

## Presents...

# Italy Agricultural & Sightseeing Tour

February 19th – March 5th, 2025



# Italy Agricultural & Sightseeing Tour

#### DAY 1: DEPART CANADA, FEBRUARY 19th, 2025

Overnight flight - flights to be confirmed

#### DAY 2: ARRIVAL in FLORENCE FEBRUARY 20th, 2025 (D)

Midday Arrival: Upon arrival at Florence airport, meet with your guide and driver and transfer to the hotel.

After checking in, enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore Florence on your own.

Welcome dinner in a typical restaurant.

**Overnight in Florence** 

#### DAY 3: FLORENCE, FEBRUARY 21st, 2025 (B)

#### **Guided City Tour of Florence 2,5hrs**

Admire with our guide the marvellous Duomo complex with monuments completely covered in polychrome marbles. The Cathedral with the great Duomo by Brunelleschi, the Baptistery, the Campanile by Giotto. Then you will reach the lively Mercato della Paglia with the famous "piglet", discover the spectacular beauty of Piazza della Signoria with the sculptural masterpieces of Loggia dei Lanzi and the imposing Palazzo Vecchio with the crenelated tower of Arnolfo, one of the most famous symbols of the city (all visits from outside)

Time for shopping & to relax.

Dinner on your own this evening.

**Overnight in Florence** 

#### **DAY 4: - PISA, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2025 (B,L)**

Departure towards Siena Region.

Visit to an **organic farm** in the province of Pisa. 18 hectares of land, about 15 of which are cultivated with vegetables, 1 with orchard and 2 with olive grove, all strictly certified organic. The company with the help of social services, institutions, public agencies, and other companies in the area, has also started projects and paths of work placement garden-therapeutic for socially disadvantaged people.

The farm also transforms raw materials into sauces, pickles, jams, etc.. and also has its own store

Lunch in an Agri-Turismo.

Guided walking tour of Piazza dei Miracoli, with the famous Leaning Tower (exterior), the Baptistery (exterior) and the majestic Cathedral (outside).

Return to your Hotel in Florence.

Dinner on your own.

#### **Overnight in Florence**

#### DAY 5 - SAN GIMIGNANO - SIENA, FEBRUARY 23rd, 2025 (B,L,D)

After breakfast., check-out. Departure to San Gimignano to explore with your local guide the beautiful medieval town of San Gimignano, famous for its '100' feudal towers. (Visits from the outside).

Visit and lunch in a FATTORIA near San Gimignano, diversifying into farm hospitality:

- Olive groves and olive oil production
- Vineyard (20 ha) with annual production of 200,000 bottles
- Saffron

**Local Chianina beef cattle:** The Chianina is an Italian breed of large white cattle. It was formerly principally a draught breed; it is now raised mainly for beef. It is the largest and one of the oldest cattle breeds in the world.

The farm also produces seasonal vegetables and fruit for the restaurant's recipes. Surplus produce is transformed into preserves, jams, jellies and other typical products. These and other regional products are sold in the farm store.

#### Tasting-lunch at the farmhouse

In the afternoon, tour of Siena's Chianti hills: visit a wine cellar such as Tenuta II Canale www.tenutacanaleaiello.com or Castello di Fonterutoli www.fonterutoli.com and final wine tasting

Arrive in Siena. Diner and overnight in your Hotel.

#### **Overnight in Siena**

#### DAY 6 - PIENZA - SIENA, FEBRUARY 24th, 2025 (B, L)

**Departure for a cheese sheep farm.** This farm produces all their own organic cheese from their 400 Sardinian sheep. You will get to experience the area where the cheese is made.

Tasting lunch.

After lunch, we moved to Siena. Guided tour of the old town of Siena. Start by walking along the small medieval streets, admiring the splendid palaces along the way. The tour will end at the Palazzo del Comune in the Piazza del Campo, known as one of the most beautiful structures in the world (all visits from outside). Dinner on your own.

#### **Overnight in Siena**

#### DAY 7 - ASSISI and PERUGIA, FEBRUARY 25th, 2025 (B,L,D)

Buffet breakfast and departure towards UMBRIA region.

You will visit first **ASSISI with its Basilica of Saint Francis** (inside visit) which is world-famous for its 13th-14th century frescoes by the best painters of Italy at that time. Among those, the most famous is Giotto.

#### Lunch in restaurant

Then continue to **Perugia's hilltop town centre**, which is connected by escalators, is an excellent place to explore Italy's medieval lanes and fine buildings. Meet our guide and explore Corso Vannucci, the town's principal street, is pedestrianised and leads to the main square, Piazza IV November. Here lies a grand thirteenth-century fountain known as the Fontana Maggiore and is the square's centrepiece.

Check in at your Hotel in Perugia.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel.

#### Overnight in Perugia.

#### DAY 8 - TRUFFLE HUNT & UMBRIAN OIL TASTING, FEBRUARY 26th, 2025 (B,L)

AM: Black Truffles In the morning, you'll depart with your special tour guide towards the gentle Hills between Assisi and Spoleto. The group will be led by the dogs and begin hunting for the precious black truffles of Umbria. With the help of the dogs, you will be able to pick up black truffles and taste them on site. Tasting lunch at the farm with local products and truffle you found during your mooring hunt.

**PM:** Tasting extra-virgin olive oil: visit to the BERTI https://www.frantoioberti.it/ oil mill with explanation the production process (it will be possible to see a film of the olive harvest and oil extraction), tasting of 3 different types of oil and tasting of typical local products (bruschetta, hams, salami and wine).

Dinner on your own and overnight in your hotel in Perugia.

#### Overnight in Perugia

#### DAY 9 - TUSCIA - ROME, FEBRUARY 27th, 2025 (B,L,D)

Buffet breakfast and departure to Tuscia area.

The territory of the Tuscia is found in the province of Viterbo and is in the northern area of Lazio.

The most representative cultural icon of Tuscia is the Etruscan people. This pre-Roman population has left precious testimony of its past in the necropolises of the area, particularly near Tarquinia (frescoed tombs, Vulci and Tuscania).

**Full day visit an organic farm in Tuscia area:** Fattoria Lucciano has been an organic farm since 1989. It's surrounded by woods and streams whilst a XIII century Castle stands guard at its entrance. Fattoria Lucciano is a working farm, constantly engaging in agricultural practices that enable them to obtain produce with high-level nutritional and organoleptic value, in absolute harmony with the environment and its biodiversity. It produces meats, cheese, olive oil and hazelnut.

The meat from the young brown breed born are raised on the Lucciano Farm. This combines safety and nutritional values with an excellent flavour suitable for many a recipe.

Fattoria Lucciano also makes its own organic cheeses. The farm sells mozzarella, scamorza cheese and other organic cheeses. The Fattoria Lucciano Extra Virgin Olive Oil is the result of farming practices respectful of social and environmental realities. Tasting lunch at the farm.

In the late afternoon, arrival in your Hotel in ROME, group dinner in hotel

#### **Overnight in Rome**

#### DAY 10: ROME FEBRUARY 28th, 2025 (B, L)

Buffet breakfast at hotel

10 AM: Rome City tour by bus/on foot. A 3-hour journey through Roman history which begins in the heart of Baroque Rome and concludes in the soul of ancient Rome! Meet or private expert guide on Piazza Navona and for the next few hours, you won't miss anything in Rome's magnificent historic centre. Churches, Christianized temples, ancient defensive walls and triumphal arches; Egyptian obelisks (there are 13 in Rome), grand squares built over an entire ancient city (13 metres below ground level); wide-open spaces flowing with colour, art and fascinated onlookers, water fountains, cobbled passageways leading to alcoves which have remained unchanged for many hundreds if not thousands of years... all make up the heart of Rome. There is nowhere quite like it on earth! Having spent ample time at all the most beautiful spots in the historic centre — Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, and everywhere in between (you will see and learn about many historical buildings and ancient ruins, (all visits from outside) — our guide will walk you from historic Rome to ancient Rome to see Piazza Venezia, Trajan's Column, and the Roman Forum. This was the control room of the Roman Empire at its peak, where Caesars ruled and some, at least, were murdered! Due south of the forum stands the mighty Colosseum, still remarkably intact, towering over every structure nearby, absolutely imposing and overwhelming; it will take your breath away, of that there is no doubt. The Colosseum needs no introduction — the icon of Rome, immortalized in "Gladiator," featured in a thousand documentaries since, written about by some of the world's most brilliant minds. ...\*Please note: we will have entry to the inside of the Colosseum during this tour.

#### DAY 10: ROME FEBRUARY 28th continued...

Lunch in the City centre.

**Guided visit of Vatican City (ca. 4 hrs):** On this tour, you'll get to visit the smallest country in the world – Vatican City, home to religious royalty and museums filled with ancient treasures. We'll visit the Vatican museums, some of the largest, richest and most splendid museums in the world. Each displays an immense collection, brought together by popes throughout the centuries. We'll see some of the most renowned classical sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art – the highlight being The Sistine Chapel with its elegant frescoed ceiling painted by Michelangelo. We'll of course also get to tour St. Peter's Basilica, one of the most renowned works of Renaissance architecture in the world.

**Important note:** A very strict dress code applies and admission will be refused to anyone inappropriately attired, such as short skirts and/or bare shoulders.

Dinner on your own.

Overnight in Rome.

#### DAY 11: ROMA - MONTECASSINO - NAPOLI - 253 km MARCH 1st, 2025 (B,L,D)

After breakfast, check out and departure towards the south of Italy

Arrive in Montecassino where you will have a guided tour of the Canadian battlefields. In ca. 3h tour you will visit the Canadian most meaningful sites of Cassino:

- "Whiskey" point on the Monte Trocchio
- Oxford Bridge and Captain Anthony Kingsmill's Bridge
- London Bridge and the Pease Bell
- The Commonwealth war cemetery
- A German pillboxe of the Hitler Line
- The Plaque in the Valli D'Aquino area
- San Vito Church next to the Melfa River crossing area
- Aquino Monument dedicated to the Canadians

Lunch in restaurant.

In the afternoon we continue to Naples. Arrival in Naples in the afternoon. Free time at Leisure.

Dinner and overnight in your Hotel in Naples

**Overnight in Naples** 

#### **DAY 12 - NAPLES MARCH 2nd, 2025 (B,L,D)**

After breakfast meet your guide for a full day discovery of Naples, "the city of the thousand colors". A Professional guide will show you the city's hidden treasures that lie in the most secret corners of the famous squares and the "noisy" narrow streets of the historical centre. Departing from your hotel, the tour will lead you to the historical centre, reaching Piazza del Gesu where you will have the chance to admire two of the most important Naples churches: the Baroque Gesù Nuovo and Romantic Santa Chiara (outside visits). Visit the Cappella San Severo, the Veiled Christ (inside), and the Basilica of San Lorenzo Maggiore (inside) before continuing on a walking tour of San Gregorio Armeno and Naples Christmas Alley.

Stop for lunch in a typical restaurant.

In the afternoon we continue our guided visit around the monumental square of Piazza del Plebiscito where you will admire the Royal Palace, San Carlo Opera, the Umberto I gallery, Via Toledo, Piazza Trento, and Piazza Trieste. Enjoy a typical Neapolitan cake and coffee in the famous Bar Gambrinus before returning to your hotel.

Dinner and overnight in your Hotel in Naples.

### **Overnight in Naples**

#### DAY 13 - GRAGNANO - WINE - POMPEI MARCH 3rd, 2025 (B,L,D)

After breakfast departure to GRAGNANO the capital of "Italian Pasta"

AM: Visit to an artisan pasta factory in GRAGNANO, meeting with a production director

#### Tour of the facilities and final tasting

Then we continue towards Vesuvio Slopes. Welcome at a mixed farm in the Vesuvius Park, visit, lunch and tasting of local wines.

#### VILLADORA CANTEEN or similar www.cantinevilladora.it

- 5 hectares of olive groves and 8 hectares of vineyards (whites, rosés, reds)
- Production of the famous "Lachryme CHRISTI" wine
- Production of olive oil

PM: enjoy 2 hours visit to Pompeii excavation site together with your official guide. Due to its burial under a layer of ashes and lapilli, the town got forgotten for hundreds of years since its excavations in the 18th Century

Dinner and overnight in your Hotel in Naples

#### **Overnight in Naples**

#### DAY 14 - SORRENTO - COOKING CLASS - AMALFI MARCH 4th 2025 (B,L,D)

This morning you'll be immersed in Italian flavors: at a farm near Sorrento, the friendly owner will show you around the mill and you'll watch a mozzarella preparation demonstration. Clients will then be divided into two smaller groups for a cooking class based on gnocchi (a pasta dish very typical of the region).

The prepared dish is followed by an hors d'oeuvre, dessert and a tasting of limoncello (a product of the same farm). After Lunch, departure for a short tour of the Amalfi Coast, including a stop at the Belvedere in Positano and free time in Amalfi.

\*\*\*For the time being, subject to new regulations in 2024, tourist buses can only go as far as Amalfi. From Amalfi, the group will continue by public boat to Salerno, from where it will return by bus to the hotel. In the event of bad weather, if the boats are not operational, we will be obliged to provide minibuses at an additional cost, which will be communicated to you promptly

Farewell dinner in a typical PIZZA restaurant in Naples.

Overnight in Naples

#### DAY 15 - NAPLES -ROME - MARCH 5th, 2025 DEPARTURE (B)

After breakfast according with your departure flight, transfer to FCO airport

Tour Ends!



## Italy Agricultural & Sightseeing Tour

February 19th – March 5th, 2025

### **Pricing Land only**

- 30-34 passengers \$6782 per person twin share
- 25-29 passengers \$7039 per person twin share
- 20-24 passengers \$7637 per person twin share

Single travellers please call for pricing

Deposit due: \$1000 per person due on or before August 30th, 2024

Second Deposit of \$1000 per person is due on October 1st, 2024

Final Payment: Due on or before November 1st (Leader Tours will send final invoice)

\*International flights will be booked once we have final numbers to request group flights, please call if you wish to book on air miles or air points.

**Tour Package includes:** coach & driver, full time local tour guide, 4 star hotels, daily breakfast, meals per itinerary, - 1 welcome dinner in Florence & Farewell Pizza dinner in Naples, farm visits & sightseeing per itinerary, gnocchi cooking class and lunch in a Sorrento farm, truffle hunts with tasting lunch



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