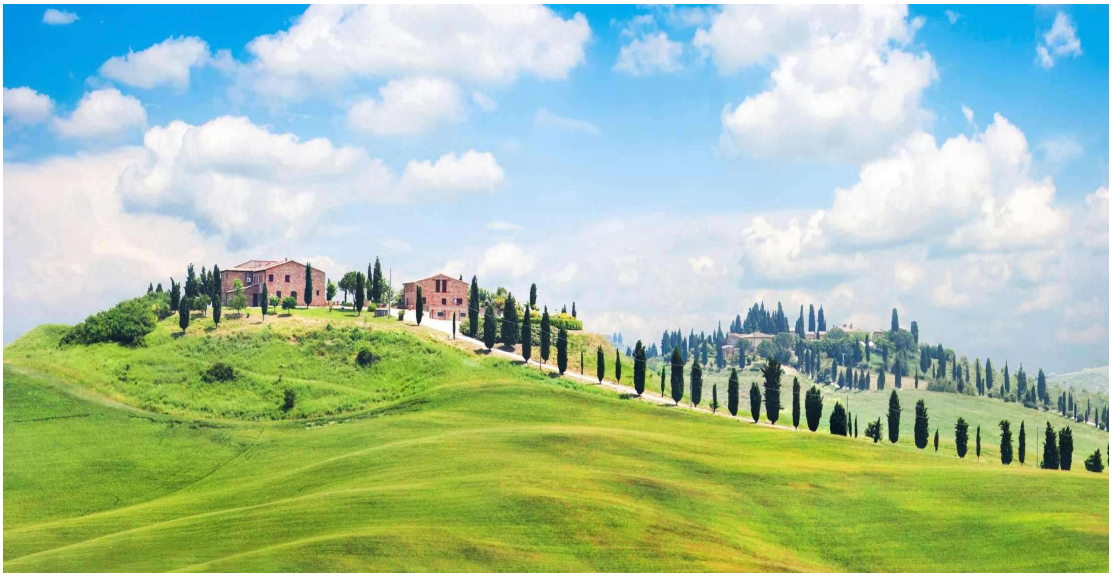
# Tuscany Food & Wine Excursion

## September 15th to September 22nd, 2027



**Day 1: Wednesday, September 15th~** Arrive in **Rome's Fiumicino Airport ~** Welcomed at the airport by your hosts Darren Johns and Darlene Stewart. (Meet up times and instructions will be provided). 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, outdoor swimming pools, 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, two olive orchard pools and an indoor 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 2: Thursday, September 16th ~ SIENA ~** Breakfast at the Villa followed by transport to Siena for our private morning walking tour with our professional 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 3: Friday, September 17th ~ MONTEPULCIANO ~** After breakfast, depart for casual walking tour to the top of Montepulciano with historical highlights provided by Darren & Darlene. Free time for shopping, dining & exploration of this incredible hill-top city. Group departs (approx 2pm), for our private small-batch winery tour and tasting with a family that still honours the authentic, hand-picked, hand-sorted wine making process; the quality is something you can all taste! Return to Villa. Dinner out this evening will be in the foothills of Cortona! (Bkfst, Dinner.)

**Day 4: Saturday, September 18th ~SAN GIMIGNANO ~** After breakfast, depart for this 13th 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. 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 5: Sunday, September 19th ~ Florence** ~ Today we are off to Florence where we will begin in the Piazza della Repubblica, with a visit to the famous Paskowski's Cafe to refuel and recharge before our one-hour general orientation of this grand and beautiful City! Our tour will provide you with a brief overview of the most intriguing landmarks and attractions; including stops at the grand Duomo entrance, the Gates of Paradise and Signorio Square, where the Uffizi is located, and is the gateway to the Ponte Vecchio. During your free time, you can explore the many 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 6: Monday, September 20th, ~ 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, dinner will be in Torrita di Siena. (Bkfst, Dinner)

**Day 7: Tuesday, September 21st ~ PIENZA** – Breakfast at Villa followed by our departure to a fully-integrated organic farm, agrotour cheese producer, and restaurant located in the heart of the Val D'Orcia Valley. 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 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 the foothills of Cortona promises to be both a beautiful and delicious experience with our host and dear friends at this unique restaurant and wine shop. (Bkfst, Dinner)

**Day 8: Wednesday, September 22nd , Airport departure.** Following breakfast, we will load the coach by 7:30am and depart by 8am for the group transfer South to Rome's Fiumicino airport for check-in within the required three-hour International travel requirement for the customary 2:15pm flights to Toronto.

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



**Darren & Darlene**