



✿ ARTFUL LIVING JOURNEY to ITALY ✿ May 15-22, 2015

✿ Friday, May 15th, Day 1 | Benvenuto in Italia: Welcome to Italy!

Welcome to Italia! Tonight you will rest in a beautifully restored historic hotel in the heart of **Florence** and relax after a long trip overseas. Regain your energies tonight to start the trip of a lifetime in one of the world's most beautiful cities! Located just a few steps away from Brunelleschi's Duomo, the Ponte Vecchio "Old Bridge", and all the other main sites, this hotel will offer a warm welcome as you enjoy your first night in Florence. If EVERYONE gets in around noon, we can add: Meet an expert local guide who will show you the historical streets of Florence, main sites, churches, buildings, and shopping areas and then give you a private tour of the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's David up close and personal! (Entrance fees and reservation included.)

No meals included.

✿ Saturday, May 16th Day 2 | Buongiorno alle Meraviglie: Goodmorning Wonder

Enjoy a leisurely morning walk starting at 10:00am through the historical streets of Florence, guided by an expert local guide who will show you the main sites, churches, buildings, and shopping areas of this marvelous "outdoor museum". Private drivers will pick you up in the Florence Hotel lobby at 2:00pm, after which we'll be heading for the Medieval hilltop village of **San Gimignano** (about 1 hour drive). A one-of-a-kind walled village that appears to be 'frozen' in time, but today offers great shopping for colorful local crafts as master artisans from all over Tuscany come here to showcase their creations. San Gimignano is also known for its dry white wine, Vernaccia, bright hand-painted pottery, olive wood items, hand-made jewelry, linens, and much more. Bring your passport number and save some Euros with the Tax Free Form! Then, we continue on to the tranquil coast of Tuscany, the drive alone will offer some of the most stunning views of the countryside, making our final stop in **Castagneto Carducci**, where we check in to a luxury boutique hotel. Group dinner in local trattoria within walking distance.

Breakfast, Dinner.

✿ Sunday, May 17th Day 3 | Sulle Tracce degli Etruschi: Tracing Etruscan Footsteps

A leisure late-morning departure for **Casale Marittimo**, a small hilltop village of Etruscan origin (20 min. drive). Don't be surprised if nobody speaks English here! Enjoy a little free time for photos before our group lunch in this charming town away from crowds.

Group lunch in historical restaurant with regional specialties. Lunch & house wine included. Then we continue to **Bolgheri**, an ancient village situated in the heart of the Etruscan Coast, famous for the Viale dei Cipressi (**Boulevard of Cypresses**). This area, cultivated with vines and olive trees, is also very known for its highly valued 'Super-Tuscan' wines, where grow on softly shaped hills, gently caressed by the zesty sea breeze. Free time to shop and explore this peaceful village on your own time before we go back to Castagneto Carducci for dinner in a local's favorite spot!

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

✿ Monday, May 18th Day 4 | Le Terre Incantate : The Enchanted Lands

Morning departure to the fascinating **Cinque Terre**, five fishing towns that have become a **World Heritage** protected site and a legacy left by man's enduring spirit of adaptation to nature's erratic forces, and the

strenuous reliance on sea and land for survival. We'll visit the most beautiful views of these "Five Hamlets" built into sheer rocky coast, a small strip of roughly edged mountains dropping dramatically into the sea. Enjoy the famous walk along the mountainside "Via dell'Amore" from **Manarola to Riomaggiore**. Enjoy some free time for lunch & to exploration. Then we continue to **Vernazza**, which a lot of people coin as the "pearl of the Cinque Terre". If you are brave enough, why not take a hike up the mountain for breath-taking views of the coastline? Weather permitting, we'll reach **Portovenere by boat**, admiring from the sea these amazingly steep fishing villages. If the ferries are not running, we'll get there by car. Free time in Portovenere and dinner in on your own. Explore shops and bars along the picture-perfect harbor and enjoy watching the local families, children, and adults, interact in daily activities of simple, but extraordinary life.

Breakfast.

✿ Tuesday, May 19th Day 5 | Tra Terra e Mare : Between Land and Sea

Today you'll enjoy a relaxing morning by the beach. Why not a refreshing swim in the Mediterranean? It's a vacation after all! Wear your bathing suit, comfortable clothing, and bring sunscreen. There will be café's in the vicinity to stop for snacks, drinks, and lunch. For our evening, we have planned a fun homemade pizza dinner & Italian movie night on the beautiful patio at villa! Then, take a nice stroll in the center of Castagneto Carducci walking by busy wine bars and gelaterias, stopping for a glass of *vino* in one of the lively piazzas - simply immerse yourself in the laid-back Italian lifestyle!

Breakfast, Dinner.

✿ Wednesday, May 20th Day 6 | La Passione Toscana : Tuscan Passion

This morning we take a scenic drive South, along **Tuscany's Riviera**. We'll stop in Massa Marittima for a bountiful lunch and some free time to explore. Enjoy the beautiful ancient hilltop town, wander the streets and take in all of the beautiful scenery. Then we'll visit a local winery to taste some delicious local favorites and head back to the hotel for a wonderful **cooking class** and dinner together.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

✿ Thursday, May 21st Day 7 | La Culla del Rinascimento: The Cradle of the Renaissance

Say "arrivederci" to the hotel! On your way back to the hotel in Florence, we make our first stop in **Pisa**. Gee, I wonder what is there to see here...?? Could it be this massive LEANING TOWER?? Why of course! Go ahead, take the photo and check it off your list. Ok, now let's keep going..

We have lunch by a seafood restaurant right on the beach. Then on to fabulous **Lucca**, the charming town completely surrounded by massive walls, on top of which lay a greenway adorned with secular trees. Enjoy some free time to explore the winding streets, the beautiful churches, and the circular "Piazza Anfiteatro", famous for being built over an ancient Roman Arena. Then enjoy some free time to explore the historical center. Great shopping too!! After this wonderful visit, we continue **Florence**! We'll make a quick stop on one of its side hills from where you can enjoy the most beautiful view of the Renaissance city. Free time to walk along the **Piazzale Michelangelo**, with souvenirs and watercolor paintings by local artists.

The staff at the front desk will be available to make reservations for you to museums and restaurants.

Tonight is your last night in Florence, so make it special!

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

✿ Friday, May 22nd Day 8 | Arrivederci Italia!

Hopefully you can stay longer in this gorgeous country and explore other regions. Nada's Italy wishes to have you back and experience more parts of this colorful culture! Until next time, beautiful ITALIA says Arrivederci!

Breakfast.

Earliest day trip starts at: 9:00am. Latest day trip starts at: 11:00am.

What's included in the Artful Living Tour 8 Day Package:

Pick-up and drop-off from a Renaissance Hotel in the historical district of Florence.

2 Nights in luxury Hotel in center of Florence (first and last) + **5 Nights** in Boutique Villa on the coast, for **a trip totaling 8 Days/7 Nights** (Depart US on Thursday and return on Friday).

Full-time service of bilingual tour leader.

Trip Materials: Florence & Tuscany Guide Book, Italian Travel Phrase book, Luggage Tags, Maps for each town visited during tour, and much much more!

Day trips to hill top towns including: Cinque Terre (Manarola, Riomaggiore, Vernazza), Portovenere, San Gimignano, Bolgheri, Castagneto Carducci, Casale Marittima, Lucca, Pisa, etc (itinerary and destinations may vary depending on time of year).

Unique Experiences: **1 Wine Tour and tasting** at local winery, **1 Cooking Class**, including souvenir apron. **Private Walking Tour** of the Historical Highlights of Florence with a local guide, (tour of the Galleria dell'Accademia *David* by a licensed bilingual guide.)

Included Meals: All breakfasts are included, 3 lunches, 5 dinners. Included meals are shown at bottom of the description for each day in the itinerary.

Beverages included: bottled water, soft drinks (in limited amounts), coffee, and 2 glasses of wine per person (choice of red or white) with included lunches and dinners.

Private transportation throughout the stay in comfortable air-conditioned vans (does not include: transfer from and to airport, airfare, or any other personal travel expenses).

No bag limit! (Most tours have a 1-bag limit per person).

Local VAT taxes, government fees, gas, highway tolls, city access licenses and permits, parking fees, staff tips, (does **not** include new accommodation tax imposed by local municipalities - to be paid in cash by guest directly to hotel).

*****IF YOU'D LIKE ADDITIONAL DAYS ADDED TO FLORENCE AFTER THE TOUR ENDS, OR FOR TRAVEL TO ROME OR VENICE, PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE'LL WORK OUT THE DETAILS!**

What's Not Included in Tour Package

Trip price does not include airfare and anything that is not specified to be included. Price does not include any personal-related expenses, or travel-related expenses outside of the scheduled itineraries. The food & wine that is included is what is presented during meals, all other items ordered by traveler including wine and other alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are not included in tour price. Trip price does not include optional tips to restaurants nor to tour personnel such as

drivers, maids, etc. These gratuities are given at sole discretion of each individual traveler and are not required for participation in tour.