



## **Annual Tuscany Villa Cooking/Sightseeing**

**April 28-May 5 2024**

**\$3899 single**

**\$3499 sharing per person**

**Limited to 10 going** as this is hands on cooking with our chef. We cook, eat drink and visit highlights of Tuscany.

All rooms are spacious with wifi/air conditioning and are nicely furnished. They have private modern bathrooms-several have large tubs instead of showers. The house is a former farmhouse restored beautifully with several living rooms, a huge kitchen, several dining areas, UK television, and large public spaces. There is a swimming pool to use at your own risk. The house sits in the middle of rolling vineyards, about 1 1/2 mile walk from a typical Tuscan village. Part of the complex is a medieval chapel, wine store, 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 90 days before departure and non refundable. **If paid by credit card, please add 4%.** Travel insurance available to protect you and your money.

Checks to **ECPS Consulting Corporation** (legal name of our group). Credit card payments accepted as well as Zelle under [phyllisnycity@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisnycity@gmail.com) and other bank payment systems. We require a completed and 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

Leave N. America **April 27** arrive **April 28**

### Day One April 28

Our transfer meets you at Florence 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. IF YOU WANT TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM PISA, WE CAN ARRANGE THAT ALSO. WE RECOMMEND A SMALL FRIENDLY HOTEL IN PISA.



### 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 a 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" in Florence. Return late afternoon for dinner in our villa.

### 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. Half day Siena tour. In the evening, we enjoy a special farewell dinner prepared by our chef.

### **Day Eight May 5**

After breakfast, AM transfer takes you back to Florence for flights not leaving earlier than 11AM. Private transfers available at 125 Euros per car, optionally for earlier flights.

**Price Includes:** • Land only • Airport transfers from/to Florence 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 Mercedes 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 suggest \$100 tip for escort and \$100 for chef, \$35 for drivers.

**Sample Menus** include biscotti, fresh linguini, fresh ravioli, chestnut cake, tiramisu, pannacotta, chicken, fish and sausage dishes, real bolognese sauce, 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 and our rooms are cleaned once during the week; you need to bring other personal products.

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