



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Classic Journeys Adds Five New Tours to its Award-Winning List of Travel Destinations**

Four Completely New Adventures to Familiar Lands Plus a Unique New Visit to an Historic Land Provide Family Fun, Fantasy, Cultural Diversity and Epicurean Delight

September 12, 2007 – La Jolla, CA – Classic Journeys, a leading upscale tour company specializing in walking, culinary and family adventure tours in 60 regions worldwide, announced today that they've added five new tours and destinations.

The new Classic Journeys tours will go to the Italian Tuscan Coast, the Dalmatian coast in Croatia, the Istrian coast of Croatia, California's Napa and Sonoma wine country and India. All five new tours are available for the 2008 season.

"We are thrilled to be adding tours to what we believe is already the industry's most diverse and pleasurable destination portfolio. We're also very excited to hear the reactions from our customers—especially since we're adding these destinations per their requests..." said Classic Journeys' President and Founder, Edward Piegza.

*Descriptions of the five new tour includes...*

#### **The Tuscan Coast – A Cultural Walking Adventure**

This 7-day/6-night tour starts in Lucca, where two nights are spent in what many believe is Europe's most beautiful medieval city. From there activities include cheese tasting, a visit to a terra cotta craftsman's workshop, a ferry ride to Giglio and a visit to the castle of Montecarlo for dinner. Guests then travel to Bolgheri for two more nights at Aala Piccola, a visit to an archaeology site near Populonia and a wine tasting at a renowned country winery. During the tour another wine tasting is hosted at the family winery of Andrea Bocelli. Other stops include a couple of nights spent at a 150 acre hotel-estate near Sassetta, all before departing from Pisa (where easy connections can be made to Florence or Rome).

#### **Croatia's Dalmatian Coast – A Family Journey**

This 7-day/6-night tour originates in Dubrovnik for 2-nights with a warm-up walk on the city walls and a stop at one of our favorite gelato shops. At the harbor's edge, slide into two-person

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kayaks for an easy paddle to a peacock-populated island with an abandoned fortress, inland lake and perfect picnic spots. A short drive into the countryside includes a stop at a monastery and lunch at a winery before settling into our luxurious seaside resort for 2 nights. On the nearby Cetina River, the canyons are deep but the rapids are mellow, and it's a great spot for rafting. A morning ferry is followed by a 2 nights stay on Havar, one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands. We wander in lavender fields, stop to see the huge grinding wheels of an olive press in action, go snorkeling...send the kids for a bike ride...go shopping and sit down for lunch in a friend's agriturismo. On our last day, guests ferry to Split where they part company.

### **Croatia's Istrian Peninsula – A Family Journey**

This 7-day/6-night tour starts in Venice where the first night is spent on foot and water taxi exploring the city's treasures before dinner at a favorite restaurant. A brief drive through Slovenia delivers guests to Croatia where they'll enjoy a coastal walk and an olive oil tasting. Then it's on to Rovinj for 3-nights. Approached via footpath, guests check into a 15th century bishop's palace where Simona, a Classic Journeys friend, fortifies them with a cappuccino for a stroll from Montizel (Monticello in Italian) past fig orchards, vineyards, and walled towns. A rare visit to the Brijuni Islands, formerly the private retreat of Yugoslavia's president, follows, capped with an exploration of the Roman amphitheater at Pula and a tasting at a winery overlooking the Adriatic. The next two nights are spent at a seaside villa in Opatija where guests lunch in a charming nearby village and dive in waters clear to depths of 40 feet. After a ferry ride to Cres Island, follow Roman footpaths to a sanctuary for endangered griffin vultures. The tour's final day begins breaking bread at an Italian agriturismo before parting company back in Venice.

### **Napa & Sonoma's Culinary Treasures – A Culinary Tour**

Guests gather in San Francisco for this 6-night/5-day tour – starting with a drive to COPIA, the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, where a picnic is set providing an introduction to the region's culinary traditions. Lodgings move to Yountville for 2 nights living it up in wine country style – just a short walk to a favorite restaurant where an acclaimed chef prepares dinner. From here, forays are made to a wine tasting, a cooking lesson using hand-harvested ingredients from the chef's garden and walks among 60 different vineyards on a single estate. Guests visit Sonoma County farms to shop for honey, jams and mustards before settling into a Sonoma inn for 3 nights where they visit Jack London's Beauty Ranch where "The House of Happy Walls" sits in a redwood grove. With free time for a massage or a bike ride, guests are also treated to a private tour of Sonoma Mission. A morning walk on the scenic Sonoma Overlook Trail is capped by an olive oil tasting. Finally guests help create a farewell dinner at one of the area's finest culinary schools. On the return to San Francisco an exhilarating walk across the Golden Gate Bridge includes an opportunity to explore the shops in the Ferry Building Marketplace.

### **India – India-Rajasthan, Tigers & Taj – A Cultural Walking Adventure**

This 12 day/11 night luxury tour includes overnights at the #1 rated hotel in the world (Udaivilas), as well as the finest properties throughout India. It combines this luxury with hard to arrange personal interactions with locals and one-of-a-kind walks in the countryside. Guests gather in Delhi for the first 2 nights. The foot tour of the Old City includes sampling of street food in the Chor Bazaar followed by a sumptuous dinner in a private home. After a flight to Udaipur, the next 2 nights include a country lane walk to 450-year-old Delwara to meet the villagers. Back in the city guests explore the white marble palace complex, shop the spice market

with a chef and then enjoy a cooking lesson in her kitchen. En route to a luxury encampment in Pushkar for the following 2 nights, guests are treated to a privately guided tour of the Jain temples. Walks there offer bird watching and meetings with local blacksmiths and goatherders, morning *asanas* (yoga exercises) and a visit to the Brahma Temple and a Hindu prayer ceremony. The drive to Jaipur for the next 2 nights passes through the villages of Rajasthan. On elephant back guests visit the Amber Fort and pause for refreshments at a farmhouse. Two more nights are spent at Ranthambhore National Park, the world's best-known tiger preserve. Finally, in Agra for the final 2 nights, guests are not only treated to the Taj Mahal, they stay in a hotel overlooking it for un-crowded access at dusk and dawn. Guests finally part company on the final day back in Delhi.

Classic Journeys' philosophy is to immerse its guests in the history and culture of a region. Guests don't just visit a destination - they experience it. By combining easy-going walking through villages and countryside with visits to historic sites and interactions with interesting local people their guests return home with a more intimate understanding and appreciation for the locations they've visited.

Adventure travel is one of the fastest growing trends in the private group tours segment, but culinary and wine tasting tours are still at the top of the list for many travelers. Classic Journeys customizes tours in each of the three special areas of interest, as well as offering exceptional programs with a focus on multigenerational activities as more families embark on trips together.

### **About Classic Journeys**

Classic Journeys started in 1995 with the simple thought, "It's time for something different." Those five words led to more than a decade refining and improving small group, soft-adventure travel. Classic Journeys offers a unique category of tours that blends moderate walking in small groups with generous, up-close exposure to local life in every one of the more than 60 regions they visit. In the last several years the company has expanded their original view of walking tours to include specialized culinary and family adventures. For more information please visit:

[www.ClassicJourneys.com](http://www.ClassicJourneys.com)