



Overpass Travel



TOSCANA FIRST LOVE TOUR

May 8th to May 15th, 2022 | 8 Days

www.overpasstravel.com

ARRIVAL (Benvenuto)

Arrival at Pisa or Florence Airport and transfer to Montecatini Terme, an alluring village in the heart of Tuscany. Nearby, near Vinci (birthplace of big Leonardo), and Collodi (cradle of the fairy tale of famous puppet “Pinocchio”) is an area called Valdinievole. You could discover enchanted landscapes, villages and castles which tell us about past times and real art jewels. This charming spa town was recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the circuit of the Great Spas of Europe.

Next, you will arrival at the hotel in the late afternoon/early evening where you will enjoy a welcome cocktail. You will meet fellow travellers and your tour leader to learn more about the adventures that await you in a short welcome briefing. Tonight, will be a group dinner in the hotel prepared for you to get to know those who will be discovering the most famous Tuscany area and visiting all the scheduled picturesque towns/cities alongside you.

(Depending on arrival times), you will have the opportunity to take a walk in La ‘pineta,’ a popular park, visit the local spa at Tettuccio, or to shopping in the city center, or enjoy the local nightlife.

Overnight in hotel. 7 overnights in Hotel Francia e Quirinale 4 stars in Montecatini Terme



Day 2

Toscana First Love Tour, Monday May 9th, 2022

SIENA & CHIANTI

Start the day with breakfast in hotel where you'll join with your tour leaders. You'll depart by coach bus to Siena, where we will meet a local guide for the tour. We will explore one of the most beautiful medieval cities of the world, immersing us in the local culture, traditions and history. We'll see landmarks including the Basilica San Domenico, Salimbeni Palace, Tolomei Palace, Chigi Saracini Palace, the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, a jewel of Gothic architecture home to famous art works by Michelangelo, Donatello and Bernini. The Siena tour will finish in Campo Square, the cultural epicenter where the famous Palio takes place twice each year.

You will have free time for lunch.

After Siena, we'll travel to the heart of Chianti: Castellina, Radda, and Greve, home of the renowned Chianti Classico wine is produced. We'll see local attractions like Rocca di Castellina, the Palazzo Pretorio di Radda and the main square of Greve. On the way, we will stop at one of the elegant vineyards in the Chianti Classico area. We will see the barrel cellar called "la bottaia", where the Chianti Classico is refined in oak barrels), then passing to the "vinsaneria," where the precious Tuscan sweet wine vinsanto matures in chestnut barrels. Finally, we will reach the collection of extraordinary vintage bottles, which rests in the ancient cellars of the XV century. Next, we will taste a selection of wines accompanied by typical Tuscan products (salami, pecorino and bruschetta).

At night, we'll return in hotel in Montecatini Terme. You will have free time for dinner.



Day 3

Toscana First Love Tour, Tuesday May 10th, 2022

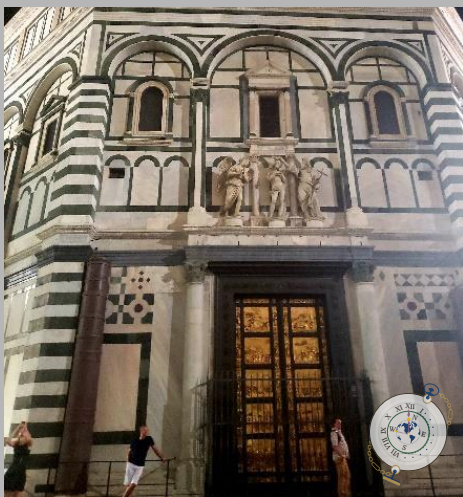
FLORENCE

Wake up with breakfast in hotel and meet with tour leaders in the morning. We'll depart by train to Florence to meet our local guide. Our Florence walking tour includes stops at Repubblica Square, the Cathedral with Brunelleschi's Dome, the Baptistry, and Signoria Square to admire Palazzo Vecchio and Lanzi's lodge.

We'll have lunch in a local restaurant to taste the famous "Fiorentina"! The Florentine steak is one of the most known and appreciated dishes of Tuscan cuisine.

During afternoon we will meet another guide to visit Academy Gallery, home to the biggest collection of sculptures of Michelangelo and his iconic sculpture of David. At the end of the visit, we will enjoy an aperitif in one of the most elegant places in Florence with amazing view of the city. In the late afternoon, we'll return by train to hotel in Montecatini.

You have free time for dinner.



Day 4

Toscana First Love Tour, Wednesday May 11th , 2022

VINCI & MONTECATINI ALTO

Start the day with breakfast in hotel before meeting with the tour leaders. We'll departure by coach to a farm in Vinci Area for an amazing cooking class! You will enter in the stunning villa to meet our chef for the day and get set up at your cooking station – aprons and other cooking equipment will be provided. We will get an introduction to the culture of Tuscan style cooking in an informal and family style ambience. Under the guidance of the chef, you will prepare a meal (antipasto, handmade pasta and dessert) and at the end of the lesson will be able to try out your own culinary creations over a convivial lunch. During the lunch the sommelier will introduce and serve wines of the winery.

After lunch, we will continue the tour with a visit to the Leonardiano Museum. Explore exhibitions of Leonardo's most ancient collection of machines and models set up in his birth home. A life-size hologram of Leonardo explains an amazing story of his extraordinary life. We'll return to Montecatini Terme then take an ancient funicular built in 1898 to reach the old medieval village Montecatini Alto offering spectacular views of the fortress ruins, the Romanesque church of S. Pietro and bell tower, Castel Nuovo, the old city hall, the neogothic theater, and several medieval houses. Spend free time exploring the local shops before returning to Montecatini Terme.

You'll end the day by returning to the hotel for free time.



Day 4

Toscana First Love Tour, Wednesday May 11th, 2022

VINCI & MONTECATINI ALTO



Day 5

Toscana First Love Tour, Thursday May 12th, 2022

CARRARA QUARRIES & PISA

Start the day with breakfast at hotel and meeting with your tour leaders. We'll depart by coach bus to Carrara to visit the marble quarries, the biggest marble basins in the world. During the visit inside the quarry, a tour guide will show us the huge room called "Cathedral of marble." We'll hear information about the birth of quarries in gallery, of machines and their uses, of extraction techniques and, of course, information about how marble is used in several ways. You'll see the murales of Ozmo that represent the "Genesi" of Michelangelo. Finally, we'll learn about the "Straordinario" sparkling wine, how it preserved inside gallery and obtained from autochthonous grapes of the Apuan hills. We continue to Vara bridge, marble railway built during 1890, where we will stop to taste the famous Lardo of Colonnata with a glass of wine.

We will depart for Pisa in time for lunch. Pisa is known in the world for the famous Leaning Tower and architectural masterpieces. A local tour guide will show us the beautiful Wonders square, with Leaning Tower, Baptistery and other monuments before entering the Cathedral. At the end of the visit, you'll have plenty of time for iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa photos.

At the end of the day, we'll return to Montecatini. You have free time for dinner.



Day 6

Toscana First Love Tour, Friday May 13th, 2022

CINQUE TERRE

Start the morning with breakfast in the hotel before meeting with the tour leaders to depart for Cinque Terre. We'll explore these small fishing villages suspended between sea and earth, placed on cliffs overlooking the sea, surrounded by hills and vineyards. At La Spezia, we will take a boat to Portovenere, nicknamed Poet's bay because of the writer and poets who lived here. We'll continue by boat to Riomaggiore, home to San Giovanni Battista Church. Then we reach Vernazza, which offers a lovely atmosphere, and finally Monterosso the biggest village of Cinque Terre. During the day, you'll have free time for lunch and visit the shops. We'll return to La Spezia by train, before continuing to Montecatini Terme by coach. Back at the hotel, we'll have a group dinner.



Day 7

Toscana First Love Tour, Saturday May 14th, 2022

LUCCA, VILLA OF LUCCA & MONTECARLO

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before meeting with the tour leaders. We'll depart to Lucca where we'll meet local guide. We will discover local attractions including S.Michele in Foro square, Napoleone square to see the Ducale Palace and Giglio theater, and the San Martino Cathedral that holds the sarcophagus of Ilaria del Carretto, a work of Jacopo della Quercia and the "Holy Face of Christ". We will walk through Puccini's House and the surrounding medieval streets to reach the elegant Fillungo road. We will admire Guinigi Tower, Anfiteatro Square, Basilica of S. Frediano and a stroll along the 16th century walls. You will have free time for lunch.

A few minutes from Lucca, tucked in the countryside between olive trees and vineyards, there are the elegant noble villas. We will visit Villa Torrigiani, spectacular baroque villa that has still intact gardens in their original forms and decorative furniture inside.

We'll continue the tour to Montecarlo of Lucca, a hilly area famous for the production of white and red wine. We'll visit a local vineyard for a typical Tuscan dinner accompanied by the traditional wines. At night, we'll return to Montecatini for an overnight stay at the hotel.



Day 8

Toscana First Love Tour, Sunday May 22th, 2022



DEPARTURE (arrivederci)

Enjoy your last breakfast at the hotel before meeting with tour leaders. You'll transfer from the hotel to Pisa or Florence Airport, depending on your departure time.

Overpass Travel will arrange the transfer from the hotel to airports. You will be returning home with a lot of wonderful memories! If you wish to spend a few more days exploring Florence city or the area - and extend your travels let us know in advance, otherwise Buon viaggio!

The offer does not include:

- Entrance to museums, personal expenses, and gratuities
- International flights
- Any required Covid-19 testing or regulations by country.
- Dinners in the restaurants unless detailed.

Trip includes as following:

- Ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities, including Airport transfers from/to Florence (FLR) or Pisa (PSA).
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. We have prepared a culinary experience for every bite you will be enjoying during the trip, including some grape juice AKA wine.
- Local guide services to truly understand Tuscany area and enjoy your visit, local and Overpass Travel tour leaders at your service throughout the entire tour.
- Cooking classes, tastings, all activities, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- **7 nights' Hotel accommodations**
 - 7 overnights in Hotel Francia e Quirinale 4 stars in Montecatini Terme.

The price includes:

- **Day 1:** Arrival, pick up and transfer from Florence FRL, or Pisa PSA airports to Montecatini. Please try to book flights not later than 1 PM or 2 PM. Welcome cocktail with the group and dinner to start the feast!
- **Day 2:** Transfer by coach bus to Siena & Chianti. city guided tour, • Ticket entrance to Cathedral of Siena, • Vinery visit and taste in a farm in Chianti: taste of salumi, olives, cheese and bruschettas, and Chianti wines, Classico, Classico riserva and Vinsanto
- **Day 3:** • Train ticket to and from Florence, city guided tour, • Lunch in restaurant in Florence in a local restaurant trying the real Florentine steak, Ticket entrance to Academy Gallery. Aperitif in Florence to conclude the day.
- **Day 4:** • Transferer by coach bus to Vinci • tour leaders • Ticket entrance to birth house of Leonardo da Vinci and Museum Leonardiano • Cooking class with lunch on a farm in the Vinci area • funicular tickets Montecatini Terme/Montecatini Alto.
- **Day 5:** • Transferer by coach bus to Carrara Quarries and Pisa. Tour leaders • Guided visit to a marble quarry • Taste of lardo di Colonnata, accompanied with a glass of wine, red and white • Half day guided tour Pisa • Ticket entrance to Cathedral and Baptistry of Pisa.
- **Day 6:** Transfer from hotel to La Spezia (cinque terre) by coach bus • tour leaders • Boat ticket La Spezia/Monterosso • Train ticket Monterosso/La Spezia • boat transfers to Portovenere and Riomaggiore. Dinner included at hotel at return.
- **Day 7:** Transfer from hotel to Lucca and Montecarlo by bus • tour leaders • guided tour Lucca • Ticket entrance and guided visit to Villa Torrigiani • Traditional farewell dinner with wine tasting in a vineyard in Montecarlo of Lucca, grappa and taste of local wines.
- **Day 8:** Depending on departure time • transfer from the hotel to Pisa or Florence Airport.
- • Tourist city tax • Whispers (auriculares) for everyday



SIGN UP TODAY!

To register and secure your spot for this
adventurous tour!

\$1,250 Deposit is required upon
registration.

CONTACT US

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Visit Us at www.overpasstravel.com