



TUSCANY TOUR

October 17th – 23rd, 2018

Expanding on our love of food and table, A'Tavola will be offering two unforgettable trips this year, to experience first hand that which inspires us. Through travel, food, and new friendships, we will explore all that the spirit of Tuscany has to offer.

Food is one of the best and most enjoyable ways to understand and appreciate other cultures.

Join us & our small group for an intimate & memorable experience of the Italian countryside. We will spend a week exploring the culture through food, unforgettable landscapes, cooking classes, vineyards, olive groves and private tours of some of Italy's most charming villages.

DAY 1 | POGGIBONSI* & TAVARNELLE VAL DI PESA

Our group will gather this afternoon and meet outside the Poggibonsi Railway Station (easily accessible from Florence). We will depart the train station and head to our Villa located in the hills of Chianti just outside the town of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa. Upon arrival at the villa, guests will have time to settle into their rooms and take a tour of the villa and the beautiful grounds. After the tour, the owner will take us through the main aging cellar, followed by a tasting of the wines produced on this estate. We will prepare a delicious antipasti and welcome dinner, paired with Chianti Classico from this estate and region.

Dinner.....

**We recommend guests fly into Florence a day or two in advance in order to recover from jet lag and to take advantage of this amazing city. Poggibonsi is a quick train ride from Florence, departing frequently each day.*

DAY 2 | MARKET VISIT & VOLTERRA

Every Thursday Tavarnelle Val di Pesa holds their weekly market in the Piazza Matteotti. We will drive there after breakfast to walk around the market and check out the beautiful produce, cheese, and cured meats that are produced in this region. After visiting the market, we head west towards Volterra. This scenic town boasts a wonderful museum, one of the best Etruscan collections in Italy, as well as the remains of a Roman theatre. Alabaster carving is a local specialty here. We will have time to explore this town on our own before having an outstanding meal. After lunch, we will make some scenic stops on our way back to the villa. We will have some time at the villa to relax before depart for dinner out on the town this evening.

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner,.....

DAY 3 | SIENA

Today we visit Siena where we will enjoy a special, in depth tour of the medieval town, led by our Tuscan guide and friend Camilla, who has been a licensed tour guide for over 30 years. Our tour will include visits to the Cathedral, which houses works by Michelangelo, Bernini, & Raffaello, along with some of the most impressive Piazzas, Medieval fountains & Gothic palaces. We will feast in Siena for lunch at one of Camilla's recommended haunts. After lunch guests will have time to shop some of the beautiful streets and explore on their own before we head back to the villa for a relaxing Tuscan meal.

Breakfast, Lunch,

Dinner

DAY 4 | CHIANTI

After breakfast at the villa, we will visit the iconic Chianti villages of Greve & Panzano. First stop is Greve, where my favorite butcher shop, Antica Macelleria Falorni was founded in 1729. To this day it still produces the highest quality of meats & products. After perusing the quaint shops, we will enjoy lunch at Falorni's. After lunch, we will drive south to Panzano where we will have time to explore this scenic town before beginning our Tuscan Cooking class at Il Cardo, an enoteca that also boasts a brand new kitchen for cooking classes.

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner,

.....

DAY 5 | BADIA DI PASSIGNANO, CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI, & DIEVOLE

Today's adventure takes us to Badia Di Passignano, an abbey dating back to 1049. On Sundays only, the monks open up the monastery and allow visitors to explore this beautiful space. After visiting this monastic complex and town, we will drive to Castellina in Chianti, one of the many stunning villages that dot the Tuscan landscape. As recommended by a Boise native & Italian resident, we will stop for some of the best gelato & stroll through the small village. We will stop for lunch near Castellina in Chianti before we continue on to the remarkable Dievole winery and resort. We will have the opportunity to sample some traditional Chianti Classicos at this beautiful location. We will then head over to the house of Camilla and her husband, Alberto, where we will indulge in the Tuscan lifestyle...pizza, wine & scenery!

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

.....

DAY 6 | MONTEPULCIANO

Our last full day in Tuscany, we will head south of Siena to visit the quintessential wine region and stunning hill town of Montepulciano with our local guide. With it's strategic position on top of a hill, guests will relish in views of the Val d' Orcia & the surrounding countryside. We will visit this beautiful town famous for Vino Nobile and full of elegant Renaissance palaces, ancient churches and charming squares. We will visit Tenuta di Salcheto to taste some exceptional wines, followed by a memorable meal at La Grotta. We will head back to the villa in the afternoon, taking in the scenic views of the "Crete" landscape. Tonight we will be treated to a traditional Tuscan meal prepared by a local chef.

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 | POGGIBONSI & DEPARTURE

We will say Ciao to our lovely group today & depart, as a group, for the Poggibonsi train station. Here we will drop you off to catch the mid-morning train to Florence, where you can connect with your flight home or continue your travels in Italy.

Breakfast

.....

TOUR PRICE:

***\$4,295.00 per person / Double Occupancy
Single Supplement \$ 600.00***

.....

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

At time of reservation: 50%

90 days prior to departure: 50%

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE:

More than 120 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

120-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- * 6 nights double occupancy lodging in a private Chianti villa
- * All breakfasts / all dinners with local wine / all lunches with local wine
- * Small group travel / maximum of only 16 guests
- * Snacks and Beverages available at the villa
- * Private transportation / Car & Driver for all excursions
- * Local Guides / Private Tours
- * Entrance Tickets
- * Cooking Class
- * Olive Oil Tasting
- * Wine Tasting
- * Wi-Fi at the villa (be aware that Wi-Fi connections are not as fast or as reliable as in the United States)

****NOTE-**

This promises to be a wonderful trip for all; however, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! We will do our very best to stick to the itinerary but we may have to change it due to weather or any unexpected situations. Please note that some activities are subject to a slight change, but you will receive the final itinerary two months before the trip begins.

.....
...

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- * Air Transportation.
- * *Travel insurance for your trip.*
- * Anything that is not specified to be included
- * Any personal related expenses or travel related expenses outside of the scheduled itineraries.
- * Any wine or other alcoholic beverages or meals that are not presented during scheduled meals.
- * Optional tips to restaurants, tour guides or drivers. These gratuities are given at the sole discretion of each individual traveler.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

October 17th: We will meet the group outside of the Poggibonsi train station at 2:30pm. There are trains that depart from Firenze Santa Maria Novella train station (Florence) every hour and take about 1 hour to reach Poggibonsi.

October 23rd: We will drop off our guests at the Poggibonsi train station in order to catch a mid-morning train to Firenze Santa Maria Novella. Guests can also depart from Poggibonsi and continue their trip to other parts of Italy. Please let us know if you have any questions about arriving, departing, or continuing your trip in Italy.

Here is the Trenitalia link in order to book tickets in advance. Please note you are able to book tickets once you arrive into Florence, as this train operates frequently

<http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>

TRIP INFORMATION:

Villa address & phone numbers:

Strada Noce 30

50028 Tavarnelle Val di Pesa (Florence)

1-530-304-6785 (Seth Masarik)

1-208-761-0702 (Lisa Peterson)

(+39) 328 741 5943 (Riccardo Bordoni, owner of villa)