

THE TUSCAN COOK'S *Luxury Country Villa - Montepulciano*

Program includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers to and from Florence, Pisa or Rome airport or train station
- 4 nights superior room at Villa Dionora (with daily breakfast and concierge service)
- Welcome reception with appetizers followed by dinner prepared by Chef Giuseppe
- 2 Half day cooking classes with lunch or dinner based on regional recipes
- Cortona city tour with local guide - Visit to Avignonesi Vineyards
- Montepulciano city tour with local guide and Chef's guided cellar tour
- Pienza and Monticchiello city tours with pecorino cheese tastings
- Dionora Estate Wines (Vino Rosso and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano)
- Lunch at local farm including locally produced pecorino cheeses

1st day - Welcome to Dionora / arrival dinner

Transfer from the airport or train station by minivan to Dionora. Welcome aperitif with traditional Tuscan appetizers. Time to relax in your room or unwind at the nearby pool or stroll through the estate vineyards before dinner. Welcome dinner prepared by Chef Giuseppe featuring local produce and paired with the exclusive estate wines

2nd day - Tour of Montepulciano / wine tasting / cooking class

After breakfast, escorted tour to the charming ancient village of Montepulciano. You will see the most notable city's landmarks including the palazzo Ricci which holds in its underground cellars one of the oldest wine caves La Cantina del Redi. Wine tasting of VINO Nobile and Rosso wines of Montepulciano with appetizers. Lunch (on your own) in Montepulciano. Today's class: Tuscan Antipasti and two pasta dishes complimented with classic sauces. Dessert to follow. Dinner paired with the estate wines.

3rd day - Visit to a medieval village / cheese tasting / classic Tuscan lunch

A visit to the medieval village of Monticchiello and the world heritage site of Pienza. Pienza is world-famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit to a local dairy for a cheese tasting (paired with honey and compotes). Lunch in a Tuscan farmhouse, with a meal based on local farm products. Return in the afternoon. Evening and dinner on your own. An escorted transfer to the village can be provided or relax at the villa.

4th day - Visit to Cortona / wine tasting / cooking class: all about extra virgin olive oil

A visit to Cortona, the world-famous ancient town immortalized by artists, writers and moviemakers. Half-day will be dedicated to see its architectural treasures. Lunch in town at a selected restaurant featuring the area's cuisine. A visit at the famous winery of Avignonesi with a tasting of the estate's wines. Return to Dionora with a class about Extra Virgin Olive Oil, followed by an oil tasting (the estate produces an outstanding one). The afternoon's second class will be focused on Tuscan soups (with Extra Virgin Olive oil playing an important role): Pappa al pomodoro, Ribollita and a Main Course: either chicken or pork. Dessert to follow. Dinner accompanied with the estate's wines.

5th day - Farewell

Breakfast and arrivederci from Montepulciano. Transfer to the airport / train station or continue on your tour.

**4 night programs from €1820 (euro) per person double occupancy (single supplement €620)
minimum 6 and maximum 10 participants
20% deposit required - balance due 90 days prior to arrival**

Optional tours or additional nights can be added: La Foce Gardens, a wonderful example of Italian Garden set inside the renaissance villa of Princess Origo. Tour of Montalcino: The birthplace of Brunello wine, which someone once defined as the best and most renowned wine in Italy. Visit the famous Benedictine abbey of S. Antimo. For shopping lovers escorted tour to a fashion outlet south of Florence where a wide selection of famous brands, such as Prada, Armani, Gucci, and Burberry's are sold. A golf tournament in a nearby golf course. A day visit to the Historical town of Siena or Arezzo with an official guide. A day tour of Florence with an official guide for the Uffizi or Accademia Gallery.

arrangements in Italy provided by



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