

## Annual Tuscany Villa Cooking/Sightseeing April 25-May 2 2020



Limited to 10 **\$3399** single occupancy **\$2999** on double occupancy- if share available. All rooms are spacious with private modern bathrooms-several have large tubs instead of showers. The house is a former farmhouse restored beautifully with air conditioning ,wifi and large public spaces. There is a swimming pool to use at your own risk. The house sits in the middle of vineyards, about 1 1/2 mile walk from a Tuscan village. Part of the complex is a medieval chapel, and 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 our minimum (wait list every year). Balance payable 120 days before departure and non refundable. **If paid by credit card, cost is \$3599 single/ \$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 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 our full group, we advise you so you can book flights.

### **Itinerary**

#### **Optional Pisa Overnight**

Leave N. America **April 23** arrive **April 24, 2020.**

We suggest The Hotel Bologna in Pisa with its airport shuttle - free if you book directly with the hotel. (A taxi from Pisa Airport is 15 minutes or \$30 in euro, no tip necessary). The hotel is small, charming has free wifi, and an excellent breakfast. You will be picked up at 2PM on April 25 at Hotel Bologna. If you are not overnighing in Pisa, your trip begins here:

#### **Day One April 25 2020**

Our transfer meets you at Pisa Airport for flights to arrive by 3PM (earlier if last flight is before 3PM). We drive to the villa an hour away. This is a group transfer so you might have to wait if you arrive early. Welcome drinks and dinner prepared by our local chef.

## **Day Two**

After breakfast a first cooking lesson with our chef, enjoying the results for lunch. This afternoon visit Lucca for a casual guided walk. Our walks are accompanied by our local escort, who 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 Amedei famous chocolate factory. 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 casual 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. This afternoon we visit the Cosimo Maria Masini winery for tastings. Dinner at the villa. (We 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, talk to staff early on. We will secure a per person cost for the driver/bus/excursion. Cost is divided up and payable in euros. You can also optionally walk to the village of Morrone about 1 1/2 miles each way, thru the vineyards. In the evening, we enjoy a special farewell dinner prepared by our chef.

## **Day Eight May 2 2019**

After breakfast, our AM transfer takes you back to Pisa for flights not leaving before 11AM. Private transfers available optionally.

**Price Includes:** • Land only • Airport transfers from Pisa for flights 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 **Price Excludes:** Airfare, insurance, items of personal nature, drinks not mentioned, tips to guide/chef or drivers. Private transfers quoted separately. Travel insurance. We supply tipping guidelines with final documents.

**Sample Menus** include biscotti, fresh linguini, fresh ravioli, chestnut cake, tiramisu, pannacotta, chicken, fish and sausage dishes, with lots of cooking tips.

**Villa:** stay in a luxury private villa with private bathrooms, hairdryers, a/c and wifi. The villa is large, with several living rooms, several dining rooms. It is modern inside, historic outside and surrounded by vineyards. There are tv's in public areas. The villa has some stairs. There is a swimming pool to use at your own risk-no guards. 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.