Flavors of Tuscany

A 9-Day Infusion of Wine, Cuisine & Culture
The language of Tuscan life goes something like this:

Sample a Chianti Classico, sourced from the earth under your feet. Squeeze a fresh tomato. Stir a fragrant pot. Walk an oak forest, foraging for truffles; or, if they aren’t in season, learn cheese-making at a small local farm. Foray to Tuscany’s breathtaking cultural capitals and small, cypress-studded hill towns—always returning to your Tuscan home and the convivial atmosphere of a small-group journey.

At the end of nine days, you will be a skilled practitioner of Tuscany’s cultural lingo, with perfect command of the three words that matter most: la dolce vita.

“In Italy, perhaps more than anywhere else, discovering local cuisine means discovering the spirit of the local inhabitants.”

– Umberto Eco
Slow down, see more

The key ingredients of this signature journey are a perfectly picturesque Italian estate to call our own, an insider’s pick of experiences arranged just for our small group, and connections with Italians who share their favorite flavors of Tuscany con gusto.

On exclusive small-group excursions, **cook with a Michelin-rated chef** and at the elbows of four “Tuscan Mamas,” making ricotta and conjuring prized dishes.

Visit historic gems: a **1,000-year-old winery;** Etruscan ruins in Cortona; a mill where olive oil is pressed the old way; and a monastery that hosted St. Francis.

Visit **hill towns** with histories as mesmerizing as their panoramic views; meander **Siena’s morning market;** and savor Florence, seeing **Michaelangelo’s David** at the Accademia.

What’s included:

- Six nights at our Tuscan wine estate, and one night in historic Florence
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Guide and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation, luggage handling, and airport transfers for guests on suggested flights
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters
- Seven breakfasts, four lunches, and seven dinners served with wine

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**Free Wine Subscription**

AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space early and receive two bottles of Tuscan wines monthly for three months—featuring labels by vintners you will visit during this program!

This Orbridge exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Where shipping is prohibited by state law, guests in those states will receive other specialty items of comparable value. **See reservation form for more details.**
Our 9-Day Itinerary*

Day 1: En route from U.S.

Day 2: Arrive Florence / Podere Ciona (D)
Welcome, explore, settle in

Day 3: Gaiole / Radda / Castellina (B,D)
Charming hill towns

Day 4: Asciano (B,L,D)
Truffles or cheesemaking, Tuscan countryside

Day 5: San Martino / Cortona (B,L,D)
Cheeses, Etruscans, an old olive mill

Day 6: Siena (B,D)
Medieval cityscape and market

Day 7: Brolio (B,L,D)
Chianti Castle, Tuscan cooking class

Day 8: Florence (B,L,D)
Renaissance and reminiscing at a special farewell dinner

Day 9: Depart Florence (B)

Optional Extension

Day 9: Florence (Main Program)
Day 10–11: Florence
Day 12: Depart Florence

Activity Level
Guests should be able to enjoy an hour or more of walking and be sure-footed on stairs and cobbled surfaces.

*Itinerary is subject to change. Some activities are dependent on weather and seasonal conditions.
Our Itinerary In-Depth*

**Day 1–2: En Route U.S. / Arrive Florence / Podere Ciona**
Settle into your quarters at Podere Ciona, a lovely estate surrounded by vineyards in the Chianti countryside. With Siena in the distance, explore the garden that surrounds the house, and take in the breathtaking view of olive trees, vineyards, and forests that dot the landscape. Get acquainted with your travel companions, as well as Franca and Franco Gatteschi, the delightful owners of the property. (D)

**Day 3: Radda / Castellina / Gaiole**
Today visit the beautiful hill towns of Radda, Castellina, and Gaiole. Find out why Gaiole was ranked number one as “Europe’s Most Idyllic Places to Live” in Forbes magazine. Visit charming Radda and Castellina and discover Chianti Classico wines in the region that made them world renowned. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner at a neighborhood restaurant. (B,D)

**Day 4: Asciano**
Tuscany’s rolling hills—with its patchwork of vineyards, olive groves, and forests—are redolent with culinary treasure. When weather and seasonality are in our favor, we will stroll the countryside searching for black truffles. Found between the roots of mainly oak, chestnut, and poplar trees, these rare finds impart a unique and highly prized flavor to the dishes they complement. Or, we may enjoy a farm visit for a behind-the-scenes look at cheese making. Discover how cheeses typical of this area are characterized by the kind of milk, addition of herbs, and particular processes resulting in different textures and flavors. (B,L,D)

**Day 5: San Martino / Cortona**
After breakfast, take a short drive to San Martino to visit the beautiful Il Falconiere, a Relais & Chateaux property. Learn the art of cheese making from owner Silvia and Il Falconiere master chef, Riccardo. Today, we make ricotta, as well as pasta and sugo fresco di pomodoro (fresh tomato sauce) for a delicious feast along with the award-winning wines and champagne of Riccardo and Silvia’s estate. After a sumptuous lunch, head to the walled city of Cortona. See recently excavated Etruscan tombs dating from the Paleolithic Age to the Roman Age, visit a monastery where St. Francis stayed, and explore the city alongside a knowledgeable guide. Visit an old olive mill that still presses using the traditional methods, topped off with an olive oil tasting with the owner. Dinner this evening is at a favorite Cortona restaurant. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Siena**
A UNESCO heritage site, Siena has a remarkably well-preserved medieval cityscape. See Siena’s celebrated Duomo, with its striking striped columns and walls, ornate mosaic floor, and recently excavated 13th century frescoes; and admire the Sanctuary of Santa Caterina, as you learn about the city’s colorful history from your guide. Meander through the morning market, its streets filled with vendors catching your eye with handcrafted wares. Take some time to shop, grab something delicious for lunch on your own, and watch passers-by in the Il Campo. This evening, we have wood-fired pizza and antipasti in mind for a perfect finish to the day. (B,D)

**Day 7: Brolio**
Today visit Brolio castle in the midst of boundless vineyards. Taste the region’s varietals with time to relax before a four course cooking class with those who know best, the Tuscan Mammmas! Mimma, Lele, Franca, and Elissa are the women behind Tutti a Tavola, an intimate cooking school in Tuscany. As the Mammmas say, “Breaking bread at the table is the best way to get to know someone.” (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Florence**
Renowned Renaissance art and architecture await in Florence. On your walking tour, admire the sculptures that surround the Piazza Signoria, the heart of Florence’s historic and political square. Step inside the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall; and stop by the Ponte Vecchio, the oldest and most famous bridge in Florence. See the Duomo, Brunelleschi’s cathedral, and the baptistry renowned for its three bronze doors and relief sculptures. Sip a glass of wine and enjoy a delicious Panini lunch with the locals on via Cimatori before admiring the scarves and leather in San Lorenzo market. And finally, end your tour with an appointment at the Accademia to view Michelangelo’s David. Tonight, share your experiences and raise a glass with your travel companions one last time at a farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Depart Florence**
After breakfast, take your complimentary transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

*Itinerary is subject to change. Some activities are dependent on weather and seasonal conditions.
Become part of *la famiglia* as you settle in for your first six nights at a gorgeous Tuscan wine estate. Sip a glass of Chianti on a sun-dappled terrace, refresh at the pool, and stroll vineyards draped with Sangiovese, Merlot, and Alicante Bouschet grapes. For your final night in Florence, stay at stylish Hotel L’Orologio**.

**Your Home in Tuscany: Podere Ciona**

Becoming part of *la famiglia* as you settle in for your first six nights at a gorgeous Tuscan wine estate. Sip a glass of Chianti on a sun-dappled terrace, refresh at the pool, and stroll vineyards draped with Sangiovese, Merlot, and Alicante Bouschet grapes. For your final night in Florence, stay at stylish Hotel L’Orologio**.

### Accommodations at Podere Ciona:

- **Casa Piccola**  
  *Category A*  
  Small and simple, this room accommodates two with a double bed and en suite bathroom.

- **Villa**  
  *Category B*  
  Within an 18th-century farmhouse and offering views of the Tuscan hills, these spacious double bedrooms feature full bathrooms with shower; and share a delightful living area with fireplace, kitchen, dining room, and terrace.

- **Appartamento**  
  *Category C*  
  Unique quarters attached to the property's main house, the Appartamento's charming character belies its origins as an antique barn, now beautifully appointed for two.

- **Casetta**  
  *Category D*  
  Down a few steps from the estate's main house, this cottage for two is a romantic hideaway with gracious amenities, en suite bathroom; and an unforgettable view of Tuscan hills and Siena in the distance.

- **Villa Piccola**  
  *Category E*  
  This rustic and elegant villa is a peaceful retreat with arched picture windows, large living room, double bedroom, fully equipped kitchen, and covered terrace.
Beautifully situated at the Piazza Santa Maria Novella in Florence’s historic center, this elegant, timepiece-themed hotel is a few minutes walk to the train station and the Duomo, and within 20-minute walking distance to the Accademia and the Uffizi. Enjoy comfortable rooms, a private bathroom, and free wi-fi internet access.

Your Home in Florence: Hotel L’Orologio**

While in Italy, your Orbridge Guide will infuse your journey with a chef’s appreciation of food and wine, a local’s knowledge and pride of place, and a travel aficionado’s ability to gather the beauty of all senses to your discoveries in Tuscany.

Stefania Meloni: Stefania was born in Cortona, an ancient town in Southern Tuscany. She spent her young adulthood on the magnificent island of Elba, unspoiled by nature and rich with the remains of ancient populations, sparking her passion for classical study and research. After pursuing her degree in Italian, foreign language and literature, she started working in tourism: in her beautiful Cortona she handled Public Relations and Welcoming in the internationally acclaimed Il Falconiere hotel and restaurant, while soaking in art history and gastronomic traditions. In her free time, she guides tours in wine-related venues, conducts cooking classes, and leads hikes through Etruscan tombs.

Chiara Sanguineti: Chiara is Milano-born and has lived in Northern Italy for many years. After studying art and literature, she relocated to Tuscany where she worked with the producer of the famous Chianti Classico in the hills between Siena and Florence. In charge of export, grape harvest, and olive oil production, she is expert in her knowledge of Italian foods and wine. Having owned an Agriturismo working farm in the Siena countryside, she understands what people appreciate most about the significance of Italy’s ‘slow food’ roots. Speaking five languages and a gifted sommelier, she is among the founders of the national association “Donne del Vino” (women of wine). Chiara loves nothing more than imparting to travelers her wealth of knowledge.
And if nine days simply aren’t enough

**What’s Included:**

- Three nights accommodation at Hotel L’Orologio (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- Additional in-depth private day tour of Florence including the famous Uffizi Gallery
- Transfers from the hotel to the airport, as well as gratuities to the guide and drivers

**Optional Extension: Florence**

Lovers of beauty, art, and history can add three days to explore more of Florence’s Renaissance beauty and world-famous museums.

**Itinerary:**

**Day 9:** Florence (Main Program)
**Day 10:** Florence
**Day 11:** Florence
**Day 12:** Depart Florence

Please indicate if you would like to add the Florence extension to your tour on the enclosed reservation form.
Reservation Form

Option 1: Reserve now by calling (866) 639-0079 or (888) 697-2863.

Option 2: Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with the enclosed check payable to: Orbridge LLC.

Guest Information:

Guest #1 (as printed on passport): ____________________________________________ Class Year

Guest #2 (as printed on passport): ____________________________________________ Class Year

Guest #1 (preferred on name badge): ___________________________________________

Guest #2 (preferred on name badge): ___________________________________________

Address:

City: ____________________________ State:_________ ZIP:_____________________

Email: __________________________ Phone:_________ Alt. Phone:_________________

Category Preference: 1st choice_________________________________________ 2nd choice____________________

Payment:

Card type: □ MasterCard □ Visa □ Discover □ American Express □ Check Enclosed

Card #: __________________________ Exp. date: ___________ CVV:_________

Name (as printed on card): ___________________________________________________

Billing address (if different than above):

City:________________________________________ State:_________ ZIP:_____________________

(#) ______ guests joining program ($850/person) +
(#) ______ guests joining extension ($500/person) = Total deposit: $____________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions detailed on the following page and at http://terms.orbridge.com; that the information provided on this form is true, correct, and complete; and that Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date:_________________

Signature: __________________________________________ Date:_________________

Send or fax reservation form and deposit to: Orbridge

P.O. Box 10339, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Nov. 15, 2012 for an Early Reservation Bonus**

* Rates are per person, based on double occupancy, in U.S. dollars. Single program rate is $6,795. Single room availability is limited. Single extension rate is $1,995. Airfare is not included in the program or extension rates. **Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Orbridge Wine Subscription per room reserved will begin after receipt of final payment. Where prohibited by state law (including, but not limited to, AK, AR, DE, KY, MA, MD, MS, MT, OK, PA, RI, SD, UT, and VT), guests will receive alternative specialty items of comparable value. All subscriptions handled by an independent third party.
Contract: Terms and Conditions

These terms and conditions ("Agreement") apply to and control any travel services offered by or through Orbridge LLC or any of its Affiliates (together and in the alternative, "Orbridge", "we", "our", "us"). For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Affiliate" means any natural person or legal entity that is controlled by, controls, or is under common control with Orbridge. "Control" means the ability, whether directly or indirectly, to direct the affairs of Orbridge by means of ownership, contract, employment relationship or otherwise. "You" and "your" means each program participant.

a. Rates. Program rates are based on minimum participation levels, current fares (air, water, land), tariffs and contracts that the tour operator or vendor has arranged in advance and must be maintained. Orbridge reserves the right to change immediately upon posting unless otherwise specified by Orbridge.

b. Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $850 per person per program and $500 per person per extension, payable by check, money order, wire transfer of same day US funds or credit card, is required. Deposits are non-refundable. The balance of the total program fee, payable by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day US funds ONLY and due no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made fewer than 90 days prior to departure, the entire cost of the reservation, payable by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day US funds ONLY. If final payment is not received by Orbridge at least 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date, the reservation will be voided. A surcharge of 10% of the total program fee in a single maximum legal rate, if less, of the total invoice amount, per week until paid in full, and (b) Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole and absolute discretion. All payments we receive from you are non-refundable and non-transferable.

c. Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee ("Cancellation Fee") as follows (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 151 or more days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be $500 per person per program and $300 per person per extension, payable by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day US funds ONLY and due no later than 150 and 91 days prior to the scheduled departure date the cancellation fee will be forfeiture of the full deposit per person per program including any extension; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 90 or fewer days prior to the scheduled departure date, the cancellation fee will be 100% of the total invoice amount, per week until paid in full, and (d) Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole and absolute discretion. All payments we receive from you are non-refundable and non-transferable. If, in the sole judgment of Orbridge, it is in the interest of your health and safety to cancellations will be made and any refunds that are made will be at the discretion of Orbridge and will be in an amount as determined by Orbridge. In the event of cancellation, you hereby acknowledge and agree that you are and shall at all times solely responsible for your care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any extension(s). Should you have any questions whether a particular program's inclusion is suitable for your Dependent(s), please contact us and we will do our best to provide you with answers.

d. Baggage. Program rates include the price of two (2) pieces of policy-compliant baggage per person during the land or cruise portion of the program only unless specified in the itinerary. Please be advised that carriers often impose restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may require or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such limitations or restrictions. All such fees are your sole cost and responsibility. In addition and regardless of location or transportation modality, your baggage and personal effects are at all times at your sole responsibility and risk throughout the entire program. Check with your international carrier for other baggage restrictions and limitations applicable to international flights.

e. Travel Documents. For U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please direct any questions in respect to use requirements to Orbridge. In the event of a cancelled program, Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, withdraw or modify a program if required by the tour operator or other vendor with whom Orbridge has contracted or by means of ownership, contract, employment relationship or otherwise. "You" and "your" means each program participant.

f. Force Majeure. In the event that, in the sole judgment of Orbridge, it is in the interest of your health and safety to cancellations will be made and any refunds that are made will be at the discretion of Orbridge and will be in an amount as determined by Orbridge. In the event of cancellation, you hereby acknowledge and agree that you are and shall at all times solely responsible for your care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any extension(s). Should you have any questions whether a particular program's inclusion is suitable for your Dependent(s), please contact us and we will do our best to provide you with answers.

f. Arbitration. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to any services or products offered or obtained through Orbridge, including without limitation, any claim related to bodily injury, death or property damage, shall be adjudicated and conclusively settled and resolved by binding arbitration in Seattle, Washington before a single arbitrator selected by the party filing the claim. All claims shall be heard and decided on an individual basis and shall at all times be at your sole responsibility and risk throughout the entire program. Please check with your international carrier for other baggage restrictions and limitations applicable to international flights.

g. Photos and Videos. Orbridge, its representatives and/or tour operators may, from time to time, make photographic or video recording(s) during a program, which may include images of you and/or your Dependent(s) if any. For and in consideration of the benefits you receive and in connection with the program, you accept and agree on behalf of you and your Dependent(s) to Orbridge a limited, revocable, nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free right, license and release, with right to sublicense, to exhibit, publish, display and promote the photographs, images, visual depictions, and reproductions of you (together "Photos") recorded in digital and/or other form during your participation in any and all aspects of Orbridge programming and marketing the services of Orbridge in such manner as Orbridge may elect in its sole discretion. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the license granted herein includes the right, without limitation, for Orbridge to reproduce the Photos in digital or other form, to edit such materials, and to publically display, publish and/or distribute such reproductions on Orbridge's proprietary website and in such other digital media and print materials as Orbridge shall deem desirable.

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