

Tuscany Food & Wine Excursion

September 24th – October 2nd, 2021



Day 1: Friday, September 24th, ~ Air Transat Flight #TBA departure from Toronto – 21:15 (9:15pm) -Terminal 3. Note: flight arrives in Rome at 11:55 am the following day. Please arrive at the airport at least 3 hours prior to your departure; scheduled times subject to change.

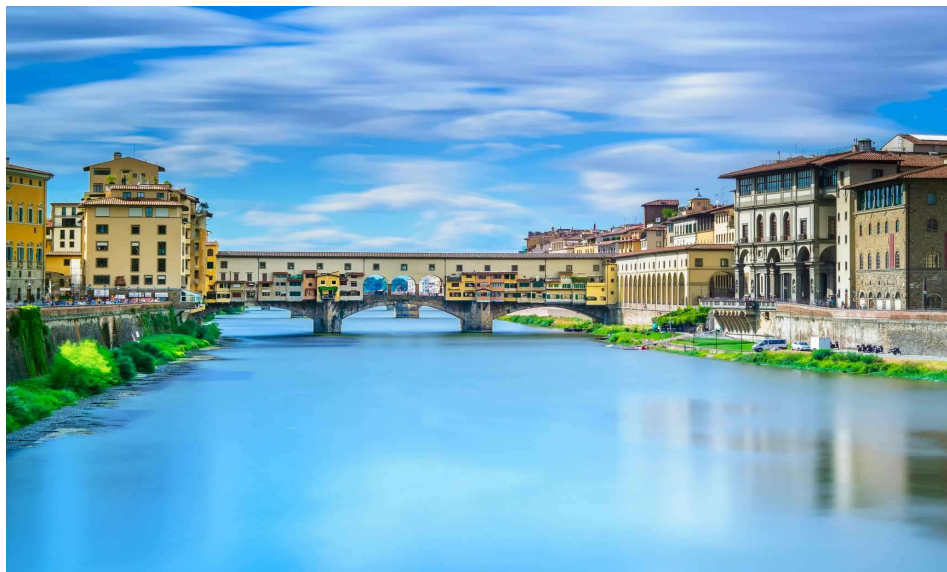
Day 2: Saturday, September 25th, ~ Arrive in Rome's Fiumicino Airport ~ Welcomed at the airport by your hosts Darren Johns and Darlene Stewart. Deluxe Mercedes Benz shuttle transfer to the charming and impeccable service of the Hotel Apogeo for your seven-night stay. Settle into your full-amenity 4.5 star accommodation (Source: Trip Advisor), and enjoy local specialty foods at our formal welcome dinner in Lucignano. (7:30pm Dinner)

Day 3: Sunday, September 26th, ~ SIENA ~ Morning walking tour of Siena with our top professional local guide. Visit Piazza il Campo, Palazzo Pubblico, and the absolutely stunning black and white marble “Basilica di San Domenico”. At the end of the tour, immerse yourself in the magical atmosphere of Palazzo Centro and visit the “Contrada Museum”. Free time for lunch / espresso along the Palio Promenade and its many world class outdoor cafes overlooking Siena centrale. Dinner at famed Piccolo Guastini’s in Valiano with our dinner hosts David and Emmanuela.
<http://www.piccolatrattoriaguastini.it/> (Bkfst, 7:30pm Dinner).

Day 4: Monday, September 27th, ~ MONTEPULCIANO ~ After breakfast, depart for a professionally guided tour of Montepulciano. Free time for shopping & exploration of this incredible hill-top City followed by late afternoon return to hotel. Dinner location TBA. (Bkfst, 7:00pm Dinner)



Day 5: Tuesday, September 28th, ~ FLORENCE ~ Today we are off to an early start for arrival by 8:30am at the Galleria dell'Accademia, where Michelangelo's towering statue of David (1501–1504) is displayed in its own rotunda, bathed in natural light. Our professionally guided tour will also include a stop at the Cathedral entrance, the Gates of Paradise and Piazza della Repubblica. Free time for visits to Ponte Vecchio (pictured below), Signoria Square, museums, and shopping on Morocco Street...or relaxing in one of the many excellent cafes and restaurants. One of FLORENCE'S highlights is sitting and enjoying an espresso in one of its four main palazzo's. A perennial question is about leather shopping; our response is, if you want the best quality leather and fashion in shoes, handbags, and couture jackets, this is the place. Your host Darren will show you the hidden spots. Late afternoon return to our hotel for quick refresh before dinner in Sinalunga. (Breakfast, 7:30pm Dinner)



Day 6: Wednesday, September 29th, ~ SAN GIMIGNANO ~ After breakfast departure for this 13th century walled city known as the “Town of fine Towers”, and popular for its hand crafted leather goods, Saffron and distinctive white wine called Vernaccia di San Gimignano, produced from the ancient variety of Vernaccia grape; grown on the sandstone hills of the area. You will have the morning for sightseeing, shopping and lunch on your own before departing for our 2pm wine tour and tasting at Tenuta Torciano. This vineyard and winery is the product of the passion and hard work of a Tuscan family over three centuries and 15 generations. Today, Pierluigi Giachi, together with his wife Luciana Cilemmi and son Emanuele Bartolomeo Giachi, carry on this ancient family tradition. Dinner location TBA. (Bkfst, 7:00pm Dinner.)

Day 7: Thursday, September 30th, ~ CORTONA. After breakfast we depart to historic Cortona for a professionally guided tour of this beautiful hill-top City, made famous by the film, "Under the Tuscan Sun". Free time to explore the town and have lunch. Depart after lunch for early-afternoon tour, and wine tasting at micro winery BOScarelli, famed for its small scale, hyper-quality operation, still hand-picked and processed. The handmade nature of Boscarelli is one of Montepulciano's unique gems, and our hosts Alberto & Francesca demonstrates why quality over quantity still remains here today. Dinner in the Montepulciano hills at 7:00pm. (Bkfst,Dinner)

Day 8: Friday, October 1st, ~ PIENZA – Breakfast at Hotel Apogeo, followed by departure to Podere il Casale, a fully-integrated organic farm, agrotour cheese producer, and restaurant. Meet the family who started it all and taste the fruits of their labour including cheese, wine, saffron, olive oil, homemade pasta and unique honey products. After our farm visit, transfer to the town of Pienza to enjoy a relaxing stroll through its picturesque streets; famous for PECORINO cheese and olive-oil based masterpieces. Enjoy lunch at your leisure in the town square, then off to a wine tour, tasting and appetizers at the Valdipiatta winery - with its impressive reputation for producing some of the finest Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Closing dinner at Baracotta in Lucignano. (Bkfst, 7:30pm Dinner)

Day 9: Saturday, October 2nd, Airport departure ~ Following breakfast at the Hotel, checkout and transfer to Rome's Fiumicino airport for return flight to Toronto – Flight #TBA departs Rome at 1:40pm. Scheduled times subject to change.



Come experience Tuscany with us, we'd love to have you along!

Darren & Darlene