

One Street Over Travel
Small Group Tours for Curious Travelers



La Dolce Vita
Women's Florence & Tuscany Tour

Dates: September 14-21, 2024

Price: \$4,175 pp/double occupancy

Tour is limited to 8 guests.

A \$250 deposit is required to reserve

a space on the tour. Payment plans

available. Single supplement \$650

What's included

- Full-time tour leader
- Airport transfers*
- Private ground transportation
- 7 overnights in boutique hotels
- All hotel breakfasts
- 4 lunches, 4 dinners with wine
- Pasta making class
- Truffle hunt
- 3 winery tours with tastings
- 1 wine class & tasting
- 3 walking tours with local guides
- Admission to the Uffizi Museum
- All tickets & entrance fees
- All gratuities

**Price does not include airfare, but we would be happy to assist in booking your flights.*

What to Expect



Join us for the trip of a lifetime! You'll spend an unforgettable week with a small group of women travelers, beginning in Florence and ending in the breathtaking Tuscan countryside. Highlights include private tours of Florence, the Uffizi Museum, and Siena with local guides; vineyard visits and intimate wine tastings; a hunt for prized white truffles with a canine helper; and a pasta making class in a far-off-the-beaten-path private farmhouse.

Our Florence & Tuscany Tour itinerary has been thoughtfully designed to include a balance of group activities and free time to relax or explore on your own, so you never feel rushed. We don't travel in order to check items off a list. For us—and we expect for you, too—the joy of travel comes from immersion in another culture, interactions with local people, and experiences that expand our horizons and introduce us to something new, whether it's a food we've never tried or an unfamiliar landscape.

You'll get an in depth look at the culture and traditions of this unique region of Italy. We'll meet local producers of wine, olive oil, and cheese who are passionate about their craft and still use methods passed down through generations of family. We'll enjoy food that redefines the term "made from scratch"—fresh-pressed olive oil, homemade ricotta with just-picked tomato and basil, and tagliatelle rolled by hand using wheat grown just down the road and eggs from the chickens roaming outside. Our shared meals run the gamut from rustic home cooking to elevated fine dining, and are always authentic and delicious.

Not to mention the wine! We'll spend a full day visiting three very different family-owned wineries, sampling a variety of Tuscan grapes, from Sangiovese to Trebbiano to Vernaccia. We'll get an insider's view of the making of the world-famous Brunello di Montalcino, a wine that dates back centuries. In San Gimignano we'll visit a hilltop wine school for a master class, with a view of the stunning Tuscan countryside as backdrop.

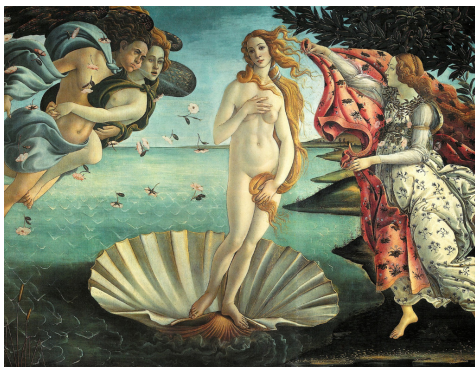


Tour Itinerary

DAY 1 – Arrive at Florence Airport and your driver will be waiting to transfer you to your 4-star boutique hotel in the city center. After getting settled in, your tour leader will meet the group in the afternoon for introductions, followed by a city walking tour with a local guide. Take a walking tour of Florence with a guide who brings history to life and shares little-known insights about the city's people and cultural treasures. We'll see the beautiful Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, Piazza del Duomo, and Ponte Vecchio, along with some hidden gems. Tonight, we'll dine together at a favorite local trattoria just a few blocks from our hotel.

Overnight Florence (1 of 2) – Hotel Orto de Medici

Included meals: Dinner



DAY 2 – After breakfast, we'll explore the masterworks of the Uffizi Museum with a local art expert who has some inside gossip to share about Renaissance stars Michelangelo and Leonardo. We'll view iconic paintings by Botticelli and Caravaggio and an unfinished Leonardo da Vinci with an interesting backstory. Afterwards, join your tour leader at the Uffizi's rooftop café for an Aperol Spritz, then enjoy the rest of the day

wandering, shopping, and exploring the city sights on your own. Dine at one of the many excellent restaurants within walking distance of our hotel.

Overnight Florence (2 of 2) – Hotel Orto de Medici

Included meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 – Our driver picks us up in the morning for the one-hour drive to Siena, with a stop at a scenic viewpoint overlooking the Arno and the city of Florence. On the way, we'll pass through the rolling hills and vineyards of Chianti before arriving at our hotel in historic Siena. We'll lunch *al fresco* as a group before meeting our local guide for a walking tour, including a visit to Siena





Cathedral, one of the most impressive works of Romanesque architecture in Italy. We'll return to the hotel before heading out to dinner at a cozy Michelin-recommended restaurant for an unforgettable 4-course meal.

Overnight Siena (1 of 2) – Hotel Italia

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 – Today we travel to the famous wine region of Montalcino for a full day vineyard tour. Our first stop is a Sant'Antimo winery where we'll tour the cellars and learn how the region's famous Brunello wines are produced, before enjoying a tasting in a postcard-perfect setting. Next, we'll visit the peaceful Abbey of Sant'Antimo, a stop on the pilgrim route

to Rome that dates to the 11th century. Then we'll drive to our second winery, where we'll sit down for a farmhouse lunch along with our wines. After lunch, we'll have some free time to explore the quaint shops in the medieval town of Montalcino before moving on to our third and final winery for the day. There, we'll join the owner of the family-run vineyard for a tasting of three wines before heading back to Siena for the night.

Overnight Siena (2 of 2) – Hotel Italia

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 5 – After breakfast, we'll journey off-the-beaten-path to a remote village for a truly special experience. The owners, who have longingly restored their 19th century Tuscan farmhouse, have a small organic farm with goats, chickens, vegetables, olive trees, and a vineyard. We'll learn to make pasta and enjoy our creation, accompanied by olive oil, wine, focaccia and cheese, all made by our host. Then we're off to our next destination, picturesque San Gimignano, where we'll stay in a 14th century hotel with breathtaking views. You'll have some free time to explore its medieval streets, and dinner on your own.

Overnight San Gimignano (1 of 3) – Hotel La Cisterna

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 6 – Today we travel to a gorgeous estate in San Miniato, inhabited by same family for six generations. We'll have a coffee and a chance to wander the beautifully appointed rooms of the villa before we meet our specially-trained truffle dog (and handler), and venture into the woods on a truffle hunting expedition. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a 3-course lunch—featuring truffles, of course!—and finishing with biscotti and a glass of the local specialty, Vin Santo (Holy Wine) before returning to San Gimignano. Tonight we'll dine as a group at a favorite trattoria. Overnight San Gimignano (2 of 3) – Hotel La Cisterna
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 – This morning you'll have free time in San Gimignano to visit the local shops selling leather goods, jewelry, and colorful textiles. Be sure to try the gelato at Dondoli, named "Best Gelato in the World," and located in the piazza just outside our hotel. In the afternoon we'll attend a wine tasting class focused on the San Gimignano region, in a hilltop setting with a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside. This evening we'll gather for our farewell dinner at a wonderful local restaurant within walking distance of our hotel.

Overnight San Gimignano (3 of 3) – Hotel La Cisterna
Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 8 – After breakfast, we say *arrivederci* to Italy and to the new friends we've made, and transfer to the Florence Airport for our flights home.
Included meals: Breakfast

Note: Travel involves a degree of unpredictability and at times we have to adjust the tour itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. All advertised itinerary activities will occur, but times or dates may shift.



Florence & Tuscany Tour Hotels

Hotel Orto De' Medici, Florence

(2 nights) – September 14 & 15

This 4-star boutique hotel is an elegant oasis in the heart of Florence. Located just a stone's throw away from the Accademia Gallery, home to Michelangelo's sculpture of David, the hotel features include a lush garden, sun terrace for lounging, and a breakfast room adorned with 19th century frescoes.

Fun fact: the hotel garden is where Michelangelo and Lorenzo de' Medici first met in 1489.

Hotel Italia, Siena (2 nights) – September 16 & 17

The 3-star Hotel Italia sits just outside Siena's medieval city walls, close enough to walk to restaurants and shops, but away from the noise and bustle of downtown. Its rooms are decorated in a traditional style, and the hotel features a lobby bar serving coffee drinks, wine, and cocktails, and a breakfast that includes not-to-be-missed desserts made fresh daily by the onsite pastry chef.



Hotel La Cisterna, San Gimignano (3 nights) – September 18, 19 & 20

The Cisterna Hotel occupies a prime location in San Gimignano's central square, Piazza Della



Cisterna, in the shadow of the city's medieval towers. With a history that dates back to the 12th century, the hotel was once a stop on the Via Francigena pilgrim route that led to Rome. The hotel's rooms are comfortably furnished in a simple style, but you will be too busy looking out the window to notice the decor. With windows that face the piazza on one side and the rolling Tuscan hills on the other, the views are truly breathtaking!

Getting there

International airfare is not included in the tour price, but One Street Over Travel can assist in booking your flights. We will be flying into Florence Peretola Airport, departing the U.S. on September 13 and arriving in Florence on September 14, 2024.

Some guests choose to arrive a day before the tour starts to reduce jet lag. If you wish to do so, let us know and we will arrange an extra night at our Florence hotel and you early airport transfer.

Payments

A \$250 deposit is required to secure your place on the tour. This deposit is fully refundable for 7 days after receipt. Payment for the balance of the tour can be divided into equal monthly payments, with the final payment due 60 days before the tour departure, or paid in two installments, the first due 6 months prior to departure, and the balance 60 days before departure. Tour payments are non-refundable as of June 14, 2024 and, with the exception of the deposit, are refundable in the amount of 50% prior to that date. Cancellation charges reflect the unrecoverable expenses incurred by One Street Over Travel and are not intended to be punitive.

If you would like One Street Over Travel to book your airfare, a credit card must be provided at the time of booking.

The Fine Print

Travel Insurance: One Street Over Travel does not sell or provide travel insurance, but we recommend that guests purchase a travel protection plan. We are happy to direct you to websites that offer insurance policy comparisons and pricing information.

Activity Level: guests on the tour must be able to walk two miles at a leisurely pace, climb stairs, and carry their own luggage. Although the tour is not strenuous, there will be periods of standing, and walking on cobblestones, hilly streets, and uneven terrain.



Meet Your Tour Leader



Janet Spicer has been afflicted by wanderlust for as long as she can remember. She's been traveling for over 25 years and visited as many countries in that time. She made sure her children had passports before they could walk, and one of her greatest joys as a mom has been introducing them to foreign cultures and seeing the world through their eyes.

Janet started One Street Over Travel to provide small group tours and custom travel planning for like-minded travelers, curious people who are interested in authentic experiences and in venturing off-the-beaten path. The name "One Street Over" came from her habit of choosing restaurants that are at least a street removed from tourist attractions like the Eiffel Tower or Colosseum, places that don't have an English

menu and where locals are more likely to dine. Janet can't wait to introduce you to some of her favorite people and places in Italy and create travel memories that will last a lifetime!

Reviews for *La Dolce Vita Women's Florence & Tuscany Tour*

"Thanks for this fabulous trip. It was definitely a 5 out of 5. There was a nice balance of free time and planned activities. The price was fair and worth every bit. What experiences you brought to us. I really enjoyed truffle hunting and the lunch after was delicious also. I liked wine school-now I look for the DOCG label. It was a great trip! I feel spoiled. Thank you!"

– Bethany C., MA

"It was an exceptional tour. I really appreciated the thoughtfulness and detail you put into all the choices and arrangements involved. You offered to us unique experiences. Thank you!! Great value for the overall tour with its truly exceptional activities. I liked the small group idea which made it easier to get to out-of-the-way places for quality experiences: wine tastings, pasta-making class, truffle hunt and also the small hotels we could stay in."

– Nancy S., MA

"You planned a memorable trip for us — one that I will recall again and again."

– Carol M., MA

"The pasta making lesson at Giulia's farmhouse was 5/5-Wonderful! The images from that day keep coming back to me. Giulia is unforgettable."

– Nora S., PA