

# Tuscany & Italian Riviera

September 19 - September 29, 2010

Tuscany is Italy's most popular region. We will explore hilltop villages, the dramatic cliffs of the riviera and of course Tuscany's capitol city, Florence. Avanti!

Features flexible & upclose touring by minivan!

September 19 - September 29, 2010 {tab=Overview}

## Tour Overview:

Tuscany is Italy's most popular region. Our tours are small intimate groups, with stays in interesting and unique hotels, villas and inns that cannot accommodate a large group. We travel in minivans not huge buses. Because the hotels are so small we are limited to two single rooms on this trip. Book early if you need a single room so you get your first choice. We have had so many requests for Tuscany, we do it every year. You just can't get too much Tuscany!

We begin our adventure with a villa stay on the outskirts of Florence with excursions to Siena, San Gimignano, Greve and the Chianti area, then we move to the Italian Riviera and the charming town of Santa Margherita. From here we visit Portofino, Rapallo and Pisa.

We've chosen to visit in the fall after the tourist season, while the days are still warm and the nights cool, and the locals are relaxed and welcome you with open arms. Join us for an unforgettable journey led by one of our most popular Italian tour directors. Sergio's passion for his country and its history are contagious. He will entertain, educate, and make each day an adventure! Definitely fun under the tuscan sun!

## Tour Highlights:

- Accommodations in 3 star hotel and villa
- All applicable taxes and government fees
- Welcome Dinner in Florence
- Farewell Party at the villa in Florence
- Breakfast Daily, and 2 lunches
- Walking tours of Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Greve, and Pisa
- Boat excursion on Italian Riviera
- Reservations at the Uffizi and Accademia Museums in Florence
- Roundtrip transfers in Florence (tour dates only within specific times)

- Limited baggage handling
- Services of Sergio as tour director and local expert on all things Italian

{tab=Itinerary}

Day-by-Day Itinerary:

Day 1: Sun, September 19 - INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Departure from the USA on your international flight to Italy.

Day 2: Mon, September 20 - FLORENCE

Arrive Florence Airport and transfer to Villa Lisa, a 17th century villa now a charming bed and breakfast, on the foothills of Florence, only 3 miles from the city center. All rooms have a beautiful view of the hills, private bathroom and shower, satellite TV. Meet your traveling companions at a Welcome Dinner in a local country restaurant featuring Florentine specialties and Chianti wine. Villa Lisa (D)

Day 3: Tue, September 21 - FLORENCE

After breakfast we start our visit on the foothill of Florence, at the Church of San Miniato overlooking the city, one of the first churches to embellish its facade with white marble in the 13th century AD. A 20 minute walk will take us from the hill to the city center, where we will visit the Church of Santa Croce, the Cathedral, the Ponte Vecchio (ancient bridge with jewelers) and the square of Palazzo Vecchio (City Hall). Afternoon at leisure for shopping. Return to the villa on your own and free evening. Villa Lisa (B)

Day 4: Wed, September 22 - FLORENCE / SIENA / FLORENCE

Excursion to Siena, a very characteristic medieval town, once the rival of Florence. Walking tour of the city. Visit the Cathedral and Piazza del Campo (City Hall square). On the way to Siena we stop in Monteriggioni, a small village 10 miles north of Siena surrounded by medieval walls, a simple place but definitely worth a visit. Free evening. Villa Lisa (B)

Day 5: Thu, September 23 - FLORENCE / SAN GIMIGNANO / FLORENCE

Excursion to San Gimignano, an ancient town with imposing towers, surrounded by medieval walls, where time seems to have stopped around the 1300 AD. Visit the town center, Piazza del Duomo and the adjoining Piazza della Cisterna, named for its central well of 1237. At lunch, wine tasting of local "Vernaccia" white wine and a snack. Afternoon at leisure for shopping. Return to Villa Lisa and free evening. (B, L)

Day 6: Fri, September 24 - FLORENCE / CORTONA / FLORENCE

Excursion to Cortona, a town founded by the ancient and mysterious Etruscans, well before the existence of Rome. Free time for Lunch. Return to Villa Lisa in the afternoon. In the evening transfer to Florence downtown for dinner at a "trattoria", featuring Typical Florentine specialties. After dinner, on the way back to the villa, a stop in the panoramic hill of Piazzale Michelangelo, to admire Florence by night. (B, D)

Day 7: Sat, September 25 - FLORENCE

Full day at leisure to explore Florence on you own. Shop at San Lorenzo open air market for bargains or at high end boutiques such as Gucci or Armani in Via Tornabuoni. Other recommended visits: The Uffizi gallery, one of the best collection of medieval and Renaissance paintings, and Gallery Accademia, hosting the David by Michelangelo. Villa Lisa (B)

Day 8: Sun, September 26 - FLORENCE / VOLTERRA / FLORENCE

Excursion to the wine region (Chianti). Small villages like Certaldo have been producing wine since the beginning of their history . Continuation to Volterra, an ancient town founded by the Etruscans. Wine tasting at Massimo's Enoteca with three popular red wines and a snack with Tuscan specialties. This evening we will enjoy a home-made dinner at the villa, hosted by Lisa, the owner. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Mon, September 27 - FLORENCE / PISA / SANTA MARGHERITA

Transfer to the Italian Riviera, one of the most beautiful coastlines in Italy. On the way, stop in Pisa for a visit to the leaning tower. Free time for lunch. Arrival at Santa Margherita in the afternoon and lodging at Hotel Continental, with beautiful view of the sea. Free evening. (B)

Day 10: Tue, September 28 - SANTA MARGHERITA / PORTOFINO / SANTA MARGHERITA

Today we start our excursion with a short drive to Rapallo, followed by a ½ hour transfer by boat to Portofino , Free time for lunch. Return to Santa Margherita in the afternoon. Farewell dinner with seafood specialties. Hotel Continental (B, D)

Day 11: Wed, September 29 - SANTA MARGHERITA / PISA OR FLORENCE AIRPORT / HOME

Transfer to PISA or Florence airport for your flight home.

{tab=Pricing}

\$2,695 Twin Share

\$3,345 Private Single (Four Rooms Available)  
Payment Schedule

Deposit: \$400 plus your insurance premium is due within 7 days of making your reservation. Your initial payment includes the cost of the 360° Travel Protection Plan of \$155 for share rate and \$185 for private single rate which is optional but strongly recommended.

Final Payment is due by July 31. You may use a credit card or personal check for final payment.

Price does not include: Travel insurance, airfare to Florence, tips and gratuities to tour director, drivers or local guides, museum entrance fees, alcoholic beverages or bar drinks except as noted, phone calls, medical treatment, items of a personal nature, meals not listed in the itinerary or anything not listed in the final itinerary.

Cancellations/Refunds: All cancellations must be in writing. In addition to cancellation penalties charged, a \$100.00 administrative fee will be assessed by O Solo Mio for any changes or cancellations after final payment is made. Airline cancellation penalties vary from airline to airline. Please ask about the penalties. Airline penalties are not covered by the insurance policy and requires a separate policy. O Solo Mio cannot assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements not made through O Solo Mio. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for the processing of refunds.

**Cancellation Fees:** We must inform you of the potential cancellation penalties however, because we require travel insurance in all our trips, you are protected against these penalties. Should you need to cancel for any covered reason, we will assist you in filing a claim. Changing your mind is not a covered reason. You will not lose any money except for the insurance premium. The premium for this trip is \$155 for a share or \$185 for private accommodations.

31 or more days prior to travel &ndash; \$400.00

30 to 8 days prior to travel - 50% of the total coat of the tour

7 to 1 days prior to travel - 75% of the total coat of the tour

Day of departure - no refund

Once travel has commenced, any changes or cancellation will be at your own expense.

No refund on unused portions of tour package.

**Changes and Revisions:** Once your deposit has been received, a \$50 revision fee will be charged if your itinerary is changed or revised due to your personal request.

**Payment:** We gladly accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and personal checks. If paying by credit card you will need to complete a Credit Card Authorization Form. It's on our website or call us and we'll fax or mail it to you.

Airfare from your hometown to Italy is not included

**Note:** We have a full service air department to assist you. If you arrange your own airfare by using frequent flyer miles, on the Internet or with your own travel agent, please arrange to arrive in Florence by 4PM after your overnight flight from US and depart no earlier than 1 PM from Florence or 10 AM from Pisa on last day of tour.

{tab=Reservations}

Steps to Reserve Your Space on this tour:

Print and Read our Terms and Conditions.

Fill out the Reservation Form and mail or FAX it to us at (650) 941-5334.

If paying by credit card, complete our Credit Card Authorization Form and mail or FAX it to us with your Reservation Form.

#### Terms & Conditions:

Your payment of a deposit for a reservation on this trip constitutes consent to all the provisions of the terms and conditions listed here and in the O Solo Mio General Information/Terms and Conditions. Please make sure that you have read these important pieces of information. This tour is operated by GSI Tours for O Solo Mio and we reserve the right to modify the itinerary of any trip due to unsafe or unexpected situations or when, in the interest of enhancing the trip, the tour director deems it advisable. We can accept only 8 participants on this tour and only 2 can have single accommodations. This is a private tour for O Solo Mio members only.

**Transfers:** Complimentary transfer in Florence to the villa on first day of tour. If you arrive prior to the start date of the tour, a taxi would be your best option. Transfers for Sestri to Pisa or Florence are included on the end of tour date. Please advise O Solo Mio of your flight schedule if you make your own air arrangements.

**Baggage Handling:** Limited baggage handling is included throughout the trip. You are allowed one bag not to exceed 40 pounds and one carry on bag. Tipping is at your option. Please pack light as you may be schlepping your bags sometimes.

**Optional Activities which may be dangerous:** Some optional activities may be offered to you at some of the places you will visit. Some of these activities carry with them the inherent risk of personal injury. You should be aware that your personal safety cannot be guaranteed. Should you elect to participate in such activities while you are on our tour, you are free to do so. However, you must understand that such participation will be at your own risk and that O Solo Mio and GSI Tours assume no responsibility for your safety.

**Personal Conduct:** We expect that you will conduct yourself as a friendly open-minded adult considerate of others at all times. We do not tolerate drunkenness, substance abuse or harassment in any form. We reserve the right to ask you to leave our tour at anytime if, in the opinion of the tour director, your conduct exceeds acceptable standards. There is no refund for any unused portion of your tour should you be asked to leave.

**Travelers Representations:** The traveler represents that neither he or she has a physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard to himself or herself or other members of this tour.

**Travel Documents and Identification:** Complete information will be sent with your final tour documents, approximately 10 days prior to travel. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Be sure to complete and return to us the Booking Confirmation Form that is sent to you with your invoice so we know where to deliver your documents. Your documents will be delivered via UPS and requires a signature upon delivery. UPS does not deliver to post office boxes. Most of our travelers have their documents delivered to their place of business or building supervisor or other person that can sign for the documents between the hours of 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM. We cannot send your final documents until we have this form. Verbal confirmation is not sufficient.

**Passports:** A valid US passport is required for US Citizens on this trip. If you are holding a passport that is not issued by the US government, please advise O Solo Mio so we may determine if you need a visa and passport. Visas and passports are at your own expense.

{tab=Insurance}

## Travel Insurance

We have found that occasionally passengers are unable to take a scheduled trip due to health matters for themselves or, more often, members of their families. The cancellation penalties can be severe. To protect your travel investment, we strongly recommend travel insurance. We offer a comprehensive group from Travelex 360° policy underwritten by Stonebridge Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, OH. It is not included in the cost of the trip. If you wish to decline this coverage you must submit a request in writing.

Trip Coverage  
Maximum Coverage

### Medical Expense/Emergency Assistance

Accident/Sickness  
25,000

Emergency Dental  
Included

Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation  
50,000

Travel Assistance  
Included

Travel Delay  
100/500

Baggage  
1,000

Accidental Death & Dismemberment  
25,000

Optional Benefits:

Pre-Departure Trip Cancellation  
Up to Trip Cost\* (Max 25,000)

Delayed Arrival  
Included

Occupancy Upgrade  
Included

Pre-Departure Trip Interruption  
150% of Trip Cost\*