

THE BEST OF ITALY FOOD, WINE AND CULTURE

A LUXURY WINE TASTING TOUR OF TUSCANY, UMBRIA AND ROME

MAY 20 - 30, 2023



PROPOSED PROGRAM BY WONDERS PRODUCTIONS
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PROGRAM

7 WONDERS

This will be an exclusive and limited-enrollment tour featuring the best that Tuscany and Umbria Region and Rome have to offer.

- **5-STAR LUXURY HOTELS**
- **VISIT EXCLUSIVE VINEYARDS**
- **TASTE OF ITALIAN CUISINE AT THE MOST RENEWED RESTAURANTS**
- **WINE TASTINGS AT EXCLUSIVE WINERIES**
- **MEET & SHARE WITH WINE EXPERTS AND SOMMELIERS**
- **VISITS OF CULTURAL SITES**
- **VISIT DIFFERENT ITALIAN REGIONS**
- **FULL IMMERSION IN ITALIAN CULTURE**

PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE from your airport to Italy!

DAY 2 - FIRENZE

Arrive in Florence, meet your local Tour manager.

Transfer to Villa Casagrande in Florence countryside. Wine tasting at the Villa and welcome dinner (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee).

Overnight in Villa Casagrande.

DAY 3 - CHIANTI CLASSICO REGION

After breakfast, discover Chianti Classico Wine Region.

Visit to **Antinori's Badia estate** in Passignano. The estate's historical importance in the Chianti Region is well documented in hundreds of volumes that are kept in the Florence State Archives that provide descriptions and details about the Sangiovese vineyards and local crops over the centuries.

Tour of the property, and taste some of Antinori's wines such as Tignanello, Cervaro Della Sala, Chianti Classico Riserva Badia a Passignano and Brunello di Montalcino. After the cellar visit, enjoy an Extra Virgin Olive Oil tasting followed by a lunch at the Michelin starred Osteria. The menu will be paired with specific wines.

Afternoon Siena tour guide. You will discover some beautiful hidden gems of this charming city.

Return to the Villa Casagrande. Dinner (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee) and overnight.

DAY 4 - FLORENCE

After breakfast, transfer to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, the city of Dante, Boccaccio, Botticelli and Da Vinci. Guided city tour, including Academia Museums, where you will see the statue of David by Michelangelo.

Enjoy your lunch in a typical trattoria (lunch inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee).

Afternoon at your disposal.

Dinner on your own and overnight at Villa Casagrande.





DAY 5 - MONTALCINO - PIENZA

After breakfast, depart to Montalcino, a small and quiet medieval town with vineyards and olive groves, indeed well known for its wines.

Visit the world renowned vineyard, **Podere Le Ripi**, 60 hectares of forest, vineyards, and olive trees occupied by a shepherd and his sheep until 1998. An uncontaminated soil, invigorated by spontaneous biodiversity, surrounded by multiple native environments.

Lunch and wine tasting, including the Bonsai variety. In the Bonsai Vineyard vines are planted only 40 centimeters apart, with extreme density.

Afternoon visit to Pienza, UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its cultural landscape: a perfect combination of architectural beauty and harmony.

Visit **Podere il Casale**, a sheep farm known for its pecorino cheese - cheese tasting.

Dinner in a local restaurant (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee) and overnight at Villa Casagrande.

DAY 6 - SAN GIMIGNANO - MONTERIGGIONI

Visit one of the most exclusive wine estates, **I Balzini**. Antonella and her husband, Vincenzo D'Isanto, are the enthusiastic owners. They chose this place for its microclimate and mineral-rich volcanic soil and for the beauty of the countryside. Wine tasting paired with classic Tuscan specialties like Pappa al Pomodoro (bread, tomatoes, and basil soup), Panzanella (bread, tomatoes, onions, cold cucumber salad) and hand-made fresh pasta with San Gimignano saffron.

After lunch visit one of the best producers of white wine, the **Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG**. Since the 13th century, Vernaccia di San Gimignano had been on the tables of kings, popes, and wealthy merchants. The Vernaccia wine was one of the favorite of De Medicis court, Giorgio Vasari painted a young satyr drinking Vernaccia in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, and Michelangelo Buonarroti wrote about the wine, describing it as smooth and sweet on the lips but pungent, savoury on the palate.



Guided walking tour of San Gimignano, where you will enjoy some free time to explore art galleries, and charming gourmet shops and boutiques. Taste of the best gelato in town at Gelateria Dondoli's.

On the way back to Siena, you will stop in Monteriggioni, a well preserved walled hamlet, set amid vineyards. This small mediaeval village is a great place to take photos while strolling through the narrow alleys.

Dinner in a local restaurant (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee) and overnight at Villa Casagrande.

DAY 7 - UMBRIA REGION

After breakfast depart to UMBRIA region. Visit the **Lungarotti estate**, touring the vineyards and cellars. Taste their Torgiano DOC and DOGC and Umbria IGT white, red, and rosè wines, such as Rubesco Riserva Vigna Monticchio, Torre di Giano Vigna Il Pino, San Giorgio, Sagrantino di Montefalco, and Aurenco. Sample some local cheese, salami (corallina, capocollo, prosciutto di Norcia and more) and Umbrian culinary specialities (like strangozzi with black Norcia truffle).

After lunch, guided tour of Assisi. Pilgrims have been coming to Assisi, since the 13th century to venerate St. Francis, who was born and buried here. Framed by the long, undulating hills of Umbria and the forests of Monte Subasio, Assisi is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Dinner (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee) and overnight in Hotel Posta Donini near Perugia.



DAY 8 - MONTEFALCO

After breakfast, we are going to head to Montefalco wine country.

Visit 3 of Umbria's best wineries, such as **Arnaldo Caprai, Paolo Bea, and Scacciadiavoli**. **Scacciadiavoli** wine estate, literally "Devil Banisher", its name comes from an ancient legend of a 17th-century exorcism that took place here. Tour and tasting of their most famous wines, including their excellent Sagrantino. Lunch will follow in a charming little trattoria in Montefalco. After a traditional Umbrian lunch (lunch inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee), you will have some free time.

After a walk in Montefalco, visit next winery. **Paolo Bea**. This estate is considered to be the ultimate boutique winery and makes cult wines for collectors. Enjoy a tasting of the organic wines that have made this estate so famous.

Last winery of the day is the prestigious **Arnaldo Caprai** estate, a Sagrantino wine pioneer. Tour of the vineyards, winery and "Barricaia" (barrel room) and taste the best wines such as Grechetto Poggio Belvedere, Greccante, Poggio Belvedere Rosso, Rosso di Montefalco, Rosso Outsider, Sagrantino Collepiano, Sagrantino 25 Anni Riserva (winner of 95 points with Robert Parker).

Dinner at local restaurant (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee) and overnight in Hotel Posta Donini.



DAY 9 - ROMA - CASTELLI ROMANI

After breakfast transfer to Rome. Check in at the Hotel. In the afternoon visit of Roman Countryside starting with Castel Gandolfo, Pope's summer residence. The visit, along the Roman Countryside, continues with Grottaferrata and Frascati; we will stop at "Santa Benedetta", the oldest winery of the area, to enjoy a wine tasting. Taste local products and observe the various phases of a "doc" wine. Taste of three varieties of wines: Complexus, a white dry wine with a bright intense yellow colour and a tropical, balanced taste, made out of the local Vigna Savina's grapefruit; Gigi, a white opulent wine, a true pleasure for the palate made out of Bellone and Malvasia's grapefruits; and the Tre Vecchie, the new production by Santa Benedetta with a strong taste of cherry and a scent of chocolate and saffron with a note in ripe fruit and withered flowers are the main traits of this wine.

At the end of the wine tasting, Santa Benedetta will host you for dinner (dinner inclusion 1/4 wine and 1 water and coffee), to taste typical Roman food paired with their own wine.

Overnight at Hotel dei Mellini in the heart of Rome

DAY 10 - ROMA

Breakfast at the hotel and free time at disposal during the day.

At night, guided food tour in Trastevere. Trastevere is a typical Roman district and its ivy-coated, cobblestone streets come alive at night. It's where in Rome locals choose to eat with their families on Sunday. Taste pizza and pasta, real Roman street food, meats and cheeses, and amazing wines in a secret cellar.

Overnight at Hotel Dei Mellini.

DAY 11: ROME - DEPARTURE

Transfer to Rome airport for your return flight home.

Arrivederci!

TRIP INCLUSIONS

Local Minibus or Bus as per our itinerary

Professional English-speaking Tour Manager throughout the tour

Meals as per itinerary

Mandatory city tax

Porterage service in/out hotel

Everything included indicated in every single day

NOT included:

Gratuities to the tour manager, local guides and drivers

Airfare to/from Italy

Travel insurance



TRIP COST PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM:

5,240 EURO

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT*: 380 EURO

SINGLE ROOMS LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE

OPTIONAL TOURS OF ROME

ANCIENT ROME - COLOSSEUM INCLUDED 3 HOURS:

64 Euro

CITY CENTER TOUR: PIAZZA DI SPAGNA . PANTHEON , PIAZZA NAVONA (NO ENTRANCE FEES)

32 Euro

