



Tuscan Tapestry

Tuscany...The word conjures images of rolling hills covered with vineyards, cypress and olive trees and charming villages adorned with rustic villas. Ancient, priceless art and incredible architecture come to mind as well as aromatic cuisine created with handmade pastas, rich oils and fresh garlic. Join us on a cultural, culinary and rejuvenating journey to experience the rich treasures of romantic Tuscany!

Day 1 (In-flight dinner)

Depart for our flight to Rome.

Day 2 (In-flight breakfast, Lunch)

Arrive in **Rome** this morning to begin our two-day discovery of the “eternal city.” Stroll through the **Piazza Navona** to admire the statues, fountains and works of local artists before we refresh ourselves with a three-course lunch at **La Pace del Palato**. We'll visit the **Pantheon**, the world's best preserved monument of antiquity. Then check into the **Hotel Visconti Palace** for two nights. Get settled in your elegantly appointed room, relax or get out and explore!

Day 3 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we begin our day with a tour of the fabulous **Vatican Museums**. Begun as a simple sculpture collection by Pope Julius II in the early 16th century, the Vatican Museums now house an immense collection of priceless artwork built through the centuries. Our visit concludes in the fabulous **Sistine Chapel** to marvel at the work of Michelangelo. We'll visit **St. Peter's Basilica**, the symbolic "Mother church" of the Catholic Church and regarded as one of the world's holiest Christian sites..

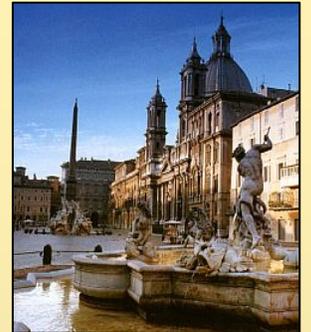
Take time to relax and have lunch along the popular **Via Borgo Pio** before we continue our tour to see all of Rome's highlights. We will return to the hotel to relax and refresh before we depart for a popular Rome restaurant to enjoy delicious, traditional, Italian cuisine and regional wine. After dinner enjoy a tasty Roman treat as you view the fabulous illuminated **Trevi Fountain**.

Day 4 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we'll tour the **Coliseum**, one of the most notable works of Roman architecture and engineering. Then we depart Rome and make our way through the Italian countryside to **Montecatini Terme**, famous for its mineral water springs that are said to have healing qualities. This attractive city full of spas, cafes, boutiques, large parks and gardens will make the perfect hub for our visit to Tuscany! Our home for the next five nights will be the lovely **Francia e Quirinale Hotel** where you'll have all the comforts and amenities needed for a wonderful stay. This evening we will have “dinner in the park” at the lovely **La Cascina Restaurant**.

Day 5 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we will have a **guided tour of Pisa**. Most renowned for its world famous **Leaning Tower**, Pisa offers many other architectural and artistic marvels. Next, we're on our way to nearby **Lucca** where the medieval, sixteenth-century walls that surround the city, limit the amount of traffic making it a quiet place of winding narrow lanes highlighted by beautiful churches and inviting shops.



This evening we will have dinner in **Montecatini Alto**, a medieval village situated high above Montecatini Terme.

Day 6 (Breakfast, Lunch)

You are in for a real treat today as we visit **Villa Petriolo**. Here you will experience the legacy of the Alessandri family who has worked this verdant land for over four centuries. Our group will have a guided tour of the cellars, the vineyards, orchards, and gardens, participate in a **cooking lesson** and a **wine tasting** and finish our visit with a lovely luncheon.

This evening you will have time for dinner in one of the many Italian cafes and then relax on the inviting front porch of our hotel.

Day 7 (Breakfast, Lunch)

This morning we are on our way to romantic **Florence**, “*the cradle of the Renaissance*.” A morning walking tour will acquaint us with the treasures of Florence including the **Duomo**, **Giotto’s Bell Tower** and the **Galleria dell’Accademia** where you will see Michelangelo’s **David**. As we walk through Florence’s grand piazzas you will marvel at the fabulous sculptures and amazing architecture. Our group will have a three-course lunch at **Paoli**, a local favorite and then you will have free time to explore Florence. Shop for fine leather goods at the Mercato di San Lorenzo or visit the Uffizi Gallery with its collection of some of the most revered Renaissance art.

Day 8 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Spend a leisurely morning in the spas or shops in Montecatini. This afternoon we will depart for the **Chianti region** of Tuscany. From its hill top location the **Castello di Verrazzano** is birthplace to Giovanni da Verrazzano, for whom the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge in New York City is named. This ancient castle was used as a sentinel to watch over the region’s vineyards. Our group will have a **winery tour** followed by an exquisite **wine tasting** and dinner.

Day 9 (Breakfast, Lunch)

Bid farewell to Montecatini this morning as we depart for **San Gimignano**, a medieval city of beautiful towers and rich in history, art and culture. You will have plenty of time to explore and shop in this charming city. A fabulous *farewell to Tuscany* lunch will be included at **Fattoria Poggio Alloro**, a traditional Tuscan family farm with incredible views of the Tuscan countryside.

We arrive at the **Hilton Rome Airport** by early evening. Enjoy a casual dinner at the hotel and make a toast with your new friends to the fabulous time you had on your trip to Tuscany!

Day 10 (Breakfast, In-flight Lunch and Snack)

Transfer by private coach to the Rome airport this morning for our return flight home.

Tour Includes:

- ❖ Deluxe motor coach transportation throughout the tour
- ❖ Eight night’s hotel accommodations and baggage handling
- ❖ Nine breakfasts, four lunches and five dinners
- ❖ All activities and admissions as listed in the itinerary
- ❖ Services of Cruises and Tours Worldwide tour director

Recommend Spring and Fall departures.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Cruises and Tours Worldwide at
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