

# Tuscany Food & Wine Excursion

September 7<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> 2025



**Day 1: Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**~ Air Transat Flight #308 (TS2308) departure from Pearson International Airport, Toronto approx. 21:40 (9:40pm) . Note: flight arrives in Rome at 12:15pm the following day. Please arrive at the airport at least 3 hours prior to your departure; scheduled times subject to change so always best to double check your confirmation paperwork.

**Day 2: Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ Arrive in **Rome's Fiumicino Airport** ~ Welcomed at the airport by your hosts Darren Johns and Darlene Stewart. Private Mercedes Benz shuttle transfer to your private villa and your home for the next 7 nights. Our private villa boasts incredible apartments, olive gardens, spa and laundry facilities; all in one location. Your private apartment includes a small kitchenette, Euro-Queen bed, full bathroom and full access to all amenities that the villa offers; including roof-top pool and a spa suite complete with Turkish bath. Tonight, we take a short walk to the ancient town of Lucignano for our welcome dinner. (approx. 7:30pm Dinner).

**Day 3: Tuesday, September 9th ~ SIENA** ~ Breakfast at the Villa followed by transport to Siena for our morning walking tour with our exclusive and professional Tour Guide. Visit Piazza il Campo, Palazzo Pubblico, and the absolutely stunning black and white marble “Basilica di San Domenico, whose mosaic floors are only uncovered for visitor viewing at this time of year. At the end of the tour, immerse yourself in the magical atmosphere of Palazzo Centro and visit the “Contrada Museum” or simply soak up some free time, espresso, gelato, shopping or whatever you enjoy. Return to Villa to relax/change before dinner. Dinner this evening will be a feast in the foothills of Sinalunga! (Bkfst, Dinner)

**Day 4: Wednesday, September 10th ~ MONTEPULCIANO** ~ After breakfast, depart for a professionally guided tour of Montepulciano. Free time for shopping & exploration of this incredible hill-top city followed by mid afternoon visit to an exclusive, small-batch winery for our private tour and tasting. This family that still honours the authentic, hand-picked, hand-sorted wine making process and the quality is something you can all taste! Return to Villa. Dinner out this evening will have us experiencing a Michelin Star restaurant in Chiusi. The Chef advises the following dress code: “We recommend formal, elegant or smart casual clothing for our guests. For men, we ask you to avoid T-shirts, polo shirts, shorts and open shoes.” (Bkfst, Dinner.)



**Day 5: Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, SAN GIMIGNANO** ~ After breakfast, depart for this 13<sup>th</sup> century walled city known as the “Town of Fine Towers”; 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 and 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 mid-afternoon wine tour and tasting at the elegant and expansive Tenuta Torciano. This vineyard and winery is the product of the passion and hard work of a Tuscan family over three centuries and 16 generations. Today, Pierluigi Giachi, together with his wife Luciana Cilemmi and son Emanuele Bartolomeo Giachi, carry on this ancient family tradition. Return to Villa for time to relax and change before dinner at a Michelin Guide restaurant in the centre of historic Rapolano. (Bkfst, Dinner)



**Day 6: Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, ~ Florence** ~ Today we are off to Florence where we will begin our guided morning tour and general orientation of this grand and beautiful City! Your professionally guided tour will include front of the line entry to the Galleria dell'Accademia, where Michelangelo's towering statue of David (1501–1504) is displayed in its own natural-light rotunda. Our tour will also include a stop at the Cathedral entrance in front of the Gates of Paradise and Piazza della Repubblica. Free time begins around 1pm so that you can explore the Ponte Vecchio (pictured above), Signoria Square, museums, and shopping on famed Morocco Street...or simply relax 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 palazzos. A perennial question is about leather shopping. 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 and vendors who love our guests and offer exceptional discounts. Late afternoon departure from Florence for our return to the Villa for a quick rest and change before dinner at Michelin Guide restaurant in nearby Bettolle. (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 7: Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 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, shop or grab a bite to eat. We will regroup for departure to our early-afternoon wine tour and tasting located in the hills of Valdichiana, between the medieval villages of Lucignano and Monte San Savino. This winery and property has been owned by the same family for fifty years and we think you'll be delighted by this experience. Return to Villa for a quick change before dinner out. Tonight we are visiting another Michelin Guide restaurant to enjoy a lovingly prepared, beautiful dinner; on the hillside in Trequanda. (Bkfst, Dinner)

**Day 8: Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, ~ PIENZA –** Breakfast at Villa followed by our departure to 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. A powerful story and living testament to the successful pursuit of a dream through dedication, time and hard work! After our farm visit, transfer to the town of Pienza to enjoy a relaxing stroll through it's picturesque streets; famous for Pecorino cheese and olive-oil based products from foods to body lotions. Enjoy an espresso at your leisure in the town square, witness one of the many weddings or festivals in progress in the central palazzo, enjoy people watching while you lunch and, before we leave, follow Darlene to one of the BEST hand-crafted profumeria and natural soap boutiques in Italy. Once again, they love our guests and offer all of you discounts on your shopping. Closing dinner in Montepulciano promises to be both a beautiful and delicious experience with our host and dear friend David! (Bkfst, Dinner)

**Day 9: Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Airport departure.** Following breakfast, we will load the coach and transfer to Rome's Fiumicino airport for early check-in and return flight to Toronto – Flight #309 (TS2309) departs Rome at 2:15pm; Arrives Toronto: 6:00pm. Scheduled times subject to change.



**We're delighted to have you experience Tuscany with us!**

**Darren & Darlene**