



## Wine & Food Tour under the Tuscan Sun with EVOO

**Oct 15, Day 1** – Our group meets in Florence (meeting details TBA) for private transportation to our villa, our home base for the week, about 18 km into the Chianti countryside. Here we meet our charming hosts, and chef-owners, who make our welcome dinner.

**Oct 16, Day 2** – We drive through picturesque Chianti to an historical wine producer, Ricasoli at Castello Brolio to learn in depth production techniques and their grape varieties. We visit the castle there and taste their wines. Next we stop at the hilltop fortified town of Castellina, where we have personal time to explore and shop, and enjoy lunch on our own before heading back to our villa for our pizza class and dinner.

**Oct 17 Day 3** – What is a wine without cheese! Today we depart by private transportation to visit a small family run cheese producer. Here we have a demonstration class in cheese making, including making ricotta from the residual milk of the first cheese. We help make gnocchi for our lunch in mamma's kitchen before sitting down to enjoy a cheese tasting lunch. On the way home we visit another hill top little town re-known for its crystal production. Next we stop at an award winning olive oil mill where we may purchase oils to be shipped. The proprietors take us on a tour of how olive oil is made followed by a sensorial olive oil tasting and light dinner. Our villa is a very short distance away as we end this busy day.

**Oct 18- Day 4** Departure is early for the pretty town of Pistoia for a little personal time before heading to the top of the hill to visit a small agriturismo farm, breeders of Chianina cow and Cinta Senese pigs, two breeds that might have become extinct were it not for such farms. We explore the farm, get to know a few of the animals followed by a tasty lunch. We then are transported to the stunning renaissance walled town of Lucca, with its enchanted timeless tower-houses, churches, art treasures, museums, gardens and palaces of Giacomo Puccini. Dinner today finds us at a nearby local winery.

**Oct 19- Day 5** – We visit Brunello di Montalcino winery, a historical local producer, where we enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvre tasting. In the afternoon we will spend some time visiting the historical centre of Montalcino, a hill-top medieval fortress town, where also enjoy dinner.

**Oct 20 Day 6** Today we visit the market square in Greve, the “capital” of Northern Chianti. Take free time to explore shop and become enchanted by the local shops, such as Falorni's ham boutique, and the wine-tasting tastings. Then it will be time to enjoy a panoramic drive along the Chiantigiana back to our Villa for our Farewell dinner.

**Oct 21<sup>th</sup> Day 7** – After breakfast, our tour ends. Group departure by private transportation to Florence; you may make your own arrangements for transportation to the airport.

## TOUR FEATURES

- 6 night's accommodations double rooms with baths, at our home base, a former Roman castle now villa hotel with old world charm and décor. Full breakfast provided daily. Ample time for relaxing at the villa and to enjoy the gardens; massages services by appointment
- Our personal multi-lingual, Italian tour director, now resident of Portland OR
- Comfortable bus transportation for our day trips with fabulous scenery and guided commentary
- All dinners with local wines and 3 lunches together; 3 lunches on our own; and 3 opportunities to shop for souvenirs
- 2 winery tastings; one with dinner; one with in depth wine making class
- 1 visit to award winning olive oil mill (followed by tasting & light dinner)
- 2 farm visits with lunch
- 2 organized cooking classes; one pizza/dinner and one gnocchi/cheese making hands-on experience with lunch
- All gratuities included
- Cultural sightseeing with all applicable taxes, service fees, entrance fees as per program

**TUITION** \$3500 US does not include air fare or highly recommended trip insurance. Trip itinerary may be required to change to equal experience or different itinerary sequence. No refund for missed activities. Payment-in- full is required based on minimum of 12 and maximum 14 guests. Participants must be able to walk moderate distances and embark/disembark ground transportation independently.

You are invited but not required to come to our [PRE TRIP EXPERIENCE](#)

Tour guests are invited to attend a pre-trip “meet and greet” party at EVOO sometime in September (TBA). This is the opportunity ask questions of our tour director in person as well as make final arrangements for ground transportation. Payment by credit card is encouraged as it provides some insurance and also incurs a 3.5 % fee.