

Day 1, Mon., Sept. 12 - Depart for Italy

Day 2, Tues., Sept. 13 - Arrive in Montecatini, Italy.
Check into your hotel. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers and enjoy a special welcome dinner. (Dinner)

Day 3, Wed., Sept. 14 - Excursion to Vinci.
This morning, head out into the lush, rolling landscape of the Montalbano hills, where you will see many Italian cuisine ingredients growing in their native environment. Pass terraced grape vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees on your way to the quaint village of Vinci, birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, you will learn all about the Renaissance master at the MUSEUM dedicated to his life and many areas of interest, from painting, sculpting, and inventing to anatomy, music, and cartography! Later, visit a bakery in a local village to learn the secrets of ITALIAN BREAD MAKING, followed by a generous tasting of fresh bread, local cheese, cold cuts and a glass of local wine. (Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 4, Thur., Sept. 15 - Excursion to the Chianti Valley.
Cradled between the provinces of Florence and Siena, the Chianti Valley is the heart of Old Tuscany, and has been hailed for its exceptional wines since the 13th century. Your journey today takes you to Greve, where you'll spend some time visiting the village and you'll enjoy lunch at a charming wine shop, and visit a HISTORIC TUSCAN ESTATE known for its Chianti and Supertuscan wine production. (Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 5, Fri., Sept. 16 - Cooking Experience
Enjoy a leisurely morning in Montecatini, maybe go for a walk in the Parco delle Terme with its huge shady trees. Most of the afternoon will be dedicated to the Italian cooking lesson at a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. Once you arrive at the farm, enjoy a welcome drink, explore the orchard to pick some fresh ingredients, learn about Italy's most famous delicacies, and then roll up your sleeves for a fun, hands-on COOKING EXPERIENCE. This evening, relax with your traveling companions and savor the delectable dinner you prepared—maybe your team will win the master chef prize! (Breakfast and Dinner)

Day 6, Sat., Sept. 17 - Excursion to Lucca.
Visit Lucca, a stunning showcase of medieval architecture and layer upon layer of rich history and culture. Marvel at the beautiful art and tapestry collections at the baroque PALAZZO MANSI NATIONAL MUSEUM, then take a guided walking tour around the Old Town with its fine, intact Renaissance-era wall, cobblestone streets, and café-lined piazzas. A lively CAFÉ-CRAWL snack brunch is included, followed by a main course at a local restaurant. Then, your Local Guide introduces you to the stunning ornamental gardens and grand arched ceiling of PALAZZO PFANNER. (Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 7, Sun., Sept. 18 - Excursion to Bolgheri.
Travel through the vineyard-dotted countryside and along cypress-lined Viale dei Cipressi for your fascinating entrance into enchanting Bolgheri. With its red-brick castle and atmospheric Old Town, it's not hard to imagine that Bolgheri jumped right off the pages of a storybook. There's time here to visit one of the WINE CELLARS that produce Bolgheri's celebrated reds. First created in the 1980s, many wine experts believe these now rival French Bordeaux. Later, stop at nearby Castagneto Carducci, known for its splendid panoramic views of the Etruscan Coast. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and the chance to sample the local LIQUOR. (Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 8, Mon., Sept. 19 - Cooking Class
This morning is yours to do as you please. You could choose to explore more of the city on your own, to relax and shop for souvenirs, or to join an exciting optional excursion. This afternoon is dedicated to a COOKING CLASS at your hotel, focusing on the creation of cakes and desserts. (Breakfast and Dinner)

Day 9, Tues., Sept. 20 - Depart for USA
Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. Fly home. (Breakfast)