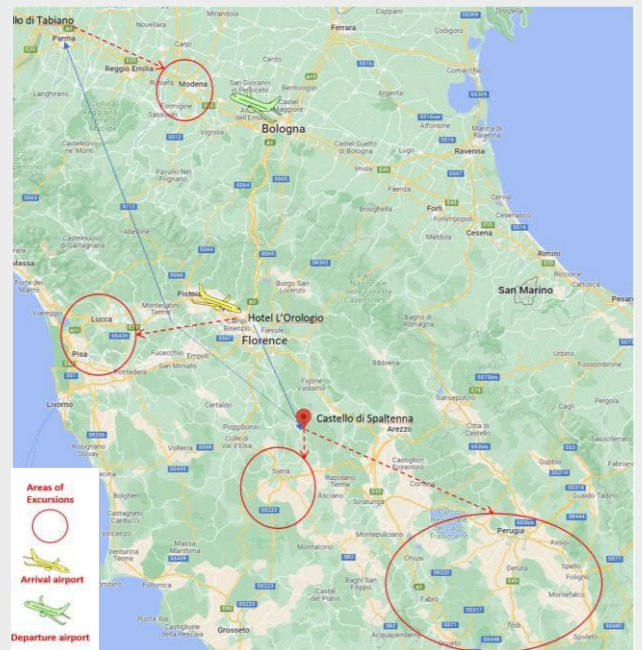


# TUSCANY & FOOD VALLEY, Verdi & Pavarotti Plus!

Sep 26th - Oct 7th, 2024

Join Cristina Fontanelli on this exclusive and unique journey through the treasures of Tuscany and Emilia Romagna including Pavarotti's house with a one of kind gala dinner performance by Ms. Fontanelli, the immortal music of Giuseppe Verdi during the famous Parma Verdi Opera Festival, the Ferrari Museum and much more! Limited openings! Call for details and reserve today! (212) 967-1926



## **The package ( 10 nights/ 12 days ) includes:**

- ◆ 3 Nights Florence: Hotel L’Orologio - 4S\* <https://www.hotelorologioflorence.com>
  - ◆ 4 Nights Spaltenna: Castello di Spaltenna - 5\* <https://www.spaltenna.it>
  - ◆ 3 Nights Parma: Castello di Tabiano - Hotel de Charme - 4\* <https://www.castelloditabiano.com>
  
  - ◆ Meal plan:
    - ◆ 10 breakfasts
    - ◆ 13 Lunches/Dinners
  
  - ◆ Orvieto Cooking class on a farm
  - ◆ Gala dinner concert starring Cristina overlooking Florence
  - ◆ Chianti Region Winery, Olive oil and balsamic vinegar tasting.
  
  - ◆ Visits (including entrance fees)
    - ◆ Walking tour of Florence with Accademia
    - ◆ Pisa & Lucca with Puccini Museum
    - ◆ Gala Dinner concert starring Cristina Fontanelli
    - ◆ Assisi
    - ◆ Siena/San Gimignano
    - ◆ Orvieto
    - ◆ Pavarotti House museum
    - ◆ Prosciutto, Parmigiano and Culatello factories
    - ◆ Verdi museum and House
    - ◆ Ticket for the Opera at Teatro Verdi Busseto\*\* and/or the Teatro Regio Parma
    - ◆ Ferrari Museum
    - ◆ Florence river cruise with on board aperitif
    - ◆ Deluxe motorcoach with WIFI
    - ◆ Tour leader throughout the itinerary
    - ◆ Local guides for the visits
    - ◆ Hotel and service taxes (excluded city tax)
    - ◆ All portorage
    - ◆ Airport transfers
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|--|---|
|  | <b><u>Not included</u></b>                                      |
|  | ◆ Tips and gratuities for local guides, drivers and tour leader |
|  | ◆ Personal expenses   |
|  | ◆ Anything not included in the features.                        |
|  | ◆ Travel insurance  |

\*\* subject to reconfirmation

\*\*\*Extensions are available to remain in Bologna for the Food Exhibition: **FICO World Bologna**; Venice, Milan, Rome or any customized itinerary.

## 9/26 – Departure from the US

### 9/27 – Arrival in Florence—Transfer to your hotel – Free time

In the afternoon you'll enjoy a romantic and relaxing boat ride followed by an exclusive aperitivo. Florence riverbanks houses some of the most beautiful ancient noble palaces. This tour will let you discover the romantic soul of this Renaissance city right before sunset, when it's flooded by the most magic light making the marbled buildings and statues seem softer and warmer. Enjoy a nice short walk-through **Piazza Signoria** and under the **Uffizi Gallery**, seeing the **Pontevecchio** (old bridge) from the bank, all the way through to the "embarcadero". Get aboard the "barchetto", the Florentine Gondola, one of the very few traditional wooden boats left in Florence, conducted by a florentine "barcaiolo". The voice of your expert guide will unveil the secrets of the Arno River, as you stroll on its calm waters, pass under the magnificent Florentine bridges and discover its history and the beautiful Palazzos that frame its ancient river bed. - Welcome dinner at local restaurant (D)

### 9/28 – Walking tour of Florence and visit Accademia / Uffizi

Get the chance to have a walk through the amazing center of Florence and discover its unique secular heritage and breathtaking beauty with an expert and fun tour guide. Our tour explores the historic and architectural evolution factors from the Roman foundation through medieval centuries and its Renaissance glorious period up to modern time Florence. Then enter the **Accademia Gallery Museum** with a fast-track priority entrance ticket and discover the original **Michelangelo's David**, a masterpiece that has become the symbol of Renaissance splendor. Your guide will then show you around the **Florence Market** where you'll stroll around the multiple food stand, and you'll have your lunch. (B,L)

### 9/29 – Full day excursion to Pisa & Lucca

Upon arrival in the elegant and refined town of Lucca, a pleasant walk with our guide will take you along the famous sixteen century walls, then entering into the enchanting historical center where you will have the chance to admire the amazing **Piazza Anfiteatro**, the **Torre Guinigi**, the **Duomo di San Martino** and the typical "antique dealers' street". The tour ends with a typical local pastry tasting in a historic downtown café. We will then visit the birth place of the composer Giacomo Puccini. After some free time, you'll depart for the historical town of Pisa, renowned for its architectural masterpieces. A guided walking tour of **Piazza dei Miracoli** (exterior) awaits you in Pisa, with the celebrated **Leaning Tower**, the **Baptistry**, the **Cathedral**, unrivalled masterpiece of Romanesque art constructed between the 11th and 12th centuries and other important monuments. As the tour ends you will have some free time for shopping or to take pictures. Dinner with **Cristina Fontanelli concert** (B,D)

### 9/30 – Check out of hotel in Florence and travel to Spaltenna—Check in at your hotel

In the afternoon Get ready for a wonderful excursion between mysticism, art and breathtaking landscapes along Umbrian and Tuscan roads! Check in at your hotel and free time before dinner at your hotel.(B,D)

### 10/1 – Visit of Orvieto - Cooking class with chef Lorenzo Polegri & lunch at Casa Segreta

Orvieto is a medieval Umbrian city with its world famous "wonders": the **tufa outcrop**, the **Duomo** and the **Saint Patrick's Well** and the whole ancient town center filled with narrow streets, beautiful churches, historic palace and the suggestive underground life: a **maze of tunnels and caves**. Beside the historic center you'll be captivated by the surroundings of Orvieto bordering the Italian regions of Lazio and Tuscany, with green hills cultivated with olive trees and vineyards and mountains as a backdrop. During your visit to Orvieto you'll meet Chef and instructor **Lorenzo Polegri**. He'll host you on his farmhouse for a cooking class full of fun and learning. Lorenzo first started consulting in the United States in 1992, and established lasting contacts primarily in New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. In 2000, he was the chef in charge of the Orvieto-Aiken, SC twin cities program, and in 2001, was the head chef at the "Italian Food Festival" at the United Nations headquarters in NYC, coordinating the Italian team, cooking After lunch we will heading to **Assisi**. Once in Assisi you will start a guided tour of the city center, leading to all the most important monuments and treasures of the town! You will explore the stunning **Basilica of San Francesco**, a UNESCO heritage site, center of the Francis- can spirituality and the gothic **Basilica of Santa Chiara**, where the crucifix that spoke to San Francesco is kept. Walking through the narrow streets, you will perceive the unique atmosphere of the city with its beauty and deep spirituality. You'll have lunch at local restaurant and then you'll head to the superb **Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli**, built around the famous little church of the "Porziuncola", where Saint Francis acknowledged his vocation and founded the Order of the Minor Friars

## 10/2 – Excursion to Siena/San Gimignano

Morning at your leisure and in the afternoon you'll visit Siena with its historic center, monuments and discover all the secrets that lie behind one of the most passionate competitions in Italy: **The Palio of Siena. Piazza del Campo**, the heart of Siena. Three main streets branch off from the square, and you will visit them all with our tour guide, who will reveal the anecdotes of such amazing events and the story of Siena. Free time to walk around and discover San **Gimignano**, a fairy tale village situated on a hill overlooking Val d'Elsa, where you'll have a traditional meal in accordance to the Tuscan-Senese cuisine. San Gimignano's historical center has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1990. We believe that its charm and atmosphere, will make you want to come back.. Lunch at local restaurant (B,L)

## 10/3 – Full day vineyard experience with visit to winery and oil mill

If you always wanted to find yourselves surrounded by the Tuscan trademark nature on the way to explore the Chianti Region, well you will love this experience. This excursion will eventually lead you to one of the best wineries of the area, the **Tenuta di Torciano** known for its incredible photo-inspiring landscapes and cozy, classic architecture, today mixed with contemporary style and the best techniques. Chianti produces some of the most celebrated red wines in the world. You will have a chance of a deep, confidential chat with wineries owners and a great meal will follow, naturally. This is more than 'dining in Tuscany', this is going to the roots of Tuscany through its most precious ingredients and traditions. Lunch will be served at the winery among the vineyards. We will then return to Spaltenna and dinner at Hotel. (B,L,D)

## 10/4 – Check out from your hotel in Spaltenna and drive to Parma

On the way to **Parma**, stop in **Modena** to visit a Balsamic Vinegar loft where you'll have a light lunch with also a tasting of the amazing balsamic vinegar at the "acetaia". After there will be a transfer to Modena and visit the **Luciano Pavarotti Museum**. Quick visit to the Modena city center, **UNESCO Piazza Grande and Cathedral**— Transfer to Parma, accommodation at your hotel in Tabiano. Dinner at local restaurant - Overnight stay at hotel (B,L,D)

## 10/5 - Visit of Busseto and attend Opera performance – Teatro Regio di Parma and/or Teatro Verdi in Busseto

The program of the day will be planned according to the showtime schedule of the Opera. You'll visit Verdi's land including **Giuseppe Verdi's Birth House, Villa Verdi in Sant'Agata, Barezzi House** in Busseto and **Renata Tebaldi Museum** in Villa Pallavicino. Light lunch at a Restaurant in Busseto. Arrival at Teatro Verdi in Busseto or Teatro Regio di Parma for Opera performance. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel. (B,L)

## 10/6 - Parma and Parmigiano Reggiano

Transfer to Parma. Meet the guide and visit Parma, Italian Capital of Culture and UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. A step back in time in Piazza Duomo with a visit to the imposing medieval Cathedral and pink-marble Baptistry. Next is a visit to the **Pilotta Monumental Complex**, with its amazing and unique wooden theatre Teatro Farnese and the **National Gallery with works by Correggio, Parmigianino, Leonardo** and other extraordinary artists. Lunch at leisure in Parma city center. – Afternoon tour of the Ferrari Museum. Farewell dinner at local restaurant (B,D)

## 10/7 - Departure Day

Breakfast at hotel. Check-out. Transfer to Airport for your Departure to US (B)



# HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

## Hotel Orologio 4\*S – Firenze



## Castello di Spaltenna 5\* - Gaiole in Chianti



## Castello Tabiano Relais of Charme - Tabiano (Parma)



### Package Rates

	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
Rates per person	\$6,850.00	\$2,400.00
Airfare	\$	