



What could be better than a dreamy vacation to Florence (and Tuscany) in early spring!

It's a perfect time of year to visit this amazing city and region in Italy. There are fewer crowds, and the weather is simply divine; it couldn't be more perfect!

Tuscany and Florence are precious for a reason. This sun-kissed region with its golden hues and vast sprawling vineyards is special each and every time you visit. And if you think you've seen it, think again. Every time we visit this region, we are as enchanted as the first time as we discover new and glorious things with each stay.

Florence, capital of Italy's Tuscany region, is home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. One of its most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The Galleria dell'Accademia displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation."

We'll visit and explore it all; we'll also experience the Tuscan countryside as we visit San Gimignano, Lucca, Pisa and Cortona. Of course, there will be wine and olive oil tastings, luscious lunches at wonderful restaurants; and special dinners prepared by Christina...what more can you ask for?

And the price couldn't be more reasonable, only \$5,595.00 per person (double occupancy, and \$5,995.00 per person single occupancy, (plus airfare). Plan now on joining us for this special adventure.

The Journey Begins

Friday, March 20, 2026

Depart USA for Florence Italy

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Arrive in Florence and Transfer to our hotel, Il Guelfo Bianco



Upon arrival in Florence, we'll transfer via bus to our hotel, just a couple of blocks from the Duomo. Hotel Il Guelfo Bianco is a boutique, four-star hotel in the center of Florence. It is located in a carefully restored building dating back to the 15th century, and is close to all the major tourist attractions.

We'll get settled in and relax before enjoying an amazing chocolate tasting at Slitti Chocolate Experience, one of the most awarded chocolates in the world. We'll get to know each other with beverages and snacks, followed by some needed relaxation before an amazing dinner prepared by Christina.

Sunday, March 22, 2026

It's off to tour with our amazing guide Isabella



We'll have breakfast at the hotel before departing for a walking tour of Florence with Isabella. We'll begin our visit with a tour of its most exquisite piazzas and iconic sights, like the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto; we'll visit the Galleria dell'Accademia display of Michelangelo's "David" colossal. Following our tour, we'll enjoy lunch at one of our favorite restaurants in Florence. After lunch, you'll have a free afternoon to explore and shop before

enjoying a luscious dinner prepared by Christina.

Monday, March 23, 2026

Our day begins with a wine tasting and then an afternoon in San Gimignano



Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart for Tamburini Vineyard in the quaint village of Gambassi Terme. Here we'll enjoy a tour of the vineyard, and feast on an amazing on

lunch prepared by our hosts. Following our tasting we'll spend the late afternoon in San Gimignano, with a notable triangular square lined with medieval houses and skyline of medieval towers. Then it's back to the Florence for dinner.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Another day of touring with Isabella, beginning with San Lorenzo Market, and ending with a tour of the famous Uffizi Gallery



Again, we'll enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading out for a day of touring with Isabella. We'll visit the famous San Lorenzo Market, which is actually comprised of two separate markets, an indoor market, known as Mercato Centrale, home to all things food, and the outdoor section that lines the surrounding streets of the large Mercato Centrale building, selling leather, clothing and many souvenirs. Following our market tour, we'll enjoy a fabulous lunch on the piazza before visiting the Uffizi Gallery. Then it's back to the hotel to relax a bit before another dinner prepared by Christina.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

A day in Florence with Isabella to visit the Medici Chapel and Secret Room



Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll again meet up with Isabella for a tour of The Medici Chapel. The chapel is a museum where all the lovers of Michelangelo's art have to go. Inside, you will visit the Michelangelo Medici tomb, the so-called New Sacristy, a funerary chapel that Michelangelo designed for the Medici family. The Chapels form part of a monumental

complex developed over almost two centuries in close connection with the adjoining church of San Lorenzo, considered the "official" church of the Medici family who lived in the neighboring palace. Here, you can find the tombs of the Medici grand dukes and their families.

We'll enjoy another great lunch and then give you some free time to roam the streets of Florence.

Thursday, March 26, 2026
A day trip to Pisa and Lucca



We'll have breakfast at the hotel after which we'll depart for Pisa, renowned for its iconic 'Leaning Tower', a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its rich history as a maritime republic. We'll tour the area, enjoy lunch, and then head to Lucca.

Like other medieval cities in Italy, Lucca was built with towers which were used as lookout points and defensive structures. It's estimated that at one point there were around 250 towers in the city.

Lucca is a city on the Serchio River in Italy's Tuscany region. It's known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic city center and its cobblestone streets. Broad, tree-lined pathways along the tops of these massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts are popular for strolling and cycling. Following our afternoon in Lucca, we'll head back to Florence to enjoy another amazing dinner prepared by Christina.

Friday, March 27, 2026
Just what you've been waiting for...a FREE day in Florence



By now, you should know the city pretty well; so we're going to give you a free day to do whatever you would like: shop, get lost in the gold on

the Ponte Vecchio, sit in a café and people watch...whatever you wish. We'll be doing much the same before heading back to the kitchen to prepare yet another amazing dinner. We'll look forward to a glass of wine and great discussions about your day of exploration.

Saturday, March 28, 2026

We'll visit the historic hilltop Etruscan town of Cortona



Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart for Cortona. Cortona's appeal lies in its lofty setting, splendid views and medieval mood. Set close to the Umbrian border, Cortona is one of the most delightful hill towns in Tuscany. It was founded by the Etruscans, colonized by the Romans, and after its sale to the Florentines in

1409, thrived under the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Cortona is perched majestically on a ridge of Monte Sant'Egidio, dominating the Val di Chiana. The approach road to the city center winds through beautifully sculpted terraced olive groves and vineyards, past villas, farms and monasteries.

Cortona is a tourism hotspot so its popularity is a given. The city's slow burn was accelerated after the town found fame in 'Under the Tuscan Sun', a book which led to a film and a summer festival.

We'll enjoy lunch in Cortona, and an afternoon of sightseeing; and then it's back to Florence for dinner prepared by Christina.

Sunday, March 29, 2026

**A fun hands on cooking class at Chefactory Cooking Academy
With Chef's Francesco Arancio and Christina Pirello**



Talk about FUN! On this, our last full day together in Florence, we'll spend time cooking together, and learning from renowned chef Francesco Arancio. And after cooking, we'll enjoy feasting on the results of our cooking class experience.

Chefactory Cooking Academy started in the summer of 2016 on the foundation of sharing authentic Italian and Mediterranean Cuisine.

Their focus is on not only giving you a memorable experience, but also on choosing the best quality organic ingredients. Their main purpose of doing this work is just this: 'we wish to pass our traditions, history, life, and the art of Tuscan cuisine, onto you'.

Monday, March 30, 2026

Depart for the USA