Tuscany is one of the world’s most beloved destinations, and for good reason: The wine, food, historic landmarks and art are second to none. Step off the beaten path and experience Tuscany as few travelers have before. On this unique journey, linger in medieval villages, sip Chianti among the rolling hills, nibble nutty Pecorino at a family farm and glean tips from a Tuscan chef at work in the kitchen. Immerse yourself in the Tuscan way of life and feast your eyes on both world-famous landmarks and hidden gems, from Florence’s iconic Ponte Vecchio to the quintessential Tuscan town of Cortona.

IN CLUDED  FEATURES

Accommodations
• Seven nights in Colle di Val d’Elsa, Italy, at the deluxe Palazzo San Lorenzo.

Transportation
• All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Activities and Events
• Informative educational programs presented by local experts will enhance your insight into the region.
• All excursions as outlined in your program itinerary.
• Personal VOX listening device to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
• Attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.
• Gather for a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Extensive Meal Program
• Enjoy seven breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
• Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.
• Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRA S
• Consultation services of a dedicated Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
• Services of an experienced Campus Director throughout your stay.
• Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
• Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
• Complimentary travel wallet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
• Groups are limited to 36 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
• Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites: the historic centers of Florence, San Gimignano and Siena.
• Rub shoulders with Tuscan gastronomic artisans as you sample extra-virgin olive oils and delectable cheeses.
• Get tips from a Tuscan chef during a private cooking demonstration.
• Learn from a Tuscan winemaker about the great wines of Chianti.
• Explore the magnificent medieval towns of Casole d’ Elsa, Castellina and Cortona.
• Experience an authentic Italian cooking lesson in Radda.

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**DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY**

**DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT**
Depart for Florence, Italy.*

*Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

**DAY 2 ~ COLLE DI VAL D’ELSA**
Upon arrival, transfer* to Colle di Val d’Elsa and the Palazzo San Lorenzo.

**Excursion: Colle di Val d’Elsa.**
Explore this hidden Tuscan gem. Stroll the narrow lanes, see 15th- and 16th-century houses and admire medieval tower houses, the neoclassical cathedral and more.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

**DAY 3 ~ CASOLE D’ELSA**

**Excursion: Pecorino Cheese Farm and Casole d’Elsa.** Visit a local farm where Pecorino is produced using sheep’s milk. Indulge in a tasting of this traditional Tuscan cheese. Travel to Casole d’Elsa. Explore the town’s narrow alleyways and streets, see the imposing medieval bell tower and delight in spectacular panoramic views of the Tuscan countryside.

**Local Flavor:** Sit down for a lunch of classic Tuscan cuisine before returning to Colle di Val d’Elsa.

**Educational Focus: History of Tuscany.**

**DAY 4 ~ CORTONA**

**Excursion: Cortona.** Admire the many artistic and architectural treasures in the hill town of Cortona. Delight in its exceptional Etruscan features as you stroll past historic palazzi and through charming piazzas. See the Romanesque cathedral, and visit the 14th-century Praetorian Palace.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the pastoral Tuscan countryside.

**Educational Focus: Renaissance Art.**

**DAY 5 ~ FLORENCE**

**Excursion: Cradle of the Renaissance.** Embark on a full-day excursion to Florence, the capital city of Tuscany. Florence is a veritable open-air museum, an urban masterpiece spread over the banks of the Arno River. Explore the city center and discover how the city’s wealth of creative genius left it laden with fine art and stunning architecture around every turn. See the Old Palace, the Ponte Vecchio, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and other highlights.

**Independent Exploration:** The afternoon is yours to explore the wonders and gastronomic pleasures of Florence. There also is time to visit one of Florence’s famous museums.

**DAY 6 ~ SAN GimIGNANO/CASTELLINA**

**Excursion: Chianti and Hill Country.** Explore the legendary wine region of Chianti and its hill towns. See the stone towers of San Gimignano and Castellina, an old Florentine garrison.

**Cultural Event and Local Flavor:** Learn the secrets of Tuscan cooking during a demonstration by a chef in Castellina before sitting down for a delicious lunch.

**Cultural Event: Tuscan Wine and Olive Oil.** Visit Castello di Monsanto winery. Wine, specifically Chianti, is central to Tuscany’s economy, and olive oil also is an integral part of the region’s way of life. Enjoy tastings of both Chianti and olive oil.

**Educational Focus: Meet the People.**

**DAY 7 ~ SIENA**

**Excursion: Siena.** Siena is a labyrinth of majestic Gothic architecture. See the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful medieval squares in the country, and explore the historic city center.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy some time at leisure in Siena.

**Educational Focus: Contemporary Italy.**

**DAY 8 ~ RADDa**

Journey to medieval Radda in Chianti for a cooking lesson, which will feature Tuscan delights, and a wine tasting. Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Dinner.

**DAY 9 ~ IN TRANSIT**
Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.*

*NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

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**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**PALAZZO SAN LORENZO HOTEL**

Colle di Val d’Elsa

The historic Palazzo San Lorenzo was built as a hospital by the prominent Usimbardi family in 1635. Meticulously updated and restored, the light and airy hotel welcomes its guests with comfort and elegance. Dine on Tuscan fare in the charming Restaurant Sopra Le Mura, try local wines at the bar and rejuvenate in the spa, which features a sauna, a Turkish bath and an indoor heated pool. Each bright, tastefully appointed guest room provides a full range of modern amenities and conveniences. Wi-Fi is available.