SERVICES:**

- Torre Guinigi tickets
- Bike tour in Lucca
- Reservation and tickets for the Leaning Tower in Pisa





TOWERS, ALABASTER AND VESTIGES OF THE GOLDEN AGE

## A DAY IN VOLTERRA & SAN GIMIGNANO

Meet your English-speaking driver at your Florence hotel and depart for a memorable day spent discovering two of Tuscany's most fascinating historical towns: mysterious Volterra and tower-crowned San Gimignano. Travel through the countryside and reach Volterra, somewhat off-the-beaten-track this is no doubt Tuscany's most bewitching town. Inhabited since the Iron Age, the town dates back over 3000 years and offers visitors an authentic journey into its rich, eventful history thanks to the exceptionally well-preserved remnants of each historic/artistic period. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide and set off to explore, learning all about the ancient "Velathri" (later transformed into Volterrae by the Romans), and how it became one of the most powerful and important towns of the Etruscan Confederation. It's strategic location and unique natural resource, alabaster, were its assets. Ever since ancient times, in fact, Volterra's main commercial activity was the extraction of alabaster, the only translucent mineral existing in nature. This marvelous, somewhat magical stone was and is still today, used to create beautiful works of art including sculptures, jewelry, and other objects of all kinds. During the morning discover the grand Etruscan walls and imposing Porta all'Arco which embrace the town center, and stroll through the delightful main town center, tightly enveloped in a second set of walls, which boasts a perfectly maintained Medieval structure. Savor Volterra's unique ancient atmosphere in its intriguing tiny streets and alleys and visit the main landmarks and sites: Palazzo dei Priori, Vallebuona and the Etruscan Acropolis. Discover marble-paved churches, imposing palaces, Medieval towerhouses, and the Fortezza, built by the Medici family. Crown your morning with a luscious lunch accompanied by excellent wines in one of the town's trattorias, and after lunch set off once more for a scenic drive to San Gimignano. Enjoy some time at leisure in the "town of the 100 towers" roaming the pretty cobblestone-paved streets and browsing the quaint shops filled with unique local products: delicious Vernaccia white wine, Italian ceramics, and home linens.

#### **DURATION:** 8 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English speaking driver at disposal for the day (up to 8 hours)
- English-speaking licensed guide in Volterra for 2 hours
- Entrance fees for Palazzo Dei Priori, Archeological Park Vallebuona, Etruscan Acropolis
- 3-course Tuscan wine-pairing lunch
- Time at leisure in San Gimignano





VISIT TO MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA AND MONTALCINO

### A DAY IN VAL D'ORCIA

An enchanting day spent visiting three charming and evocative Tuscan towns, where time seems to have come to a halt and ancient traditions and country-style serenity thrive and live on. Depart your hotel by private Mercedes car or minivan with English speaking driver and travel to Montepulciano. The town, which overlooks the neat fields of the fertile Val di Chiana valley, is world-renowned for its delectable wines and as birthplace of the famous poet Agnolo Ambrogini known as "Poliziano". Enjoy strolling through the town at leisure to explore the delightful city center, filled with Medieval vestiges and enriched by magnificent Renaissance walls and gorgeous noble palaces. Then travel on to the hills surrounding Montalcino, lined with dark cypresses, fortified towns and rich vineyards. The area is world-celebrated for producing some of Tuscany's most esteemed red wines: the celebrated Brunello di Montalcino and the Rosso di Montalcino. Visit a local winery and enjoy a delicious typical Tuscan light lunch with excellent wines. After lunch drive on to Pienza, a spellbinding town created by Enea Silvio Piccolomini, (then Pope Pius II) to be the "ideal" city it was built according to the urban and architectural rules of the Renaissance. True to its promise, it is the only town in Italy to actually be an example of a perfect Renaissance town! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and enjoy a memorable guided visit through the exquisite center, noting the most charming details and seeing the marvelous landmarks.

**DURATION: 10 hours** 

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guide in Pienza
- Typical Tuscan wine-pairing light lunch in a Montalcino winery





ENCHANTING TOWNS, SUBLIME VIEWS

### AREZZO AND CORTONA

Step off the beaten tourist track, spend a memorable day exploring two of Tuscany's most charming, and less-renowned, gems: delightful Arezzo and Cortona. Meet your dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and set off for a journey through Tuscany, to reach your first stop, charming Arezzo. Once among the strongest and richest Etruscan towns today Arezzo is a lovely city with a remarkable legacy: its exquisite traditional crafts, passed down throughout the centuries, are still produced, and many using ancient techniques! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and enjoy a memorable guided visit through the exquisite center, noting the most charming details and seeing the marvelous land-marks. The Arezzo cathedral dominates the city, and the main square is where the famous Jousting Contest is held in June and September. After the visit travel on to Cortona, one of the most ancient and fascinating cities in Tuscany. Boasting over 2000 years of eventful and exciting history make Cortona a captivating town to discover! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and savor the pleasure of uncovering the town's past, legends and stories. Built above a Medici era fortress, Cortona comprises steep streets which unravel up and down the hill. Paved with huge stones these offer an evocative once-upon-a-time feel, and from the city walls, you can admire one of the most beautiful views in Italy.

#### **DURATION** 10 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guide in Arezzo (2 hours)
- Private English-speaking guide in Cortona (2 hours)

Lunch is not included. Both towns, and the surroundings, offer a variety of delightful and delicious restaurants, your guides and/or driver will be pleased to suggest and, if needed, book on your behalf

NOTE: Antique lovers will be delighted if they visit on the first Sunday of the month, when the famous antiques market is held





A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE LEGENDARY CHIANTI LANDSCAPE

### BALLOONING IN TUSCANY

Serene, thrilling and a feeling a freedom that is totally unique! We offer you an amazing experience with breathtaking views. The hot air balloon is the oldest successful human-carrying flight technology. This airborne adventure allows you to travel with the wind so you never know exactly where you'll fly or what you'll see. Marvel at the beautiful Tuscan landscape hundreds or even thousands of feet below. Flights take place near dawn and dusk when the wind is the calmest. Arrive at the launch site to be welcomed by your pilot. Our pilots are experienced professionals with Commercial Balloon Pilot Licenses and many hundreds of hours of experience, so you're in safe hands. The pilot will introduce you to hot air ballooning and give you a full safety briefing. Climb into the balloon basket for lift-off, rising smoothly towards the clouds. It's an almost motionless experience so, have your camera ready for amazing views of the patchwork landscape and possible wildlife sightings. The only thing breaking the silence will be the occasional roar of the burners. After a magical hour in the sky, the pilot will find a suitable landing spot and bring the balloon to land. Still glowing from the experience, enjoy a Tuscan breakfast with local products and a glass of wine or soft drink to accompany. The whole experience will last about 5 hours and can be added to customized itineraries. Follow to by a pleasant drive through the Chianti, after this experience, you can relax, reflect and regale while tasting some lavish Chianti wines at a nearby winery before getting back to the hotel.

**DURATION:** 5 hours

- Transfer IN and OUT in minivan from Florence to launching area
- Safety Briefing session
- 1 hour balloon shared flight with a licensed pilot
- Tuscan breakfast
- Full insurance included





EXPERIENCE TUSCANY IN AN UNIQUE WAY!

### CHIANTI SAFARI

Why not experience Tuscany in a more adventurous and unique way... an exciting ride on a four-wheel-vehicle through the most beautiful vineyards and hidden corners of the Chianti wine region. Meet your dedicated private English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the rolling Chianti hills, a heavenly region made of idyllic landscapes, silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and graceful Romanesque parish churches. Upon arrival at the set meeting point meet your professional off-road driver, an experienced English-speaking pro, and roaring sturdy vehicle. Set off, with a rumble and a smile, on your adventure: your driver will take you off the beaten path to places you never imagined! Explore the Cruise along winding country roads, alongside vineyards and across the rolling hills studded with cypress trees. Stop at the best viewpoints and capture the view in memorable photos spots. Enjoy a pleasant break stopping at a local winery, admire breathtaking views and explore the grounds, discovering all about the wine making tradition. Crown your visit savoring luscious typical Tuscan recipes paired with the best estate wines. Our Chianti Safari is not simply a day tour, it's an exciting Tuscan adventure!

### **DURATION**: 7 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point in the Chianti hills
- Private off-road vehicle with English-speaking driver for the tour
- Visit to a Chianti winery
- Wine-pairing typical Tuscan light lunch at the winery





FEEL THE THRILL, DRIVE A SUPERCAR!

### FERRARI EXPERIENCE

Come explore our world of adrenaline and excitement: get behind the wheel of the exclusive red convertible Ferrari and drive along the places you've dreamed of on the breathtaking curves of Tuscany's countryroads! Our minivan will escort you out to the Chianti countryside, a short ride just outside the city center of Florence. After arrival it's time for a briefing to get acquainted with the Ferrari's commands. One of our english speaking instructor will give you a quick lesson on the mechanics of the Ferrari you are about to drive, explaining how to properly handle the car using correct driving technique, as well as going through all the safety procedures. Finally the moment you've been waiting for: get behind the wheel of the Ferrari. Strap in and start your engine! You're in control, it's time to hit the road along vineyards and olive groves. After the adrenaline subsides, relax and unwind in the heart of Chianti Classico wine region. Enjoy the guided visit to a fascinating winery with its ancient cellars to learn the secrets of wine and olive oil production. At the end of the exciting drive, a traditional Tuscan lunch will be served with wine tasting at our boutique winery. Come and experience the ultimate iconic car! It must be driven on the scenic roads of Tuscany to appreciate its nearly limitless boundaries.

#### **DURATION 6 hours**

- Transfer by minivan from Florence to the Chianti countryside and back
- Briefing before driving
- Ferrari rental (Ferrari California or Ferrari 458 Italia)
- Safety car leading the Ferraris
- Guided winery visit
- Typical Tuscan meal
- · Wine tasting after the drive





COUNTRY BREEZES AND ENCHANTING VIEWS

### HIKING IN TUSCANY

Spend an unforgettable day outdoors hiking in the Chianti hills! Feel the breeze, capture countryside scents and superb views, visit a country estate and winery and savor the best of Tuscan cuisine. Our signature Tuscany By Bike Tour leads you down country roads, vineyards and olive groves allowing you to admire breathtaking views and discover the fascinating local heritage in an unusual and diverting way. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the convened meeting point in the Chianti hills. Your professional tour escort, a friendly English-speaking environmental expert will be waiting for you. Off you go! Follow your tour escort on a scenic trail through the Chianti hills, take in the best of the Tuscan countryside pedaling along the silent country roads, and stop in the best spots to capture the views. The landscape, truly idyllic, showcases a never-ending extent of silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and graceful Romanesque parish churches. On the way stop at a charming country property, to learn about the local gastronomic heritage and enjoy a memorable typical product tasting. Then reach a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore! See the grounds and cellars and learn about the techniques and aging phases which lead to a great wine. Crown your day with a luscious Tuscan light lunch, local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines.

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point and at disposal for 6 hours throughout the day (for transfer back and support if/as needed)
- State-of-the-art mountain or hybrid bicycles, and helmets
- · Water bottle
- Scenic guided bike tour led by a professional English-speaking escort
- Visit to a local country property and tasting of typical product (olive oil or fresh baked schiacciata or cheese or cured meats etc... depending on season/day)
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in a winery restaurant





RIDE THROUGH THE CHIANTI VINEYARDS

### HORSEBACK RIDING

Explore the Tuscan countryside in delightful, unusual and thrilling way... on horseback! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking driver and travel to the Chianti hillside in full comfort, admiring the views of this splendid region which produces world-acclaimed wines. Blessed with splendid landscapes made of rolling verdant hills covered by shimmering vineyards and silvery olive groves Chianti offers heavenly views and fresh country breezes! Upon arrival in the heart of the hillside meet your English-speaking horseback riding guide, a knowledgeable expert, and horse of course: your guide will find the perfect horse for you! All ready? Set off! Follow your guide along a splendid trail, admire lush vineyards, thick shady woods and olive groves, catch breathtaking unforgettable views. At the end of your ride enjoy a delicious typical Tuscan light lunch paired with excellent Chianti of course!

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

• Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point in the Chianti hills and at disposal

throughout the ride (to be used for support as needed)

- Scenic guided 1 hour horseback tour led by a professional English-speaking guide
- Visit to a local winery
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing

#### **NOTE**

Minimum age for this tour is 14 Suitable clothing and shoes (closed)





A GEM OF A TOWN AND A THRILLING ADVENTURE

#### LUCCA & MARBLE SAFARI

Step off the beaten path, enjoy an adventurous journey into Tuscany's heart and soul! Our signature Lucca & Marble Experience allows you to discover the many attractions of charming Lucca, one of Tuscany's jewel towns, and visit a real marble quarry in the mountains with the privilege of private transportation, private guide assistance and an exciting mountainside adventure aboard a Jeep. Travel to Lucca, a town which appears like a vision encased as it is by imposing Renaissance walls. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide and set off to explore this exquisite town. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful centuries-old history and admire the vibrant colors: the red of the rooftops and brick walls, white marble of palaces and churches, and green of the many sumptuous private gardens, make Lucca an icon of the Italian flag! Discover the major sights and landmarks among which Piazza San Michele in Foro, with its gorgeous church, Piazza Napoleone, Palazzo Ducale, the lovely Teatro del Giglio and the Cathedral of San Martino. Wander down bewitching medieval streets to the everfascinating elliptical Piazza Anfiteatro, see the house where Puccini was born and discover Lucca's most extraordinary feature: massive, perfectly preserved, 40-meter-high city walls, which extend over 4 kilometers! Relish some time at leisure to appreciate Lucca's peaceful atmosphere and relish delicious local specialties at a restaurant/trattoria or café of your choice. After lunch time for some adventure! Meet your dedicated quarry guide and driver (a professional off-the-road expert) and set off with a rumble aboard a state-of-the-art Jeep. Head up the mountain, through places inaccessible to most vehicles, zigzag along gravel and reach a busy, active marble quarry. Enjoy a genuine insider's view of the marble extraction, see the workers in action and learn all about this extremely difficult and exacting job. Continue your adventure traveling on upwards, to appreciate spectacular views of the Apuan Alps and the Mediterranean Sea from an altitude of 1200 meters and visit another marble quarry dug out "tunnel-like" right inside the mountain. Crown your day with a taste the famed flagship local specialty: premium artisan-produced lardo di Colonnata!

#### **DURATION** Full day

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private transportation by Mercedes Car/Minivan with English-speaking driver throughout the day as needed (8 hours)
- Private specialized English-speaking guide in Lucca (2 to 3 hours)
- Private off-road vehicle for quarry tour, including visit of two marble quarries
- · A taste of Colonnata lard

Lunch is not included. Lucca is filled with delightful restaurants, cafés and trattorias; we recommend you select your preference on site directly and your guide is at your disposal for suggestions and, if needed, assist with booking.

NOTES \*comfortable shoes and clothing are recommended





A TRIBUTE TO 500 YEARS OF UNRIVALLED GENIUS

### ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEONARDO

Follow the footsteps of one of the world's greatest artists, dive into Leonardo's life and heritage, unveil the breadth of his knowledge and grasp the extent of his polychrome talent. Especially designed to pay a tribute to the memory of one the most exceptional genius of all times on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death, our signature "on the footsteps of Leonardo" tour escorts you through the Tuscan countryside to discover the places that saw the birth and growth of this illustrious artist's brilliant mind. Depart Florence in full comfort aboard our state-of-the- art minivan, enjoying a voyage off-the-beaten-tourist-track to Leonardo's birth-town. Largely unexplored and simply charming the whole area offers splendid views of pristine rolling hills dotted by quaint parish churches and picturesque farmhouses. Among these one does stand out, proud and beckoning: the typical rural house where the artist was born and took his first steps. Explore Leonardo's first home, wander through the rooms where he lived and imagine him as a boy. And discover the drawings of his famous inventions and outstanding artwork, displayed within the house, now transformed into an interactive museum. After visiting the house proceed on to the village of Vinci, meet your local dedicated English-speaking guide and set off to discover this exquisite town, where each and every street and building boasts a unique and peculiar connection with Leonardo's life. Follow your guide through town, learn more about the artist's daily life and admire the wooden sculpture that reproduces the study of the Vitruvian Man. Imagine Leonardo a baby as you view the baptismal font where he was baptized, and visit the enlightening Leonardo Museum. Admire the Museum's inspiring collection: comprising a great variety of reproductions of machines, clocks and instruments designed by the artist, the Museum itinerary also allows you to enter the Conti Guidi's Castle, and see exactly how Leonardo's studies ranged from anatomy to mechanics and from optics to civil engineering. For a picture-perfect crescendo end to your day we suggest savoring mouthwatering typical Tuscan cuisine at a charming local restaurant (we will be pleased to book on your behalf. Lunch is not included in the tour cost and is to be settled directly on site). After lunch relish the views, and reminiscences of a memorable day spent in the birthplace of Leonardo, journeying comfortably back to Florence.

#### **DURATION** 8 hours

- Private Mercedes Sedan or Minivan at disposal 8 hours
- Local English-speaking guide in Vinci
- · Walking tour in Vinci
- Entrance fees for Leonardo's House
- Entrance fees for Leonardo Museum





AN EXCLUSIVE AND THRILLING AUTHENTIC TUSCAN EXPERIENCE

### PALIO DI SIENA

Thrilling, dashing, full of genuine prideful zest. The palio di Siena is as much about identity and Sienese pride as it is about the competition: a bareback horse race that lasts, on average, just 75 seconds. Held in honor of the Virgin Mary the race takes place twice a year, on July 2 and August 16. Ten of the city's seventeen contrade, districts, are represented by a horse and jockey in each race. What's so unique about this race is that it's no tourist-board invention, like some of Italy's supposedly 'Medieval' fairs, jousts and pageants and it's certainly not staged for the benefit of visitors: it has been held in Siena's Piazza del Campo ever since 1644, and the 40,000 Sienese who crowd into the Campo on race day are largely oblivious of their Italian and international guests. Join the locals, feel the blood-rush, and experience authentic Tuscan excitement at il Palio! You're guaranteed an electric atmosphere, and you want to be comfortable to enjoy it all at best. Let us plan it for you, reserving a private terrace or a dedicated window in one of the splendid noble palaces overlooking the square. Watch the historic parade, admiring the bedecked horses and Sienese in period costume, enjoy a delicious buffet and refreshments throughout and hold your breaths: the horses are ready to start off! Don't hesitate to contact us to book your exclusive custom-made Palio experience.

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking escort for the day
- Dedicated terrace or window in a palace overlooking Piazza del Campo
- Refreshments and snacks buffet throughout the race





THE WINE, THE CHEESE, THE VIEWS

### PIENZA AND MONTALCINO

Gentle rolling hills crowned by cypress trees and tiny parish churches, vast vineyards and meadows, golden farmhouse and quaint centuries-old villages where time seems to have stopped. Discover authentic Tuscany, land of poets, artists and farmers, precious ruby-red wines, tangy olive oil and the world's most luscious cheeses! Spend a memorable day discovering Pienza and Montalcino, evocative towns where ancient country-style serenity and lifestyle thrive and live on. Enjoy the comforts of private transportation, with a dedicated English-speaking driver, explore the towns leisurely, get an insider's view of the local products and savor luscious local fare and sublime wines. Start your day in Pienza, a spellbinding town created by Enea Silvio Piccolomini, (later Pope Pius II) to be the "ideal" city. Built according to the urban and architectural rules of the Renaissance it is the only town in Italy to be an example of a perfect Renaissance town! Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the exquisite center, marvel at the gorgeous buildings and then drive on, to reach a typical farm in an exquisite spot in the hillside. Visit the grounds, which yield 100% organic fresh produce and olive oil and the fascinating cheese factory where delectable typical sheep's cheese, mouth-watering pecorino, comes to life. Crown your visit with a delicious typical luncheon based on the estate products and then travel to your last stop, Montalcino, a charming walled hilltop town renowned for its award-winning wines, Brunello and Rosso di Montalcino. Enjoy a firsthand wine-focused experience visiting a celebrated local winery's cellars and tasting the premium estate blends and end your day with a memorable stroll through an ancient hamlet.

### **DURATION:** full day **INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation with English-speaking driver from/to your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Time at leisure to explore Pienza
- Visit to a local hillside farm and cheese factory followed by typical lunch in the farmhouse
- Visit to a Montalcino winery and wine tasting
- Time at leisure to stroll through an ancient Montalcino hamlet





THE WINE, THE CHEESE, THE VIEWS

### SIENA AND CHIANTI

Enjoy the very best of what Tuscany has to offer during a memorable day which spent exploring Siena, one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy, and Chianti, a unique landscape made of gentle green hills covered by wide rambling vineyards and olive groves, small stone villages and silent parishes. The Chianti hillside is so beautiful and evocative! Set off on a memorable walking visit of the hisotrical city centre of Siena, led by your private guide. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful history and traditions and admire the characteristic architecture! Learn about the town's rich history and how it was founded by the Romans, discover the major landmarks among which Piazza del Campo, where twice a year dashing horses compete in the heart rendering Palio race. Hear your guide recount fasci-nating legends as you wander down medieval streets, and visit the magnificent Duomo, Siena's awe-inspiring Cathedral. Depart Siena and enjoy the journey through the verdant Tuscan countryside: discover luxuriant vineyards and mysterious cellars, taste exceptional wines and sample luscious traditional fare prepared with the freshest local products. Discover the Chianti hills' centuries-old tradition and extraordinary wines. Characterized by the droll unmistakable Black Rooster logo Chianti Classico wine, among the most renowned wines in the world, is a DOCG wine which shows unique peculiarities and characteristics. Learn all about this sensational wine and taste the best visiting a local winery, learn about the production and aging techniques that lie behind world-class wines visiting the vineyards and cellars, and savor the best estate blends, discovering the characteristic flavors and aromas of Chianti, paired with a delicious typical Tuscan lunch. In the afternoon, time for visit at leisure to a local Chianti town like Greve in Chianti or Castellina in Chianti.

- Private transportation by Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver throughout the day as needed (8 hours)
- Visit, with wine tasting, of a fascinating Chianti winery
- Guided visit in Siena





A FULL DAY OF HISTORY AND ART IN TWO ENCHANTING TOWNS

### SIENA AND SAN GIMIGNANO

Enjoy the very best of what Tuscany has to offer during a memorable day which spent exploring two small towns filled with art and centuries-old historic reminiscences. Meet your private dedicated Englishspeaking driver and travel to Siena, one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy. Set off on a memorable walking visit of the town led by your private guide. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful history and traditions and admire the characteristic architecture! Learn about the town's rich history and how it was founded by the Romans, discover the major landmarks among which Piazza del Campo, where twice a year dashing horses compete in the heart rendering Palio race. Hear your guide recount fascinating legends as you wander down medieval streets, and visit the magnificent Duomo, Siena's awe-inspiring Cathedral. Depart Siena and enjoy the journey through the verdant Tuscan countryside: silvery olive groves, gently rolling hills dotted with golden farmhouses and quaint parish churches. Stop for lunch in a pleasant typical trattoria and sample the best of the local fare. After lunch visit another gem of Tuscany, delightful San Gimignano, for a leisurely stroll and a browse in the charming shops. Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" it is certainly one of Tuscany's most iconic and well-preserved ancient towns in the whole of Italy and has been used as a background in many movies. Roam the quaint cobblestone streets, see the graceful tall towers and browse the pretty shops lined by bottles of Vernaccia di San Gimig-nano, premium saffron, dainty hand-woven linens and precious hand-made Santa Fina pottery.

#### **DURATION** 8 hours

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver at disposal throughout the day (8 hours)
- Private English-speaking guide for tour of Siena
- Entrance fees to the Siena Duomo
- Time at leisure in San Gimignano





### TERRACOTTA TRAIL IN TUSCANY

Uncover the marvels of local tradition during a journey along the fabulous Terracotta trail! Our signature tour leads you to the discovery of an ancient family-owned firm which produces original Terracotta masterpieces, and their ancient furnace: the very same one where the shingles of the Florence Dome were made! Travel to the Chianti Countryside, a short ride from Florence city center, aboard our comfortable minivan. Enjoy a guided visit to the furnace and find out how the skilled artisans still create works of art, traditional materials used in the construction of residential buildings and villas, as well as interior design and garden accessories such as dividers, vessels, jars, gardener, bins and planters. Then move on to visit a charming biodynamic boutique winery where part of the wine is aged and stored in pure original terracotta jars, and learn about the influence this unique material has in the fermentation and storage of wine. Finally indulge your taste buds with the best of Tuscan specialties during a memorable wine-pairing lunch at the Winery's restaurant.

#### **DURATION** 5.5 hours

- Private transportation from Florence to Impruneta
- Guided visit to the "Antica Fornace Mariani" (inclusive of English professional translator)
- Visit to Impruneta's charming main square
- Guided Visit to one of the area's boutique wineries, where part of the wines is aged and stored in jars made in the same furnace
- Typical full Tuscan wine-pairing lunch at the winery's restaurant





GLAMOROUS BRANDS, FABULOUS DEALS

### THE OUTLETS

Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver and travel to the outlets...fulfilling your Italian fashion dream is just a 40-minute drive away from Florence! Spend a glamorously stylish day shopping for great deals of the most famous Italian brands... at the most competitive prices. We will take you right to the source of the best Made in Italy brands including Prada, Gucci, Valentino, Salvatore Ferragamo, Fendi, Sergio Rossi, Giorgio Armani, Bottega Veneta, Loro Piana, Versace, Zegna and many more. Browse the shops, lose yourself among accessories, shoes and clothes and you will certainly find the highest quality pieces at the lowest prices. No doubt about it: a visit to the Outlets provides an unforgettable shopping experience!

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver at disposal (6 hours)
- Time at leisure for shopping at 2 outlets in the same area

#### NOTE:

\* There is a wide variety of different outlets in the surroundings of Florence: if you have a favorite brand in mind please let us know and we will do our best to take you straight to the source!





A DYNAMIC AND ENTERTAINING COUNTRYSIDE EXPERIENCE

#### TUSCANY BY BIKE

Spend an unforgettable day outdoors biking in the Chianti hills! Feel the breeze, capture countryside scents and superb views, visit a fascinating winery and savor the best of Tuscan cuisine. Our signature Tuscany By Bike Tour leads you down country roads, alongside vineyards and olive groves allowing you to admire breathtaking views and discover the fascinating local heritage in an unusual and diverting way. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the convened meeting point in the Chianti hills. Your professional tour escort, a friendly English-speaking expert, and shiny state-of-the-art bikes will be waiting for you. Helmets on, water bottle at hand and off you go with a smile, follow your tour escort on a scenic route through the Chianti hills! Take in the best of the Tuscan countryside pedaling along the silent country roads, and stop in the best spots to capture the views: the landscape, truly idyllic, showcases a never-ending extent of silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and graceful Romanesque parish churches. On the way stop at a charming country property, to learn about the local gastronomic heritage and enjoy a memorable typical product tasting. Then cycle on, to reach a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore! See the grounds and cellars and learn about the techniques and aging phases which lead to a great wine. Crown your day with a luscious Tuscan light lunch, local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines (no worries: your private driver will drive you back to town!)

#### **DURATION** 6 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point and at disposal for 6 hours throughout the day (for transfer back and support if/as needed)
- State-of-the-art mountain or hybrid bicycles, and helmets
- Water bottle
- Scenic guided bike tour led by a professional English-speaking escort
- Visit to a local country property and tasting of typical product (olive oil or fresh baked schiacciata or cheese or cured meats etc... depending on season/day)
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in a winery restaurant

#### **NOTES:**

- \*This tour is available for adult bikers and children old enough and tall enough to properly ride an adult bike
- \*Suitable clothing and shoes (closed) are required
- \*The tour is suitable for all from pros or wannabe bikers: easier/more difficult routes may be provided on request
- \*E-bikes available upon request, at an extra cost





THE BEST OF SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CHIANTI, AND PISA

### TUSCANY GRAND TOUR

A fascinating experience designed to allow you to get a taste of Tuscany's variety of landscapes, towns, art, architecture and gastronomy all in one day! Explore Siena and San Gimignano, gaze in awe at the worldrenowned leaning tower of Pisa, savor typical Tuscan fare, taste Chianti wines at a winery and stroll through charming Lucca. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver and travel to Siena, one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy. Once in Siena set off on a memorable walking visit, led by your private guide. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful history and admire the characteristic architecture and colors. During the visit discover the major sights and landmarks among which Piazza del Campo - where twice a year dashing horses compete in the heart rendering Palio race - and taste a local specialty. Set off from Siena and drive to San Gimignano. Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" it is certainly one of Tuscany's most iconic and well-preserved ancient towns in the whole of Italy and has been used as a background in many movies. After San Gimignano travel to a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore! See the grounds and cellars, learn about winemaking techniques and sample a luscious Tuscan light lunch: local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines. Travel on to Pisa, to admire the famous Piazza dei Miracoli and world-renowned leaning tower. Crown your day discovering Lucca, an exquisite Tuscan gem which boasts high ancient town walls. Enjoy a walk through the fascinating city streets and treat yourself to a typically Italian aperitivo before returning to your hotel.

#### **DURATION** 12 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver at disposal for 12 hours
- English-speaking private guide in Siena
- Typical specialty (sweet) tasting at a Siena pastry shop
- Time at leisure to explore San Gimignano, Pisa and Lucca
- Visit to a winery
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in the winery restaurant

**NOTE**: aperitivo in Lucca is not included in quote – to be settled on site directly





THE BEST OF SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CHIANTI, AND PISA

### TUSCANY TUK TUK

Enjoy an unusual and entertaining experience, discover the countryside aboard the original Piaggio three-wheel Italian "Calessino"! Uniquely diverting our signature Tuscany Tuk Tuk allows you to admire breathtaking views and discover the fascinating local heritage (and mouth-watering cuisine!) in a one-of-a-kind way. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the convened meeting point in the Chianti hills. Your escort, a friendly English-speaking professional, and quaint Tuk Tuk will be waiting for you. Off you go on a scenic route through the Chianti hills! Take in the best of the rolling Tuscan countryside driving along the silent country roads: the landscape, truly idyllic, showcases a neverending extent of meadows, cypress trees high on hilltops, vineyards and evocative villages in the distance. Stop at a charming winery along the way, meet the friendly in-house staff and explore the grounds and cellar. Learn all about wine production and enjoy a memorable wine tasting. Then travel on, to reach a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore, learning all about this winery's different approach to making a great wine. Crown your day sampling a luscious Tuscan light lunch, featuring local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines. Indulge your taste buds and relax: no need to Tuk Tuk along anymore, your private driver will drive you back to town! Fun and comfortable our Tuk Tuk Tour is especially recommended for families!

### **DURATION** 6 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point and throughout the day (for support if needed during the Tuk Tuk tour)
- Italian Piaggio Tuk Tuk with English-speaking driver
- Visit to a winery and wine tasting
- Visit to a second winery and typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in the winery restaurant





EXPLORE THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE ABOARD AN ITALIAN ICON

### VESPA TOUR

The most exciting, entertaining and quintessentially Italian tour of all times: the first and foremost countryside Vespa Tour. Join the Vespa Club, live the Italian Dolce Vita! Explore, take photos, visit a fascinating winery and savor the best of Tuscan cuisine. Our signature Vespa Tour leads you down country roads, along meadows and vineyards to admire breathtaking views and discover the local heritage in an unusual and diverting way. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the convened meeting point in the Chianti hills. Your professional tour escort, a friendly English-speaking expert, and shiny state-of-the-art Vespas will be waiting for you, for an (important) orientation briefing on basic Italian street rules and how to drive your Vespa. Once you feel at ease whizz off, following your guide through the Chianti hills! Take in the best of the rolling Tuscan countryside journeying along evocative roads: the landscape, truly idyllic, showcases a never-ending extent of silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and parish churches. Stop at a country property along the way, to learn about the local gastronomic heritage and enjoy a typical product tasting. Then travel on, and reach a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore! See the grounds and cellars and learn about the techniques and aging phases which lead to a great wine. Crown your day with a luscious Tuscan light lunch, local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines (no worries: your private driver will drive you back to town!).

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point and at disposal for 6 hours throughout the day (for transfer back and support if/as needed)
- Vespa rental: options are driving your own single Vespa or sharing it with your partner (double Vespa) as passenger
- Scenic guided Vespa tour led by a professional English-speaking escort
- Visit to a local country property and tasting of typical product (olive oil or fresh baked schiacciata or cheese or cured meats etc... depending on season/day)
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in a winery restaurant

#### **NOTES:**

\*A valid driving license is required to drive Vespas and 18 is the minimum age. No motorcycle license is required

\*Previous experience is not required but advantageous and highly advised. We reserve the right of final judgement concerning driving or being a passenger, or to discontinue Vespa use at any point of the tour. Any participant unable to drive safely continue the tour on board your Mercedes vehicle. No refunds will be granted in this case.





A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHIANTI ADVENTURE

### VINTAGE FIAT 500 TOUR

Discover the Tuscan countryside in style: drive the most quintessential of Italian cars, a FIAT 500, through the hills! Explore, visit a fascinating winery and savor the best of Tuscan cuisine. Our signature Vintage Fiat 500 Tour allows you to admire breathtaking views and discover the local heritage in an unusual and diverting way. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and travel to the convened meeting point (which will be on the city center border, due to current traffic regulations). Your escort, a friendly Englishspeaking professional, and shiny FIAT 500 will be waiting for you. An informative orientation briefing on basic Italian street rules, how to use the stick shift gear and drive your FIAT 500 at best will follow. Once you're confident with the car off you go with a smile and a rumble, follow your tour escort and drive to the Chianti hills! Take in the best of the rolling countryside journeying along silent country roads: the landscape, truly idyllic, showcases a never-ending extent of silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and parish churches. On the way stop at a charming property to learn about the local gastronomic heritage and enjoy a tasting a typical product. Then travel on, and reach a fascinating estate comprising a winery and country restaurant. Meet the expert winery staff and explore! See the grounds and cellars and learn about the techniques and aging phases which lead to a great wine. Crown your day with a luscious Tuscan light lunch, local traditional recipes paired with the best estate wines (no worries: your private driver will drive you back to town!).

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver from/to meeting point and at disposal for 6 hours throughout the day (for transfer back and support if/as needed)
- Scenic guided Vintage FIAT 500 tour led by a professional English-speaking escort
- Visit to a local country property and tasting of typical product (olive oil or fresh baked schiacciata or cheese or cured meats etc... depending on season/day)
- Typical Tuscan light lunch with wine pairing in a winery restaurant

#### **NOTES:**

- \*A valid driving license is required
- \*18 is the minimum age to drive





HISTORY, VIEWS AND CASCADES OF WHITE MARBLE

# WALKING TOUR OF LUCCA & MARBLE QUARRIES

Step off the beaten path, enjoy an adventurous journey into Tuscany's heart and soul Our signature Walking Tour of Lucca & Marble Quarries allows you to explore charming Lucca, one of Tuscany's jewel towns, and the Apuan Alps, and take an insider's view of the area's thriving traditional heritage visiting a marble quarry in the mountains. And all with the privilege of private transportation and private guide assistance throughout the day. Travel to Lucca, a town which appears like a vision encased as it is by imposing Renaissance walls. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide and set off to explore this exquisite town. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful centuries-old history and admire the vibrant colors: the red of the rooftops and brick walls, white marble of palaces and churches, and green of the many sumptuous private gardens, make Lucca an icon of the Italian flag! Discover the major sights and landmarks among which Piazza San Michele in Foro, with its gorgeous church, Piazza Napoleone, Palazzo Ducale, the lovely Teatro del Giglio and the Cathedral of San Martino. Wander down bewitching medieval streets to Piazza Anfiteatro, see the house where Puccini was born and discover Lucca's most extraordinary feature: massive, perfectly preserved, 40-meter-high city walls, which extend over 4 kilometers! Relish some time at leisure to appreciate Lucca's peaceful atmosphere and relish delicious local specialties at a restaurant/trattoria or café of your choice. After lunch time for some adventure! Set off towards Carrara for a memorable visit to the Apuan Alps, an extraordinary ring of marble peaks. Admire extraordinary views, white cascades of marble snaking along the mountainside and the deep blue sea below, while driving up towards the Carrara quarries, the very ones Michelangelo got the marble for his masterpieces from. Meet your local private guide along the way and discover the area's marble history and traditions. Carefully planned to offer real insight on the marvelous realm of marble your visit will include exploring a traditional working marble quarry for an insider's view on the different ways marble is extracted. Crown your day with a taste of the famed flagship local specialty: premium artisan-produced lardo di Colonnata marble-white Colonnata lard spiced, matured in marble tanks and rubbed with garlic!

#### **DURATION**: Full day **INCLUSIONS**

- Private transportation by Mercedes Car/Minivan with English-speaking driver throughout the day as needed (8 hours)
- Private specialized English-speaking guide in Lucca (2 to 3 hours)
- · Visit of a marble quarry
- A taste of Colonnata lard

Lunch is not included. Lucca is filled with delightful restaurants, cafés and trattorias; we recommend you select your preference on site directly and your guide is at your disposal for suggestions and, if needed, assist with booking.

#### **NOTES**

\*comfortable shoes and clothing are recommended





PRIVILEGED VIEWS OF FLORENCE'S RED-TILED ROOFTOPS AND MASTERPIECES

### AN EXCLUSIVE DUOMO SKYWALK

Make the best of your stay in Florence, treat yourself to a one-of-a-kind experience: a guided tour of Florence's aweinspiring Cathedral and a memorable private viewing of the Duomo's Southern and Northern Terraces. Carefully designed to surprise our discerning clients with unique views of Florence's skyline and artistic grandeur, our Exclusive Duomo Skywalk offers a truly rare experience! Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide, a knowledgeable and charismatic expert, and set off to discover the breathtaking Duomo of Florence, officially named Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the Duomo is the third largest church in the world (after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London) and was the largest church in Europe when it was completed in the 15th century. The numerous different styles that you'll encounter in the building bear witness to changing tastes over the long period of time that elapsed between its foundation and its completion. Discover masterpieces such as Paolo Uccello's clock, Vasari's frescoes and Bandinelli's marble choir. Then, begin your ascent: the climb, through narrow and open-air corridors that have been closed to the public for centuries, will be rewarded by unrivalled views of the city from the cathedral rooftop. A rare and privileged view available for your eyes only, in fact the Duomo's Southern and Northern Terrace, generally not accessible to the general public, will be open exclusively for your private viewing! Enjoy a memorable skywalk that will feel like floating between the city landscape, with its ancient roofs and towers, and the imposing Dome standing just a few meters above your head. This stunning 32-metre-high (105 ft) panoramic spot right in the middle of town offers amazing vistas of the city below and also allows you to learn all about the stunning architecture and engineer work behind the massive self-standing cathedral dome. Follow your guide along the terraces and discover how it was built, and still firmly dominates Florence skyline after 600 years! With his astonishingly innovative approach in vaulting the dome space without any scaffolding, Brunelleschi changed the rules of architecture forever, by inventing the way to defy gravity and reach eternity. Finally, if you feel like going further up after your terrace experience, you can reach the top of Brunelleschi's Cupola (the Dome) and enjoy the opportunity to reach the 91-metre-high (300 ft) panoramic viewpoint.

#### **DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- English-speaking specialized guide for 3 hours
- Guided tour of the Cathedral and the Baptistry
- Private exclusive viewing of the Duomo's Northern and Southern terraces
- Entrance fees to Brunelleschi's Dome (skip-the line-tickets)
- Duomo complex ticket (valid 72 hours)





A SURPRISING COLLECTION OF MASTERPIECES

### BARGELLO MUSEUM

Dive into the marvelous world of the Renaissance! Discover the extraordinary collection of the Bargello Museum, Italy's first national museum established by royal decree on June 22, 1865. Meet your private English-speaking guide, a charismatic and knowledgeable expert, and set off on a lovely guided walk through Florence's fascinating city center. Romantic, surprising, enchanting and irresistible, Florence is where a countless number of geniuses such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi and Donatello lived, thrived and created some of the world's most important works of art. After your guided stroll enter the Bargello Museum located in Florence's historic Palazzo del Podestà. Get ready to marvel at this treasure chest of world-acclaimed artwork! From the moment of its foundation the Bargello's collection brought together some of the most important works of Renaissance sculpture: masterpieces by Donatello, Luca della Robbia, Michelangelo Buonarroti, and Benvenuto Cellini, drawn largely from the Medici-Granducal collection. Subsequently, the museum's holdings were enriched with superb examples of bronzes, ceramics, waxes, enamels, medals, ivories, tapestries, seals, and textiles. Follow your guide through the museum's three floors, starting with the enchanting panorama of the palazzo's courtyard and the Sala di Michelangelo, filled with sculptures by Michelangelo, Cellini, Giambologna, and Bartolomeo Ammannati, on the ground floor. Marvel at the impressive Sala di Donatello (Donatello Room), home to the Florentine artist's most famous works and see creations by the della Robbias, Ghiberti and Brunelleschi creations.

**DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS:** 

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours
- 1-hour walking tour of the city center
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Bargello Museum





MASTER THE ART OF PAINTING IN FLORENCE

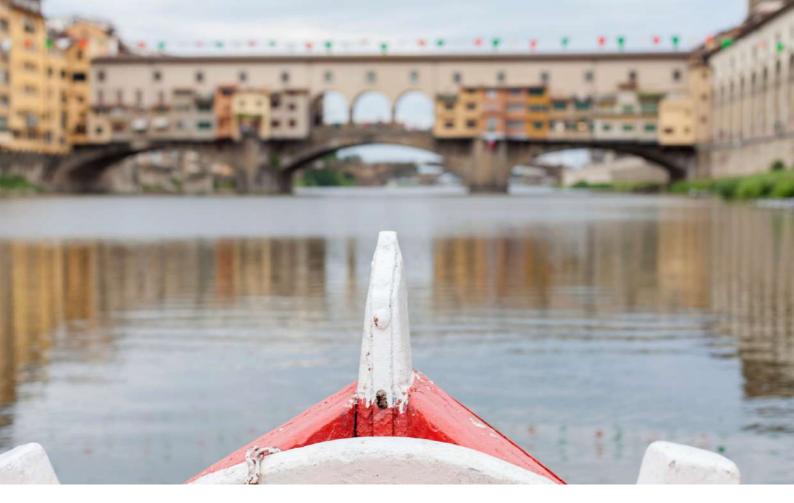
### BE BOTTICELLI!

Wise-eyed saints peering from church facades and gentle pastel colored madonnas in small niches on street corners, priceless works of art casually scattered around cobblestone squares and dozens of world-class museums and galleries. Crammed with priceless artwork and rare masterpieces Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, is a huge and unrivalled open-air art gallery. With this setting what could ever be more fitting than becoming an artist yourself? Seize the day, be inspired, become a part of it all! Palette and brushes in hand learn the techniques and secrets of painting from a real pro, a Florentine artist. Enjoy the privilege of being a guest of local artisans in their studio, an authentic family-owned bottega, and master the craft understanding the methods and trying them trade hands-on. Carefully designed to meet our guests' different inclinations and preferences our classes include a wide range of options - from tempera, oil and/or watercolor painting to creating a real fresco – all conducted by experienced and knowledgeable English-speaking artisans in the picturesque premises of a real Florentine bottega, or, upon request, in the privacy of your rental villa. Feed your artistic soul and experience Florence's essence becoming Botticelli!

**DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS:** 

- 3 hours private class conducted by an experienced English-speaking professional painter at his studio
- In & Out private transportation from our Meeting Point to the studio





PRIVATE INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY OF FLORENCE

### BOAT TOUR OF ARNO RIVER

The Renaissance city seen from a new perspective. Before sunset, guests enjoy a leisurely cruise down the river Arno. Pass by the Uffizi Galleries, admire the Ponte Vecchio from the water and find out more about the mysterious Vasari Corridor. On the tour we will also discover the story of the Ponte Santa Trinita and the stunning Palazzo Corsini. The commentary is informative and includes colorful local stories. Your private boat is conducted by a "renaiolo"—a traditional Florentine rower. You will meet a private guide on the heart of Florence that will accompany you to the dock, on the way, a walking tour around the center is also included so you can feel more acquaintance to the city before your boat ride. This experience lasts about 2 hours (approx 40-50 min. of Mini Cruise in Florentine style Gondola and approx 70 min. walking tour around the city center). And to make this experience even more special, we will celebrate this amazing moment with a delicious wine toast on the boat.

**DURATION:** 2 Hours **INCLUSIONS:** 

- English-speaking licensed guide
- Private Florentine Gondola style boat ride on the Arno River
- Walking tour of the city center
- Toast with wine on board and snack (Soft drinks available on tours with participants under 18 y.o)





## FULL DAY IN FLORENCE PRIVATE TOUR

Explore Tuscany's shimmering gem, Florence, the 'cradle of the Renaissance' which gave birth to thousands of gorgeous artistic masterpieces and thousands of ideas! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and set off on a memorable walking tour of this dazzling city, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Romantic, surprising, enchanting and irresistible, Florence is where a countless number of geniuses such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi and Donatello lived, thrived and created some of the world's most important works of art. Follow your guide, a charismatic expert, and enjoy an insider's view of the town center. Admire the main landmarks and major sights, such as the Duomo and Baptistry, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio, catch hidden views and stop for photos in the most evocative spots. Led by your dedicated quide you will have the chance to learn all about Florence's eventful history and centuries-old heritage, including the most fascinating legends and colorful traditions that still live on today. Then discover the enchanting Uffizi Gallery. Led by your specialized guide you will have the chance to truly understand what's behind each painting, and 'follow' the evolution of Italian art through the centuries, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Learn all about the great artists that turned Florence into the capital of the Renaissance, and see them actually come to life with the guidance of your dedicated guide Discover Giotto's revolutionary art, admire the beauty of Botticelli's Primavera, and marvel at Leonardo's mix of rational genius and artistic creativity! Free time for lunch. At the end of the visit enjoy a pleasant stroll through the city center to reach the Accademia Gallery; during the promenade admire the Duomo square, with its lovely landmarks among which the Cathedral, and a few of the most attractive shopping streets. Crown your day discovering the magnificent Accademia Gallery, home to one of the world's most famous artworks: Michelangelo's David, a masterpiece of Renaissance sculpture. Sculpted in marble by young Michelangelo the statue came to symbolize the defense of civil liberties embodied in the Republic of Florence, an independent city-state threatened on all sides by more powerful rival states and by the hegemony of the Medici family. Originally placed beside Palazzo Vecchio, the city town hall, the statue was transferred to the Accademia from Piazza della Signoria in 1873. After delving into the history and artistic value of David enjoy admiring Michelangelo's famous unfinished statues - the Prisoners, St. Matthew and the Pietà - and, time permitting, of the other artworks on display.

**DURATION**: 3 hoursAM + free time for lunch + 3 hours PM **INCLUSIONS**:

- English-speaking specialized guide for 6 hours
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Uffizi Gallery
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Accademia Gallery
- Walking tour of Florence
- Free time for lunch we can book a table on their behalf, then they will pay on spot NOTE: not available on Mondays





"CERCA TROVA", SEEK AND FIND!

### DAN BROWN'S INFERNO

Symbols revealed, a magical atmosphere with mystery and suspense! All this and more on our unique private tour of Florence that will introduce you to the sites described by Dan Brown in his book and seen in Tom Hanks' movie: Inferno. Our charismatic guide will entertain you through an intriguing path of mind-blowing details, anecdotes, and clue-filled history that will reveal all the most important sights and locations that professor Robert Langdon visited in the Brownian dark masterpiece. This Half Day walking tour will introduce you to Dante and his Divine Comedy; the guide will focus on Botticelli's painting entitled Inferno and will include an in-depth description of the connection this has with Dante and the history of the Divine Comedy. The tour will include the visit to the Baptistery, the Paradise Gates and the Duomo of Florence (the Cathedral) where you will be enlightened with knowledge of the symbols and codes as described in the book. The highlight of the tour will be at Palazzo Vecchio, Town hall of Florence, where faith and science join together with breathless revelations. This will lead the way through the beautiful "Salone dei 500" and the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio. This unique building is described by Dan Brown as "A giant chess piece that has become an inimitable symbol of Florence". (cit. Dan Browns' Inferno) - At Palazzo Vecchio we will also admire the Hall of Geographical Maps, the balconies and Dante's death Mask. This is a great tour that will allow you to learn more about art and the rich history of Florence while learning about its protagonists of the past, such as Dante, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Giorgio Vasari through the lens of mystery and symbology. "Seek and You Shall Find".

### **DURATION:** 2 Hours **INCLUSIONS:**

- Licensed English speaking Guide (3 hours)
- Visit the locations of Dan Brown's novel and Tom Hanks' movie
- Florence Duomo (if accessible) and Baptistery Entrances
- Palazzo Vecchio Museum Entrance, with access to the Hall of Geographical Maps, the balconies and Dante's death mask
- Duomo complex ticket (valid 72 hours)





AN INSPIRING JOURNEY INTO ARCHITECTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

### DUOMO OF FLORENCE TOUR

Discover Florence's Cathedral, the Duomo, and gain an insider's view of one of the greatest architectural masterpieces of all times: Brunelleschi's amazing Cupola! Led by your knowledgeable private English-speaking guide enter the Cathedral, one of the symbols of Florence. Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the Duomo is the third largest church in the world and was the largest in Europe when it was completed in the 15th century. Inside, admire different styles which show how tastes changed, discover masterpieces, and find out how the massive self-standing brick dome was built and still stands today, undisturbed by natural calamities and wars, after 600 years. Then ascend to the very top of the Cupola, for a stunning insider's view of Brunelleschi's genius and talent. Your guide will lead you into the history and architecture, telling you how the master managed to vault the dome space without any scaffolding, defying gravity and reaching eternity! Crown your experience visiting the Opera del Duomo museum, reopened after an extensive renewal in October 2015, comprises sacred art sculptures and reliefs by the greatest medieval and early Renaissance artists. The collection of masterpieces includes works by Donatello, Michelangelo, Luca della Robbia and Arnolfo di Cambio, a life-size reconstruction of the Duomo's ancient façade and Ghiberti's original gilded doors.

#### **DURATION** 3 hours

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide for 3 hours
- Visit of the Baptistery and Museum
- Climb the Brunelleschi's Cupola (very limited availability To be confirmed upon actual booking)
- Duomo Complex ticket (valid for 72 hours access to the Cathedral, the Crypt, the Baptistery, the Bell Tower and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo)





"DAZZLING VISTAS AND SUBLIME ARCHITECTURE

## DUOMO TOUR & SKYWALK EXPERIENCE

An unforgettable tour of Florence's awe-inspiring Cathedral, symbol of Florence's spirituality, including a marvelous "skywalk" up to the Northern Terrace. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide, a knowledgeable and charismatic expert, and set off to discover the breathtaking Duomo of Florence, officially named Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the Duomo is the third largest church in the world (after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London) and was the largest church in Europe when it was completed in the 15th century. The numerous different styles that you'll encounter in the building bear witness to changing tastes over the long period of time that elapsed between its foundation and its completion. Discover masterpieces such as Paolo Uccello's clock, Vasari's frescoes and Bandinelli's marble choir. Then, begin your ascent to Florence heaven: the staircase climb, through narrow and open-air corridors that have been closed to the public for centuries, will be rewarded by an incomparable view of the city from the Duomo's Northern terrace, on the cathedral rooftop. A skywalk that will feel like floating between the city landscape, with its ancient roofs and towers, and the imposing Dome standing just a few meters above your head. Enjoy the privilege of viewing the north terrace, not usually accessible to the general public, led by your dedicated guide. This stunning 32-metre-high (105 ft) panoramic spot right in the middle of town offers amazing vistas of the city below and also allows you to learn all about the stunning architecture and engineer work behind the massive self-standing cathedral dome. Follow your guide around the terrace and discover how it was built, and still firmly dominates Florence skyline after 600 years! With his astonishingly innovative approach in vaulting the dome space without any scaffolding, Brunelleschi changed the rules of architecture forever, by inventing the way to defy gravity and reach eternity. Finally, if you feel like going further up after your terrace experience, you can reach the top of Brunelleschi's Cupola (the Dome) and enjoy the opportunity to reach the 91-metre-high (300 ft) panoramic viewpoint.

### **DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS:**

- English-speaking specialized guide for 3 hours
- Guided tour of the Cathedral and the Baptistry
- Viewing of the Duomo's Northern terrace
- Entrance fees to Brunelleschi's Dome (skip-the line-tickets)
- Duomo complex ticket (valid 72 hours)





HOME OF MICHELANGELO'S DAVID

### EXCLUSIVE VISIT TO ACCADEMIA

One of our favorite experiences, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Imagine no crowds. Just you and your group, a private host and Michelangelo's world famous David. And because we can't help it—a violinist and soprano singer will accompany the magical atmosphere. You will be in front of the statue and even enjoy an aperitivo. This tour can accommodate from 2 to 100 guests. This is perfect for a private event, a proposal or an Incentive meeting. The Experience includes the Accademia museum, exclusively opened after-hours. A private aperitivo can be arranged. Music entertainment, floral arrangements and a guide to introduce guests to the history of the museum.





CYCLING THROUGH THE CRADLE OF THE RENAISSANCE

### FLORENCE CITY BIKE TOUR

Looking for an enjoyable and entertaining way to discover Florence's authentic soul? Discover the magic of the "cradle of the Renaissance" leisurely, cycling up and down the picturesque cobblestone alleys and through the piazzas! Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide, a fun charismatic expert, helmets on and set off, to explore one of the world's most enchanting towns. Led by your experienced guide you will be able to admire main landmarks and major sights, stop for evocative photos and catch unexpected views of the Arno river, crisscrossed by evocative bridges and framed by grand palaces. During the tour you will be able to learn all about Florence's eventful history and centuries-old heritage and hear about its fascinating legends and colorful traditions. During the tour enjoy a refreshing break at the best ice-cream shop in town and indulge your taste buds with a wonderfully creamy Italian gelato. Ideal for fun-loving families, couples and groups of friends visiting Florence for the first time, as for more experienced travelers, our City Bike Tour is the most diverting, enlightening and fun way to discover the best of Florence!

Note for FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: minimum age to ride a regular adult bike is 12 years old. For younger participants we can provide child seats (children 1 to 3), children bikes, tagalongs or trailers or tandems (for taller/older children)

### **DURATION**: 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- State-of-the-art bicycles and helmets
- English-speaking specialized guide for 3 hours
- 1/2 It water bottle
- Stop for gelato (or coffee/cappuccino)





AN UNFORGETTABLE FLORENTINE ADVENTURE

### FLORENCE TREASURE HUNT

Turn your visit to Florence into a fascinating game and exciting quest! Customized to fit your needs, requirements and desired focus, our signature Treasure Hunt is designed to allow you and your family or group of friends to enjoy a completely different and unusual viewpoint of Florence and a one-of-a-kind adventure. We'll make sure you enjoy it from start to finish, finding your way through the city center with our clues, solving riddles and answering questions on the landmarks, discovering art and history and delving into the local lifestyle with your fellow team members. Each team will have to devise solutions, discuss options and take group decisions, be the best at the challenges and tests and act as one while liaising with the locals, savoring the local flavors and aromas, learning about the heritage and testing their knowledge. Our signature tailor-designed Treasure Hunt is crafted attentively to arouse participants' curiosity and artistic sensitivity, and above all make sure everyone has a lot of fun!

**DURATION**: 3 hours

#### **INCLUDES**:

- Dedicated English-speaking escort, 1 per each team
- Skip the line tickets for museums if required (depending on chosen itinerary)
- Tastings (depending on chosen itinerary)
- Customized illustrated treasure hunt sheets





THE TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES IN AN AUTHENTIC FLORENTINE BOTTEGA

### FRESCO PAINTING LESSON

Learn the original techniques of fresco painting by doing it yourself! Artisans from a professional bottega in Florence will teach guests how to paint a fresco during a course that lasts 1 half-day. At the end of the class, guests will be able to take home the artwork or have it shipped to their home. The Florentine artists own and operate their family workshop, open since 1944. Their work is inspired by the ideals of the Florentine Renaissance workshops. To make this event even more special, we can bring the artist to your villa and teach the lessons right there!

**DURATION**: 3 hours **INCLUDES**:

• 2 hours private lesson with an English-speaking professional painter at his studio

• Transfer IN and OUT from our Meeting Point to the studio





GREEN SPACES IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

## GARDENS OF FLORENCE

Behind the majestic architecture of Florence, there is a world of green spaces, botanical gardens and more just waiting to be discovered. Today's Florentine parks and gardens were once private parklands of the city's nobility contained within the ancient city walls. Discover the peacefulness of these places that blend nature with art, architecture and history in a gentle harmony.

**DURATION**: 3 hours

**INCLUDES**:

- 2 hours private lesson with an English-speaking professional painter at his studio
- Transfer IN and OUT from our Meeting Point to the studio





THE EVOLUTION OF STYLE AND THE BIG DESIGNERS

## HISTORY OF FASHION

Did you know Florence is the birthplace of modern fashion? Take a trip through the history of Florentine fashion. Discover the stories behind Gucci, Pucci, Salvatore Ferragamo, Roberto Cavalli, Stefano Ricci and more. We will start out in the most elegant street in Florence at Via Tornabuoni. We will then visit the historic Ferragamo headquarters famous for its 400 patented shoe models. From there we will visit the lavish boutiques along the street from Loro Piana and to Stefano Ricci. We'll finish the tour with a coffee or cappuccino in a local spot with a very fashionable atmosphere.

#### **DURATION** 3 hours

- English-speaking licensed guide and fashion expert at disposal for 3 hours
- Walking tour of the fashion city center and Tornabuoni area
- Ferragamo Museum Entrances
- Coffee or Cappuccino





A ROMANTIC RIDE THROUGH FLORENCE CITY CENTER

## HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDE

An enchanting horse-drawn carriage ride through Florence's evocative streets, gazing at the palaces and admiring the major landmarks, is the very best (and most romantic!) way to discover the magic of the "cradle of the Renaissance"! Meet your English-speaking guide, a knowledgeable expert, and private carriage and set off for a poetic carriage ride. UNESCO World Heritage Site, surprising and irresistible, Florence is where a countless number of geniuses such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi and Donatello lived, thrived and created some of the world's most important works of art. Take it all in from the privileged viewpoint offered by your carriage, and learn all about Florence's eventful history and centuries-old heritage from your guide. Drive leisurely along cobblestone-paved narrow streets and along the banks of the Arno river, and crown your tour with a guided walk to catch yet more hidden views and special panoramas. Your tour will include viewing the main landmarks and major sights, such as the Duomo and Baptistry, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio, and a delicious glass of wine while on board the carriage... a toast to the "cradle of the Renaissance"!

**DURATION:** 2 hours **INCLUSIONS:** 

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 2 hours
- 1-hour horse-drawn carriage ride in the city center
- 1-hour walking tour
- Wine toast on board the carriage
- Stops for pictures at the main locations in Florence





RENAISSANCE MAGNIFICENCE AND CONTEMPORARY STYLE

## INTRO TO FLORENCE

Explore Tuscany's shimmering gem, Florence, the "cradle of the Renaissance" which gave birth to thousands of gorgeous artistic masterpieces and thousands of ideas! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and set off on a memorable walking tour of this dazzling city, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Romantic, surprising, enchanting and irresistible, Florence is where a countless number of geniuses such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi and Donatello lived, thrived and created some of the world's most important works of art. Follow your guide, a charismatic expert, and enjoy an insider's view of the town center. Admire the main landmarks and major sights, such as the Duomo and Baptistry, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio, catch hidden views and stop for photos in the most evocative spots. Led by your dedicated guide you will have the chance to learn all about Florence's eventful history and centuries-old heritage, including the most fascinating legends and colorful traditions that still live on today.

**DURATION**: 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

• English-speaking specialized guide for 3 hours





RENAISSANCE MAGNIFICENCE AND CONTEMPORARY STYLE

# MASTERPIECES & BREAKFAST AT THE UFFIZI GALLERY

The early bird catches the worm... Well, in Florence the early bird catches an art-filled breakfast!

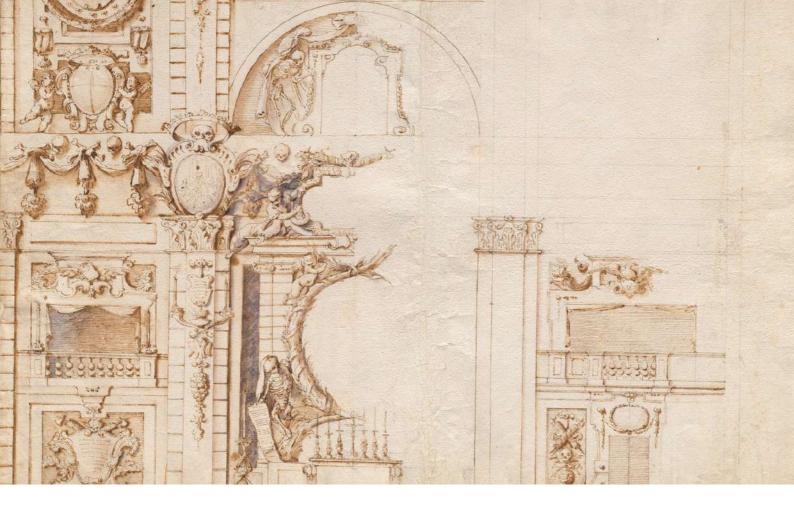
Enter the Uffizi Gallery early in the morning with skip-the-line tickets, avoiding most of the crowds, and experience the thrill of being among the first to enter the vast corridors lined with awe-inspiring artwork. Enjoy the rare privilege of viewing the treasures of the museum's impressive collection at leisure, and crown your morning visit with a delicious Italian breakfast-with-a-view on the Uffizi's rooftop terrace!

Led by the enlightening guidance of a charismatic and experienced English-speaking guide you will have the chance to get right into the frames and behind-the-paint of legendary paintings and sculptures, discovering the traits and characteristics that show the evolution of art through the centuries. During the visit you will learn about the history of Florence and its secrets, discover Giotto's revolutionary art and Leonardo's mix of rational genius and artistic creativity, and fill your eyes, and soul, with the charm and beauty of Botticelli's Primavera and the sensuality of his Venere. As a perfect crescendo finale to a wonderful morning sample an exquisite typical Italian breakfast at the Uffizi Café located on the museum's rooftop right above the ancient Loggia dei Lanzi. The breathtaking beauty of world-acclaimed masterpieces followed by frothy cappuccinos and fragrant pastries with the spectacular view of Florence's red-tiled rooftops... that's what the Artistic Early Bird calls an unforgettable Florentine experience!

### **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Uffizi Gallery tickets and reservation (early entrance)
- Breakfast at the Uffizi Gallery Cafe
- English-speaking guide at disposal for 3 hours





BREATHTAKING SCULPTURES AND AGE-OLD MAGNIFICENCE

### MEDICI CHAPELS

Discover the stupendous Medici Chapels and uncover the secrets of the powerful Medici dynasty. Rising behind the striking Basilica di San Lorenzo, and part of the same vast religious complex, the chapels are the burial place of 49 members of the Medici family. Meet your English-speaking private guide and set off to explore this treasure chest of history, art and Florentine heritage. Decorated with a plethora of granite, marble, semiprecious stones and some of Michelangelo's most beautiful sculptures the breathtaking Medici Chapels allow you to dive into the eventful history of Florence's most remarkable lords. Admire the mesmerizing New Sacristy, Michelangelo's first architectural work, where Lorenzo II Magnifico is buried, and the Chapel of the Princes, a monumental mausoleum decorated entirely in polychrome marbles and semi-precious stones. Follow your guide into the Crypt that houses the tombs of the Medici Grand Dukes and their family members, and through the Lorenese Crypt, which, alongside the remains of the Lorena family, houses the funerary monument to Cosimo the Elder.

**DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS** 

English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours

Entrance fees and reservations to the Medici Chapels





AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF TRADITIONAL FLORENTINE CRAFTS

### MEET THE ARTISANS

Gleaming mosaics, carefully crafted gold and silver objects, hand-decorated paper, leather goods... and much more! The ancient tradition of Florentine craftsmanship is deeply rooted in the city's history, more more than in any other city in the world. Just imagine: from the 12th century onwards the Florentine craft guilds, the "Corporazioni di Arti e Mestieri", dominated the city's economic and social organization! Take an insider's view of the local heritage, and talent, exploring Florence's fascinating "botteghe", small artisan workshops which produce unique and exceptional traditionally made goods. Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and enjoy a stroll through the city center and evocative Oltrarno neighborhood to reach the most charming workshops. Enter the tiny shops, often hidden behind small doors and unassuming entrances, meet the artisans and enjoy the rare privilege of admiring as they work. See the careful attention to each stitch, detail, movement, and note how many of the techniques and tools they use are the very same ones that have been used ever since the Renaissance! Led by your guide you will have the chance to discover 3 different workshops, generally including a hand-decorated paper artist, a goldsmith and a mosaic artist.

**DURATION**: 3 hours

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours
- Visit to 3 artisan workshops
- Walking tour of the city center





RESTORATION LABORATORIES AND THE HISTORY OF ITALIAN STONEWORK

## OPIFICIO DELLE PIETRE DURE

The Medici family's passion for this precious form of art led Grand Duke Ferdinando I de` Medici to establish a court laboratory in 1588 specialized in semi-precious mosaics and inlays. Today, Arno Travel opens this extraordinary museum and laboratories just for your guests. Arranged by themes in chronological order, the collection features porphyry sculptures dating back to the age of Cosimo I de` Medici, sophisticated furniture pieces in semiprecious stones, abstract subjects, landscapes, architectural pieces and a fresh section dedicated entirely to flowers. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this extraordinary museum, which showcases the Italian ability to bridge imagination, artistic prowess and craftsmanship.

Availability and costs upon request





AN ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF THE RENAISSANCE CITY

### PALAZZI OF FLORENCE

ARNO Travel's architectural tour is the best way to explore and understand the quintessential components of the city's unique architecture. Discover the layers of the city, originally built on Roman foundations. Great examples of the medieval palaces that defined "Florentia" include the Palazzo Vecchio, the headquarters of the Wool Guild and Palazzo Davanzati; Palazzo Strozzi and Palazzo Medici Riccardi on the contrary are the symbols of the Reinassence style. Lesser known, but always amazing buildings, are Palazzo Bartolini-Salimbeni, Palazzo Non Finito and Palazzo Gondi. During this guided tour you will have the chance to visit 3 of them, depending on the availability.

### **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours
- Visit of 3 historical palaces in Florence
- · Walking tour around the city center





AN ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF THE RENAISSANCE CITY

## PHOTO TOUR

A professional photographer will guide you through the city center to capture the city's hidden places. He will gladly assist you with camera settings to get the best out of it. Guests will have the opportunity to catch scenes that characterize the daily life of modern Italy. The tour includes an aperitivo (before dinner drink and food) served on top of a private terrace with a stunning panoramic view of the center of Florence.

### **DURATION** 4 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- English-speaking professional photographer at disposal for 4 hours
- · Aperitivo on a panoramic terrace





A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MEDICI FAMILY'S OPULENT RESIDENCE

## PITTI PALACE AND BOBOLI GARDEN

Known for its sprawling architecture and vast collection of art, the Pitti Palace, residence of the Medici family, last of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany and later royal palace for the King of Italy, and adjacent monumental Boboli Gardens are among Florence's most precious and treasured landmarks. Explore the Medici magnificence and dive into the realm of world-class art: visiting the Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens is like traveling back in time! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and access the Pitti Palace easily with priority tickets. Once the lavish palatial residence of Florentine grand dukes and monarchs the museum today comprises a variety of diverse museums: the Palatine Gallery with its vast collection of 16th and 17th-century works of art (including several by Raphael), the stunning Royal Apartments bedecked with luxury furniture from the 19th century, the Treasury of the Grand Dukes (i.e. the Silver Museum) filled with a collection of Medici household gems, and the Gallery of Modern Art with the 19th and 20th century Tuscan paintings. After discovering the museum's most important masterpieces enjoy an unforgettable walk through the dazzling Boboli Gardens, world-famous for its spellbinding fountains and grottos

#### **DURATION** 3 hours

- English-speaking licensed Guide at disposal for 3 hours
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line early entrance tickets and reservations) to the Pitti Palace
- Entrance Fees to the Boboli Garden tickets





A PRIVATE INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY OF FLORENCE

## THE ACCADEMIA GALLERY

Discover Florence and visit all the main sites of the city with this walking tour with a private local tour guide. And then be enchanted by the Accademia Gallery. This magnificent Gallery houses one of the world's most famous artworks: Michelangelo's David. The statue was transferred to The Accademia from the open air of Piazza della Signoria in 1873, where there is now an exact copy of the original. Art lovers will also enjoy his famous unfinished statues: the Prisoners, St. Matthew and the Pietà. Other artworks on display feature religious paintings by minor artists working in and around Florence between the 13th -16th centuries. A significant collection of 19th century plaster sculpture models by Lorenzo Bartolini and Luigi Pampaloni are a welcome surprise to all guests of the Accademia. We will also delve into a unique collection of antique musical instruments from the Cherubini Conservatory. Visits are available every day except for Mondays.

### **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- English Speaking Licensed Guide at disposal for 3 hours
- Walking tour around the city center for 2 hours
- · Accademia Gallery tickets and reservation

**NOTE** Not available on Mondays





IDYLLIC PATHS AND QUAINT VILLAGES

# THE FLORENTINE FIESOLE HILLSIDE

Florence is harmoniously surrounded by gently rolling hills studded with noble Renaissance villas and medieval hamlets. Discover Fiesole, the most picturesque of these towns, founded by the Etruscans and later conquered by the Romans. Fiesole hosts a beautiful archaeological park, Roman theater and other significant historic monuments. In the surroundings, a series of leisurely paths leads to the ancient quarries where the typical sand stone called 'pietra serena' has been mined since medieval times. Surrounded by superb vegetation of lush Mediterranean trees, this minivan tour includes the company of a knowledgeable guide.

#### **DURATION** 4 hours

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 4 hours
- Mercedes Minivan at disposal for 4 hours
- Entrance to Fiesole Archeological Park





EXPLORE THE ROOTS OF AN ANCIENT COMMUNITY

## THE JEWISH HERITAGE

What was life like for the Jewish people in Florence when Botticelli painted the Primavera? Or at Galileo's time? And what is the Jewish community like in Florence today? Arno Travel brings you the complete story of Florence from the Jewish perspective, told by an art historian of Jewish origin. Her vast knowledge and storytelling provide an insider's view of Jewish Florence not found in the guidebooks. The tour starts from the beautiful Synagogue, continuing through the Jewish museum, onto the former ghetto and first neighborhood of the Jewish Community in Florence.

## **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours
- Entrance to the Florence Synagogue an Jewish Museum
- Walking Tour





ART, POWER AND HISTORY

## THE MEDICI FAMILY

Dive into the history and heritage of Florence discovering the lives, palaces and stories of its most remarkable family, the Medici. Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and set off on a memorable walking tour of Florence's splendid city center, UNESCO World Heritage Site, following the Medici's haunting footsteps. Once bankers, then grand lords and among the world's most extraordinary art patrons the Medicis left a visible and indelible mark throughout town. Follow your guide through cobblestonepaved streets and airy squares, to see where, and learn how, the family lived, prospered and filled Florence with beauty. Stop for a visit to Palazzo Medici Riccardi, a stern-looking 15th century palace which boasts amazing interiors and a remarkable courtyard. Roam the palace to discover the beautiful frescoes in the Chapel of the Magi, and marvel at the portraits of the Medici family members. Then stroll on, to reach the fascinating Basilica of San Lorenzo and its stunning features. Visit the the Old Sacristy, designed by the great architect Filippo Brunelleschi, and world-famous New Sacristy created by Michelangelo. Characterized by the beautiful tombs of Giuliano de 'Medici (decorated with the allegorical sculptures of the Day and the Night) and of Lorenzo (decorated with the Dawn and the Dusk) the New Sacristy is a striking example of artistic vision. Let yourself be dazzled by the Continue on to the Chapel of the Princes, and get ready to be surprised: conceived as a funeral space for the family tombs this dazzling enclave is embellished with hard stones, mother-of-pearl, lapis lazuli and coral. End your visit in lovely Piazza della Signoria, civic heart of Florence, for a memorable visit to the grandiose Palazzo Vecchio, current city hall and once seat of the Medici family.

**DURATION**: 4 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 4 hours
- Visit of 3 historical palaces in Florence
- Walking tour of the city center





AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF MICHELANGELO'S DAVID AND BOTTICELLI'S VENUS!

## UFFIZI AND ACCADEMIA GALLERY TOUR

An unforgettable tour of two of the world's most striking museums. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide, a knowledgeable and charismatic expert, and set off to discover the breathtaking collections housed in Florence's Uffizi and Accademia Gallery. Start your tour exploring Italy's most important museum - the enchanting Uffizi Gallery. Led by your specialized guide you will have the chance to truly understand what's behind each painting, and "follow" the evolution of Italian art through the centuries, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Learn all about the great artists that turned Florence into the capital of the Renaissance, and see them actually come to life with the guidance of your dedicated guide Discover Giotto's revolutionary art, admire the beauty of Botticelli's Primavera, and marvel at Leonardo's mix of rational genius and artistic creativity! At the end of the visit enjoy a pleasant stroll through the city center to reach the Accademia Gallery; during the promenade admire the Duomo square, with its lovely landmarks among which the Cathedral, and a few of the most attractive shopping streets. Crown your day discovering the magnificent Accademia Gallery, home to one of the world's most famous artworks: Michelangelo's David, a masterpiece of Renaissance sculpture. Sculpted in marble by young Michelangelo the statue came to symbolize the defense of civil liberties embodied in the Republic of Florence, an independent city-state threatened on all sides by more powerful rival states and by the hegemony of the Medici family. Originally placed beside Palazzo Vecchio, the city town hall, the statue was transferred to the Accademia from Piazza della Signoria in 1873. After delving into the history and artistic value of David enjoy admiring Michelangelo's famous unfinished statues - the Prisoners, St. Matthew and the Pietà - and, time permitting, of the other artworks on display.

**DURATION**: 4 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- English-speaking specialized guide for 4 hours
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Uffizi Gallery
- Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Accademia Gallery

NOTE: not available on Mondays





WHAT WRIGGLES IN THE HAIR OF CARAVAGGIO'S MEDUSA?

### UFFIZI ART HUNT

The Uffizi Gallery, home to one of the most spectacular art collections of all times. Interesting? Sure. But how about fun? Fun and museums used to seem to be worlds apart. Well, as far as we're concerned that's history, or, better still, art history. Turn your "regular" Uffizi experience into a fascinating and inspiring game: an intriguing art-focused quest! Ideal for groups of fun-loving friends and families with children of all ages our signature tailor-designed Art Hunt is crafted attentively to arouse participants' curiosity and artistic sensitivity, and make sure everyone has a lot of fun discovering the countless treasures housed in the Uffizi.

On your marks, get set, go! Follow your "treasure map", prowl the museum's main rooms. Locate the masterpieces, study them well and strikingly surprising details. Which animals keep Tiziano's Venus company? Where is the white horse hidden in Botticelli's Adoration of the Magi? Who painted one of the most terrifying dragons in all Italian art? And... what is it that wriggles in the hair of Caravaggio's Medusa? Peer at the masters' creations exploring their peculiarities and discover their secrets. We guarantee you'll become a veritable art-whiz, and find out that there's no game more fun than art.

#### **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Private English-speaking guide for 3 hrs
- Skip the line tickets for the Uffizi Gallery
- Customized museum treasure map, stickers and question sheets

**NOTE**: Not available on Mondays





DISCOVERING THE MASTERPIECES

## UFFIZI GALLERY TOUR

An unforgettable tour of one of the world's most striking museums. Meet your dedicated English-speaking guide, a knowledgeable and charismatic expert, and set off to discover the breathtaking collection housed in Florence's Uffizi Gallery. Led by your specialized guide you will have the chance to truly understand what's behind each painting, and "follow" the evolution of Italian art through the centuries, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Admiring the collection's most remarkable masterpieces learn all about the great artists that turned Florence into the capital of the Renaissance, the world's most strikingly revolutionary cultural and artistic period, and see them actually come to life with the guidance of your dedicated guide Discover Giotto's revolutionary art, admire the beauty of Botticelli's Primavera and the sensuality of his Venere, and marvel at Leonardo's mix of rational genius and artistic creativity!

**DURATION:** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS** 

• English-speaking licensed guide at disposal for 3 hours

• Entrance fees (priority skip-the-line tickets and reservations) to the Uffizi Gallery

Note: Not available on Mondays





A FLAVORFUL FLORENTINE BICYCLE PROMENADE

## BIKES & BITES

Discover Florence's city center's treasures, striking views and typical food from an unusual viewpoint: by bike! Cycle off leisurely, escorted by your dedicated English speaking private guide, through ancient streets lined with mysterious Medieval palaces. Our "Bikes & Bites" tour allows you, and your friends or family, to admire stunning world-celebrated landmarks - such as Pitti Palace, the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo - and history-filled squares, stopping along the way to indulge your taste buds with bites of the best, and most authentic, local flavors. Savor bites of the best Tuscan specialties: lush cheeses, tantalizing cured meats, rich Espresso coffee and delectable sweets and of course zesty olive oil and the creamiest artisan-made gelato! Perfect for families with children and groups of friends, our "Bikes & Bites" tour may be customized as desired to fit your desires and needs, built according to special-focus itineraries or to include special tastings (sommelier-guided wine tastings, truffles and chocolates etc.) or lunch.

#### **DURATION**: 3 hours

**INCLUSIONS** 

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide for 3 hours
- Bicycles and helmets for all participants (children's bikes and helmets available)
- Tastings as described: cheese and cured meats, olive oil, coffee and pastries, gelato

#### **OPTIONAL SERVICES:**

- We can deliver the bikes directly to your Hotel to start the tour from there.
- We can provide E-bikes





DISCOVER THE KING OF ITALIAN WINES

## BRUNELLO SIDEWAYS

Big focus on the world of Brunello, On this true wine experts private tour, discover the world famous, Wine Spectator's prized Brunello di Montalcino - one of the most renowned wines worldwide, and arguably one of the most esteemed wines in all of Italy. The Brunello wine is especially known for its longevity that you can store a bottle of Brunello wine even for 100 years! Americans have a tremendous thirst for Montalcino's flagship wine, buying roughly 175,000 cases each year, and has become one of the most famous wines in the world, prized and praised by important wine critics, wine collectors and wine lovers. In Tuscany's most beautiful panorama, skirting the city of Siena, the Brunello di Montalcino territory offers the absolutely perfect microclimate. More so, the wine is given a maturation of about 5 yrs before it hits the shelves - which is part of what makes Brunello so unique and so precious! Visit two of our favorite wine cellars producing from the same Sangiovese grapes. In the smaller boutique winery sample and taste Brunello DOCG together with an abundant traditional multi-course Tuscan lunch. By visiting two wine cellars different in size and wine making philosophy, you will better understand the nuances between innovation and tradition in Brunello wine production. Besides our knowledgeable guide giving pointers on how to best taste the wines during the tasting, you will also have a chance to visit, a typical medieval village town. While strolling down the little windy roads and alleys, you will hear stories of this adorable little UNESCO hamlet village.

#### **DURATION** 10 hours

- Transportation IN/OUT Florence by comfortable Minivan (10 hours at disposal)
- English speaking Guide
- Guided Tour of 2 fascinating Wineries and their cellars
- Wine Tastings in each winery, including the sumptuous Brunello DOCG
- Tuscan light lunch
- Visit of one of the most beautiful villages of the area





SPEND A MARVELOUS DAY IN A BOUTIQUE WINERY

# BRUNELLO WINE HARVEST EXPERIENCE

Meet your English-speaking driver at your hotel and set off for an unforgettable day spent discovering the heart, soul and lifeblood of Tuscany hands-on! Carefully designed to meet the expectations and desires of wine-lovers and connoisseurs alike our exclusive private "Brunello Harvest Experience" leads you through the vineyard-clad hills of Val D'Orcia, to discover the Wine Spectator award-winning Brunello di Montalcino, one of the world's most prestigious wines. Renowned for its stunning longevity (just imagine, bottles keep for 100 years!), richly colored, intense and full-flavored Brunello has become one of the most famous wines in the world, prized and praised by important wine critics, wine collectors, and wine lovers everywhere. And, the region where it is produced is simply gorgeous. Skirting the city of Siena, the Brunello di Montalcino territory boasts a unique spread of fields and hills which offer the perfect microclimate for this sensational blend. Discover the marvels of Brunello a small privately-owned boutique winery. Meet the expert in-house staff and explore the realm of Brunello firsthand: be part of the harvesting team of this marvelous winery which is entirely farmed in compliance with the rules of biodynamic farming! Naturally, being biodynamic, the harvest needs to follow the natural moon phases too, therefore different activities are offered depending on the day of your visit. For instance, if it's not a full moon or if it's a rainy day you will not be visiting the fields (since there will be no gathering of grapes) but your visit will include focusing mainly on the processes in the cellar. Possible activities (TBC depending on day of booking) include: - Walk in the fields, explanation of the harvest, tasting the grape on the vines -Manual selection of the grapes - Manual punch down - Removal of the skin from the fermenting wine must - Tasting the fermenting must in all its phases Understand the wines' unique characteristics and nuances, learn all about the technological innovation and centuries-old traditions that blend harmoniously to create heavenly blends of Brunello! Whichever activities your harvest experience will include during the day you will also enjoy a guided visit to the estate's fascinating Golden Cellar, built using ancient construction techniques, natural clay bricks and a mortar made of lime, tasting of five different estate wines, and a delicious genuine Tuscan "farmer's lunch" . Sample and savor the best local fare, including signature pasta prepared by a Michelin star chef, premium cured meats and cheeses from local organic farms, and vegetables from the estate biodynamic garden, all paired with superb Brunello DOCG wines of course! AVAILABLE IN HARVEST SEASON ONLY, generally from September 10th to October 20th

**DURATION**: 10 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

#### Mercedes car or minivan and English-speaking driver (10 hours at disposal)

- · Guided visit of the winery's Golden Cellar
- Wine tasting of five estate wines: IGT, Rosso di Montalcino, Brunello di Montalcino, Reserve
- Harvest experience
- Tuscan Farmer's lunch





THE BEST OF TUSCANY'S VINEYARDS, CELLARS AND FLAVORS

### CHIANTI WINE TRAIL

Picture it: a unique landscape made of gentle green hills covered by wide rambling vineyards and olive groves, small stone villages and silent parishes. The Chianti hillside is so beautiful and evocative that it has been luring visitors since the 18th century and still today inspires photographers, film directors, poets and writers worldwide. No Italian vacation can be complete without a visit to Chianti, and no Chianti tour can provide the insider's view our signature Tuscany Wine Trail offers! During the day you will discover luxuriant vineyards and mysterious cellars, taste exceptional wines and sample luscious traditional fare prepared with the freshest local products Carefully crafted to offer our discerning clients an enticing blend of history, local character, views and flavors our tour will lead you to discover the Chianti hills' centuries-old tradition and extraordinary wines. Characterized by the droll unmistakable Black Rooster logo Chianti Classico wine, among the most renowned wines in the world, is a DOCG wine which shows unique peculiarities and characteristics. Learn all about this sensational wine and taste the best visiting two lovely local wineries, both located in the greenest heart of Chianti Classico. Enjoy the privilege of private visits led by the expert in-house staff at both and learn all about the production and aging techniques that lie behind world-class wines visiting the vineyards and cellars. At the end of each visit savor the best estate blends, discovering the characteristic flavors and aromas of Chianti: a limpid ruby red color, floral notes for its odor and a harmonious, dry and sapid flavor. Crown your experience savoring a delicious typical Tuscan light lunch served in the warm atmosphere of one of the two wineries. Enjoy a day on the Tuscany Wine Trail, fall in love with Chianti!

**DURATION**: 8 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- Private transportation by Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver to/from Florence city center and throughout the day as needed (max 8 hours)
- Private visit, with wine tasting, of two fascinating Chianti wineries
- Typical Tuscan light lunch in one of the wineries





PRIVATE COOKING CLASS AT YOUR PLACE IN TUSCANY

## COOKING CLASS "A CASA TUA"

The ultimate hands-on experience directly in your Tuscan kitchen! Wishing to master the art of Tuscan cuisine privately, comfortably and hassle-free? If you are spending your vacation in a private villa or apartment our signature "a casa tua" cooking class provides the best option you can dream of combining fun, luscious flavors and the luxuries of privacy and comfort. Whether staying in downtown Florence, in the countryside or in another Tuscan town you will be able to enjoy an enlightening and entertaining private cooking class, led by a charismatic specialized English-speaking pro chef, in the kitchen of your home-away-from-home! Let us know when and at what time, how many of you it will be and if there is any special dish you want to learn. Your chef will meet you in the kitchen, providing all ingredients and his full knowledge and experience, for a memorable cooking class ending, naturally, with the best meal ever: the one you made yourself in your Tuscan kitchen!

**DURATION**: 5 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- Private cooking class at your Tuscan villa/apartment by English-speaking professional chef
- All groceries/ingredients





# TUSCAN COOKING CLASS IN SAN GIMIGNANO & VISIT OF SIENA

Discover the soul of Tuscany! Carefully crafted to offer authentic insight on Tuscan lifestyle, art, history and gastronomic heritage, our signature private San Gimignano cooking class and Siena tour allows you to master the art of preparing a typical meal in a family kitchen, explore exquisite tower-studded San Gimignano and Siena's evocative medieval city center enjoying the privilege of private transportation throughout the day and private English-speaking guide assistance. Savor the ride and the views traveling to San Gimignano, UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most splendid examples of a medieval walled town, for a memorable hands-on culinary experience: a private cooking class held in the charming premises of a private family kitchen in a real Tuscan home! Aprons on, follow your teacher's skilled instructions and learn how to prepare the simple mouth-watering Tuscan traditional recipes. Learn the tips and secrets of making crispy delicious bruschetta, fresh hand-rolled pasta or gnocchi, tasty pasta sauces and dessert, too. Measure, mince, mix and stir (and taste, of course, to get the seasonings right!), and finally relax, savor the unique taste of premium olive oil and the precious aromas of the family's wines - Chianti Colli Senesi and local Vernaccia - and relish the best Tuscan meal ever: the one you made yourself in the heart of Tuscany! After lunch enjoy some time at leisure and a stroll through delightful San Gimignano. Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" it is certainly one of Tuscany's most iconic, and one of the most well-preserved ancient towns in the whole of Italy and has, in fact, been used as a background in many movies. Walk through quaint cobblestone streets, discover the many tall towers, and browse the pretty shops lined by bottles of Vernaccia di San Gimignano, premium saffron, dainty hand-woven linens and precious hand-made Santa Fina pottery. Then travel on to discover Siena, one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy. Meet your private dedicated English-speaking guide and set off on a memorable walking visit of this exquisite town. Unveil its secrets, learn all about its eventful centuries-old history and admire its characteristic architecture and warm colors. Learn about the town's rich history, how it was founded by the Romans, became renowned in the Middle Ages when it declared its allegiance to the Ghibelline cause, and fought a long-lasting war against Florence which was traditionally Guelph. Led by your quide discover the major sights and landmarks among which Piazza del Campo - where twice a year dashing horses compete in the heart-rendering Palio race - with its gorgeous Palazzo Pubblico, and famed Torre del Mangia; unveil the town's secrets and legends, wander down bewitching medieval streets and follow your guide into the magnificent Duomo, Siena's aweinspiring Cathedral, to admire world-acclaimed masterpieces.

#### DURATION FULL DAY INCLUSIONS

- Private transportation by Mercedes Car/MInivan with English-speaking driver throughout the day as needed (8 hours)
- Private Cooking Class in a Tuscan home in San Gimignano, inclusive of tasting of the family olive oil and a selection of 4/5 estate wines
- Private specialized English-speaking guide in Siena (2 to 3 hours)





THE PERFECT TUSCAN RECIPE FROM A PROFESSIONAL CHEF

## COOKING IN FLORENCE

Private Cooking Class is held by a professional chef who has worked with some of top talents in Tuscan cooking. Start your tour visit to San Lorenzo's Market, where you will get to know the typical Italian products and seasonings, and choose your menu from the freshest ingredients available. Your experience follows to at a beautiful characteristic apartment located right in the heart of Florence. The Chef will share her secret techniques to preparing wonderful dishes using fresh, organic ingredients. Participants cook a complete meal with appetizers, a pasta dish, a main course (meat, fish, or vegetarian) and a dessert. Each dish is accompanied by fine wine. This cooking class takes 5 hours and is for those looking for a fun way to spend lunch or dinner.

### **DURATION** 5 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Visit of a Florence Market (only in the morning MON. to SAT.)
- Private chef and kitchen
- All ingredients for cooking
- Use of apron and cooking utensils
- Lunch of 3/4 courses with wine tasting





THE ULTIMATE TUSCAN FOODIE TOUR

# COLORS, AROMAS AND FLAVORS OF SIENA & SAN GIMIGNANO

Meet your English-speaking driver at your hotel and set off, in full comfort aboard a state-of-the-art private vehicle, to explore Tuscany and discover its most tantalizing flavors! Start the day in Siena, with a guided tour led by a knowledgeable Englishspeaking guide; admire Piazza del Campo, where the Palio horse competition takes place, learn all about Siena's traditional heritage and admire the town's spectacular Duomo (availability/opening hours TBC). Follow your guide through the picturesque Medieval cobblestone alleys and discover the best "bottega" (local deli) in town; browse the shelves crammed with tempting specialties and taste the best local prosciutto. Continue on through alleyways and below arches to the best cafè in town to savor two luscious sweets, Siena's most celebrated culinary staples both dating back to the Middle Ages: soft, intense almond-meal ricciarelli and panforte senes, the local "strong bread" (literally!) made with candied and dried fruit and rich in spices. At the end of the tour travel on through the Tuscan countryside to a charming family-owned estate with bountiful grounds, comprising luxuriant vineyards and olive groves which produce organic wines and extra virgin olive oil. Welcomed by the estate staff proceed into the typical farmhouse (or weather permitting the open-air terrace, which offers spectacular views of San Gimignano's ancient towers!) and enjoy a memorable tasting of the estate's premium e.v.o. oils (natural and flavored) and of 4 estate wines (including Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG and Chianti Colli Senesi). The tasting will be followed by a mouth-watering typical luncheon, including the best local specialties and wines. After lunch head to San Gimignano for a stroll, browse the local shops for lovely hand-woven lace and colorful Santa Fina pottery, and crown your day in the best, creamiest, most "creative" way ever: heavenly tastes of the award-winning San Gimignano Dondoli ice-cream, twice winner of the world gelato championship!

#### **DURATION**: 8 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- Private Mercedes vehicle for up to 8 hours
- English-speaking guide in Siena (2 hours)
- Tasting at a Siena deli and pastry shop
- · Wine tasting
- · Olive oil tasting
- Tuscan lunch
- Time at leisure in San Gimignano





BLISSFUL BITES OF TUSCAN DELIGHTS

## FLORENCE FOR FOODIES

Yearning for a genuine taste of authentic Florence? Explore the Cradle of the Renaissance using your senses and join the locals in their haunts for a bite of the best! Our small-group gastronomic experience allows you to discover Tuscany's colorful culinary heritage and tempting gourmand specialties firsthand, with a wondrous "Food Quest" through the charming streets of the city center. Enjoy a unique insider's view of Florence's thriving heart, a "sniff" of its appetizing scents and delicious morsels of local delicacies roaming the town led by a specialized gourmet guide. As a first introduction to local products stroll through one of Florence's fascinating markets, a buzzing haven of tantalizing products. Browse through the colorful stalls piled high with fresh produce, see the local cooks and housewives bargain for the best, get to know butchers' and cheese vendors' premium typical products. Follow your guide down winding cobblestone streets for a tasting of piping hot espresso in a choice historical café and set off to discover the local temples of flavor: the best fornai (bakeries) and picturesque traditional bottegas (local delis). Explore the shops and lose yourself among aromas and sensational flavors. Savor, fragrant savory schiacciata shiny with olive oil (Florentine schoolboys' favorite snack!), taste mouth-watering traditional cured meats, luscious locally produced cheeses, truffle-based sauces... and premium wines, of course! End your day as a Tuscan gourmet relishing Florence's creamiest and most luscious gelato

#### **DURATION** 4 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private professional licensed English-speaking gourmet expert guide for 4hours
- Visit at a local grocery market
- Tastings of typical specialty products, inclusive of: coffee, local cheese, cured meats, wine, gelato

Kindly note that as Florence's grocery markets are open only on weekday mornings. Thus, afternoon tours and tours held on Sundays and public holidays will be scheduled to include more tastings tops at local delis.





A SCRUMPTIOUS FLORENTINE EXPERIENCE

# FLORENCE GELATO TOUR & WORKSHOP

It was young Caterina de' Medici, bride to be of the future King of France, who started the history of ice-cream, and many other dishes, by taking her crew of talented Tuscan cooks and visionary pastry chefs to France when she got married. Among these was Ruggero, known as "the ice cream wizard". He invented the first ice-cream, then called "sugary-perfumed-icy-water", which soon became the delicacy most desired by Europe's nobility. Whatever its origins the history of gelato is tightly linked to Florence and its traditional heritage, and the art of making it has only grown with time, with many artisan "gelaterias" spread all over town, in hidden corners and quaint small streets. Explore the ancient town, discover the secrets that lie behind the production of ice cream, and taste the most mouth-watering ones in town! Led by our expert local gelato-loving guide you will visit 4 different traditional gelato shops in the Florence historical center, and in each taste different flavors. Enjoy a real insider's view, learn about the ingredients, their combining, the actual production, and much more. In the last gelateria peek in behind the scene, watch the staff mixing ingredients and the machines churning fresh cream and sugar into mounds of creamy lusciousness. Follow the gelato maker's tips and try your hand at it, creating the tastiest gelato ever!

#### **DURATION** 2 hours.

- Private English-speaking local gelato expert for 2 hours
- · Walking tour
- Tasting at 4 gelato shops in Florence city center
- Workshop experience in 1 gelato shop





DEDICATE A DAY TO THE GREAT WINES OF THE VAL D'ORCIA

## NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

IDiscover the wine that has been praised by popes and princes alike for centuries due to its elegance and noble structure. Our tour takes you to the heart of what was once known as Mons Politianus—"Mount of the Nobles"—originally settled by the Etruscans. The first stop will be the Avignonesi cellars, is one of the best-known producers of Nobile di Montepulciano. You will have the special opportunity to experience the best of nature's colors, smells and flavors. Next we will discover the very special "Round vineyard", an experimental take on the traditional growing method. Lunch is served family style with Tuscan bread, high quality olive oil and regional products, all paired with their wine production. A tavola with a main course of Cinta Senese pig, an ancient Tuscan breed that is raised near the estate. And before we finish, a last stop at a second winery. There is a secret Nobile di Montepulciano that few know of, far from the spotlight and the big names that have made Montepulciano world famous. It is a small, family owned property that enchants with the history of their wines and their land. We will experience their artistic interpretations of the terroir and at the end of the day be ready to get acquaintance with the best Nobile wines from Montepulciano! Become familiar with the world of small wineries in Montepulciano!

#### **DURATION** 10 hours

- Mercedes Car or Minivan and English-speaking driver (10 hours at disposal)
- Two Nobile di Montepulciano Winery visits
- Wine Tour & Tasting in both properties
- 3 course Tuscan Lunch with wine pairing





## WINE ENTHUSIASTS' DINNER & WINE LAB

Wine and Olive Oil are the essence and the two kings of Tuscan food and wine culture. There is no Tuscan recipe that doesn't include olive oil in its preparation and doesn't consider a specific wine to be paired with. With this fine dinner experience, you will discover all the secrets of the production of Wine and Olive Oil while visiting and dining at a boutique Winery in the Chianti Wine region. Marvelous landscapes of vineyards and olive groves will surround you, while you reach the winery on top of a hill (approx. a 25 minute ride). Once there, a wine expert will welcome you and take you for the ancient cellar visit, still used today for wine production. The sommelier will explain the sophisticated techniques of wine making and teach you to distinguish the different and various scents and flavors that each wine presents. A special Wine Lab experience, fun and educational, will let you understand how different varieties of pure wines (from Sangiovese, Canaiolo grapes etc.) are blended to obtain the final complex wines, each one with a peculiar bouquet of scents and flavors. You will then be served dinner, while you will learn the basics of pairing different wines with specific dishes. You will enjoy 4 different wines, including Supertuscan wines -from the estate-. Plus, a sweet typical dessert wine. You will also taste the region's finest olive oil with typical unsalted Tuscan bread. The gourmet menu may change according to the season, but an example could be local charcuterie (cold-cuts like typical prosciutto - Tuscan ham - and salami) and a cheese selection, paired with different jams and balsamic vinegar, a selection of two pasta dishes and a main course made of a traditional meat dish. A Tuscan dessert is then served with local sweet wine. The friendly atmosphere of this Tuscan dinner will let you enjoy a relaxing break from the city chaos, while learning interesting facts and secrets about the Tuscan food and wine culture and tasting some truly gourmet products.

#### **DURATION** 2 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Round-trip transportation from Florence
- Wine lab experience
- Tasting of 5 different Tuscan Wines (including a sweet typical wine)
- Gourmet Typical Tuscan dinner at a boutique Winery
- Tasting of Tuscan Olive Oil





LEARN TO MAKE PIZZA AND GELATO JUST LIKE AN ITALIAN!

## PIZZA AND GELATO MAKING

Our chef will be happy to introduce you to the history of these Italian glorious creations! Make pizza in the oven with our professional pizza chef, called pizzaiolo. You will learn how to make tender, flexible yeast dough that stretches to almost paperthinness, even the trick for a flavorful yet light tomato sauce. Even if you bake pizza in your own oven, these techniques are universal and using them really makes a difference. With the pizzaiolo, you'll make your very own pizza, you'll stretch it, sauce it, bake it, slice it. It will be the best pizza you ever tasted, and you made it yourself! After Pizza it's time for Gelato! The chef will tell you why gelato remains Italy's favorite dessert while giving an insight to the 'gelato culture' that continues to grow. You will get to know the basic raw ingredients, how to select the best products available according to specific principles and you will have a presentation and tasting of some of the flavors used in gelato making. You will learn about the development and application of natural colors, the heating and freezing techniques and how they have different effects on ingredients. It is always a great day to discover the recipe of the world most loved dessert!

### **DURATION** 3 hours **INCLUSIONS**

- Pizza and gelato lesson
- Use of apron and cooking utensils
- All ingredients for cooking
- Dinner with Wine Tastings (soft drinks for children)
- Private chef and kitchen





WORLD-CLASS CHIANTI WINES AND MICHELIN-STAR CUISINE

# THE "BLACK ROOSTER" AT ITS FINEST

Idyllic landscapes, silvery olive groves and vineyards dotted by honey-colored stone farmhouses and graceful Romanesque parish churches. Spend a memorable day "on the road", sample award-winning wines and cuisine! Follow the tracks of the Black Rooster, that curious symbol of Chianti which represents one of the most remarkable and praised wines in the world: Chianti Classico. Meet your dedicated English-speaking driver at your hotel and set off to explore Tuscany cruising along lovely country roads and hillsides. During the day you will discover luxuriant vineyards and mysterious cellars, taste exceptional wines and star-rated cuisine! Carefully crafted to offer our discerning clients an enticing blend of history, local character, views and flavors our signature Black Rooster tour leads you to discover the Chianti hills' centuries-old tradition and extraordinary blends. Travel to the heart of Chianti Classico and enjoy an unforgettable visit to an award-winning winery, the striking Badia a Passignano owned by the famed Antinori family. Comprising 223 hectares of rolling grounds, 65 of which vineyards, this sprawling estate frames a beautiful ancient abbey still owned by the Vallombrosian monks. Enjoy a guided tour led by the estate staff and learn all about how this dazzling winery has played a vital role in Tuscan winemaking throughout the last millennium, and still does today! Also, as in times long gone by, the wine made here is aged in the vast cellars that run beneath the abbey. At the end of the visit enjoy the privilege of a luscious taste experience in the cozy stylish ambiance of the estate signature Osteria di Passignano: sample traditional Tuscan recipes with a twist prepared by the in-house Michelin-star chef! After lunch travel on through the countryside, for more stunning views. Driving through sweeping valleys and alongside wild meadows reach another of the area's most important wineries. Meet the expert winery staff, enjoy a memorable private viewing of the grounds and cellar and crown your "Chianti Black Rooster" day tasting the finest of the estate's signature blends

**DURATION**: 8 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

• Private transportation by Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver to/from Florence city center and throughout the day as

needed (max 8 hours)

- Shared small-group tour of Badia a Passignano winery
- Wine-pairing Michelin-star tasting lunch at Osteria a Passignano
- Private visit to another Black Rooster Chianti winery, inclusive of wine tasting OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Private visit of Badia a Passignano winery





THE BEST KEPT SECRET OF TUSCAN WINE

## SUPERTUSCANS OF BOLGHERI

Innovation and tradition, taste and modernity, market and terroir: these are the features a Supertuscan bottle must have. Get to know two of the most famous wine producers in the magical Bolgheri region, deep in wild Maremma. The area is famous for the Viale dei Cipressi (Avenue of Cypresses) described so eloquently in the poem by Giosue Carducci, the first Italian poet to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. The cultivation of wines here was traditionally on a household scale, since Bolgheri is a seaside town. The development of Sassicaia and Ornellaia amongst others utilized new techniques to create the famous IGT Super Tuscan Wines. We will venture to two wineries Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Winery, one of Tuscany's most historic and respected estates, due to its staunch commitment to the philosophy of quality without compromise and particular climate and terrain. And for a change of pace, enjoy a delicious sea-food lunch in an exclusive beach house for a change of pace. Finally we will go to the Tenuta Argentiera, another before your last stop at a fascinating winery along the charming coast of the Alta Maremma! This small and prestigious DOC Bolgheri area is part of the old estate that once belonged to the noble Florentine Serristori family. Alla salute!

#### **DURATION** 10hours

- Mercedes Car or Minivan and English-speaking driver (10 hours at disposal)
- Visit of two wineries that produce IGT Supertuscans
- Wine Tour & Tasting in both properties
- 3 course lunch with leisure time on the coast





### CHIANTI WINE TRAIL

Picture it: a unique landscape made of gentle green hills covered by wide rambling vineyards and olive groves, small stone villages and silent parishes. The Chianti hillside is so beautiful and evocative!

During the day you will discover scenic local villages like Castellina in Chianti and Greve in Chianti, luxuriant vineyards and cellars, taste exceptional wines and sample luscious traditional fare prepared with the freshest local products. Characterized by the droll unmistakable Black Rooster logo Chianti Classico wine, among the most renowned wines in the world, is a DOCG wine which shows unique peculiarities and characteristics. Learn about this sensational wine and taste the best visiting a lovely local winery in the greenest heart of Chianti Classico. Enjoy the privilege of private visits led by the expert in-house staff and learn all about the production and aging techniques that lie behind world-class wines visiting the vineyards and cellars. At the end of the visit savor the best estate blends, discovering the characteristic flavors and aromas of Chianti: a limpid ruby red color, floral notes for its odor and a harmonious, dry and sapid flavor. Crown your experience savoring a delicious typical Tuscan light lunch served at the winery.

Enjoy a day on the Tuscany Wine Trail, fall in love with Chianti!

#### **DURATION**: 8 hours **INCLUSIONS**:

- Private transportation by Mercedes vehicle with English-speaking driver throughout (max 8 hours)
- Private visit, with wine tasting in a Chianti winery, with lunch
- Visit at leisure to Chianti towns





DISCOVER THE GOURMET GIFTS OF NATURE

## TRUFFLE HUNTING EXPERIENCE

Move over, wine! Tuscany is just as famous for its delicious truffles. Take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience looking for truffles through the woods of Tuscany. You and your guide will be accompanied by a truffle-hunting dog. The most intricate secrets of truffles will be revealed including insights on the growing environment, the biological cycles of truffles and how to train a dog to hunt truffles. Follow your four-legged expert as he sniffs his way through the forest. It really is an adrenaline rush to come across these edible treasures! Once found, you will be treated to a delightful meal prepared with the truffle that you have just uncovered.

#### **DURATION** 6 hours

- Mercedes Car or Minivan and English-speaking driver (6 hours at disposal)
- Truffle Hunt lead by an expert
- Tasting lunch in a traditional Tuscan restaurant





MASTER THE ART OF TUSCAN CUISINE HANDS-ON IN A COUNTRY KITCHEN

# COOKING IN THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Fragrant bruschetta, tempting pasta with tasty sauces, sensational wines, cured meats and cheeses, premium olive oil and much more. Boasting miles of bountiful farmland, rich pastures and olive groves Tuscany is a gourmet's idea of heaven! And then again rambling olive groves and luxuriant vineyards, meadows dotted by farmhouses and tiny churches... the Tuscan countryside is certainly inspiring, and it can inspire one's culinary cravings too! Dive into the local gastronomic tradition, savor luscious typical specialties and master the art of preparing the best Tuscan dishes in a charming countryside location. Enjoy a memorable hands-on culinary experience, discover the variety of typical fresh produce and herbs and learn to make delicious dishes according to centuries-old recipes from the best teacher you can get, a talented local chef. Enjoy the journey, traveling comfortably by private transport, and admire splendid views on the way to your destination, a delightful typical countryside estate. Aprons on, uncover the rich culinary legacy of the area and follow your dedicated chef's skilled instructions to learn the tips and secrets which lie behind the mouth-watering typical dishes. Mince, measure, mix and knead according to tradition and... have fun! Your cooking class will comprise delicious local dishes, such as home-made pasta seasoned with the finest fresh local vegetables. Finally sit down and relax, relishing the view of the hills and the unique flavors of the best meal ever: the one you made yourself in the heart of the Tuscan countryside!

**DURATION**: 5 hours **INCLUSIONS** 

- Private transportation from/to your hotel
- Private cooking class led by English-speaking Tuscan cook in a charming countryside estate
- Lunch or dinner based on the menu prepared, inclusive of wines





# CLASSIC DAY TRIPS FROM LIVORNO HARBOR

We provide all the most unforgettable day tours from the Ports of Livorno ("Florence Port") and La Spezia (where Disney cruises land). These day trips are perfect for cruise guests with a couple of days to spend on shore. Tours will be provided at disposal and we suggest making advanced reservations to Florence to avoid long queues in the high season. This service is provided on a complementary basis. Reservations are required for the Academy of Fine arts in Florence (Michelangelo's David) and for the Uffizi Gallery. Customized tours all over the region of Tuscany are available. Considering the distances and time to ship arrivals and departures, we suggest a cooking class in the Tuscan Countryside, Tuscany Bike Tour, History Bike Tour of Lucca and entrance to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In Florence we can organize a private tour with entrances to the Uffizi Galleries and Accademia, or a personalized itinerary for families. Many options are available upon request!

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Mercedes Car or Minivan and English speaking driver (9 hours at disposal)
- Guided tour of three hours in Florence
- Entrance to the Accademia Gallery

Details of the program may vary from the published itinerary. Many more itineraries are available from Livorno including Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa, Lucca, Bolgheri, and The Outlets.





## FLORENCE CITY CENTER AND THE ACCADEMIA

Carefully crafted to offer an enjoyable and stress-free experience our day trips are perfect for cruise guests who have one or more days to spend on shore. Explore the essence of Tuscany discovering Florence's world-celebrated city center and one of the greatest masterpieces of all times: Michelangelo's David! Depart your port of call by private Mercedes car or minivan with English speaking driver and enjoy a pleasant worry-free drive to Florence. Meet your private English-speaking guide and set off to explore the town center and discover the landmarks and main sights. Admire the shiny white and green marble of Santa Maria Novella, the lively San Lorenzo area and magnificent Duomo square, the Medieval district and Santa Croce and dive into art and art history at the extraordinary Accademia gallery. Escorted by your guide you will be able to learn all about Michelangelo's genius and view his masterpiece, the David. At lunch time enjoy a break and pamper yourself with a tasty typical lunch. Optional stop for short visit at leisure in Pisa on the way back to the cruise ship.

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guide in Florence
- Walking tour of Florence
- Reservations and skip the line tickets for the Accademia Gallery





## LUCCA AND PISA

Our signature Private Shore Excursions are unforgettable day tours available from the Ports of Livorno ("Florence Port") and La Spezia (where Disney cruises land). Carefully crafted to offer an enjoyable and stress-free experience our day trips are perfect for cruise guests who have one or more days to spend on shore. Explore the essence of Tuscany visiting Lucca and Pisa, two of the region's jewels! Depart your port of call by private Mercedes car or minivan with English speaking driver and enjoy a pleasant worry-free drive to Lucca. Still off the beaten tourist track, the town boasts a relaxed atmosphere and is rich in artistic and architectural treasures. Set off on a private guided tour to discover the town's most remarkable sights, on foot or by bike. Led by your dedicated local guide you will be able to admire Piazza Anfiteatro, built over the ancient Roman theater, the Torre Guinigi (exteriors), the Duomo di San Martino, the picturesque "antique dealers' street", and Lucca's most extraordinary feature: its massive, perfectly preserved, 40-meter high city walls, today a pedestrian park! Enjoy a delicious typical lunch in Lucca's best trattoria and then travel on to Pisa, renowned throughout the world for its unique, unrivaled landmarks. Explore Pisa's singular sights led by the knowledge and insider's view of our best local guide. Discover the superb, unforgettable, Piazza dei Miracoli (the Miracle Square), crowned by the stunning leaning tower, and uncover the history and treasures which lie inside the Duomo and Baptistery.

#### **DURATION** 8 hours

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guides in Lucca and Pisa
- Lucca Cathedral tickets
- Reservations and tickets for the Duomo and Baptistery in Pisa

#### **OPTIONAL SERVICES:**

- Torre Guinigi tickets
- Bike tour in Lucca
- Reservation and tickets for the Leaning Tower in Pisa





# SIENA AND SAN GIMIGNANO

Our signature Private Shore Excursions are unforgettable day tours available from the Ports of Livorno ("Florence Port") and La Spezia (where Disney cruises land). Carefully crafted to offer an enjoyable and stress-free experience our day trips are perfect for cruise guests who have one or more days to spend on shore. Explore the essence of Tuscany discovering Siena and San Gimignano, two of the region's most picturesque towns! Depart your port of call by private Mercedes car or minivan with English speaking driver and enjoy a pleasant worry-free drive to Siena. Set in a beautiful landscape, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, Siena is one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy. Set off on a private guided tour to discover the town's sights, appreciate the authentic medieval atmosphere which makes this town special and unique. Explore Siena's picturesque streets, admire Piazza del Campo, where twice a year dashing horses compete in the heart-rendering Palio race and visit the city's awe-inspiring Duomo: it boasts one of the most beautiful floors in the world. Enjoy a delicious typical lunch in one of the Siena's best trattorias and then travel on to San Gimignano, UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most splendid examples of a medieval town. Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" it is a charming ancient town and has been used as a background in many movies. Discover the sturdy tall towers which characterize the town escorted by our best local guide, delight in the airy squares and shop for the area's premium saffron and hand-made Santa Fina pottery.

#### **DURATION** 8 hours

- Private Mercedes car or minivan with English-speaking driver for the day
- Private English-speaking guides in Siena
- · Walking tour in Siena
- Time at leisure in San Gimignano
- Reservations and tickets for the Duomo in Siena (not available on Sunday Mornings)















