

A Taste of Tuscany



October 21 -28, 2006

Saturday, Oct. 21st

Day 1 – Arrival, Welcome to Tuscany

Sommelier guided wine tasting and Grigliata Toscana at the Villa



Rendezvous at Florence airport or train station and transfer to luxury villa accommodations in the Tuscan countryside. Free afternoon to relax into the pace of life *Under the Tuscan Sun*. In the evening you will be welcomed by your hosts and will enjoy a Sommelier-guided tasting of fine Tuscan wines and an array of Traditional Tuscan Antipasti. Our evening will follow with the *art of wine tasting technique* as well as learning about winemaking in the Tuscan region. We will continue our celebration at the villa with a ‘Grigliata Toscana’ (Italian style BBQ) featuring grilled Fiorentina steaks and great local wines.

Day 1 includes:

Welcome to Tuscany Sommelier-guided tasting of Tuscan wines and Antipasti at the villa
Grigliata Toscana dinner at the villa with wine
Transportation from airport or train station with private bus and driver
Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Sunday, Oct. 22nd

*Day 2 – Your Italian Concierge Presents: Hill-top Towers of Tuscany, Featuring
Monteriggioni & San Gimignano*

Slow down and experience life Italian style!



In the morning enjoy a wonderful breakfast of fresh local foods prepared for us at the villa before heading off to explore two of Tuscany's most breathtaking hill-top villages; Monteriggioni and San Gimignano.

"Monteriggioni di torri si corona" wrote Dante in 14th century Florence when describing this village as a royal crown on top of a hill surrounded by towers. Breathe in the history of Monteriggioni as you wander the cobblestone streets and enjoy a Cappuccino at a charming Café in the Piazza.

Head over to the beautiful San Gimignano countryside and stop at our countryside retreat 'Podere Gaia' for a tasting of Tuscany's best Bruschettas, toasted on an open fire and accompanied by delicious local wine.

After our Bruschetta lunch and relaxing 'siesta' in the beautiful countryside, we will journey over to the most famous city of towers – San Gimignano. Once home to countless stone towers, today its 17 remaining giants mark the horizon with a spectacular medieval skyline. In San Gimignano we'll enjoy a guided tour with a local art historian followed by free time to explore on your own.

In the evening we'll return to the villa with free time to rest and relax before moving on to a delicious dinner at a small village Trattoria.

Day 2 includes:

- Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa
- Private Bruschetta lunch at Podere Gaia with local wine
- Dinner with wine
- Transportation in private bus and driver
- Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Monday, Oct. 23rd

Day 3 – diVino presents: Brunello di Montalcino Wine Tour

The Ultimate wine lover's experience



In the morning enjoy a wonderful breakfast of fresh local foods prepared for us at the villa.

After breakfast we will journey through the breathtaking landscapes of the Montalcino countryside, stopping to tour some of the finest Brunello producing wineries.

Enjoy a fabulous private lunch prepared especially for us in a small family run winery accompanied by estate wines. Walk the cobblestone streets of the medieval hill-top city of Montalcino and visit its 14th century fortress castle.

In the evening return to the villa for free time to relax after our day's feasting. For any of us that may still be hungry there is an optional transfer to dinner at a great local Trattoria.

Day 3 includes:

Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa

All winery entrance and tasting fees

Private winery luncheon with wine

Transportation in private bus and driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Tuesday, Oct. 24th

Day 4 – Your Italian Concierge presents: Siena by night

Step back in time and experience the true spirit of Tuscany - by night



After a leisurely morning to enjoy your breakfast buffet and relax in the beautiful surroundings of your Tuscan villa, we will travel to the unforgettable Gothic city of Siena. Enjoy a private guided tour of the city with a local art historian and learn about the unique customs and traditions of Siena and the world famous Palio horse race. Enjoy a free evening on your own in the magical city to sample some of the wonderful cuisine or sip Limoncello under the stars on the Piazza del Campo.

Day 4 includes:

Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa

Private tour of Siena with local art historian

Transportation in private bus and driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Wednesday, Oct. 25th

Day 5 – diVino presents: Hidden Chianti Castles Culinary Hike

Discover the hidden gems of the quiet Chianti countryside



Midway through our week we'll get some exercise, while we explore the less traveled paths of Tuscany's beautiful hilltop hamlets and castles.

We'll hike through the lush rolling hills, stopping at hidden medieval hilltop villages and enjoying extraordinary views while taking in the scents and sounds of some of the world's most inspiring landscapes.

During the hike we'll immerse ourselves into our *culinary countryside experience* including a wonderful Tuscan picnic featuring some of the most delicious traditional food products of our region. The gourmet picnic will be paired with wonderful local wines chosen by our Sommelier.

In the afternoon we'll return to the villa and enjoy free time to relax by the pool and enjoy beautiful Tuscan surroundings. In the evening we will journey to one of the area's best restaurant to enjoy a well-earned, gourmet dinner.

Day 5 includes:

Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa

Guided Chianti hike

Gourmet picnic with Sommelier wine-pairing

Gourmet dinner with wine

Transportation in private bus and driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Thursday, Oct. 26th

Day 6 – Your Italian Concierge: Crete Senesi and Pienza

Beauty as far as the eye can see



In the morning enjoy a wonderful breakfast of fresh local foods prepared for us at the villa before heading into the breathtaking Crete Senesi hills south of Siena.

Learn why Pienza is the “perfect renaissance village” and enjoy wandering the charming streets and catching amazing views over the countryside. Meet with Linda, our local terracotta painter, in her historic grotto where she will give us a demonstration of the intricate techniques of hand-painting ceramics. We will have free time to explore Pienza on our own before heading to lunch in the glorious Crete Senesi countryside to sample local Pecorino cheeses (Pienza’s specialty!) and other Tuscan delicacies. On our way home through the Crete we’ll stop to visit the Benedictine abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore to see one of Europe’s most awe inspiring monasteries and hear the evening mass sung in Gregorian chants.

Return home to the villa and free evening with optional transfer to a local restaurant for dinner.

Day 6 includes:

Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa

Linda’s ceramic demonstration in Pienza

Lunch with wine

Transportation in private bus and driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Friday, Oct. 27th

*Day 7 – diVino presents: Chianti Classico Wine Tour
& Private wine tasting dinner*

Travel the path of the Black Rooster



In the morning enjoy a wonderful breakfast of fresh local foods prepared for us at the villa.

Travel to the Chianti Classico region, stopping to tour the cellars of hidden and world famous wineries. Enjoy a delicious lunch of one of our favorite restaurants and a visit to one of the region’s breathtaking fortress castles. In the afternoon return to the villa and free time to rest and relax.

In the evening we will celebrate our Tuscan Experience together with our Gourmet Farewell Feast at the villa. This winemaker’s dinner will include a full gourmet Tuscan feast accompanied by the wines of one of Tuscany’s finest estates, presented by the winemaker with our bilingual expert Sommelier.

Day 7 includes:

Tuscan Buffet breakfast catered at the villa

All winery entrance and tasting fees

Lunch with wine

Private, ‘Gourmet Farewell wine-tasting Feast’ at the villa.

Transportation in private bus and driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

Saturday, Oct. 28th
Day 8 – Departure



Am check out and transfer to Florence train station or airport and farewell

Day 8 includes:

Transportation to train station or airport for departure in a private bus with driver

Services of 2 bilingual expert guides

The 8 day, 7 night Taste of Tuscany Tour includes:

- 7 nights accommodations in a double room in a Luxury villa in the Tuscan countryside.
- 7 delicious buffet breakfasts catered at the villa
- 5 lunches with wine, including private winery lunch in Montalcino, gourmet picnic and Bruschetta lunch.
- 4 dinners with wine, including 2 private gourmet dinners catered directly at the Villa
- Welcome to Tuscany guided tasting of fine Tuscan wines with introduction to wine tasting technique and history of winemaking in Tuscany.
- Services of 2 bilingual expert guides, who will accompany you throughout your trip, take care of logistics and supply you with lots of inside information.
- All transportation from pick-up to drop-off in a private bus with driver.
- Guided tours of historic city centers in Siena & San Gimignano with local art historian guides.
- Admission to wineries (including tasting fees).
- Information packets including detailed itineraries, information on wineries, historic sites, local history and useful tips for travelling in Italy.
- Baggage transport between hotels.

Special promotional 2006 price – 2999 Euro per person

Based on double occupancy

Private and custom versions of this tour are available for your private group on the dates of your choice.

(Private tour supplements may apply)