



PERSONALLY CURATED SMALL GROUP & PRIVATE JOURNEYS

EUROPE 2017|18

"TO TRAVEL IS TO LIVE."
HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



BEST OF TUSCANY & SURROUNDS

11 Days

Welcome to The Best of Tuscany and Surrounds, an exhilarating tour designed to provide the complete experience of Tuscany, as well as the best of the surrounding areas. Across 11 sensational days, be courted by the allure of Tuscany's winding roads, wander the cobbled streets of its secluded villages, participate in an authentic Tuscan cooking class, discover unforgettable tastings in Italy's renowned wine regions, and be romanced by the five coastal villages of Cinque Terre.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

- > Visit Tuscany's renowned towns and secluded villages plus Rapallo, Cinque Terre and Assisi.
- > 10 nights in exquisite 4 and 5 star hotels.
- > 10 breakfasts (B), 2 lunches (L), 1 dinner (D).
- > Guided tour of Florence including the Accademia Gallery with entrance fee.
- > Guided tour of Siena including entrance to Siena's Cathedral.
- > Wine tasting in Tuscany's renowned region of Montalcino.
- > Lunch at a Tuscan vineyard.
- > Lunch at an olive oil producing estate, paired with olive oil tasting and workshop visit.
- > Tuscan cooking class.
- > Cheese tasting in Pienza.
- > Deluxe transport and boat excursion in Cinque Terre.
- > Airport transfers on first and last day.

DAY 1 Florence

Welcome to Florence, the heart of Tuscany and the perfect starting point for our Best of Tuscany and Surrounds tour. Upon arrival, be transferred to your hotel in the heart of Florence. For those arriving early you may wish to visit the Museo Del Bargello, Museo Stibbert, the Pitti Palace, Medici Tombs or the famed Uffizi Gallery – which hosts impressive works from Italian and Florentine artists. The evening is yours to relax at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Brunelleschi 4 star or similar

DAY 2 Florence (B)

After breakfast, meet your local guide and enjoy a walking tour of Florence's main attractions including the Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, the Duomo, the Giotto's Campanile bell tower and the Florence Baptistery with its gilded bronze doors (described by Michelangelo as the 'Gates of Paradise'). Also enjoy a tour of the Accademia Gallery to witness Michelangelo's David and his 'Unfinished Prisoners'.

The rest of the day is at your leisure to explore or take advantage of Florence's fantastic shopping, particularly its leather goods.

Overnight: Hotel Brunelleschi or similar

DAY 3 Florence – Lucca – Rapallo (B, L)

Today depart for the enchanting town of Lucca, famous for its historic centre and medieval towers, which are enclosed by some of the best preserved ramparts in Italy. Here embrace the opportunity to get lost in Lucca's maze of streets before enjoying lunch at an olive oil producing estate, paired with a tasting and workshop visit. Afterward, progress to Rapallo where you may freshen up before you have the evening at your leisure to dine at one of its many seaside restaurants.

Overnight: Excelsior Palace Hotel 5 star or similar

DAY 4 Rapallo – Cinque Terre – Rapallo (B)

Spend the day with your guide to explore the beautiful Cinque Terre, comprised of five neighbouring towns of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso al Mare that hug the rugged cliffs of the Italian Riviera. Visit the former fishing villages from land and sea before returning to Rapallo.

Overnight: Excelsior Palace Hotel or similar



COMBINE WITH

This tour may be combined with Highlights of Italy (South) on certain dates.

PRIVATE JOURNEY

This tour may be taken any time as a private journey.



Ponte Vecchio, Florence



Duomo, Florence



Manarola, Cinque Terre



San Gimignano



Piazza della Cisterna, San Gimignano



Leaning Tower, Pisa

DAY 5 Rapallo (B)

Enjoy the day at your leisure to explore Rapallo, venture along the Ligurian coastline to the neighbouring towns of Santa Margherita and Portofino or hike in the renowned Portofino National Park.

Overnight: Excelsior Palace Hotel or similar

DAY 6 Rapallo – Pisa – Volterra – Siena (B)

Depart Rapallo for a short stop to Pisa to view the Leaning Tower before continuing to the ancient Tuscan village of Volterra. An important Etruscan city, Volterra features beautiful winding cobbled streets and its artisan craftsmanship, particularly alabaster carvings. Enjoy some time for an independent lunch before continuing through the magnificent Tuscan countryside to Siena, with its maze of narrow streets and alleys converging onto one of Europe's most famous squares, the Piazza del Campo.

On arrival, the rest of the day and evening is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Continental 5 star or similar

DAY 7 Siena – San Gimignano – Monteriggioni – Siena (B)

This morning, enjoy a privately guided tour of the town, including its impressive cathedral. Afterward, explore two of Tuscany's most renowned villages. Visit the multi-towered town of San Gimignano (an art-rich region boasting the Collegiata); a 12th century Romanesque church with famous frescoes; and the Piazza del Duomo that houses the Museo Civico and Palazzo del Popolo. Enjoy time to explore the town at your leisure including perhaps, climbing the stairs up one of the towers for a fantastic view. Afterward, continue to the walled city of Monteriggioni, built in 1213 by the Siense to defend advances from Florence, before returning to Siena.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Continental or similar

DAY 8 Siena – Montalcino – Pienza – Tuscan retreat (B, L)

Today, combine a visit to Montalcino, and Pienza for an inspiring day in one of the world's most enchanting wine regions for wine and cheese tastings and lunch at a renowned vineyard. Afterward, return for a relaxed evening at your secluded Tuscan retreat.

Overnight: Castel Monastero Resort & Spa 5 star or similar

DAY 9 Tuscan retreat (B, D)

This morning is free for you to relax by the pool, take an optional truffle-hunting tour (season permitting) or indulge in more wine tasting in nearby Chianti. In the afternoon, delve into an organised Tuscan cooking class to learn the culinary secrets of the region before enjoying your efforts with a wonderful dinner.

Overnight: Castel Monastero Resort & Spa or similar

DAY 10 Tuscan retreat – Assisi – Cortona – Tuscan Retreat (B)

Spend today exploring Assisi and Cortona. A medieval town perched halfway up Monte Subasio, Assisi is home to the Franciscan monks and the Basilica di San Francesco. Constructed in the 12th century, this Basilica houses Giotto's sequence of 28 frescoes depicting the life of Saint Francis. Continue to Cortona, with its medieval architecture and steep narrow streets that were famously featured in the film 'Under the Tuscan Sun'.

Overnight: Castel Monastero Resort & Spa or similar

DAY 11 Tuscan retreat – Florence (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Florence for your ongoing journey.

THE BEST OF
TUSCANY TOUR IS
DESIGNED TO
EXCITE THE SENSES.



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Arno River, Florence