

## **Tastes of Tuscany**

Starting Prices: \$3259 Air & Land Single Supplement Available

## **Escorted Package Included**

- Round-trip flights New York-Florence, Florence-New York -- Other departure cities available
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 7 nights Montecatini
- Italian city hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel porterage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates†
- 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 4 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in all major cities
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

## **Special Features**

- Travel to the Chianti region, where one of Italy's most famous red wine is produced
- Walking Tour of Lucca, a jewel of medieval architecture
- View Pisa's famous Piazza dei Miracoli with its Leaning Tower
- Wine tasting, cooking class and dinner at a Tuscan Farm
- Explore the Renaissance city of Florence with a guided walking tour

## **Passports and Visas**

• It is each traveler's responsibility to have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of travel **and** a visa if required. Please check the information at <a href="https://www.gate1travel.com/visas.aspx">www.gate1travel.com/visas.aspx</a> for the specific country/region you are visiting for more details. Passengers requiring visas, whether obtained in advance or locally upon arrival, should ensure that their passport has blank pages.

**Note:** Availability and prices subject to change without prior notice.

**DAY 2 - Arrive in Florence, Transfer to Montecatini.** Arrive in Florence and transfer to your hotel in Montecatini. The rest of the day is at leisure to immerse yourself in the beautiful surroundings. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 6 PM (exact time will be advised on tour arrival day), followed by dinner. We recommend you to select flights that arrive no later than 4 PM. **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Dinner

**DAY 3 - Chianti Wine Tasting and Lunch, Town of Greve.** Today, enjoy breathtaking scenery as you travel to the magnificent Chianti region, in the very heart of the Tuscan countryside, where one of Italy's most famous red wine is produced. Chianti offers a unique landscape, with green, gentle hills covered with wide fields of vineyards and olive groves, small rural villages, characteristic parishes and countryside homes in stone. Stop at one of the local vineyards for wine tasting followed by lunch highlighted by regional specialties. Then, on to the small town of Greve where you have time to wander around, sip an espresso, or indulge in a gelato before returning to Montecatini. **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**DAY 4 - Full Day in Montecatini.** Full day at leisure to explore Montecatini and its surroundings on your own or take an optional tour to the spectacular Cinque Terre\*, one of the most beautiful areas of the Liguria region. Here the Cinque Terre National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, comprises of five small villages, nestled in the cliffs overlooking the sea and the surrounding hillsides. Marvel at the scenic coastline while exploring the villages and the beautiful vistas. This active walking tour covers a fair amount of ground facing uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. Trains and/or boats will be the means of transportation between the towns. \*Exact tour itinerary & operation of the tour is subject to weather conditions as well as group size and will be advised locally. **Optional:** Cinque Terre Tour **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 - Excursion to Pisa and Lucca, Wine Tasting & Cooking Class with Dinner. Magnificent panoramas await you today. Drive through the rolling countryside dotted with olive trees to Lucca, a jewel of medieval architecture, with its massive 17th century walls framing the city. Walk along the winding streets of the original Roman grid revealing layers of history at every turn. Arrive at the Church of San Michele adorned by its beautiful piazza, occupying the site of the ancient Roman Forum. Then, to Pisa to view the famous Piazza dei Miracoli with its Leaning Tower, one of the most instantly recognizable structures on earth. The monuments on the extraordinary Piazza dei Miracoli create a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. A lovely end to the day with a visit to a traditional Tuscan farm. After a warm welcome and wine tasting, participate in a cooking class followed by dinner with delicious typical local dishes and regional wines. Overnight: Montecatini Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 6 - Excursion to Florence.** Today, travel to Florence, birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Upon arrival, take a guided walking tour through the heart of Florence, to view the magnificent Duomo, with its Brunelleschi-designed dome, the renowned "Gates of Paradise" of the Baptistery by Ghiberti and Giotto's Bell Tower. Proceed to the open-air art museum of Signoria Square, and admire the statues of the Loggia dei Lanzi, Palazzo Vecchio, former residence of the Medici family, before continuing to the splendid Ponte Vecchio, the "Old Bridge". Spend time on your own in the afternoon to visit museums, shop for gold and quality leather before returning to Montecatini. **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Breakfast

**DAY 7 - Full Day in Montecatini.** Spend time at leisure, or join the optional full day excursion to the enchanting medieval city of Siena that sits elegantly over three hills. The heart of the city is the stunning Piazza del Campo, the huge central plaza where the Roman Forum used to be. It is now the site of the famous Palio horse race, that takes place twice every summer to celebrate the holy apparition and assumption of the Virgin Mary, patron saint of the city. Tour Campo Square before returning to Montecatini for dinner at the hotel. **Optional:** Full Day Siena from Montecatini **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 8 - Full Day in Montecatini. This last day is yours to relax. E**xplore the streets with its many elegant shops and stylish cafes, or treat yourself to a soothing massage at one of the spas in town. Perhaps join the optional morning tour and discover the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, often depicted in Leonardo's maps and in his famous drawings. Surrounded by centuries-old olive trees, in a landscape almost untouched by time, you will view the house where Leonardo was born in 1452. From there, continue to the town of Vinci, to visit the museum that documents the work of Leonardo the inventor, the scientist, and the engineer. End the tour with a Tuscan "merenda", savoring the typical wine and snacks of the area before returning to Montecatini. Tonight, bid farewell to your Tour Manager at dinner. **Optional:** Half Day Leonardo da Vinci Tour from Montecatini (AM). **Overnight:** Montecatini **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner