FOOD & WINE IN TUSCANY

8 DAYS \$2,975

TOUR OVERVIEW

Total of 7 nights accommodation;
4-Star hotels

5 nights in Pienza

- Tours, tastings, classes and transfers as per itinerary
- Continental breakfast daily; other meals as indicated
- Hotel taxes and service charges

– HIGHLIGHTS -

- Small-group walking tour of Florence with Accademia Gallery
- Guided tour of Siena and Pitigliano
- Wine tasting at Tuscan vineyards Perazzeta and Brunello di Montalcino
- Olive oil tasting with cheese, wild boar and salami in Maremma
- Entrance to Bagno Vignoni or San Filippo
- Pasta cooking class in Monte Amiata

International airfare not included. Minimum 2 passengers travelling.

Price as indicated valid Sept. 4, 2018, subject to availability at time of booking. For alternative dates, inquire for pricing. Itineraries are fully customizable. Not valid during trade shows, bank holidays and other special events. Blackout periods may apply.

**European city/tourist taxes collected locally unless otherwise indicated.

For full terms and conditions, refer to page 3s

TOUR CODE: EU1818

surprises at every corner. Overnight in Tuscan boutique hotels; savour the flavours of this region with wine and cheese tastings, a pasta cooking class and a dip in the hot springs at Bagno Vignoni or San Filippo.

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Food & Wine in Tuscany introduces travellers to a world of history, beauty and gastronomic riches. Tour Tuscany by wandering the streets in Florence, charming Pienza, medieval Pitigliano and Siena with

Day 1

FLORENCE Welcome to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Transfer to your hotel. Take some time to wander the oldest streets in the city and experience an authentic Florentine gelato, considered by many to be the best in the world. *Hotel Cellai. Classic Room *****

Day 2

FLORENCE After breakfast at your hotel, begin your intimate, small group tour with the Accademia Gallery to meet Michelangelo's *David*, and gain unique insight into how he turned jagged rock into the beautiful, life-like figures of his sculptures. Hear stories about the powerful Medici family whose patronage made Florence one of the hot beds of the Renaissance art world. Visit the magnificent **Duomo** as well as the **Baptistery**. Continue along the streets of Florence to see **Palazzo Vecchio**, **Orsanmichele church**, the **Piazza della Repubblica** and **Piazza della Signoria**, the *Porcellino pig* (rub his nose for good luck) and the iconic **Ponte Vecchio**. In the afternoon, take some time to explore the city on your own. *Hotel Cellai*

Day 3

FLORENCE – PIENZA After breakfast, enjoy your morning at leisure in Florence. In the early afternoon, take a scenic two hour drive through Tuscany on the way to **Pienza**, one of the best-planned Renaissance towns, reflecting urban planning concepts that were adopted by other towns in Italy and the rest of Europe. Check in at your hotel. *Hotel Corsignano Pienza, Standard Room* ****

Day 4

TUSCAN WINE ROADS After breakfast, depart for Montecucco, a small area south of Montalcino. This area is of special interest due to its small specialty vineyards. Arrive at Perazzeta for a wine tasting. Enjoy lunch at Flavio's Restaurant with stunning views of the village of Montenero, the volcano and Castello Banfi. The menu includes local products such as pecorino cheese, ham, olives, fresh tomatoes and of course, excellent wine. After lunch, visit the medieval town of Montalcino, known for its high-quality Brunello wine; see the top of the fortress, the old historical center, and the square with its small café and wine shops. Later in the afternoon, visit the Brunello di Montalcino winery for a guided tour of the vineyard and wine tasting at Poggio Antico. Return to Pienza. Hotel Corsignano Pienza

Day 5

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PITIGLIANO Enjoy a buffet breakfast. Today, you will visit the stunning medieval town of **Pitigliano**, dramatically perched atop a tufa cliff with many homes and caves chiseled into its landscape. The town is known for its Jewish ghetto and has been called *Little Jerusalem* due to its large and active Jewish population which settled in the 15th-century. After extensive restoration, the synagogue, Kosher oven and cemetery are all open to the public. Other important archaeological sites include Etruscan tombs and monuments. Enjoy lunch at **Hostaria del Ceccotino** which serves delicious rustic dishes made with local ingredients. Continue on to **Sovana**, a small village with a single street and castle ruins that lead to the cathedral. Stop at the *Pinzi Fonzut Food and Wine Shop* for olive oil, cheese, wild boar and salami tasting with chestnut liqueur. Return to the hotel. *Hotel Corsignano Pienza*

Day 6

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SIENA Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. This morning, begin your guided half-day visit of Siena, famous for its cuisine, art, museums, and medieval landscape. See the relevant artistic, cultural and religious sights and hear about the noble families that were instrumental in the history of this city. Enjoy time in the afternoon for lunch, shopping and exploring on your own. Return to Pienza. *Hotel Corsignano Pienza*

Day 7

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PASTA COOKING CLASS & HOT SPRINGS Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Today, transfer to Le Macinaie Restaurant in Monte Amiata for a pasta cooking class where you will prepare tagliatelle and *pici* made from traditional recipes passed down through generations of Italian families; devour your tasty creations for lunch. Later in the afternoon, visit the hot springs at Bagno Vignoni or San Filippo the perfect spot to relax and unwind. Return to Pienza. *Hotel Corsignano Pienza*

Day 8

PIENZA - FLORENCE - HOME After your buffet breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Florence for your departure home.