



# TUSCANY

C O R T O N A

*An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience*



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## RICE ALUMNI

**OCTOBER 20-28, 2010**

**Other dates available upon request**



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend seven nights in the ancient Etruscan city of **Cortona**, wonderfully situated in the heart of Tuscany and the inspiration for the book *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes.
- Explore the tranquility of **Assisi** and the graceful Gothic ambience in **Siena**.
- Marvel at the architectural wonders of Renaissance **Florence**.
- Experience the prodigious medieval history in **Perugia**, the well-preserved jewel of Umbria.
- Learn the essence of Tuscan cooking—the incomparable blend of olive oil, sun-ripened tomatoes and herbs—at a demonstration by the chef of the award-winning **Restaurant Tonino**.
- Visit a winery in the **Montalcino** area for a private wine tasting.

## Alumni Campus Abroad® Advantages

*This program offers unique, value-added features that promise you an outstanding educational experience in a very special environment:*

- **Unpack only once** for a stay of seven nights and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyles.
- **A first-class hotel** provides comfortable accommodations and the perfect base from which to explore the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** during excursions and events that allow you to mingle with area residents and gain insight into everyday life in their community.
- **Informative educational lectures** are presented by local experts and excursions led by knowledgeable guides.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive services for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.

# A

morning walk through the narrow cobbled streets of ancient Etruscan Cortona is vibrant with the scents and sounds of an awakening town—the aroma of cappuccino and warm baked goods wafting from little shops, the perfume of fresh flowers and the bustle of the main square. Watch the children with their bright rucksacks trotting off to school as silver-haired women draped in black slowly make their way to market. It is the day-to-day participation in Cortona community life that makes this a unique travel experience.

**“TUSCANY IS A WORLD.  
ITALY IS A UNIVERSE...”**

— FRANCES MAYES, AMERICAN  
NOVELIST, IN *TUSCANY*, 2000

**Above: Traditional Tuscan meal, Cortona**





## Dear Rice Alumni and Friends,

If this will be your first time in **Cortona** or a joyful return to Tuscany, you'll find our program to be the perfect balance of planned events and free time for independent exploration. Plus, you'll enjoy the convenience, value and camaraderie of traveling with a group of like-minded people.

You'll be treated to **preferred access at popular attractions** and **specially arranged cultural experiences**. Bask in the scenic splendor and warmth of golden Tuscany. Discover the magic of medieval towns like **Perugia, Siena and Montepulciano**. Absorb the ambience of **Assisi** and marvel at the timeless masterpieces in Renaissance **Florence**. Admire picturesque landscapes of rolling hills and verdant valleys. Discover the savory hallmarks of legendary Tuscan cuisine; follow grapes from vineyard to wine and olives from groves to oil.

Enhance your understanding and appreciation of Italy's most popular region with **exclusive educational content** developed from a commitment to lifelong learning. If a week in Tuscany isn't enough, you can **tailor your trip** with add-ons and extensions through the assistance of AHI's expert travel professionals.

This exquisite journey to romantic Cortona cannot be beat for its itinerary and value. It's no surprise that this is one of our most popular trips, and reservations fill up quickly. **Space is limited for your ultimate comfort, so make your reservations today!**

Sincerely,

Rose Sundin  
Associate Director of Alumni Affairs  
Association of Rice Alumni

For further information, please call me at **800-742-3258** or **713-348-4678**. You may also contact our tour operator, AHI International at 800-323-7373.

*"You may have the universe if I may have Italy."*

~ Giuseppe Verdi,  
Italian opera composer,  
1813-1901

*"A man has only so much knowledge as he puts to work."*

~ St. Francis of Assisi,  
founder of the Order of Friars Minor,  
1181/2-1226

*"The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding."*

~ Leonardo da Vinci,  
Italian Renaissance painter and inventor,  
1452-1519

*"I feast on wine and bread, and feasts they are."*

~ Michelangelo Buonarroti,  
Italian High Renaissance sculptor, architect, painter and poet,  
1475-1564



# CORTONA

## UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

*Tuscany is celebrated for breathtaking natural beauty, magnificent Renaissance art and architecture, superb cuisine and some of Italy's friendliest people. Its historic hilltop towns are living postcards where ancient ramparts encircle colorful piazzas, elegant Etruscan fountains, stately palazzos and bustling cafés. Explore the myriad fascinations and flavors of this spectacular region from medieval Cortona.*

### DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Florence, Italy**, aboard scheduled jet service. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

### DAY TWO CORTONA

Arrive in Florence. Transfer by motorcoach to the beautiful walled city of **Cortona** and the charming **Hotel San Luca**. (Transfer is provided for Air Program participants only.)

This evening, gather with fellow travelers at a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

### DAY THREE CORTONA

**Educational Focus: Cortona and Environs.** Examine the history of this typically Tuscan town and its relationship to greater Tuscany and Italy as a whole.

**Excursion: Walking Tour of Cortona.**

Admire the many artistic and architectural treasures in this amazing hilltop city. Delight in its exceptional Etruscan features as you stroll past historic palazzi and through charming piazzas. Enter the

stunning Romanesque cathedral. Visit the renowned Diocesan Museum for its extraordinary collection



of paintings from the medieval Sienese school, including *The Annunciation* by Beato Angelico. Thrill to the views of the lush valley from the ancient porta.

**Excursion: The Tuscan Countryside.**

Travel past Etruscan tombs and through the gorgeous hill country surrounding Cortona. Indulge your senses in the beauty and simplicity of the land, dense with olive groves and vineyards, cypress and pine.

**Local Flavor:** Tour a winery and sample its superb vintages and fine local cheeses.

### DAY FOUR ASSISI & PERUGIA

**Excursion: Assisi.** Visit the magnificent walled city of Assisi, renowned as the home of St. Francis. Experience its time-honored treasures including the glorious Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli and the serene Basilica of St. Francis, which stands against the towering backdrop of Monte Subasio.

**Local Flavor:** Savor a delicious lunch served at a restaurant in Assisi.

**Excursion: Perugia.** The pageantry of medieval history comes to life in Perugia. From high on a hilltop in the splendid Piazza IV Novembre, set out on a guided walking tour through this Golden Age capital with walls from the Etruscan and Roman periods. See the striking 13th-century Fontana Maggiore and the Prior's Palace, which houses the National Gallery of Umbria.





## UNESCO

**Siena, Assisi and Florence** are UNESCO *World Heritage* sites featured in this program. They are distinguished due to universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.



**Far left:** *Tuscan countryside*  
**Left:** *Cathedral, Siena*  
**Above:** *View of Florence*  
**Right:** *Fontana Maggiore, Perugia*

## DAY FIVE MONTEPULCIANO

**Excursion: *Montepulciano*.** Encircled by walls and overlooking the rolling hills and lakes of the Chiana Valley, you'll always remember Montepulciano, a town of Renaissance-style palazzi and churches filled with Sienese art and mosaics. Stroll the main street from the bottom of the hill to the Piazza Grande at the top. Chat with artisans in their workshops and peek into centuries-old wine cellars filled with famous *Vino Nobile*.

**Educational Focus: *Etruscan and Medieval History*.** The story of this region is legendary, reaching back to the eighth century B.C. Examine the course of Tuscany's history, concentrating on the Etruscan and medieval periods, the region's two most significant eras.

**Excursion: *Museum of the Etruscan Academy*.** A walking tour showcases the 14th-century Praetorian Palace. Inside, Cortona's Museum of the Etruscan Academy will astound you with archeological finds and important Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Egyptian works of art, mosaics and collections of engraved gems.

## DAY SIX SIENA

**Educational Focus: *Renaissance Art*.** Tuscany was home to many of the great

Renaissance masters. Embark on a comprehensive and enlightening examination of this glorious period.

**Excursion: *Siena*.** Like a crown atop three converging clay hills, the magical city of Siena has remained remarkably unchanged throughout the centuries. Bathed in a rose-pink glow, Siena's narrow streets wind through a spectacle of resplendent churches, rich museums and finely preserved Gothic buildings. All roads lead to the renowned Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful medieval squares in Italy. See the imposing 14th-century Torre del Mangia rising in the distance. Visit the Gaia Fountain with its stunning bas-reliefs and the dramatic, black- and-gold striped Gothic Duomo.

**Educational Focus: *Meet the People*.** Participate in a unique opportunity to learn about modern-day life in Tuscany through a panel discussion with local residents.

## DAY SEVEN FLORENCE

**Excursion: *Florence*.** Embrace the heart of Tuscany and the *Cradle of the Renaissance* with a full day in fabulous *Firenze!* A guided tour from the festive façade of Il Duomo to the churches, palazzi and libraries commissioned by Medici dynasty founder, Cosimo il Vecchio, features the city's prodigious art and architecture. Admire the cupola of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, a symbol of Tuscany. View the spectacular bronze doors of the Baptistry. Stroll over the fabled Arno River on the



Ponte Vecchio, packed with gold shops. Sip espresso at a café on the Piazza della Signoria. Florence, a dynamic testimony to humanity's creative genius, never fails to inspire awe among her visitors.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend time at leisure to pursue your own interests in Florence.

## DAY EIGHT CORTONA

**Educational Focus: A Contemporary View of Italy.** Attend an engaging discussion of Italy's place in the European Union and an assessment of its modern-day political, economic and social status.

**Local Flavor:** Attend a presentation of Tuscan cooking and cuisine.

This evening, enjoy your *Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Reception*, followed by a special *Farewell Dinner* at the renowned *Alla Corte del Sole*.

## DAY NINE

Travel by motorcoach to Florence for the return flight to your gateway city. *(Transfer is provided for Air Program participants only.)*

**NOTE:** Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Accommodations

- Enjoy **seven nights** at the **Hotel San Luca** in Cortona, Italy.

### Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and five dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, and wine with dinners. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at featured **local restaurants**.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception** at the hotel.
- Gather for a festive **Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Reception** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

*(For full details, please refer to the Day-by-Day Itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions:**
  - Enjoy a walking tour of **Cortona**.
  - Savor a **wine tasting** in the splendid Tuscan countryside.
  - Travel to **Montepulciano**, set in the heart of Chiana Country.
  - Visit the renowned **Museum of the Etruscan Academy**.
  - Discover ancient Etruscan **Perugia**.
  - Experience St. Francis' legendary **Assisi** and its exquisite Basilica.
  - See the hilltop splendor of **Siena**.
  - Admire Renaissance **Florence**.

### Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and **expert English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of all excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.





# ACCOMMODATIONS

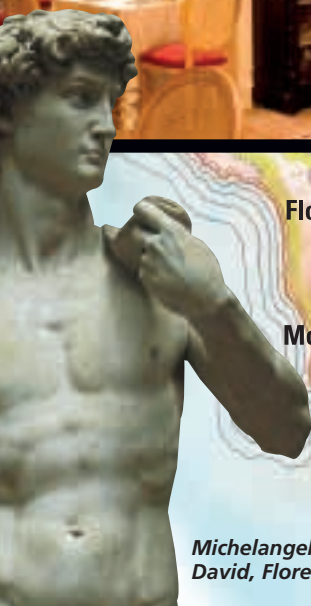


## HOTEL SAN LUCA

The Hotel San Luca is ideally set on a hillside overlooking the Tuscan landscape. Terraces extending from the public areas and guestrooms afford breathtaking views of surrounding olive groves. The hotel's amenities include the *Restaurant Tonino*, offering Continental cuisine and regional specialties; a well-appointed lounge; and a cozy bar. Each guest room is climate-controlled and equipped with a private bath or shower, telephone and television.



***Below: Alla Corte del Sole***



Florence •

***Tuscany***

Siena •

Cortona •

Montepulciano •

Perugia •

Assisi •

***Umbria***

***Michelangelo's  
David, Florence***

## Reserve your trip to Tuscany today!

For Office Use Only: B #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trip #: 21-19326 PSR: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Office Of Alumni Affairs-MS 520  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Please contact Rose Sundin at **713-348-4678** or **800-742-3258** to make reservations or with questions regarding this tour. Or fax this form to **713-348-5210**.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Class Year

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Class Year

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Office: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ . (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

### Land Program

☐ I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

☐ Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.

☐ I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$225 (limited availability).

☐ I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

### Land and Air Program

☐ I/we reserve the Land Program and request the Air Program to Florence, Italy, with return from Florence, Italy, to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Departure City

☐ Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure**.*

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by August 6, 2010 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

☐ Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

☐ Charge my deposit to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

## Need pre- or post-trip assistance? \*

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact **AHI Travel** at **800-323-7373** no later than **60 days prior to departure** and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

\* A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.



# LAND PROGRAM

October 21-28, 2010

Full Price

**\$2,745**

Special Savings

**\$250**

Special Price

**\$2,495\***

**\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.**

**VAT is an additional \$95 per person.**

*All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$225 (limited availability).*

## AIR PROGRAM

October 20-28, 2010

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific Group Air Schedules for this departure utilizing round-trip scheduled jet service from North America to Florence, Italy.

Those participating on these flights will enjoy round-trip motorcoach transfers from Florence to the Hotel San Luca, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your Reservation Confirmation, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your final invoice approximately 90 days before departure. Prices quoted to you will include all Domestic and Foreign Governmental Airport Departure Taxes and Fees and any applicable Fuel Surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance, subject to policy terms.

**NEW ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY**-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan now offers a low-cost **Any Reason Cancellation** feature. Book worry free!

**NOT INCLUDED**-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL**-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**CANCELLATION**-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee.

Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

**BAGGAGE**-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

**RESPONSIBILITY**-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association act only as agents for the suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other service and have no responsibility for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

**800-742-3258**



**Top to bottom:**  
*Duomo, Florence*  
*Shops, Tuscany*  
*Walled city of Perugia*

**Cover photo:**  
*The rolling hills*  
*of Tuscany*



## ***A word about your Tour Operator***

**AHI Travel** is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

***In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:***

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 47 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.
- **Full endorsement by the USTOA.** This professional association safeguards consumers' deposits and payments with a \$1 Million *Travelers Assistance Program.*



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***Special Offer!***  
**Book by April 20, 2010**  
**and save \$500 per couple!**