

Tuscany Villa Cooking/Sightseeing/Christmas Markets

Dec 4-11 2021 \$200 off until March 1. \$3599 single \$3199 sharing.



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

After March 1 2021: **\$3799** single occupancy **\$3399** double occupancy. All rooms are very 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. The house sits in the middle of rolling vineyards, about 1 1/2 miles 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 might also visit these sites.

Deposit \$750 of which \$350 non refundable unless we do not reach our minimum. Balance payable 75 days before departure and non refundable. 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 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 Optional Pisa Overnight Leave N. America **Dec 2 arrive Dec 3 2021**. 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. We meet for optional dinner near the hotel. On Dec 4 our escort will meet at the hotel and will walk you to the Tower and central shopping areas of Pisa before we leave for the villa around 3PM. If you are not overnighing in Pisa, your trip begins here:

Day One Saturday Dec 4 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. This is a group transfer so you might have to wait if you arrive early. Welcome drinks and dinner prepared by our local chef. All dinners include wine or prosecco, (a type of Italian bubbling wine) or both.

Day Two Sunday After breakfast a first hands on cooking lesson with our chef, enjoying the results for lunch. After lunch we will visit the beautiful winery of Cosimo Maria Masini for tastings. Dinner is prepared for you at the villa. (Some of our recipes will be Italian Christmas specials).

Day Three This morning we visit Lucca the famous hill top town with cobbled streets and festive shops. Lucca is surrounded by impressive medieval walls and full of history in its buildings and churches. It was a meeting place for Julius Caesar. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant then return to the villa for a cooking lesson followed by dinner.



Siena Christmas Markets. Source: Discover Tuscany Official Tourism Site

Day Four After breakfast visit Florence. Enjoy a full day casual sightseeing. Our guide accompanies us for a walking look at this great city, then free time to visit the large Christmas Market. We will lunch at a fun pizza restaurant. Late afternoon, enjoy the tradition of Italian aperitifs like Negoni, Bellini, Aperitivo Nonino. These are pre dinner drinks served with traditional light snacks, imbibed by us in a charming local venue. Dinner at the villa prepared for us by our chef.

Day Five Another cooking lesson then lunch we prepare. This afternoon we visit an artisanal chocolate factory where we will taste and have an opportunity to purchase amazing chocolates. On return, dinner at the villa followed by a cheese tasting with a lesson on varieties and serving expertise.

Day Six Today we visit two spectacular hill towns: San Gimignano and Siena. We will stay on for early dinner in a local restaurant in one of these towns, (traffic depending on which one). Siena is lit with festive lights and hosts a Christmas market this time of year.

Seven After breakfast we will visit a local village, Lari. The village is famous for its pasta which is sold in fancy stores like Harrods. <https://www.famigliamartelli.it/> is located at the foot of the ancient castle and it is one of the last ancient method pasta factories. Tonight dinner at our villa with farewell menu to remember as you prepare to return home. We will send you home with a small pannetore you bake today.



Source: Pasta Martinelli, the cobble street where they are located in Lari.

Day Eight Dec 11

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

Notes: Any and all protocols required by the Government of Italy will be prepared for and complied with. By December this might be moot; but we are prepared.