



The Best Tours
We'll take you there...

TUSCANY TOUR

AN ITALIAN ENCOUNTER

7-NIGHTS, SEPTEMBER

Chianti and Pasta, Sunflowers and Cypress! The food and wine of Tuscany, marvelous art, medieval walled cities and some of the most inspirational landscapes for any aspiring artist is all part of your Italian Encounter. Your luxury hillside villa provides an unparalleled view of the countryside – an ideal location to soak up the Tuscan sun.

Cities and Historical Sights:

The view that greets you when you arrive at your villa in Tuscany is breathtaking, only to be complimented by the sights and experiences awaiting you during the forthcoming week. Florence; Sienna; San Gimignano; Cortona; Arrezzo; Montepulciano and the delightful hilltop villages of Monteriggioni and Anghiari are all part of your Italian Encounter. For those who like to cook, take advantage of a one-day Tuscan Cooking course, beginning with a visit to the local market to buy your fresh produce. Later in the week, enjoy the wines at a local wine festival in the Chianti region.

Included in the cost of the tour:

- Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in a luxury private villa with pool
- Meet and drop off at Florence airport
- Welcome reception lunch
- All land transport
- Entries to museums and events (as detailed on the itinerary)
- 3 x Lunches
- 5 x Dinners

Optional extras :

One day cooking course (minimum of 4 participants)

This is an intimate tour limited to 10 guests only. For more information and your registration form, please feel free to e-mail or call. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the trip, without disappointment.



AN ITALIAN ENCOUNTER ITINERARY

Flight departure from the US to Florence, Italy.

DAY 1

Arrive into Florence Airport. Your guides will be there to meet you and transfer you to your luxury villa in Tuscany with a welcome luncheon reception. The rest of the day is at your leisure to enjoy your villa and surroundings. (L,D)

DAY 2

A leisurely start to the day with a visit to the charming village of Greve in Chianti, with a late afternoon return to the villa in time to enjoy the pool and sunset over Tuscany. (B, D)

DAY 3

*A full day excursion into Florence, by train from Arezzo. Your tour includes tickets for **any two** of the following museums:- The Uffizi Gallery, Accademia Museum or Boboli Gardens. Additional guided tours for the Uffizi, Vasari Corridor, Accademia Gallery or a boat trip on the Arno are available, please enquire on pricing. (B, 2 x Museum Entries)*

DAY 4

The optional 1-day cooking course is scheduled for today. Transport to and from your course will be provided. (Minimum 4 participants required) (B,D) (lunch is included as part of the course)

Those not participating in the cooking course will visit San Gimignano, a small hilltop town famous for its beautiful 1000-year old towers and perfect for exploring on foot.

An early afternoon visit to a medieval walled village called Monteriggioni with breathtaking views and Romanesque church. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be today's destination. Explore this beautiful city at your leisure. (B,D)

DAY 6

Montepulciano, a medieval renaissance city (there are lots of them!) is renowned for its food; cheese, honey, pork and of course its wine. This afternoon is the start of the "Vino al Vino" wine festival in Panzano, Chianti, a fun event with good food and wine. (B)

DAY 7

Visits to the local neighboring towns of Cortona and Anghiari, with plenty of time to soak up that last minute Tuscan sun (B,L,D)

DAY 8

Transportation will be provided for your morning departure to your onward destination. (B)

(B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)



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2015 SPRING GARDEN TOUR

LET'S TIP TOE THROUGH THE TULIPS, AMSTERDAM TO PARIS!

8-NIGHTS, MAY

Begin the tour in Amsterdam and your visit to the famous Keukenhof and bulb region of Holland. Then south, through the delightful town of Bruges, Belgium to Rouen in Normandy, France, city of Joan of Arc fame. Visit some unique French gardens of the region, including Monet's Giverny, with the tour ending in Paris.

Cities and Historical Sights:

Amsterdam, home to the Van Gogh and Rijksmuseum; take a canal tour and/or a bike ride through the city and experience the diversity of architecture and culture. Bruges in Belgium, famous for its beer and chocolate as well as Michelangelo's marble Madonna With Child in the Church of Our Lady. Visit the gardens (some of which are guided tours) of Le Vasterival, Le Bois de Moutier, Les Jardin Agapanthe and Monet's Giverny. While in Normandy, take the opportunity to visit the D-Day beaches, American Cemetery and Memorial and the quaint village of Honfleur. And then, who can resist Paris?

Included in the tour:

- *Pick up at Schiphol Airport Amsterdam, drop off at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris for your return flight.*
- *8-nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in 3- and 4-star hotels.*
- *All land transport.*
- *A Holland Pass for Amsterdam museums, attractions and public transport within the city.*
- *Entries to gardens, museums and tour sites as specified in the itinerary.*
- *4 x Lunches.*
- *1 x Dinner.*

Optional extra : (enquire separately)

- ✓ *Take the opportunity to stay on in Paris! A 3 or 4-night excursion can be arranged on your behalf.*
- ✓ *A private guided ½ day or full day tour of the D-Day beaches is available upon request.*

This is an intimate tour limited to 14 guests only. For more information and your registration form, please feel free to e-mail or call. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the trip, without disappointment.



BULBS OF KEUKENHOF, HOLLAND AND GARDENS OF NORMANDY, FRANCE

Flight departure from the US to Amsterdam, returning to the US from Paris, France.

Your daily itinerary is as follows :

Saturday – Meet on arrival into Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam and transfer to your city hotel. Saturday and Sunday at your leisure utilizing your Holland Pass.



Monday - A day trip visiting the bulb fields and the gardens of Keukenhof.

Tuesday - An early departure from Amsterdam for your journey, via Bruges, Belgium, to Rouen in Normandy, France



Wednesday – Le Vasterival is one of the finest private French gardens, created by Princess Margareta Sturdza. A guided tour takes you through this garden, located in a small sheltered valley and home to 10 000 species and varieties of plants. After lunch, a visit to Le Bois des Moutiers, a property that sits at the head of a valley and runs right down to the sea. The home and gardens were designed by Edwin Lutyens, the gardens planted by Gertrude Jekyll.



Thursday – A visit to the D-Day beaches or the coastal village of Honfleur.

Friday – Your morning at leisure in the historic city of Rouen. The afternoon is set aside to visit Les Jardins Agapanthe, designed by Alexandre Thomas. This garden of many rooms – Mediterranean – Exotic – a sunken garden – uses stone walls, ponds, mounds and hedges to divide these rooms and, finally, an agapanthus walk.



Saturday – We say goodbye to Rouen today for your visit to Monet's Garden at Giverny. Your visit includes Monet's House, Gardens and the Impressionist Museum.

Your tour ends with one night in Paris, on the island of St. Louis (opposite Notre Dame Cathedral).

Sunday – An early departure from your hotel on Isle Saint-Louis to Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris for your return to Atlanta. – **OR NOT!** (To extend your stay for a few more nights in Paris, enquire separately.)