Let yourself revel in Italy's vivid spectacle of rich reds, golds and greens in Tuscany and Rome — bursting with unforgettable art, sumptuous landscapes, and wines and food so deliciously paired, don't miss this sensuous TRIPS Autumn Grapes tour!

If you're seeking the perfect escape from the humdrum routines of everyday life, the Fall season in seductive Tuscany delivers in abundance! Winding through the rolling Tuscan countryside, you'll discover one surprising delight after another: tiny churches with hidden masterpieces, charming restaurants with savory Tuscan food, and rustic workshops where artisans create beautiful handcrafted goods. Enjoy festive wine tastings "Under the Tuscan Sun" right after the season's harvest, and marvel at the eternal beauty of Florence, Cinque Terre, Pisa, and delightful Lucca, a little known Tuscan jewel. This ideally crafted hub and spoke tour centralizes your stay in Montecatini, allowing you to experience the best of Tuscany in your seven days here while unpacking just once!

Then we'll be off to explore the magic of Rome — from the imposing Colosseum and stunning Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, to delightful street side cafes, gleaming fountains, and ancient hillside ruins dotted all over the modern city, here's the Rome you've always dreamt of seeing!

Itinerary

**October 26, 2020 - Your Journey Begins!**
You'll board your overnight flight for Europe. Dinner is served en route with a continental breakfast prior to landing.

**October 27, 2020 - Welcome to Italy!**
Upon arrival in Italy, you'll be met by your TRIPS representative and transferred via deluxe motor coach to Montecatini, your home for the next six nights. Unpack and begin to explore, perhaps wandering along Viale Verdi, the main street lined with shops, cafes and restaurants! Your first real Tuscan meal is served this evening in your hotel dining room, a tradition in Italian spa towns.

Overnight: Montecatini  (B/D)

**October 28, 2020 - The Best of Florence!**
This morning, you travel by private motor coach to Florence where you begin your day with a walking tour. During your walk, you'll see Giotto's Belltower, Ghiberti's famous Gates of Paradise and the Brunelleschi Dome. Also included in today's tour is a visit to the Accademia, home to the world famous statue of David by Michelangelo. Your tour ends in Signoria Square with its beautiful sculptures and charming sidewalks cafes, then the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this grand city of the Renaissance. Perhaps a visit to the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's famous museums. Or, spend the afternoon shopping for leather goods, a specialty here in Florence. And when hunger strikes, swipe a hun of crusty bread across a pool of local olive oil and you'll be in heaven! Late today, visit Piazza Michelangelo for a panoramic view of the red-tiled roof tops of Florence before returning to Montecatini.

You'll then enjoy a special dinner tonight at a favorite local restaurant in Montecatini Alto at the very top of this Tuscan hill town village!

Overnight: Montecatini  (B/D)

**October 29, 2020 - Italy's Wine Country!**
After breakfast this morning, travel to San Gimignano, stopping along the way for a wine tasting in the rolling hills of Tuscany! Wild vines once grew in abundance all over the area, and today the wines of Italian Toscana are much sought after! On approach to San Gimignano, you'll be struck by the sight of 15 towers surrounding this walled hill town. Originally an Etruscan village, the town was named after the bishop San Gimignano who is said to have saved the city from Attila the Hun! As you enjoy your guided tour through the Old City, you'll feel as though you've been plunged into the Middle Ages with a sense of what it might have been like here more than 700 years ago! You'll have time on your own to enjoy lunch, perhaps at a small trattoria before traveling to nearby Siena. Here, your guided tour includes the famous Piazza del Campo, the site of the most famous "palio" in all of Italy. Often described as Italy's best preserved medieval city, you'll find narrow streets and steep alleys along with a stunning Gothic cathedral and a bounty of early Renaissance art. After a magnificent day in Tuscany, you return to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Montecatini  (B/D)

**October 30, 2020 - Fountains and Cialde!**
This morning, your day starts with a walking tour of Montecatini with the bulk of the day to enjoy Tuscany like a local. Water is the element of life, and nowhere in Italy is that more true than here in Montecatini. One of the country's most famous 'spa' towns, you'll find beautiful fountains throughout town welcoming locals and visitors alike. Puccini composed parts of La Boheme here and Verdi was a regular visitor to the spas as well! You might choose to explore Montecatini Alto with splendid views of the Tuscan countryside. Here, you'll find hidden alleyways begging exploration and a main square surrounded by charming cafes and restaurants. During your time in Montecatini, you must try the Cialde, a biscuit that is only made here with nothing more than almonds and sugar - more a wafer really! Pick up...
some for your friends back home, it's the perfect gift! Return to your hotel later today for dinner.

Overnight: Montecatini (B/D)

October 21, 2020 - Famous Pisa and Undiscovered Lucca!

After enjoying a late breakfast this morning, you'll be travel to Pisa, just an hour away where you'll see one of the most remarkable architectural structures from medieval Europe! Construction of the bell tower began in 1173 and lasted nearly 200 years and leans about 17 feet off vertical. After you've had a chance to marvel at it and enjoy lunch on your own, continue to Lucca, a hidden gem in Tuscany! Puccini was born here in the mid-1800s and is was here, in 60BC that Caesar, Pompey and Crassus agreed to together rule Rome. Surrounding a circle of defensive walls designed by Leonardo Da Vinci and wholly intact, the old city is a photographers delight! During your walking tour you'll marvel at the Gothic era architecture and the curious sight of tress growing at the top of the medieval Palazzo Guinigi tower! This afternoon features a tasting of the famous Vin Santo or "holy wine" and cantucci, or biscotti, a Tuscan specialty.

Overnight: Montecatini (B/D)

November 1, 2020 - Enchanting Cinque Terre!

Today travel to The Cinque Terre a stretch of five villages on the Italian Riviera. Your train ride will take you through spectacular scenery to this wildly charming region. As the New York Times said “it’s almost unfair how much intense beauty, great cuisine and amazing aromas are jampacked into such a small space”! There's not a chain store in site, just sun, sea, wine and pure, unadulterated Italy! Enjoy your day here sipping wine, exploring the villages and marveling at the magnificent views before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Tuscany in the Fall!

$4,798.00 per person / double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional $998.00

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and is strongly suggested.

Check with your club representative for details.

Inclusions

- Round trip international airfare to Italy (checked baggage fees not included)
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary with an English speaking tour escort
- 6 nights deluxe hotel accommodations in Montecatini
- 2 nights deluxe hotel accommodations in Rome
- Italian style continental buffet breakfasts daily at your hotel
- 5 table d’hote 3-course dinners at your hotel
- 1 dinner at a local restaurant in Montecatini
- 1 farewell dinner in Rome at a local restaurant
- Wine, water and coffee included with all dinners
- All sightseeing and admissions described in the itinerary including the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum and St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome and the Accademia in Florence with “whispers” headsets
- Special TRIPS Inclusions: private wine tasting with light lunch as a Vin Santo, or holy wine tasting with cantucci
- Excursions to Florence, Cinque Terre, Pisa, Siena, Lucca, Pisa and San Gimignano
- Portage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- All taxes and government fees

Call today to reserve your space!!!

Reservations for “Romantic Tuscany in the Fall” are accepted on a first come/first served basis.
An initial $500.00 deposit is required to hold space on this tour. This deposit is fully refundable up to July 16, 2020.

Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before July 16, 2020.
Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.
50% non-refundable on July 17, 2020. 100% non-refundable as of August 27, 2020.

Make checks payable to Valley National Bank / Prestige Club c/o Nannette Sheafer
1100 Corporate Parkway Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone (205) 408-2066 nsheaffer@valley.com

CST # 205791-10

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of May 12, 2010. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in conjunction with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any liability by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services.

The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.