

CULINARY WALKING ADVENTURE

Tuscany Culinary

Markets, Vineyards & Kitchens of Chianti



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

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The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners (4 of the meals as cooking instructions)
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and streets. When possible, a mini-van offers additional support.

DAY 1 »

Florence

Put yourself in a Tuscan mood by calling it Firenze. But trust us: there is nothing sparing about its comfort today—or any of the pleasures you'll experience in the remarkable week ahead. Since we're just a few blocks from the Duomo, our local guide starts your welcome walk there in the shadow of Brunelleschi's dome. The heart of Renaissance Florence is quite compact; so you'll orient quickly as we wind our way to the premier sites including the landmark Ponte Vecchio and bustling Piazza Signoria.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: FLORENCE

DAY 2 »

Florence / Mugello Valley

Please control your envy. It's not easy when, just after breakfast, we visit San Lorenzo, the Florentines' main market. For them, it's everyday. For us, it's sensory overload as we wander among gorgeous pyramids of produce. We'll sample the wares—olives, breads, meats—and select ingredients for a country picnic later in the Mugello Valley north of the city.

Out in that countryside, an easy walk leads to a visit with a local shepherd who gives us a private look at where she makes sheep's- milk cheeses ...and it would be an insult not to have a taste! Mid- afternoon, our path delivers us to a friend's farmhouse for a little cooking instruction in her cucina.

As you help prepare a local specialty—such as ricotta and spinach- stuffed ravioli—you discover something critical: Most Tuscan recipes have only a few ingredients, but careful techniques keep the flavors pure and "big." Appetites whetted, we dine on the results before returning to Florence.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: FLORENCE

DAY 3 »

Chianti / San Gimignano

Leaving Florence for the day, we wind our way into Tuscany, landscape of villas, castles and, of course, vineyards. Along the way, we stop in to visit with a local artisan who still crafts terra cotta pots by hand. A vineyard walk is the perfect transition to another cooking session, this time in a country house on the grounds of a 15th century castle. To complement our private lunch, our hosts bring a young Chianti Classico up from their cellar.

An early afternoon stroll aids the digestion. Then we dedicate the afternoon to San Gimignano, the ultimate hill town with its fantasy skyline of 14 medieval towers. Conceived originally for defense, the towers grew into the world's most photogenic examples of one- upsmanship as family after family sought to out-build its peers. Our guide is an expert at spinning this story of history, architecture and ego. By late afternoon, we're back in Florence with time to relax before a night out at one of the city's excellent trattorias.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: FLORENCE

DAY 4 »

Siena / Cortona

One of the great delights of Italy is how quickly regional differences occur even when you only travel short distances. Today, we see that as we head to southern Tuscany and its cinnamon-colored centerpiece, Siena.

This city is a wonderful blend of the sturdy and the sophisticated. We enjoy a scenic and historic walk around the town—through the maze of hilly streets lined with gothic towers, medieval houses and palazzi, and finally to the Duomo, earliest of the great Tuscan cathedrals. Along the way, our guide fills us in on Il Palio, the chaotic horse race that's run annually in the scallop-shaped Piazza del Campo. We set aside time for shopping or on-your-own explorations.

After lunch, visit a local olive oil mill. The Landi family have been pressing olive oil for three generations. We see their new mill machinery as well as the traditional old mill stones they still use today. Later, we take a countryside drive to Cortona, our home for the next three nights. You'll have some time to relax at the villa and get acquainted with your new surroundings. Later, we take the chance to explore Cortona's stone walls that date to the Etruscans. (If the village streets somehow seem familiar, it may be because you remember their descriptions in Frances Mayes' popular book, *Under the Tuscan Sun*). If your energy is up, you can enjoy a light walk through the olive groves and past the lovely home restored by Frances Mayes. Tonight, dinner is on your own as you wish.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: CORTONA

DAY 5 »

Montepulciano / Cortona

You awaken to panoramic views of Lake Trasimeno and the surrounding countryside. With breakfast under our belts, we venture out into the countryside near the lovely town of Montepulciano. A countryside-walk ends just where you'd hope: at the area's oldest winery where we're treated to a tasting of the famous Nobile de Montepulciano wines. There's no rush. You can roam the town with our guide or on your own before we return to Cortona.

Later, we've arranged a cooking class at a delightful Agriturismo situated nearby Cortona. Here, we're in the kitchen again to gather tips on preparing the chef's specialties while we sip at a glass of local wine. The location is breathtaking, and the food is divine.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: CORTONA

DAY 6 »

Pienza / Montalcino

Blood-orange juice, a hunk of bread, a little cheese: your new breakfast routine is down pat. And you're well fueled for the journey to Montalcino, home of the world famous Brunello wines. We'll take our time wandering the streets—the only sure way to find the unique tempo of a town. It's safe (and almost compulsory!) to have a wine tasting before our afternoon cooking class. You will be at home in Marcella's kitchen, possibly meeting members of her family, and enjoying good food and company.

Midday, we take a short drive to Pienza, a jewel of a village where Renaissance urban design originated. We'll follow footpaths through the lush green Orcia River Valley where much of the movie *The English Patient* was filmed. Later, we return to Cortona, you'll have some time to relax at the and get acquainted with your new surroundings. After, we've arranged a beautiful farewell dinner you won't forget.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: CORTONA

DAY 7 »

Cortona

We part company after breakfast with fond memories and wonderful Tuscan recipes to prepare for friends at home.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Antica Torre Di Via Tornabuoni](#)

Originally a palace of the Guelf family, this historic hotel in the heart of Florence is known for its attentive service. The rooftop terraces offer remarkable views of the entire city. Rooms are decorated in elegantly understated Florentine style.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Villa Marsili](#)

Located in Cortona, this beautiful hotel, dating back to the 8th century, was recently restored. Each window of the villa offers breathtaking views, and the elegant frescoed guest rooms combine modern amenities and lovely antique furniture.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Antica Torre Di Via Tornabuoni**
START CITY: **Florence**
START TIME: **2:30 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Villa Marsili**
END CITY: **Cortona**
END TIME: **9:00 AM**