



Discovering Our Planet Together



Tuscany: La Dolce Vita

Food, Wine & Rural Life in the Heart of Italy



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Trip Details:

Days

6-8 Days /
May & Jun -
Sep & Oct

Tuscany: La Dolce Vita

Food, Wine & Rural Life in the Heart of Italy

From the wooded clay hills, rolling valleys and vineyards of the Crete Senesi region to the ancient hot springs of our indulgent spa hotel at Saturnia, Tuscany offers the consummate immersion in a classically Italian way of life. In an intimate setting, explore medieval hilltop villages, savor fresh local cuisine (and learn to prepare it), taste the region's famed wines, and unwind at our private luxury farmhouse villa with an enticing pool, optional yoga sessions, and afternoons devoted to aperitivos and culinary delights. Along the way, meet local people who carry on traditions that have endured for centuries, and revel in the natural beauty of the Tuscan countryside, quilted with olive groves, sunflowers, cypress-lined lanes and fields of wheat. After your respite far from the standard tourist track, you'll come away enlightened and rejuvenated on a rare encounter with Italy at its most enchanting.

Trip Highlights

Enjoy exclusive vineyard tours and wine tastings, private cooking classes with local gourmands, and indulgent meals prepared fresh by our onsite chef

Live the sweet life firsthand as we connect with artisans, winemakers, restaurateurs, wellness specialists and community members passionate about regional heritage

Set within a vineyard in the Crete Senesi region, our historic farmhouse estate blends Tuscan tradition and contemporary luxury for a memorable retreat



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Florence / Asciano

Day 2

Montepulciano—Guided Walking Tour / Private Winery Tour & Tasting

Day 3

Bagno Vignoni—Mineral Springs Spa Soak / Cooking Class

Day 4

Montalcino / Private Wine Tasting

Day 5

Hike to the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore / Afternoon at Leisure

Day 6

Saturnia—Ancient Hot Springs Wellness Immersion

Day 7

A Day of Rejuvenation at Saturnia Hot Springs & Spa

Tuscany: La Dolce Vita Itinerary

Food, Wine & Rural Life in the Heart of Italy

Day 1: Florence / Asciano

Our journey into the essence of Tuscany begins this morning in its fabled capital of Florence, where we meet our Host and fellow guests at Piazzale Montelungo. Our group then travels south into Siena province, traversing an iconic Tuscan landscape of vineyards, olive groves, cypress-lined lanes and hilltop hamlets. This is a renowned wine-producing region, also known for its pecorino cheese and white truffles, among other gastronomy highlights. Stop for lunch in the medieval village of Chiusure, perched atop a limestone summit in the Val d'Orcia hills. Continuing south, we wind through the heart of the Crete Senesi, a highly scenic region of clay badlands, verdant valleys and picture-postcard hill towns surveying the rolling landscape from on high. Golden fields of wheat and sunflowers unfurl before us en route to our destination—a luxurious private villa near the small town of Asciano. The area's roots are ancient, with evidence of Etruscan, Roman and Lombard settlements nearby. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the villa, followed an aperitivo and a special welcome dinner celebrating the start of our Tuscan adventure.





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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Saturnia / Florence / Depart

Day 2: Montepulciano—Guided Walking Tour / Private Winery Tour & Tasting

Start your day grounded with an optional morning yoga session, offered each day while we are at the villa, followed by breakfast. Today we discover Montepulciano, perched atop a 2,000-foot limestone ridge overlooking the fertile fields, flourishing vineyards and olive groves of Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana. Montepulciano, one of the finest winemaking regions of the world, is legendary for its *Vino Nobile*, as well as its cheeses, honey and *pici* pasta. Architecturally, Montepulciano has been shaped by the Renaissance, its design the 15th-century masterpiece of Antonio da Sangallo, who also helped design St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The best way to encounter the town is on foot, at a pace that reveals its multilayered delights. Stroll the main thoroughfares and cobblestone side paths leading to little-known surprises, as our local guide reveals nuanced insights into the food, wine, culture and history of our environs.

After exploring the city, a private tour of the De'Ricci wine cellar awaits. Venture into the depths of the ancient Ricci Palace, dubbed the "Cathedral of Vino" and considered by many to be the most beautiful wine cellar in the world. Learn the history of the Ricci family's prized estate firsthand from one of the winery's owners, who recounts its roots dating from 1337 with the construction of the first wine cellar on the site. After our tour, enjoy a private tasting featuring the famous *Vino Nobile*, followed by lunch. In the late afternoon, return to our villa for a fabulous dinner of local fare complemented by a selection of Montepulciano's finest wines. As our own private chef is on site, we can meet special dietary needs for all our meals.

Day 3: Bagno Vignoni—Mineral Springs Spa Soak / Cooking Class

Today, we journey to Bagno Vignoni, a historic hilltop spa town in Val d'Orcia whose central hot springs have been frequented by popes, kings and aristocrats since the 16th century for their therapeutic properties. While most Tuscan towns are centered on a piazza, or main square, Bagno Vignoni surrounds a stone basin holding a 160-foot-long pool filled with natural thermal waters, flowing since Etruscan times more than 2,500 years ago. Fed by springs from the nearby volcano Mount Amiata, the mineral-rich waters contain salts, calcium, iron carbonates, sodium sulfates and magnesium renowned for toning and renewing the skin. Join our guide for a relaxing soak in the natural springs, or explore the village on your own. After lunch at a local trattoria, participate in an exclusive cooking class with Michelin-starred chef Roberto, learning to make multiple varieties of pasta and other local fare. Return to our villa for aperitivos before another fine dinner this evening.



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Day 4: Montalcino / Private Wine Tasting

After a leisurely breakfast, visit the picturesque town of Montalcino, one of Tuscany's highest hilltop villages. Dominated by fortified 13th-century walls and a pristine medieval stone castle, Montalcino surveys a 360° tableau of three valleys comprising a tapestry of olive orchards, vineyards and fields. During the late Middle Ages, Montalcino held considerable importance due to its location on the Via Francigena, the main road between France and Rome, but increasingly, it came under the influence of the larger city of Siena, caught up in ensuing conflicts with rival Florence in the 14th and 15th centuries. Ultimately, both Siena and Montalcino fell to the Florentines under the rule of the Medici family in 1555, under whose control it remained until the Grand Duchy of Tuscany was amalgamated into a united Italy in 1861.

Today, Montalcino is best known for its production of Rosso and Brunello wines, made from Sangiovese Grosso grapes grown in the region. After a guided walking tour, continue to a local restaurant for lunch, then explore the city on your own or join our guide for an espresso at a local cafe. In the afternoon, we return to the villa to meet with our friend, local restaurateur Gianluca. He takes us through a private tasting of some of his favorite wines from Montalcino, from varietals of global renown to lesser-known prizes.

Day 5: Hike to the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore / Afternoon at Leisure

Return this morning to the scenic village of Chiusure, our starting point for a hike through the striking Crete Senesi landscape to the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore. Surrounded by a thick forest of cypress and oak, this still-active Benedictine monastery dates to 1393, when construction began, which was completed in 1526. For centuries, it was one of the largest landowners in the Siena region. The splendid monastic complex is notable not only for its persistence through the centuries, but also for its remarkable cloister, with 35 vivid frescoes depicting the life of St. Benedict, and its carved wooden choirs. An imposing tower and drawbridge built to defend the abbey stand at the entrance. Inside the courtyard, we see the botanical garden that supplied medicinal plants for the monks. The library holds more than 40,000 volumes, pamphlets and parchments that the monks have painstakingly restored. The abbey produces wine, honey, olive oil and distilled herbal spirits, priding itself on traditional and organic production methods that preserve biodiversity, in keeping with the Benedictine tradition of careful land stewardship. Afterward, return to the villa for a leisurely afternoon at your own pace. We've begun to discover the benefits of slow travel by now...a richer immersion in fewer places and incorporating time to breathe deeply and contemplate.



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Day 6: Saturnia—Ancient Hot Springs Wellness Immersion

After saying goodbye to the villa staff, we depart for the ancient spa town of Saturnia. Near the village, a powerful spring pours over a waterfall and down a cascade of natural turquoise pools formed by calcareous rock. Saturnia takes its name from the Roman god Saturn, who legend holds had lost patience with humans who were constantly at war. He hurled a thunderbolt at the earth, and hot, sulphurous water gushed from the crater at just the right temperature to calm the spirits of the people, bringing serenity, harmony and a golden age of agriculture. The ancient Etruscans considered the springs sacred, with evidence existing for a settlement at Saturnia in the 4th century BC. Saturnia became a Roman colony in 183 AD, formed around the town's medicinal hot springs, which flow underground from the 5,700-foot lave dome peak of Mount Amata, percolating through layers of rock and accumulating minerals before emerging into the stream and dramatic natural pools—a process that takes 40 years! Following lunch en route to Saturnia, we arrive at the luxurious Terme di Saturnia Resort to spend the next two nights. After a brief tour of this magnificent property built in 1919, settle in and prepare to experience the famed therapeutic waters and spa amenities during our restorative stay.

Day 7: A Day of Rejuvenation at Saturnia Hot Springs & Spa

The 5-star Terme di Saturnia in the Maremma countryside, surrounded by 300 acres of unspoiled nature, is one of the world's most renowned spa destinations. And the day is ours to enjoy the sublime rejuvenation that comes with a stay here. The mineral-rich springs of Terme have long been coveted for their healing properties, thought to nourish the skin, improve circulation and aid in the healing of various ailments. The time at the spa is yours to spend as you wish, with massage, mud wraps, hydrothermal tubs and other personal treatments available. Or just relax and soak in the resort's private thermal pools, revered for their antiseptic and antioxidant properties. We can also arrange for individual opportunities to explore nearby—perhaps a soak in the springs of Cascade del Mulino just around the corner, or a chance to explore the village for some shopping or an authentic Tuscan meal. Hikes, golfing and cycling are also available.

Day 8: Saturnia / Florence / Depart

After breakfast, we check out of the resort and drive to the Florence airport to meet departing flights, concluding our gratifying immersion in Tuscan nature and culture.



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Accommodation Details:

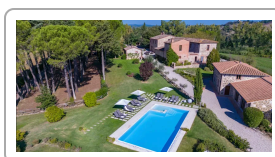
Podere Bellaria

Terme di Saturnia

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/cultural-journeys/tuscany-cultural-tour/accommodations

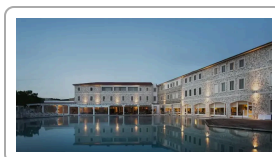
Tuscany: La Dolce Vita Accommodations

Food, Wine & Rural Life in the Heart of Italy



Podere Bellaria

Our private villa is a restored 19th-century Tuscan farmhouse set on a 75-acre organic agricultural estate, featuring a pool, gardens and farm-to-table dining surrounded by olive groves and vineyards.



Terme di Saturnia

Set in southern Tuscany's Maremma countryside, this 300-acre estate centers on ancient thermal springs and a restored travertine villa, with elegant rooms, gourmet dining and holistic spa offerings.



An Authentic Encounter with Tuscany

On this indulgent journey into nature and culture with Terra & Tu, discover the Tuscany of your imagination, which few travelers get to experience. Far from the crowds that besiege much of this region, our itinerary immerses you in peaceful settings and personalized experiences that reveal all that makes Tuscany an enduring traveler's dream.

1 Explore Tuscany Beyond the Tourist Trail

Most travelers rush between heavily touristed destinations like Florence, Siena and San Gimignano without pausing to truly savor Tuscany. On a Terra & Tu journey, you'll go deeper. Our focus is on slow travel—immersive, meaningful and rooted in local ways of life. At our pace, you're steeped in unspoiled countryside, slow food, artisan communities and tucked-away villages few visitors see.

2 Personal Connections Reveal the "Real Tuscany"

Enjoy exclusive access to elements of Tuscany most visitors don't get to encounter: generations-old family farms, local chefs, traditional winemakers, and cultural guardians who open their homes and stories to us. Whether you're sharing a glass of wine with a beloved local restaurateur or savoring a private cooking class with a Michelin-starred chef, these are encounters you won't find in any guidebook.

3 Exclusive Experiences Crafted for Our Guests

Our highly personalized context offers an intimate opportunity to explore more remote locales and stay in smaller, traditional settings that bus-based tour groups and river cruise ship passengers don't have access to.

4 Small Groups for Authentic Exploration

With no more than 18 guests, we're able to get to places larger tours can't: quiet mountain roads, family-run trattorias, hidden hot springs. Our more intimate group size means deeper conversations, more personal connections, and a greater sense of closeness to the community spirit of Tuscany.

5 Luxury That's Rooted in a Deep Sense of Place

Forget standardized hotels—our accommodations are a restored farmhouse villa and historic spa resort—countryside retreats that reflect the heritage, elegance and tradition of Tuscany. Our accommodations are hand-selected not just for comfort and aesthetics, but for their authenticity and connection to place.



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6 Food & Wine That Reflect the Land

This isn't a trip where food is an afterthought. Here, it's the heartbeat. You'll savor multi-course meals prepared by renowned regional chefs, learn the stories behind each wine you sip, and enjoy dishes crafted from ingredients grown just steps away. We celebrate Tuscany's rich culinary heritage in every meal.

7 Thoughtfully Led by Regional Experts

Your journey is led by locals—historians, artists, chefs and guides who know Tuscany not just as a destination, but as home. With Terra & Tu, interpretation comes from lived experience, offering layers of context, tradition and storytelling that deepen your appreciation for the region around you.

8 Rooted in Respect & Sustainability

Every element of this trip is designed to support local communities and minimize impact. We partner directly with family businesses, support regenerative agriculture and avoid over-touristed spots. When you travel with us, you're contributing to the preservation of Tuscany's authentic cultural heritage and natural treasures.

9 Designed for the Curious Traveler

This trip isn't for those who are satisfied with a generic vacation. It's for travelers who relish cultural context, story and surprise. Your mind and heart alike will find delight as we meet winemakers reviving ancient techniques, chefs experimenting with seasonal ingredients, and villagers preserving centuries-old traditions in a landscape renowned for its bucolic beauty.

10 Community Is at the Heart of Everything

Our strongest partnerships are personal ones—with local families, artisans, farmers and community leaders. These relationships are the soul of our itineraries, and they're what make your experience intimate and unforgettable. "Authentic" may be an overused claim in the world of travel, but it's absolutely warranted when it comes to characterizing the kind of encounters you'll find on our Tuscany immersion.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$

Group Size:
Limited to 7-18
Travelers

Tuscany: La Dolce Vita Dates, Pricing & Info

Food, Wine & Rural Life in the Heart of Italy



Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/cultural-journeys/tuscany-cultural-tour/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

Transfers to and from Florence, accommodations at private villa and Terme Di Saturnia Resort, all meals, wine, and liquor at the villa, private wine tasting and vineyard tour, optional daily yoga at villa, services of Terra & Tu guides and staff, all other guided activities.

Not Included

Gratuities, additional spa services, extras at Terme Di Saturnia Resort, some meals and wine at the resort, required documents or medical tests (if any).

Important Information About This Trip

By focusing on the Tuscan countryside, we're away from busier areas, offering an encounter with regional traditions and lifestyles you'd be unlikely to discover on your own or on a more standard tour. We stay in a villa built on a winery and at a hidden resort surrounded by ancient hot springs. Because of the remote nature of Saturnia, located in a valley surrounded by winding hills, guests who get motion sickness very easily will want to prepare accordingly for our drive on this day. Your Host can provide over the counter car sickness supplements.

Given ample time, our team can accommodate most dietary needs and restrictions.

Getting There & Getting Home

We recommend arriving a day early in Florence to acclimate to the time zone and avoid interference from any potential delays. For guests arriving prior to Day 1, recommended hotels in Florence will be included in your pre-departure materials.

Guests reaching Florence on Day 1 should arrive no later than 9:30 AM to be at our meeting point by 10:45, located approximately 20 minutes away from Florence airport by taxi. You are free to depart from Florence any time after 3 PM on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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