



## 11 DAYS

# THE ULTIMATE CULINARY TOUR

This tour is ideal for groups already travelling together.

Tour dates are available upon request.

### ACCOMMODATION

Our various 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.

Our accommodation options provide everything the traveller requires for a truly memorable Tuscan escape. 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. (100km south of Florence – 200 km north of Rome)

Arrival to Camucia-Cortona is easily accessible via train from either Rome (Roma Termini) or Florence (Firenze Santa Maria Novella) 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, which is a short drive into the countryside.

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

### CHECK IN / CHECK OUT

Check In is from 3:30pm Check Out is at 10am. As we are unable to store luggage, it is essential this be taken into consideration when making travel arrangements for arrival and departure days.

**TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES** airfares, travel insurance, entry fees to museums/galleries, lunches and meals not specifically listed, and all personal expenditure.

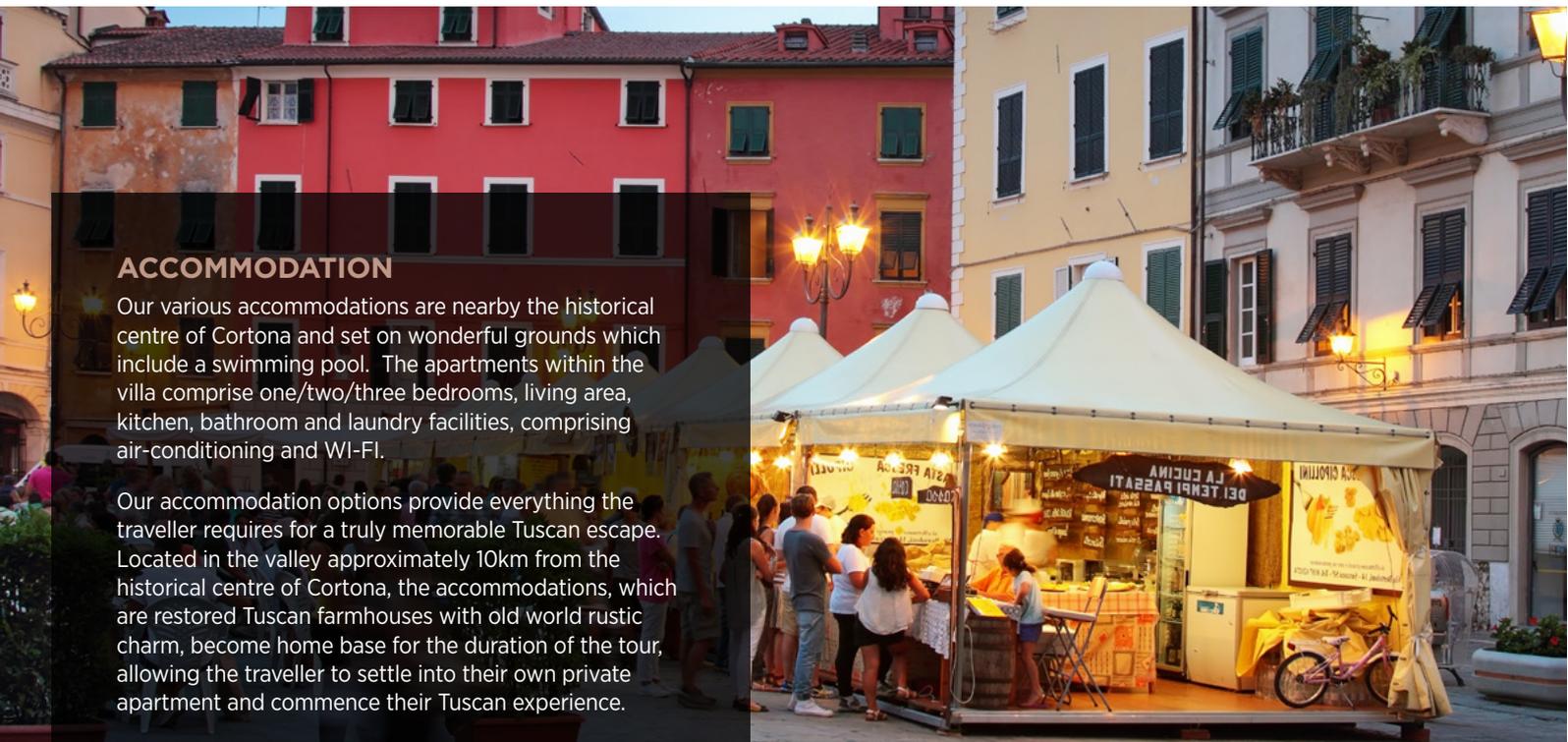
### INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation for 11 nights' in a Tuscan villa
- Bi-Lingual Hosts for the duration of the tour
- Day tours to itinerary locations
- All breakfasts, 9 lunches and all dinners (a-la-carte) at a local trattoria or restaurant. Wine included
- Welcome pack of local delicacies
- Complimentary bottle of wine and beer
- Truffle hunting, cooking, cheese & gelato making experiences
- Wine tasting at selected vineyards/establishments
- All travel to and from tour locations as detailed on itinerary.
- Train tickets and maps for independent travel to Florence
- Transfers to local train station or Cortona on tour free days
- Transfers to and from the local train station on your arrival and departure days

**\$4,600AU p/p twin share**  
Single Occupancy \$300AU

**\$3,650US p/p twin share**  
Single Occupancy \$300US

**\$4,650CA p/p twin share**  
Single Occupancy \$300CA



Savour Tuscany from a culinary perspective indulging in various food and wine experiences all within the art and cultural landscape of this spectacular region.

### **SAT / ARRIVAL**

We transfer you from our local train station to your accommodation and allow you to familiarise yourself with your new surroundings which will be 'home' for the next 11 days. Dinner in Cortona.

### **SUN / CORTONA**

This morning we drive past 'Bramasole' from 'Under the Tuscan Sun' and visit Chiesa di Santa Margherita. We then make our way to the historical centre for a Caffè and brioche after which you have free time to enjoy the many boutiques, art galleries and all Cortona offers. We will regroup and enjoy lunch at a typical trattoria. Later in the afternoon there's an option to return to the villa for some relaxation prior to dinner in Cortona.

### **MON / PIENZA PECORINO CHEESE MAKING DEMONSTRATION**

This is one for the Cheese lovers! Today we will visit the township of Pienza, home of the Pecorino cheese. The lovely town with a high artistic value and beautiful urban scenery and wonderful views. The main Street of Pienza is crowded with shops, gourmet cheese and food shops where you can taste many different varieties of cheese.

We will then move onto 'Podere il Casale' an organic farm just outside of Pienza where you will get a behind-the-scenes look at the art of cheese making. You will be taken through the complete process of making cheese. After the demonstration, we will enjoy a typical Tuscan meal from the produce of the farm whilst overlooking the Val D'Orcia. Location for dinner will be decided on the day.

### **TUE / CHIANTI**

A leisurely day of taking in the most amazing views, whilst driving through this most famous wine growing area of Tuscany. During the morning, we will visit the village of Castellina; we will enjoy a caffè together after which you will enjoy free time to explore this village which offers a wonderful selection of varied stores. We will then visit a vineyard a short distance away, interact with the winemakers and savour lunch and a wine tasting whilst enjoying spectacular views of the vineyards and olive groves. Return to villa late afternoon. Dinner in Cortona.

### **WED / COOKING EXPERIENCE**

Depart villa at 10 am. for the short drive into the valley. Experience will involve hands-on preparation of various dishes including pasta, main course, side dishes, dessert. Meal is then enjoyed together with the Chef, accompanied by local wine, dessert and sweet wine. Return to villa at approximately 3.30pm. Dinner in Cortona.

### **THU / ARTISAN GELATO MAKING CLASS**

The class provides both a theoretical part with the issuing of a "Manual" and that of practical demonstrations. We will explain the basic principles in the preparation of Gelato and we will illustrate the essential techniques to prepare many personalised recipes. At the end of the class, you will obtain a training/participation certificate. Of course, we will be enjoying the Gelato made at the end of the class. Dinner at a local Winery.

### **FRI / SAN GIMIGNANO & SIENA**

We visit San Gimignano for the morning. This is a beautiful medieval township; a step back in time. This township houses many stores which offer a very broad range of painted ceramics as well as leatherware and alabaster. Two wonderful piazzas where you can simply stroll, visit a museum or climb a tower for a breathtaking view of the Val d'Elsa or enjoy a delicious gelato. After enjoying lunch at a local trattoria, we will head back towards Siena.

You will have the afternoon to explore Siena; a visit to the spectacular Piazza del Campo, where the famous bareback horserace is held or Visit Il Duomo, The Mangia Tower or simply stroll the streets and enjoy the ambience and the various delights Siena offers, from the little food stores with many tempting treats to the beautiful selection of stores/boutiques. Dinner in Cortona.

### **SAT / MONTEPULCIANO**

We visit Montepulciano located in the Val d'Orcia. This township is a true gem; great shopping, wonderful trattorias, cantinas and sulumerie. After enjoying a Caffè on arrival, you will have the morning free to explore. We will then meet for lunch at a special Cantina where we will have a wine tasting and a tour of the cellar. Mid-afternoon we will return to the villa for some relaxation time. Dinner in Cortona.

### **SUN / COOKING EXPERIENCE - ALL ABOUT PASTA**

Today you will experience the art of making various types of Pasta! Experience will involve hands-on preparation of various types of Pasta, main course, side dishes, dessert. Meal is then enjoyed together with the Chef, accompanied by local wine, dessert and sweet wine. Dinner in Cortona.

### **MON / TOUR FREE DAY**

You may choose to 'stay in' enjoy the pool and relax, visit Cortona or another local township, alternatively, you may choose from one of our additional activities that we have on offer, these vary from and are not limited to; Vespa tours, cycling tours, cooking classes, gelato making classes, painting classes, hot air ballooning. Dinner in Cortona.

### **TUE / TRUFFLE HUNTING**

This morning we will head towards the Florentine Hills to meet Giulio the Truffle Hunter. A member of the Tuscan Truffle Association since 2009 he will take us through the forests with his dog in the search of some fresh truffles. Afterwards we will enjoy a 3-course lunch, focused around Truffles, and wine of course! Location of dinner to be decided on the day.

### **WED / DEPARTURE**

After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer you to the local train station for your departure.

# 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.