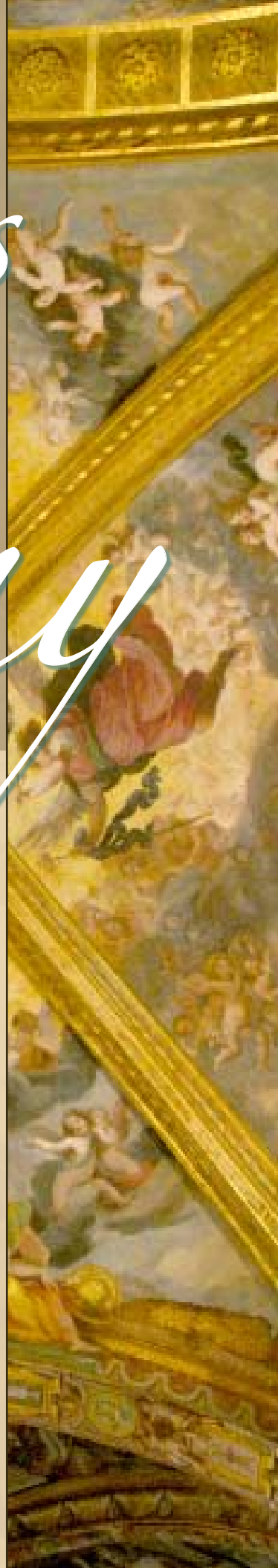


# Traditions of Tuscany

Enjoy plenty of free time to do what you want to do, while experiencing the authentic Italian lifestyle.

Travel in a small group and discover the local traditions, fine wines, memorable cuisine, artisan crafts, and historical vineyards.

Leave the crowds behind and travel with Nada's Italy.



# Not just a trip, a true Italian experience



## Experience a fascinating culture and thousands of years of history all at once.

Perhaps you've been wanting to go to Italy on your own, but worried about things such as the language barrier, challenging driving conditions, and the task of figuring out which places are truly worth visiting and which are the infamous tourist traps. On the other hand, you don't feel quite the tour type and don't want to end up imprisoned with dozens of strangers on a big 'cattle-bus', right? So, here is the chance for the perfect compromise: if you love nature, art, food & wine, but don't want to be rushed during your vacation, these trips are for you. You can see and do what you want, shop, walk, visit a museum, or just sit back at a café, while feeling confident you're not missing out on the good stuff.

## *Buongiorno!*

I was born and raised in the beautiful 'cradle of the Renaissance', Florence, Italy. While I now live in the United States, a big part of my heart remains in Italia (and my stomach too, I should say!). My "famiglia" still lives in Italy and is as much part of these trips as I am: Mamma cooks for my groups and everyone else helps out (trying to stay out of Mamma's way!). Being there for so many years has allowed me to find places that are authentic, not along the "tourist routes".

### **Not-so-typical tours for not-so-typical-travelers.**

With so many tour companies covering Italy, my mission has always been to offer a unique experience that travelers would not expect from a group tour. I want for guests to feel at home and get to know the wonderful Italian culture first-hand. But at the same time, I realize people love different things, so I found a way to create a trip where everyone is able to enjoy the things they love, while not missing out on the important sites.

**Whether you're a shopper, an explorer, a history buff, a wine enthusiast or a food lover, you can finally have it all!**

Enjoy the wonderful areas that Italy is known for, while having a completely worry-free vacation.

**Have fun, feel safe, and have the most authentic and wonderful experience in Italy!**

### **Eat well, drink well, live well.**

That's the 'Italian way'! Thoroughly enjoy the historic towns that Italy is known for at a comfortable pace for any age, no early wake-ups, and no hurried meals in tourist restaurants! Experience local delicacies, people, historic places, and yes, well-deserved relaxation! After all, it's a vacation, isn't it?

### **Have your 'pizza' and eat it too.**

Take fun cooking lessons using family recipes, explore small hill-top towns, visit vineyards and farmhouses, learn how olive oil, wine, cheese, and other local products are made. Small groups allow you to receive a personal approach to the regional culture, dine in small family-owned restaurants as a local, not a tourist!

### *Buon Viaggio!*



# The Small Group Advantage

🌀 **Small groups of:** only 12 travelers!

🌀 **Full-time service** of a professional English-speaking local Italian guide, including meal time (in most cases, it's Nada!).

🌀 **No Early wake-ups!** Unlike most tours, our typical day-trip departs anywhere between 9:00-10:00am.

🌀 **Free time** on your own during day trips for shopping, exploring, relaxing, etc. so you can do what you want!

🌀 **Calmer pace:** maximum of 3 different hotel stays per tour so you don't have to pack and unpack everyday, and you don't waste time checking in and out of hotels.

🌀 **Less time driving: more time having fun!** Regional tours allow you to experience the local culture without having to drive from place to place to place..

🌀 **Smaller vehicles** can access historical centers, so you are right where you want to be, without wasting time getting there (unlike large buses, which need to be parked outside the city center, making big groups walk longer distances).

🌀 **Beverages included** with meals, including red & white wine.

🌀 **Most meals included:** Fine wine, excellent food in top-level locations as well as authentic family owned restaurants, so you can experience only the best food Italy has to offer and not worry about ending up in a lousy tourist 'trap'.

🌀 **Fixed Trip Price & No Hidden Costs:** Once your balance is paid, the trip price is fixed so you don't have to worry about exchange rate fluctuations! Also included in trip price: local VAT taxes, government fees, gas, highway tolls, city access licenses and permits, parking fees, and all other travel expenses relating strictly to activities included in tour.

🌀 **Activities Included:** Escorted daily activities such as: museum visits (including entrance ticket), "insider" walking tours with local guides, artisan shops, wine tours, excursions by boat, cooking classes, day-trips, and much more! (Many tour companies give you a 'special price' that may sound like a great deal, until you realize you need to add all the costs for day-trips, meals, activities, etc. you wish to include, without which the trip wouldn't even be worth taking.)

🌀 **Pre-trip assistance:** travel advice and packing help to make sure you're prepared!

🌀 **Personal approach:** family farms, cooking classes, visits to local craft shops, vineyards, and access to other destinations where you will feel especially pampered in an exclusive environment.

🌀 **No luggage limit!** While many other tours have luggage limits, Nada's Italy lets you bring as much or as little as you want (but airline restrictions still apply, so prepare accordingly!)

🌀 **Option to pay by Credit Card:** Nada's Italy is proud to accept Visa, MC, Discover, or American Express.

🌀 **Customer loyalty reward:** after your first trip, you'll receive a \$300 credit on all your future trips with Nada!

🌀 **Materials for trip:** Guide Book & Italian Travel Phrase book, Luggage Tags, Maps for each town visited during tour, Audio CD set to learn Italian before your trip!



# Leave as part of the family..



"I wanted to get to know the people who live there and understand what their lives are like. I came home and started cooking an entirely different way. I fixed some of the things we ate for my son and daughter-in-law this past weekend. I had so much more to tell them beyond what I saw, and that was because all of you shared that insight. I cannot wait to learn more Italian so I can go back and make more friends. You have a gift that enriches lives!"

Kathleen - Philadelphia, PA

"Nada, We had a perfectly wonderful time. You did a great job of putting this together and making it a whole experience. We have been to Italy several times before, but we saw and enjoyed more in these days than we have been able to do in the past. It was wonderful to meet your family and friends. They made us feel so welcome. We have already recommended your tour to our friends."

- Narian & Dave - Charlotte, NC

"You have no idea how special this trip was for us, and thanks to your hard work and professionalism, each day was a great adventure. I know how much effort you put into the planning and paying attention to the details. It made everything go so well, but I know this only happens by a lot of diligence and work on your part. The careful selection of restaurants, the hotel, and the villa is a sign of your effort to make everything as close to perfection as possible."

- Richard & Margie - Denver, CO

"I thought you did an excellent job of providing variety, specialties of the area/restaurant and the quality was incredible. Part of what made the trip so fabulous was trying new foods, never duplicating, and they were truly local places-not touristy. I have been bragging about you--that you put together a trip that has a perfect balance of group time vs alone time, excellent variety of local delicacies, and such different experiences that only a local could expose us to."

- Butch & Amy - Charlotte, NC

"As Danny said at the pizza party - you aren't able to fully describe your tours with the wonderful and special memories that you provide to each of the tour members. We've met a great number of new friends and hope to see several of you in the months and years to come."

Julie & Daniel - Dallas, Texas



"I felt we were able to experience the Italian lifestyle up close and personal. My wife and I are very interested in food, wine and cooking so this was a fabulous experience for us. It is not a resort type vacation but one where you will learn a lot about the Italian lifestyle."

Mark & Robin - Charlotte, NC



Nada's Italy highly values each client and is committed to a **100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**. Please view our outstanding **A+** rating with the **Better Business Bureau**.





# Traditions of Tuscany

**Benvenuto!** Welcome to Tuscany! You will discover, in a beautiful 14th century villa, a trip that will finally put your mind and body at ease: you can take a healthy walk through an ancient village and discover its art, enjoy a meal of local home-made specialties, great wine, and peaceful landscapes with friends who appreciate those same special moments in life.

The Tuscan countryside is a very special area that attracts people from all over the world, where historical events have shaped the outlines of the hills as well as its culture. Solitary farm houses, Medieval villages, rows of vines, olive trees, and cypresses make this the most admired region of the Italian peninsula. You'll have the chance to try the world-renown local products: famous wines, extra virgin olive oil, cured meats, aged Pecorino cheese, colorful hand-painted pottery, olive wood crafts, and much more. You'll be able to connect with what truly makes this a special place: the people.

Feel at home in a historic estate in the Tuscan hills outside of Florence, in the heart of the most beautiful part of Tuscany: Chianti. A breath-taking scenery of softly shaped hills surround the villa, creating a peacefully secluded and timeless atmosphere, where anyone can feel relaxed, comfortable, as part of the family. The property includes a private swimming pool and hiking trails among the vineyards. The Villa produces its own cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil and an excellent Chianti D.O.C.G. wine, available for consumption throughout your stay, to be enjoyed at the table with your travel-mates and new Italian friends.



## AN OLD ITALIAN ADAGE SAYS..

"One never grows old while at the table" (A tavola non s'invecchia). As we sit with friends in front of good glass of 'vino' and home-made dishes, the clock seems to stop its frantic ticking and give way to a dimension where all senses come alive through cheerful sounds of people conversing, silverware gently hitting plates, bright warm colors, intense aromas, and new delightful textures for the palate to enjoy. Experience a way of life where simplicity is still today its most genuine and priceless aspect. Places where natural ingredients are put together like pieces of a puzzle to create meals that tell stories to be told for years to come.

Buon Appetito!



# THE ITINERARY

(Itinerary is subject to change with or without notice. Sequence of day trips may vary. Final itinerary will be given at the villa.)

## Friday Day 1 | Benvenuto : Welcome!

Welcome to Italia! Tonight you will rest in a beautifully restored historic hotel in the heart of Florence and relax after a long trip overseas. You can regain your energies tonight and start the trip of a lifetime in one of the world's most beautiful cities! **No meals.**

## Saturday Day 2 | Buongiorno to you!

Enjoy a morning walking tour through the historical streets of Florence, guided by an expert local guide who will show you the main sites, churches, buildings, and shopping areas that Florence is known for. Private drivers will pick you up in the Florence Hotel lobby at 4pm, from where you'll be taken to the villa. After a drive through the hills of the beautiful countryside, arrive at the Villa to check in and relax. The property manager will give the group a historical introduction to the property to get you acquainted with the breath-taking surroundings. Enjoy views of the Tuscan hills covered by cypresses, vines, and olive trees. Then savor a delicious welcome dinner with traditional Tuscan specialties prepared by the Villa's Chef, accompanied by your first sip of the vineyard's own superior Chianti wine, of course! **BD**

## Sunday Day 3 | All' Aria Fresca: In Fresh Air

The first town you'll see in Tuscany is.. not part of Tuscany!! As a matter of fact you'll take your first peak into the Italian lifestyle in a small sleepy village in Umbria: Castiglione del Lago by Lake Trasimeno. Visit the various delis and specialty gourmet shops, enjoy a typical Sunday morning seeing families come out to greet their neighbors and stretch out with their morning "passeggiata" (stroll). Group lunch in historical trattoria. Then to Cortona, the charming Etruscan hilltop town where "Under the Tuscan Sun" was filmed. Its massive 3,000 year-old walls are still standing! Enjoy some free time and have a gelato as you mingle with the locals, explore the intricate alley ways, or sit back at a coffee shop. Feel the romance at our next stop, the town where "Life is beautiful" was filmed, also very famous for its Antique Market and gold jewelry: Arezzo. Enjoy some free time to explore before we meet up for a group dinner in a local family-run trattoria. **BLD**

## Monday Day 4 | Cucina Regionale : Regional Cuisine

Morning hands-on cooking class by a local Chef at his own restaurant, a small off the beaten path trattoria which he opens up just for our group on his closing day! Chef Antonio will show us some simple Tuscan recipes that we'll enjoy for lunch. Relaxing afternoon on your own by the Villa's pool or a quiet walk in nature (the property offers several panoramic hiking trails). Enjoy a delicious piping-hot pizza for dinner tonight at a nearby pizzeria! **BLD**

## Tuesday Day 5 | Tradizioni di Famiglia : Family Traditions

San Gimignano, our first stop, is an absolutely astonishing example of walled Medieval hilltop town, also known for its dry white wine, Vernaccia and its colorful local crafts: hand-painted pottery, alabaster, olive wood items, and many more. Enjoy plenty of free time and lunch on your own. Quick drive by Monteriggioni and the rest of the evening in amazing Siena, where you have free time to explore the town and visit its amazing Cathedral. Group dinner in Siena. **BD**

## Wednesday Day 6 | Alla Salute! : To your Health!

Today we visit a privately owned Medieval Castle, its ancient underground cellar, and get to know its unique family history. Even though today it is owned by a lovely family, this was the place where the infamous "Congiura dei Pazzi" (Pazzi conspiracy) was planned. During the Renaissance the ruthless Pazzi family plotted to murder Lorenzo and his brother Giuliano of the Medici family in an attempt to overthrow the Medici's political and economical dominance. Enjoy a group lunch with home grown products and relax on the property afterwards. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the villa to spend at your leisure. A walk, massage, or relax by the pool and gardens. Evening cooking class in the old monastery kitchen and learn to make fresh pasta! **BLD**

## Thursday Day 7 | Uva & Olive : Grapes & Olives

Our first stop is one of Tuscany's most charming towns, Pienza, which offers some of the most beautiful views of the countryside, was built as the ideal Renaissance city, by Pope Pius II who "remodeled" it according to his taste. Lunch in a trattoria and free time. Guided visit to a Pecorino cheese family farm, followed by tasting of the traditional cheese that has been produced here for over 2,000 years. Our next stop is the region's highest hilltop town: Montepulciano, land of the Vino Nobile ("the noblemen's wine"). Group walk through town, stopping for a visit at a coppersmith shop that's been a family tradition for almost two centuries. Cesare is one of the last 7 coppersmiths in Italy. Final stop of the day: Vino Nobile vineyard with guided visit of this amazing family-run estate, followed by wine tasting and group dinner. Home-made dinner made with farm-fresh ingredients and wines included. **BLD**



## Friday Day 8 | L'Arte della Vita Italiana : The Art of Italian Living

Morning drive through the soft-shaped, serene hills of Chianti, with a stop in one of its most picturesque villages: Montefioralle. Then enjoy an extraordinary experience in an 11th-Century Castle. A sommelier will take us on a journey into the finest Chianti Classico paired with an abundant Tuscan luncheon. Then a little shopping and gelato in Greve in Chianti is a must before we head back to the villa. Last group dinner at the villa! **BLD**

## Saturday Day 9 | Tesori del Rinascimento : Renaissance Treasures

Transfer to Florence. On the way back to the hotel in Florence, where you will spend the last 2 nights of the tour, the group stops at the Piazzale Michelangelo, a terrace overlooking the absolute best view of Florence, where you'll have the opportunity to take some truly memorable pictures and perhaps purchase some wonderful art from local artists. A local guide will meet you in the lobby at 3:30pm for a private tour of the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's David up close and personal! (Entrance fees and reservation included). **B**

## Sunday Day 10 | La Culla dell'Arte : The Cradle of Art

You can shop around Florence or.. take a day trip to Rome (about 90 minutes by train)! Enjoy a day of total freedom in one of the world's most beautiful cities or easily take day trips to other areas by train, as Florence is centrally located. Tonight will be the last night of the tour. The friendly hotel staff will gladly make reservations for dinner for you - make it a special night! **B**

## Monday Day 11 | Arrivederci Toscana!

Hopefully you can stay longer in this gorgeous country and explore other regions. Nada's Italy wishes to have you back and experience more parts of this colorful culture! Until next time, beautiful ITALIA says Ciao! **B**



**A luxury journey totaling 10 nights/11 days**, of which 3 nights are spent in a historic hotel in the heart of Florence, and the rest in a spacious villa surrounded by the lovely hills of Chianti, the historical area in the beautiful Tuscan countryside.

Airfare is not included, but Nada's Italy can assist you in finding the best flight option. We'll also be available for assistance should you wish to extend your stay in Florence or other Italian cities.

For dates, price, and availability, please visit [NadasItaly.com](http://NadasItaly.com)  
or contact us: [info@nadasitaly.com](mailto:info@nadasitaly.com)

Lose yourself in the restful silence and whispering sounds of nature which unfolds before your eyes, displaying a colorful dance of greens and yellows, as if a quilt's undulating patchwork covered the soft-shaped hills of this extraordinary region.





## LUXURY SERVICES INCLUDED

- ☞ 7 Nights lodging in luxury Tuscan Villa in Chianti Hills area (less than 1 hour south of Florence) + 3 Nights in family owned B&B in historical center of Florence for a trip totaling 11 Days/10 Nights (Depart US on Thursday and return on Monday)
- ☞ Small group travel! Maximum of 12 travelers per group.
- ☞ Pick-up & drop-off from Florence hotel.
- ☞ Privately escorted day-trips with 2 professional private drivers and full-time service of bilingual tour leader.
- ☞ Trip Materials: Florence & Tuscany Guide Book, Italian Travel Phrase book, DVDs, Luggage Tags, Maps for towns visited.
- ☞ Escorted visits to: Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Castiglione del Lago, Arezzo, Cortona, Pienza, Montepulciano, Monteriggioni, Greve in Chianti (itinerary & destinations may vary depending on time of year).
- ☞ 3 Winery Tours: Chianti Rufina, Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.
- ☞ Pecorino Cheese Tour & Tasting in Pienza with Guided Visit at a traditional family-owned farm.
- ☞ 2 Cooking Classes by local Chefs (includes souvenir apron).
- ☞ Meals included: all breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners (included meals are shown at bottom of the description for each day).
- ☞ Beverages included: bottled water, soft drinks (in limited amounts), coffee, and 2 glasses of wine per person (choice of red or white) with included lunches and dinners.
- ☞ Private Walking Tour of the Historical Highlights of Florence, Siena, and the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's David (includes entrance reservation and ticket) by local licensed English-speaking guides.
- ☞ Private transportation for day trips throughout the stay at the villa in comfortable air-conditioned vans (does not include: transfer from and to airport, airfare, or any other personal travel expenses).
- ☞ 1 Bottle of Villa's Wine and 1 of Villa's Extra Virgin Olive Oil compliments of Nada's Italy.
- ☞ Local VAT taxes, government fees, gas, highway tolls, city access licenses and permits, parking fees.



## ITALY IS WAITING - SIGN UP NOW FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

**Please see our website for the price\* of this tour package.**

\*Nada's Italy has a "no hidden costs, no hidden stress" policy. We are clear about what is included and what isn't so you don't have any surprises on your trip. Tour prices are based on double occupancy and include taxes & fees. All quoted rates are for land-package only and do not include airfare. Rates are subject to change with or without notice until the deposit and Trip Registration Form & Agreement has been received.



### HOW SOON SHOULD I BOOK?

This is a very special, exclusive, small group tour limited to only 12 travelers. Availability is on a first-come-first-served basis, so don't delay in reserving your spot. No spots are held without a deposit. To register for this tour, please send your Trip Registration Form and deposit of 50% of the trip cost. If minimum participation of 6 travelers is not met, your deposit is 100% refundable.

**Balance is due 60 days prior to trip.**

### THE JOURNEY DOESN'T END HERE!

Want to stay longer and see more of Italy? Extend your stay with additional nights, tours, transfers, and other custom services

offered by Nada's Italy. Contact us by email with your requests: [info@nadasitaly.com](mailto:info@nadasitaly.com)

For more information log on to: [NadasItaly.com](http://NadasItaly.com)

### CANCELLATION POLICY

For details on our Cancellation Policy and our Terms & Conditions, please refer to the Trip Registration Form & Agreement, which can be downloaded from our website or requested by email and/or mail.

### QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!



By phone: 704.877.6232 or email: [info@nadasitaly.com](mailto:info@nadasitaly.com). Find photos, travel tips, packing suggestions, and other information on [NadasItaly.com](http://NadasItaly.com)



### TRAVELING SOLO?

Not being able to find someone to travel with you doesn't mean you shouldn't travel. Nada's Italy is proud to be a safe option for those who wish to see Italy on their own, providing a safe and friendly environment.

**A Single Supplement** is required only for individuals who require a single room for the duration of the tour. If you wish to be paired up with another single traveler to share your room with, please contact us and we will make our best effort to do so. Keep in mind that if you share a room, you will each have a twin-size bed and will share a bathroom. A single room supplement for this tour is **\$900 (for a double-room for individual use)**. All couples get their own in-suite bathroom.

### NOTE ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

You must be in good physical condition to sign-up for this trip. This is not a physically challenging trip, nonetheless there will be plenty of walking uphill and standing for extended periods of time. If you are not interested in some of the scheduled activities, you can stay at the accommodation and relax, or we can plan a different activity for you (additional fees may occur). During the day trips, you will have free time on your own, during which you decide whether you prefer being more or less active. However, this is not a recommended trip for those with mobility issues or health concerns.