



Tuscany & Umbria



CHR Travel

11 Days, September 23 - October 3, 2016 \$4944*

- Tuscany:** • Radda in Chianti
- Lidia Bastianich's (*Lidia's Italy* on WILL-TV) winery • Grosseto
- Siena • Optional cooking classes in Tuscany & Umbria • Florence
- Pienza; **Umbria:** • Lake Trasimeno • Perugia • Assisi
- Spoleto • Sightseeing in ancient Rome • More free time overall

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Unique tours since 1986

THIS WILL TOUR combines culture, history and arguably the best cuisine in Europe. Thirty-one years since we first began unique, easy-paced European itineraries, we return to Italy to visit two of its splendidly scenic regions: Tuscany and Umbria. Our first stay is at a manor house built in the 1700s in a small town responsible for the birth of Chianti wine! In addition to wine tastings, we have an optional cooking class in each region. In Tuscany we visit Radda, Grosseto, Siena, Florence and

Pienza. After mountainous, inland Perugia, Assisi and Spoleto, we proceed to the Eternal City of Rome. Space is limited! Don't delay, most tours fill up early.

*Above: Tuscany;
 Below: Etruscan Arch in Perugia, Umbria*





Vineyard in Chianti

sent wine to England;” the local wine “Chianti Classico” officially dates back to 1716 and was made in squat bottles nestled in straw baskets. Overnight in Radda in Chianti.



Day 3, Sunday: Radda in Chianti-Grosseto-La Mozza

We drive south through Tuscany’s Maremma region to Grosseto. It is named for the first writer in the Italian language. Its well-preserved 1574 Medicean Walls encompass the medieval city center (*above*). Then on to Scansano, (renowned for its great red wine, Morellino) to the vineyard and winery of Lidia Bastianich, host of *Lidia’s Italy* on PBS. We will enjoy a wine tasting at the winery. Tonight, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner, with a glass of the local wine included, of course. Overnight in Radda in Chianti. (B, D)

Day 4, Monday: Radda in Chianti-Siena

We head to nearby Siena for a guided tour of its narrow streets and cozy buildings. Our favorite crayon color—Burnt Sienna—conjures up visions of warm brown homes! We will hear about the colorful horse race, the Palio, which is held twice a year. Don’t miss the delicious panforte cakes, ideal presents to take

Siena

Itinerary

Day 1, Friday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

Danda Beard from WILL radio, television.online welcomes you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago. We fly non-stop to Rome this evening.

Day 2, Saturday: Arrival-Rome-Radda in Chianti

On arrival we meet up with our tour manager, Victor Seedman, and board our touring coach heading north to a small town in Tuscany just above Siena. On arrival in Radda in Chianti, we check in to the Relais Vignale, a restored manor house from the 1700s. You have free time to enjoy the garden, outdoor heated swimming pool and restaurant with panoramic terrace. You can explore the little village that preserves its medieval elliptical urban layout, or go for a walk or a bike ride in the pristine countryside, or just turn in early. The choice is yours! Why not toast the original owner, Falconi, who “traded and



Our tour host, Danda Beard, is WILL’s Development Director

She looks forward to welcoming you aboard this fund-raiser tour to support public broadcasting.





Florence's River Arno

home. We head back to Radda in Chianti a little early this afternoon for some free time to have a bit of *dolce far niente* (delicious idleness) while overlooking the Tuscan countryside. Overnight in Radda in Chianti. (B)

Day 5, Tuesday: Radda in Chianti-Florence

We travel to Florence, the wealthy center of medieval finance and the birthplace of the Renaissance. We will drop off those who have booked an optional cooking class this morning or afternoon. Chef Barbara will host us at her lovely country home, Le Mortinete, a wonderful house built in the 16th century with a very well-equipped kitchen. You can have a hands-on lesson at the Scuola di Arte Culinaria Cordon Bleu and then enjoy your lunch in a garden circled by olive trees and roses (weather permitting, must be booked by July 15, see back page.) In the heart of Florence where Leonardo da Vinci learned, well, everything, we have a guided tour. At the Piazzale Michelangelo admire the wonderful panorama of Florence and see the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Flowers, begun in 1296, later topped by Brunelleschi's dome in 1436. Opposite the basilica, see the oldest building in Florence, the green marble baptistry, with its Gates of

Paradise. The covered bridge, Ponte Vecchio, is not to be missed. The shops along the bridge are now all jewelers. Once they were butchers' shops! There will be free time on your own to explore or visit a museum. Return to Radda in Chianti for our last overnight here. (B)

Physical Requirements: travel in Italy requires more walking, steps and inclines that could be difficult or impossible for those with physical limitations. You need to consider whether you can accept that this may make you miss parts of the tour and stay at the hotel and be on your own. Each of our hotels has elevators. Even so, the first, a manor house dating from the 1700s, has sections (dining room, pool, some rooms) accessible only by a set of approximately ten steps. This is our trade-off for being in an idyllic setting.

Strangozzi-al-suzo, Umbrian recipe





Perugia

medieval aqueducts, contemporary Piazza del Bacio and the Sandro Penna Library. We also have another cooking school option: Chefs Nonie and Tita want to share with you the art of homemade cooking. They say cooking “is like playing music and when you begin the kitchen fills up.” You will have hands-on instruction and will prepare appetizers, soup, pasta, meat with a cooked vegetable and dessert... and then, with the resulting lunch or dinner, enjoy a half bottle of wine! Overnight in Perugia. (B)

Day 8, Friday: Perugia-Assisi

We travel to nearby Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, who founded a religious order in 1208. He shares honors with St. Catherine of Siena as the patron saint of Italy. After the Umbrians came in 1000 BC, the Etruscans took over. They were succeeded by the Romans, whose city walls are still seen here. The majestic two level basilica contains the remains of the saint and major art works by old masters such as Giotto. In the main square, formerly the Roman Forum, a pagan temple has been converted into a beautiful little church—you can still see the original fluted Roman columns. We will have a guided tour and free time to explore this old town. Overnight in Perugia. (B)

Day 9, Saturday: Perugia-Spoleto-Rome

We travel south to Spoleto, a small town on a foothill of the Apennine Mountains. It was strategically located to defend the trade routes to Rome. Along with its twin city, Charleston, South Carolina, Spoleto sporadically hosts parallel festivals of music and opera. The Festival



Day 6, Wednesday: Radda in Chianti-Pienza-Lake Trasimeno-Perugia

Before leaving Tuscany, we drive through the Val d’Orcia to Pienza (above), a jewel of Renaissance Urbanism. This was the birthplace in 1405 of Piccolomini, the Renaissance humanist who later became Pope Pius II. While pope, he directed the rebuilding of the entire village as an “ideal Renaissance town.” We continue via Montepulciano for our first look at Umbria: Lake Trasimeno, the center of ancient Etruscan civilization. Two streams feed the lake, but it has no outlet. Driving around we have nice vistas of the lake and olive groves upon the hills, stopping at Castiglione. We continue on up to Magione and then into Perugia with great views from Piazza Italia adjacent to our hotel. Dinner with a glass of wine is included tonight. Overnight in Perugia. (B, D)

Day 7, Thursday: Perugia-Optional Cooking Class

In Perugia we will see the Etruscan Arch (older than the Romans’) the modern mini-metro,

 We are pleased to announce that our custom tour operator, CHR Travel, has been awarded the prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise 2009. We have worked with the same people since WILL’s first tour in 1986.

Fillipo Lippi painted the Spoleto Cathedral dome





Above & below: Assisi

of Two Worlds has been held in mid-summer since 1958. We continue southwest and arrive at the eternal city of Rome. Overnight in Rome. (B)

Day 10, Sunday: Rome


This morning we are taken on a sightseeing tour of ancient Rome. We see the iconic symbol of Imperial



Rome, the Colosseum, where gladiators fought in the largest amphitheater ever built—holding up to 80,000 spectators. We visit the Roman forum, a complex of temples and public buildings. It was the site of triumphal processions and elections, a venue for public speeches, criminal trials and commercial affairs. Our afternoon is free. You can head to St. Peters, the Spanish Steps for designer shops and nearby Trevi Fountain (recently restored). If you throw a coin over your left shoulder into the fountain, you will definitely return to Rome! Every day 3,000 Euros are thrown into the fountain, which subsidize a supermarket for the needy. Tonight, WILL hosts a Farewell Dinner with a glass of wine. (B, D)

Day 11, Monday: Rome-Chicago-Central Illinois

We say *arrivederci Roma* and are taken to the airport to board our non-stop, same-day flight back to Chicago. On arrival we are met by our private motor coach to return us to Central Illinois with rich memories of exqui-



Our tour manager, Victor Seedman
 Back for a repeat performance! Our tour manager started leading tours in the 1980's and continued to do so while being the Head of Travel, Tourism & Hospitality for the London campus of the University of Gloucestershire.



Spoleto

site Tuscany and Umbria courtesy of this unique WILL experience. (B)

What's Included: • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois • Baggage handling • Round trip flights • Round trip transportation from airport to hotel • Tour manager, transportation, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary • Tour led by Danda Beard • 12 Meals: 9 Breakfasts and 3 Dinners • Hotel accommodations • Taxes, fees & surcharges (subject to change) of \$590

Accommodations: (9) number of nights Radda in Chianti (4) Relais Vignale Perugia (3) Hotel Brufani Palace Roma (2) Hotel Savoy

What's Not Included: • Discount for paying balance by cash or check \$50 • Travel Guard insurance • Optional tours • Cooking classes: \$150 Florence or \$110 Umbria • Airline baggage fees (if any, currently first bag is free) • Tips to tour manager, driver and local guides

*Double occupancy \$4944, all prices are per person (PP). Single room costs \$5582. Triple room costs \$4944/person. No quad rooms are available. Documents required: US citizens are required to carry a valid passport, which must expire no earlier than 6 months after planned departure return date, with a minimum of two blank pages; no visa or shots are required. Citizens of other countries should inquire to their consulate. Insurance: Deluxe group plan from Travel Guard (at a cost of 6.5%) to cover cancellation charges for covered reasons. A donation to WILL is included in the price. Details, taxes, foreign exchange and fuel surcharges are subject to change. Maximum group size 27. Most tours sell out but if not, a small-group surcharge applies if fewer than 16 book. A \$50pp surcharge applies to departures from Bloomington. Acct. 160923R 16MAY16 13:16

Join us from Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago O'Hare, Decatur & Springfield or call for a quote from other cities. Tour Coordinator is Judy McElfresh, email:

Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com; call 217 422-5002 to charge your credit card for the \$1600/person deposit including insurance. Or mail check (made out to Rio Grande Travel) to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St Ste 175, Decatur IL 62523

<http://will.illinois.edu/willtravel/>



Trevi Fountain, Rome

Hadrian's Arch & the Colosseum, Rome



Booking form: To reserve your place,
please fill in & return to Tour Group Planners

WILL Italy departing September 23, 2016

Full Name as on Passport (including Middle name/initial)

Nickname

Gender

_____/_____/_____
Today
Birthdate for
Insurance

Exact Name as on
ID Verified, for
office use

1 _____

M

F

M

F

2 _____

Address _____

City St Zip _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

E-Mail *optional* _____

Airline seat request: Window Aisle

...and if traveling with a companion:

Adjacent Across The Aisle

This is a request; we will try our best accommodate.

Balance of tour payment due May 23, 2016.

Confirmation & statement will be sent after the receipt of this booking form. Valid passport is required. Please send a copy of your passport. There may be extra charges to correct your name later.

Credit Card # _____

Expires _____/_____/_____

Cash

Check: made out to *Rio Grande Travel*

Security Code _____

\$1600/person deposit due, Payment enclosed \$ _____

I want to ride van/motorcoach from: (*circle*) Decatur / Springfield / Champaign / Bloomington

Or fly from: Chicago or Other: _____

Occupancy 1 2 3 I want to share a room; with _____

Options desired: Florence cooking class \$150 pp Perugia Cooking Class \$110 pp

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

The new DOT ruling bans the practice of increasing the price on air-inclusive vacation packages after payment is received, unless the consumer agrees in writing to the possibility of price increases before any payment is taken. The written consent ensures consumer awareness and acknowledgement of the possibility of a post-purchase price increase (due to taxes, fees and fuel surcharges). Please see other terms & conditions incorporated by reference.

Note: Travel Insurance portion of deposit is **non-refundable**.

Your Signature _____

Send to:

**TourGroup
Planners**

363 S Main St Ste 175
Decatur IL 62523

(217) 422-5002 Fax (217) 422-5531

Group #160923R

Thank you!



Cooking Classes include lunch and wine at the chefs' homes. Two classes have been arranged with group discounts provided we have a minimum number booking (shown in parenthesis with the regular rate if fewer than the minimum):

Florence with Chef Barbara \$150 (16 minimum or \$255 otherwise).
Perugia with Chefs Tita & Noni \$110 (12 minimum or \$125 otherwise). The exact time of the class will depend on group size and booking order, as we will break

that classes into either a morning session (with lunch) or afternoon (with dinner). Note that this may conflict with included sightseeing but that you will have other time to sightsee on your own. The cost for cooking class is non-refundable.

Our hotels

See numbered photos:

1. **Relais Vignale**, Radda in Chianti, Tuscany
2. **Hotel Brufani Palace**, Perugia, Umbria
3. **Hotel Savoy**, Rome, Lazio



1



2



3

