Annual Tuscany Villa Cooking/Sightseeing



Our home in Tuscany



Being Proud of our Ravioli

Limited to 9 women \$3299 based on single occupancy and \$2999 based on double occupancy. All rooms are spacious with private modern bathrooms. Most are in the main building; two are ten steps away in a charming annex.

Deposit \$750 of which \$350 non refundable unless we do not reach our minimum (we had a wait list in 2014, 2015 and 2016). Balance payable 120 days before departure and non refundable. We try to replace cancellations but cannot guarantee. *Travel insurance available to protect you and your money.* **Deposits by check made out to ECPS Consulting Corporation (legal name of**

our group). Mail Payment and Filled Out Booking Form to:

Phyllis Stoller ECPS Consulting Corporation Suite 4A 116 East 63rd Street New York NY 10065

As soon as we have a full group, we advise you so you can book your flight. When we receive your deposit, we will send you a receipt by email.

Itinerary

Leave North America April 21 arrive April 22, 2017.

Some women usually leave a day early and overnight in Pisa. We recommend Hotel Bologna, which offers a free airport shuttle. You must book directly on http://www.hotelbologna.pisa.it/ for the shuttle. A taxi ride from Pisa Airport is about 15 minutes. The hotel has free snacks at its bar and an excellent breakfast. Pisa is a small town, walking to the Tower takes about 15 minutes. You will have a list of everyone in the group so you can connect on this non tour day if you wish.

Day One April 22 2015

Our transfer meets you at Pisa Airport for flights scheduled to arrive by 3PM (earlier if last flight is before 3PM). We drive to the villa less than an hour away. This is a group transfer so you might have to wait if you arrive early. Those already in Pisa will be picked up at 1PM at the Hotel Bologna. Tonight welcome drinks followed by dinner prepared by our local chef.

Day Two

After breakfast our first cooking lesson with our chef, enjoying the results for lunch. This afternoon we visit Lucca for a casual guided walk. Our walks are accompanied by our local escort who also stays in the villa with us. Dinner is prepared for you at the villa. *All meals in the villa include wine or Prosecco or both*.

Day Three

Enjoy our second hands-on cooking lesson after breakfast, and eat the results for lunch. Afternoon, visit a winery for wine and olive oil tasting; please note we are changing the venue for this event. Return to the villa for dinner prepared by the chef.

Day Four

After breakfast visit Florence. Enjoy a day sightseeing or shopping. Our guide accompanies us for a look at this great city then you will have free time. For the Uffizzi Gallery, you must book tickets on line ahead of time. Lunch is at a local "trattoria". Return late afternoon for dinner.

April 22-29 2017

Day Five

Another cooking lesson then lunch. The afternoon is a visit to a Tuscan chocolate maker with tastings. Dinner at the villa.

Day Six

This morning is our fourth cooking lesson, followed by lunch. The afternoon will be spent in San Gimignano with a chance to explore, before dinner at a local restaurant in town.

Day Seven

After breakfast is our final cooking lesson and lunch. Enjoy our last afternoon relaxing at the villa. If you wish to add Siena, you must talk to our escort early on, and she will secure a per person cost for our driver/bus and arrange for the excursion. Cost can be divided up amongst those who want to go and payable by cash. Approximately \$70 per person In the evening, we enjoy a special farewell dinner prepared by our chef.

Day Eight April 29 2017

After breakfast, our <u>early</u> AM transfer takes you back to Pisa for flights. We base our group transfer on flights from 10AM onwards. If all flights are later, we make our transfer later. If you wish a private transfer, we can arrange it optionally.

Price Includes:

- Land only \$3299 single and \$2999 share.
- Airport transfers from Pisa for flights scheduled no later than 3PM/ leave no earlier than 10AM.
- 7 nights en-suite accommodation at a Tuscan villa. Note: there are stairs in our villa.
- 5×3 course cooking lessons with our Italian chef.
- Experienced host throughout your stay.
- Meals as noted with wine
- Visits as above
- Recipes printed for you and apron to take home.
- Transport by private minibus

Price Excludes: Airfare, insurance, items of personal nature, drinks not mentioned, tips to guide/chef or drivers. Private transfers are \$50-75 per vehicle from Pisa. We recommend travel insurance for all trips and can quote for you. We supply tipping guidelines with final documents.

Sample Menus from the past two years included biscotti, fresh linguini, fresh ravioli, chestnut cake, tiramisu, pannacotta, chicken and sausage dishes, all delivered with lots of cooking tips and some with glasses of wine in hand. **Villa: stay in a luxury private villa.** All rooms have private bathrooms with hairdryers, and country decor. The villa is large, with several living rooms, several dining rooms, wifi in public areas. It is modern and surrounded by vineyards. There are washer dryers, tv's in public areas, and our lovely escort arranges for bowls of fruit around the villa. The villa has some stairs. Linens, towels and soap are provided; you need to bring other personal products.





