

Destination:

TUSCANY

Small Group Boutique Tour

Dates: Sep 10 - 24 2016 & Sep 2 - 6 2017



ITINERARY

Day 1: Florence

Group transfer at 1 pm from Florence train station to Villa Castellare de' Sernigi for lunch and tonight enjoy a light dinner. (L,D)

Day 2: Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

After breakfast, spend the day at your leisure. Playing bocce, soaking up the sun poolside or simply exploring the Val di Pesa. (B, L)

Day 3: San Gimignano and Volterra

Visit San Gimignano, one of Europe's best preserved hilltop medieval towns with its towers that dominate the Val d'Eisa.

Continue to the medieval town of Volterra, perched atop a rocky plateau with spectacular views, it holds one of the country's best Etruscan museums, an archaeological park with a Roman theatre. After exploring, return to the villa for a culinary art session and dinner. (B,D)

Day 4: Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

Enjoy a day at leisure. Perhaps take a walk to admire the beautiful Chianti landscape or visit the Convent and Church of Santa Maria del Carmine al Marrocco, founded in 1459 by Niccolò Sernigi, the then owner of Villa Castellare de' Sernigi. In the evening enjoy a culinary art session and dinner at villa. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Florence

Florence beckons today! Make your way to the heart of the city and Piazza Della Repubblica for a caffè'. Stroll through Piazza Della Signoria and on to the Galleria Degli Uffizi for a guided tour of works of the great Renaissance masters.

Then take an exclusive and private walk along the Vasari Corridor within the Gallery before returning to the villa for a culinary art session and dinner. (B,D)

Day 6: Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

This morning walk to Tavarnelle and meander through the atmospheric open market in the Piazza. Head back to the villa for lunch then enjoy a relaxing afternoon before a culinary art session and dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Overnight Vernazza, Le Cinque Terre

After breakfast transfer to La Spezia to explore the wonders of Le Cinque Terre. Take a boat trip (weather permitting) or a train trip to Vernazza for an

overnight stay.

Take a train to Riomaggiore, walk the Via dei 'Amore and Manarola, then take the train to Corniglia and Monterosso before returning to Vernazza. Perhaps join Renata for dinner (not included) at a seaside restaurant, then a nightcap at the Blue Marlin Bar before heading to your hotel. (B)

Day 8: Pisa and Lucca

After breakfast at the hotel, travel to Pisa to see the Piazza Del Duomo with its famous Leaning Tower. Continue to Lucca, a medieval treasure trove surrounded by imposing Renaissance walls and beautiful gardens and the birth place of composer Giacomo Puccini. Return to Villa Castellare de' Sernigi for a culinary art session and dinner. (B,D)

Day 9: Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

Enjoy free time to take a stroll to Tavarnelle or spend the day just relaxing at the Villa. Lunch is at the Villa and the evening is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 10: Montepuciano & Pienza

After breakfast head off for a day out. Visit the stunning Abbazia of Sant'Antimo before continuing on to Montalcino, famous for Brunella Wine. Enjoy wine tasting at a boutique winery. Lastly visit the beautiful town of Pienza where you will have the opportunity to savour their famous Pecorino cheese. Later return to the villa for culinary art session & dinner. (B,D)

Day 11: Barberino

Walk to the nearby medieval town of Barberino for a light lunch then the rest of the day is at leisure before a culinary art session and dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Florence

Travel to Florence with a brief stop en-route for a breathtaking panoramic view of the city. Visit the 17th Century Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella. Enjoy a guided visit of the Galleria dell' Accademia to marvel at Michelangelo's 'David' and his unfinished works as well as those of other Renaissance masters.

Free time to wander around Florence before returning to the villa for a culinary art session and dinner. (B,D)

Day 13: Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

Walk to Tavarnelle and stroll through the open market square or visit the Pieve di San Pietro in Bossolo. Lunch at the villa with the rest of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Day 14: Siena

Transfer to Siena, the host city to the famous Palio and home to the Monte dei Paschi di Siena Bank, the world's oldest bank.

Meet our guide and visit the Duomo with its spectacular marble floors and ancient Cripta below. Return to the villa with a brief stop in the beautifully preserved medieval village of Monteriggioni. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the villa. (B,D)

Day 15: Florence

You will be transferred to Florence train station at approximately 9am. (B)

Description of the Villa

Nestling in the Chianti hills, upon a rise that overlooks valleys rich in history, is the Castellare de' Sernigi.

This ancient manor house, once owned by the Sernigi family who were rich merchants and patrons of great painters in the 15th century, is situated just 25 km south of Florence in the thousand year old hamlet of Palazzuolo.

Furnished with antique furniture, the villa of some 600 square metres offers six main bedrooms, each with en-suite facilities.

There are two large upstairs sitting rooms with picturesque views, a spacious dining room with every piece of china decorated with the family crest, a large and well equipped kitchen and a well stocked cellar.

Facilities

Each bedroom has a private bathroom with modern facilities. Cloakroom on ground floor.

Living Space

Large sitting rooms and dining room with large open fireplaces. Large eat-in kitchen with professional appliances. Pantry, storeroom, cellar and laundry.

Outside Features

Fenced (7 x15 metres) pool, outdoor furniture, barbecue area, gardens. Tennis courts and horse riding centre

Household Amenities

- Antique furniture
- open fireplaces
- satellite TV
- dishwasher
- computer
- WIFI internet
- washing machine
- clothes dryer
- safe
- alarm system
- central heating
- fine linens
- maid service twice weekly.

Included:

- Hosted from arrival in Florence Day 1, until departure from Florence on Day 15
- Fully hosted excursions, sightseeing and visits with applicable entry fees, as per itinerary
- Private transport for hosted excursions plus train services and/or boat trips as per itinerary
- Professional guides in Florence, Siena and Montepucliciano
- 13 nights accommodation at Villa Castellare de' Sernigi
- 1 night accommodation in Le Cinque Terre at Pensione Sorriso Vernazza
- Limited wines with evening meals at villa included (additional wines available for purchase)
- Provisions for self service breakfast daily and light lunches as per itinerary
- Welcome lunch at villa on arrival
- 10 traditional Tuscan dinners at villa by local cook
- Culinary art including fresh pasta making
- Small group touring (maximum 14)

Not included:

- Airfares
- Items not showing in the inclusions

COST:

\$6,950.00 per person double or twin share

MAP

