

EXPLORE ITALY WITH PICCOLO CHEF

An educational and fun culinary vacation for kids and parents

June 15 - 22, 2013

Come with your family and kids to the Tuscan countryside and live the Italian way!



Learn the secrets of the best **homemade Italian recipes**, explore the territory with our local friends and educators, and enjoy a culinary vacation with your **family!**

Live in an *agriturismo* for a week, among the medieval cities of **Cortona, Siena** and **Perugia**, to experience the authentic Italian lifestyle immersed in a blend of **tradition, culture and nature.**

TRAVEL PLAN

Day 1. Welcome to Italy!

Around 2pm, meeting with our local host at Roma International airport for the group transfer to the *agriturismo* by private coach. Arrival and accommodation in the apartments.

Meeting with the owner and presentation of the program. Distribution of special gifts!

Walk and exploration of the property.

Welcome drink and sit down dinner with the owners in the quaint common dining room. Dinner features a three-course meal freshly cooked to taste local produce and homemade delicacies.



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Day 2. – Kids make lunch for everybody while parents enjoy a guided wine tasting!

Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*.

Walk to the vineyard and olive grove together with the owner, who will explain the basics of their organic wine and olive oil making process. The tour will be followed by a fun cooking class for the kids led by our local chef, where they will prepare an entire light lunch for everybody with fresh homemade 'fettuccine della nonna'!

Meanwhile the parents will be entertained by an educational wine tasting with the owner.

Excursion to picturesque Cortona.

In the afternoon, an excursion by private coach to the nearby city of Cortona, well known for being the setting of the book and movie 'Under the Tuscan Sun'. After a short guided tour of the city we'll visit its famous Etruscan museum with many archeological finds of the Etruscan and Roman

civilization. The visit includes fun interactive games and activities, and a 3D path to discover the history and the origins of the Italian culture.

Dinner on our own in a local restaurant.

Day 3. – Educational day in a traditional Italian farmhouse!

Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*. Depart to the farmhouse by private coach. Meeting with the educator and introduction to the activities of the day. Today the younger kids will get familiar with the Italian country life. They will meet the farm animals and learn to take care of them. Also they will learn how to recognize fruits, vegetables and herbs, just smelling, tasting and picking them from the garden. What better than a living science book to learn?

Meanwhile the parents and teens will be helping in the kitchen preparing a typical Italian country lunch using only the products of the farm and its garden and enjoy the lunch immersed in a fabulous Tuscan countryside for an unforgettable experience.

Return to the *agriturismo*. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner on our own.



Day 4. – Excursion to Siena: guided tour inside a *contrada* to discover the secrets of the *Palio*!

Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*. Depart by private coach to beautiful



Siena with its medieval look characterized by the stones called *cotto*. In 1200, Siena was the most important city in Tuscany, due to its position on the Via Francigena, the most important road linking Rome with the North. Siena is also well renowned for the *Palio*, a historic equestrian competition among the *contrade* (districts), which originated in 1260 and still passionately raced twice a year in the peculiar *Piazza del Campo* – an elliptical and sloping corral.

We will be proudly hosted by the *contradaioi* (citizens officially belonging to that specific *contrada*) who will literally open the door of one of the 17 *contrade*. They will show us the museum displaying flags, decorations, costumes, dresses and most importantly awards recalling the symbol of the *contrada* (always an animal) with heraldic and semi-mythological

associations, and they will take us to the church where every horse receives its blessing and where the “*contradaioi*” are baptized. Our tour will end with a lunch in one of their medieval palaces in an ancient atmosphere.

Return to the *agriturismo* by private coach. Dinner at the *agriturismo*.

Day 5. – Educational tour of the peasant life and pizza class!

Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*.

Depart to our destination by private coach.

Visit of a rural museum to learn how life was before the industrial era in a fully equipped original house full of rare objects and tools used in the daily life of a peasant family.

The highlight will be on homemade bread and its traditions, the most important symbol of the Italian culture dating back to 3,500 BC. Today the kids will learn where bread comes from and how is made, from the ear of wheat to its transformation into flour.

Back to the *agriturismo* the kids will take part in a professional pizza class. Parents are free to assist. After, pizza lunch for everybody!

Rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure. Optional local excursions can be organized for the entire family (horse riding, fishing, bike tours, local crafts shopping, etc.).

Dinner on our own.



Day 6. – Excursion to Perugia: special visit to the famous Perugia with a tasting and chocolate class!



Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*.

Departure to Perugia by private coach. Arrival to Perugia factory and meeting with the guide/educator for the visit of the **Historical Museum of Chocolate**. The tour will provide an overview about the origins and history of chocolate and its use in the food industry.

The tour continues to the chocolate factory to discover the secrets of the famous *Baci Perugia*, followed by a guided chocolate tasting. After the tour the youngster will take part in a chocolate class led by a **Master Chocolate Chef**.

Lunch on our own, followed by a private guided tour among the cobblestoned streets of the historic center of Perugia, the capital city of Umbria region. The history of Perugia has many

interesting artistic masterpieces to be revealed. Starting with the works left by its famous painter Pietro Vannucci, nicknamed *Perugino*, to the griffin, symbol of the town, which can be seen in plaques and statues but also in traditional precious tapestry hand woven for generations, to the secret underground path beneath the **cathedral of San Lorenzo**, or to the magnificent library with thousands of ancient manuscripts guarded by the last friars of the convent of *San Francesco del Monte*.

In the afternoon return to the *agriturismo* by private coach. Dinner at the *agriturismo*.

Day 7. – Educational day with the Shepherd: from the milk to the cheese, with yogurt and ricotta in between!

Rich buffet breakfast with fresh products and homemade pies at the *agriturismo*.

Departure to the nearby mountain by private coach. Arrival and meeting with the owner/educator that will introduce the beautiful property and the activities of the day.

Today we will visit the stables where the sheep stay and will assist the shepherd hand milking. Then we will visit the cheese factory and learn how to make ricotta, cheese and yogurt, while being educated about the milk use and its nutritional properties.

Lunch altogether with the shepherd outdoors in the wonderful setting of this mountain location.

Parents can follow the kids for the cheese class or spend time on the property.



In the afternoon return to the *agriturismo* by private coach. Time at leisure. Farewell dinner at the *agriturismo*.

Day 8. – Arrivederci Italy!

Two common departures to Rome Fiumicino International airport. Breakfast according to departure time.



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Price

- The price is USD 2,995 per person for both adults and kids. This price is based on a minimum of 22 participants including adults and children.
- A non-refundable deposit of USD 500 per person is required to reserve attendance and will be deducted from the final amount.
- Deposit is required by February 28, 2013.
- The balance is required by March 31, 2013.
- Payments can be made to Exclusively Italian by check or by credit card via paypal.

The Package includes

- Seven nights accommodation in agriturismo in independent highly comfortable apartments with one, two or three bedrooms with one or two bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, and private furnished terrace or garden space.
- Morning buffet continental breakfast rich with local fresh organic products.
- Four three courses sit down dinners with wine, water and beverages.
- Five lunches with wine, water and beverages.
- Private guided tour in Siena.
- Activities, wine tasting and entrance tickets as described in the Travel Plan.
- A t-shirt and a chef's apron for each kid.
- A welcome gift for the adults.
- Transportation with highly comfortable private coach for the group excursions and trips.
- Group transfer from Rome Fiumicino International airport to the agriturismo on the day of arrival.
- Two different group transfers from the agriturismo to Rome Fiumicino International airport on the day of departure.
- Tax and tips for the services included.
- Full time Exclusively Italian Professional Tour leader along with a Piccolo Chef Representative and local professional assistants.

The Package does not include

- Meals, drinks, extras or private transportation not mentioned in 'The Package includes'
- Travel Insurance.
- Flight from/to US.

Accommodation

Our charming accommodation is a **traditional farmhouse** completely restored immersed in the **vineyards and olive groves**. The *borghetto* hosts small independent apartments with one or two bedrooms, almost each room with private bathroom. They feature a fully equipped kitchen, furnished private terrace or garden space. Common facilities include breakfast and dining room, garden, large swimming pool and a smaller pool for little children, mountain bikes.

The farmhouse is family run, by an organic wines and extra virgin olive oil producer. They will be part of our Italian experience and will fill our week with the best hospitality.

Important notes

- Kids are under full responsibility of their parents.
- A registration form with terms and conditions must be signed and sent along with the deposit.
- Exclusively Italian reserves the right to cancel this trip for any circumstances beyond its control. In this case a full refund will be made.