



# Food Network Guided Vacation: Italy

OPERATED BY TRAFALGAR



**10 Days/8 Nights by Motor Coach**

## Highlights Include

*Rome, Tuscan Hills, Castello Vicchiomaggio, Hands-On Cooking Class, Wine Tasting, Florence, Lunch at Villa San Michele Fiesole, Venice*



*Benvenuti in Italia! Food Network Tours operated by Trafalgar, the #1 tour operator in Europe, invites you to Italy, where history, culture, art, food and romance all come together for an experience you'll savor for a lifetime.*

## 10 Day Itinerary

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### Day 1, Friday

#### Depart from USA

Depart for your overnight flight across the Atlantic en route to Rome.

### Day 2, Saturday

#### Arrive in ROME

Welcome to Rome, the capital of Italy and the Eternal City! You will be transferred to your centrally-located hotel and have time to relax and unwind before meeting with your Food Network Tour Host and fellow Food Network guests this evening. Find out more about your tour and get to know your Food Network Travel Host as you enjoy a welcome drink and dinner in a **restaurant on the Via Veneto** – reminiscent of 'La Dolce Vita'.

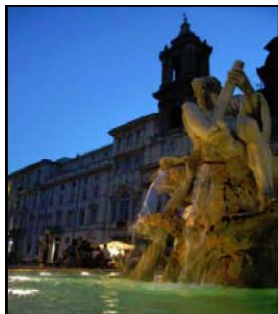
Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, Welcome Dinner

### Day 3, Sunday

#### ROME

Today begins, as will each day of the tour, with breakfast at your hotel. A sightseeing tour with a local expert shows you the **Forum**, the **Colosseum** and **Circus Maximus**, along with a visit to **St. Peter's Basilica**. Then enjoy some leisure time in this fascinating city. Later, an evening drive takes you to discover some of Rome's awe-inspiring architecture and will culminate at the baroque **Piazza Navona**, with its famous **Bernini fountains**. Piazza Navona is the perfect place for you to discover the culinary delights of the many restaurants lining this lively square, while taking in the history of the eternal city, for this was once a Roman stadium where chariot races took place! Perhaps have a Roman pizza in the Piazza where Giada de Laurentiis has visited. Just two blocks west of Piazza Navona is **Campo Di Fiori**, known for its wonderful markets. Your Food Network Travel Host will invite you to a delicious Italian gelato on the square this evening.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast





## Day 4, Monday

### ROME – ORVIETO – SAN GIMIGNANO – TUSCANY

Before leaving Rome you may wish to visit Michelangelo's iconic **Sistine Chapel** in the **Vatican City** – you will have this opportunity before travelling north to the hilltop town of **Orvieto**, overlooking the peaceful Umbrian countryside. We'll take the cable railroad up to the perched town, famous for its magnificent 13th century Cathedral, which is always featured on its equally famous bottles of white wine! You might want to try the wine with a spot of lunch and peruse the local ceramics shops before continuing to the medieval walled town of **San Gimignano**, where you can admire the towers and stroll through the cobblestoned streets as Rachael Ray did. We visit a cellar for a tasting of local Tuscan wine, and then we'll continue into the heart of **Tuscany** to your villa hotel – home for the next four nights. Like Rachael Ray, prepare to be awed by the spectacular Tuscan landscape. This evening enjoy a delicious hosted dinner of regional dishes, including homemade gnocchi with fresh tomato and pecorino sauce, local 'sienese cinta' pork, zucchini, and eggplant (depending on departure date). all topped off with a delicious tiramisu, in the atmospheric restaurant of this delightful villa hotel, located in the stunning hills around Florence.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast

## Day 5, Tuesday

### TUSCANY – SANT' AMBROGIO MARKET (FLORENCE)



Today our Florentine chef will meet us on board our bus in order to accompany us to the market of **Sant' Ambrogio** in Florence, where we will purchase the vegetables and fruit for our cooking class under his expert supervision.

Having selected our fresh, local produce, we will drive to the small village in the **Chianti hills**, where our **Hands-On Cooking Class** begins. First we will be welcomed with a glass of delicious 'fragolino' wine, and then divided into two groups to participate in each aspect of the preparation of the meal that we will make and share with fellow Food Network travel guests!

We will learn how to make homemade pasta, fillings, and sauces, including tagliatelle, tagliolini, tortelli, and pappardelle, along with wild boar, early vegetable and chiantigiana sauces. We will also learn how to make ribollita, pappa al pomodoro, panzanella,



Tuscan croutons, tomato bruschetta and cavolo nero bruschetta. For dessert we will make cantucci – typical Tuscan biscuits – delicious with vin santo.

The class will also include how to make the 'mise en place' of the ingredients for cooking, how to properly set a table, and how to select wine to accompany the meal. Finally, we will taste all the dishes for our lunch accompanied by **Chianti wines** and finish with wonderful Italian coffee or tea.

Each Food Network Travel guest will receive a certificate from the restaurant and recipe cards of each of the dishes we make to bring our new culinary knowledge home.

After a day of cooking and eating, we will return to the hotel, where you may wish to relax by the pool or take a nap under the olive trees.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast



## DAY 6, Wednesday

TUSCANY – VISIT TO GREVE IN CHIANTI, THE CASTELLO OF VICCHIOMAGGIO AND SIENA – BY INVITATION ONLY DINNER

This morning, we drive to the charming town of **Greve in Chianti** to visit a wine and olive oil producer, Castello Vicchiomaggio. **Castello Vicchiomaggio** is recognized as one of Italy's highest quality wine estates and is a perfect Tuscan destination vineyard.



Here you'll taste a variety of excellent Chiantis and extra virgin olive oils before continuing to the perfect medieval town of **Sienna**, where we will see the **Piazza del Campo** – famous for its bareback horserace and the home of St. Catherine.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, *By Invitation Only* Dinner

This evening we will enjoy a wonderful *By Invitation Only* dinner at the private Lenzi Family Winery with acres of olive groves, producing excellent extra virgin olive oils.



## Day 7, Thursday

### FLORENCE & VILLA SAN MICHELE LUNCH

After breakfast, we will drive to the **Renaissance city of Florence** to enjoy a walking tour with a local expert, who will take you to the Academia to see the recently restored '**David**' of **Michelangelo**, as well as **Piazza Signoria**. Take pictures of the magnificent multi-colored marble **Duomo**, visited by Rachael Ray. Then, we'll have free time for further sightseeing or shopping before driving up to **Fiesole** for spectacular views over the most perfect Renaissance city in the world. Here we will enjoy a lunch of delicious, fine Tuscan cuisine.



You will savor this mouth-watering menu from the panoramic loggia of the legendary **Villa San Michele**. Excellent Chianti wines are also included with our meal.



Villa San Michele

We return to our Tuscan villa to relax for the remainder of the afternoon, perhaps enjoying some of the many amenities our **Il Piccolo Castello** hotel has to offer, such as horseback riding and hiking, to name a few.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, Lunch



Il Piccolo Castello



## Day 8, Friday

### TUSCANY – BOLOGNA – VENICE

We'll leave Tuscany and travel into the Emilia-Romagna region of **Bologna**, the gastronomic capital of Northern Italy with its ancient University, its kissing towers, and its many great restaurants. Enjoy a taste of some of the local products, including Parmigiano cheese and Prosciutto, while learning how they are made from local experts. Then we travel on to the spectacular floating city of **Venice**. We will enjoy a hosted dinner at our hotel in Venice this evening.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, Dinner



Hotel Hungaria, Venice

## Day 9, Saturday

### VENICE Sightseeing and Food Network Hidden Walking Tour

Enter **Venice** in style as you travel by private motor launch to **St. Mark's Square**, where you'll join a local guide who will bring the city to life on a walking tour. Cross the **Rialto Bridge** as Food Network Travel takes you into the less-frequented and hidden areas of the city, rarely visited by the average tourist!

Here we will visit the colorful **fish market** Giada explored during her Italian Holiday on *Everyday Italian*, which has existed for centuries! See the house of **Marco Polo** as well as beautiful architectural works of art. Like Giada, witness a demonstration of the ancient art of Murano – glass-blowing – in one of the city's oldest workshops. Then there's time on your own to join the various optional activities on offer or to explore the labyrinth of streets and canals.

This evening, gather with your Food Network Travel Host and fellow companions to celebrate your last night with a special **Farewell Dinner** and wine at one of the most celebrated restaurants near St. Mark's Square. Its worldwide fame has attracted diners as diverse as Princess Diana, Silvio Berlusconi and General Schwarzkopf – but tonight its culinary delights are just for you!



Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, Farewell Dinner



## **Day 10, Sunday**

### Depart from VENICE

This morning, it is time to say 'arrivederci Italia' and 'till we meet again' to your newly-made friends as your Food Network Italy tour comes to an end. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after this memorable 'Flavors of Italy' tour.

Hosted Meal(s): Full Breakfast, Dinner