

# A Tuscan Villa Experience

Hosted by Berks County Association of School Retirees



Escort: Noreen Yost

March 16 – 23, 2010



**\$1,598** per person sharing (includes Air & Land from JFK)

**Single supplement: \$250-limited availability**

**\*US Departure taxes: \$125 Additional**

**Optional Travel Insurance: \$99 per person. Insurance must be purchased with initial deposit, non-refundable**

*Tuscany is the very cradle of the Italian language and culture – a place everyone should visit at least once. Art and history come to life in the medieval towns and cities. The landscape is one of rolling hills, cypress pines, vine-covered hills, fields of sunflowers and quaint hilltop villages. Chianti, the best known Italian wine is made here. Enjoy the local foods and the Tuscan lifestyle.*

**Space is limited & on a first come, first serve basis, so reserve your seat now!**

*\*Note: Above tour cost is based on a minimum of 20 passengers traveling. Departure tax and fuel surcharge subject to increase until 30 days prior to departure.*

**Day 1**                    **JFK – ROME:** Depart JFK's International Airport on your overnight flight to Rome. Dinner served  
**Tuesday**                    shortly after take off. Sit back, relax and enjoy the flight!  
**March 16:**

**Day 2**                    **ROME – TUSCANY:** Morning arrival into Rome Airport, where we are met by our driver. We travel  
**Wednesday**                    north to the Florence area. As we continue our journey, we view the scenic Tuscan hills. We arrive at our  
**March 17:**                    villa hotel in Figline Valdarno, just outside of Florence, in the late afternoon. Enjoy a wine tasting at the  
                                         villa, followed by free time to get acquainted with this lovely villa. Enjoy a welcome "Tuscan Dinner"  
                                         with the group at the villa (*water & wine included*). Buon Appetito! Overnight at the Villa Casagrande in  
                                         Figline Valdarno.

**Day 3**                    **FLORENCE:** After breakfast at the hotel, we journey to Florence. Stroll down cobblestone lanes,  
**Thursday**                    through majestic squares and across ancient bridges, pausing along the way to visit and learn about  
**March 18:**                    Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the cathedral and Giotto's bell tower and the Accademia (*entrance  
                                         fee and reservation included*). Lunch is on your own. Florence offers the largest number of historical  
                                         buildings and works of art in Italy, as well as several world-class museums. You might like to do a little  
                                         leather, gold or clothing shopping near Ponte Vecchio. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at the  
                                         Villa Casagrande.

**Day 4**                    **VILLA CASAGRANDE:** After breakfast at the Villa, enjoy a day at leisure. Visit the exercise room, rent  
**Friday**                    bikes, go horseback riding, take a walk or visit the wine cellar and the museum at the Villa which has been  
**March 19:**                    host to popes and princes. (You can easily reach Florence or many quaint towns, such as Arezzo by train  
                                         during your free time. Trains are frequently available from the Figline Valdarno railway station. To  
                                         Florence takes about 30 minutes). Dinner on your own. Overnight at the Villa.

## **OPTIONAL TOUR, SIENA & SAN GIMIGNANO:**

**\$108 per person (20+ passengers) / \$180 p.p. (10+ passengers)**

*Breakfast at the hotel Depart to Siena, where after meeting our local guide, we visit this wonderful city.*

*Siena is the city of the blessed Virgins and the "Balzana", black and white; decisive, just as its heraldic symbol; passionate and contemplative; always climbing and descending; clear and at the same time obscure; steep and narrow streets; the red of the Piazza del Campo appearing blinding and suddenly. In the alleys, in the museums and oratories of the Contrada, the spiritual songs of the Palio evoke very ancient rituals and modern allegories, while during the evening the shuffling of soles on the deserted pavement is in contrast with the peacefulness of the green valleys providentially enclosed within the wall, which ancient administrators had erected hundreds of years before it became common practice. Meet your local guide at San Domenico Church at 9.30am. After lunch on your own, depart to San Gimignano for a visit on your own (NO GUIDE. 02.30pm) - Enjoy a superior wine tasting at a local cellar: The towered silhouette of San Gimignano rising from the hills of the Upper Elsa Valley, facing the land of Volterra and positioned right on one of the most important stretches of the medieval Via Francigena, is famous all over the world. A similar renown can also be claimed by its Vernaccia wine, recently awarded the D.O.C.G., the highest acknowledgement and guarantee for quality in Italian oenology. Return in the evening to the Villa Casagrande.*



**Day 5**  
**Saturday**  
**March 20:**

**BOLOGNA:** This morning after breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a day trip to BOLOGNA. Bologna is the capital of this prosperous region of Italy: Emilia Romagna. Not yet discovered by mass tourism, the city is the ideal choice for cultural interludes as well as leisure activities and relaxation. Bologna has a number of nicknames: la dotta (the learned) for its ancient university, la rossa (the red) for the warm color of its roofs and houses, and la grassa (the fat) for the wonderful food. Enjoy a morning guided tour of the city, including such landmarks as Piazza Maggiore, Fountain of Neptune and the Two towers. Afternoon on your own for shopping or sightseeing. Depart in the late afternoon by bus to return to your hotel. Dinner is on your own and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 6**  
**Sunday**  
**March 21:**

**VILLA CASAGRANDE – FREE DAY:** After breakfast at the hotel enjoy the day at your leisure. Dinner (included) and overnight at the villa.

**OPTIONAL TOUR: LUCCA & PISA:**

**\$90 per person (20+ passengers) / \$160 p.p. (10+ passengers)**

*Breakfast at the hotel – Depart to Lucca, where after meeting our local guide, we visit this perfectly preserved, mediaeval, walled town with its magnificent ramparts. The most wonderful small town; its famous walls enclose a place that can be wandered with ease yet remains full of secrets. One of Italy's finest medieval treasures, the centre is relatively unspoiled and is sprinkled with palazzi, towers and almost countless splendid churches. Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Pisa, where after a panoramic drive by bus along the Arno embankments, the tour proceeds with a guided visit of Piazza dei Miracoli to find the celebrated Leaning Tower, now the best known building. (1/2 Day Guide – NO ENTRANCE FEES INCLUDED). Free time for Lunch. In the afternoon Depart by bus to Lucca, the elegant and refined Tuscan town. Pleasant walk with your step on guide who will take you along the famous sixteen century walls, then entering into the enchanting historical centre where you will have the chance to admire the amazing Piazza Anfiteatro, the Torre Giunigi, the Duomo di San Martino and the typical "antique dealers' street." Return to the hotel – Dinner and overnight.*



**Day 7**  
**Monday**  
**March 22:**

**FIGLINE VALDARNO – FREE DAY:** After breakfast at the hotel, the day is free on your own. Time for some last minute shopping or sightseeing. Perhaps take a train to Florence or Arezzo. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner (water & wine included) at the hotel.

**Day 8**  
**Tuesday**  
**March 23:**

**FIGLINE VALDARNO – ROME – JFK:** Early morning transfer to Florence Airport for your return flight home, taking with you the memories of the best of Italy. "Arrivederci" a nostalgic goodbye with a promise to return.

**TOUR INCLUDES:** Roundtrip air from JFK Airport to Italy ♦ 6 Nights Accommodation at the Villa Casagrande in Figline Valdarno ♦ Continental buffet breakfast daily, except day of arrival ♦ Deluxe motor coach transportation, including airport transfers in Italy ♦ One (1) Welcome dinner at the hotel with wine & water included ♦ One (1) Farewell dinner at the hotel with wine & water included ♦ One (1) Dinner at the Restaurant in Villa Casagrande (drinks not included) ♦ One (1) wine tasting at Villa Casagrande ♦ Assistance for Meet and greet at Rome's Fiumicino Apt (only at the arrival) ♦ Half Day Guided Tours of Florence & Bologna ♦ Visits/admissions: Accademia (reservation & headphones) ♦ \$45 p.p. Donation to the Berks County Association of School Retirees ♦ Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person ♦ Local taxes in Italy. NOTE: Gratuity to the driver, tour escort and local guides are not included ♦ Celtic Tours flight bag and portfolio of travel documents.

**TOUR COST**

**\$1,598** per person sharing  
Single supplement \$250-limited availability  
Travel Insurance: \$99 per person, non-refundable  
**(Insurance must be purchased with deposit)**  
US Departure taxes \$125 additional. Fuel surcharge  
& taxes subject to change until 30 days prior to departure.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

**\$300** per person due with reservation , plus  
insurance premium (if electing) is required to  
reserve seat (non-refundable)  
**\$1,100** per person second deposit due:  
**November 27, 2009**  
**Final payment is due: DECEMBER 28, 2009**

\*NOTE: Tickets, once purchased by November 27, 2009 are non-refundable and will have a minimum cancellation penalty of \$674 per person. Departure taxes/fuel surcharges are subject to increase until February 8, 2010. Once tickets are issued, a name change fee of \$300 per ticket will result if names are spelled incorrectly (must be exactly as listed on passport). Air mileage is not allowed for group space. Seating assignments for group space are given by airline at check-in; there are no exceptions for this. **Deviations are not allowed. Cancellation – Land Penalty:** From initial deposit – November 10, 2009, a \$300 land penalty per person will apply. From November 11 – December 28, 2009, a \$650 per person land penalty applies. On or after February 22, 2010, cancellations made after business hours, there is no refund. Cancellations must be made during Celtic Tours business hours, Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm EST. Travel Insurance is available at \$99 p.p. and is recommended. Penalties waived for covered reason with our Travel Protection Plan. **Travel insurance must be purchased with initial reservation/deposit in order to cover pre existing conditions.** Celtic Tours, Tom Schmoyer, Noreen Yost & the Berks County Association of School Retirees accept no responsibility for losses or expenses due to delay or changes in schedule, flight cancellations due to mechanical problems, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes. Passenger must bear all such losses or expenses. The Berks County Association of School Retirees, its trustees, members, Tom Schmoyer and Noreen Yost (tour escorts) will not be held responsible for any personal injury, property damage or other loss a passenger incurs on this tour. Celtic Tours, Tom Schmoyer, Noreen Yost & the Berks County Association of School Retirees reserve the right to alter the tour due to any unforeseen circumstances beyond its control. Airline tariffs limit liability for passenger baggage. Group organizers/Leaders are not employed as such by Celtic Tours World Vacations or the sponsoring organization. Group organizers/Leaders are independent travel advisors/organizers.

**Please Print**

**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on *the A Tuscan Villa Experience • Escort: Noreen Yost • Mar. 16 – 23, 2010*

**Name (as on passport):** \_\_\_\_\_

**American Citizen:** YES:  NO:

**Passport Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXP DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

**Phone: (home):** \_\_\_\_\_ **(work):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please indicate if roommate is sending deposit with separate reservation application: YES:  NO:

**Roommate name (as on passport):** \_\_\_\_\_

**American Citizen:** YES:  NO:

**Roommate Passport Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXP DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

**Phone: (home):** \_\_\_\_\_ **(work):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type: Twin  Triple  Single  (Supplement \$250 limited availability)

Travel Protection: \$99 per person: YES:  NO:  (MUST be purchased with deposit. Non-refundable)

OPTIONAL: R/T Bus Berks County-JFK YES:  NO:  (cost TBA)

**OPTIONAL TOURS:**

Siena & San Gimignano Tour: YES:  NO:  Additional \$108 p.p. (20+ passengers) / \$180 p.p. (10+ passengers)

Lucca & Pisa Tour YES:  NO:  Additional \$90 p.p. (20+ passengers) / \$160 p.p. (10+ passengers)

**Enclosed is my/our deposit of \$** \_\_\_\_\_ (300 per person required, plus insurance, non-refundable)

**SECOND PAYMENT OF \$1,100 PER PERSON DUE: NOVEMBER 27, 2009**

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE: DECEMBER 28, 2009**

**Further Inquiries – Please Contact:** Tom Schmoyer at 610-678-3717 or

Susan Sheehan (Celtic Tours) at Tel: 800-833-4373 Ext 328 • email: [susans@celtictours.com](mailto:susans@celtictours.com) • Fax: 518-862-1820

Please make checks payable and send to: **CELTIC TOURS- 1860 Western Ave, Albany NY 12203**

**All Major Credit Cards Accepted – please complete authorization below and mail to Celtic Tours or fax to 518-862-1820:**

I have read the terms and conditions per the brochure/flyer and understand that I may incur service charges, penalties and/or cancellation fees in the event of cancellation or change in my itinerary for any reason. **You may if you wish, give Celtic Tours permission to charge each payment as per the payment schedule, payments will be processed on the due dates.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ authorize Celtic Tours to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Security code is last 3/ 4 digit number located on the **back** of card for MC/VISA/Discover: AMEX on front of card.

By signing here: \_\_\_\_\_ I additional authorize Celtic Tours to charge my second payment due on **NOVEMBER 27, 2009** and my final payment due on **DECEMBER 28, 2009** to my credit card.