



TUSCANY & CINQUE TERRE

TRULY TUSCAN, IT'S MAGIC. Hear the stories behind Michelangelo's brilliance... learn what elevates an olive oil from ordinary to a delicacy... converse with a concert pianist and a master of art restoration... discover the beauty of a Carrara marble quarry... bicycle atop the walls of medieval Lucca and hike Cinque Terre footpaths that look out over a sea of blue...

1. WELCOME TO FLORENCE

Tour begins: 3:00 PM, Hotel L'Orologio. *Buongiorno!* Look for us at the Peretola Airport for your included transfer to the Hotel L'Orologio in Florence. Freshen up for a fresh look at this Renaissance city, a work of art in itself, on a walking tour with our local guide. Cocktails, canapés and conversation follow at the hotel. Dinner is steps away at a historic Florentine restaurant tonight housed in a sixteenth-century *buca* (cellar), once used to store salted meats and wine. **Meals D**

2. RENAISSANCE ART

Get to know Michelangelo and his fellow master artists through the eyes of an art history scholar who shares tales of their talents and tribulations during an exclusive insider lecture. Get a real-life perspective of the works that defined and survived them during guided tours of two museums that showcase their art. Da Vinci's *Annunciation*, Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and Michelangelo's *Doni Tondo* are among the head-turning paintings you'll see in the Uffizi, built in the 16th century for the Medici family and regarded as the oldest gallery in the world. At the Galleria dell'Accademia, see many of Michelangelo's famous works, including his statue of *David*. The rest of the day is free for you to experience the city as you wish – keep an eye out for the moving pageantry of art you may see on city sidewalks and in lively squares. Learn a few handy phrases of *italiano* before heading out for dinner on your own this evening. **Meals B**

3. LIVING THE FLORENTINE LIFE

Explore the artisan-lined streets of the Oltrarno District. Go inside two working restoration studios today to meet the people behind the art, including Art Restoration Specialist Bettina Schindler-Pratesi who gives new life to antiques dressed in ivory, bone and mother-of-pearl. Next door, see a multitude of locals at work restoring and immortalizing art from all genres; their meticulous expertise deftly erases the ravages of time. A short drive brings you to the Basilica of Santa Croce, eternal resting place for Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and others. Back in Florence, sample local culinary delights at the Mercato Centrale and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore on your own. This evening, concert





Traveling Well Includes...

- Small Groups, averaging 18 guests
- Learn about the life & works of Michelangelo at a lecture by a Florentine art scholar
- Go inside an artisan's workshop and studio with a Restoration Specialist & art professor
- Guided 4x4 vehicle ride at a Carrara marble quarry; hike Cinque Terre's ancient footpaths
- Taste wine, olive oil & pasta magic before bicycling atop the massive walls of jewel-box Lucca
- A walking tour through the medieval alleys to share Siena's stunning historic architecture
- Learn some handy *italiano* to make your travel more fun!
- 12 meals, service charges, gratuities to local guides, admission fees, taxes and portorage, airport transfers upon arrival & departure as noted

pianist Gregorio Nardi and his wife Annegret invite you to their home, a private Renaissance palace, for a personal tour of their home and garden, a piano recital, engaging discussions on history and politics and an *aperitivo*. Dine as you wish tonight. **Meals B**

4. CARRARA MARBLE & ON TO CINQUE TERRE

Drive west to the Mediterranean coast of Tuscany and Liguria today, twisting through Tuscan hill country. En route, see mountains of white marble at Carrara; get a closer look as you ride aboard a 4x4 vehicle* on a guided tour of the quarries in operation since Roman times. Stop for a simple lunch of regional specialties in the village of Colonnata. Continue to Portovenere on the Gulf of Poets for a walking tour. Weather permitting, ride a boat to the village of Monterosso, where your hilltop hotel overlooks the harbor. Have dinner at your hotel tonight. **Meals BLD**

5. A HIKE OR A TRAIN RIDE IN CINQUE TERRE

Immerse in the breathtaking scenery of Cinque Terre as you join us for a walk along a footpath that links the five villages. Walk through terraced vineyards overlooking the sea from Monterosso to Vernazza, the "pearl of Cinque Terre," or linger longer in Monterosso and ride the train to Vernazza. The rest of the day is free. **Meals B**

6. CYCLING & COOKING

Drive through the Tuscan hills to the walled town of Lucca, which, unlike neighboring towns, is relatively flat and a bicyclist's dream. Pedal atop the town's walls on a bicycle* tour led by a local guide who shows you the sights. Tuscany is all about the food... and this afternoon a hands-on lesson with local chefs at a cooking school in the Tuscan hills tempts with an olive oil and wine tasting, and a pasta-making class that can best be described as *delizioso*. Continue on to your historic hotel in the heart of Siena. **Meals BL**

7. SIENA & TUSCAN WINE

Rise early for an optional hot air balloon ride* and champagne breakfast (additional \$325 per person). This afternoon, join a local guide for a walking tour of Siena, followed by a wine-tasting class that offers tips and insights on locally produced Tuscan wines. Join us for a farewell dinner in an ancient wine cellar. **Meals BD**

8. ARRIVEDERCI, TUSCANY

Tour ends: Florence. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from Siena's Grand Hotel Continental to Florence Airport, Peretola. Allow three hours for flight check-in. **Meals B**

8 DAYS FROM \$3,990 PLUS AIRFARE

(7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches & 3 Dinners)

BEGINS FLORENCE

Apr 16, 23 **May 7, 14, 21, 28** **Jun 4, 11, 18** **Aug 27** **Sep 3, 10, 17, 19, 24**
Oct 1, 8, 15

Go to tauck.com for space availability.

PRICE PER PERSON

April - May 6

Double \$3990 Single \$4897 Triple \$3794

May 7 - June 5; October 15 - 31

Double \$4290 Single \$5214 Triple \$4093

June 6 - October 14

Double \$4490 Single \$5432 Triple \$4284

Group Size: Averaging 18 guests

International Airfare is additional. Call Tauck for special rates on international air for travel originating in the U.S. (subject to availability).

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride and Champagne Breakfast, Day 7: Add \$325 per person; ask at booking.

Ask about our additional hotel nights and about our Guest Protection Product.

Note: For activities marked with an asterisk (*), participation is at your own risk and a signed liability waiver will be required. Some days include 2-4 miles of walking up steep hills or on uneven terrain and easy biking on relatively flat roads. The pace is up to you.

FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

Night 1-3	HOTEL L'OROLOGIO	Florence
Night 4,5	HOTEL PORTO ROCA	Monterosso
Night 6,7	GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL	Siena