



## **Tuscany Casentino Region October 20-27, 2020**

**\$3500 per person Land Package**

**Leave USA on October 19, 2020 for overnight flight**

### **PROGRAM**

#### **Day 1**

Arrival at Leonardo da Vinci (FCO) in Rome Italy. Our luxury transportation will be waiting for you. Departure toward Arezzo in Tuscany with approximate travel time of 3 hours. Lunch at Osteria da Giovanna. Afternoon departure toward Borgo Corsignano where you will be checking in and will be spending your leisure time in Casentino Tuscany. After a relaxing time period we will travel to Tirabuscio' Ristorante in the center of historical Bibbiena. Dinner based on local specialties with wine. Return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.

## Day 2

Our day is spent in the Casentino region. Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano. Departure toward the museum of the wool located in the Pratovecchio Stia, about 20 minutes away. After the visit of the museum we will stop and visit the Azienda Zuccari in the historical town of Poppi, to sample a great organic honey with the necessary accompaniments. During the lunch period we will visit Italy's Best Butcher Simone Fracassi in the town of Rassina, where we will sample Tuscan meat protein, prepared in a street-food style, with demonstration and detailed information on the valuable Tuscan meats. In the afternoon, we will visit the agricultural setting of San Marco, where we will meet the world-renowned Chianina Beef. We will be briefed on the growing, diets and regulatory laws that govern this particular specimen. After the visit you will enjoy a guided tour of the famous Castello Conti Guidi in Poppi. The evening dinner will be at Antica Cantina in the historical center of Poppi. Return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.

## Day 3

We are going to Florence! Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano. Departure toward Florence with travel time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. The group will visit the historical center, followed by a must-stop at Florence Central Market. Walk around; enjoy some free time from us and a chance to immerse you into the Florentine life-style and culture. We will regroup and have lunch at Ristorante 4 Leoni in Piazza della Passera, a location where luminaries such as De Niro, Sting, Madonna, Dustin Hoffman and many more dine when in the city. After lunch we will depart toward the Casentino region. We will visit an old Mulino (Mill), where the grinding stones are still utilized to mill wheat. The stones to this day are activated by the waters of the Solano River. Since 1696 the Grifoni family transforms wheat and chestnuts into premier delectable flours. Return to Borgo Corsignano for a well-deserved break, followed by dinner at Ristorante Falterona in Tanucci square in Pratovecchio Stia, about 20 minutes away from our main stay. After dinner return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.



## Day 4

Valdichiana Valley is the area of interest today, located south of the city of Arezzo. Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano. Today you will experience a truly unique experience with flour being the star performer. We will travel for about 1 hour, to meet the members of the Menchetti family, leaders in the natural leavening of bread, made with genuine, natural ingredients without additives. Here we will have a Master Class of what is called “The White Art”. Lunch follows prepared masterfully by the Menchetti group. We will then travel to the town most Americans love most....Cortona, the backdrop of the movie “Under the Tuscan Sun”. We will spend time in Cortona, followed by a great wine tasting in Val di Chiana at winery Tenimenti d’Alessandro. Dinner in Cortona, followed by a return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.

## Day 5

Today we will go to the area of San Miniato. Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano, followed by a truly special gift: “Truffle hunting”. Our travel time will be approximately 2 ½ hours, but I think it’s worth the time. We will meet members of the Savini Company, and then roll up our slacks as we enter the woods along with our trusted Tuscan dogs who will accompany us in the searching quest of the truffles. Lunch will be based on truffles, with additional truffle-prepared condiments and flavors. In the afternoon we will depart to return to Casentino, and along the way stop at Caporali, where the protagonist is the Blowing Steel., a long tradition which began in 1885 and has reached the 5th generation today. Artisanal and hand-made products, the true pride of the Made in Italy, but especially Tuscany. Evening dinner in the typical Borgo of Raggiolo at the restaurant Il Convivio dei Corsi. Return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.



## Day 6

Today the journey will take us to Valdarno, a valley located north-west of Arezzo. Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano, followed by travel to Valdarno for about 1 ½ hours. We will make a stop to visit the Borro a tiny village where time has practically stopped, a new experience for us Americans for sure. We will then visit the Il Borro winery, where a panel of experts will accompany us through the tasting, the methodology of wine-making and the difference between barrels and barrique. Lunch at Il Borro. Afternoon return to the Casentino region with must-stop in Bibbiena. Visit to the historical palazzi, followed by another Master Class by Simone Fracassi on the history of Tuscan meats and its preparation.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.

## Day 7<sup>th</sup>

Today we will stay in the Casentino. Continental breakfast, followed by a 40 minute travel to La Verna. We will visit the sanctuary where St. Francis of Assisi received the stigmata, a special spot for spiritual retreats surrounded by nature. The lunch will be at Soci in the area of Bibbiena and enjoy the delicacies of the Ristorante La Buca, where the main protagonist is fresh hand-made pasta according to Tuscan traditions. In the afternoon, we will visit the valley of Camaldoli with visit to the local monastery. Evening dinner at Moggiona di Poppi at Ristorante Mater. Return to Borgo Corsignano for the overnight stay.

**Inclusions:** lodging, travel within Italy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tastings, wines, museums, master class presentations.

## Day 8<sup>th</sup>

Continental breakfast at Borgo Corsignano, followed by early departure to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport (FCO) for the return flights

