



# TUSCANY

## IN A TUSCAN VILLA

Groups are limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.



### Under the Tuscan Sun

Tuscany is one of the world's most beloved destinations, and for good reason: The wine, food, landmarks and art are second to none. On this expertly planned journey, the quintessential Tuscan town of Cortona will be your home where you will

experience the inviting ambience of a charming Tuscan villa. During exciting excursions, stroll through Tuscan hill towns, linger in medieval villages, sip Brunello among the rolling hills and taste the flavors of Tuscany from farm to table. Feast your eyes on world-famous monuments, inspiring architecture and ethereal landscapes. Uncover Renaissance Florence, and explore its historic rival, Gothic Siena. Throughout your journey, admire Tuscany's soul-stirring countryside settings and truly immerse yourself in the Tuscan way of life.



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Groups are limited to 28 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites:** The Historic Center of Siena, the Historic Center of Florence, and Val d'Orcia.
- Stroll through Siena's narrow alleys, and see the city's dramatic **Duomo** and iconic **Piazza del Campo**.
- Marvel at archeological gems in the **14th-century Praetorian Palace**.
- **Learn from a Tuscan winemaker** about Brunello di Montalcino, a celebrated wine from the Val d'Orcia.
- Explore the magnificent medieval towns of **Cortona and Montepulciano**.

### INCLUDED FEATURES

#### Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in Cortona, Italy, at the first-class **Villa Marsili**.

#### Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

#### Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

#### Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy seven breakfasts, one lunch and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

### MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Florence, Italy.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

### DAY 2 ~ FLORENCE/CORTONA

Upon arrival, transfer† to Cortona and check in to the Villa Marsili.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

### DAY 3 ~ CORTONA

**Educational Focus:** *Cortona and Its Environs.*

**Excursion:** *Cortona.* Stroll through the picture-perfect streets of Cortona. Delight in its exceptional Etruscan features as you stroll by historic palazzi and lively piazzas. See the Romanesque cathedral and admire beautiful works of art in the Diocesan Museum.

**Local Flavor:** Sit down for a lunch of classic Tuscan cuisine.

**Excursion:** *The Tuscan*

*Countryside.* Enjoy a drive through the scenic Val d'Orcia to a winery in the Brunello di Montalcino wine region. Tour the winery and sample the wines and local cheeses.

### DAY 4 ~ CORTONA

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy a full day of leisure in Cortona.

### DAY 5 ~ MONTEPULCIANO

**Excursion:** *Montepulciano.* Enjoy a morning in Montepulciano, a charming Tuscan hill town. En route, visit the Church of the Madonna di San Biagio, a Renaissance pilgrimage church that sits at the foot of the hill below Montepulciano.

**Independent Exploration:** This walled hill town is a beautiful example of a medieval Tuscan town. Admire the cathedral in the Piazza Grande, Renaissance palaces and pretty town squares and browse through shops as you make your way down the hill.

**Educational Focus:** *Contemporary Italy.*

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Cortona.

### DAY 6 ~ SIENA

**Educational Focus:** *Renaissance Art.*

**Excursion:** *Siena.* Wander through Siena's labyrinth of Gothic architecture. The city has remained remarkably unchanged over the centuries. See the

Gaia Fountain and Mangia Tower. Visit the black-and-gold-striped Duomo.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy time for lunch and sightseeing on your own in Siena.

### DAY 7 ~ FLORENCE

**Excursion:** *Cradle of the Renaissance.* Florence is a veritable open-air museum, an urban masterpiece. Explore the city center and discover how the city's wealth of creative genius left it laden with fine art and stunning architecture around every turn. See the Old Palace, the Ponte Vecchio, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Piazza della Signoria.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy time for lunch and sightseeing on your own. You may choose to visit the Uffizi Gallery or the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's David.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Cortona.

### DAY 8 ~ CORTONA

**Excursion:** *Etruscan Treasures.* Admire the artistic legacy of the Etruscans, who first settled in what now is Cortona. Visit the 14th-century Praetorian Palace. Inside, the Museum of the Etruscan Academy will astound you with archaeological finds and important Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Egyptian works of art, mosaics and a collection of engraved gems.

Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

### DAY 9 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

**NOTE:** *The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

### ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

**Assisi and Perugia.** On Day 4, visit the walled cities and historical sites of Assisi and Perugia. Enjoy lunch in Assisi and leisure time in the afternoon.

**Italian Cooking.** On Day 8, test your Italian cuisine skills during a cooking demonstration. Then enjoy a delicious lunch in Cortona.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



### VILLA MARSILI

#### Cortona

Located in the heart of Cortona, the Villa Marsili is beautifully restored with warmth and character. Antique furniture and frescoed walls add to the hotel's Tuscan flourishes and cozy, modern comforts. Each guest room features a peaceful and revitalizing retreat after a day of sightseeing, and the tranquil courtyard is an ideal oasis to unwind with new friends. The hotel offers a bar and Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Siena

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