

Tuscany Food & Wine Tour

7 days / 6 nights

Private Tour: Date of your choosing

Price Per Person:

- 2 - 3 people: \$5,150
- 4 or more people: \$3,950



Daily Itinerary

Day 1: We meet at our Florence hotel at 1:30 PM and set off for an interactive walking tour of the Sant' Ambrogio food market. You will then have free time grab lunch on your own. We will then take a wonderful historical walk of the city. We'll then make our way to a quaint family-owned restaurant for a lovely welcome meal. After dinner, we head back to the hotel and rest up for tomorrow's adventures - our first full food and wine day in Tuscany.

Day 2: We check out of our hotel and are off to one of the most famous wine regions with one of the most famous wine styles in Italy: Chianti. Our first stop is the picturesque city of San Gimignano, a small medieval walled town famous for its dozen or so towers sticking up into the sky. After exploring the town on foot, we'll head to the local Fattoria Poggio Alloro for a lunch of food products from this farm, such as the Chianina brand of beef and the saffron spice which has been locally grown since the 13th century, paired with the white wine Vernaccia di San Gimignano, also grown on site.

Next on our agenda is the winery Castello di Volpaia, which is located in a fortified village of the same name and where we'll do a tasting of the famous Chianti Classico wine. After, we check into our charming historic villa out in the countryside and enjoy a delicious dinner of local fare.

Day 3: We drive in the morning to Arezzo to visit Vestri Cioccolato, a chocolate maker that has been producing delicious chocolate for 30 years and which owns its own farm in the Dominican Republic. Not only do they make their own chocolate but they also roast their own coffee. We'll learn about the chocolate-making and roasting processes and, of course, sample a few of their creations.

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We then jump back in our vehicle to transfer to the center of town where you can explore the various cafes and restaurants for lunch on your own. After lunch, we visit the nearby small town of Anghiari, famous as the site of the Battle of Anghiari in 1440 between the armies of Florence and Milan. This is also your guide Giovanni's home in Tuscany.

Next, we'll visit the world-famous Busatti linen factory, sold in such outlets as William & Sonoma. This family-run business has been based in Anghiari since 1842. The factory tour is extremely interesting and you can purchase products to take home, although they are not cheap!

We head to the walled town of Sansepolcro to check into our hotel for an hour's rest and then visit a combination local wine bar and restaurant that serves outstanding local cuisine in a casual setting.

Day 4: Most tourists don't make it to the section of Tuscany called the Upper Tiber Valley. Even fewer travel to the hamlet of Badia Tedalda, 40 minutes up into the Apennine Mountains. We will stroll the streets of this adorable village with its walls and Roman "corso" (main road through town). After our walking tour, we will engage in a cooking class in town, followed by lunch.

After truffle hunting - successful or not - we shuttle to the small city of Citta di Castello. Located over the border in Umbria but still part of the Tiber Valley, the city is not generally on the tourist map but is has plenty to see. Not just see but eat. We will make a stop at "al Lice", a local gelateria. Many gelato stores in Italy do not make their own product but purchase it from a big manufacturer, so this will be a special visit.

After checking into our hotel, in the evening we will enjoy an excellent Italian meal that includes ... truffles!

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Day 5: Yes, this is a food and wine tour of Tuscany but nearby Umbria is well worth a visit. We'll start out with a visit to the very small and local olive oil mill of Emanuele Ragani and his family. Emanuele will not only show us how the mill, with an actual grist stone, operates but will fire up a wood oven, heat up bread, and pour delicious olive oil on top for a tasting.

We then head to Assisi, the city made famous by St. Francis, for a tour of the city and the church where he is buried. Assisi is a great town to walk around on your own, with many shops and restaurants, and we are on our own here for lunch. After lunch, we'll head to Arnaldo Caprai winery, a leading producer of the wine Sagrantino di Montefalco. If you have never had Umbrian wine before, you will be impressed.

After our wine tasting, our time in Umbria is ended and it is back to Tuscany as we drive to Cortona, made famous by the book *Under the Tuscan Sun* our home for the evening. We'll check into our hotel where you will then have free time to take in the sights and sound of this beautiful town as well as find a local gem to have dinner on your own.

Day 6: The Val d'Orcia is one of the most beautiful sections of Tuscany, which is one of the most beautiful provinces of Italy, which is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. We are in a good place!

We'll start our tour by visiting the city of Pienza, perched high above the valley and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (The entire valley is designated a World Cultural Landscape.) After a quick historical walking tour of the city, we'll head to a local farm that specializes in making pecorino, the ubiquitous local sheep's cheese. We'll learn about the process, have a taste of the fresh cheese, and eat a nice picnic lunch right on the farm.

It is then on to Montepulciano, another famous hilltop town, where you will have an hour to wander the streets on your own. We then gather together again to visit Cantine Gattavecchi for a tour of their barrel room and tasting of the local wine, the outstanding *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*. Heading back to Cortona, we'll share a final meal together at the *Locanda al Pozzo Antico*, a fine dining establishment run by the owner Paola where we'll try to outdo our previous successes with Tuscan cuisine.

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Day 7: We'll take a post-breakfast walk of Cortona, as your guide will point out some of the important sites featured in *Under the Tuscan Sun*. You are then free to take the train or a shuttle onwards to Florence or Rome. Or perhaps you'll follow the theme of the book and decide to stay in Tuscany?

What Is Included:

- All Local Transportation
- Double Occupancy Lodging
- All Meals Except Two Lunches and One Dinner
- All Scheduled Activities
- Wine During Organized Tastings
- Professional Tour Guide
- **Not Included:** Travel to and from destination, wine with meals, personal expenses, and optional gratuities to local staff and your guide. Travel insurance is also not included, though we highly recommend it.

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Questions? Call 888-758-8687

Or email info@tastevacations.com