

A week of Wine (and more) in Tuscany

Small group touring of wineries and hill-top towns and villages throughout the region. Stay in your own private villa with old and new friends. We'll enjoy wine, olive oil, black and white truffles, local cuisine, architecture, history, and the natural beauty of the region.

Daily itinerary details are still in the works, but here's what the tour will include:

This tour includes:

- Seven nights in a Private Villa in Southern Tuscany
- All rooms include en-suite bathrooms
- Breakfast buffet each morning
- Dinner each night-3 at the Villa, 4 in local restaurants
- Vino with dinner
- Four lunches during tour visits
- Services of a local guide
- Seven full days of touring in Tuscany
- Round trip coach transportation-Florence Airport
- Air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- Walking tours of Montepulciano, Siena, San Gimignano, and Montalcino
- Evening Classical Concert
- A truffle Hunt and lunch
- Limited to 16 guests
- Optional balloon excursion or Ferrari road tour



On any one of our tour days, you're free to take the day off to hang out at the pool, stroll the countryside, or visit one of the shops or restaurants in the village.

The Villa

Villa Carrera is within a 200-yard, level walk from the medieval village of Torrita di Siena with the larger hill town of Montepulciano reached in 12 minutes by car. If you've been searching for an exceptional villa with up to 12 bedrooms, look no further. Meticulously restored, Villa Carrera is designed for sophisticated travelers seeking a high degree of comfort and refinement.

Guests enjoy the freedom of walking to the nearby café to start the day with a frothy cappuccino or taking an evening stroll to two restaurants or a pizzeria. Along the same street is a small grocer who doubles as one of the area's most notable butchers. On Friday mornings, opening the gate reveals the outdoor market that comes to the village.

Inside the gates, guests are welcomed by copses of cypresses and an idyllic country view over gently rolling Tuscan hills draped in acres of olive groves belonging to this country estate. An outdoor living area sits just above the swimming pool to take in this delightful panorama.

The entire villa is air-conditioned, smoke-free and adorned with frescoed ceilings and large, sun-filled windows. An elevator allows access to all three floors. Each of the 12 well-appointed bedrooms is adorned with treasured family heirlooms, a wall safe and a marble-clad, en-suite bathroom with built-in hairdryer. All bedrooms may be configured as queens or with two singles beds.

Awaken each morning to a breakfast buffet that is served outdoors under the arched, fully shaded loggia or in the main dining room. Torrita di Siena overlooks one of Italy's most visually striking landscapes. The Val di Chiana valley is dotted with colorful hill towns yielding highly rated Vino Nobile di Montepulciano red wine and the velvety Pecorino cheeses of Pienza.

Bedroom options

Bedroom 1	First floor master corner with French Balcony
Bedroom 2	First floor bedroom, rear of villa facing the pool
Bedroom 3	First floor bedroom, rear of villa facing the pool
Bedroom 4	First floor bedroom, side of villa, shading trees
Bedroom 5	First floor bedroom with French Balcony
Bedroom 6	Second floor master corner suite-overlooking village and hills
Bedroom 7	Second floor-rear of villa-overlooking pool and countryside
Bedroom 8	Second floor-front of villa overlooking village
Bedroom 9	Second floor-overlooking village rooftops
Bedroom 10	Second Floor with shading trees outside window
Bedroom 11	Second Floor with expansive views of the pool and countryside
Bedroom 12	Second Floor-smaller bedroom with country view-2 single beds

Links to photos of the villa with the bedroom description is here:

<http://www.parkervillas.com/italy/tuscany/villa-carrera/24/photos?date=112018>

Tour pricing for 7 nights

\$3390 per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$300, but limited to 3 single guests. Deposit of \$1500 per person is required to confirm your villa accommodations. Balance of payment is due June 15th, 2019.

Some of the bedrooms at the villa are arguably more desirable than others. Items that affect this are view, balcony, or size. All rooms have an attached bathroom. Because of the unique character and location of each room, I've assigned a premium to certain rooms and a discount for others. Additional charges are "per room", not per person.



Accommodation surcharge or credit (per room)

Bedroom 1, 5, 6	add	\$600
Bedroom 4, 10	deduct	\$500
Bedroom 12	deduct	\$600
Bedroom 2, 3		\$0
Bedroom 7, 11	add	\$500
Bedroom 8, 9	deduct	\$300

Pricing is based on payment by visa or mastercard. If you choose to pay by check, your discount is \$130 per person.

There are two villa weeks from which to choose:

Week 1	September 28 th to October 5 th
Week 2	October 5 th to October 12 th

Typical weather in the region:

Conditions are very similar to the Seattle area, though Montepulciano gets about ½ inch less rain for the month of October and is about 5° warmer. Daytime highs will be close to 70°. Nighttime lows can get down to freezing.

Flight suggestions:

Florence (FLR) is the best option for commercial flights. Seattle departures are available for reasonable itineraries with one stop. For guests arriving in Florence in the morning (suggested), your transportation will depart from the airport to the villa about 1:00 PM.

Air France and Delta offer arrivals at 11:00 AM. Lufthansa arrivals are at 2:00 PM. If you arrive on the later LH flight, your coach will depart close to 3:00 PM, with an anticipated arrival at the villa by 5:00. Today (11/15/18) fares are priced at \$1500 from Seattle. Fares from Vancouver are under \$1100.

I expect that you should find Seattle fares closer to \$1100 round trip. My suggestion is to set up a fare alert on Kayak.com. It's a great feature and there is no charge to set up an account.

Many of the return departures from FLR to the USA depart quite early. We'll provide a shuttle to get you back on time. Remember that you'll want to depart the USA (or Canada) the day before the villa week begins. That's September 27th for the first week or October 4th for the second week.



Links:

The Towns:

Montepulciano

<https://www.discovertuscanycountry.com/montepulciano/>

Montalcino

<https://www.discovertuscanycountry.com/montalcino/guide-to-montalcino.html>

Siena

<https://www.discovertuscanycountry.com/siena/>

San Gimignano

<http://www.sangimignano.com/en/>

Volterra

<https://www.discovertuscanycountry.com/volterra/>

Torrita di Siena-Villa site

<https://www.visittuscany.com/en/destinations/torrita-siena/>

The Vino

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano

<https://vinepair.com/wine-101/vino-nobile-di-montepulciano-101/>

Brunello di Montalcino

<https://www.wine-searcher.com/regions-brunello+di+montalcino>

Chianti Classico

<https://vinepair.com/wine-101/chianti-italian-wine/>

Vernaccia di San Gimignano

<https://winefolly.com/vernaccia-di-san-gimignano/>

Super Tuscans

<https://winefolly.com/tutorial/super-tuscan-wines/>



The Experiences

Chianti Balloon Tour

<https://www.balloonintuscany.com/en/siena-balloon-flights/>

Ferrari road tour

<https://avignonesi.it/en/ferrari-tour>

Truffle hunt and lunch

<https://www.torciano.com/en/visit/truffle/truffle-hunting-experience/>

Itinerary:

Day 1 Saturday Arrive Florence airport.

Meet your driver and travel 90 minutes to your Tuscan Villa. The afternoon is free to wander the village. We have a late afternoon wine tasting arranged prior to the welcome dinner at the villa in the early evening (D)

Day 2 Sunday Siena

We'll start the day with wine beginning with a visit to La Lastra for a tour of the cellars and a tasting of Chianti as well as some lesser known varietals from the area. ... The Tuscan Wine School will provide a foodie tour of the historic center of Siena. Free time in the afternoon to wander the town or shop. Dine in Siena this evening. (BLD)

Day 4 Monday Montalcino

Two amazing towns today, starting with the home of Brunello. First Montalcino with high-end shops, wineries, and restaurants. We'll start our morning with a cellar tour and tasting at Canalicchio di Sopra, followed by a walk through the town. We'll break for Lunch in Montalcino, then travel to the medieval town of Pienza for a walking tour. We'll visit a local producer to sample Pecorino cheese and olive oil, enjoy a bit of free time for photos, shopping, or additional wine tasting.

Our final stop of the afternoon is at Podere il Casale for a pizza making class and, you guessed it, more wine. Return to the villa in the early evening. Since we've enjoyed late afternoon pizza and wine, dinner is not provided. If you're still feeling peckish, I suggest wandering down to one of the restaurants in the village. (BD)

Day 3 Tuesday Montepulciano

We'll start with a morning walking tour of the village of Montepulciano. Our next stop is a light lunch and wine tasting at Avionesi Winery. We'll have our second tasting of the day at Palazzo Vecchio. We turn for home with a final stop not far from the villa at Poliziano Winery. We'll dine al fresco at a restaurant in Montepulciano this evening. (BLD)

Day 5 Wednesday Chianti

Driving north from the villa, we enter Chianti Classico Country. We'll stop at Felsina for a tour of the cellar and taste some of their vino. A stop for lunch in Radda and time to visit Casa Chianti Classico for an education into the varietals of the region. A final visit another respected producer, Castello di Ama for a tasting before returning to the villa in the evening for dinner. (BLD)

Day 6 Thursday San Gimignano

This morning we visit Tenuta Torciano in the hills north of Poggibonsi for a light lunch, and wine tasting, followed by short introduction to Truffle Hunting. We'll visit the towered hill town on San Gimignano this afternoon. We'll walk through the town, ending at the Vernaccia Wine Museum for a tasting of this unique white varietal. We then travel to Volterra for a visit to a wine cellar in town followed by an evening dinner in the village. (BLD)

Day 7 Friday Option Day

Today is option day. You may choose to spend more time in Montepulciano or Montalcino on your own. Transportation will be provided. You might choose to take a hot air balloon ride over the Tuscan Countryside, or tear up Tuscan roads in a Ferrari. See below for options. **Our farewell dinner is in the villa this evening (BD)**

Day 8 Saturday Arrivederci!

Transportation is provided from the villa to accommodate early flights home. Guests departing early will be provided with a boxed breakfast. Later morning transportation is provided for guests with later flights from Florence. Transportation will also be provided to the train station at Montepulciano for guests extending their stay on the continent. (B)

