

# *A Custom Designed Itinerary to*

## *Tuscany*

*by*

### *IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS*

IQOTC REF: Tuscany wine tour

**DAY 1: FLORENCE/CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI.** Upon arrival at the Florence airport, we are met by our English speaking escort and vehicle. We will be transferred to our villa accommodations where we will spend



the next 6 nights. We settle in at the Villa Casalecchi, a four star villa/hotel located in the heart of the Chianti region, immersed in a park of centuries old trees and surrounded by vineyards of the famous Chianti Classico wine. The main building is an 18<sup>th</sup> century home decorated with antique Tuscan furniture. We include superior rooms (best rooms) in the main building. A buffet breakfast will be included daily. Evening is at leisure to relax. The villa has a very nice restaurant where guests can dine on their own if they wish.

**DAY 2: CHIANTI CLASSICO.** Today we stay in the Castellina and Rada area and enjoy our first winery visit and tasting. This will take place in the ancient wine cellars of one of the oldest producers in the Chianti area. We will taste 2 different wines accompanied by some tasty snacks. The rest of the day can be enjoyed visiting some of the lovely countryside including the tiny medieval city of Monteriggioni. Return to Villa Casalecchi for evening at leisure.



**DAY 3: CHIANTI CLASSICO.** Our second day of wine tasting takes us to another great Chianti Classico producing area, the Greve area. Here our wine tasting will take place in a Medieval Castle. We'll try 3 wines along with some Tuscan snacks. This will be followed by a 4-hour hands-on cooking class. We will then sit down to enjoy our dinner, which we will have cooked and will be served with wine. We return to Villa Casalecchi for overnight.

**DAY 4: CHIANTI SENESE.** This morning we travel to the nearby San Gimignano area, where we will stop at



two different wineries. We will also spend some time in San Gimignano, a wonderful 14th century medieval hill town with narrow, cobblestone streets, which seem to belong to another century. It is encircled by ramparts topped by fourteen towers of nobility. Originally there were 72 towers which the lords built as high as they could and from various vantage points, there are spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The Piazza della Cisterna is the center of town where the locals gather to gossip and the occasional market sets up. We return to Villa Casalecchi for dinner at leisure.

**DAY 5: CHIANTI SENESE.** Today we will travel south to the Montepulciano and Montalcino region. We will have a visit of the Avignonesi Estate in Valiano that will include a wine tasting of 3 wines, including the Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and a cheese tasting of Pecorino di Pianza and some salami.

We will then travel to nearby Montefollonico and the restaurant La Chiusa, Michelin's highest rated restaurant in Tuscany, where we will enjoy a 7-course tasting menu accompanied by a half bottle of Montepulciano wine per person.

NOTE: This can also be served with a half bottle of Brunello, but price will increase based on selection. We may want to stop in Siena for a stroll after lunch and before returning to Villa Casalecchi for an evening at leisure.

**DAY 6: CHIANTI FIORENTINO.** On our last day, we travel north to the Fiesole area, where we will visit two different wineries and taste a couple of wines at each. We will also enjoy a professional olive oil tasting, where we will taste different oils and get a 45-minute explanation. We return to Villa Casalecchi for our final evening, where we will gather for a farewell dinner. We will sample the "Menu Degustazione" of the day, which consists of various gourmet small courses, served with their accompanying wines.



**DAY 7: DEPART.** As all good things come to an end, we are transferred back to the Florence airport in time for our flight home. An extension to Venice or Rome can be booked individually. Arrivederci!