VITA ITALIAN TOURS

Specialise in personally guided small group tours to Italy



BEST OF TUSCANY, UMBRIA & LE MARCHE

UP TO 16 TRAVELLERS

12 DAYS | 11 NIGHTS | 20 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2027

The rolling hills of Tuscany, Umbria and Le Marche are dotted with vineyards and olive groves. This area of Italy is famous for being known as, the 'Green Heart' of the Peninsula.

Each region has its own particular character offering spectacular scenery, authentic cuisine and romantic hill towns. It is also a journey from the Medieval period to one of the most splendid eras of European civilization: The Renaissance. The experience starts in Pesaro and the tour ends in Florence, the home of the Medici. Between these two highlights, there will be guided tours to explore the treasures and experience the life in centres such as Urbino, Gubbio, Assisi, Perugia, San Gimignano, Volterra and Siena. Your tour leader/s complement the tour with their intimate knowledge of the history, culture and Italian way of life.

We will give you the opportunity to experience the excellent hospitality of the people of Central Italy with its abundance of traditional local food and wine. You will enjoy leisurely lunches and special dinners in traditional restaurants and osterie. There are also opportunities to shop at local markets and speciality shops.

HIGHLIGHTS

- URBINO
- GUBBIO
- ASSISI
- SAN GIMIGNANO
- FLORENCE



"Grazie mille" for making my holiday so enjoyable (and educational!!). The experience has been "meravigliosa e buonissima"."
V Taranto (NSW)







"You took us to places we would never have visited or known about. Really enjoyed tasting the local foods and wines ." J & B Hetherington (VIC)

DAY 1 PESARO (D) Your tour leaders will meet you at the Hotel in the centre of Pesaro at 1600. Introductions and a small talk on the tour will precede an afternoon walk through the historical centre of the City. The walk will end with an early dinner in a traditional restaurant.

DAY 2 PESARO/URBINO (BL) Today after breakfast we explore the land once ruled by the lords of Montefeltro. The day is devoted to visiting Urbino, one of Italy's most fascinating towns of the Renaissance. It is also the birthplace of Raphael. A conducted tour of the magnificent Ducal Palace, which houses the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche with its precious paintings by Piero della Francesca, Tiziano, Paolo Uccello and Raphael. Lunch is organised in Urbino in a traditional restaurant where we taste the local casciotta cheese with crescia bread. Free evening in Pesaro.

DAY 3 PESARO/SAN MARINO/SAN LEO (BL) Today after breakfast, we travel just over the Le Marche border to the tiny Republic of San Marino. San Marino claims to be the oldest state and constitutional republic in the world and is also worth a visit for its history, pageantry and its magnificent hilltop setting, which offers excellent views of the surrounding countryside. After a walking tour of the historical centre there will be some free time to explore the small streets of this enchanting city state as San Marino is jammed with heavily discounted duty-free shops. We then travel to San Leo with its ancient fortress perched on sheer cliffs. We will have a rest in the beautiful town square where we will have lunch and taste the delicious formaggio di fossa: a cheese walled up in rock caves to mature for months. Free evening in Pesaro.

DAY 4 PESARO/URBANIA (BL) After breakfast the group will experience an unforgettable day. We travel to the historical city of Urbania where the group will be guests of Donatella and Giorgio from their award winning osteria. The morning will be taken up with a series of cooking lessons on local cuisine and you will prepare lunch using locally made products. You will then enjoy your fabulous lunch with local wines in a beautiful country setting. Free evening in Pesaro.

DAY 5 PESARO/GUBBIO/ASSISI (BD) After breakfast we travel across Le Marche to the beautiful preserved medieval town of Gubbio in Umbria. There will be ample time to wander through the streets of this seldom visited gem. After lunch, we make our way to the famous town of Assisi which will be our base for the next three days. Dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 6 ASSISI (BL) Today is dedicated to Assisi, the home of one of Italy's greatest, beloved saints, St. Francis. Assisi has always been an attraction for the great artists of Italy. In the Basilica of St Francis, we will view many of these masterpieces culminating with Giotto's Fresco Cycle. The afternoon is devoted to exploring the streets of this mystical town. Lunch will be organised at a traditional local restaurant. Free evening in Assisi.

DAY 7 ASSISI/PERUGIA (BL) After breakfast we travel by bus to the magnificent university City of Perugia: a centre of art and culture. Perugia is striking for having retained much of its medieval appearance. The day will be spent enjoying a leisurely walking tour of the historical centre and its many sites before lunch in a traditional Umbrian osteria. Free evening in Assisi

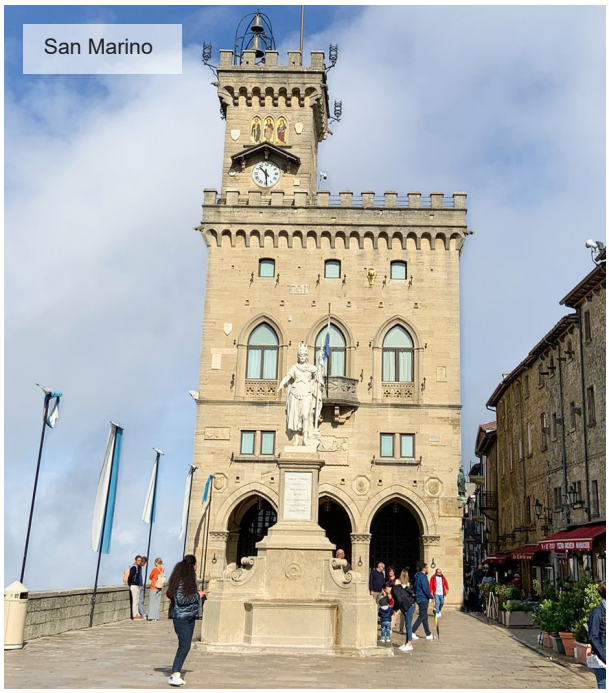
DAY 8 ASSISI/SIENA/FLORENCE (BD) Today our journey takes us through some of the richest parts of the Italian countryside and on to Florence, the city of the Medici. On the way to Florence there will be a special visit to Siena to admire the Cathedral and the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in Europe and learn about the world-famous horse race Il Palio. After our arrival in Florence, the group will check in at the hotel and the rest of the day will include a walking tour, which features the Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral, the Giotto Campanile and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistery known as the 'Gates of Paradise'. Dinner at a restaurant in the centre of Florence.

DAY 9 FLORENCE (BD) This morning is devoted to the Santa Croce district on the eastern edge of the centro storico of Florence. There will be a guided tour of the impressive Basilica of Santa Croce, a Franciscan church with the tombs of some of Italy's most famous artists and thinkers such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli and Ghiberti. There will also be a visit to the famous leather school of Santa Croce to view authentic Florentine leather production. The rest of the day will be free to explore this beautiful city and wander through the famous markets shopping for leather and gold goods. In the evening dinner is organised in a local restaurant.

DAY 10 FLORENCE/SAN GIMIGNANO/VOLTERRA (BD) Today we travel south from Florence through some of the most picturesque areas of the Tuscan countryside to visit the medieval hill town of San Gimignano. Housed within its historical 13th Century walls this beautiful town is renowned for its famous medieval towers and exquisite local white wine. There will also be an afternoon visit to nearby Volterra, considered one of the most beautiful towns in all of Tuscany and renowned for their long history of artistic works made with local alabaster. Dinner back in Florence.

DAY 11 FLORENCE/CHIANTI REGION/GREVE (BL) Today we take a picturesque drive through the Chianti region, quintessential Tuscany. You will experience the atmosphere of this part of Italy which is full of small villages and hundreds of vineyards and olive groves dotting the countryside. We will stop for morning tea in the beautiful town square of Greve in Chianti followed by a special wine tour and lunch at one of the oldest wineries in the area. Farewell apaeritivo in Florence.

DAY 12 FLORENCE (B) Your tour leader will say goodbye to the group after breakfast at the hotel.


San Marino

"Each day's engagements embraced the history, culture and lifestyle of the Italian people which they shared with us in an extraordinary way." M & D Pincott (ACT)


San Gimignano







BEST OF TUSCANY, UMBRIA & LE MARCHE

"Thank you for showing us 'your' Italy and sharing your passion for the arts, architecture, food, wine and people." S & A Schorer (WA)

PRICE: $8,295,00

DEPARTURES: 20 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2027

The cost of the tour, land content only, is **AUD $8,295.00** per person in twin share accommodation. A **deposit of AUD $500** is required to reserve a place on the tour which is non-refundable unless the tour is cancelled. The full balance due 90 days prior to departure. **Single supplements** are available at an additional cost of **AUD $1,363.00**. The tour is costed on a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 16 people travelling on tour.

We recommend that you carefully read the Terms & Conditions applying to a Vita Italian Tour. Please refer to the Booking Page of our website vitaitaliantours.com.au/terms-conditions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INCLUSIONS:

- All land travel in air-conditioned luxury small coach.
- Accommodation for 11 nights in 3- & 4-Star hotels in Pesaro/Assisi/Florence.
- 11 breakfasts.
- 5 dinners.
- 6 lunches (Meals include special lunches and dinners in traditional local restaurants and osterie as detailed in the itinerary).
- Regional wines and mineral water served with meals.
- Admission to all galleries, museums, wineries and historical sites included in the itinerary.
- Personally guided tours to all towns mentioned in the tour.
- Services of the tour leaders throughout the tour.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfares.
- Travel insurance (it is compulsory for every traveller to have taken out a travel insurance policy in order to partake on a Vita Italian Tour). If you require, we can assist in organising a policy for you.
- Admission fees to places other than those specifically itemised in the itinerary.
- Meals on tour except when specifically mentioned in the itinerary.
- Drinks outside normal mealtimes or additional wine and other drinks in restaurants such as Tea & Coffee.
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs.
- Accommodation Tax.

The weather: It is the end of Summer. It can get warm during the day however the evenings may be cool. For September/October in central Italy we recommend light, comfortable clothing, a light jacket with your favourite walking shoes. We do not place age limitations on the tour and welcome anyone with a moderate level of physical fitness. It is important to note that the countryside is undulating and hilly. Many hill-towns have their historical centres closed to traffic and therefore lots of walking is required. Be expected to spend a few hours a day at a time on your feet with breaks for sightseeing, coffee and a taste of the local produce.

The program appears to be full; however, it is mixed with long restful lunches and leisure time for your enjoyment and comfort.

If you need to, you can always take time off from the organised program.