

FLAVORS OF TUSCANY

Dear Fellow Columbian,

Join alumni and friends from May 21 to 29, 2026 for an unforgettable journey to Italy's enchanting Tuscany region. Explore the bucolic countryside that has provided inspiration for artisans, chefs, and vintners for generations. Every day of this specially crafted itinerary presents a symphony of unique experiences and intimate excursions, each promising an authentic view into the history, traditions, and genuine essence of Tuscany.

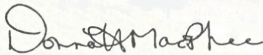
During this adventure you'll stay at the distinguished Castello La Leccia, an architectural gem steeped in medieval history. Picture yourself awakening to panoramic views of undulating hills and vineyards from your elegantly appointed room, where the captivating ambiance mirrors the enthralling beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Guided city tours, hands-on cooking demonstrations, and various tastings will thrill each of your senses. This immersive journey is an exclusive opportunity to deeply connect with the rich tapestry of Italian culture.

The Columbia Alumni Association's (CAA) mission is to cultivate a global community of Columbia alums, students, faculty, and staff to explore interests, exchange ideas, and take actions that enrich one another, the University, and the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to Columbia alumni and is an opportunity to continue one's Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

Space is limited, and will be shared with participants from cosponsoring alumni associations. Please contact the CAA Travel Study Program office at (866) 325-8664, or at travelstudy@columbia.edu for more details and to reserve your place today.

Kind regards,



Donna H. MacPhee '89CC, P: '17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

For more information: Please call (866) 325-8664 or visit <http://alumni.columbia.edu/travel>.

Flavors of Tuscany | Itinerary Highlights (subject to change)

Day 1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

1

Day 2 ARRIVE IN FLORENCE, ITALY | CASTELLINA (D)

2

Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the property. Take time to unpack and settle in before joining fellow travel companions for a convivial four-course welcome dinner.

Day 3 CASTELLO LA LECCIA (B,L,D) Today meet with

3

chefs from the property for an informative, hands-on cooking experience. Learn the secrets of preparing traditional pasta and bread, then indulge on your creations during a leisurely lunch. The remainder of the afternoon take advantage of free time to fully immerse yourself in Castello La Leccia's varied amenities. Stroll through the meticulously maintained gardens where the fragrance of lavender and rosemary fills the air. Admire the endless panoramic views as you relax by the outdoor pool. Later gather together for a guided tour to explore the vineyards and production area. Learn about the winemaking process and savor the varietals during a tasting.

Day 4 PIENZA (B,L,D) Set out for the charming

4

village of Pienza. Known as "the ideal city of the Renaissance," this UNESCO World Heritage Site was designed to exemplify the principles and philosophy of classical times and the great Italian Renaissance. Continue to Podere Il Casale, a small organic farm, to meet the owners Ulisse and Sandra—a husband-and-wife duo who moved from Switzerland to Tuscany in 1991 to pursue their dreams of creating a sustainable farm-to-table lifestyle. Join them for a tour of the grounds while gaining insight into the concept of the slow food movement. Be seated for lunch featuring ingredients grown on and harvested from the farm. Return to the property with time to freshen up before another five-star gastronomic experience—a four-course dinner paired with wines from the region.

Day 5 CORTONA (B,D) Travel to the hilltop town of

5

Cortona where a local guide will escort you through neo-Gothic Santa Margherita Basilica, past Villa Bramasole, around Cortona's city center, and to the Etruscan museum. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore Cortona.

Day 6 VOLTERRA | SAN GIMIGNANO (B,D) Marvel

6

at the ancient allure of Volterra—an Etruscan and Roman center high atop a hill in a volcanic region—surrounded by fortification walls. Famous for its alabaster quarries, the town's artisans carve unique handmade alabaster crafts and souvenirs. Continue to San Gimignano—the "New York of the Middle Ages" and UNESCO World Heritage Site—whose horizon of iconic towers resembles modern skyscrapers. During an inside visit of San Gimignano's Romanesque Duomo view colorful frescoes including *The Creation of Adam and Eve* and *Last Judgement*. Following lunch on your own meet Sergio Dondoli, master gelato creator and owner of Gelateria Dondoli, for a decadent tasting.

Day 7 MONTERIGGIONI | CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI |

7

GAIOLE (B,L,D) Visit the walled medieval village of Monteriggioni—a popular stop on the Via Francigena pilgrim trail. See the medieval abbey at Abbazia di Isola, then stroll through the shops in the small village of Castellina in Chianti. This evening visit Badia a Coltibuono for a cooking class with Benedetta Vitali who will demonstrate the simple techniques and preparations of classic Tuscan dishes. Afterward gather in the dining room for a special dinner.

Day 8 SIENA (B,D) Today's highlight features a visit

8

to Siena—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—to admire its remarkably well-preserved medieval cityscape. Spared from major modern industrial development, Siena's original 15th-century street plan and Gothic architecture remain unchanged. Explore the celebrated Duomo and admire the Sanctuary of Santa Caterina—a place of pilgrimage. During free time wander the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo. This afternoon meet Lorenzo Rossi, a third-generation artisan baker and owner of Il Magnifico. He will share his special family traditions of baking unique Siennese sweets. Tonight join fellow travel companions for a farewell dinner at Castello La Leccia to celebrate the captivating week spent exploring Tuscany.

Day 9 CASTELLINA | FLORENCE | DEPART FOR

9

U.S. (B) After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)



What's Included

- 7 nights accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 7 dinners served with wine
- All lessons, private tours and tastings, and unique small-group excursions noted in the 9-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Group airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Activity Level: We expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle, and often it is not possible for your motor coach to drop you off at site entrances. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for those with mobility issues may be limited.



Orbridge

Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.



Accommodations (subject to change)

Become part of *la famiglia* as you settle into this authentic Tuscan wine estate. Sip a glass of Chianti on a sun-dappled terrace, stroll the grounds and admire vineyards draped with Sangiovese, Merlot and Petit Verdot grapes.

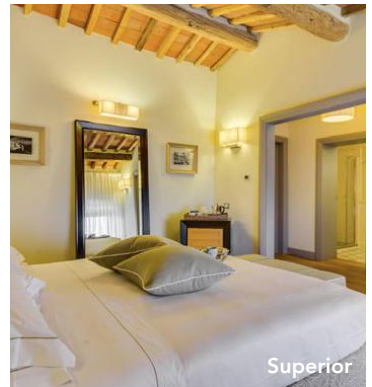
Historical sources cite that La Leccia castle's ownership was divided among 16 owners for strategic purposes. Near the mid-1400s, the Ricasoli family dominated a large part of the Chianti Classico region as well as the castle.

After being modified to serve more as a villa in the 18th century, the entire property was purchased in 1920 by Giuliano Daddi, great-grandfather of the current proprietors, and subsequently was the site of heavy bombardments during WWII that destroyed part of the tower, the last medieval testimony and devastated a wing of the villa.

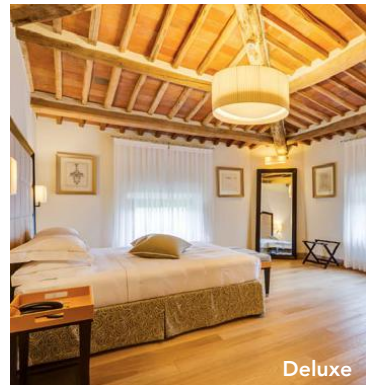
Recently undergoing more than four years of careful and rigorous restoration, the castle and the surrounding garden have returned to life.

With a focus on sustainability and the environment, the original spaces remain intact but feature modern enhancements using eco-compatible materials and technologies. To warm the surroundings, wooden floors, beamed ceilings, pastel colors and furniture were designed exclusively for the common spaces and made by Florentine craftsmen.

Each room offers climate control, desk, LCD TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, safe, minibar, and en suite bathroom with a shower or tub and shower, sundries and hairdryer.



Superior



Deluxe

CATEGORIES

Superior: Enjoy elegant furnishings and a serene area to unwind after an enriching day of exploration (approx. 301-484 sq.ft.).

Deluxe: Delight in absolute refinement with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. Each room is different from the others, but all provide modern comforts and tasteful décor (approx. 452-603 sq.ft.).



Pool



Optional Post-Tour Florence

Florence is arguably the cultural capital of Europe and the showcase of Renaissance exuberance. Lovers of beauty, art and history can extend their experience in Tuscany to embrace the treasures of this magnificent city.

Day 9 **DEPART CASTELLINA | ARRIVE IN FLORENCE (L)** Upon arrival meet a local art historian guide for a walking tour of the historic city center. In Piazza della Repubblica discover the city's beginnings as a Roman settlement. Wander through narrow streets past the fortified houses and towers that marked the medieval town. See the Duomo and Ponte Vecchio then cap off the morning with lunch at the local market. Walk through the market shops where families have been serving up culinary treasures for generations. Taste different local specialties, such as not-to-be-missed finocchiona salami or Tuscan crostino, paired with a glass of fine Chianti. Visit an artisanal shop specializing in hand-decorated paper. Learn about the history of marbling then take part in a hands-on activity creating your own marbled paper as a keepsake. The evening at leisure.

Day 10 **FLORENCE (B)** Join your guide and walk to the historic center to visit the Baptistery of San Giovanni, one of the oldest churches in Florence and a symbol of the city. With an octagonal plan it represents a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. Next enjoy a tour of the Uffizi Gallery† which has drawn visitors to view masterpieces by important artists of the Renaissance, including Da Vinci, Giotto, Botticelli, Tiziano and Michelangelo. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 11 **FLORENCE | DEPART FOR U.S. (B)** After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

What's Included

- 2 nights at Hotel De La Ville (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch (a local market experience and tasting)
- Guided art history and cultural tour, plus a panoramic walking tour of Florence's historical highlights
- Visit to an artisanal workshop (leather or jewelry)
- Private boat tour on the Arno River (dependent on river conditions)
- Admission to the Uffizi Gallery and Baptistery of San Giovanni
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guide, drivers and porters
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times



†The Uffizi Gallery tour is included in this itinerary because it holds a significant number of masterpieces. Touring will conclude at approximately 12:30 pm. Guests who would like to see Michelangelo's statue of David at Accademia Gallery may additionally schedule their own visit during leisure time. We recommend securing a reservation in advance online at: <https://www.galleriaaccademiafirenze.it/visita/>.



MAY 21-29, 2026

Florence Post-Tour: May 29-31, 2026

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

Phone: (866) 325-8664

Email: travelstudy@columbia.edu

Online: <http://alumni.columbia.edu/travel>

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*	DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON	
Superior	\$6,799	\$6,295	\$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour	
Deluxe	\$8,099	\$7,595	*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included. **An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com. Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms. CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994	
Single (Superior)	\$10,099	\$9,595		
Category	Florence Post-Tour Standard Rate	Special Rate*		
Double	\$2,099	\$1,895		
Single	\$2,699	\$2,495		

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.





COLUMBIA | Alumni

Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program
PO Box 930
Riverside, CT 06878

FLAVORS OF TUSCANY

MAY 21-29, 2026

Special Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

30-DAY REFUND GUARANTEE

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by
September 26, 2025**

What Guests Are Saying...

Many highlights. The accommodations were truly impressive. The dinner service was a joy to behold. The staff enjoyed their work which added to the dinner. Food was excellent and wine was plentiful. Every day was a new experience in the life of Tuscany.

~Marvin & Pam S., Albuquerque, NM

We reserve the right to cancel or substitute faculty. We cannot guarantee the size of the Columbia group. The Columbia Alumni Association may receive nominal compensation for this travel program contingent upon a minimum number of Columbia University affiliated participants traveling under the auspices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 825
SAN DIEGO, CA