

TUSCANY

The RUNAWAYS

October 3—10, 2019



Fratelli & Company Group Travel
www.fratelliandcompany.com

Dear Friends;

I would like to invite you on a very exciting trip to one of my favorite parts of the world, Florence & Tuscany. This trip is designed to experience the world-renowned wines of the region, along with the cultural and gastronomical peculiarities of the region. **Fratelli** designs its excursions to be personal, educational and fun filled. We always add extra touches, such as visiting an off the path winery, cheese factory or olive oil plant. These types of trips promote conviviality and joviality. When you return from this trip you will not have just visited sites, but you experienced a culture. We sincerely hope that you can join us, it would be my pleasure to share my beloved Italy with you in October 2019.

Best Wishes,

Louis

Departure Day— Thursday, October 3, 2019

Today you depart from Newark International Airport for your evening trans-Atlantic flight to Italy. Meals and entertainment are aloft. Time schedule TBA.



Day 1 — Arrival in Italy/ Transfer to Florence Center - Friday, October 4

Upon your arrival in Florence, you will check in to your hotel and have some time to settle in, unpack and freshen up before tonight's group supper (**included**) in the local Florentine; Buca San Giovanni restaurant with wine, water and coffee included. Prior to leaving for supper we will have a "Welcome Drink" in the hotel bar. Overnight will be in Florence. *For those still energized after supper we can take a walk around city center in the evening to catch some of the sites beforehand.*



Day 2— Florence City Tour—Sat. October 5

This morning, after breakfast, we will begin our walking tour of Florence. We'll begin with the **Accademia** to see Michelangelo's famous "David" and "Prisoners in Stone", then onto Piazza del Duomo, once the center of religious life in medieval times. We continue on to visit the Piazza della Signoria which was named after the Palazzo della Signoria, also called Palazzo Vecchio. It is the main point of the origin and history of



the Florentine Republic and still maintains its reputation as the political and governmental focus of the city. The next stop will be the famous Ponte Vecchio; the bridge spans the Arno at its narrowest point where it is believed that a bridge was first built in Roman times. Butchers initially occupied the shops; the present tenants are jewelers, art dealers and souvenir sellers. After the tour there will be free time to visit the city or visit the Uffizi Gallery; (on your own if you wish) one of the most important Italian museums, and the most visited, it is also one of the largest and best known in the world and holds a collection of priceless works, particularly from the period of the Italian Renaissance. *Tickets can be purchased at the main entrance for approximately 16.50 Euro per person. (The museum is vast so you should allow at least 3 hours or more to visit the many galleries).* Supper (**included**) **La Bussola with wine, water and coffee.** Overnight in Florence.



Day 3 — The Chianti Road "La Chiantigiana" - Sunday, October 6

This morning, after breakfast, we will leave Florence for the Chianti Wine Region. We will be traveling along the "Chianti Road" or "Chiantigiana". The Via Chiantigiana is one of the most enjoyable motoring routes in Italy. It runs directly south from Florence to Siena through the middle of the Chianti Classico wine zone of Tuscany, one of the most instantly recognizable landscapes in the world. After passing Ugolino Golf Course, the oldest golf club in Italy, the Chiantigiana runs upward and follows the ridges between the Val d'Elsa and the Valdarno, wandering from one farmhouse and villa to another, from time to time passing through villages and small towns.

The territory traversed by the Via Chiantigiana has been one of the most important wine producing regions in Italy for over two centuries. In fact, it was the Habsburg-Lorraine ruling family, most notably Leopold I, Grand Duke of Tuscany, who during the 18th and 19th centuries, began cultivating the grapes that would become modern Chianti. Since the 1920s, this territory has been the official area of production for the Consorzio del Vino Chianti Classico Gallo Nero wine makers consortium. Our first stop today will be village of Greve. Greve's history is connected to the beautiful Castle of Montefioralle located above the town when it served as the castle's marketplace in the 13th century. The strategic position at the crossroads of three important pilgrimage roads - the Chiantigiana road, the road to Valdarno and the road to Val di Pesa - favored its economic growth. At the beginning of the 1500s, the curious shaped square was already built and was later described by the Grand Duke Leopold I as "a beautiful square where every Saturday a big market of livestock and food takes place". While in Greve we will have our first wine tasting with lunch (included).



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In the Castel Verrazzano

We are talking about the famous explorer who on April 17, 1524, at the age of 39, was the first European to discover the New York Bay. The castle, in Val di Greve, was the abode of his aristocratic family of origin, the Verrezzanos. In one of the letters Giovanni da Verrazzano wrote to King Francis I of France – at whose service he had started his adventures on the coasts of North-America – the great seaman wrote: “We often went five or six leagues into the interior, and found the country as pleasant as is possible to conceive, adapted to cultivation of every kind, whether of corn, wine or oil...”

Words we might borrow to describe the luxuriant Tuscan hills of Chianti Classico, where the castle rises with its

16th century cellars and its 220 hectares of land, which have produced excellent wine for almost a millennium. A place that was, and is to this day, “*as pleasant as is possible to conceive*”. Overnight in Florence supper on your own.

Day 4—Monteriggioni & San Gimignano—Monday, October 7

Today, we continue our journey south of Florence along the Chianti Road to the medieval village of Monteriggioni.



Monteriggioni represents one of the most important walled castles in the territory. It has incredibly preserved an intact structure as if time had never passed on the hill from which it elegantly dominates the surrounding landscape. Its perfect circular perimeter makes one suppose it to be an artificial construction while, in actuality, it was created by just following the curves in the natural ground. The castle was built by the Siense between 1213 and 1219 for defensive purposes; its strategic location atop a hill overlooking the Cassia Road allowed the castle to control the cities of the Val d’Elsa and Staggia and be on the lookout for any armies approaching Siena. The intact fortified wall presents 14 towers along which the guards used to walk and patrol the walls

and 2 gates, one called the Roman Gate which faces Rome and the other known as the Florentine Gate since it heads toward Florence. The “well” in the center of the square is the well described in Dante’s Divine Comedy. Here in Monteriggioni we will have our first wine tasting of the day..

Day 4—continued



Later we head to San Gimignano, the city of Bell Towers. Encircled by 13th-century walls, its old town centers on Piazza della Cisterna, a triangular square lined with medieval houses. It has a skyline of medieval towers including the stone Torre Grossa. The Duomo di San Gimignano is a 12th-century church with frescoes by Ghirlandaio in its Santa Fina Chapel. The "Historic Centre of San Gimignano" is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town also is known for saffron, the Golden Ham, and its white wine, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, produced from the ancient variety of Vernaccia grape which is grown on the sandstone hillsides of the area. There will be

some free-time to explore this fascinating city on your own before heading out of the city limits to an “agriturismo”, **Podere La Marronaia**, for delightful supper of Truffle and Wine tasting.



Podere la Marronaia is a little jewel set on a hill surrounded by vineyards and olive trees, a few kilometers from the historic center of San Gimignano, in a very scenic location.

The unique architecture of the property, which immediately drew the attention of the present owners, Luigi and Silvia, was the old watch tower located in the central part of the building.

From the information found in the historical archives of the town, it was discovered that this tower was part of a larger group of fortifications, towers, built around 1200 to defend the city of San Gimignano. Already at that time the property reported as “Magronaja”, due to the current “Marronaia”. In the XIX century Podere la Marronaia was owned by the Monastery of St. Jerome. Today the building is named among the “special historical and artistic interest” heritage of the city.

The guest of honor of this tasting with dinner is the famous Tuscan truffle.

A guided tour to discover the sharp accents of Tuscan truffles, harmonized throughout the meal with local products: extra virgin olive oil, wines, appetizers and assorted dishes.

Later back to Florence. Overnight in Florence.



Typical Tuscan Recipes

Today we leave Florence city limits once again and head out to the Wine Region. Our destination today is Castello di Oliveto in Castelfiorentino. The **Castle of Oliveto** is an **ancient manor** built in the **15th century** located in the **heart of the Florentine hills**, 30 km from **Florence**, and well connected with the most beautiful and picturesque areas of **Tuscany**. Today, lunch will be by your own hand as we enjoy a Tuscan Cooking Class in this medieval castle.



The course (*which lasts about 2 hours and a half*) will take place in the kitchen of the castle where the participants (you), helped by the chef and her staff, will prepare a typical Italian meal. You will be provided with some aprons, chefs hats and everything that is necessary for the cookery. The recipes will be written out for you as well. In this way, you will have the chance to seize the secret of a typical Tuscan cooking, for example to prepare some good gnocchi or tortelloni with tomato sauce.



Followed by a Tuscan stew and a home-made dessert (*according to our cook's choice of the day*), the you will also be able to taste some of our own wine while you are cooking. And here you have a real Tuscan lunch!

Finally, there will be a guided tour of the castle and a lunch with the dishes prepared by the participants along with some more of the wines made from the vineyards surrounding the Castle. We return to Florence later in the day. This evening is free time to have a light supper or simply just enjoy the city by night with a glass of wine in an outdoor café. Overnight in Florence.



Day 6—Florence Free Day (optional excursions) Progressive Supper—Wednesday, October 9

Today enjoy a free day around town. Take time to do some shopping for gold and jewelry along the Ponte Vecchio or for Leather apparel and handbags in the Santa Croce district. In the main square close to the Duomo you can many visit of the designer stores. You may chose to hop the train to Pisa for the day to see the Leaning Tower, its just an hour train ride from the city. At approximately 5:00 pm we will re-gather and meet for a progressive supper through some of the off the beaten path districts of Florence.



Florence food tour starts in the lovely Oltrarno neighborhood of Florence, a step or two off the well-trod tourist path. Here you'll stop in various places (the order changes according to the night) to taste cheese, cured meats, truffles and Florence's answer to focaccia, along with various olive oils and balsamic vinegar. Your guide will talk you through this, explaining how and why these key ingredients differ so much from one end of Italy to the other.



From there it's a walk through the Piazza Santo Spirito to every Italian's favorite time of day – aperitivo hour. Visit a local enoteca (wine bar) for a tour of the cellars and a wine tasting experience, including either one of the region's famous Super Tuscans or a very special surprise wine, and local crostini (bruschetta).



Passing artisan shops and local bakeries along Via Santo Spirito, you'll stop in one of the favorite restaurants for an authentic, sit-down dinner. Here you'll try a classic Tuscan soup, a typical starter, plus a meaty second course that differs according to the season and what's available in the markets.

Finally, you end your meal as the Florentines do, with a gelato (invented here in Florence) and stroll back to the other side of the city.

Throughout your Florence food tour, you'll be accompanied by an expert (fun) local tour guide, who will teach you about local ingredients, seasonality and why there's no such thing as "Italian" food. With a small group of just 14 people or fewer, your experience will be relaxed and casual – more like an evening with friends than a tour. **Overnight in Florence.**



Day 7—Florence –Departure Day — Thursday, October 10

End of services today upon check-out. Today, we bid not farewell, but *Arrivederci* (see you again) to Italy as we transfer to airports or train stations. Upon boarding your flights homebound, or trains elsewhere, not only will we be carrying many kilos of Italy in your luggage, but many memories of fun days, wonderfully interesting meals shared with friends, a bit more culture to add to our already cultured consciousness, but above all, the recollection of an impressive and wonderful journey in Tuscany on the **ITALIAN PENINSULA**.



INCLUDED:

ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR ESCORT FROM DAY of ARRIVAL to DAY of DEPARTURE
ENGLISH SPEAKING LOCAL GUIDES THROUGHOUT
ENTRANCE FEES TO SITES INCLUDED
BUFFET BREAKFAST DAILY with coffee, tea, juice
DINNERS & LUNCHESES as per itinerary
DE LUXE AIR-CONDITIONED MOTORCOACH
FIRST CLASS 4 STAR HOTELS
PORTERAGE in HOTELS in ITALY
TAXES (21% VAT) & SERVICE CHARGES

EXCLUDED:

ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS TO US AIRPORTS
PASSPORTS and/or VISA FEES
GRATUITIES to DRIVER, GUIDES, TOUR ESCORTS
PORTERAGE IN AIRPORTS
ITEMS OF PERSONAL NATURE (Laundry, telephone calls, room service, etc)
BEVERAGES at MEALS UNLESS LISTED IN THE ITINERARY
CITY HOTEL STAY TAXES - 35 Euro or Approx. \$40 USD for entire trip.



Our Mission at
“Fratelli & Company Group Travel”

Is to serve our Italo/American brothers and sisters and all our esteemed clients, in the best possible way, by offering them comprehensive services at all times. To set the standard for reliable, high quality, personalized services and boast our ancestral roots. In summation: Our goal is to make you want to return to Italy again and again.

**Sincerely,
Mr. Louis Falconeri – President**

40% percent of the world's greatest art is in Italy. The country is a living museum from the time you exit the airport doors. Italy offers some of the best of the best regional foods and wines everywhere and anywhere, from the gnarled century old vineyards and cavern-like wineries to the smallest villages and grandiose cities. Italy is a piece of paradise on earth.

AIRFARE & TRANSFERS

This trip is priced Land with Air separately and upon request. The reason: *anyone wishing to procure their own air travel through frequent flyer miles or other, may do so, keeping in mind, they must arrive in Florence at the Hotel on their own for a given meeting place and time; TBA. You may be obliged to take taxis or hire a private transfer to meet the group or return to the airport at your own expense. We will be pleased to assist you in booking your transportation from and to the airports or trains and also to assist those who wish to book their own flights from the USA to Italy. If you are booking “your own” air, please contact us for Meeting points and time schedules.

INSURANCE

Many times we are asked about travel insurance. We, unless licensed by the State of New Jersey, we cannot sell you insurance of any kind. There are several options that you can research such as; AARP Members, AAA Members, check your “homeowner’s policies” for travel provisions, other organizations to which you may be a member, or check online at <https://www.insuremytrip.com/>. This web site will give you comparisons from which to choose.

PRIOR to DEPARTURE

Prior to all of our group departures Fratelli & Company Group Travel will provide you with an “information” packet which will answer many of your concerns and questions about the trip. It will give contact information, flight schedules (if applicable), hotel information and telephone numbers to leave at home with family members. It will give you info for packing suggestions, type of weather to expect, Euro vs US Dollar exchanges, US Embassy telephone numbers and much more. However, if you have a question or concern beforehand, please do not hesitate to call or email our office.

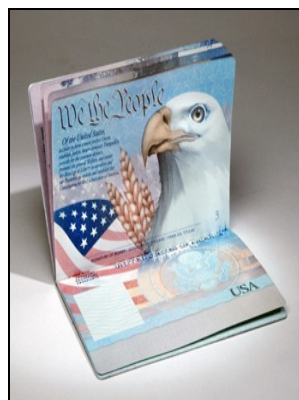
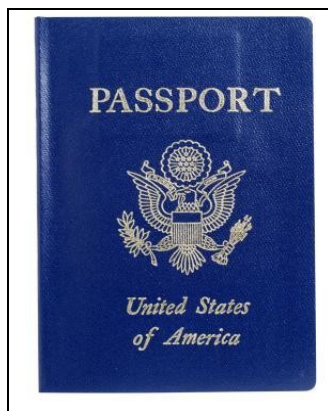
PASSPORTS

Make two copies of all of your travel documents (passports picture page) in case of an emergency or loss and leave one with a trusted friend or relative. You may also (if you wish) send us an electronic PDF copy of your passport which will be carried on a flashdrive by your tour manager.

Travel to European Countries in the Schengen Area

Entry into any of the 26 European countries in the Schengen area for short-term tourism, a business trip, or in transit to a non-Schengen destination, requires that your passport be valid for at least three months beyond your intended date of return. Because many Schengen countries assume all travelers will stay the full three months allowed for visa-free visitors, we recommend that U.S. citizens:

- Have at least six month’s validity remaining on your passport whenever you travel abroad.
- Check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe.
- Carry your passport with you at all times in Europe. ID must be shown upon request by Government officials anytime in the Schengen areas.



NOTES:

FOR FURTHER INFO CALL
Fratelli & Company Group Travel

E-mail — info@fratelliandcompany.com or fratelco@aol.com – tel. or fax (908)766-8994

Please fill in all areas and sign reverse side of application.

Land Package - \$2,695. per person (double occupancy)
For Airfare — On your own (see page 9 “Airfare & Transfers”)

Price quoted is based on payments made by check or cash only. **For credit cards please add 3.50%**

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

“THE RUNAWAYS” - October 03—10, 2019

Name as it appears on passport: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Tel: _____ Mobile or Work Tel: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: (City, State, Nation) _____

US CITIZENS

U S Passport #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

FOREIGN NATIONALS

Foreign Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____ Alien Registration # (Green Card) _____

If you DO NOT have a passport at this time, please indicate, then provide to the tour operator/tour organizer with the passport info ASAP.

I wish to room with: _____

Private Accommodations or Single Room: _____ + Single Supplement Fee \$275.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Fratelli & Co. GTC, 26 Pill Hill Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

\$500. Per person. Deposit due with this application

Balance in Full Due 60 days prior to departure date; August 3, 2019

Will you be taking Travel Insurance? It is recommended. Yes ___ / No ___ Your travel professional can assist you.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO: Please provide one or 2 Names and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

1. _____

2. _____

(Optional) Do you have any SEVERE FOOD or MEDICATION ALLERGIES: - Please list below or on separate sheet.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations/Deposits/Payments: A deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is required at the time of booking. No reservation is confirmed until the deposit is received by the tour operator. The balance of the tour price is due and payable sixty (60) days prior to departure.

Minors And Infirm: Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a responsible adult deemed worthy by the parent/guardian. If a minor is traveling with any person other than parent/guardian then the responsible adult will provide the travel agent/tour operator and have in his/her possession a notarized letter from the parent/guardian giving that adult full permission to make decisions on their behalf and permission to room with the minor. No minor will be allowed to room alone without the parent/guardian or named responsible adult. For physically handicapped persons; due to the physical demands of the tour and the limited accessibility of handicap facilities abroad; careful consideration should be given to booking such a tour.

Tour Price: The tour price in this brochure is based upon the U. S. currency vs. the European Euro at the time of printing, **February 27, 2019**. If changes in these rates occur, it may change the price accordingly. **The tour price is based on booking a minimum of 15 paying passengers. Please see price quotes on Tour Application page.** A lesser amount could increase the price of the tour. Should the price of the tour change for any of the reasons mentioned above, the passenger will then have the right to cancel the reservation and receive a full refund of payment made to date, provided that written notice be received by Fratelli & Co. within 7 (seven) days of the notification of the price change. Otherwise, the cancellation policy written below prevails. No refund will be made if the passenger is dissatisfied with any of the accommodations; fails to use any of the accommodations included in the tour price, or must return home prior to completion of the tour.

Cancellations: Land and Air arrangements may be canceled and passenger may receive a full refund less one hundred (\$100.) dollars cancellation fee if the cancellation is made no less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled departure date. If cancellation is made less than sixty (60) days prior to scheduled departure, there is no refund unless a suitable replacement passenger books the tour in his/her place. For these reasons we recommend you take Travel Insurance.

Travel Insurance: Health, accident, Trip Interruption/Cancellation and baggage insurance are NOT included; information can be made available through your travel agent.

Sightseeing & Itinerary: Sightseeing is included as specified in the itinerary with English-speaking guides and customary entrance fees. The tour operator reserves the right to vary the sequence of the itinerary and/or reroute the order of cities, should circumstances arise.

Passports: A valid passport is required, and MUST be shown upon request to the travel agent/tour operator, tour leaders and any airline personal and customs or government officials. Passports must be valid up until 3 months after the return date.

Responsibility: Fratelli & Co., LLC, your tour operator has arranged a vacation package which may include one or more of the following: air, land transportation, hotel accommodations and food service. Neither the tour operator nor the organizer own, operate, manage, or control any hotel, bus company, railroad, cruise line, service provider, restaurant, airline transportation company, person or persons rendering any of the services, and/or accommodations offered in connection with this tour. The tour operator and/or tour organizer do not guaranty any passenger's safety who participates in the tour. Accordingly, the passenger understands that he or she has no claim against the tour operator or organizer for any delay, or other irregularity caused by a third party service provider, damage to or loss of property, injury to or death of the person due to any action or failure to act by the air carrier, bus carriers, private cars, livery carriers, railroad, ships, hotels, restaurants and any service providers in connection with this tour, strikes, war, or any acts of God. Under these circumstances, no portion of the tour price will be refunded. It is advisable that you cover any potential risks with insurance coverage.

Cancellation of Passenger's Rights: In an effort to make the tour pleasant for all, the tour operator reserves the right to: 1. cancel any reservation and refund the tour price, pursuant to the cancellation clause, of any passenger who acts irrational by words, actions and demeanor prior to the tour departure; 2. refuse further participation in the tour once the tour begins, with no refund given, to passengers who: act unruly, irrational, unduly argumentative, incite trouble among passengers, endanger the health and/or safety of the other passengers, tour operator, tour organizer, and/or tour escort, or if they become physically or emotionally disabled and create a burden that the remaining passengers are unwilling to accept. No tour passenger, tour operator, tour organizer, tour escort, will be obligated to assist any infirm, handicapped or injured passenger.

Inclusions: All hotel taxes, service charges, First Class Four Star Hotels, Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary, English-speaking guides, all baggage handling and assistance abroad (except in airports for security reasons), Breakfasts, lunches and dinners (including in flight meals) as per itinerary.

Exclusions: Passport and visa fees, tips for tour escorts, drivers, guides, food service personal, hotel maids, phone calls, laundry services, and other items of a personal nature. Rates do NOT include beverages at meals unless specified in the itinerary. Rates do not include transportation to and from US airports or baggage handling in the United States.

Physical and Emotional Limitations: The tour operator cannot be held responsible for any part of the tour missed due to physical or emotional limitations. Anyone who cannot participate in an event will not receive a refund for any unused portion. Further, if anyone must stop or return to a hotel or motor-coach during a tour, and uses public transportation or taxis, it will be their responsibility to pay for the transportation.

Miscellaneous: Any Litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in the State of New Jersey. This agreement shall be construed according to New Jersey and Federal law. The tour operator shall not be responsible for any typographical errors or misprints. The tour operator reserves the right to substitute in its discretion any air, land and sea carrier, hotels, and service providers and itinerary.

I have read terms and conditions of the tour and accept them. I represent I am not physically or emotionally challenged and I am able to meet the physical demands required by this tour.

signature:

date: