



Springtime in Tuscany with Rome!!

FEATURING 6 NIGHTS IN TUSCANY AND 3 NIGHTS IN ROME

MAY 28 - JUNE 7, 2024

Let yourself revel in Tuscan Italy's rolling vineyard-covered hillsides, then the ancient wonders of Rome — all bursting with unforgettable art, sumptuous landscapes, and wines and food so deliciously paired — don't miss this sensuous Springtime TRIPS Tuscany tour!

If you're seeking the perfect escape from the humdrum routines of everyday life, the Spring season in seductive Tuscany delivers in abundance! Winding through the rolling Tuscan countryside, you'll discover one surprising delight after another: tiny churches with hidden masterpieces, charming restaurants serving up savory Tuscan cuisine, and rustic workshops where artisans create beautiful handcrafted goods. Enjoy festive wine tastings "Under the Tuscan Sun," and marvel at the eternal beauty of Florence, breathtaking Cinque Terre, Pisa, and delightful Lucca, a little known Tuscan jewel. This ideally crafted hub and spoke tour centralizes your stay in the lovely Tuscan spa town of Montecatini, allowing you to experience the very best of Tuscany in your six days here while unpacking just once!

And then you'll set off to explore the magic of Rome — from the imposing Colosseum and stunning Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, to delightful street-side cafes, gleaming fountains, and ancient hillside ruins dotted all over the modern city, it's the Rome you've always dreamt of seeing!

Itinerary

May 28, 2024 - Your Journey Begins!

You'll board your overnight flight for Italy!

May 29, 2024 - Welcome to Tuscany!

Upon arrival in Italy, you'll be met and assisted to transfer by deluxe motor coach to **Montecatini**, your home for the next six nights. Unpack and begin to explore, perhaps wandering along **Viale Verdi**, the main street lined with inviting shops, cafes and restaurants! Your first true Tuscan meal is served this evening in your hotel dining room, a tradition in Italian spa towns.

Overnight: Montecatini

(D)

May 30, 2024 - The Best of Florence!

This morning, you'll travel by private motor coach to **Florence** to begin your day with a walking tour. You'll see the magnificent **Duomo** dominating the city's skyline, Giotto's **Belltower**, Ghiberti's famous **Gates of Paradise Doors** and the **Brunelleschi Dome**. Also included is a visit to the **Accademia**, home to the world famous statue of **David** by **Michelangelo**! Your tour ends in **Signoria Square** with its beautiful sculptures and charming sidewalk cafes, then the **afternoon is at your leisure** to explore this grand city of the Renaissance. You may want to explore the iconic **Ponte Vecchio** bridge, famous for its **great shopping** for Florentine leather goods and jewelry. When hunger strikes, just swipe a hunk of crusty bread across a pool of local olive oil and you'll be in heaven! Later today, visit **Piazzale Michelangelo** for a panoramic view of the **red-tiled roof tops of Florence** before returning to Montecatini for your dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Montecatini

(B/D)

May 31, 2024 - Italy's Wine Country and Siena!

After breakfast this morning, you'll travel to **San Gimignano**, stopping along the way for a generous **wine tasting** in the rolling hills of Tuscany. Wild vines once grew in abundance all over **Italian Toscana**, and today these wines are still much sought after! Approaching San Gimignano, you'll be struck by the sight of **15 towers surrounding** this walled hill town. Originally an Etruscan village, the town was named after the bishop San Gimignano who is said to have saved the city from **Attila the**

Hun! On your tour through the **Old City**, you'll feel as if you've been plunged into the Middle Ages, sensing what it might have been like here more than 700 years ago. You'll have time on your own to enjoy lunch, perhaps at a small trattoria, before traveling to nearby **Siena**. Here, your guided tour includes the famous **Piazza del Campo**, site of the most famous "palio" horse race in all of Italy. Often described as **Italy's best preserved medieval city**, you'll find narrow streets and steep alleys along with a **stunning Gothic cathedral** and a bounty of early Renaissance art in this city that once rivaled Florence in stature. After a magnificent day in Tuscany, you'll return to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Montecatini

(B/D)

June 1, 2024 - Famous Pisa and Undiscovered Lucca!

After breakfast this morning, you'll travel to **Pisa** just an hour away, where you'll see one of the most remarkable architectural structures from medieval Europe! Construction of the bell tower began in 1173 and lasted nearly 200 years, and now it leans about 17 feet off vertical. After lunch on your own, you'll continue to **Lucca**, a hidden gem in Tuscany! Surrounded by a circle of defensive walls designed by **Leonardo Da Vinci** and still wholly intact, the old city is a photographers delight! During your walking tour you'll marvel at the Gothic era architecture and the curious sight of trees growing at the top of the medieval **Palazzo Guinigi** tower! This afternoon features a **festive wine tasting** with numerous varieties for you to sample along with olive oils and snacks. You'll enjoy dinner later on back at the hotel.

Overnight: Montecatini

(B/D)

June 2, 2024 - Montecatini's Fountains and Cialde!

This morning begins with a **walking tour of Montecatini**, with the bulk of your day to enjoy Tuscany like a local. Water is the element of life, and nowhere is that more true than here in Montecatini. As one of the country's most famous 'spa' towns, you'll find **beautiful fountains** everywhere throughout the town. **Puccini** composed parts of **La Boheme** here and **Verdi** was a regular visitor to the spas as well! You'll also get to discover **Montecatini Alto** with its splendid views of the Tuscan countryside. Here you'll find hidden alleyways begging for exploration and a lovely piazza surrounded by charming cafes and

restaurants. During your time in Montecatini, you must also try the **Cialde**, a biscuit that's **only made here** using nothing more than almonds and sugar - more of a delicious wafer really. It's the perfect gift for your friends back home! Return to your hotel later today for dinner.

Overnight: Montecatini (B/D)

June 3, 2024 - Enchanting Cinque Terre!

Today you'll travel to the famed **Cinque Terre** - a stretch of five unforgettably scenic villages hugging the cliff sides of the Italian Riviera! Your train ride will take you through spectacular landscapes to this wildly charming region. As the New York Times said, **"it's almost unfair how much intense beauty, great cuisine and amazing aromas are jam-packed into such a small space!"** There's not a chain store in sight, just sun, sea, wine and pure unadulterated Italian beauty! Enjoy your day here **sipping delicious wines**, exploring all 5 villages and marveling at the magnificent views before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Montecatini (B/D)

June 4, 2024 - Onward to Rome!

After breakfast, you'll depart for the **Eternal City of Rome**, one of the world's most photogenic cities, where your guide will lead you on a panoramic tour of Ancient Rome. See the massive **Colosseum** where gladiators fought, and the **Forum** around which ancient Rome was built. Following today's tour, it's time to **create your own Roman Holiday!** Whether you spend your time **lounging at a café** or **tossing three coins in the Trevi Fountain**, you'll be experiencing **La Dolce Vita**, the sweet life! Lunch and dinner today are on your own, and in a city where simple yet traditional cuisine reigns supreme, you'll find plenty of delightful trattorias, pizzerias and mouth watering bistros!

Overnight: Rome (B)

June 5, 2024 - Your Choice of Five Roman Adventures!

After today's breakfast, this morning in Rome is all about your **pre-selected choice of one of five special Roman excursions!** The first

is a mildly adventurous **Vespa Sidecar tour** - once on board, you can let all your worries vanish as you're driven by an expert driver on this unforgettable trip! Second, you can learn how to **prepare a genuine Roman pizza**, fully indulging yourself in the flavors and aromas of Italy's signature dish because you get to eat it too! Your third choice is a visit to the **Borghese Gallery**, one of the world's most beautiful art museums featuring extraordinary artists, including Caravaggio's most important paintings. After the tour, you can walk through the beautifully serene Villa Borghese gardens. Option four is a **Rome market visit** where an expert foodie guide walks you through a classic street market to enjoy 3 tastings of top quality Italian products. Your fifth choice is a visit to **Palazzo Valentini**, an underground journey through Rome's imperial age where you'll see the fascinating remains of the powerful patrician "Domus" families of imperial Rome, with mosaics, wall decorations, polychrome floors and paving blocks. After lunch on your own (if not included in your optional tour), you'll go on an afternoon **walking tour of Baroque Rome**, then return to the hotel with dinner on your own.

Overnight: Rome (B)

June 6, 2024 - When in Rome . . .

Following breakfast, you'll tour the **Vatican Museums** and **St. Peter's Basilica** with your local guide. The highlight of your visit today is likely to be the **Sistine Chapel**, the masterpiece of **Michelangelo**. His canvas of 12,000 sq. ft. took nearly four years to complete, and the spectacular result is one you'll surely never forget! The remainder of the afternoon is yours to enjoy exploring amazing Rome exactly as you wish, before enjoying tonight's festive **Farewell Dinner** in a local restaurant!

Overnight: Rome (B/D)

June 7, 2024 - Arrivederci!

Breakfast is served prior to your departure for the airport and your flight back to the USA. **Joyful memories of your Springtime in Tuscany with Rome tour will stay happily with you for a lifetime!** (B)

**Please note all itineraries are subject to change.

Springtime in Tuscany with Rome!

\$7,398.00

per person / double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$998.00



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and is recommended.

Check with your club representative for details.

Passports are required for this tour!

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip international airfare to Italy (checked baggage fees not included)
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary with an English speaking tour escort
- 6 nights hotel accommodations in Montecatini
- 3 nights hotel accommodations in Rome
- Italian-style continental buffet breakfasts daily at your hotel
- 5 table d'hote 3-course dinners at your hotel
- 1 dinner at a local restaurant in Montecatini
- 1 farewell dinner in Rome at a local restaurant
- Wine, water and coffee included with all dinners
- All sightseeing and admissions described in the itinerary including the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the Accademia in Florence with "whispers" headsets
- Special TRIPS inclusion: your choice between 5 amazing Roman adventures
- Excursions to Florence, Cinque Terre, Pisa, Siena, Lucca, and San Gimignano
- Portage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- All taxes and government fees

Call today to reserve your space!!

Reservations for **"Springtime in Tuscany with Rome!"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour. This deposit is fully refundable up to February 16, 2024.

Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before February 16, 2024.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of February 16, 2024.

Contact Laurie Baker at (419) 521-2712 or email lbaker@mymechanics.com

We accept most major credit cards.

Make checks payable to **Mechanics Bank/The Good Life**

c/o Laurie Baker 2 South Main Street Mansfield, OH 44902

Passport Name: _____ DOB: _____

Compliant DL: _____ Ohio effective on October 1, 2020



CST # 2057913-10

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