



## Tuscany & Cinque Terre



September 3 - 10, 2011  
for Rice University Alumni and Friends  
(Departs from the U.S. on September 2, 2011)





# TUSCANY & C

8 Days / 7 Nights  
from \$3,490 plus airfare

**Hands-on learning**, where your guides take care of all details so you can focus on total immersion in all things Florentine, or Tuscan. Experts on many subjects, along with local residents, share their experience, their knowledge and their passions – you'll find that you **push your boundaries** and try something new as you experience *la dolce vita* with an average of 20 like-minded travel lovers. This trip is about **laughter** at the *enoteca* while tasting the flavors of olive oil – and sharing likes and dislikes. It's a lesson in key Italian words to get you comfortable ordering *gelato* on the piazza... or choosing your lunch at a local market. It's walking, jogging, bicycling, or even rollerblading on the walls of Lucca.

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**SEPTEMBER 2 - DEPART U.S.**  
*International flights leave the U.S. on September 2, 2011 for arrival in Florence on September 3, 2011.*

**SEPTEMBER 3 - ARRIVE IN FLORENCE**  
**Tour begins: 3:00 PM at Gallery Hotel Art, Florence.** Look for us at the Peretola Airport for your included transfer to the hip and hot Gallery Hotel Art. Tuscany's "al fresco" museum, Florence itself is a work of art, blending red-tiled rooftops with a maze of medieval alleyways that lead to buildings resplendent with Renaissance brilliance, inside and out. Enjoy a fresh look at Florence through the eyes of our local guide; walk along the Arno, mingle with memories of the Medici in the San Lorenzo area and see the massive duomo of Santa Maria del Fiore. Cocktails and canapés follow back at the hotel – you'll dine at a riverside restaurant across the Ponte Vecchio. The restaurant is lively, the views wonderful, the conversation fascinating... *Benvenuti* in Italia! **Meals D**

- Hike along Cinque Terre's coastal paths amidst breathtaking views
- Go inside an artisan's workshop and studio with a Restoration Specialist
- Sample the street foods of a Florentine market
- Take a guided tour of the mountain quarries where Carrara marble has been mined since Roman times
- Bike ride atop the walls of Lucca
- Speak *Italiano* in a lesson
- Learn about the life & works of Michelangelo at a lecture hosted by a Florentine art historian
- Live like a local in the Ligurian hills at a wine and olive oil tasting, then take a cooking class in the art of making pasta





# INQUE TERRE



*Hike along Cinque Terre footpaths to Vernazza, rewarding with idyllic village charm, and learn the finer points of wining and dining during a cooking class at a Tuscan culinary school.*

## SEPTEMBER 4 - THE HEART OF ART

Meet a Florentine art history scholar who shares stories about the artists who used city landmarks as their palette as she provides a “tell all” on Michelangelo during an exclusive insider lecture. Then it’s off to the Uffizi to see works by Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and more, including Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus* and Michelangelo’s *Doni Tondo*, nestled in a frame he also designed. The star-studded parade of head-turning art continues during your visit to the Galleria dell’Accademia, where the statue of *David* reigns as a study in artistic perfection. Look around the city on your own before joining us for a lesson in some basic Italiano. *Buona giornata!* **Meals B**

## SEPTEMBER 5 - LIVING THE FLORENTINE LIFE

By special appointment, go inside two working restoration studios in the old San Niccolò district to meet the people behind the art. Art Restoration Specialist Bettina Schindler-Pratesi, a teacher and a talented artist, gives new life to antiques dressed in ivory, bone and mother-of-pearl. Next door, see a multitude of locals at work restoring and immortalizing art from all genres. A short drive to the Basilica of Santa Croce, eternal resting place for Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and other illustrious Italians, offers a chance to reflect on the treasured legacies of their lives. Local scents, sights and sounds come to life at the colorful Mercato Centrale, enticing with traditional Florentine street food... lampredotto sandwiches... fresh fruit... porchetta... gelato.

Sample regional delights as you wish and spend the afternoon exploring on your own. The grandson of a former Florentine mayor, concert pianist Gregorio Nardi, and his wife Annegret, invite you to join them at the end of the day at the Palazzo Bargellini. Your private evening affair includes a personal tour, a recital on a Steinway Grand piano, lively discussions on history and politics, and an *aperitivo*. **Meals B**

## SEPTEMBER 6 - THE WAY TO CINQUE TERRE

Take a road trip that twists and turns its way toward the Mediterranean Sea; en route, see the huge mountains of white marble at Carrara as you ride aboard a 4 x 4 to view them up close on a guided tour. Drive along the coast to Liguria and Portovenere on the Gulf of Poets. A motor boat navigates Mediterranean waters along Cinque Terre to your boutique hotel in Monterosso. **Meals BD**

## SEPTEMBER 7 - DISCOVER “THE FIVE LANDS”

Hike with us through terraced vineyards overlooking the sea from Monterosso to Vernazza. If you would prefer not to walk, take the train back to your hideaway by the sea. The rest of the day is free. **Meals B**

## SEPTEMBER 8 - COOKING IN TUSCANY

Drive through the Tuscan Hills to nearby Lucca where a hands-on lesson with local chefs at a cooking school reveals secrets in the art of making fresh pasta — Fattoria Colleverde is one of the region’s foremost wineries and olive oil

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (713) 348-4678 or (800) RICE-ALU or Tauck at (866) 951-1747



producers. Do a little virgin olive oil tasting... a little Tuscan wine tasting... and more than a little pasta tasting at lunch. **Meals BL**

#### SEPTEMBER 9 - LUSCIOUS LUCCA

Explore medieval Lucca by bicycle with a local guide who knows the best routes by heart. If you're not interested in bicycling, there's so much to see and do in town. A local winery just outside of town is the setting for an evening of wine, prosecco, and canapés, followed by a dinner of regional specialties under the fading light of the storied Tuscan sun. **Meals BD**

#### SEPTEMBER 10 - ARRIVEDERCI, TUSCANY

**Tour ends: Florence.** Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from Hotel Ilaria to Peretola Airport in Florence. **Meals B**

**Price** from \$3490 per person double  
**Meals** 7 Breakfasts / 1 Lunch / 3 Dinners  
**Dates** September 3 - 10, 2011  
 (Flights from U.S. depart on September 2, 2011)

#### Activities at a glance



◆ Some days include 2-4 miles of walking up steep hills or on uneven terrain and easy biking on relatively flat roads. The pace is up to you.

◆ Group Size: 20

◆ Tauck can book your air for travel originating in the U.S., subject to availability; ask at booking. Optional trip cancellation insurance will be offered with your confirmation.

## Piccolo Lusso Albergo (your small luxury hotels)



### GALLERY HOTEL ART

**Florence, Nights 1, 2 & 3**

A showcase of art, enriched by dramatic details and luxe touches that excite the senses... views that overlook Ponte Vecchio and the Arno River, steps away... and cookies that wait in your room... sweet



### HOTEL PORTO ROCA

**Monterosso, Nights 4 & 5**

Wake up in an elegant villa suspended between the sea and sky, with antique furnishings and amazing cliffside views... dine on a garden terrace overlooking the Mediterranean... find paradise



### HOTEL ILARIA

**Lucca, Nights 6 & 7**

The hotel sits in the gardens of a sprawling 14th-century villa in the heart of Lucca... a former stable reborn into a haven of style, where complimentary perks range from flower-filled views to a snack bar with free beer

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Dear Alumni and Friends;

Join alumni and friends as we experience a true taste of *la dolce vita* on a culturally immersive 8-day vacation in Tuscany and Cinque Terre from September 3 – 10, 2011 (international flights depart the U.S. on September 2, 2011).

Our program includes wonderful accommodations in small boutique hotels and villas, from a hip, art-filled retreat in the heart of Florence to an elegant villa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea to a 14th-century villa nestled in a lush garden setting in medieval Lucca. Guided sightseeing and exclusive hands-on activities include a private lecture with a Florentine art historian, an insider visit to an art restoration workshop, an olive oil tasting and a pasta-making lunch at a renowned Tuscan vineyard, along with a private piano recital at a palazzo in Florence, a 4 X 4 adventure tour to a marble quarry frequented by Michelangelo, an Italian lesson, hiking, biking, a farmers market tasting walk and so much more. This is truly a trip that will be long remembered by Rice Alumni and friends.

Sincerely,

Rose Sundin

Associate Director, Office of Alumni Affairs

P.S. Please call me at (713) 348-4678 or (800) RICE-ALU if you have questions. You may fax this reservation form to (713) 348-5210.

### Rice University Alumni Association Reservation Form: Tuscany & Cinque Terre

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person/people on **Tuscany & Cinque Terre**, September 3 - 10, 2011 (international flights depart the U.S. on September 2, 2011). I/we understand the final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to **Tauck, Inc.** and mail (with completed reservation form) to: **Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892 or fax reservation form to the Office of Alumni Affairs, 713-348-5210.**

Full Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from: \_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to request Business Class upgrade ☐

I will share my room with: \_\_\_\_\_ I desire a single room (limited availability) ☐

☐ Yes, I/we are interested in optional travel insurance. I would like to add an additional hotel night to my trip: Before ☐ After ☐

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Tuscany & Cinque Terre, September 3 – 10, 2011**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions:

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment

☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Tauck, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Tauck, Inc. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.

## Terms & Conditions

### Inclusive:

**Accommodations** - All accommodations are included. Two-bedded rooms are reserved in most hotels. Triples are usually a two-bedded room plus one rollaway cot and are not recommended for comfort.

**Gratuities** - All appropriate gratuities for luggage handling, bellmen, doormen, dining room services and local guides are included.

### Not included in tour price:

**Airfare** to the tour departure point and from the tour end point is not included. Airport tax and departure taxes are not included. Tauck Director and driver gratuities are not included.

**Hotel Rooms before or after tour** - To avoid jet lag, many guests prefer to make hotel arrangements before or after their tour. As a service, Tauck will make reservations before or after your tour upon request.

**Personal Expenses** such as phone calls, room service, alcoholic and bar beverages, mineral waters, soft drinks, laundry, airline excess luggage charges and other optional incidental extras are not included.

**Luggage Responsibility** - Although every effort is made to handle guests' luggage carefully, we cannot be responsible, assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal items. Reimbursement for delayed, lost, stolen or damaged luggage is covered under available optional travel insurance. Due to space limitations aboard motor coaches, we ask that you limit your checked luggage to only one average-size suitcase per person of about 50 lbs.

**If you have to cancel** - Time of cancellation will be when notice is received by Tauck. Cancellations result in costly charges from travel and hotel providers charging penalties and fees incurred by canceling confirmed bookings. Therefore, cancellation penalties do apply once monies are received on a booking. Visit Tauck's Website at [www.tauck.com](http://www.tauck.com) to review their cancellation policies.

**Cancellations and Refunds** - All cancellations must be submitted to Tauck. Cancellation 60 days plus prior to departure—loss of deposit of \$600 per person, not including air (if applicable); 59 to 8 days prior to departure—loss of \$900 per person, not including air (if applicable); 7 to 1 day prior to departure—loss of \$1500 per person, not including air (if applicable). Program reservations are not transferable. Cancellation on day of departure or after tour departs—no refund. Cancellation of tour by the Association of Rice Alumni or our tour operator (only in Extreme Circumstances)—full refund. We strongly urge applicants to purchase cancellation insurance.



OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS  
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STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
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