

Phil Hoffmann
travel

TUSCAN EXPERIENCE

CLASSIC TUSCAN VILLA STAY





YOUR HOST RENATO DI STEFANO

Renato Di Stefano has a passion for Italy, Italian food and the romantic Italian language. From an early age, under his Nonna's guidance, Renato learned the correlation between choice, fresh ingredients (often gathered at local markets) and delicious meals. His childhood experiences together with the repertoire of tips and tricks learned while helping Nonna prepare family meals, laid the foundations for Renato's love of good food and traditional Italian cooking.

As a TAFE lecturer for many years, Renato introduced the concept of teaching the Italian language and culture through its cuisine, giving students a small taste of the broad and varied gastronomy of Italy's regions. Considered a great concept, Renato was invited to run classes at Phil Hoffmann Travel as part of our 'Lifestyles' series.

Hosting tours in Italy since 2002, Renato's 'Tuscan Experience' offers an indulgent and relaxing stay at a 15th century villa combining Italy's incredible gastronomy with exploration in beautiful places.



THE SETTING

Nestled in the Chianti hills, overlooking valleys rich in history, is the 15th century manor house - Castellare de' Sernigi. Once owned by wealthy merchants and patrons of the arts – the Sernigi family, Its enviable location in the heart of Tuscany in the thousand-year-old hamlet of Palazzuolo, a stone's throw from Siena, San Gimignano and Florence, makes Castellare de' Sernigi an idyllic base.

Lovingly restored, the finely appointed and fully air-conditioned 7-bedroom villa each with Tuscan views and en suite bathroom is furnished with antiques, two large upstairs sitting rooms with picturesque views, spacious dining and living room, well-equipped kitchen and cellar. Surrounding the villa, in the lovely gardens are furnished seating areas, a large stone terrace with arbour covered al fresco dining area, and swimming pool with surrounding stone deck.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights accommodation in Villa Castellare de' Sernigi
- 3 nights accommodation in Florence
- Travel by mini coach as per itinerary
- Sightseeing as per itinerary with entry fees
- Culinary art sessions including fresh pasta making
- 25 meals including a help-yourself breakfast daily at the villa, welcome lunch and traditional dinners prepared by local cook with limited wine*
- Hosted from Florence (day 1-10) including transfers to/from Florence
- Services of professional guides at selected locations
- Pre-departure lunch and meet and greet

**Additional wine can be purchased*

***Due to the nature of Italian Cuisine we are limited in our ability to cater for food allergies or food intolerances.*



2025 LAND ONLY TOUR COSTS:

Twin Share **\$8,995** pp

Single Supplement **\$1,990** pp

Please note there will be some walking where guest must negotiate cobblestoned streets and hilly terrain



ITINERARY 2025

SAT 03 MAY — TUES 13 MAY

DAY 1

SATURDAY 03 MAY FLORENCE TO VILLA CASTELLARE

Meet at Florence Santa Maria Novella rail station at 12:00pm for a group transfer to villa Castellare de' Sernigi. Enjoy a delicious welcome lunch at the villa. Later, join Renato for an estate tour and aperitivo before dinner. (L, D)

Stay at Villa Castellare de' Sernigi 7 nights

DAY 2

SUNDAY 04 MAY BARGINO – ANTINORI WINERY

Enjoy Sunday morning at leisure. Later, visit the famous Antinori winery in Bargino for a delicious lunch at the Rinuccio 1180 restaurant followed by a guided tour of the avant-garde winery and a degustation of fine wines. Tonight, enjoy a dinner of wood fired pizza at a local pizzeria. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

MONDAY 05 MAY SIENA

Travel to Siena and explore this medieval masterpiece. See Piazza del Campo, the largest medieval piazza in the world and the Torre del Mangia. Visit the Cathedral with its magnificent inlaid marble floors and works by Michelangelo. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the villa. (B, D)

DAY 4

TUESDAY 06 MAY CASTELLARE DE' SERNIGI

At leisure. Later, partake in a culinary art session with Renato and help prepare lunch. Following a long and relaxed lunch, the afternoon is at leisure to just lounge on the large deck adjoining the villa. Aperitivo at sunset is followed by dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

WEDNESDAY 07 MAY PIENZA AND MONTALCINO

Discover the hilltop Renaissance town of Pienza - Capital of Pecorino cheese. Wine tasting and lunch is at a boutique Brunello winery, before a visit to Medieval Montalcino, famed for Brunello di Montalcino wine. Dinner is at the villa (B, L, D)

DAY 6

THURSDAY 08 MAY TAVARNELLE VAL DI PESA

Walking to Tavarnelle, stroll through the open market square as Renato selects ingredients for a hands-on culinary art session and delicious villa lunch. The afternoon is at leisure and dinner is at the villa (B, L, D)

DAY 7

FRIDAY 09 MAY SAN GIMIGNANO & VOLTERRA

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of San Gimignano. Dominating the Val d'Elsa, it is one of Europe's best-preserved hilltop medieval towns famous for its architecture and the unique preservation of its tower houses. Meander through the streets and explore this enchanting town. Continue to medieval Volterra, known for its Etruscan origins and Roman Theatre. Dinner is at the villa (B, D)

DAY 8

SATURDAY 10 MAY FLORENCE

Farewell Castellare de Sernigi this morning with a 9:00 am transfer to Florence. After a brief stop at Piazzale Michelangelo to marvel at the spectacular views of the city of Florence we make our way to our hotel in the heart of the city 'Relais Piazza Signoria'. After securing our luggage at the hotel we embark on a guided visit of the Galleria dell'Accademia to marvel at Michelangelo's David followed by a guided orientation walking tour of Florence and then enjoy lunch at a typical restaurant. The afternoon and evening is at leisure. (B, L)

Stay at Relais Piazza Signoria 3 nights

DAY 9

SUNDAY 11 MAY LUCCA AND PISA

Travel to medieval Lucca – birthplace of composer Giacomo Puccini surrounded by Renaissance walls and beautiful gardens. Lunch in a typical Restaurant. Continuing to Pisa, see the Piazza Del Duomo with the leaning tower then return to Florence. (B, L)

DAY 10

MONDAY 12 MAY FLORENCE

In Piazza Della Signoria savour a coffee and pastry at the famous Caffè Rivoire followed by a visit of the Galleria Degli Uffizi for a guided tour of the magnificent Renaissance treasures. Afternoon at leisure and farewell dinner out (B, D)

DAY 11

TUESDAY 13 MAY FLORENCE TO SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Following breakfast at Caffè Rivoire, farewell Florence today with a 10:00 am transfer to the Santa Maria Novella train station. (B)

Why not continue on Renato's
'Simply Sicily' – commencing
24 May — 03 June 2025

PHIL HOFFMANN TRAVEL'S LIFESTYLE SERIES includes Italian Dining and Cooking Experiences, Italian tours, weekend getaways and language classes.

Our popular Italian Dining and Cooking Experiences are held in purpose built kitchens at Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg or Modbury and are hosted by passionate foodie and former TAFE lecturer Renato Di Stefano. An Italian Lunch, held on Saturdays, comprises a 3 course meal with wine, hands-on traditional Italian pasta making, recipes you can try at home and a little Italian language.

Italian Language Classes are available for those planning to travel or to simply enhance your language skills. Essential Italian is ideal for those planning to visit Italy, whilst the Advanced Italian classes will suit those who already have some knowledge of the language. Classes are held at Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg.

Closer to home, perhaps enjoy A Taste of Italy in SA with Renato on the Fleurieu Peninsula at the Waverley Estate Port Elliot. Held throughout the year, they comprise 2 nights stays either mid-week or a weekend, meals, wine, pasta making and games.

Brochures and Flyers available. Refer pht.com.au



TOUR BOOKING CONDITIONS

Dietary Needs: Due to the nature of Italian cuisine, we may be unable to cater for some food allergies. Please advise us if you have any serious allergies and/or dietary needs.

Tour Changes: We endeavor to provide an accurate itinerary however, local operators sometimes change arrangements and our itinerary may be adjusted to suit however, the same standard will always be used.

Not Included on tour: Flights and airline taxes; transfers on first and last day of tour if arriving/departing on other dates/times; travel insurance; tips and gratuities; items of a personal nature eg drinks, laundry, phone calls, meals other than those indicated, additional sightseeing or optional tours; extensions and/or stopovers; amendments; arrangements other than those stated in tour itineraries.

Reservations: A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon booking. The balance is due no later than 3 months prior to your tour start date. If a booking is made after this date, the full tour price is due at the time of confirmation. Prices are subject to change at anytime until full payment has been received for entire group and tickets have been issued.

Booking Form & Booking Conditions: You are required to complete a Phil Hoffmann Travel booking form which provide essential information we require to process your booking. Please ensure you read these booking conditions in conjunction with the Phil Hoffmann Travel 'Schedule of Professionalism' booking conditions.

Minimum Numbers: Prices quoted for these tours are subject to a minimum 10 and maximum 14 passengers travelling together. Phil Hoffmann Travel reserve the right to increase the tour price or cancel the tour should the numbers travelling not meet the required minimum. Host travels when minimum numbers are reached.

Passport: It is necessary for passengers to have a valid passport which has at least 6 months validity

beyond your return into Australia.

Price Alterations: Tour prices specified are based on land arrangement tariffs applicable at the time of printing, therefore they may be subject to alteration with or without prior notice until final payment date (3 months prior to tour start date).

Children: participants must be over the age of 15.

Amendments/changes: A fee of \$100 per amendment will be charged for any reservation changes after your booking is confirmed, unless change increases the value of your booking. This fee is in addition to any charges from land operators.

Twin share Room Match Policy: In the event of a cancellation for a twin share room match, the travelling passenger may be required to pay for a single room supplement cost, which will not be covered under their travel insurance policy. Similarly, if a traveller decides whilst travelling that they do not want to share any longer, they will be required to pay the full costs for a single room.

Refunds/Credits: No refund is available in respect of any sightseeing tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised or required during this tour. No refund is available for cancellations after the tour has commenced. Credit offers cannot be refunded or taken as cash.

Cancellations: Cancellations of firm bookings will be subject to \$500 per person service fee plus any charges imposed by principals involved in operating the tour. Therefore, the cancellation fee may be up to the total cost for land and/or airfares. Cancelled bookings are non-transferable.

Baggage: Whilst on tour one main bag and 1 piece of hand luggage per person is allowed. Please seek confirmation from your consultant as to the baggage allowance for all flights booked.

Medical Advice: It is wise to seek medical advice before travelling. Please seek advice

from a travel doctor, or from your own GP.

Insurance: Insurance is essential for cover against loss of deposit and loss of airfares, personal accident, medical cover etc. If you have an ongoing medical condition you may be required to complete a pre-existing medical form. If you are over 70 years of age, you are required to complete a seniors medical form. Your consultant will provide all details.

Responsibility: Phil Hoffmann Travel reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change of reservation, features and/or means of conveyance without any notice and for any reason whatsoever. Phil Hoffmann Travel does not accept liability for failure on the part of transportation companies, hotel contractors and other principals whose responsibility is confined to their own operations. Phil Hoffmann Travel reserves the right to alter hotels used should the necessity arise. The transportation companies or firms shall be exempt from all liabilities in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage, sickness or injury and by whom so ever caused and whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a conveyance used or operated by the transportation companies or firms.

We reserve the right to take any reasonable action should your health, actions or behaviour impinge on the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other passengers. Phil Hoffmann Travel reserve the right to cancel or withdraw any person as a member of the tour at any time. All ticket coupons and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to those terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or other services provided thereby are offered or supplied by the owners, operators, public carriers, management agents or agents. The Phil Hoffmann 'Schedule of Professionalism' applies. E&OE. Brochure produced: April 2023

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