



NEW 2024 CLASSIC AND SWEET TUSCANY



20001

Toscana - Firenze - Firenze

PRICE ON REQUEST. WRITE TO annalisa.massari@itermar.it

1 DAY ARRIVAL

Arrival in Montecatini or other preferred area such as Versilia. Dinner and overnight.

2 DAY LUCCA AND PISA

Breakfast and departure for a full day excursion to Pisa and Lucca. You will meet your guide nearby the leaning tower in Pisa. The Leaning Tower has made Pisa famous all over the world. When you first arrive at the beautiful Square of Miracles (Piazza dei Miracoli), your sight will be captivated by the magnificent Tower. Don't just admire it from below: the climb up the tower is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we highly encourage you to experience. You will enjoy both the incredible climb as well as the amazing views from the top. Once you have admired the Tower of Pisa from all angles, continue your visit to the other monuments in the Piazza: the Cathedral and the Baptistery. Along the perimeter of the square, there is also the Cemetery, the Cathedral Museum and the Museum of the Synopses. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the Arno river and on your way, pass by Clock Palace to enter into Piazza dei Cavalieri, which was once the heart of power in the city and later the headquarters of the Knights of St. Stephen. After the visit departure to Lucca but we suggest to stop for a lunch in typical Agriturismo where you can taste local cuisine. After lunch the visit goes on with the visit of Lucca. Hidden behind imposing Renaissance walls, Lucca is one of the most charming cities in Northern Tuscany. Founded by the Romans in 180 BC, Lucca had already acquired an enormous wealth by the late Middle Ages thanks to silk manufacturing and trade with the whole of Europe. An independent city state for centuries, it offers perfectly preserved Romanesque churches and historic buildings, narrow lanes, large and small squares, ideal for a coffee break. This tour lasts approximately 2 and a half hours. It includes an introduction covering the city's history, past and present economy plus visits to the city wall, San Paolino Street, Puccini's birthplace (exterior only), the dazzling church of San Michele with its wedding-cake façade, the imposing Piazza Napoleone and nearby Piazza del Giglio, the Romanesque cathedral housing the famous Volto Santo, a wooden crucifix supposedly made on the night when Jesus died. We walk along the busy Via Fillungo, the poshest shopping street in town flanked by stunning medieval buildings and towers, including the tree-topped Torre Guinigi. The tour ends at Piazza Anfiteatro, the miniature Coliseum converted centuries ago into a condominium, nowadays one the most picturesque squares in Tuscany. Back to your Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

3 DAY SIENA AND CHIANTI AREA

Breakfast and departure to Siena. We'll see the Basilica of S. Domenico, where the relic of the head of Europe's patron saint, S. Catherine, is kept, and the headquarters of the centuries-old Monte dei Paschi Bank; we'll walk along the Corso or main street with its many shops; in Piazza del Campo, we'll talk about the Palio and its traditions; we'll take a delectable break with a tasting of traditional Sienese sweets; and we'll admire the Cathedral, majestic from the exterior, and with numerous masterpieces inside that is possible to admire. If desired. After the visit you will take a panoramic ride through the Chianti hills. The Chianti area in Tuscany is one of the most beautiful in the whole region, as well as the most well-known and appreciated by visitors from across the world. The borders of the Chianti region are not clearly defined but in general it extends over the provinces of Florence and Siena, covering all of the area between the two cities and extending to the east toward the Valdarno and to the west to the Val d'Elsa. The Chianti wine area extends further beyond the two cities, all around Florence and even toward Arezzo, Pistoia and Montepulciano. Chianti offers a unique landscape, with green, gentle hills covered with wide fields of vineyards and olive groves, small stone villages, characteristic parishes and countryside homes in stone. The Chianti landscapes are so beautiful and particular that they inspire many photographs which then become postcards and calendars distributed across the globe. This area invites you for a wine tasting! Most of the wine cellar are family-run winery, so most likely you'll find a family member guiding you on the journey into the world of wine, starting from their vineyards to the winery before moving on to the tasting of their wines, which you can choose to buy afterward as well. Dinner and overnight.

4 DAY FLORENCE

Florence, the Tuscan capital, is world famous for its glorious local history. Place of some important Italian artists such as Dante Alighieri, the founder of the Italian language or the architect Brunelleschi, crucial person of the epoch of Renaissance. The highlights in the City of Arts are countless testimonies from the golden age of the Renaissance. Visit of Piazza della Signoria with its Palazzo Vecchio and the Loggia dei Lanzi. The tour guide through narrow streets leads you into the impressive cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore and the Church Santa Croce, with frescoes by Giotto. We organize for you the guided tour in the world famous Uffizi to see the Picture gallery with works by Michelangelo, Cimabue and of the Medici - patrons of art and culture and patrons of celebrities such as Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci! All these influences arrive who explores this Italian art city for the first time. Art-loving people will arrive to visit the Accademia or escape the hustle and bustle and walk through the Boboli Gardens. Here you will find nature and art at the same time. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

NOTICE: In order to visit Uffizi and Galleria dell'Accademia you need to spend one more day in Florence.

5 DAY SAN GIMIGNANO AND VOLTERRA

Breakfast at the hotel and drive to the "Italian Rothenburg": San Gimignano. This tour is made to give the visitors the opportunity of seeing this Middle Ages Tuscan gem city through its history, art and local flavours. The visitors cross its main streets as well as the tiny, little alleyways normally hidden to crowds. During the tour people can visit the Collegiata church and its wonderful XIV c. cycle of frescoes, the chapel of Saint Fina painted by Ghirlandaio and the Town Hall: the climbing of the Great Tower is a breathtaking view over the surrounding countryside. Free lunch with possibilities of local products tasting. In the afternoon departure to Volterra, archeological heritage of Tuscany. You will admire the Etruscan Museum; the Roman Theatre and the Baths of Vallebuona, the Acropolis and the Etruscan Porta all'Arco (IV century BC); the necropolis of the Portone and the remains of the Etruscan walls which tower above the intriguing chasm of the Balze at the church of San Giusto. Your guide will also lead you to the discovery of Medieval and Renaissance Volterra treasures: Piazza dei Priori with the imposing Palazzo dei Priori, the Palazzo del Podestà and the Torre del Porcellino; the Cathedral, the Baptistery and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo; the medieval Buonparenti towers; the church of San Francesco, the ancient fountain of Porta San Felice, the Renaissance Palazzo Minucci Solaini seat of the Municipal Art Gallery, the Medici's Fortress; Palazzo Viti-Incontri, elegant mansion of the sixteenth century that preserves furnishings and decor from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

NOTICE: Visit to an alabaster factory. All those who would like to deepen their knowledge of the techniques of working alabaster will find two great friends and artists at their disposal.

6 DAY ELBA ISLAND

Breakfast and departure to the port of Piombino. Boat trip to Portoferraio and meeting with the guide to discover this enchanting island. The island of Elba, located about 10 km from the coast, is the largest island of the Tuscan archipelago and the third largest in Italy. With several peaks - the highest rising up to 1018 meters - and an intact Mediterranean flora, the island offers unforgettable views of mountains, valleys and beaches. In our classic round trip on Elba you see the main attractions of the island. We start at the port in Portoferraio, from where we get to the opposite side of the island to Marina di Campo. After lunch we continue our trip towards Lacona and finally reach the pretty port town Porto Azzurro in the southern part of the island. A short drive brings us back to Portoferraio in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight.
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7 DAY AREZZO

Breakfast a departure to Arezzo, located in the middle of Tuscany. Arezzo is a city with an illustrious past, starting from its Etruscan origins, while passing by its medieval history to arrive at the importance of the Renaissance, testified by works of Piero della Francesca. During the visit you will admire the Church of San Francesco which shelters the frescoes of Piero della Francesca, Piazza Grande, Pieve Santa Maria, the Cathedral to end with the Church of San Domenico, which shelters the Crocifisso of Cimabue. If desired in the afternoon the visit can go on with Cortona, a medieval city situated on a hill. Visit of the historical centre with its little streets. Dinner and overnight.

8 DAY DEPARTURE

NOTICE: outlet fashion. You can decide to spend half day in a beautiful outlet.

