



The Taste of Tuscany Tour 2012

TASTE OF TUSCANY 2012

is an exciting fusion of food, art, wine, music, with architecture, gardens and history thrown in. Something for everyone. You will be taken off the beaten (tourist) track and unique experiences are guaranteed.

The tour encompasses the coast and the mountains, antiquated villages and stylish cities; dining in simple 'osterias' and fine 'trattorias' and all the while absorbing the wonderful atmosphere – air, sounds and aromas of summer in Tuscany .

YOUR HOSTESSES ARE :

Myself, Georgina Adamson, organiser and cook, I love to share my passion for this special little part of Tuscany that I have visited many times. Susanne Piazzoli found her husband while travelling and made Italy her home for a decade. An indispensable interpreter and font of knowledge, she is a charming accomplice. The illustrious artist Veronica O'Leary joins us this year to guide the artists, and enlighten us all about the world of art.



For General Information:

www.visititaly.com
www.goitaly.about.com
www.turismo.provincia.lucca.it

For Wine:

www.fatoriadifubbiano

For Art:

www.gamc.it
www.claudiopoleschi.com
www.luccamuseum.it



TRIP ITINERARY

DAY 1

You will be met at Pisa Airport and after a short drive will arrive at your accommodation in Nocchi Camaiore, above the Versilian coast and with views over the foothills surrounding Lucca. Time to catch your breath and acclimatise to the Tuscan atmosphere!

Your accommodation will be in a beautifully renovated villa with all modern conveniences yet retaining its original feel. Set in gardens there is a 'feast for the eye' around every corner. The weather should be quite warm so bring your bathers and make use of the pool.



DAY 2

A trip to the Versilian Coast to see the sites. The Lido (beach) is quite different from our Australian experience and we will visit Viareggio with wide promenades and art nouveau architecture. There are a number of interesting contemporary galleries here and in nearby Pietrosanto.

Lunch at Ciccio's is always a must and a favoured restaurant with local families. It is located on the waterfront in Bocchi di Magra with a spectacular backdrop of the Apuan mountains. Plenty of time to walk and explore or sketch after lunch.



DAY 3

Into the mountains to visit the marble centre of Carrara...The marble quarry will be an inspiration for artists and the marble museum is fascinating.



DAY 4

We will move on today and follow the Serchio River Valley higher into the mountain region of the Garfagnana

where the landscape is dotted with hilltop towns and castles. Along the way we will stop for lunch at a local 'osteria'.

We take up residence in the small village of Caprignana where you will soon get to know the locals (not many tourists visit). Your accommodation is in a converted stone farmhouse. Arriving at the villa, you can settle in and enjoy the evening 'passagiata' before dinner.

DAY 5

Visit to the medieval town of Catenuova de Garfagnana, the regional centre for this area, and it is market day and the town will be full of locals and activity, a tradition that has been going on for centuries. A degustation lunch at Andrea's Bar, which is something special. There



are a number of galleries in the town.

DAY 6

After a leisurely morning we will drive through the Orecchiella national park to Corfino for cooking class and lunch, always popular on this tour. Plenty of time to rest, walk or sketch in the gardens after lunch.

DAY 7

A visit to the medieval hilltop town of Barga with a rich artistic heritage. The narrow streets, lined with galleries, artists' studios and antique shops and bars



to explore as you wind up through the narrow streets to reach the Duomo and take in the view of the Serchio River Valley and the Apuan Mountains.

DAY 8

A visit to our local market town at Piazza al Serchio to stock up for a picnic lunch in the Fort at Verrucole. For those who wish, we can visit a couple of the other local villages and see artisan cheese makers at work. Others

may choose to draw as there is plenty of inspiration.

DAY 9

Drive down the valley to Lucca for the second half of our tour. Settle in and



relax or walk around the ramparts to familiarise yourselves with the layout of this elegant walled city.

Dinner at one of Lucca's fine restaurants (voted a favourite on the last tour) and maybe a concert.



DAY 10

A day to fully explore Lucca, with much to see. Cathedrals, villas and gardens, palazzos, elegant shops in Via Fillunga, osterias to sample local wines & food, and many galleries.

In the afternoon we will have our friends from Toscaneggio cooking school come to give us a private lesson, for those who wish to learn some traditional Lucchese dishes.

DAY 11

A day in the hills of Lucca exploring some of the finest wine and olive farms. Others may prefer a visit to some private villas or explore more of Lucca's thriving art scene.

DAY 12

A short drive to Bagni di Lucca, once the playground of poets, writers and artists. 'Take the waters' at the hot springs and spa. There will also be an opportunity to visit the studios of some local artists.

DAY 13

Visit Villa Torregio and Reale on the outskirts of Lucca. These magnificent



Villas were the country estates of many wealthy Lucchese and they are set in acres of magnificent gardens.

DAY 14

Last day of the tour so your opportunity to shop, or return to your favourite spots. In the evening we will have a special celebratory dinner.



Practicalities:

Date: June 12 – 26, 2012

Cost \$5600 pp

Inclusions: All land travel, accommodation, food & wine, entry fees
Your own travel insurance essential

Contact:

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Deposit required: end January 2012

