

TUSCANY

CORTONA

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



In her book *Under the Tuscan Sun*, Frances Mayes captures the charm and romance of Italian living. Experience this idyllic world firsthand, on a special travel program combining expertly guided sightseeing tours with total immersion in community life. A morning walk through the cobbled streets of Etruscan Cortona is vibrant with scents and sounds of an awakening town—the aroma of cappuccino and warm baked goods wafting from little shops and the bustle of the main square. Like Mayes' enchanting story, Tuscany weaves its way into your heart and mind. Discover the art, architecture, cuisine and culture of one of Italy's most beloved regions.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend seven nights in the ancient Etruscan city of **Cortona**, wonderfully situated in the heart of Tuscany and the inspiration for the book *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes.
- Explore the UNESCO *World Heritage List* sites of **Assisi** and **Siena**.
- Experience the prodigious medieval history in **Perugia**, the well-preserved jewel of Umbria.
- Visit a winery in the **Montalcino** area for a private wine tasting.
- Marvel at the architectural wonders of Renaissance **Florence**.
- Learn the essence of Tuscan cooking—the incomparable blend of olive oil, sun-ripened tomatoes and herbs—at a demonstration by the chef of the award-winning **Restaurant Tonino**.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in **Cortona** at the First-Class **Hotel San Luca**.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception** and **Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy seven breakfasts, four lunches and six dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured **local restaurants**.
- Take advantage of **leisure time** to try the **local cuisine** independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a friendly, professional **Campus Director** and expert **English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

AIR PROGRAM

- Round-trip, scheduled jet service.
- Round-trip motorcoach transfers between the airport and hotel, with baggage handling at the hotel.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel, subject to policy terms.

INCLUSIVE PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Florence, Italy**, aboard scheduled jet service. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

DAY TWO

Upon arrival, transfer by motorcoach to **Cortona** and **Hotel San Luca**. (Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.)

This evening, gather with fellow travelers at a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY THREE

Educational Focus: Cortona and Environs.

Excursion: Walking Tour of Cortona. Admire the treasures of Cortona as you stroll past historic palazzi and charming piazzas. Visit the Romanesque cathedral and the Diocesan Museum.

Excursion: The Tuscan Countryside. Travel through the hill country surrounding Cortona and admire the breathtaking scenery.

Local Flavor: Tour a winery and sample its superb vintages and fine local cheeses.

DAY FOUR

Excursion: Assisi. Visit the magnificent walled city of Assisi. Experience its treasures, including the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli and the Basilica of St. Francis which stands against the towering backdrop of Monte Subasio.

Local Flavor: Indulge in a delicious lunch served at a restaurant in Assisi.

Excursion: Perugia. See the Fontana Maggiore and the Prior's Palace, which houses the National Gallery of Umbria.

DAY FIVE

Excursion: Montepulciano. Travel to walled Montepulciano, a town of Renaissance-style palazzi and churches. Stroll the main street,

chat with artisans and peek into wine cellars filled with *Vino Nobile*.

Educational Focus: Etruscan and Medieval History.

Excursion: Museum of the Etruscan Academy. Visit Cortona's 14th-century Praetorian Palace, where the Museum of the Etruscan Academy will astound you with ancient works of art.

DAY SIX

Educational Focus: Renaissance Art.

Excursion: Siena. See the Piazza del Campo, one of the loveliest squares in Italy and the 14th-century Torre del Mangia that rises in the distance. Visit the Gaia Fountain and the dramatic black and gold striped Gothic Duomo.

Educational Focus: Meet the People.

DAY SEVEN

Excursion: Florence. Embrace the heart of Tuscany and the *Cradle of the Renaissance* with a full day in *Firenze!* A guided tour highlights the city's art and architecture.

Independent Exploration: Spend time at leisure pursuing your own interests in Florence.

DAY EIGHT

Educational Focus: A Contemporary View of Italy.

Local Flavor: Attend a presentation of Tuscan cooking and cuisine then sample the finished product.

This evening, attend a festive *Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Reception* followed by a special *Farewell Dinner* at a renowned local restaurant.

DAY NINE

Travel by motorcoach to Florence for the return flight(s) to your gateway city. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL SAN LUCA

The *Hotel San Luca* is ideally set on a hillside overlooking the Tuscan landscape. Terraces extending from public and guestrooms afford spectacular views of surrounding olive groves. Hotel amenities include the Restaurant Tonino, offering Continental cuisine and regional specialties, a well-appointed lounge and cozy bar. Each guestroom is climate-controlled and equipped with a private bath or shower, telephone and television.



Above: View from Hotel San Luca
Front page (top to bottom):
Tuscan sunset
The essence of Tuscan cooking

NOTE: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.



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