

NEW!

# GOURMET TUSCANY

TOUR 6240—8 days in Montecatini

Priced From **\$1,389**<sup>US</sup>



TUSCAN SPECIALTIES

## YOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

Individual headsets 

**SIGHTSEEING:** Visits to Castagneto Carducci, Bolgheri, Greve

■ Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description including admission charges where applicable

**GUIDES:** Local Guides for city sightseeing in Vinci, Montecatini, Lucca; professional Tour Director while touring

**SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS:** Chianti Valley

**TRANSPORTATION:** Touring by private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach

**HOTEL:** Listed below or equivalent. Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portorage, tips and service charges

**MONTECATINI** Settentrionale Esplanade (F)

**MEALS:** Buffet breakfasts (B) daily; 4 lunches (L); 3 dinners (D), including dinner at a local farm in Montecatini

**MyACCOUNT:** Personalise your tour ahead of time with additional excursions. Visit our website for details and conditions.

**Day 1, Sun. ARRIVE IN MONTECATINI, ITALY.** Check into your hotel. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers. (D)

**Day 2, Mon. MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO VINCI.** This morning, head out into the lush, rolling landscape of the Montalbano hills, where you will see many Italian cuisine ingredients growing in their native environment. Pass terraced grape vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees on your way to the quaint village of Vinci, birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, you will learn all about the Renaissance master at the MUSEUM dedicated to his life and many areas of interest, which included everything

from painting, sculpting, and inventing to anatomy, music, and cartography! Later, visit a bakery in the Chianti Montalbano area to learn the secrets of ITALIAN BREAD MAKING, followed by a light lunch of fresh bread, local cheese, cold cuts, and a glass of the local wine. (B,L)

**Day 3, Tue. MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO THE CHIANTI VALLEY.** Cradled between the provinces of Florence and Siena, the Chianti Valley is the heart of Old Tuscany, and has been hailed for its exceptional wines since the 13th century. Your journey today takes you to Greve to visit a *Macelleria*, a traditional Italian



VINCI



PALAZZO PFANNER GARDENS, LUCCA



ITALIAN BREAD



BUTCHER SHOP, where you'll learn about *Bistecca alla Fiorentina* (Florentine steak) and tasty *Finocchiona* (fennel salami). Then, enjoy lunch at a charming wine shop, and visit a HISTORIC TUSCAN ESTATE known for its *Chianti* and *Supertuscan* wine production. (B,L)

**Day 4, Wed. MONTECATINI.** Your day begins at a LOCAL MARKET in Montecatini, where an expert guide will help you select fresh ingredients for an Italian cooking lesson at a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. Once you arrive at the farm, enjoy a welcome drink, explore the orchard, learn about Italy's most famous



VIALE DEI CIPRESSI

delicacies, and then roll up your sleeves for a fun, hands-on COOKING EXPERIENCE. This evening, relax with your travelling companions and savour the delectable dinner you prepared—maybe your team will win the master chef prize! (B,D)

**Day 5, Thu. MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO LUCCA.** Today features a visit to Lucca, a stunning showcase of medieval architecture and layer upon layer of rich history and culture. Marvel at the beautiful art and tapestry collections at the baroque PALAZZO MANSI NATIONAL MUSEUM, then take a guided walking tour around the Old Town with its fine, intact Renaissance-era wall, cobblestone streets, and café-lined piazzas. A lively CAFÉ-CRAWL snack brunch is included, followed by a main course at a local restaurant. Then, your Local Guide introduces you to the stunning ornamental gardens and grand arched ceilings of PALAZZO PFANNER. (B,L)

**Day 6, Fri. MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO BOLGHERI.** Travel through the vineyard-dotted countryside and along cypress-lined Viale dei Cipressi for your fascinating entrance into enchanting

Bolgheri. With its red-brick castle and atmospheric Old Town, it's not hard to believe Bolgheri jumped right off the pages of a storybook. There's time here to visit one of the WINE CELLARS that produce Bolgheri's celebrated reds. First created in the 1980s, many wine experts believe these now rival French *Bordeaux*. Later, stop at nearby Castagneto Carducci, known for its splendid panoramic views of the Etruscan Coast. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and the chance to sample the local LIQUOR. (B,L)

**Day 7, Sat. MONTECATINI.** Your final morning in Montecatini is yours to do as you please. You could choose to explore more of the city on your own, to relax and shop for souvenirs, or to join the exciting optional excursion to the well-preserved medieval city of Pistoia, renowned for its quaint Old Town, beautiful sculpture garden, and outstanding artisan-crafted chocolate! This afternoon is dedicated to a COOKING CLASS at your hotel, focusing on the creation of cakes and desserts. (B,D)

**DAY 8, Sun. MONTECATINI.** Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

TOUR 6240 DATES & PRICES

Departure Number	Start Montecatini	End Montecatini	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Montecatini	End Montecatini	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Montecatini	End Montecatini	Land Only
0513	Sun 13 May	Sun 20 May	1459	0624	Sun 24 Jun	Sun 01 Jul	1459	0902	Sun 02 Sep	Sun 09 Sep	1499
0520	Sun 20 May	Sun 27 May	1459	0708	Sun 08 Jul	Sun 15 Jul	1389	0909	Sun 09 Sep	Sun 16 Sep	1499
0527	Sun 27 May	Sun 03 Jun	1459	0722	Sun 22 Jul	Sun 29 Jul	1389	0916	Sun 16 Sep	Sun 23 Sep	1499
0603	Sun 03 Jun	Sun 10 Jun	1459	0805	Sun 05 Aug	Sun 12 Aug	1389	0923	Sun 23 Sep	Sun 30 Sep	1449
0610	Sun 10 Jun	Sun 17 Jun	1459	0812	Sun 12 Aug	Sun 19 Aug	1389				
0617	Sun 17 Jun	Sun 24 Jun	1459	0819	Sun 19 Aug	Sun 26 Aug	1389				

Prices are per person, based on double room occupancy. Single room supplement: \$358; no guaranteed shares: see page 5; no triple room reduction.

**Extra nights per person in Montecatini:** in single room \$69-\$88, in twin /in triple \$44-\$52