

LIVE TUSCAN

SAMPLE ITINERARY FOR 7-DAY ADVENTURES

Day 1 **Arrival in Rome/Florence**

Upon your arrival in either Rome or Florence, your English-speaking drivers will greet you at the airport customs exit to take you to your villa in Cortona, a one hour's drive from Florence, or two hours from Rome. If you prefer to take the train in either of these cities, our drivers will pick you up at the train station in Camucia/Cortona and transport you to the villa, a 10- minute drive from the station. Easy instructions for the very economical train will be provided if that is the transport method you choose. The cost of transport from the airport is the responsibility of the traveler, but it reasonably priced when shared between several guests. The cost of transport from the train station in Camuca/Cortona to the villa upon arrival and departure is included in the price of your stay.

Upon arriving at the villa, you will be greeted with a welcome antipasti and wine as everyone relaxes and settles in. After time spent wandering the grounds, relaxing by the pool or getting some rest, we will have a lovely **dinner** al fresco. The wines that we serve are top-quality Tuscan specialties that we know you will enjoy. All breakfasts and dinners are included in the price quoted (excluding the free days, if you are away from the villa).

On free days, breakfast is provided, but all other costs, including travel, activities and food will be incurred by the traveler. For those staying at the villa, dinner will also be served.

Day 2 **Cortona/Cooking Class**

Breakfast at 8 am at the villa

You will depart from the villa at 9 with a personable, English-speaking driver for the day. He is a wealth of knowledge of the area, and will enhance your trip each day. You will have a tour of Cortona with Louise, who will reveal this perfectly preserved Etruscan town in its splendor—its beauty and its history.

Did you know that Cortona is one of Italy's oldest towns, dating back approximately 900 b.c.? This beautiful place is older than Rome...

You will take in the Etruscan Museum, Le Celle, where St. Frances was imprisoned, the Medieval Lane, the fabulous Town Hall and its main square, and many other charming places of interest in this ancient town, your **home** for the week with Live Tuscan. Cortona was the location of the book and film "Under the Tuscan Sun", and once you visit it is easy to see why the town captures the heart and makes leaving difficult.

Lunch at a favorite spot in town, then on to Bramasole, Frances Mayes' home made famous by the book and film "Under the Tuscan Sun". After a short visit to Le Celle, you are driven back to the villa.

Cooking class will be taught from 5-7 pm by a professional local chef skilled in the Tuscan methods.

Dinner will be served at 7.

Dinner is eaten later in Italy than in the US. It often takes 1½ to 2 hours around the table. Time spent on several courses, talking and just slowing to the Tuscan pace.

DAY 3

Siena and the Crete Senesi

After **breakfast**, you will depart with Enzo at 9 am for the drive to Siena, where you will meet your guide. Siena, “The Beloved” city of Tuscany, is famous for its Palio horse race. You will see the Piazza del Campo, Palazzo Pubblico, and many other places of interest in this lovely town. The Duomo features the most ornate mosaic floor in all of Italy. It took 200 years and 40 artisans to complete!

A typical Tuscan **lunch** (your lunch is our treat!) will be served in a local restaurant in nearby San Galgano. Afterwards, we will visit the 3rd c. abbey and see the original “Sword in the Stone”, housed in the Montesiapi chapel.

From there you will travel back home through the beautiful Crete Senesi, some of the most picturesque vistas in Italy. Upon arrival, there will be time for swimming or just relaxing with a good book until dinner is served.

Dinner celebrating all that you saw and experienced that day is at 7:00 pm.

Day 4

Montipulciano and Pienza

Breakfast at the villa at 8 am

You will depart with Louise, your wonderful guide for the day. She is an engaging, expert historian on the wines of this region, and will begin the day in Montipulciano. This Renaissance town is known for its Vino Nobile, one of Italy’s oldest wines. You will learn about the wines, have complimentary tastings, and see the beautiful churches and streets of this amazing town.

After the wine tasting, on to Pienza, known for its delicious cheese, you will have a tour of a Pecorino Romano cheese factory with Beppe. You will learn about and taste this staple in Tuscan cooking, and you will also enjoy a wonderful lunch prepared just for us. Arrangements can be made for shipping this delicious cheese home. You will definitely want some to remember your visit.

If time allows, a stop at Bagno Vignoni, the ancient Roman hot springs, for a photo and a walk.

Dinner will be ready for you upon your arrival at the villa.

Day 5

Assisi/Tili Winery

After **breakfast**, you will be driven by your driver to the town of Assisi. This is the home of St. Frances, and is a 45-minute ride. This mystical town is perched on the slopes of Mount Subasio, in Umbria. Marco, your charismatic, expert guide for the day will meet you there for a walking tour of this very spiritual place. He is a wealth of information on St. Frances and St. Claire, and tells their story in such a way that you feel transported back to their time and come to understand how profoundly they contributed to the world. You will tour the famous Basilica of St. Francis, and see many of the other interesting and memorable sights. The town of Assisi is a truly special experience for the heart, mind and soul and not to be missed.

After your tour, meet the driver who will then take you just a few kilometers outside of town to the family-owned Tili vineyards. This wonderful family runs an organic vineyard that produces incredible wine, olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

Your short tour of the vineyards is followed by a delicious lunch, prepared by the owners.

Upon arrival at the house, you can relax until dinner with a swim in the beautiful pool, a good book, a glass of wine or good music.

Day 6
Chianti Tour

Breakfast at the villa.

Today will find us touring the famous Chianti region with our driver. We will stop at points of interest along the way...castles and wineries, for tastings and a delicious lunch. There is so much scenic beauty that the drive, along with the driver's knowledge of the area, is the highlight of the day. This is the region where the famous Chianti Classico (Black Rooster) is created. Some of Italy's most iconic wines are produced here, and no time in Tuscany is complete without a drive through and a taste of Chianti.

Day 7
Truffle Day

Breakfast will be served at 8.

Today we head over the mountain into the Val di Pierle, where we will hunt for the famous tartufo. The truffles of the Tuscan region are world- famous, and searching for them adds so much to the experience of tasting dishes made with them. Today, in and around Mercatale, we will do both. Our hunt with the dogs will start in the woods, and with a little luck and a dog with a good nose, we will have truffles to take back for our wonderful pranzo at the home of our guide.

This day will be a lasting memory of authentic Tuscan life, and will highlight one of the region's most sought- after products.

Tonight there is a special Dinner Party that will celebrate the time you've spent with us in this beautiful region. You will have lived as a Tuscan for a time; an unforgettable experience. You will make some of the best memories of the week tonight!

Day 8
Departure Day

Breakfast at 8 am.

Depart the villa at 9 am.

Transportation to the train in Camucia/Cortona is included.

Cost of private drivers to the airport will be incurred by the guest, but are very reasonable when shared by several travelers.

SPECIAL NOTE: This itinerary is customizable and flexible. This is your time and you can participate in as much or as little as you like. If there are days that guests wish to relax and not travel, they are more than welcome to stay "home". Just as you control your time at home, your Tuscan home is yours to enjoy as you wish.

The 7-day itinerary as shown is included in the price.

I can secure private drivers and guides for Rome and Florence. Those costs are not included in the price of your stay.

My hope is that you will recognize and appreciate that Live Tuscan is very different from large tour companies. We offer a slice of Italian life, with choices each day that are yours and yours alone to make. Our offering is unequalled, and you will be warmly welcomed and celebrated by us and the Tuscan people.

Price per person, \$4,500.00 includes:

- Lodging in a wonderful, authentic premier property
- A full American/Italian breakfast daily
- Delicious regional, hand-crafted lunches and dinners, with an pairing of high-quality Tuscan wines and beverages with both lunch and dinner.
- Licensed guides expert in their particular town or region.
- A wonderful cooking class taught by our chef, trained in the authentic Tuscan methods.
- Entry to vineyards, wineries and tastings.
- Luxury transport to all of the destination on our itinerary

Price does not include:

- Airfare
- Transportation to and from villa in Cortona