SIP, SAIL & CELEBRATE WITH HCR – GOURMET TUSCANY TOUR!



PRIVATE SMALL-GROUP TOUR FROM GLOBUS TOURS

8 Day "GOURMET TUSCANY" Guided Tour

April 18, 2027

From Florence to Montecatini…visiting the beautiful Tuscan cities and towns of Greve, Lucca, Vinci, Bolgheri, Castagneto Carducci, and the Chianti Valley!
Experience the local treasures and flavors of Italy's culinary and wine traditions and the breathtaking landscapes of Tuscany, on a **Private tour!**

Group Tour Discount-Priced from $2277pp!

NEARLY ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUP GUIDED TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **7 Nights in a 4-Star Hotel, Most Meals, and Scenic Tours through Tuscany, Italy!**
- **Guided Tours Daily!...**Enjoy Gourmet Tuscan meals; visit quaint wine shops, olive groves, vineyards, and historic estates. Enjoy Italian cooking lessons at a Tuscan farmhouse, world-class wine tastings, and much more!
- **Most Meals Included: 7 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners!**
- **Unpack ONCE**: Stay **7-Nights** at the 4-Star Tuscany **Settentrionale Esplanade**, centrally located between nearby **quaint towns** and **medieval villages,** beautiful vineyards and olive groves!
- Travel through the Tuscan countryside in a **private, first-class motorcoach** w/Wi-Fi
- **Guided tour** provided by the family-owned **Globus Tour company**, celebrating 95 years in business. They offer a relaxed pace and **spacious coaches** (they remove seats to give you extra space!) **This is a SMALL-GROUP Tour…Max of 28 guests.**
- **Weather** in Tuscany Italy is perfect this time of year!...*In the **low 70's!***

Hosted by Great Rates Travel – Email: debby@greatratestravel.com –Call/Text 210-410-2580

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Your Discounted Group Rate: Only $2277pp

- **DEPOSIT: $250pp** (Refundable till October 1, 2026); **Balance** due February 10, 2027
- **4-Hour *Optional* dinner tour in Tuscan countryside Included,** featuring authentic traditional dishes
- Rate is based on double or triple occupancy; Single supplement (limited solos) is $296pp additional.
- **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 28 GUESTS ON THIS SMALL-GROUP TOUR...** PRIVATE TOUR & COACH IS FOR OUR GROUP ONLY...*This Small Group tour will sell out fast!*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS...

On Day 1 Your journey begins in Montecatini with a special dinner with your companions and guide.

Day 2, Explore Montalbano Hills and the charming village of Vinci, home to Leonardo da Vinci. Plus a delightful Tuscan Countryside dinner of authentic traditional dishes using the finest local ingredients.

Day 3, Visit Chianti Valley, nestled between Florence and Siena and known for exceptional wines. Taste Chianti and Super Tuscan wines right where they are produced!

Day 4 Has you testing your skills with an afternoon Italian cooking lesson, a fun hands-on experience to learn how to make your favorite dishes with hand-picked ingredients!

Day 5 Will have you marveling at the rich culture and artistry within Lucca, complete with a cafe snack-crawl brunch.

Day 6 has you exploring Bolgheri, with beautiful vineyards and cypress trees dotting the countryside.

THIS SMALL-GROUP TOUR IS FROM GLOBUS "UNDISCOVERED" SERIES:

The town of Montecatini serves as home base from which to venture out to **explore the surrounding landscapes of breathtaking Tuscany and get to know its culinary and wine traditions**. Indulge in **picturesque scenery, world-class local wines, traditional cuisine,** and cultural discoveries…while **staying in the same hotel for 7 nights.**

From the rolling hills of Montalbano to Vinci and beyond, we'll take you through **bountiful vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees.** You'll even visit the **birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci to experience the Renaissance master's life and art.** Traveling through some of the most stunning and lush natural landscapes in Italy, you'll embark to visit idyllic spots, including **the gorgeous Chianti Valley and the Etruscan Coast**. As you **visit quaint wine shops, cafes, historic estates, and museums**, **you'll feel immersed in the history and traditions of each destination.** In addition to **sampling the local gourmet Tuscan fare, you'll also be treated to an Italian cooking lesson**.

You'll **prepare an authentic Italian dish inside a rustic Tuscan farmhouse where you and your travel companions will enjoy your culinary creations** and complete for master-chef prizes. You'll also **learn the art of Italian dessert making** and get **to taste some of the celebrated Chianti and Super Tuscan wines right where they are produced**. You'll revel in the beauty of becoming familiar with a single destination of Montecatini while making priceless discoveries of nearby locales that are off the beaten path—perfect for the food and wine-loving traveler!

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DAILY ITINERARY: 8-DAY GOURMET TUSCANY…

DAY 1 … ARRIVE IN MONTECATINI, ITALY

Check into your hotel. Tonight, **meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a special welcome dinner.**



DAY 2 … EXCURSION TO VINCI

This morning, head out into the lush, rolling landscape of the **Montalbano hills**. Pass terraced **grape vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees** on your way to the **quaint village of Vinci**, **birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci**. Here, learn all about the Renaissance master at the museum dedicated to his life and many areas of interest from painting, sculpting, and inventing, to anatomy, music, and cartography! Round up the morning with the **visit to a local bakery**. Learn how bread is made and enjoy a light lunch with an opportunity to **sample local products such as focaccia bread, sandwiches, wine, cheese, cold cuts, and olive oil.** Everything tastes better in Tuscany! See for yourself with an optional **culinary experience in the Tuscan countryside to indulge in authentic traditional dishes—with wine, of course!** Today's Distance: 25 mi

OPTIONAL EXCURSION WE'VE INCLUDED Today: Tuscan Dinner…

Enjoy a **wonderful dinner in the delightful Tuscan countryside, featuring authentic traditional dishes using the finest local ingredients.** Duration: 4h

Includes: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner

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DAY 3… EXCURSION TO THE CHIANTI VALLEY

Cradled between the provinces of Florence and Siena, the **Chianti Valley** is the heart of Tuscany and has been hailed for its **exceptional wines since the 13th century**. Your journey today takes you to **Greve**, with time **to visit the village and to enjoy lunch at a charming wine shop.** Complete the day with the visit to a **historic Tuscan estate known for its Chianti wine production.** Today's Distance: 96 mi

Includes: breakfast, lunch

DAY 4… MONTECATINI

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Montecatini. Maybe go for a walk in the Parco delle Terme with its tall shady trees. Most of **the afternoon is dedicated to the Italian cooking lesson at a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside.** Once you arrive at the farm, enjoy a **welcome drink, explore the orchard to pick some fresh ingredients,** learn about Italy's most famous delicacies, and then roll up your sleeves for a **fun, hands-on cooking experience**. This evening, relax with your traveling companions and taste the delectable dinner you prepared—maybe your team will win the master chef prize!

Includes: Breakfast, Dinner



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DAY 5 … EXCURSION TO LUCCA

Visit Lucca, a stunning showcase of **medieval architecture** with layer upon layer of rich history and culture. Marvel at the beautiful art and tapestry collections at the **baroque Palazzo Mansi National Museum**, then take a guided walking tour around the **Old Town** with its fine, intact Renaissance-era wall, cobblestone streets, and café-lined piazzas. **A lively café-crawl snack brunch is included**, followed by a main course at a local restaurant. Then, your Local Guide will introduce you to the **stunning ornamental gardens and grand arched ceilings of Palazzo Pfanner**. Today's Distance: 39 mi

Includes: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 … BOLGHERI



Travel through the vineyard-dotted countryside and along cypress tree-lined Viale dei Cipressi for your grand entrance into enchanting **Bolgheri**. With its **red-brick castle** and atmospheric **Old Town**, it's not hard to imagine that Bolgheri jumped right off the pages of a storybook. There's time here to **visit one of the wine cellars and taste Bolgheri's celebrated Super Tuscan reds**. First created in the 1980s, many wine experts believe these now rival French Bordeaux. Later, stop at nearby **Castagneto Carducci,** known for its splendid **panoramic views of the Etruscan Coast**. Enjoy a traditional lunch at a local restaurant and the chance to **sample the local liqueur.** Today's Distance: 155 mi

Includes: Breakfast, Lunch

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DAY 7 … MONTECATINI

This morning is yours to do as you please. You could choose to explore more of the city on your own, to relax and shop for souvenirs…Or enjoy the optional tour below. This afternoon is dedicated to a **baking class at your hotel**, focusing on the creation of cakes and desserts.

Included: Breakfast & Dinner

OPTIONAL EXCURSION (NOT INCLUDED):

Carrara Marble Caves & Culinary Delights

Embark on an exclusive excursion to the **Carrara marble caves**, nestled amid the majestic Apuan Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines. You will see exactly where Michelangelo used to come and choose the blocks of marble for his works of art. The next stop of the tour will be in the small **village of Colonnata**, worldwide famous for its delicious and special lardo, cold cuts and delicacies to sample. Duration**:** 4h 30m



DAY 8 … MONTECATINI

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. Includes: Breakfast

OPTIONAL TOUR ADD ONS:

- **Airfare available from $1200pp roundtrip from San Antonio to Florence,** if you would like us to arrange it for you (Airport transfers to Montecatini provided). Exact flight schedule not available to select until 11 months prior to travel.
- **Extra nights at the same 4-star Settentrionale Esplanade in Montecatini pre/post-tour** from $**63pp ($92pp/Single occ)**. And **Florence** hotels available from $**75pp**/nt.
- **Globus Travel insurance for this trip is $289pp.** Or choose an Annual travel insurance plan from **Allianz**, starting at $**280pp** to cover your travel for a full year.
- **Airport Transfers** are $55pp each way, if you buy your own air…or **included with air purchased through Globus** on tour dates.

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****YOUR TUSCANY HOTEL INCLUDED WITH THIS TOUR:**



The First Class, 4-Star

SETTENTRIONALE ESPLANADE



…In the heart of Montecatini Terme this upscale yet traditional SETTENTRIONALE ESPLANDE hotel is centrally located and a cornerstone of Montecatini Terme. Offering a bar and Restaurant, bike rentals, outdoor pool, tour desk, laundry service, gardens, and **a large Terrace to meet for breakfast or coffee!** Rooms include mini frig, complimentary Wifi.





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OR STAY AND PLAY *LONGER…(Optional)*



…FLORENCE, ITALY

- **YOU WILL FLY IN TO FLORENCE, the Nearest Airport to Montecatini (45 minutes away)…***But you can* ***extend your stay*** *and explore Italy more on your own!*

- **In Florence**, see the **Statue of David** or visit the **Duomo** or **Uffizi Gallery!**

- **In Montecatini** you may want to experience the elegant **1779 Tettuccio thermal baths/spas** (pictured below), take a funicular to the town's **Medieval hilltop village** on Mt Alto...or visit the charming nearby town of **San Gimignano**!

Montecatini's UNESCO World Heritage Site

The world-class Art Nouveau TETTUCCIO Thermal Baths/Spa, commissioned by the Duke of Tuscany in 1779… Featuring hot springs and "Fango" mud baths…This beautiful spa is famous world-wide, and was very popular with the Royalty and wealthy back in the day!



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THANK YOU FOR BOOKING WITH US!

Debby DeWeese, Owner

Great Rates Travel

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