

For years Tuscany has been revered as one of the most desirable regions in Italy...and for good reason! There is nothing to compare to Tuscany's lush, fertile landscape, rich history, beautiful cities, characteristic hill towns, and of course, the area's wonderful wines and cuisine! All of this will be celebrated during your sojourn, with a spotlight on the region's culinary traditions. You'll enjoy luxurious hotel accommodations in famous spa towns or at a Tuscan farmhouse, culminating with a few days in Rome, the spectacular Eternal City. Along the way, experience the best of Tuscany with cooking lessons given by revered Italian chefs, private tastings at prestigious wine estates, special Tuscan dinners, sightseeing in Florence, Lucca, and Montepulciano. Everywhere you look, you will marvel at spectacular scenery... a truly unforgettable experience!

# A CULINARY ODYSSEY

## Through Tuscany And Rome



### OVERNIGHTS: 11-DAY ITINERARY

Montecatini – 6 nights  
Rome – 3 nights



**Day 01** Depart for Italy.

**Day 02** After arrival at Pisa's airport, drive to Montecatini and relax while you enjoy your first sights of the Italian countryside.  
Pisa

**Day 03** Depart for Florence for your **first cooking lesson at the renowned Lorenzo de' Medici cooking school**. Your first lesson will appropriately be Tuscan 'first courses' like pappardelle sul lepre. Reward your hard work and your palette with a sampling of the morning's creations. In the afternoon, stretch your legs on a **walking tour of Florence's hidden treasures**. Your excursion will include the Museo San Marco to admire Fra' Angelico's 'the Annunciation' and plenty of time to shop at the chic Florence boutiques. After a few hours to rest and work up an appetite, experience a dinner at



ITALY | GREECE | SPAIN

## PICTURE THIS

Two 'hands-on' cooking lessons  
Dinners at exclusive restaurants  
Lunch at 'Le Tre Vaselle'  
Three private Tuscan wine-tastings  
Dinner at Villa Banfi  
Visit cheese shop and olive oil producer  
'Gourmet Rome' walk  
Pizza-making lesson in Trastevere  
Gregorian chants in Sant'Antimo



## RECOMMENDED TIPS

### WHO SHOULD YOU TARGET:

Best for upscale, adult groups (wine and food shops, restaurants)

### ITINERARY CONSIDERATIONS:

Stay at farmhouse/villa accommodations in Tuscany instead of hotels for a more authentic experience

### BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:

September/October, April/May

### EXTRA FEATURES TO CONSIDER:

Accommodations or visits in spa towns with option of 'spa' features

### Day 04

Montecatini  
Montepulciano  
Pienza

'Ristorante Tirovino' featuring exquisite Florentine cuisine and wines.

Travel through one of the **world's finest wine regions**, along the way stop in charming Montepulciano for a tasting of the fantastic red wine, 'Vino Nobile di Montepulciano'. Your next stop, Pienza – once a shepherd's village – is the birthplace of Pope Pius II. Stop at a cheese **shop to taste the wonderful local cheese** in this perfect Renaissance town.

### Day 05

Montecatini  
Chianti  
Montecatini

After a morning of relaxation, **you travel to famous Chianti**. Here, you visit Gaioli and attend a tasting to learn the intricacies of the region's wines. Tonight, experience a **special dinner at the prestigious Villa Banfi estate**.

### Day 06

Montecatini  
Monsummano Terme  
Montecatini

Your day today is devoted to your **second cooking lesson in Monsummano Terme at 'Fattoria Medicea'**. Immerse yourself in the charm of your surroundings and learn main courses like 'stuffato al chianti'.

### Day 07

Montecatini  
Lucca  
Torre Del Lago  
Montecatini

The tour takes you next to visit Lucca, an example of idyllic Tuscany. Its intact circular wall surrounds a perfect ancient city, with beautiful churches and wonderful museums. Fine-tune your taste buds for a stop at an olive oil producer. Here you **learn the techniques of evaluating a top olive oil** like those produced for centuries in Tuscany. Cap the day with a delicious dinner in Montecatini Alto at the prestigious 'Ristorante La Torre'.

### Day 08

Montecatini  
Torgiano  
Deruta  
Rome

Leave Montecatini today to **travel into Umbria, Italy's 'green heart'**. Your first stop is Torgiano, one of the premier estates. You will visit the wine museum and, of course, enjoy a tasting. Lunch is served at Le Tre Vaselle, one of Italy's best restaurants. Your final destination of the day is beautiful Rome. Enjoy your afternoon in the Eternal City.

### Day 09

Rome

On your first full day in Rome, enjoy a guided walk of Rome's epicurean highlights, visiting shops specializing in Roman delicacies: cheese, salami, and cured meats. Each stop includes tastings of the city's finest specialties. In the afternoon, **tour Rome's Jewish Ghetto, visiting one of the quarter's pastry shops** specializing in Jewish Roman cuisine. Dinner tonight features delicious Roman cuisine at a tucked-away local trattoria.

### Day 10

Rome

Today you head to Trastevere, one of Rome's oldest neighborhoods. Visit 'Taverna dei Mercanti' and **under the guidance of a Roman 'pizzaiolo', prepare authentic Italian pizza**. Enjoy your pizza with wines from the Roman hills. Our dinner tonight is at the elegant 'Ristorante Enoteca Capranica', one of Rome's finest restaurants and a suitable farewell to your culinary odyssey.

### Day 11

Depart for USA.