

The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents:

Tuscan Treasures and Cinque Terre

Florence, Siena, Lucca, Chianti Wine Region, Pisa, The Cinque Terre, San Gimignano, Vinci, Volterra, Viareggio, Tuscan Hilltowns, and the Marble Mountains of Carrara



June 06-15, 2025 - 10 days in Italy
\$3,899*double occupancy

☆☆ Tour Includes: ☆☆



- ♥ 9 nights in Tuscany 4 Star Villa Hotel (**unpack once!**)
- ♥ All ground transportation by private motorcoach, ferries, trains
- ♥ Full buffet breakfasts daily
- ♥ All Gourmet Multi Course Dinners
- ♥ Full time Tour Manager-Director And local city guides
- ♥ Wine Tasting and Cellar Tour
- ♥ Sightseeing Tours and all Museum Admissions
- ♥ Olive Oil tasting and Homemade Farmhouse Lunch
- ♥ Welcome Cocktail party, Travel Booklet and much more

** Price per person is based on double occupancy. Single Supplement for Private Room is \$600. Price includes all the above plus portorage for one large bag, local hotel and city taxes. Not included: Airfare, drinks and *tips (*200 Euro per person). Please read terms and conditions.*



See Italy at its Best with the
Italian Cultural Society

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Welcome to the Heart of Italy! **Benvenuti in Toscana!**

Discover the heart of Italy with this *Italian Cultural Society Tutta Toscana* exclusive tour. This tour highlights the romantic, legendary region of Tuscany with a peak into the Liguria region with a full day excursion to the fabulous Cinque Terre. This area is brimming with the finest Italian art, history, culture, scenic natural beauty and culinary delights.

In Tuscany travelers will discover **Florence**, known as the "*cradle of the Renaissance*" (la culla del Rinascimento) for its monuments, churches, and buildings. The best-known site in Florence is the domed cathedral of the city, Santa Maria del Fiore, known as *Il Duomo*, designed by Filippo Brunelleschi. Florence is a living museum, and just one of the many spectacular cities you will explore on our "Tutta Toscana" adventure! Tuscany is also Pisa, with its famous leaning tower and the Piazza of Miracles.

Tuscany is Siena, with its stunning Piazza del Campo, where each July 2 and August 16, the breathtaking "Palio delle Contrade" the world's most exciting horse race takes place.

Tuscany is a land of lush olive groves, sweet hillsides, Chianti vineyards, and romantic hamlets. Tuscany is the wonderful walled city of Lucca, nicknamed the city of "*one hundred churches*". Lucca is a magnificent walled city and the birthplace of famed Italian Opera composer Giacomo Puccini, who wrote "La Boheme," "Madame Butterfly," and "Tosca". We will experience Puccini's music with a live concert in his hometown! Tuscany is the seaside resort city of Viareggio known for its Carnival, its beaches and its glamorous nightclubs. Tuscany is the majestic, white marble mountains of Carrara where the world's most beautiful marble is harvested.

Our Tuscan Treasures Tour will take you to the rich Etruscan city of Volterra, famous for its beautiful alabaster, and to picturesque San Gimignano with magnificent towers built in the Middle Ages and cobblestone streets lined with wonderful shops. We will wine taste on the legendary Chianti wine road and visit the town of Leonardo da Vinci. In Vinci we will visit Leonardo's Museum and his home, as well as enjoy a homemade lunch on a hillside wine and olive oil estate. All the splendor and beauty, which have brought travelers to Tuscany for hundreds of years, await you on our exciting Tuscan Treasures Tour.

ITINERARY:



Day 1: June 6, 2025, Arrival: Tour begins today; those arriving at Florence Airport will enjoy private airport pick up and transportation to our Villa hotel with portage service. Our home is the historic **Villa delle Rose**, where you will be staying for the next 9 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 cocktail party and group orientation before a delicious multi course dinner at the hotel. ***Welcome to Italy!***

Day 2: June 7, 2025, Lucca: Full day excursion to Lucca, once the capital city of Tuscany and the most important city in Tuscany during Roman times, Lucca remains a city of great charm and beauty. After your buffet breakfast, depart by private motor coach for this Tuscan jewel: the walled city of Lucca.

Meet our private city guide for a half-day walking tour of Lucca including the famous walls which enclose this charming city. Visit the church and Piazza of San Martino which houses Lucca's most famous and beautiful art pieces: "*il Volto Santo*" the incredible wood carved crucifix and the white marble sarcophagus of 'Illaira del Carretto". See the lovely San Frediano church with its mosaic front, the beautiful facade and square of San Michele Church which is located in what was the Roman forum, see the home of Giacomo Puccini, and stroll the city's most famous street -Via Fillungo, visit the Roman amphitheater, and climb the mysterious Torre Guinigi.



~Breakfast and a late Dinner at your hotel

Additional time in the afternoon for strolling the city, shopping, bike rides and sightseeing. There is no better way to end this glorious day in Lucca than by attending a wonderful concert of Puccini Arias offered this evening. Many travelers say the concert is one of the highlights of their Tuscany experience.

****Optional Lunch:** Join us for lunch at Lucca's most famous restaurant "La Buca di Sant'Antonio" a Michelin Star Rated dining experience.

Gourmet Restaurant (the restaurant dates back at least to the 1700s and is one of the oldest in Italy). ****Highly recommended** Queen Elizabeth, royalty, world politicians, and the world's rich and famous dine here. Traditional Lucchese 7 course lunch including Lucchese wines and bottled water, coffee, tax, and tip. € 60. (Collected at our orientation meeting in Tuscany.)

Day 3: June 8, 2025: Volterra and San Gimignano. Full day excursion to Volterra and San Gimignano: Volterra is famous for its Etruscan roots and its beautiful alabaster. We visit this ancient Etruscan town whose original walls still stand, and explore the historical downtown with the Priori Palace, the Duomo or you can visit the Guarnacci Museum on your own.



Continue to San Gimignano, one of the most charming towns in the heart of the Tuscan region rich in works of art, good shops and with a formidable gastronomic tradition. San Gimignano is famous for its towers and amazing frescoed church of San Gimignano. It is also famous for excellent white wine called Vernaccia di San Gimignano, saffron, honey and wild boar called "cinghiale".

Lunch is on your own, or by special arrangement your tour manager can reserve a special lunch with wild boar pasta and the wonderful Vernaccia di San Gimignano wine at a local trattoria.

Time at leisure to shop and sightsee or climb up to the top of one the towers! ~Breakfast and Dinner at your hotel.

Day 4: June 09, 2025, Collodi, Gargnano, Vinci: Today we start by discovering some wonderful Tuscan hill towns near



our hotel. Starting with a drive through the tiny hamlet of Collodi where Pinocchio was "born". We visit a town which is virtually unknown to the outside world called Gargnano, but where we will find "one of the art world's best kept secrets": Leonardo da Vinci's lost angel. Next visit the mysterious "Albero delle Streghe" (The witches' tree) Next, we drive to

Leonardo da Vinci's hometown. We go through some of Tuscany's magnificent countryside and see a part of Italy seldom seen by tourists. We have arranged your visit to the Leonardo Da Vinci Museum and to his family home in Vinci. Today's visit to Vinci also takes us to a beautiful hillside "*azienda agricola*" (agricultural

estate) where we will sample the estate's own organic wines and olive oil and enjoy a fabulous homemade farmhouse lunch prepared by the owner and his wife! This is Tuscan living at its best! ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel.



Day 5: June 10, 2025, Firenze: A full day excursion to Tuscany's Capitol city of 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. We will pass by Dante's home and stroll the streets where he walked.

Discover the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Lily Flower, considered one of most impressive examples of Italian Gothic Style, the Campanile, also called Giotto's Bell Tower and the baptistery with the "Gate of Paradise" by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Visit the elegant Signoria Square with the Public Palace and the Loggia Del Lanzi, which is a real open-air museum of marble and bronze statues. 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). The last stop of our unforgettable tour is the Holy Cross Church considered the Pantheon of Florence, with its monumental tombs of famous artists such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and others. We will enjoy a breathtaking view of Florence from the Piazzale Michelangelo and say "arrivederci" to Florence. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel.

Day 6: June 11, 2025, Siena, and the Chianti Wine Road: After breakfast, depart for **Full day excursion to Siena and the Chianti wine road.** On our way we will stop for a visit at the solemn yet beautiful Florence



American Cemetery and Memorial site. As legend has it, Senus, Remus's son, founded Siena. Remus was one of the legendary founders of Rome along with his twin brother Romulus. Siena is a city of remarkable color. During the famous Palio Siena's 17 *contrade* (medieval guilds) proudly display their colorful flags. Everywhere you look Siena's gorgeous colors will reveal themselves. Even the color "Sienna" takes its name from this brilliant city. Crayola named a crayon and Toyota named a car after this city. We will admire the famous Piazza del Campo, Siena's bowl like shaped piazza and the zebra striped marble cathedral. We will see the public palace with the Mangia Tower, which is one of the tallest medieval Italian towers.

We will visit 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 covered with black and white marble, and its marble floors have decorative inlays by Domenico Beccafumi, treasures by Nicola Pisano and Michelangelo, painted frescoes by Pinturicchio, a magnificent baptismal font by Jacopo della Quercia, Donatello, and Lorenzo Ghiberti all make this one of the world's most thrilling cathedrals! Lunch on your own. Siena is famous for its delicious Panforte and delicate Ricciarelli almond cookies. Enjoy! In the afternoon, we will drive the famous Chianti Wine Road, and stop at a famous Winery for wine tasting and to enjoy one of the most beautiful Tuscan sunsets in the heart of Chianti Hills. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at hotel

Day 7: June 12, 2025: Viareggio and Pisa: Today we will head for the famous resort town of Viareggio on the Versilian coast the Tuscan Riviera. Today is market day so bargain hunters can find many "treasures". If shopping isn't your cup of tea, you might prefer to walk along the Mediterranean Sea, or to sit in a café on the boardwalk. Next, we head to Pisa with the Fantastic "Campo Dei Miracoli", the Baptistery and the Cathedral and the world-famous Leaning Tower. We will visit the inside of the famous Cattedrale Metropolitana Primaziale di Santa Maria Assunta, - the Duomo of Pisa. (Your tour manager will assist those travelers wishing to climb the tower's 296 steps purchase tickets in Pisa. Cost is 18 euros per person.) Lunch is on your own. ~ Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel



Day 8: June 13, 2025: Porto Venere and Le Cinque Terre, Liguria

After an early breakfast we will depart by private motor coach for the coastal city of *La Spezia* which is in the region of Liguria, just northwest of Tuscany. From La Spezia we will board a ferry boat to visit *Potrovenere* and the charming villages of *Le Cinque Terre*. I have always loved this area and I want to have you approach it by sea. We will begin



with a visit to *Potrovenere* the most southern village, it is spectacular with its beautiful Church of San Pietro and fortress. Next, we visit charming Vernazza with its tiny port and stone arches, it is considered by many to be the most beautiful of the villages. Then we visit 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.



After our special day on the Ligurian Riviera, we will return to La Spezia where our driver will be waiting to take us back to the Villa delle Rose for dinner and a relaxing evening.



Day 9: June 14, 2025: Carrara Marble Mountains: Colonnata, is an ancient hilltop hamlet in the comune of Carrara. The most exquisite and prized marble called Calacatta comes from these stunning mountains. People have been quarrying its beautiful white marble since 40BC and unbelievably there's still marble left! Colonnata is nestled in the Apuan Alps with incredible views of the sea and the valley below called the Versilia. We will tour these mountains with our private local guide and learn about the excavation process. Foodies will recognize the name Colonnata, not only the white marble, but also for the pork fat delicacy called Lardo di Colonnata. We will have the opportunity to taste this creamy, delicious treat. Lunch at a tiny trattoria with wine. Return to Villa delle Rose to prepare for our departure and enjoy a luscious Farewell Dinner.

Day 10: June 15, 2025: Departure: For those not staying independently this will be the last day in Italy. Breakfast at the hotel and your tour manager will arrange a driver and transfer to the Florence airport for the flight home. Time to say *ARRIVEDERCI!*

All Sightseeing subject to changes

Limited Number of Pre-Tour Package Available: Travelers who wish to arrive prior to tour start date of June 6, 2025, may purchase a Pre-Tour Package which includes private limousine pick up at the Florence Airport and Bed and Breakfast Accommodations at our Hotel in Pescia for 325\$ per person double occupancy or 400\$ per person for single. Additional services are available. Please request details.

Italy is a dream that keeps returning for the rest of your life - Anna Akhmatova

Nota Bene: Guest must be able to walk approximately 2 miles over uneven and cobble stone surface, inclines and 40 to 65 steps. Walking is a crucial part of everyday of the tour. Most Italian cities do not have accommodations for people with mobility issues which make walking and climbing stairs an essential pre-requisite. We regret we are not able to assist travelers with disabilities or mobility issues. Comfortable walking shoes are essential! Due to the nature of this tour, it is not recommended for guests using walkers or wheelchairs or with mobility issues. If you have any concerns about the physical demands of this tour, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Travel Tip: Whether traveling with us, or considering any international travel within the next year, now is the perfect time to make certain your passport is valid for 180 days after your return date.

Meals: We have selected the finest, local cuisine to give you the typical flavors of each region and city. Passengers with food allergies and other restrictions are asked to please inform your tour manager before the tour. Every effort will be made to accommodate our guests' diets and preferences. When beverages are included, it refers to one ½ a liter of bottled water and ¼ liter of selected local wine per person. *Buon appetito!*

Nota bene:
Space on this tour is limited to a maximum of 20 passengers. We are not able to hold spaces. Spaces are allocated only when we receive passenger completed application and deposit and confirm availability.

(Tour offered by Italian Cultural Society with Ships and Trips Travel CST 2051435-40)

**Contact: Patrizia Cinquini
Cerruti**

**916-482-5900 or
italy@italiancenter.net**

Send, form and checks to:

**Ships and Trips Travel
3335 B Watt Ave #285
Sacramento, CA 95821 916 564-8747 California
Seller Number: 2051435-40**

Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips, Sacramento
Application, Terms and Conditions for Travel Tutta Toscana 2025 Tour

IMPORTANT: Please print your name EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT!

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| First: | Middle: | Last: | __Mr. __ Mrs. __Ms. | Nickname: |
| Date of Birth: | Citizenship: | Passport Number: | Issue date: | Expiration date: |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Address: | City: | State: | Zip: |
| Phone: () | Cell: () | email: | |
| Emergency Contact: of person not traveling with you: | Phone: () | Cell: () | Relationship: |
| Rooming with: First: | Middle: | Last: | Nickname: |

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE PHOTO PAGE OF YOUR PASSPORT!!

The tour will include:

- 9 nights lodging in premium four-star Villa Hotel and Historic Inn*
- All daily buffet breakfasts,*
- All daily dinners*
- Special Farmhouse lunch with wine and special lunch with wine in Marble Mountains*
- Full time English and Italian Speaking tour director and guide*
- Local City Guides and Expert licensed city tour guides*
- Private Motor coach transportation, ferries, drivers and cars or vans and trains*
- Accommodations based on double occupancy (single supplement is \$600 for private room)*
- Sightseeing, tours, museum admissions and reservations*
- Porterage fees one large suitcase per passenger*
- Welcome cocktail party*
- Transfers from the Florence Airport on tour start and end dates*
- Orientation and Cocktail Party*
- Various food, wine, and Olive Oil tasting as described*

The tour does not include:

- Air transportation
- Drinks except where specifically included.
- Lunches except where specifically included.
- Travel insurance (**YOU ARE URGED AND ADVISED TO PURCHASE A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY!**)
- Telephone, incidentals, laundry and room service
- Tips to City Guides and Tour Director are NOT included
- Gratuities of 200 euros per person are collected in EURO to cover the restaurant staff for 9 breakfasts and 9 dinners, special lunches, bus driver, reception and hotel staff, and porters. 200 tips will be collected in euros in Italy.

Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips, Sacramento

Terms and Conditions for Travel Tuscan Treasure and Le Cinque Terre 2025 Tour

Passports and Visas and Vaccines: Each traveler who is a U.S. citizen must possess a valid U.S. passport with an expiration date **not less than six months after the tour return date**. US citizens **may (start date has not been announced.)** need to apply for travel authorization through the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) to enter Italy and about 30 European countries. Make sure your passport details match those in your ETIAS authorization – you will be refused boarding and entry at the border if they do not match. To apply for the ETIAS please visit <https://etias.com/etias-application>. ETIAS will be valid for three years or when your current valid passport expires (whichever comes first). Travelers of other nationalities must contact the embassy or consulate of the destination country for entrance requirements. Passport and visa information may be obtained by contacting the Travel Advisory Section of the U.S. State Department at (202) 647-5225 or www.travel.state.gov. To obtain additional medical information, travel alerts and other information contact the Centers for Disease Control at (404) 332-4559 or www.cdc.gov.

Traveler Notice: Walking, climbing stairs and inclines is required and is an important part of experiencing this tour. Travelers cannot require special mobility care. Travelers' mutual enjoyment of the tour requires no egregious, disruptive behavior. After first notice of such behavior, a second notice will be grounds to excuse the traveler from the remainder of the tour with no refund or credit.

Balance of Tour Fees: To secure a reservation for the tour, the traveler shall make a non-refundable initial deposit of \$500 per person. Deposit payment shall be payable to Ships and Trips Travel by check. Payment by credit card is subject to a 3% charge.

Balance of Tour Fees: The balance of tour cost is due 90 days prior to departure date. Note that tour costs are based upon the current monetary exchange rate and double occupancy. There is a onetime charge of \$600 for a single traveler, private room supplement. If final payment is not received by the due date, the Italian Cultural Society may cancel the traveler's reservation; and the **non-refundable initial deposit will be forfeited**.

Traveler Cancellation: If the traveler cancels the reservation for this tour, cancellation fees apply. In addition to forfeiture of the \$500 initial deposit, the following forfeitures apply:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 76 – 90 days prior to departure | \$750 |
| 45 - 75 days prior to departure | 50% of deposited amount |
| 44 – fewer prior to departure | 100% of deposited amount |
| No show at tour start date | 100% of deposited amount |

Minimum Traveler Requirement: The tour price and these terms are based on a minimum of 16 travelers. In the event the minimum of 16 travelers is not met, the Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel reserve the right to cancel the tour. In such a case, the initial deposit and all other payments shall be refunded.

Intermediary: The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel are intermediaries between the Suppliers and the travelers. The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel do not own or operate any of the hotels, transportation providers, vessels, airlines, travel insurance companies, or other travel-related Suppliers who provide goods or services for the travelers' trip.

Travel Insurance: The Italian Cultural Society **STRONGLY URGES** all travelers to purchase comprehensive travel insurance, with coverage including trip cancellation, baggage loss, health and medical coverage, accident, and repatriation. TRAVEL INSURANCE RECOMMENDED AND IS VERY IMPORTANT!

Ships and Trips Travel offers insurance coverage through certain carriers but cannot compare all the policies or companies currently in the marketplace. The traveler is solely responsible to research and find the coverage that best fits the traveler's needs.

Traveler Acknowledgements:

1. By not obtaining appropriate travel insurance, the traveler acknowledges and accepts liability for any cancellations, forfeitures, damages and/or out-of-pocket expenses incurred prior to, during or after the tour.
2. Traveler acknowledges and accepts all responsibility for arranging and paying for any treatment in case of medical emergency while traveling, including transportation or repatriation expenses.
3. Traveler acknowledges and agrees that The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, delay, inconvenience, or injury to the traveler because of a breach of contract, act, or omission whether willful or negligent, criminal or otherwise of any person other than The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel or their direct employees.

Limits of Liability: Without limitation, the traveler assumes the risk of, and agrees that The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel are not liable for, any damages arising from or related to any act of God or public enemies, arrest, restraints of any government or rulers of people, piracy, war, revolution, extortion, terrorist activity, threatened or actual rebellion, political upheaval, civil unrest, riots, fire, lockouts, explosion, collision, weather conditions, dangers incident to the sea, mechanical or construction failures or difficulties, diseases, local laws, abnormal conditions or developments, closure of airports/seaports/hotels/train stations, carrier flight cancellations and delays, or supplier logistical problems, computer problems, stranding, food or water poisoning, illness, grounding, perils of the sea, rivers, canals, locks or other waters, perils of navigation of any kind, theft, accident to or from machinery, or lost/damaged/delayed luggage or any other actions or omissions. The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel shall not be responsible for any personal injuries, personal and/or property damages, or losses caused by or to the traveler. By embarking on this trip, the traveler voluntarily assumes any and all risks involved with such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Traveler acknowledges being warned of such risks and being strongly advised to obtain the appropriate insurance coverage for such risks.

Signature: I understand and accept the above Terms and Conditions and agree to hold harmless The Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel for any injury, damage, and/or loss I may sustain traveling on this tour.

Date: _____

Traveler's Name (Please print) _____

Traveler's Signature _____