



**TOUR NAME: TUSCAN EXPERIENCE**

**TOUR DAYS: 11 Days**

**DEPARTURES: 28 March 2012**

**Starts : (Wed)**

**Ends : (Sat)**

**TOUR LODGING INFO: 9 Nights Accommodation**

<b>PLACE COVERED</b>	<b>NO.OF NIGHTS</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS HOTELS</b>
Rome	03 Nights	Aris Garden Hotel
Siena	02 Nights	Hotel Radda
Florence	03 Nights	Hotel First
Pisa	01 Night	H2C Pisa

**Price Includes:**

- 4\* hotels with private facilities
- International flight from JFK - Rome
- Meals are indicated on itineraries by (B) breakfast,(L) lunch, (D) dinner
- Licensed guides throughout the land tours within Italy
- Private air-condition transportation with tour escort
- Local taxes and service charges
- Arrival and departure transfers at the beginning and on the last day of tour.

**Price Excludes:**

- Personal expenses
- Optional tours
- Customary tips to guide and drivers
- Luggage handling

**TOUR ITINERARY:**

**28<sup>th</sup> Mar, Day 1, Wed: JFK - ROME**

Departure from USA to Rome.

**29<sup>th</sup> Mar, Day 2, Thur: ROME**

Arrival meet and greet service with transfer to hotel. Welcome briefing at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel and evening at leisure.

**30<sup>th</sup> Mar, Day 3, Fri: ROME DAY TOUR**

Morning tour of the Vatican. Visit the Porta Pinciana, Aurelian Walls, Villa Borghese, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, the Bernini Staircase of the XVI century and the largest church in the world, St. Peter's Basilica. Michaelangelo's Renaissance palace built on the ruins of the Acropolis, the Temple of Julius Caesar, Basilica Emilia, the Arch of Titus and the Holy Road and Rome's greatest amphitheatre- the Colosseum. The last stop is the Basilica of San Pietro in Vincoli that houses Michelangelo's masterpiece, the statue of Moses. (B,D)

**31<sup>st</sup> Mar, Day 4, Sat: ASSISSI & PERUGIA**

After breakfast you will travel to visit Assisi, famous all over the world for being the native town of St Francis, for a guided visit to the Basilica of St Francis. Explore the interior of the Basilica and listen to commentary about the frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue, via hired ear phones. You'll also visit the Basilica of Santa Chiara, and the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. In Perugia admire the Maggiore Fountain, the gothic Basilica of San Lorenzo and the Town Hall within Palazzo dei Priori. (B)

**1<sup>st</sup> Apr, Day 5, Sun: SIENA - CHIANTI**

On a guided walking tour of this compact city you'll see the major sites like the Piazza del Campo as well as exploring quieter back-streets to appreciate Siena 's complex and rich history. Lunch in an Agriturismo in the area of Chianti, known all over the world for its wine and its countryside of unrivalled charm, where woods alternate with vineyards and olive groves, in a landscape dotted with Romanesque churches, farmhouses, villas and castles of rare beauty. 4-courses and wine tasting in the area. (B,L)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Apr, Day 6, Mon: VOLTERRA – SAN GIMIGNANO**

Start the morning in the heart of Tuscany, Volterra, and a beautiful city of Etruscan origin. The "magic and mysterious" city of Volterra has its roots in three thousand years of history. The ancient city walls, the imposing Porta all'Arco, the Necropolis of Marmini and the numerous archaeological finds conserved in the Museo Etrusco Guarnacci like the Ombra della Sera with its unique profile, the funeral urns and the finely crafted jewelry, bear testimony of the Etruscan period. Afternoon tour of San Gimignano, Famed for its medieval skyscrapers, high walls and narrow streets that typify most peoples image of a Tuscan hill town. Learn about the famous Guelph-Ghibelline conflict that inspired the local families to build their fortified towers and their forms of defense against their enemies, as well as the times of Black Plague when the population and power of San Gimignano was devastated. (B)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Apr, Day 7, Tues: FLORENCE**

Discover why Florence became one of the greatest art centers the world has ever seen. See fabulous masterpieces. Hear about astounding events that shocked the Florentines. Immerse yourself in history and listen to medieval stories with a three hour stroll around Florence's essential sights. Afternoon guided tour of Uffizi Gallery (B,D)

**4<sup>th</sup> Apr, Day 8, Wed: FLORENCE**

Morning tour of Accademia Gallery. Filled with Baroque works by Pontormo, Girolandiao, and others, it is still primarily known for Michelangelo's David. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

**5<sup>th</sup> Apr, Day 9, Thur: PISA**

Pisa is world famous and not just thanks to its unique Leaning Tower but because of the other masterpieces of the Romanesque architecture in the "Miracle Square" such as cathedral and baptistry. Climbing the tower is recommended, as it is particularly evocative. We will then drive to the even more interesting city of Lucca, famous for its beautiful walls, churches and towers which compose one of the best preserved historical city centers of Europe. After an introduction you will have time at leisure for lunch, shopping or else. Transfer and overnight in Pisa Hotel. (B)

**6<sup>th</sup> Apr, Day 10, Fri: GROSSETO – ROME**

After breakfast transport back to Rome. Along the way, you will stop to visit the medieval city of Grosseto. Return back to the hotel in Rome and an evening at leisure before your final Italian dinner. (B,D)

**7<sup>th</sup> Apr, Day 11, Sat: ROME – RETURN**

Transfer to airport to board onwards flight back to USA (B)

**- END OF OUR SERVICES-**