A Taste of Tuscany

Day 1 Overnight flight
Depart U.S. for Florence, Italy

Dates (5 nights)
Fattoria Valle country villa
Panzano, Tuscany

Day 2 Chianti
~12:00 Arrive in Florence; I will meet you at the airport with our private driver and we will make our way to Chianti countryside.
~2:30 arrive at our country villa – originally built by a noble family from Florence – just outside the charming village of Panzano in Chianti. Wander the grounds, go for a swim, walk through the vineyards.
6:30 gather for a welcome reception on the estate's terrace followed by dinner

- Includes: breakfast, private driver, reception, dinner, hotel

Day 3 Panzano
Breakfast at the villa
10:00 walk into Panzano to stroll through the charming town; we'll visit the famous butcher shop of Dario Cecchini (Food and Wine magazine, the Food Channel) where we can taste the famous *lardo*. The staff usually has 70s rock playing and they may offer glasses of Chianti while you browse. We'll see what shops are open. Enjoy some free time or have lunch before making your way back to the estate.
3:30 we will join our estate's chef in the kitchen to make a traditional autumn meal
7:30 dinner on the terrace, as prepared by our group

- Includes: breakfast, Panzano visit, private cooking lesson, dinner, hotel

Day 4 Chianti countryside
Breakfast, morning at leisure
12:00 depart for Castellina in Chianti for a winery tour and wine-tasting lunch.
2:30 stop for a stroll through delightful Greve and its shop-lined central piazza. It is also home to one of Italy's largest enotecas. Have gelato, visit the local market to pick up Italian ingredients to take home.
5:00 return to villa, evening at leisure

- Includes: breakfast, wine-tasting lunch, private driver, hotel



Day 5 Siena
Breakfast
9:30 depart for Siena, famous for the twice-a-year *Palio* horse race and its beautiful piazza, *il Campo*
11:00 private guided tour of this historic treasure with Roberta. Includes stops at the cathedral/duomo and an exclusive visit to one of the "contrada" museums, related to the Palio.
1:00 afternoon at leisure for lunch, shopping
5:00 return to Panzano
7:30 dinner in town

- Includes: private tour, duomo entry, contrada museum entry, dinner, hotel

Day 6 Wine and cheese
Breakfast; Saturday is market day in Panzano if

you'd like to walk into town! They'll have everything from produce and shoes to cheeses, flowers, clothing and toiletries.
11:00 we'll drive through more wine spectacular country to visit Corzano e Paterno – another family-run specialty pecorino (sheep) cheese producer and wine estate. We'll enjoy a tour of the wine production area and a tasting of their award-winning Tuscan wines, cheeses and local meats.
1:30 we'll depart for home with a stop in the darling medieval village of Radda in Chianti for galleries, boutiques, photos or a Spritz.
4:00 return to our villa
7:30 dinner

- Includes: breakfast, private driver, wine and cheese-tasting lunch, dinner, hotel

Dates (5 nights)
Lucca, Tuscany

Day 7 Move to Lucca
Breakfast, checkout
8:30 depart for our next home-base in Tuscany, the walled village of Lucca
10:00 stop in San Gimignano to explore this iconic hill-top village with its medieval skyscrapers
12:30 we'll stop for a traditional lunch paired with estate wines at the farmhouse Poggio Alloro, with a view of "San Gim" in the distance. Continue our drive through vineyard-covered hills.
3:30 arrive at hotel – explore the promenade along the beach or the rooftop bar
8:00 seafood dinner like no other – come hungry!

- Includes: private transfer to Lucca, wine-tasting lunch, dinner, hotel

Day 8 Cinque Terre villages
Breakfast
8:15 walk to the train station
9:00 take the high-speed train Cinque Terre. Enjoy free time to hike the trail (€20 to access National Park/trail; 2 hours to hike to Vernazza), shop, explore Monterosso
1:00 private boat tour along the coast to see all the villages from the sea with light lunch, Prosecco, beer and more
6:00 return to Viareggio; evening at leisure

- Includes: breakfast, train tickets, private boat, hotel

Day 9 Lucca + fun in the kitchen
Breakfast
10:00 meet Gabriella for a private guided tour in the historic center
Afternoon at leisure; dining, shopping, bike the wall
4:30 we'll gather for a fun lesson in Chef Gianluca's convent-turned cooking school. He's a Master Chef and longtime friend – and a hoot in the kitchen. Participate as much (or as little) as you'd like and learn some traditional Tuscan dishes.
7:00 dinner as prepared in class

- Includes: breakfast, private tour, private cooking lesson, dinner, hotel



Day 10 Truffle hunt!
Breakfast
morning at leisure –shop, walk the walls, climb Guinigi Tower, stroll the anfiteatro
3:00 depart for truffle hunt experience
4:00 we'll go with our hunter to the nearby hills to find some buried treasure!
6:00 dinner featuring truffle products
8:00 return to Lucca

- Includes: breakfast, driver, private hunt with an adorable truffle dog followed by dinner with our bounty, hotel

Day 11 Volto Santo Festival
Breakfast
11:00 depart for La Torre Wine Resort for a cellar tour and tasting lunch with Gianluca's friends, Elisabetta and Chiara.
2:00 return to Lucca; afternoon free to celebrate
~8:00 parade of lights and candles: Luminaria di Santa Croce. Holy Cross of Volto Santo festival

- Includes: breakfast, private transfer, wine

tasting lunch, hotel

<u>Day 12</u> Arrivederci!

Breakfast

~**8:00** depart for Florence or Pisa (pending flight times)

Option to extend your stay in Italy or depart for US

Tour Inclusions:

- 5 nights, Panzano-in-Chianti
- 5 nights, Lucca
- 2 private guided tours: Lucca, Siena
- Admission to Duomo, contrada museum in Siena
- Private drivers and airport transfers
- Train tickets
- Private truffle experience with hunter and his trained truffle dog
- 2 private cooking lessons
- 3 winery tours and tastings
- Private boat tour along the Riviera
- Tour, tasting at pecorino cheese producer
- Breakfast every day
- Lunches and dinners as noted (wine hosted)
- Tips for guides, drivers

Exclusions:

- Airfare
- Tips for hotel staff (i.e., housekeeping)
- Transportation outside the stated schedule
- Travel insurance
- Additional wine or alcoholic beverages beyond what is provided with each meal

Activity level: this itinerary has a moderate activity level. There is walking each day, whether in town, in a vineyard or hiking (the Cinque Terre trail is *strenuous*). There are options (taxi, etc.) available per each guest's preference and ability.

Map of our travels:

