

ITALY CON GUSTO

A Culinary & Cultural Adventure in Tuscany
September 23—October 1, 2017
Hosted by Olive Oil Outpost + Onward Travel

ONWARD TRAVEL 

EST 2014



Olive Oil Outpost is the Gulf Coast's source for top quality imported products such as balsamic vinegar, olive oil, cheese, and of course, vino! This fall, we're taking the obsession a step further...

Join proprietor Kelly Kary and Onward Travel on a culinary adventure in Italy. Our homebase will be a gorgeous 17th century villa in Chianti on a family-owned wine estate. From there, we'll enjoy day trips around the region and leisurely days soaking up the scenery.

Join this adventure to experience cooking classes, market visits, ample local wine, delicious feasts, and plenty of time to soak up art and culture. Visit Kelly's producers, get well acquainted with sangiovese, and enjoy exclusive tours and tastings. We'll visit Modena, in the heart of the epicurean paradise that is Emilia-Romagna. In Tuscany, we'll explore San Gimignano, Florence, Chianti's charming towns, Lucca, and Pisa. Lavish and creative dinners at the villa among the vineyards will have us living the dolce vita.

Kelly brings some of the world's best tastes to Pine Street, but we are going to the source to experience it all, and you're invited!

Imagine yourself...

Spending a blissful week at a luxurious villa in the heart of Chianti.

Tasting a 100-year-old Balsamic Vinegar while surrounded by vineyards.

Perfecting your pasta-making (and eating) skills.

Benvenuto!

DAY 1: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

- [Wine class and dinner in a beautiful villa](#)

Welcome to beautiful Tuscany. After a short transfer from Florence Airport, settle in for a week at our private villa in the vineyards. If the sun is shining, relax at the villa's swimming pool this afternoon or stroll the English gardens. The villa is over 18,000 square feet of heaven, you can see an aerial view on the cover page of this itinerary.

We'll gather tonight in the villa's dedicated wine tasting room where a Chianti Classico winemaker will teach us about the world of Tuscan wine. A seasonal gourmet dinner will be prepared by a local chef and served in the villa's elegant dining room. Local specialties will pair perfectly with the vino made from the grapes surrounding us. Cheers, indeed!

Meals Dinner

Drinking in the Landscape

DAY 2: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24

- [Wine lunch and tasting in Emilia-Romagna](#)
- [Dario Cecchini's landmark steak restaurant: Officina della Bistecca](#)

Today, ease into the Chianti lifestyle. After a leisurely morning we're off to visit Molly's favorite local winemakers. Agricola Altiero is a small family operation producing excellent wines. Samuela is a fabulous cook and her signature jams pair perfectly with crostini, pecorino, and salumi. Winemaker Paolo will lead us through a tasting as we enjoy lunch in the sunshine. Early afternoon, we'll visit our villa's winery and enjoy a tasting of their Super Tuscans.

Tonight we'll head into Panzano in Chianti for a dinner featuring an icon of Toscana: Bisteca Fiorentina. Dario Cecchini is a famous Italian butcher and at his restaurant the food is served with pride and gusto. Enjoy steak, wine, and a bit of theater as the steaks are grilled right before our eyes on the searing hot grill. Delizioso!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Cucina Italiana

DAY 3: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25

- [Cooking class at an ancient abbey](#)
- [Explore quaint Greve in Chianti](#)

Because the only thing more fun than eating in Italy, is cooking in Italy... today we head to the kitchens of Badia a Coltibuono for a cooking class. First, a guided tour of the 1000-year-old abbey and Renaissance gardens, then a hands-on culinary lesson where we'll learn to prepare classical regional Italian cuisine complemented by their organic wines and olive oils. Our lovely meal will conclude with grappa and coffee in the living room.

On our way back to the villa this afternoon, we'll stop in Greve in Chianti a charming Tuscan town located near the villa with a lively central piazza.. Enjoy a bit of shopping and an espresso. We'll relax at the villa tonight and have a delicious dinner.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



You'll love spending time in our amazing Tuscan villa, with its gorgeous yet functional interior spaces - including the informal dining room pictured at top and the dedicated wine tasting room shown below.

The Treasures of Modena

DAY 4: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26

- [Balsamic vinegar tasting experience](#)
- [Wine lunch featuring Lambrusco wine and regional Tortelloni pasta](#)
- [Car lovers unite at Museo Ferrari](#)

Today we head to food enthusiast Mecca: Emilia-Romagna. This area is home to gastronomic icons (Prosciutto! Balsamic Vinegar! Parmigiano Reggiano!) and we'll taste them all today while visiting an acetaia and wine estate.

This morning we will dive into the balsamic vinegar traditions of Modena and visit an Acetaia that produces a balsamic Kelly has carried at her store for years. We'll have a three-course lunch at Opera02, a vineyard, winery and agriturismo, complete with Lambrusco wine and a show-stopping panoramic view. Once you're satiated, choose to go to the Ferrari Museum or into charming Modena for shopping and a stroll. Museo Ferrari is a destination for car aficionados: learn Enzo Ferrari's story, try driving with the Ferrari simulator, and see beautiful cars on display.

Tonight we'll have a light dinner and Prosecco at the villa.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Medieval Manhattan

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27

- [Market day in hilltop town San Gimignano](#)
- [Cooking class at the villa](#)

This morning we'll drive through the Tuscan landscape and feast our eyes on medieval hilltop towns overlooking rolling countryside covered with grapevines and olive trees. The mountains, forests, cypress trees, and winding roads are idyllic. We'll visit walled San Gimignano, often called Medieval Manhattan because of the skyline formed by the towers that date back to the 12th-century. It is market day in San Gimignano! Enjoy free time to stroll the town and have lunch. Early afternoon we'll head back to the villa where a talented local chef is waiting.

The rest of the afternoon and evening will be spent cooking with Chef Alessio in the villa's beautiful professional kitchen. We'll prepare a delicious four-course menu featuring handmade pasta, wild boar ragu, and a beautiful Italian dessert. Chef Alessio is an accomplished

gourmet chef, eager to share his Tuscan technique. We'll gather around the long table to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



Homemade Tuscan ravioli, it's the stuff dreams are made of...

Pisa to Pizza

DAY 6: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28

- [Visit Tuscan towns: Lucca & Pisa](#)
- [Wine tasting at Casa di Monte](#)
- [Pizza party at the villa](#)

After a delicious breakfast spread (you're getting used to this special treatment by now), we're off to Lucca. Lucca has 4 kilometers of beautiful Renaissance walls surrounding the city, so you may like to walk or bicycle the 16th century ramparts. The town has over 100 churches, plus gardens, courtyards, wonderful boutiques, and cobblestones galore. After a historical orientation walking tour, enjoy the town at your leisure. A picnic on the walls is recommended.

Early afternoon let's visit Pisa for a selfie with the Leaning Tower. It is one of the most famous buildings in the world, and it is a site to behold. Are you thirsty yet? Good, because Jessica is waiting for us at Casa di Monte. We'll taste Jessica's wines in an ancient tower with 365 degree views. Learn how Tuscany's dessert wine Vin Santo is made and taste IGT and Chianti Classico wines.

After a wonderful day, there is still one more treat! A pizzaiolo is coming to the villa tonight with a portable wood-fired oven to make

us a pizza feast. You're invited to help cook and recipes will be provided. Sip a glass of bubbly while you enjoy a variety of pizzas, focaccia bread, and lemon vodka sorbet. The pizza party of your dreams!

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Landscape Inspiration

DAY 7: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29

- [Watercolor painting class](#)
- [Dinner at a local trattoria](#)

Enjoy a slow morning at the villa. We'll have an al fresco lunch, prepared with fresh ingredients procured from the San Gimignano market. Help cook if you like!

As lunch concludes, a local artist/winemaker will arrive to lead us in a watercolor painting class. Inspiration abounds and you don't need to be an artist to enjoy this creative expression with charismatic and talented Roberto at the helm. We'll sketch and paint, and sip some of Roberto's wines, too.

Stroll the vineyards this afternoon, squeeze in a little more shopping, or relax. Molly is happy to arrange a round of golf at Golf dell'Ugolino or transportation to the Italian designer outlets. Relaxing by the beautiful pool and soaking up the Tuscan sun is a grand option, too.

We'll dine at a local trattoria this evening, order whatever sounds good to you... perhaps the picci con ragù di cinghiale (hand-rolled pasta with wild-boar sauce), a local specialty.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



In our painting class make a souvenir of Tuscany that you'll enjoy for years to come... Italy is the legendary land of artistic inspiration after all!

Heartbeat of the Italian Renaissance

DAY 8: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30

- [Walking tour in Florence](#)
- [Ample time to shop and sightsee](#)

We must say goodbye to our beautiful villa this morning but the fun is not over yet.

Today we'll visit the capital of Tuscany, Firenze, the seat of the Renaissance and a city with a long history in art and craftsmanship. A local guide will take us on a walking tour, concluding at Galleria dell'Accademia where we'll ogle Michelangelo's David. Enjoy a long afternoon to sightsee and shop as you please. We'll reconvene for a scoop of the city's best gelato. This evening, we'll stay at an airport hotel for early departures on Sunday.

Meals Breakfast

Arreviderci!

DAY 9: SUNDAY OCTOBER 1

Our wonderful time together has come to an end. Grab the hotel shuttle to the airport at your convenience and journey home full of wonderful memories. *Buon viaggio!*

Meals Breakfast

Or extend your travels and join Onward Travel in the Cinque Terre!
If you choose this option, you will be collected mid-morning from the hotel and transferred to Monterosso, one of the Cinque Terre's five charming villages, to convene with the rest of your group.

Contact Onward Travel for more information about the optional three-night Cinque Terre Extension package.

TRIP INFORMATION italy con gusto 2017

BEGINS	Saturday, September 23, Florence Airport Transfer provided mid-day to the villa.
ENDS	Sunday, October 1, Hotel at Florence Airport Hotel shuttle available to the airport.
MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	9 days, 8 nights
LODGING	This tour's lodging is very special: a private 17th-century villa near Greve in Chianti. The villa has nine bedrooms, each with en suite bathroom. The villa features two kitchens, indoor and outdoor living areas, a wine tasting room, a billiard room, a formal dining area with fireplace, a swimming pool, English gardens, and 220 acres of vineyards and olive trees surrounding the estate.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	September 23–October 1, 2017 Double Occupancy \$3,750 per traveler Single Supplement \$775 <i>Limited availability.</i> Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are very welcome to pay by credit card, please add a \$110 surcharge.

A NOTE ABOUT AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will start and end with transfers to/from the Florence Airport. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance or to coordinate with other Italy Con Gusto travelers. Onward Travel is happy to arrange transfers to Rome, Bologna, or other destinations at an additional cost.

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation in Italy.
- Seven nights accommodations at a luxurious villa in Greve in Chianti and one night at a full service airport hotel.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, daily aperitivo, and seven dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Onward Travel guide at your service plus excellent local tour guides.
- Two hands-on cooking classes.
- Activities, tastings, admission fees, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Taxes and gratuities.

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment. Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 15, 2017.

TRIP INFORMATION italy con gusto 2017

ABOUT ONWARD TRAVEL

Onward Travel is a boutique travel planning company that carefully crafts itineraries to create an authentic, engaging trip that exposes the destination and roots travelers to the place.

Onward was founded by two sisters, inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that has offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

TUSCANY IN SEPTEMBER

Late September is the perfect time to travel to Tuscany. Crowds are thinning and agricultural harvest is in full swing. Temperatures are warm, expect 70s–80s and be prepared for sunshine (and rainfall!). The villa has a pool and air conditioning. Onward Travel will provide detailed packing notes in advance of the trip.

MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL INFO

- Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Italy. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.
- To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."
- Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704.

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294

Visit www.onwardtravel.co/trip-insurance for more information.

Get in Touch!

Contact Molly with questions or special requests.

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Optional Cinque Terre Extension October 1–5, 2017

Craving some time on the Italian Riviera? Join Onward Travel's four-day extension to the picturesque Cinque Terre. We'll enjoy the local seafood specialties and the unforgettable scenery that categorizes these five centuries-old seaside villages connected by a train and walking trail. Take a dip in the sea and a cooking class to learn Ligurian specialties. Enjoy one of the most beautiful hikes in the world, or simply lounge and soak in the view. Contact Onward Travel for details.