



Ladies Getaway in Tuscany

A Culinary & Cultural Adventure in Italy
September 27–October 5, 2024

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️
EST 2014



Tuscany is a favorite destination of Onward Travel, we return again and again to this enchanting place. And in fall 2024 we're heading back, this time for a special *Ladies Getaway*. Autumn in Chianti is sublime and will be even better when experienced with a group of fun-loving women. Grab your friend or sister, or travel solo, and join us for a week of discovery, culinary delight, and bliss in Italy...

Spend two nights in captivating Florence, then head to Chianti. Enjoy residing in a beautiful 17th century villa on the Fontodi wine estate. Grape vines come up almost to the front step and the property is enhanced by clusters of pomegranate trees, rosemary bushes, and potted geraniums. The stone villa is just on the edge of town, so you may enjoy a stroll or espresso in Panzano in Chianti. From our lovely base, we'll enjoy day trips around the region to visit Chianti's charming towns.

Join this adventure to experience cooking classes, market visits, ample wine, delicious feasts, and plenty of time to soak up art and culture. Visit local producers, get well acquainted with sangiovese, and enjoy exclusive tours and tastings. Delicious dinners at the villa, prepared by local chefs, will have us living *la dolce vita*. And it will all be experienced in excellent company!



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Spending a blissful week at a photogenic villa in the heart of Chianti

Sipping wine under a vine-draped pergola

Perfecting your pasta-making (and eating) skills

Welcome to Italy!

DAY 1: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

- Stretch your legs and discover Florence's charm
- Dine at one of Onward's favorite restaurants in Firenze

Benvenuti! Upon arrival, make your way into the center of Florence and settle in at Hotel Pendini, your comfortable and well located hotel. Meet fellow traveling companions and tour director Barbara Bandinelli (a Florentine!) at 5pm to head out for an evening stroll in Florence. Get the lay of the land and gaze at the absolutely stunning Duomo. Then enjoy a delicious dinner together with your traveling group. Toast the wonderful week ahead!

Meals Dinner

A Fanciful Day in Firenze

DAY 2: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

- See David up close and personal
- Discover Florence through its craftsmen

Florence is your oyster today! The day's first destination is Galleria dell'Accademia to see none other than Michelangelo's David. Barbara will interpret this work of art for you. Then, spend the rest of the morning exploring food markets and artisan workshops. Since the Medici-days, Florence has been famous for craftsmanship and is still home to goldsmiths, engravers, bookbinders, marquetry, glassworkers, and leather-workers. Barbara will take you to discover some of these artisans and stop at several bustling food markets while out and about, too.

After a full morning, you're on your own for lunch and shopping before reconvening for one last lovely dinner in Florence.

There is an option to visit Uffizi Gallery this afternoon with Barbara. Admission ticket (~ 25€) not included but Barbara's excellent guiding services are so take advantage of this if you'd like another art immersion in one of the world's most famous museums. Timing and details to be shared closer to the tour date.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Drinking in the Landscape

DAY 3: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29

- Experience Italian craftsmanship in a terracotta workshop
- Enjoy a gourmet dinner in a stone villa

This morning we're off to the heart of beautiful Tuscany. The first stop: Impruneta, a Tuscan town famous for terracotta. The tradition of making terracotta in this area goes back to the 14th century and the clay and craftsmanship combine beautifully! We'll tour a workshop and kiln.

Next, visit Onward Travel'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. After a short transfer, settle in for a week at our villa in the vineyards on the edge of Panzano in Chianti. If the sun is shining, relax in the villa's garden areas or stroll into town.

We'll gather tonight on the loggia, or open air porch, to enjoy the million dollar vineyard views and some wonderful Tuscan wines. A seasonal gourmet dinner will follow, prepared by Chef Mirella. Her menu is inspired by what's fresh and local, so you may see ingredients like pumpkin, porcini, and zucchini flowers on the menu. Local specialties will pair perfectly with the vino made from the grapes surrounding us.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WANT A LITTLE MORE TIME IN FLORENCE?

Perhaps you'd like more time to settle in in captivating Firenze? It is such a fabulous, beautiful city, do consider arriving early for extra days of self-guided fun in the seat of the Italian Renaissance! Florence is walkable and photogenic... full of markets, museums, cultural sites, and great restaurants.

Add extra nights at the lovely and well located Hotel Pendini. Breakfast and private en suite room included. Inquire with Onward about upgrading to Deluxe accommodations or for triple/quadruple rates and availability.

\$225 per night, double occupancy

\$200 per night, single occupancy

Cucina Italia

DAY 4: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30

- Admire Badia a Coltibuono's special and atmospheric setting
- Tour an atmospheric, underground wine cave

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.

Tonight, enjoy a free evening. We'll have a pot of soup at the villa for those who want to keep it lowkey. Or you might like to walk into Panzano and try the local winebar, Enoteca Baldi.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



Val d'Orcia Beauty

DAY 5: TUESDAY OCTOBER 1

- Go back in time in Montalcino
- Take a refreshing dip in thermal waters

Today we head south to the Val d'Orcia, a region carved out by the Orcia river that inspires everyone from Renaissance painters to you (just wait). The valley's unique beauty was recently recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site. Spend the morning in Montalcino, a medieval walled hilltop city with a fortress and a 16th century go-back-in-history vibe. Be sure to enjoy a glass of Brunello di Montalcino; there are many enotecas in town. There are also great little boutiques for shopping.

Midday we'll visit an organic farm that makes artisan pastas, for a tour and lunch. Our last stop is the village of Bagno Vignoni where we'll admire the steaming waters in the central piazza. The therapeutic hot waters have been bubbling since ancient days and it's a unique site. Enjoy a rejuvenating dip in the warm pools of an upscale hotel built around these tranquil surroundings.

We will drive back to the heart of Chianti as the sun starts to dip. Nothing beats driving in Tuscany at the magic hour! After a full day, return to the villa and have a delectable, homey dinner prepared by a local Nonna and her daughter featuring lasagna and local vegetables.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

COOKING AT BADIA A COLTIBUONO



Delicacies of Tuscany

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2

- Hunt for truffles in the hills of San Miniato
- Experience Dario Cecchini's landmark steak restaurant

This morning we're off to San Miniato, a hilltop town that serves as the capital of white truffles. The hills around San Miniato are a prime area for truffles. You can't cultivate the elusive fungus, it grows underground, close to the roots of oak, hazel, poplar and beech trees, and is only found in a handful of places around the world. The family hosting us today has been in the "truffle business" for several generations and they create their own line of truffle products.

We'll meet our host for a walk through the forest with her well trained truffle-sniffing dog. The flora and fauna are lovely and hopefully we'll be successful with truffles, too! Once at their house in the countryside, we'll learn more about truffles and savor a truffle themed lunch complete with Chianti wines.

After some R&R at the villa late afternoon, we'll walk into town for dinner featuring an icon of Toscana: Bistecca 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

Gothic Inspiration

DAY 7: THURSDAY OCTOBER 3

- Visit Siena's breathtaking Gothic duomo
- Roll up your sleeves and cook with Chef Mirella

Today we will depart after breakfast, and drive to Siena, a UNESCO world heritage sight that exploded with art and architecture in the 13th century before the Black Death struck in 1348. We'll commence our visit with an orientation walking tour by a knowledgeable and charming guide, that includes Siena's Gothic cathedral, Duomo of Santa Maria Asunta, where the beautiful mosaic floors will blow you away. Enjoy time on your own to have lunch and explore Siena.

Late afternoon, back at the villa, Chef Mirella will join us for a hands-on cooking class. At its heart, Tuscan cuisine is peasant food driven by what can be easily grown or procured in the region. Add some recipes to your arsenal and benefit from knowledge and experience passed down and learned by doing.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

OnwardTravel.co Based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley, New York

La Dolce Vita

DAY 8: FRIDAY OCTOBER 4

- Spend a leisurely morning in Panzano in Chianti
- Find an outlet for Tuscan inspiration in a guided watercolor lesson

Enjoy a slow morning at the villa...take a walk or relax by the swimming pool. Massages will be offered at the villa this morning (from 75€, Onward will send sign up info in advance). We will prepare a light lunch together at the villa and we'll eat outside if the Tuscan sun is shining. As lunch concludes, a local artist 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. We'll sketch and paint, and really see the surroundings.

Mid afternoon we're off to a tasting at Azienda Agricola Fontodi. Fontodi is a certified organic estate that has been owned by the Manetti family since the 60's. Our villa is part of the Fontodi estate and we'll enjoy their wines all week. So let's go to the source and learn about their winemaking and passion.

For a fun grand finale... we have a special dinner planned tonight! A pizzaiolo is coming to the villa with a portable wood-fired oven to make us a pizza feast. Sip a glass of bubbly while you enjoy a variety of pizzas, focaccia bread, and even dessert pizza. The pizza party of your dreams!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Arrivederci!

DAY 9: SATURDAY OCTOBER 5

Our wonderful time together has come to an end. Transportation to Florence will be organized this morning. *Buon viaggio!*

Meals Breakfast



THE VIEW FROM OUR VILLA

Trip Essentials

<p>BEGINS</p>	<p>Friday, September 27, 2024 Take a taxi to Hotel Pendini upon arrival (fixed rate 25€ from the airport and readily available). The tour will commence at Hotel Pendini at 5pm on 9/27.</p> <p><i>Travelers may elect to arrive early to Florence, see page 3 for more information.</i></p>
<p>ENDS</p>	<p>Saturday, October 5, 2024 Departure transfer provided to Florence Peretola Airport or Santa Maria Novella train station. A 7am transfer from the villa will get travelers to the airport in time for international flights departing after 10am. Book a flight departing between 10am-12pm or contact Onward Travel to discuss options for other arrangements. No activities are scheduled for this day.</p>
<p>SUITABILITY & MOBILITY</p>	<p><u>This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones.</u> Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided. The villa is located a 10-minute walk from the center of town, mostly uphill, and a few stairs are required to access the villa. Note the charming bathrooms have shower/tub combos.</p>
<p>TRIP LENGTH</p>	<p>9 days, 8 nights</p>
<p>LODGING</p>	<p>Hotel Pendini 2 nights <i>A refined 42-room hotel in Florence dating from 1876, located just a 5-minute walk from the Duomo. Comfortable rooms and an elegant breakfast room.</i></p> <p>Stay at a Tuscan villa! 6 nights <i>A 17th century stone villa that is part of the Fontodi wine estate. The villa is on the edge of town, just a 10-minute walk to Panzano in Chianti. The villa is surrounded by vines and garden plantings, with a peaceful atmosphere and a swimming pool. There is a wood-burning fireplace and panoramic terraces.</i></p>
<p>TOUR DATES & PRICE</p>	<p>September 27–October 5, 2024 Double Occupancy \$4,375 per traveler Single Supplement \$750</p> <p><i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are welcome to pay by credit card, a 3% surcharge will be added.</i></p>

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation in Italy.
- Two nights at elegant Hotel Pendini in Florence and six nights accommodations at a beautiful 17th century villa in Panzano in Chianti. Private en-suite rooms provided.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, five lunches, and seven dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Onward Travel Tour Director 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.

AIR TRAVEL & LOGISTICS:

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance. Most guests fly to/from Florence FLR but there are good train connections between Rome and Florence and Bologna and Florence. Onward Travel is able to arrange transfers to Rome, Bologna, or other destinations.



The Onward Travel Tour Director for this trip is *Barbara*

Barbara Bandinelli is a tour guide in her home city of Florence and Onward has been working with her there for so many years we’ve lost count! Her fun and interesting Florence walking tours are always a highlight of our travelers’ Tuscan experience.

Barbara considers herself a true Italian who loves “to talk, to chat, to eat, to drink” and she can’t wait to enjoy life together in Italy with you!

Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



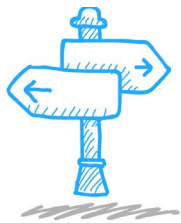
If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit www.travelex.com and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Italy it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full [Terms & Conditions](http://www.onwardtravel.co/terms) at www.onwardtravel.co/terms

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 15, 2024.



Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:
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