

Southern Tuscany Grape Harvest Tour + Rome

Saturday, 25 September, 2010

Morning: Arrival at the **Rome, Fiumicino airport**.

Meet your tour director, Giovanna Chiti, from *Discover my Italy*.

Transfer to Tuscany (about 2 ½ hours).

Afternoon: Arrival at **Casali**. This villa, vineyard and winery will be your home in

Southern Tuscany - 5 nights

Meet **Alberto**, the proprietor, master, chef and winemaker of Casali.

A light lunch will be served on the outside terrace of the villa (included).

Free time to rest and relax.

4:30 pm: Alberto will lead an orientation tour of his property, including the cellars.

Evening: Dinner at Casali (included).

Sunday, 26 September

Morning: 9:30 am departure for the Abbey of **Monte Oliveto** (20 minutes). The abbey is 273 meters above sea level, surrounded by a thick forest of oaks and pines overlooking the *Crete Senesi* countryside below. Here we will hear *Gregorian chants* sung by the Benedictine monks. Mass will be optional.

Afternoon: Departure for **Bagno Vignoni**, an amazing picturesque village built on thermal waters from an aquifer and popular since the Roman empire. A large pool, filled with the warm water bubbling up from the natural springs, is situated right in the center of the medieval village. Lunch at a local trattoria (included).

Return to Casali. Free time to relax and explore the countryside and vineyards on your own.

Evening: 7:00 pm departure for **Bonconvento** for la **Sagra della Val D'Arbia**. (A "sagra" is a festival or celebration, an integral part of Tuscan life, and an opportunity for a village or town to celebrate its uniqueness).

Dinner at the Sagra (included).

Monday, 27 September

Morning: Meet, your **local guide** for the day, and depart for San Gimignano.

Walking tour of **San Gimignano:**

- Piazza Della Cisterna (the main square)
- Piazza del Comuni
- The Collegiata (main church with beautiful XIV and XV century frescoes)
- The Civic Palace
- Walk through lesser known medieval alleys

Free time for lunch, shopping and exploring San Gimignano on your own.

Afternoon: Departure for Siena.

Walking tour of **Siena:**

- Piazza del Campo (the main square)
- The Duomo (cathedral)
- Palazzo Civico
- Museum of the “Opera del Mondo”

Rest of the afternoon is free to shop and explore Siena on your own.

Evening: Dinner at Casali (included).

Tuesday, 28 September

Morning: **Cooking class** at Casali in *Alberto's kitchen* with **Chef Italo** followed by lunch (included).

Afternoon: A fun time in the vineyard! You will have the opportunity to participate hands-on in the grape harvest, the most important event of the year in Casali.

Evening: Dinner at a local restaurant (included).

Wednesday, 29 September

Morning: 8:45 am departure for the Medieval and Renaissance hill town of **Montepulciano**, famous world-wide for its fabulous wine. Visit to the gorgeous wine cellars of **Cantine Redi** located in one of the most beautiful Renaissance palaces of Montepulciano, the *Palazzo Ricci*.

11:30 am: Visit a **dairy farm** where you will enjoy a cheese tasting of 5 local *pecorino* cheeses and fresh *ricotta* accompanied by homemade jams and honey and, of course, the *Rosso di Montepulciano* wine (included).

Afternoon: Visit the Unesco World Heritage town of **Pienza**, in the province of Siena between the towns of Montepulciano and Montalcino. You might recognize the monastery as scenes of "The English Patient" were filmed here.

Return to Casali with visits to **Montalcino** and the famous **Altesino Winery**, en route. We will tour the winery, known for producing top quality wines, and meet the people who work in the various stages of production. You will learn the origins and the history of the *Brunello* wine and the other wines produced on the estate. A wine tasting will follow (included).

Evening: Dinner at Casali (included).

Thursday, 30 September

Morning: 10:00 am departure for Rome.

Afternoon: Arrival in **Rome 2 nights**
Rest of the afternoon free to shop or explore Rome on your own.

Evening: Dinner on your own.

Friday, 1 October

Day of leisure to explore Rome on your own and for shopping.

Evening: Farewell dinner (included).

Saturday, 2 October

Morning: private transfer to the Rome Fiumicino airport.

PRICING

Pricing includes:

- 5 nights hotel accommodations at Casali in the Tuscan Countryside
- 2 nights at Hotel H (4 star boutique hotel) in Rome
- Breakfast daily (7)

The services of the tour director from your arrival in Rome on the 25th of September until your departure on the 2nd of October (8 days)

Round trip airport transfers plus private transportation in Tuscany

Tuscany Guided Tours:

- Tour of Casali’s vineyard and cellars with owner, Alberto
- Walking tour of Bagno Vignoni with Alberto
- Full day guided tour of San Gimignano and Siena with local guide,
- Full day guided tour of Montepulciano and Pienza with Alberto

1 cooking class at Casali

1 visit to a cheese factory including local cheese tasting

2 wine tastings: Casale di Bibbiano Winery and Altesino Winery

Meals:

- 3 Lunches including wine
 - Welcome lunch at Casali
 - Local trattoria in Bagno Vignoni
 - Lunch at Casali (after cooking class)
- 6 Dinners including wine
 - 3 dinners at Casali
 - 1 dinner at the Sagra della Val D’Arbia (town festival)
 - 1 dinner at local trattoria in Tuscany
 - 1 farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome

All museum entrance fees

Price per person based on double occupancy with a minimum 12 participants	
Members Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia\$3,225
Non Members.....	\$3,375
Single supplement	\$800

Pricing does not include: airfare, meals unless listed, and gratuities

Deposit: Non-refundable deposit: \$375 at time of booking

Final Payment: by the 20th of July, 2010 (60 days prior to departure)

TOUR CONTRACT - TERMS AND CONDITIONS

THIS IS A LEGAL CONTRACT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A **deposit of \$375** per person, payable by check is required at the time of reservation. Reservations will not be considered confirmed until the above deposit is received. Contract must be signed and returned to DISCOVER my ITALY within 7 days of reservation. **The balance is due not later than the 20th of July.** See "Cancellations" below for our cancellation policy.

PRICES: In case of any appreciable variation in its costs, DISCOVER my ITALY reserves the right to adjust its rates. Gratuities not expressly mentioned are excluded. Tour prices do not include transportation between your home and the airline terminal or personal items such as laundry, telephone calls, bar bills or any expense of a personal nature. No refund will be made for any accommodations or services included in the tour that you do not use. In the case of computer or human billing error, DISCOVER my ITALY reserves the right to re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

TAXES AND CHARGES: All hotel taxes, security charges and any other type of tax or charge imposed for land travel are included in tour prices.

HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS: If a hotel change becomes necessary for reasons beyond the control of DISCOVER my ITALY, the hotel substituted will be equivalent or superior to the original hotel.

HOLIDAYS AND CHANGES: During national or local holidays in Italy, certain facilities such as museums, restaurants, archeological sites and stores may be closed. In such instances, and whenever possible, itinerary adjustments may be made DISCOVER my ITALY in an effort to minimize inconveniences to tour members. Holidays, closing days and other circumstances may change the day of the week for sightseeing and other activities.

PASSPORTS: United States citizens must present a valid passport. Non U.S. citizens may have to meet other travel requirements which tour members should discuss with the appropriate governmental authorities.

MEALS: As described in the DISCOVER my ITALY tour description.

BAGGAGE: Each tour member is recommended to travel with one large check-in suitcase and one carry-on per person. Baggage insurance is strongly recommended.

AIRLINES: Discover my Italy is not responsible for seating assignments or flight delays which are solely under the control of the carrier.

RIGHT TO EXCLUDE: We reserve the right in our sole discretion, acting in good faith, to decline to accept any individual for a tour or to require any individual to withdraw from any tour. Should we require an individual to withdraw, the individual is entitled to a full reimbursement of all payments, including deposit, made to DISCOVER my ITALY, prior to that date. To the extent an individual required to withdraw has made air travel and/or other land travel arrangements independent of DISCOVER my ITALY, we shall not be responsible for reimbursement of any losses attributable to the required withdrawal.

INSURANCE: **Health, accident, baggage and trip insurance are strongly recommended.**

CANCELLATIONS: **Your right to receive a land tour refund is limited.** All cancellations and refund requests must be sent to us in writing. Your tour deposit is refundable less a € 250 per person **cancellation fee up to 75 days prior to departure, at which time your final tour payment is due.** **DISCOVER my ITALY can make no land tour refunds for any reason whatsoever within 75 days of departure.** **Trip cancellation insurance is readily available and is highly recommended.**

DISCOVER my ITALY RESPONSABILITES: The tour member understands that he or she has no claim against DISCOVER my ITALY for any delay or damage to or loss of property or baggage or injury to or death of persons due to any negligent or willful act of a direct air carrier, hotel, ground transportation company, cruise company, railroad, or service company of any kind, or any other person or persons rendering any of the services being offered in connection with these tours. Further, DISCOVER my ITALY advises that it has no ownership interest whatsoever in any hotel, ground transportation company, or service company of any kind in Europe. You may see the name " DISCOVER my ITALY" affixed to motor vehicles, on signs around the airport, hotel or elsewhere. This use of our name is purely for reasons of identification and does not denote ownership, supervision or control by DISCOVER my ITALY in any way. With this in mind, please purchase the insurance coverage you require for before, during and for your return from vacation.

TOUR TERMS: Additional information regarding the price, itinerary and other specific terms and conditions of your designated tour are in the DISCOVER my ITALY tour description, and are considered a part of this contract.

POST-TOUR CLAIMS: You understand and agree that no claims will be considered and that you will not bring suit against DISCOVER my ITALY unless you have first provided a typewritten notice of claim to DISCOVER my ITALY within 30 days after the tour or cancellation of the tour.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

TO THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Signature

Date

Name (Please Print)

Address & e-mail

Phone Number