Tuscany is celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty, magnificent Renaissance art and architecture, and superb wines and cuisine. Its historic hilltop towns are living postcards where ancient ramparts encircle colorful piazzas, elegant Etruscan fountains, stately palazzos and bustling cafés. Experience this idyllic world firsthand on a special travel program that combines guided sightseeing excursions with ample free time to immerse yourself into the local culture. Wander through the streets of Colle di Val d’Elsa, your base from which to explore this storied area, and discover the charm and romance of Italian living at its best.

**PROGAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- Spend seven nights in the undiscovered town of **Colle di Val d’Elsa**, wonderfully situated in the heart of Tuscany.
- Admire the impressive architecture of **San Gimignano** and **Castellina**.
- Learn the art of winemaking and taste wine and delectable olive oils at **Castello di Monsanto**.
- Immerse yourself in the incomparable ambience in **Florence**.
- View **Siena’s Duomo**, a magnificent example of Romanesque architecture.
- Explore the ancient Etruscan city of **Cortona**, in the heart of Tuscany, and discover its fascinating **Etruscan Academy Museum**.
- Learn the secrets to preparing flavorful **Tuscan cuisine** during an exclusive cooking demonstration.

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**INCLUDED FEATURES**

**Accommodations**
- Seven nights in **Colle di Val d’Elsa, Italy**, at the deluxe **Palazzo San Lorenzo Hotel**.

**Activities and Events**
- Informative educational programs presented by local experts will enhance your insight into the region.
- All excursions as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Personal VOX listening device to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

**Extensive Meal Program**
- Enjoy seven breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of **leisure time** to try the **local cuisine** independently.

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**MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS**

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.
DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - IN TRANSIT
Depart for Florence, Italy. Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 - FLORENCE/COLLE DI VAL D’ELSA
Upon arrival, transfer to Colle di Val d’Elsa and check in to the Palazzo San Lorenzo Hotel. Enjoy an orientation walk of the village. Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 3 - CASOLE D’ELSA
Educational Focus: History of Tuscany.
Excursion and Local Flavor: Pecorino Cheese. Visit a local, family-owned factory where handmade pecorino cheese is produced. Indulge in a tasting of this classic Tuscan cheese made from sheep’s milk.
Excursion: Casole d’Elsa. Travel to the quiet hilltop village of Casole d’Elsa, originally an Etruscan settlement, where more than 40 Etruscan tombs have been discovered. Explore the town’s narrow alleyways and streets, and see the imposing medieval tower. Delight in spectacular panoramic views of the Tuscan countryside.

DAY 4 - CORTONA
Excursion: Cortona and the Etruscan Academy Museum. Travel to lovely Cortona and enjoy a walking tour of the town. Delight in its exceptional Etruscan features as you stroll past historic palazzi and through charming piazzas. Visit Cortona’s Museum of the Etruscan Academy and be astounded by its impressive collection of archaeological finds and Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Egyptian works of art.
Educational Focus: Renaissance Art.

DAY 5 - FLORENCE
Excursion: Florence. The birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence proudly displays its prodigious heritage of architecture and art. See the Old Palace, the Ponte Vecchio, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and other highlights.
Independent Exploration: The afternoon is free to explore the city. Perhaps you will choose to visit one of the city’s famous museums.

DAY 6 - SAN GimignANO/CASTELLINA
Excursion: Tuscany’s Magnificent Hill Country. Visit the 14-century fortified town of San Gimignano, where towerhouses stand as symbols of wealth and power. Journey along the Chianti Road to the well-preserved medieval town of Castellina, once an important Florentine garrison.

Educational Focus: Meet the People. Talk with local residents about life in Tuscany.

DAY 7 - SIENA
Excursion: Sienna. Travel to Sienna, a city that has remained remarkably unchanged throughout the centuries. Visit the Gaia Fountain, the art-filled Mangia Tower and the Duomo.
Educational Focus: A Contemporary View of Italy.

DAY 8 - COLLE DI VAL D’ELSA/CASTELLO DI MONSANTO
Excursion: ColleVilca Crystal Museum. Crystal and glass goods have been made in Colle di Val d’Elsa for more than eight centuries, and the town is considered to be Italy’s crystal capital. ColleVilca is a crystal company formed by the merger of the Colle and Vilca companies. Visit the museum to see beautiful crystal masterpieces and learn about the production process.
Excursion and Local Flavor: Wine and Olive Oil. Visit the lovely Castello di Monsanto winery and learn about the art of winemaking during a private tour of its cellars. Sample wine and extra-virgin olive oil.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner at Molino il Moro, a charming local favorite.

DAY 9 - IN TRANSIT
Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city. Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ACCOMMODATIONS

PALAZZO SAN LORENZO HOTEL
Colle di Val d’Elsa
The Palazzo San Lorenzo Hotel is ideally located in the heart of Tuscany, in the walled medieval town of Colle di Val d’Elsa close to the town’s main square, shops, restaurants and cafés. Built in the 17th century as a hospital, the hotel has been meticulously refurbished and exudes traditional charm combined with modern flair. The hotel’s Restaurant Sopra Le Mura specializes in traditional Tuscan cuisine, and an inviting Wine Bar features a large selection of vintages. The spa offers an assortment of rejuvenating treatments and services and features a sauna, a Turkish bath and a heated pool. Each spacious, tastefully appointed guest room is soundproofed and provides a full range of modern amenities.