

The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents:

Italy: the Grand Tour

Tuscany, Cinque Terre, Rome, *Venice



June 17 - 28, 2017

-12 days \$2,699*/person

★ Visit: Florence, Lucca, Chianti Region, The Cinque Terre, Pescia, Pisa, Siena, Viareggio, Volterra, San Gimignano, Rome and Vatican City and **Venice

★★ Tour Includes:★★

- ♥ 8 nights in Tuscany and 2 nights in Rome 4 Star Hotels
- ♥ All buffet breakfasts
- ♥ All Italian Dinners in Tuscany
- ♥ Private Air Conditioned Motor Coach
- ♥ Full time Tour Director and private English Speaking guides
- ♥ Wine and Olive Oil tasting
- ♥ Sightseeing Tours & Museum Tickets
- ♥ Welcome Cocktail Party
- ♥ Pre tour Orientation Banquet and

Booklet* *Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy, single supplement is \$400. Price based on minimum of 12 passengers. Tips of \$150 and airfare is not included.*



The Italian Cultural Society

Phone: 916 (916 482-5900) fax 916 (916 482-5909)
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Day 1: Depart from USA for your flight to Florence.

Day 2: Arrival at Florence Airport and transfer to the Villa delle Rose, where we will be staying for the next 8 nights. Hotel Villa delle Rose is located in Pescia, a wonderful area at the foot of the Abetone Mountains, alongside the Pescia River. Enjoy welcome cocktails and a delicious four course dinner at the hotel. *Welcome to Italy!!*



Day 3: Excursions to Viareggio and Pisa: Today we drive to the prestigious summer coastal resort of Viareggio where international jet-setters spend their summer holidays. You can shop at one of Italy's best outdoor marketplaces, walk on the white beaches of the Mediterranean's Tyrrhenian Sea and stroll the fabulous boardwalk of the *Passeggiata Lungomare*. (Enjoy lunch on your own) After lunch, visit the famous town of Pisa with the fantastic *Campo Dei Miracoli*, the Baptistery, the Cathedral and the world famous Leaning Tower. If you have the energy, climb the 296 steps to the top of the tower for breathtaking views of Pisa. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

Day 4: A full day excursion to Florence: Upon arriving in Florence meet our local guide to visit the famous Accademia Art Gallery which was founded in 1563 and was the first school in Europe to teach the techniques of drawing, painting and sculpture. The highlights of this museum are Michelangelo's colossal David and the Four Prisoners. Nearby, see Dante's home and stroll in his footsteps in a maze of neighboring streets. Become awestruck by the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Lily Flower (commonly known to travelers as the Duomo), considered one of most impressive examples of Italian Gothic Style, the Campanile, also called Giotto's Bell Tower and the baptistery with the *Gates of Paradise* by Lorenzo Ghiberti. See the elegant Signoria Square with the Public Palace and the Loggia Del Lanzi, which is an open air museum of marble and bronze statues. This magnificent day in Florence continues with a glance at the Uffizi Palace and a stroll over Ponte Vecchio (old bridge famous for sumptuous gold shops). . Then, we will say "arrivederci" to Florence. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

Day 5: After breakfast, depart for full day excursion to *Siena and the Chianti Wine Road*. According to legend, Siena was founded by Senus, the son of Remus who was one of the legendary founders of Rome along with his twin brother Romulus. We'll marvel at the famous Piazza del Campo which manages to squeeze into it thousands of screaming spectators and a racetrack for the famous Palio, which takes place twice a year on July 2 and August 16. The Piazza is dominated by the Mangia Tower.. We will visit the Duomo, Siena's great cathedral, begun in the 12th century in the Romanesque style but transformed in the 13th century into one of the finest examples of Italian Gothic. The church's interior is adorned with black and white marble, and its marble floors have decorative inlays by Domenico Beccafumi. Truly, the Duomo is of the world's most thrilling cathedrals! Lunch on your own. Siena is famous for its delicious Panforte (a dessert cake) and delicate Ricciarelli almond cookies. In the afternoon, we will drive through the famous Chianti Wine Road and stop at a typical farm for wine tasting and enjoying one of the most beautiful areas in Tuscany - the heart of Chianti Hills. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

Day 6: Full day excursion to *Lucca:* After our buffet breakfast, depart by private motorcoach for the charming, walled city of Lucca. A half-day guided tour of the Lucca includes a walk on the famous walls built in the 16 century. See the church and Piazza of San Martino and visit Lucca's famous "Volto Santo di Lucca" (the Holy Face a venerated wooden crucifix that is been in Lucca since 742), the lovely San Frediano church with its mosaic front, the beautiful facade and square of San Michele, the home of Giacomo Puccini, then we'll stroll the city's most famous street, Via Fillungo, and the Roman amphitheater, and if you wish, climb the mysterious Torre Guinigi. Lunch on your own.

Or **Optional Lunch:** Join Patrizia for lunch at Lucca's most famous restaurant: *La Buca di Sant'Antonio* is a Star Michelin-rated Gourmet Restaurant (the restaurant dates back to at least the 1700's and is one of the oldest in Italy). An authentic, traditional Lucchese 6-course lunch includes all the Lucca and Montecarlo wines and bottled water you like. Plus additional time for afternoon shopping and sightseeing will be made. We will also offer an optional concert of Puccini's most beautiful arias this evening in the San Giovanni Church. ~ Breakfast and

Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

Day 7: After an early breakfast, we will depart by private motorcoach for the coastal city of **La Spezia** (Vallejo's sister city) which is in the region of Liguria, just northwest of Tuscany. From La Spezia we will board a ferry boat to visit three of the charming villages of **Le Cinque Terre**. We begin with Riomaggiore which is not only the most southern village, but probably also the most ancient one. Next, charming Vernazza with its tiny port and stone arches is considered the most beautiful of the villages. The third village we visit is Monterosso al Mare, best known for its lovely beaches and scenic charm. You will have time to shop, sightsee and enjoy the culinary delights of this region, like pesto, focaccia and exceptional seafood. ~Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8: We will give travelers a day of leisure to enjoy the charms of this spectacular area. Our villa hotel is just minutes away from charming Collodi, the hometown of Carlo Lorenzini, better known as Carlo Collodi, the author of **Pinocchio**. Travelers may wish to return to Lucca, or to Florence or explore the beautiful thermal spa town of neighboring Montecatini. The hotel's location near both train and bus service makes exploring convenient and easy. The villa's lovely swimming pool and private gardens are also a lovely oasis for those seeking rest and relaxation. (We can also arrange a very special **optional tour to Venice** if a minimum of 20 people are interested. This will be discussed when we arrive in Italy.) ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel in Pescia

Day 9: Full day excursion to **Volterra and San Gimignano**: Volterra is famous for its Etruscan roots and its beautiful alabaster. We visit this picturesque Etruscan town whose ancient walls still stand, while discovering the historical downtown with the Priori Palace, the Duomo or the Guarnacci Museum, which you can visit on your own. Lunch on your own. In the afternoon, we continue in the heart of the Tuscan countryside to San Gimignano, one of the most charming hilltop towns made famous for its towers build by competing noblemen, yet today bountifully rich in works of art, exclusive shops and a formidable gastronomic tradition. San Gimignano is famous for its excellent local white wine called **Vernaccia di San Gimignano**, saffron, honey and wild boar called "cinghiale". We will visit the ancient medieval center with its beautiful squares and picturesque narrow streets, the Palazzo del Popolo (People's Palace) and the Duomo. Walk to the castle's ruins in the historical center and admire the breathtaking view of the hills and the vineyards surrounding San Gimignano. San Gimignano boasts the gelateria (ice-cream parlor) which has won first place as the "WORLD'S BEST GELATO!" That alone warrants a visit! Leisure time to shop and sightsee. ~Breakfast and Dinner at our hotel in Pescia.

Day 10: After breakfast, depart Pescia and say good-bye to the Villa delle Rose. We travel by private motorcoach to Rome, We set off for sightseeing in **Rome's Historical Center**. There's no doubting it: Rome means history. Etruscan tombs, Republican meeting rooms, Imperial temples, early-Christian churches, medieval bell towers, Renaissance palaces, Baroque basilicas, incredible fountains and piazzas. Even if only for a few days.... do as the Romans do... live "*la dolce vita*" enjoy! Discover Rome's unforgettable squares like the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the romance and mystery of the Trevi Fountain. Cross Rome's mighty Tiber River, and gaze at the Pantheon's unique Dome. As we walk the Colosseum area, our Rome guide will bring to life the magic and energy of The Eternal City. Lunch and Dinner are on your own to allow you to take advantage of your time in Rome. (Optional gourmet dinner near the Trevi Fountain followed by night tour will be offered.)

Day 11: After breakfast, we will visit **St. Peter's and the Vatican City - State** which contains the world's richest collection of art. Prepare to be overwhelmed at the sight of the colossal Basilica and square of St. Peter, where you will marvel at the Sistine chapel, yet quietly moved by the sublime Pietà, Bernini's glorious and mystical Baroque Canopy and the burial site of St. Peter. See the colorful Swiss Guards. Our guide will be delighted to pass on suggestions for good restaurants, wine bars and other useful information. Remember there is a dress code to enter St Peter's and the Vatican. *No Shorts, no bare shoulders, and knees must be covered for St. Peter's Basilica.* The afternoon is for leisurely shopping or for visits to the Museums. ~Lunch and Dinner on your own. (Optional farewell dinner with live singing and entertainment in Rome will be offered.)

Day 12 : Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for the flight home. **Arrivederci Roma!**

* **All Sightseeing days subject to changes** *

<p>Note: Guest must be able to walk approximately 1.5 miles over uneven and cobble stone surface, inclines and 40 to 65 steps. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Due to the nature of this tour, it is not recommended for guest with walkers and wheelchairs</p>

*Italy: The Grand Tour
Tuscany, Cinque Terre & Rome
June 17, 2017*

Terms & Conditions

COVINA HILLS TRAVEL is not the source or supplier of the travel services requested, and acts solely as an agent for the actual suppliers of such services. The suppliers whose names appear in the information supplied are those who are actually responsible for providing the travel services purchased. Client agrees not to hold COVINA HILLS TRAVEL responsible should any of these suppliers: 1) fail to provide the travel services purchased; 2) fail to comply with any applicable law; or 3) engage in any negligent act or omission that causes any sort of injury, damage, delay or inconvenience.

COVINA HILLS TRAVEL is not responsible for, nor liable for, any injury, damage or loss client may suffer on account of any conditions, actions or omissions that are beyond its reasonable control.

Client **will review all travel documents for accuracy** upon receipt and understands that client may contact COVINA HILLS TRAVEL if client has any questions. Client understands that discounted fares typically involve restrictions and that changing any aspect of travel arrangements may result in the payment of additional money. **A \$40 per revision fee for any changes after 15 days of receiving your invoice, including name corrections, may apply.**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requires client to carry a government issued identification card in order to board a flight. **The name, date of birth and gender that appears on the identification card must exactly match the same such data that is listed on clients airline ticket and in client booking records.** Client acknowledge that failure to strictly comply with these requirements may result in denied boarding or an undue delay at an airport security checkpoint causing client to miss his/her flight.

If traveling internationally, **Client must have a valid passport** and depending upon destination and nationality, and may need to obtain one or more visas.

Note to Client: Passport and visa information may be obtained by contacting the Travel Advisory Section of the U.S. State Department at 202.647.5225 or by visiting the State Department's Web site at travel.state.gov. Non-U.S. passport holders should be sure to contact the embassies of their destination and transit countries to obtain entrance requirements. To obtain medical information, you may contact the Centers for Disease Control at 404.332.4559 or visit the CDC's Web site at www.cdc.gov.

Airline tickets or air tours are subject to supplemental price increases that may be imposed after the date of purchase. Post-purchase price increases may be applied due to additional costs imposed by a supplier or government. Client acknowledges that he/she may be charged additional sums by COVINA HILLS TRAVEL to offset **increased fees, fuel surcharges, taxes, fluctuations in foreign exchange markets or any combination thereof.** Client consents to any post-purchase price increases and authorize COVINA HILLS TRAVEL to bill client for such additional amounts.

A deposit of \$250 is due at time of booking and final payments are due 75 days prior to departure. **All payments for this tour must be by check**, credit cards are not accepted for this tour. If payment is not received by due date the reservation is subject to cancellation and deposit will be forfeited.

Cancellation fees apply to this tour. When the cancellation is received in writing after deposit a \$75 penalty applies in addition to the following:

90 days to 76 days prior to departure \$100; 75 days to 65 days prior to departure \$250;
64 days to 40 days 50% Penalty; 39 days or less or **NO-SHOW** 100% Penalty.

Client may purchase travel protection to help provide coverage from unexpected circumstances. Please advise us if you wish to purchase a travel protection plan. We cannot offer plans to residents of NY, TX, & WA. However, they can contact Travel Insured directly and purchase a plan on their own.

Contact: Patrizia Cerruti (916) 482.5900



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Covina Hills Travel - Tour Booking form

TOUR: Italy, the Grand Tour, June 17, 2017

Return to:
Covina Hills Travel
940 N Grand Ave
Covina, CA 91724
Ph: 626 967-2755 / Fax: 626 915-0292
Info@Covinahills.com
California Sellers # 1021443-10



Please complete form, sign the bottom and return with tour deposit.

IMPORTANT: Please Print your name EXACTLY as it appears on your government issued travel documentation.

First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____ Suffix: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____ Mobile: () _____ Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: () _____ Relationship: _____

Rooming with: First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____ Suffix: _____ Nickname: _____

Please provide a copy of your passport as soon as possible. Make Checks payable to: **Covina Hills Travel**

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I understand that **COVINA HILLS TRAVEL** is not the source or supplier of the travel services I have requested, and acts solely as an agent for the actual suppliers of such services. I have been advised that the suppliers whose names appear in the information supplied to me are those who are actually responsible for providing the travel services I have purchased. I consent to and request the use of those suppliers and agree not to hold **COVINA HILLS TRAVEL** responsible should any of these suppliers: 1) fail to provide the travel services I have purchased; 2) fail to comply with any applicable law; or 3) engage in any negligent act or omission that causes me any sort of injury, damage, delay or inconvenience.

I accept that **COVINA HILLS TRAVEL** is not responsible for, nor will I attempt to hold it liable for, any injury, damage or loss I may suffer on account of any conditions, actions or omissions that are beyond its reasonable control.

I will review my travel documents for accuracy upon receipt and understand that I may contact **COVINA HILLS TRAVEL** if I have any questions. I understand that discounted fares typically involve restrictions and that changing any aspect of my travel arrangements may result in the payment of additional money. A \$40 per revision fee for any changes after 15 days of receiving your invoice, including name corrections, may apply.

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I understand that I may purchase travel protection to help provide coverage from unexpected circumstances. Please check and initial your acceptance or refusal to purchase a travel protection plan. We cannot offer plans to residents of NY, TX, & WA. However, they can contact Travel Insured directly and purchase a plan on their own.

I wish [] do not wish [] to purchase travel insurance. _____ (client's initials)

Client's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____