

THE COLORS OF TUSCANY

CULTURE • WINE • SEASIDE SPA



You are invited to join us on a unique journey to
Florence, Italy and the Island of Elba, hosted by a native Italian.
September 24 – October 3, 2017

This tour gives you a chance to do it all! The small-group guided tour starts in Florence, where we spend four nights in a 4-star boutique hotel, housed in a 14th century palace located in the center of town. During our time in Florence we dive into culture and history, enjoying it right alongside fabulous food and wine.

We then head south through Chianti and into the Maremma area, where we will witness and experience the Vendemmia. After a day between the vineyards and other bounties of Tuscan countryside we will take a ferry to the island of Elba where we will spend three nights at a resort spa. On the island there will be time to relax at the spa, enjoy the beach, the natural beauty of the island and also visit the historic sites, including where Napoleon was held in exile. We end our tour with one last night in Florence. On our return to Florence we continue our quest to fully understand and experience the Vendemmia, by visiting other wineries and countryside villages.

Vendemmia

Leave it to the Italians to have a word specifically for the grape harvest -and it means so much more than just an agricultural event or the year the wine was produced. It is full of culture, history, people, terroir and more.

Spa

The origin of the word is Latin: Salus Per Aquae, which means health through water.

The Colors of Tuscany Cost:

\$4875PP*

**Airfare is additional*



ITALIANO
for you



DAY 1: Get Acquainted

We begin with an afternoon walking tour to get acquainted with Florence. We will learn some of the quaint Florentine legends, while walking through the centuries of architecture that are represented in the center of town. We will end the tour at a downtown Osteria for dinner.

Dinner

DAY 2: Views of the City & Organic Olive Oil Estate

Florence must be viewed from the hills surrounding it so our first full day will be spent traveling from one hillside spot to the next. During our discoveries we will visit the oldest church in Florence, a hidden monastery that houses a masterpiece unknown to most tourists. After lunch in a native-favorite Trattoria we will leisurely walk through the formal gardens of a Villa. We will end the afternoon at a local organic olive oil estate where we will learn about the olive oil production and dine on fresh produce on the terrace overlooking the fields.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 3: Dive into the Depths of the Medici Collections

To understand the Renaissance and its origins is to know the Medici family and the role they played politically and culturally. We start with a private tour of Palazzo Vecchio where we witness the history of the family and learn fun anecdotes. After steeping ourselves in history we will steep ourselves in fresh produce and exquisite Italian food with a visit to the food market of Florence. The afternoon will offer free time to relax, shop, or sip on a glass of wine in an Italian café.

Breakfast

DAY 4: Music to Our Eyes and Ears

The Duomo is a fascinating architectural masterpiece; we will visit the newly renovated Museo del Duomo to learn more about the amazing feat it was to build. We will better understand the life during the Renaissance, and all of the controversy that existed by visiting the monastery of San Marco. We will enjoy the masterpieces of Beato Angelico and learn about the rise and fall of Savonarola. After a day of music to our eyes we will experience music to our ears at a private concert.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 5: Chianti, Maremma, and an Island Worthy of an Emperor's Exile

Today we will travel on our private minibus south into the heart of Chianti. We will be visiting the area during the most important time of the year: La Vendemmia. We will witness firsthand the delicate and fun-filled joy the harvest seasons evokes. We will see the techniques that have been used for centuries, and the differences between one estate and another. After a day of fun between the vines we will board a ferry to the island of Elba.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 6: Elba: Nature, Wellbeing and just a Bit of History

Elba offers so much; you will have this day to dedicate to whatever it is you want to do on the island. Elba is one of eight islands part of the National Park of the Tuscan Archipelago, the largest marine park in Europe. It offers extraordinary richness in landscapes, both marine and land. You can enjoy the nature through sporting activating (from snorkeling, to golf, to hiking or biking). You can relax at the beach, or in the thermal baths.

Breakfast



DAY 7: Discovery and Wellbeing

Today we will visit some of the sites on the island and learn about its history, from the time of Etruscan's to the period of Napoleon's exile on the island. We will visit some scenic areas of the island, after lunch you will have some free time in the afternoon.

Breakfast and lunch

DAY 8: Return to the Heart of Tuscany

On our way back to Florence we will take in more experiences during La Vendemmia, today we will hit some of the most revered wineries in Bolgheri area and at the Antinori estate. We will get back to Florence in time for dinner at the hotel.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 9: All Good Things Must Come To An End...

Breakfast and arrivederci! Today our tour ends. We wish you a safe journey home!

Breakfast



ITALIANO
for you



For more information:

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Travel Design Lounge

16951 Wright Plaza – Omaha