

AAA Reading-Berks *presents...*

# Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside

with Optional 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

April 22 – May 2, 2023

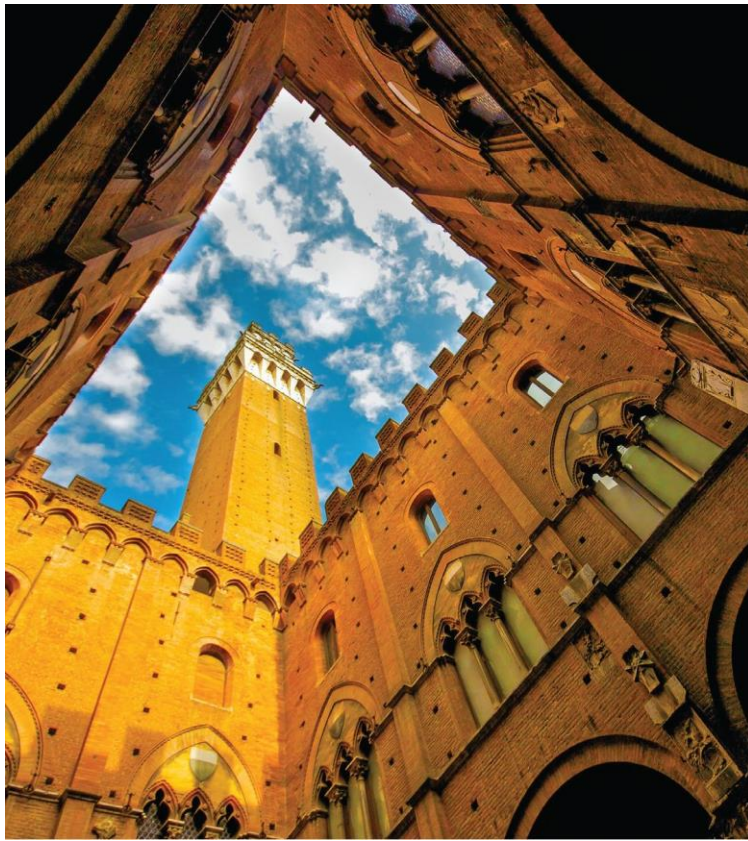


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For more information contact  
AAA Reading-Berks  
(610) 374-5600



**Small Group Travel** rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

**11 Days 16 Meals:** 9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Rome, Orvieto, Spoleto, Olive Oil Mill, Cooking Class, Assisi, Home-Hosted Lunch, Winery, Pienza, Orcia Valley, Bagno Vignoni, Pecorino Cheese Farm, Siena, Florence, Choice on Tour, San Gimignano

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Day 2	Kolbe Hotel Rome, Rome
Days 3 – 5	Hotel Dei Duchi, Spoleto
Days 6, 7	Hotel Corsignano, Orcia Valley
Days 8 – 10	Villa San Lucchese, Tuscany

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Explorations:** These small group tours give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

**AAA Members receive  
an additional \$50 off  
per person!**

**Day 1: Saturday, April 22, 2023 Overnight Flight** On a journey through Italy's roads less traveled, discover its endless treasures from Rome to Umbria to Tuscany, and the marvels of wine, cuisine, culture, and history in between.

**Day 2: Sunday, April 23, 2023 Rome, Italy - Tour Begins** Italy's dynamic capital city beckons. Get a taste of the local culture and start your journey at a delicious welcome dinner. (D)

**Day 3: Monday, April 24, 2023 Rome - Orvieto - Umbria** Olive and cypress trees accent the Etruscan hill town of Orvieto. Stroll the historic streets with a local expert and visit the prominent Gothic cathedral to gaze at a remarkable Signorelli fresco. Continue to discover Orvieto on your own this afternoon. Eat, drink, and disappear into the local scene before taking in the splendors of country life in a pristine Umbrian hill town, your home for the next 3 nights. (B, D)

**Day 4: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Umbria - Spoleto - Olive Oil Mill - Umbria** Medieval palaces command the foreground of ancient Spoleto. In the shadow of the Apennines, embark on a walking tour to see centuries of architectural history, from the Ponte delle Torri aqueduct to the gilded elegance of the Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta. Explore more of Spoleto on your own before learning about olive oil at a family-run *frantoio* (olive presser). Venture into a local restaurant in the Nera Valley, where you'll enjoy a cooking class in a former 12th-century abbey. Dig in to your handcrafted meal for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 5: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 Umbria - Assisi - Home-Hosted Lunch - Umbria** Travel to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Set out on a walking tour of the old city with a local guide, learning about its history as you stroll the medieval streets. Visit the famous Basilica of St. Francis. Later, a local family welcomes you to their country home for lunch as their honored guest. Share stories and make an Umbrian friend (or two). (B, L)

**Day 6: Thursday, April 27, 2023 Umbria - Winery - Pienza** Leave Umbria for the villages of Tuscany, nestled among the vineyards and olive groves of the Val d'Orcia region (UNESCO). Tour a winery's estate and cellar before indulging in an authentic Tuscan lunch. Created by the on-site chef, this meal is expertly paired with the vineyard's very own wines. End your day in Pienza (UNESCO), a Renaissance village where flowers and plants adorn the cobblestone streets. (B, L)

**Day 7: Friday, April 28, 2023 Pienza - Orcia Valley - Bagno Vignoni - Pienza** Journey through the Orcia Valley's rolling hills on your way to the 12th-century Abbey of Sant'Antimo. Continue on to the unique hamlet of Bagno Vignoni, whose central piazza is filled with thermal water. Taste the flavors of the region at a local *pecorino* cheese farm. Snack on some of the cheesemaker's creations before returning to Pienza for an afternoon at leisure. Maybe you'll explore the countryside along one of the many white roads that cut through the farmland. (B, L)

**Day 8: Saturday, April 29, 2023 Pienza - Siena - Chianti Region** Take a guided walking tour through Siena, delving into the local history as you learn about the world-renowned Palio Horse Race. Enjoy free time to explore more of this hilly town, perhaps visiting its cathedral or the town hall's frescoes. An afternoon drive through Tuscany's Chianti Region takes you to the restored Tuscan villa where your hotel is located. (B)

**Day 9: Sunday, April 30, 2023 Chianti Region - Florence - Chianti Region** Explore Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance," with a local expert on foot. Wander along the glittering storefronts on the Ponte Vecchio, where gold shops adorn the only Florentine bridge to survive WWII. You'll also take in the Palazzo Vecchio, the Piazza della Signoria, and Santa Croce. Take some time on your own to



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For bookings made after Sep 23, 2022 call for rates.

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from Philadelphia Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

**Not included in price:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$399 per person

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from PHL

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Additional rate of: Business Class \$3,790

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:** Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

explore the city's seemingly endless treasures, both historic and modern. Return to your Tuscan villa in the evening. (B)

**Day 10: Monday, May 1, 2023 Chianti Region - San Gimignano - Chianti Region** Choose how to explore Tuscan landscape because it's **your choice!** Join a local truffle hunter in search of the elusive mushroom and sample the goods yourself **-OR-** take to the countryside on an ATV adventure along winding dirt roads, followed with a taste of truffle *bruschetta*. Spend your afternoon in San

Gimignano, whose beautiful 13th-century medieval towers stand tall over the surrounding vineyards. As the sun begins to set, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner of Tuscan specialties. (B, D)

**Day 11: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 Chianti Region - Tour Ends** Your journey through Tuscany and Umbria comes to a close today in your restored Tuscan villa. (B)

### Experience It! The Orcia Valley

Travel off the beaten path and discover the Orcia Valley, home to the quintessential rolling hills of Tuscany. Visit the Italy of your dreams as you wind your way through vineyards, farmlands, and endless green landscapes. Cypress trees dot the skyline, sprinkled between rows of vines and flowers. This UNESCO World Heritage Site's landscape has been sought after since the time of the Renaissance, passing down through generations of farmers. One of its most beloved towns – Pienza – was the former home of Pope Pius II. Today, find flowerbeds and potted plants adorning the cobblestone streets, integrating the area's natural beauty into everyday life. Another one of the region's main towns is Bagno Vignoni, whose unique central piazza is filled with thermal water due to a nearby extinct volcano.

## EXTEND YOUR VACATION WITH

### Optional 4 Days 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

Rate: \$799.00 USD per person, double, land only

For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit  
[gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1080976](http://gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1080976)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Book Now rates valid until Sep 23, 2022, valid on air inclusive packages only.**  
**IDENTIFICATION**

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our clients traveling abroad take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

*Effective for travel after January 2023, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS travel authorization, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>*

Most national museums in Florence are closed on Mondays.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

***Travel with just 16-24 guests on this tour where a smaller group setting means a more personal travel experience.***

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. In Italy, some of our hotels and most unique sightseeing can mean accessing smaller towns or country roads that limit or restrict motor coach access, especially in the historic areas of Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, San Gimignano and Florence which requires minimum 2.5 miles of walking over flat but cobblestoned streets with narrow sidewalks. For your comfort, we recommend bringing walking shoes. If you require a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may not be able to access some of these areas and may want to consider an alternate program with us. Our travel counselors can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.

Our air passengers will arrive into Rome airport and depart from Florence or Pisa airport. All departure transfers will depart from Tuscany region to either Florence or Pisa airport.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

**A deposit of \$600 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of September 16, 2022 are based upon availability. Final payment due by February 21, 2023. Deposits are refundable up until September 23, 2022.**

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

## Extend your vacation with

### Optional 4 Days 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

Rate: \$799.00 USD per person, double, land only  
3 Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch

#### Day 1: Overnight Flight

You are on your way to the eternal city of Rome.

#### Day 2: Rome, Italy - Tour Begins

Enjoy time to get settled into your hotel and acquaint yourself with the area on your own. Perhaps you'll explore the nearby neighborhood of Trastevere, Rome's medieval heart.

#### Day 3: Rome - Market Tour and Cooking Class - Vatican Museums

Start your morning with a stroll through the oval-shaped Piazza Navona and peruse the stalls of Campo de' Fiori, one of the oldest farmer's markets in the city. Continue your discovery of local Roman delicacies at a chef-led cooking class, where you'll learn to prepare a typical Roman lunch. After some time to experience Rome on your own, you'll join special 'after hours' visit to the Vatican Museums\* and Sistine Chapel, including a welcome drink in the Vatican Museums. With significantly less crowds, this time of day allows for a far more relaxed and enjoyable experience. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

#### Day 4: Rome - Optional Excursion

Make the most of a free day in Italy's capital city. Consider strolling through the Borghese Gardens for views of the city's skyline or meander through Rome's streets all the way to the top of the Spanish Steps for a view over the rooftops. Perhaps you'll set out to delve into Rome's classical heritage with an optional tour to the Colosseum and Roman Forum, or wander around the city on your own and toss a good luck coin into the Trevi Fountain. In the early evening, meet with your fellow travelers to start off your exploration of the Tuscan and Umbrian countryside. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### Please Note:

The space on this extension is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Applicable charges may apply at time of request.

During this extension, you can expect to have a **hosted** experience or two, with a local representative revealing more of what this destination has to offer. Enjoy a mix of independent exploration and guided sightseeing and experiences.

\*Between March and October, you will visit the Vatican Museums in the evening of your second day in Rome. During the months of January, February, November and December, you will visit the Vatican Museums for breakfast in the early morning of your second day in Rome. The Vatican Museums may operate on a different day/time on select departures due to availability of reservations and closure on Sundays and holidays.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

A minimum of 4 passengers is required for this extension to operate.

Due to tour scheduling, flights should arrive in Rome no later than 2:00 PM.

**The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3.** This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.