

## TUSCANY & THE PALIO OF SIENA

### 1st DAY - AT THE DISCOVERY OF FLORENCE

-Arrival in Florence Airport. Transfer with private minibus to hotel in historical centre. Check in.

-Half day guided visit of the beautiful treasures of Florence historical centre.

-Dinner in renown restaurant of the centre, with Tuscan specialties and wine.

### 2nd DAY – BALLOONING AND SHOPPING THE ITALIAN WAY

-Transfer to countryside outside Florence

-Trip with hot air balloon over the beautiful landscapes of Tuscany, with a champagne breakfast

-Lunch in famous restaurant nearby Florence and afternoon dedicated to top level shopping in the most famous outlets of the world (such as Prada, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, et cetera) assisted by a Florentine personal shopper, who will lead you through the magnificent world of the Italian fashion

-Evening dinner in a typical *trattoria* to enjoy the Tuscan culinary tradition of Florence

### 3rd DAY – REINASSANCE PATHS

-Full day guided tour of Florence world wide famous museums, the Uffizi Gallery and the Accademia Museum

-Time at leisure to walk around Florence

-Dinner in typical renown restaurant, where the most famous Italian literature prize is given every year to the Italian best writer

*NOTE: we suggest a horse-driven coach tour of the city, along the river Arno.*

### 4th DAY – CHIANTI CHARME

-Departure to Siena

-First stop in Greve in Chianti with a visit at famous Falorni salumi and *Chianina* bottega, with wine tasting in the modern ground cellars under the butchery

-Transfer to Radda, the heart of Chianti, for a lunch of local specialties home made by one of the most famous Chianti chef

-Trip along the Chianti Castle road, till the famous Castle of Meleto, with visit of the beautiful Reinassance frescoed rooms; visit of the gardens of the Castle of Brolio, to take incredible pictures of the landscapes of Chianti

-Wine tasting in the most renown farm winery of Chianti, followed by a romantic and charming candlelight dinner in the ancient wine cellars of the farm, surrounded by the barriques filled with rubin Chianti wine

## 5<sup>th</sup> DAY – SIENA FIRST TOUCH

-Half day guided tour of the historical centre of Siena; free lunch and time at leisure for shopping and walking around the Medieval streets of the town

-Dinner at the PROVA GENERALE: participation at the dinner before the Palio horserace, where all the “*contradaioi*” fellows await the event with wine, food and choirs, a real unforgettable experience among thousands of people, to live the authentic spirit of the Palio

## 6<sup>th</sup> DAY – PALIO DAY

-Free morning

-At 14:00 We will take you to the ceremony of the benediction of the horses, during which the people of all contradas unite in the church. It is during this rite that the celebrated phrase, “Go, and return in victory!” is chanted

-At 15:30 From the piazza of the Duomo the famous historical procession departs, and we will be able to appreciate up close the finesse of the cloth and styles of clothing worn in the procession.

-At 16:30 We then go to one of the historical palazzos of the Piazza del Campo where you will be able to watch the race from a terrace. The guide, who will always be at our side, will be able to answer any of your questions and will explain the rules of this horse race

-At 21:00 After the excitement of the race, you may take part in the joy of the winning contrada sitting at a table in a restaurant located in the centre for a traditional Tuscan dinner. In front of you will pass the victory procession as well as the disappointed losers! Return to the accommodation facility

## 7<sup>th</sup> DAY – THE VAL D’ORCIA VALLEY

-Departure to Val d’Orcia valley

-Wine tasting of Brunello in Montalcino; lunch at Montalcino, visit of the fortress and departure of the famous Abbey of Sant’Antimo, where monks sing gregorian chants since the middle age

-Departure to Bagno Vignoni, ancient roman spa where it’s still possible to bathe and enjoy the wellness of the hot spring pools

-Return at the accommodation

## 8<sup>th</sup> DAY – TRUFFLE MISTERIES

-Truffle hunting with dogs and the “*tartufaio*” in the Crete Senesi

-Lunch based on truffle specialties

-Departure and visit of the famous Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, where Benedictine monks still produce oil, wine and ancient pharmacy products from herbs

-Return at the accommodation

## 9<sup>th</sup> DAY – ETRUSCAN TRAILS

-Cooking class in villa with a famous masterchef, followed by a rich lunch

-Departure and visit of Cortona, a town with Etruscan roots that dominates the Trasimeno lake from above. You may admire the Duomo, an old romantic church, and the legendary *Santuario di Santa Margherita*, where inside is a golden sarcophagus holding the saint's relics. End of tour and return to Siena.

-Free dinner (*we would be very glad to suggest you many good restaurants of the area*)

## 10<sup>th</sup> DAY – HORSES & WATERS

-Horseback riding guided trip in the beautiful Chianti countryside (as an alternative we propose a morning of golf playing in the Sienese hills or a morning of lessons of photography, taught outdoor by our master photographer or a half day of soft hiking in a natural park nearby Siena)

- Brief stop at you accommodation for refreshing

-Lunch in ancient fortress of Monteriggioni at world-wide renown restaurant

-Departure to the ancient spa of Antica Querciolaia, to enjoy the hot springs and relax till night

-Return back to accommodation

## 11<sup>th</sup> Day – GOODBYE DAY

-Departure to Florence.

-Day at leisure in the centre of the town.

-Goodbye rich dinner of Florentine specialties and wines in 18<sup>th</sup> century cellar restaurant in the centre of Florence, with fine live music.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Day – GOING HOME

-Transfer to Florence Airport

-Departure flight back home

PRICE PER PERSON in double occupancy(6 pax basis): from \$3895

PRICE PER PERSON in double occupancy(16 pax basis): from \$2995

The quote includes:

- Transfer from/to Florence Airport
- 11 night in 4\* accommodations
- Half Day Guided visit of Florence
- Dinner in famous restaurant nearby the Arno
- Full day transportation in Florence and nearby
- Hot Air Balloon flight over Florence countryside
- Lunch in famous Villa over the hills
- Outlet shopping assisted by personal shopper
- Dinner in typical Tuscan trattoria
- Full day guided tour of Florence museums
- Museum tickets
- Dinner in the most famous Florentine art & culture restaurant
- Full day transportation to Siena and surroundings
- Full day escort for Chianti
- Wine and products tasting in Greve in Chianti at famous Falorni bottega
- Chianti lunch at renown Chianti restaurant
- Guided visit of Chianti castle
- Wine tasting with candlelight dinner at most famous Chianti winery
- Half day guided tour of Siena
- Dinner of the day-before-the-Palio in a contrada
- Full Palio day with guide, blessing of the horse, Palio terrace seat ticket with buffet of Tuscan snacks and fresh drinks, Palio professional guide
- Post-Palio dinner in historical centre of Siena
- Full day transportation in Orcia Valley
- Wine tasting of Brunello in Montalcino
- Lunch in Montalcino restaurant
- Truffle hunting in the Crete Senesi
- Truffle based lunch
- Cooking Class with Tuscan masterchef with lunch
- Full day transportation to cooking school and to Cortona
- 3 hours horseback riding in Chianti
- Lunch in renown restaurant inside Monteriggioni fortress
- Full day transportation to horse handling, Monteriggioni and spa
- Entrance ticket to ancient spa of Antica Querciolaia
- Transfer from Siena to Florence
- Goodbye dinner in Florence, with live music

The quote does not include:

- Tips, extra, meals, drinks and museum ticket were not indicated
- Escort where not indicated
- Transport where not indicated
- Whatever not mentioned in “the quote includes”