



TUSCANY

8 nights – Sep 2023

A guided adventure for women

Fri 01 Sep **Florence - Vicopisano**

Arrive in Firenze mid-morning and meet up with the rest of the group. We will be met by our local guide and driven to the Tuscan village where we are based for the next 8 days. **Vicopisano** is nicely located just 50 km from Florence and 15 km from Pisa. In medieval times this town was a flourishing fortified town with a castle built by Brunelleschi in 1434, several watch towers and a lively town square. Our accommodation is totally unique – we'll be staying in an authentic medieval fort which has been restored and modernised into apartments whilst still retaining its Tuscan character. A private swimming pool is a welcome treat after a day of sightseeing and the village square is just a few minutes' walk away – a place we will frequent often to soak up the local atmosphere, sit outside drinking aperol spritz, and eat in tasty little restaurants. After checking in to our apartments, we'll have an orientation walk of the village, followed by an aperitivo and welcome dinner.

Sat 02 Sep **Truffle Hunting & Medieval Festival**

This morning we go hunting for the mysterious truffle. Together with a master truffle dog and guide, we'll venture into the woods of **Savaia** following the dog on an exciting ramble. After this exertion, we'll no doubt be ready for a delicious lunch allowing us to taste many of the products and fresh truffle of the season combined with a selection of wines from the area. Take an afternoon nap or laze by the pool and conserve some energy for an exciting evening ahead. Tonight, we are special guests at the **Medieval Festival of Vicopisano**. Along the village streets and on characteristic corners that lead to the castle there are taverns set up for the evening. On the square in front of the 14th century Palazzo Pretoria are long tables set for special guests. A parade of Lords, Ladies and Flag throwers is followed by a sumptuous feast served under the stars. We will be entertained by a variety of artists as we're served by the village waifs and maids. A truly unforgettable experience.

Sun 03 Sep **Lucca**

Free morning to recover from the festival! In the afternoon we will explore the cobbled streets of **Lucca** known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic centre. Broad, tree-lined pathways along the tops of these massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts are popular for walking and cycling. Enjoy a refreshment as you people-watch from one of the many outdoor bars lining the squares.

Mon 04 Sep **Pisa & Cooking Lesson**

Just a short drive away, is the popular town of **Pisa** where we will have a walking tour and view the **Leaning Tower** and impressive neighbouring Cathedral. If you're feeling energetic, you can climb up the steep steps inside the tower and take in the sweeping city views from the top. In the afternoon, pull on an apron and roll up your sleeves for an entertaining **cooking class** in Vicopisano. Then sit down and enjoy what you have cooked for dinner.

Tue 05 Sep **Cinque Terre**

We set off early this morning and drive to the coastal town of **La Spezia**. From here we board a boat and cruise out of the Gulf. Our first stop will be **Porto Venere** where there is time to roam along the cobbled lanes and admire the tall narrow houses painted in typical Ligurian colours and rich with architectural details. Back on the boat we cruise along the coast to get the best views of the famous for 5 colourful villages perched on the cliffside known as **Cinque Terre**. There will be free time in **Monterosso** for lunch. Afterwards you might like to do some shopping, have a swim, or take a walk - choose any path and stroll along admiring the views - it is impossible not to fall in love with this area.

Wed 06 Sep Livorno & Calci

The bustling port city of Livorno is also home to the largest **Tuscan covered market** and one of the most impressive in Europe. Inside this historic building is a gastronomic paradise with mouth-watering aromas and colourful displays. An early lunch will be in order! In the afternoon we travel across to **Calci** for a special tour of the **monastery**. The complex was built in 1366 at the base of Mt Pisano and is known as one of the greatest architectural accomplishments of Tuscany. A guardian will guide us through the complex where we'll learn about the most important aspects of the monks' lives.

Thu 07 Sep San Gimignano - Volterra

This morning we set off for a day out in the countryside. We visit the **Teatro del Silenzio** near Lajatico, the hometown of Andrea Bocelli. This open-air amphitheatre is surrounded by typical Tuscan scenery and a wonderful setting for outdoor concerts. Wander the cobbled lanes of the walled town of **Volterra** and admire the Roman, Etruscan and medieval structures, take a coffee in the fabulous Palazzo dei Priori with its medieval frescoes and impressive bell tower. The Cathedral has a marble entrance and a gilded coffered ceiling. Shop for exquisite pieces of art. **San Gimignano** is famous for its central piazza and medieval houses & towers just perfect for a gentle stroll around after a long **Tuscan lunch** at a vineyard.

Fri 08 Sep Florence

Today we have a guided tour of Tuscany's capital city. This city is blessed with many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. We'll also visit one of its most iconic sights - 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". If you're in the market for some genuine Italian leather or gold, you'll be in heaven here. Or you may prefer to visit one of the many Museums – let us know so we can pre-book for you. We end the day with an aperitivo at a rooftop bar and a special dinner to celebrate our wonderful stay in Tuscany.

Sat 09 Sep Tour ends

We say *Addio* to our hosts and transfer to the station. You have a number of options for international airports – Florence or Pisa being the closest.

Price

NZ\$5500 per person share

Includes

- Locally guided by Jon & Massimo from Trovare Tuscany, supported by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures
- Transportation by minivan, boat, train
- Accommodation for a total of 8 nights in apartment with 2 or 3 other women
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Sightseeing entry and local guides as specified
- Truffle Hunt and speciality lunch
- Medieval Festival and speciality dinner
- Tuscan vineyard lunch
- Tuscan cooking lesson
- Cinque Terre boat transfers

Excludes

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Personal spending
- Refreshments & any meals not included

Group Size

Minimum 7, maximum 10

Days may be switched around to suit weather or other circumstances out of our control. \$1800 deposit required on confirmation, balance due 2 months prior departure. Terms & Conditions available – www.roadtraveladventures.com

