

Annual Tuscany Villa Cooking/Sightseeing

May 4-11 2019



Limited to 10 participants \$3399 based on single occupancy and \$2999 based on double occupancy if share available. All rooms are spacious with private modern bathrooms-several bathrooms have large tubs instead of showers. The house is a former farmhouse with some stairs, restored beautifully with air conditioning, wifi and large public spaces. There is a swimming pool you may use at your own risk. The house sits in the middle of vineyards and is about 1 1/2 mile walk from a typical Tuscan village.

Part of our villa complex is a medieval chapel, and an olive oil press. If the owner is not in residence, we will also visit these ancient sites.

Deposit \$750 of which \$350 non refundable unless we do not reach minimum of 10 (we had a wait list every year). Balance payable 120 days before departure and non refundable. **If you pay by credit card, cost is \$3599 single and \$3199 share if available.** *Travel insurance available to protect you and your money.*

Checks to ECPS Consulting Corporation (legal name of our group). Credit card payments made only with signed booking form. Mail Payment and Filled Out / Signed Booking Form to:

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

Or Fax Booking Form to 917 634 4022.

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

Optional Pisa Overnight

Leave North America **May 2** arrive **May 3**

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 and text the hotel when you arrive. (A taxi ride from Pisa Airport is 15 minutes). The hotel is small and charming has free wifi, and an excellent breakfast. It does fill up, so book it asap on line. Pisa is a small town, a walk to the Tower takes 15 minutes. You will have a list of everyone in the group so you can connect on this pre tour day and have optional dinner together.

Day One May 4 2019

Our transfer meets you at Pisa Airport for flights scheduled to arrive no later than 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 2PM 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 with us in the villa. 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 tasting. 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. Lunch is at a local "trattoria". Return late afternoon for dinner.

Day Five

Another cooking lesson then lunch. The afternoon is a visit to a Tuscan chocolate maker with tastings. Dinner at the villa. (We will also have a cheese tasting one night).

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 the driver/bus and arrange for the excursion. Cost can be divided up amongst those who want to go and payable by cash. You can also optionally walk to the village of Marrona about 1 1/2 miles thru the vineyards. In the evening, we enjoy a special farewell dinner prepared by our chef.

Day Eight May 11 2019

After breakfast, our early AM transfer takes you back to Pisa for flights. We base our group transfer on flights from 11AM onwards. If you wish a private transfer, we can arrange it optionally.

Price Includes:

- Land only
- Airport transfers from Pisa for flights scheduled no later than 3PM/ leave no earlier than 11AM.
- 7 nights en-suite accommodation at a Tuscan villa. Note: there are stairs in our villa. Some bathrooms have large modern tubs not showers.
- 5 x 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
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Price Excludes: Airfare, insurance, items of personal nature, drinks not mentioned, tips to guide/chef or drivers. Private transfers are quoted separately. We recommend travel insurance for all trips and send information to you upon booking. 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, fish 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 rooms, air conditioning. It is modern inside, historic outside and surrounded by vineyards. There are tv's in public areas, and our lovely escort arranges for bowls of fruit around the villa. The villa has some stairs. There is a swimming pool. Linens, towels and soap are provided; you need to bring other personal products.

Past groups have loved the feeling of being at home in Italy.