

**TUSCANY TOUR**  
**OCTOBER 7 – 15, 2017**  
**With Venice Optional Extension Oct 15 – 18, 2017**

It is time to head back to where our hearts want to go...ITALY. Here is what we have planned for you. And best of all, Lynn Maloni, the tour guide we had in 2012, will be escorting us again. And for those that have a desire to see Venice once again, we have an optional extension that I am sure you will love. We take the train from Florence to Venice and stay in a hotel on the Grand Canal.

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- 7 nights' accommodations at the following
  - 7 nights [Grand Hotel Vittoria](#), Montecatini, Italy (This is where we stayed in 2012 and had such great food and fun in the lounge. The hotel is currently undergoing renovation, but I hope they keep the "charm" of the past. There is a very slight possibility that they may NOT reopen in time and in that case Gate1 will select another hotel in the near vicinity that meets our specifications. The Vittoria is currently scheduled to reopen in December of THIS year so I don't believe we have to be concerned.)
  - Note: The Grand Hotel Vittoria is still closed. We used the estimated rates they provided us with help from Lynn. However, we reserve the right to review and adjust both hotel rates and terms once they are officially open for business and able to send firm rates.
- 13 meals, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 6 Dinners per itinerary
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour escort/manager from arrival to return (**Lynn Maloni is scheduled to be our guide again.**)
- Local guides as required
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Portage of one piece per person on arrival and departure at each hotel

**NOT INCLUDED:**

Meals unless specified, optional tours, **gratuities**, and anything not mentioned in the package is considered NOT included. Beverages with meals (other than breakfasts) are all detailed on the itinerary below.

**Saturday, October 07, 2017 - Fly to Italy**

Depart New York for your flight to Florence, Italy

*(Please note we have a price that includes air also but we must have a MINIMUM of 10 people to get the rate quoted. However, many have stated they prefer to use their mileage earned with credit cards and others have special deals with airlines because of family, etc. And others want to stay in Europe longer...so we can book our own flights or book thru Gate1 Travel. We are leaving that up to you.)*

**Sunday, October 08, 2017 - Arrive in Florence, Transfer to Montecatini**

Arrive in Florence and transfer to your hotel in Montecatini, the spa center of Italy known for its world-famous thermal baths and expansive parks and gardens. The rest of the day is at leisure to immerse yourself in the beautiful surroundings. This evening, enjoy an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager, followed by a Welcome Dinner  
**Note** - Airport transfers will be included for passengers arranging the flights with the group. Private optional transfers for those not on the same flights are estimated at \$120 **per car** for 1 or 2 people (one way). (Transfers may be arranged thru Gate1 Travel.)

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Hotel Dinner with wine

**Monday, October 09, 2017 - Excursion to Medieval Siena & San Gimignano**

Today's full day excursion takes you to the enchanting medieval city of Siena that sits elegantly over three hills. The heart of the city is the stunning Piazza del Campo, the huge central plaza where the Roman Forum used to be, now site of the famous Horserace of Palio. The race takes place twice each year in celebration of the holy apparition and assumption of the Virgin Mary, patron saint of the city. Tour Campo Square and Basilica of St. Dominic before continuing to San Gimignano, a small walled village famous for its medieval architecture and towers that create a

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unique skyline. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city offers a step back in time to a feudal era. Tonight take the funicular up to Montecatini Alto for dinner where we will also enjoy some spectacular views.

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Restaurant Dinner in Montecatini Alto

**Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - Chianti Wine Tasting and Lunch, Town of Greve**

Today, enjoy breathtaking scenery as you travel to the magnificent Chianti region, in the very heart of the Tuscan countryside, where Italy's most famous red wine is produced. Chianti offers a unique landscape, with green, gentle hills covered with wide fields of vineyards and olive groves, small stone villages, characteristic parishes and countryside homes in stone. The Chianti landscapes are so stunning that it has inspired many famous photographers so keep your cameras ready. Stop at one of the local vineyards for a wine tasting followed by lunch at Verazzano Winery highlighted by local specialties. Then, on to the small town of Greve with its bustling main square, where you have time to wander around, sip an espresso, or indulge in a gelato before returning to Montecatini.

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Restaurant Lunch, Light Dinner at the Hotel

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - Full Day in Montecatini**

Explore Montecatini on your own today, or join the not-to-be-missed full day *optional* tour to Florence, birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Upon arrival, walk to the magnificent Duomo celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistery's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti. Continue to the Accademia of Fine Arts, where Michelangelo's *David* is housed; stand in awe of this glorious work of art. From here, walk through the open-air museum at Signoria Square, ending at the splendid Ponte Vecchio, also known as the "Old Bridge". Return to Montecatini and enjoy the evening at leisure. Lunch and dinner are on your own today

**Optional:** Full Day Florence from Montecatini

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Thursday, October 12, 2017 - Excursion to Pisa, Marina de Pisa, Tirrenia, Wine Tasting & Cooking Class with Dinner**

Coastal tour to Pisa to view the famous Piazza dei Miracoli with its Leaning Tower, one of the most instantly recognizable structures on earth. The monuments on the extraordinary Piazza dei Miracoli create a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. Then along the coastal town of Marina de Pisa (stop for photo op) and on to Tirrenia for pizza lunch on our own. A lovely end to the day with a visit to a traditional Tuscan farm. Drive thru the countryside and end the day with a warm welcome and wine tasting, participate in a "hands-on" cooking class followed by a delectable dinner with local specialties and regional wines.

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Friday, October 13, 2017 - Full Day in Montecatini or Optional Cinque Terre Tour**

Full Day at leisure to explore Montecatini and its surroundings on your own or take an *optional* tour to the spectacular Cinque Terre, one of the most beautiful areas of the Liguria region. Here five small villages nestled in the cliffs overlooking the sea and the surrounding hillsides are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at the scenic coastline while exploring the villages and the beautiful vistas. *Exact tour itinerary & operation of the tour is subject to weather conditions and group size and will be advised locally.*

Note - Weather permitting, we would use the train ride to the towns and the BOAT RIDE back to Portovenere

**Optional:** Full Day Cinque Terre

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**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Hotel Dinner with wine

**Saturday, October 14, 2017 - Morning Leonardo da Vinci Tour**

Enjoy half day tour and discover the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, often depicted in Leonardo's maps and in his famous drawings. Surrounded by centuries-old olive trees, in a landscape almost untouched by time, you will view the house where Leonardo was born in 1452. From there we will transfer to the town of Vinci, to visit the Museum that documents the work of Leonardo the inventor, the technologist and the engineer. End the tour with a Tuscan "merenda" savoring the typical wines and snacks of the area before returning to Montecatini. Farewell dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Montecatini, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Hotel Farewell Dinner with wine

**Sunday, October 15, 2017 - Depart Italy**

Transfer to the airport in nearby Florence for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

**\*optional extension to Venice to be priced separately. See next page.**

## **Optional Tours:**

**Full Day Florence from Montecatini - Day #5 - 11 Oct 2017 - \$89.00**

This morning, travel to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. On arrival, walk to the Duomo and Baptistery to view Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise," whose south door quatrefoils feature scenes from the life of John the Baptist. Continue to visit the Accademia where you will view Michelangelo's David. From here, visit the open air art museum of Signoria Square, with its beautiful statues and landmark Ponte Vecchio, the "Old Bridge." Return to Montecatini. Pick-up details to be advised locally.

**Cinque Terre Tour - Day #7 - 13 Oct 2017 - \$99.00**

Visit the spectacular Cinque Terre, one of the most beautiful areas of the Liguria region. Here, the five small villages of Rio Maggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza & Monte Rosso are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your tour will include a visit to at least two of these spectacular villages, nestled in the cliffs overlooking the sea and the surrounding hillsides \* Exact tour itinerary and villages visited to be advised locally. Operation of the tour is subject of weather condition and group size.

**We planned the tour this way as many of you have already been to Florence and Cinque Terre and may prefer to see something different. When you arrive, our tour guide can give you many other options that you may wish to do...take a train to Milan...take a tour with some other company in the area. There will be many other options open to you...or you may just want an opportunity to just relax and enjoy Italy. Several of us are flying in a day or two early and staying in Florence to really immerse ourselves in Florence. The bus can be arranged to stop in Florence and pick us up there (Transfer fee applies) or we can take the train directly into Montecatini on our own.**

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**VENICE OPTIONAL TOUR EXTENSION:**  
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PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 3 nights' accommodations at the following hotels or similar
  - 3 nights [Grand Hotel Principe](#), Venice, Italy
- 3 Breakfasts
- Departure Airport Transfer
- Sightseeing per itinerary
- Services of English-speaking tour escort/manager from arrival to return (Lynn)
- Local guides as required
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece per person on arrival and departure at the hotel

***Please note that if you book your air travel thru Gate1 Travel, the inclusive price for Roundtrip to/from Florence from New York would be the same if 10 or more book returning from Venice instead of Florence.***

**OPTIONAL TOURS IN VENICE:**

**Gondola Ride with Music - Day #2 - 16 Oct 2017 - \$56**

One of the highlights of any Italian holiday! Enjoy a relaxing gondola ride with music along the famous Grand Canal, and experience a piece of Venetian history. Glide along the centuries old canals, past lavish palaces and under famous arched bridges (the Gondola holds a maximum of six passengers. Please note that this is not a private gondola ride). Pick-up details to be advised locally.

**Excursion to the Islands of Venice Lagoon (#7) 11:00 AM - Day #3 - 17 Oct 2017 - \$23**

Depart by boat from Alilaguna Pier to the charming island of **Murano**. Built on a series of small islands connected by bridges in the Venetian Lagoon, Murano is known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry. Enjoy a visit inside one of the island's glass blowing factories to witness first-hand the methods of this fascinating art.

Continue to the island of **Torcello** to visit the church of Santa Fosca. Here you will see the church's unique portico in the form of a Greek cross, and the Byzantine Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta.

Continue to **Burano**, the most scenic island of the Lagoon, famous for its colorful houses and central church with leaning campanile. Visit Baldassarre Galuppi Street, the island's main avenue, filled with tiny shops that sell famous handmade lace.

Departs daily at 11:00 am. Tour departs from Alilaguna Pier (In front of the entrance to the Royal Gardens of St. Mark's). Drop-off at Alilaguna Pier. Prior to departure redeem voucher for ticket at kiosk located at departure point. Approximate tour duration is 4.5 hours.

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**Sunday, October 15, 2017 - Train to Venice & Venice City Tour**

Today after breakfast and hotel checkout you will transfer to the train station in Florence to board the train to Venice. Standard Class seats are included. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore Venice independently or enjoy an orientation walk with your guide.

**Overnight:** Venice, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast is included at your Montecatini hotel before checkout

**Monday, October 16, 2017 - Boat Ride to Murano, Tour of Venice**

The discovery of Venice begins with a boat ride to the Island of Murano, known for its artistic and colorful Murano glassware. Afterwards, on to St. Mark's Square where the guided walking tour of this romantic city begins. View the Golden Basilica of San Marco, built over several centuries in a fusion of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian architecture. See the Bridge of Sighs, created at the beginning of the 17th century to serve as a link between the prisons and the inquisition rooms of Doge's Palace. Then, continue to the pink marble Doge's Palace, official residence of the Venetian ruler; its facade is highlighted by a massive late-Gothic gate, known as the *Porta della Carta*.

**Optional:** Gondola Ride with Music (PM)

**Overnight:** Venice, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017 - Day in Venice**

Full day at leisure to enjoy Venice

**Overnight:** Venice, Italy

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017 - Depart Italy**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

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**Tuscany Tour Only:**

**LAND COST:**

- Cost Per Person Based on Two Adults Sharing Room
  - 20 - 29 Passengers Per Coach: **\$1789**

Single Supplement : **\$560**

**LAND AND AIR COST:**

- Cost Per Person Based on Two Adults Sharing Room
  - 20 - 29 Passengers Per Coach -: **\$3209**

**Venice Extension:**

**LAND COST:**

- Cost Per Person Based on Two Adults Sharing Room
  - 15 - 19 Passengers Per Coach : **\$669**
  - 20 - 29 Passengers Per Coach : **\$639**

Single Supplement : **\$310**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- 1) Prices above are based upon the number of passengers; if we go over 30, then the price will drop by approximately \$200 per person. Conversely, if we go under 20, the price will increase.
- 2) All prices above can be reduced by 5% if paid by check or bank transfer. (This tour company is a reliable company and is well known and can be trusted.) So you can save more money by not using the credit card.
- 3) However, at our ages, I highly recommend getting travel insurance whether it is with Gate1 Travel or with another company.

You will soon be able to go ONLINE to Gate1 to book the tour directly with them. You do NOT send me any money. Please be sure to read all of the details of the agreement online to make sure you understand the travel information.

1. If you do not book the air with them, you will either have to purchase airport transfers from them or arrange your own travel to/from the hotel to the airports. Transfers are \$120 per car one way. (They can accommodate 1 or 2 people per car because of luggage.)
2. When you make your reservation, read the cancellation details so you are aware of their policy.
3. When you make the reservation, use the name as it appears on your PASSPORT. And your passport must be valid for at least 6 months past the return flight home. (There is a charge if they have to make changes later.)