



## 7 DAYS TASTE OF TUSCANY

This tour is available every Saturday from 28<sup>th</sup> March through to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodations are nearby the historical centre of Cortona and set on wonderful grounds which include a swimming pool. The apartments within the villa comprise one/two/three bedrooms, living area, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities, comprising air-conditioning and WI-FI. Located in the valley approximately 10km from the historical centre of Cortona, the accommodations, which are restored Tuscan farmhouses with old world rustic charm, become home base for the duration of the tour, allowing the traveller to settle into their own private apartment and commence their Tuscan experience.

### GETTING THERE

The tour begins near the historical centre of Cortona. Arrival to Camucia-Cortona is easily accessible via train from either Rome or Florence stations. Either of these two major cities are a good option for your arrival into Italy and then travel to our location.

Upon arrival we will meet you at our local train station Camucia-Cortona and will transfer you, via vehicle to the villa.

Private vehicle transfers can be arranged from Airports/ Hotels and transfer you directly to the accommodation. Quote available upon request.

### CHECK IN / CHECK OUT

#### **Check In is from 3:30pm**

There will be transfers from Camucia-Cortona train station at 3:30pm & 5:30pm.

*Transfers outside of these hours will be at an additional cost of €30.*

#### **Check Out is at 10am.**

There will be transfers to Camucia-Cortona train station at 9am & 10am.

*Transfers outside of these hours will be at an additional cost of €30.*

As we are unable to store luggage, it is essential this be taken into consideration when making travel arrangements for arrival and departure days.

### EXCLUSIONS

\*Airtfares \*Travel insurance (we'd advise taking out cover ahead of time) \* Entry fees to visit any museums, galleries, or public premises, not listed on the itineraries. \*Any meals outside of those listed within the itinerary.



### INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights in a traditional farmhouse complete with modern amenities
- Our bilingual hosts & tours leaders will be on hand throughout the tour to assist you
- We've taken care of the itinerary, so that you can sit back and ingratiate yourself with the Tuscan lifestyle
- Your apartment will be stocked with all necessary provisions for breakfasts
- 3 unique lunches are provided throughout the duration of your trip
- You'll get to enjoy 6 dinners at local Trattorie where wine is included
- Take part in our exciting guided walks across the stunning towns of Cortona and Siena
- Take part in an exciting, first-hand cooking session with fresh, locally sourced ingredients
- For fans of wine tasting, we have a selection of events to take in at local vineyards and establishments
- Your trip will include all necessary travel to & from your accommodation
- On days where no tours are scheduled, we'll transport you to the local station so that you can explore at your own pace  
You'll also have the option to be taken to Cortona on a tour-free day
- We'll also ensure that you are collected from the station on arrival, and taken back safely ready for your return home

**US \$3,295 per person, twin share.**

**Single Occupancy \$450**

Our Taste of Tuscany tour is by far one of our most popular.

With a first-hand look at some of the most vibrant and traditional locations in Tuscany, from Cortona to Siena, you'll have the opportunity to indulge in the finest wines, partake of the local cuisine and even stimulate your culinary skills with a 4 course cooking lesson.

### SAT / ARRIVAL

You'll be personally picked up and transported to your accommodation. Once back at the villa, you'll be given the opportunity to unwind and settle in.

For dinner, we'll take you into Cortona where you can enjoy your first traditional Tuscan dining experience.

### SUN / CORTONA

To get the first full day of your tour off to an exciting start, we'll head into the nearby town of Cortona; where we have plenty of things for you to see and do! Our enthusiastic tour guide will take you on an enjoyable walk of the town, with coffee included. To integrate you with the Tuscan lifestyle, you'll experience lunch at a local trattoria. With your stomach full, you'll have the opportunity to sit and relax to your heart's content or explore the town in greater detail.

Mid-afternoon if you feel ready to return to your apartment, we'll give you the option to be collected and transported at this time. If you chose to stay in Cortona or travel back home to the villa - we'll meet back up and take you into town in preparation for your evening meal. What better way to savour the flavours of Cortona than with a traditional aperitivo in the Piazza, followed by dinner!

### MON / SAN GIMIGNANO & SIENA

San Gimignano is a town so iconic that you have to see it to truly believe it - and this is where we'll be headed at 9am. Upon arrival we'll have a brief coffee break and you will be given an overview of the town and its rich history. Shortly after your introduction, you'll have free time to explore, ingratiate yourself with the locals and partake in activities at your own leisure. We'll then travel to Siena, where you'll meet your tour guide who will fill you with knowledge, expose you to the traditional lifestyle and allow you to get to grips with the town first-hand.

To allow you to take in as much as possible, you'll have a little more free time before your evening meal.

For dinner, you'll be taken to one of the local restaurants in Siena, where you'll get to taste the mesmerising flavours of the Siennese cuisine.

### TUE / LAZY MORNING & COOKING EXPERIENCE

For fans of cooking, this part of your tour will introduce you to the art of making Italian cuisine. You'll have the opportunity to enhance your culinary skills with a Traditional Tuscan Cooking Class where you'll prepare 4 courses and then get to enjoy eating with the chef.

"A big 'Thank You' to Ines, Monique and Erica for a thoroughly enjoyable 'Taste of Tuscany'. Amazing food, experiences and charming accommodation in the Italian farm style apartments. A very warm friendly and memorable experiences 'Grazie Mille' to all."

DIANNE - AUSTRALIA



### WED / PIENZA & MONTEPULCIANO

Featuring 15th Century architecture, Pienza is the next town on your tour and it's as stunning as it is traditional. We'll take a quick break for coffee, before allowing you the opportunity to explore the town in greater detail. At 12:30pm, we'll transport you to Montepulciano where we will enjoy lunch and wine tasting - which takes place in a traditional underground cellar. You'll then have some free time to enjoy. You can spend it viewing the stunning scenery, taking photos, or talking to the locals to name just a few options. At 5pm, we'll take you back to your accommodation where you can unwind for a couple of hours before dinner.

Your visit to Tuscany wouldn't be complete without an authentic pizza, so we'll head back to Cortona to enjoy this traditional Italian meal in style!

### THU / CHIANTI

This morning we have an exciting tour of Chianti on the cards. We'll be stopping in Castellina for a coffee and the exhilarating opportunity to explore the town and all it has to offer. We then have a long Italian lunch and tasting session planned at an exquisite organic winery, where you will meet the winemakers and learn more about the stunning area.

### FRI / TOUR FREE DAY

As your tour slowly comes to an end, we allocate this time for you to choose the types of activities that you'd like to partake in - from exploring the nearby area or vespa tours, to relaxing by the pool. Whatever you choose to do, we'll ensure that you're back in time for a traditional Italian Aperitivo, followed by a farewell dinner to mark your visit.

### SAT / DEPARTURE

In the morning, we'll take you back to the local station where you can commence your return journey with plenty of Tuscan memories to savour for a lifetime.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **When is the best time to travel?**

July, August, September is peak season, both from the number of travellers and the Summer heat. May, June and September/early October are good options for milder weather conditions.

## **Will I get to see sunflower fields?**

The sunflowers bloom very late June/early July through to the end of July. This however can vary depending on the weather.

## **What is the average age of those in your groups?**

Our guests vary in age from 30 through to 75 years of age.

## **What time do our day trips start?**

Our touring day generally commences at 9am

## **Do I need travel insurance?**

We highly recommend travel insurance and all who book with Tours of Tuscany require proof of travel insurance. You are required to purchase your own travel insurance to cover cancellation coverage, airline tickets, trip delay, lost luggage or any potential medical expenses.

## **Is there any free time?**

We have scheduled tour free days within our respective itineraries and there is also the opportunity of spending time on your own on any of the scheduled day tours.

## **Is there air-conditioning in the apartments?**

Yes, all apartments are air conditioned.

## **Is there a lot of walking?**

Walking is part of the tour itinerary and although there may be stairs to climb and walking over cobble stoned streets is common, the walking is quite leisurely and you are able to stop and take a break if required.

## **What can I do on a Tour Free Day?**

You can choose from a variety of additional activities that we have on offer, these range from cheese making, cooking classes, horse riding, Vespa/cycling tours and many more. Booking prior to the tour is recommended. Alternatively you can visit another township via train or spend the day in Cortona.

## **Is there access to Wi-Fi?**

There is Wi-Fi at all of the accommodations. However please remember that some of these places are in the countryside and although the Internet generally works quite well, it may not be the speed to which you are accustomed.

## **Can I make changes to my itinerary before or during the trip?**

Itineraries are provided in order to ensure all our guests have the utmost travelling experience and we therefore do not amend itineraries once your tour has commenced.

## **How are the meals provided?**

Within your apartment you will find all necessary items to make either a continental or cooked breakfast at your leisure prior to leaving for the day. Lunches are generally at a Caffè or restaurant where you choose one course from the menu, this is generally a light lunch.

All dinners are at a local restaurant or Trattoria. Dinner is 2 courses chosen from an a-la-carte menu. Local wine is included with dinner.

## **What will the food be like?**

The food is typically Italian; all the meals provided are from a-la-carte menus which have ample varied selection.

## **What if I'm vegetarian or require a particular diet?**

You are able to choose from an a-la-carte menu for all meals and the selection is varied and caters well for vegetarians.

## **What is the dress code?**

Comfortable clothing and walking shoes for daily tours and smart casual for dinners.

## **What happens if I need to cancel?**

Please see our terms and conditions.

## **Is the accommodation in walking distance to the town centre?**

The accommodation is approximately 10 km from Camucia-Cortona.

## **Are there laundry facilities?**

Yes

## **Is Tours of Tuscany insured?**

Tours of Tuscany is an Australian company registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and carries Public Liability insurance & Professional Indemnity insurance.