

LEISURE ITINERARY 2 UMBRIA & TOSCANA

DAILY PROGRAM

DAY 1

APT ROME – PERUGIA

Arrive at Rome airport where we will be met by our Tour Manager. Transfer by private motor coach to our Hotel in Perugia. Rest of the day is at your leisure. Welcome dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 2

ASSISI / PERUGIA

This morning we drive to Assisi for a walking tour including the Basilica of San Francesco, Piazza del Comune and the Basilica di Santa Chiara. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon we continue our excursion to Perugia which traces its roots to the Etruscan times. Guided sightseeing tour of the old town center: the Fontana Maggiore, the Gothic Cathedral and the Rocca Paolina. Afterwards we will visit the “Collegio del Cambio” full of “Il Perugino’s” masterpieces. Chocolate and dessert tasting. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3

AREZZO

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to arezzo. Our morning sightseeing tour will include the Gothic Cathedral, the Romanesque Church of Santa Maria della Pieve and the magnificent Piazza Grande, the setting of the famous movie “Life is Beautiful” by Roberto Benigni. The tour will include the Church of St Francis with the famous fresco’s “History of the True Cross” by Piero della Francesca and the Church San Domenico with Cimabue’s glorious crucifix. Today we will enjoy a delightful lunch at a local restaurant located in Arezzo’s most beautiful piazza. Free afternoon in Arezzo. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4

TODI – ORVIETO

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning drive through the Umbrian countryside to picturesque Todi. Our visit will include the Prior’s Palace, the People’s Palace ,and the Captain’s Palace. We also visit the Church of San Fortunato and the Cathedral. Free time for lunch on your own. We continue to Orvieto where we will visit the Etruscan Necropolis, the magnificent Gothic Cathedral which includes the Chapel of San Brizio frescoed by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli’s masterpiece The Last Judgment. Afterwards we will take a pleasant stroll through the the medieval historical center. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5

CORTONA – LUNCH IN AGRITURISMO

Breakfast at the hotel . Departure to Cortona. Our tour will include a walk to the famous Bramasole Villa (exterior) made famous by Frances Mayes’ “Under The Tuscan Sun”. We then walk downhill through historic Cortona to the Piazza della Repubblica . We visit the splendid Etruscan museum and afterwards continue to the Cortona market, on the adjacent Piazza Signorelli . We then continue to Lucignano for a tuscan lunch at a local trattoria. Return to the hotel in Perugia for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6

SIENA

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we journey through Tuscany arriving in the magnificent city of Siena, which invites us to stroll through its Gothic streets converging on the famous Piazza del

Campo. This shell shaped square is the dramatic setting for the Palio bareback horserace. The piazza's focal point is the Palazzo Pubblico, the public palace, which dates back to 1250. We continue uphill to visit the monumental Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon special visit to one of the "Sienese Contrada". Our visit will reveal some of the secrets of the most fascinating medieval horserace in the world: the Palio. Proceed to our hotel for check-in, dinner and overnight.

DAY 7

MONTALCINO - PIENZA - MONTEPULCIANO

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning bus drive to Montalcino, the hilltown of the famous Brunello wine. We visit the Medici fortress, then the small town center with the town hall. Continue to Pienza, the Renaissance town of Pope Pius II where we visit the Cathedral and the courtyard of the Pope's palace. We will enjoy a cheese tasting including the renowned Pecorino di Pienza, the best sheep cheese in Tuscany. Free time for lunch. This afternoon we continue to Montepulciano, the "Pearl of the Renaissance". We visit the temple of San Biagio, walk through the historical center to "Piazza Grande" with the Cathedral, the town hall and some noble palaces. Transfer to our hotel in Florence for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8

FLORENCE

After breakfast we start our full day guided tour including the Academia Gallery, to view Michelangelo's famous "David" and many other tremendous works of art. We continue to the Duomo, we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, and its campanile by Giotto. Once outside we view the Baptistery's with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Afterwards, we set out to the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna's the "Rape of the Sabines" and "Hercules." Following free time for lunch on our own, shopping on the Ponte Vecchio and personal adventure, we visit the Basilica of Santa Croce. Among the most famous interred here, lie Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9

DEPARTURE DAY

Arrivederci Italia . Departure to Florence airport. End of the tour