

# **INSIGHT VACATIONS**

*The Art of Travelling in Style*

## **COUNTRY ROADS OF UMBRIA & TUSCANY**





## KEY


**1** Central Hotels + Nights

**①** Scenic Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

○ Optional Place Visited

▮ Trip Option

 Cruise

 Train

 Join/Leave Options

 Included Flights

 UNESCO Heritage Site

## Day 1 | Welcome to Rome



Transfers to your hotel depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30. Join your Travel Director at 17:30 to explore the Eternal City, passing the renaissance palaces and baroque churches scattered throughout the city. Get to know your fellow travellers over a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Meals:** Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Hotel St. Martin, Rome.

## Day 2 | Umbria and on to Perugia



Explore the Vatican Museums in the morning, where a local historian unveils the gems of the vast Papal art collection. Your special visit includes fast-tracked entry and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a part of the Vatican normally closed to visitors. View the imposing Basilica of St. Peter, the largest in the world. Journey north to the Umbrian village of Baschi. Immerse yourself in the flavours and culture of the region and learn about the secrets of Italian food culture as you join Giovanni and his dog Chris for a truffle hunting session.

Then join Chef Lorenzo for an entertaining pasta demonstration and delicious Highlight Lunch accompanied by Orvieto Classico wine.

Join a Local Expert in Perugia to navigate the underground labyrinth of little streets, alleys and arches. Walk Corso Vannucci, resplendent in pale-pink stone, passing the princely Priors' Palace, cathedral and finely sculptured Great Fountain in the main square.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

**Hotel:** Sangallo Palace Hotel, Perugia.

## Day 3 | Perugia Sightseeing & Free Time



During a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, visit an artisanal workshop to meet Marta, recipient of a TreadRight Foundation grant, and her weavers. See how the fascinating art of loom-weaving textiles has been passed down through the generations and learn how this ancient craft is being preserved. Afterwards, you will be free to enjoy the many delights of Umbria's capital city. For dinner, choose your ideal ambience and palate-pleasing menu from a hand-picked selection of Perugian restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. Buon appetito!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Sangallo Palace Hotel, Perugia.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Excursion To Spello** - Enjoy an afternoon excursion to the breathtaking Umbrian hillside town of Spello, its centro storico still enveloped by Roman walls. With a local expert, we'll ascend through ancient arches and tight cobbled streets, where houses cascade with hanging

flower pots and churches seemingly sanctify almost every street corner.

Adult: 25.00 EUR

#### Day 4 | Assisi, in Search of St. Francis



Journey to Assisi, one of Italy's most beautiful medieval hilltop towns, set high up in the mountains and enclosed by fortress walls. In the valley, see the famous Church of St. Mary of the Angels, much venerated as the place of St. Francis' death, then continue up Mount Subasio to the upper town. Step inside the massive, 13th century Basilica of St. Francis with your Local Expert to learn how Giotto masterfully painted frescoes that inspired a variety of Renaissance artists. Continue through the twisted groves that carpet the side of Mount Subasio.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Sangallo Palace Hotel, Perugia.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Umbrian Dinner Experience** - Umbria is not only a region which is culturally rich and full of beautiful vistas, it is also a region rich in its gastronomic offerings as well! A journey to explore the edible treasures of the traditional Umbrian kitchen and the superb wines of this region too, all served to you in a beautiful rustic restaurant!

Adult: 62.00 EUR

#### Day 5 | Tuscany to Cortona, Siena and San Gimignano



Follow the shores of Lake Trasimeno to Cortona, one of the oldest hilltop towns in Tuscany. After free time to explore, continue to the narrow cobbled streets of Siena. Standing in the shell-shaped Campo, imagine the frenzied atmosphere of the biannual Palio horse race and see the superb 14th century Town Hall. Explore Siena with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the medieval Cathedral. Alternatively, sample panforte, a traditional Tuscan dessert. Travel to your home for the next three nights, a delightful villa near the medieval town of San Gimignano.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Villasanpaolo, San Gimignano.

## Day 6 | San Gimignano sightseeing and Free Time



In the morning, your Travel Director will show you San Gimignano's medieval skyscrapers, serpentine streets and hidden squares. The town is also home to world champion gelato maestro Sergio Dondoli. At his artisan ice cream parlour on Piazza della Cisterna, the jaunty gelataio doles out his silky, frozen treats in a range of unique flavours for you to try. The rest of the day is at leisure; why not join an Optional Experience to Pisa and Lucca?

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Villasanpaolo, San Gimignano.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Pisa and Lucca Experience** - Enjoy the day visiting two of Italy's most beautiful cities, Pisa and Lucca, with our Local Experts. First, we're off to Pisa, where you'll have time to explore the famous Square of Miracles, dominated by the leaning tower. We'll continue to the quaint and picturesque town of Lucca where you'll take a leisurely tour of the medieval centre to admire the beauty of this Tuscan gem. Then, enjoy free time to do your own exploring.

**Adult: 59.00 EUR**

**Dinner in the Tuscan Hills** - A fabulous dinner of Tuscan specialties awaits you. We drive into the hills surrounding Florence for a delicious typical Florentine meal complete with Chianti wine, music and lots of fun! An evening to remember. Viva Italia!

**Adult: 69.00 EUR**

## Day 7 | Florence and Tuscan Countryside Experience



The morning is devoted to the Renaissance city of Florence. A fascinating walking exploration with a Local Expert takes you to the marble-clad cathedral crowned by Brunelleschi's dome. See the baptistery with its beautiful Gates of Paradise and Giotto's splendid bell tower. Walk on to Piazza della Signoria with its open-air gallery of Renaissance sculptures, followed by free time to shop for top-quality Florentine leather or gold. Toast to your travels during a delicious Farm-to-Table Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant and enjoy tasting flavoursome dishes prepared with locally grown ingredients, sourced from the farm or nearby Tuscan region. Relax as the pairing of home-made pastas with the farm's own traditional Chianti wine rounds off your great Italian adventure.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Villasanpaolo, San Gimignano.

## Day 8 | Country drive to Ancient Rome



Leave behind the tower topped town of San Gimignano. Enjoy rolling Tuscan hills as you journey through the Italian countryside, making your way to Ancient Rome. On arrival, enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** NH Roma Centro, Rome.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Bagno Vignoni & Pienza** - We travel through the beautiful Italian countryside to explore the medieval spa town of Bagno Vignoni, renowned for its mineral rich thermal baths, before our journey continues on to the 'model' renaissance town of Pienza most famous for its delicious pecorino cheese!

**Adult:** 31.00 EUR

**Roman Dinner Party** - Enjoy an evening of delicious Roman cuisine with drinks and a great Italian ambiance.

**Adult:** 62.00 EUR

## Day 9 | Arrivederci Roma

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30.

**Meals:** Breakfast