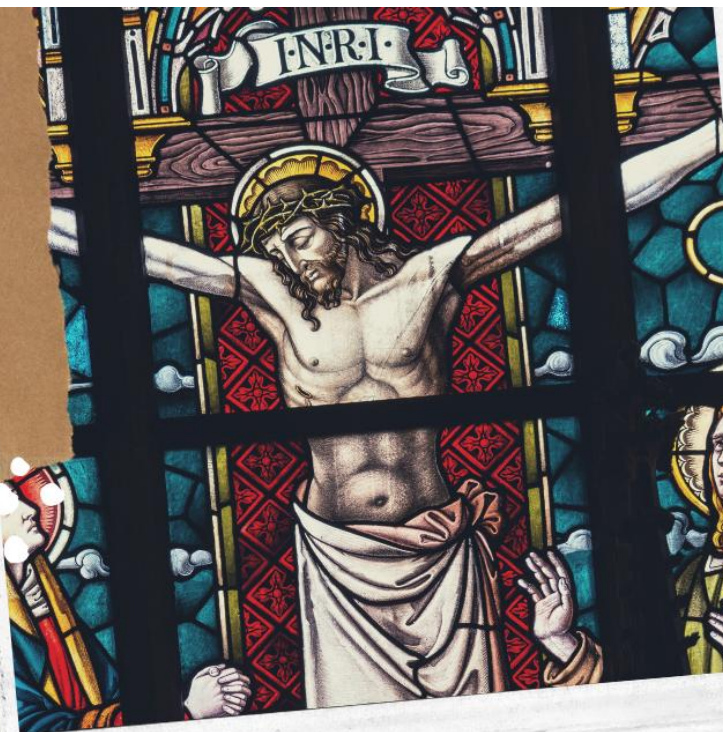


JOIN US FROM  
APRIL 26 MAY 3D  
2021



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# FOOD, RELIGION & FAITH TOUR

[italianculinarycenter.com](http://italianculinarycenter.com)

Spiritual Italy

**APRIL 26-MAY 3d, 2021**

**Depart USA on April 25<sup>th</sup> for overnight flight**

**Leonardo da Vinci Airport Rome**

## PROGRAM

Give thanks for God's Grace in sacred sites across 5 Italian Regions. Trace the paths of pilgrims to some of Italy's most important and sacred religious centres - a spiritual journey to Saint Gabriel, the Holy Stairs, Loreto, Cascia, Pietralcina, and the Vatican with an opportunity to attend the Sunday Mass in Saint Peter Square. Come to Italy and enjoy visiting Chef Walter's native land, where you can enjoy the real Italian authentic spiritual and culinary philosophy...where everything means genuineness...genuineness of land, products, lifestyle and religion. This tour offers the unique opportunity to immerse your-self into sacred faith and outstanding cuisine while visiting ancient Sanctuaries, Hermitages, Churches and the pinnacle of Christian traditions in different regions of Italy. In this tour you will savor and experience foods related to the Catholicism, and the rituals of foods into religion. Our restaurants in Italy are carefully selected by Chef Walter and our Travel Specialist and Consultant Sheila Filipponi who lives and operates in Abruzzi, Italy and will be assisting us in our quest to discovery!

So, don't wait...Join with us and discover this unknown folkloric land filled with religion and traditions while rediscovering the spirituality in every one of us!

### Day 1 – Monday Abruzzo Region

Guests will be arriving in Rome Leonardo da Vinci airport with departure toward Colonnella in Abruzzi with approximate travel time of 3 hours. Check in at Villa Susanna in the early afternoon. Welcome cocktails and nibbles. Free time allocated to peruse the surroundings with a little walk (optional) to the old historic Borgo of Colonnella followed by a welcoming dinner. Our journey begins tomorrow as we visit **Saint Gabriel** in the province of Teramo in Abruzzo.

▪ **Inclusions** / Welcome Cocktail / Dinner with wine / Lodging

### Day 2 – Tuesday Abruzzo Region

**Morning:** Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby, followed by departure to San Gabriele and Isola del Gran Sasso; visiting the Sanctuary of **Saint Gabriel**, the Saint of smile and young people.

**Lunch** will be in one of the local typical trattorie in the area, with cuisine reflecting the mountainous territory. A quick visit to **Castelli** nearby, famous for its hand-made ceramics will conclude our early portion of the day.

**Afternoon:** Departure for Campoli with visit to the **Holy Stairs**, the Farnese Palace and the Cathedral, with a most stop in Campovalano for visiting the famous Necropolis, a small town originating from the Bronze Age. Its rich findings are well preserved in the nearby Museum of Campoli.

**Under the Roman** dominion the territory was known as Praetutium (later became Abruzzi), and Teramo (Interamnia between two rivers) and Atri (Hatria) lived a golden period under the Emperors Augustus and Adrian. Return to our home-base of Colonnella for a late afternoon break, followed by **dinner** coordinated by Chef Walter and Villa Susanna resident chefs. (**Cooking class on home-made gnocchi** will be offered before dinner with optional participation). Our journey continues tomorrow to lovely **Lanciano in Central Abruzzo**.

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Lunch with wine / Cooking Class / Dinner with wine / Lodging

### **Day 3 – Wednesday Abruzzo Region**

**Morning:** Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby, followed by departure to **Lanciano**, city of Art, Miracles and Fairs. The downtown still preserves a typical medieval aspect, with plenty of monuments, as the Main Cathedral, Diocleziano's bridge, Saint Augustine's Church, the Catholic Museum and Saint Francis's Church where you will admire the Eucharistic Miracle, considered the biggest prodigy that the Catholic Church remembers: it consists in the transformation of the Holy Host (big sacrificial victim) into Meat and of the Wine in Blood. **Lunch** in a seafood based restaurant in **San Vito Chietino** or nearby with a possibility to visit the old downtown, with its rich historic fashion.

**Afternoon:** Departure toward **Ortona** with a visit to the Miracle of the Crucifix and Saint Thomas Church. Return to our home-base of Colonnella for a late afternoon break, followed by **dinner** at **Paco alle Scale** in Colonnella. (Local Olive oil, Cheese and Wine presentation will be offered before dinner with optional participation). Our journey will take us to **Loreto** tomorrow.

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Lunch with wine / Specialty Tasting / Dinner with wine / Lodging



#### Day 4 – Thursday Marche Region

**Morning:** Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby, followed by departure to **Loreto** (Marche Region), to visit the **Holy House**. It is the city of the famous Shrine of our Lady of Loreto. According to tradition, the House of Jesus in Nazareth, was taken by the Crusaders and settled on the soil of these hills. The walled city of Loreto was erected to protect against Turkish invasions. As many as 50 Popes have made a pilgrimage here. The towers were made by Katherine di Giorgio Martini, and the basilica expands around the Holy House. **Lunch** based on local cuisine in one of the exquisite trattorie surrounding the basilica.

**Afternoon:** Departure toward **Osimo** with a visit to the Sanctuary of **Blessed Virgin of Campocavallo**. Return to our home-base of Colonnella for a late afternoon break, followed by **dinner** based on the unique Metro Style Pizza at **L'Antico Portone** in the quaint borgo of Tortoreto. Our journey will continue tomorrow to **Puglia** to visit Padre Pio.

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Lunch with wine / Dinner on specialty pizza with wine / Lodging

#### Day 5 – Friday Puglia Region (Extended Day)

**Morning:** Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby, followed by departure to San Giovanni Rotondo in the **Puglia** Region home of **Saint Pio of Pietralcina and Monte Sant'Angelo** with the Sanctuary of Saint Micheal. Take in the breathtaking view of the Gargano Peninsula and explore one of the most celebrated Shrines of early Christianity. We will be spending the entire day here visiting the sanctuary, including the old church and the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918. Then visit the new church as well as Padre Pio tomb. We will break for **lunch** based on local cuisine between our visits to Pietralcina. Return to our home-base of Colonnella for a late afternoon break, followed by **dinner** coordinated by Chef Walter and Villa Susanna resident chefs. Our journey continues to **Umbria** tomorrow to visit Santa Rita da Cascia.

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Lunch with wine / Dinner with wine / Lodging



## Day 6 - Saturday Umbria Region

**Morning:** Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby, followed by departure to **Santa Rita from Cascia** and Roccaporena, Santa Rita's place of birth in the Umbria Region. Santa Rita was known as The Precious Pearl. In her early life, Rita was a wife, mother, nun and a servant of God, before Sainthood. **Lunch** based on local Umbrian cuisine in one of the typical restaurants in the area, followed by the return to our home-base of Colonnella for a late afternoon break, followed by **dinner** at Paco alle Scale in Colonnella. (Extended Day) Pack your bags; we are going to Rome tomorrow!

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Lunch with wine / Dinner with wine / Lodging

## Day 7 – Sunday Lazio Region

**Morning: Check-out.** Continental breakfast followed by departure to **Rome** the Eternal city with visit to the Vatican City and of course to admire St. Peter Basilica built on the site where Saint Peter was martyred. We will attend the Sunday Mass, followed by a guided tour of the most symbolic and historic venues of the area. Free afternoon for you for final shopping opportunities and time for your-self after a long week. Farewell **dinner** will be in Rome in the **Testaccio** area in one of the famous local Roman trattorie, sampling the finest of Roman cookery. Overnight accommodation will be in Rome.

▪ **Inclusions** / Breakfast / Dinner with wine / Lodging

## Day 8 – Monday

**Morning:** Continental breakfast followed by transfer to Leonardo da Vinci airport for return flights to final destinations.

