

Food, Wine & Culture

# Tuscany & Florence

September 21 - October 2, 2019



VILLAS-AND-VINES.COM

Perfecting the Art of Vacationing





*Our trip to Italy was an outstanding experience! The villa accommodations, food, wine and transportation were excellent! Anne is so organized and familiar with Italy that every day was a wonderful adventure and completely stress-free.*

Gayle and Harrell Banks - San Antonio , Texas





# Tuscany and Florence Small Group Tour

Hosts: Villas and Vines Travel  
with Anne and Dennis Connally

September 21-October 2, 2019  
Limited to 14 Guests

## Table of Contents

Snapshot of Tuscany Itinerary .....	1
Snapshot of Florence Itinerary .....	2
Tuscany .....	3-4
Tuscany Villa .....	5-12
Florence .....	13-16
Florence Hotel .....	17-18
Detailed Itinerary .....	19-24
What's Included .....	25
What's Not Included .....	26
Trip Price and Reserving Your Place .....	27
Booking Terms and Conditions .....	28-36



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# Snapshot of Itinerary

## Tuscany

Tuscany is meant to be explored leisurely without a hectic schedule, we reserve the right to modify the itinerary due to inclement weather, special events and festivals, and for serendipitous moments. We get it! It is your vacation and you should be able to spend it in a way that's meaningful to you. You don't have to worry about keeping to a strict schedule. Feel like having another cappuccino before leaving the villa? No worries. With our Garmins pre-loaded with the itinerary for each day, you'll have the ability to catch up with us later or go out and do something on your own.

Day 0 - September 20	International flight to Florence no later than today
Day 1 - September 21	Arrival at Florence Airport Accommodations at Luxury Villa in Tuscany Private Wine Tasting and Light Lunch Welcome Reception and Dinner
Day 2 - September 22	Panzano - Vino al Vino Festival Master Pizzaioli at the Villa for Dinner
Day 3 - September 23	San Gimignano (UNESCO Site) Volterre
Day 4 - September 24	Siena Monteriggioni
Day 5 - September 25	Montepulciano Pienza
Day 6 - September 26	Impruneta Cooking Class with Dinner and Wine
Day 7 - September 27	Volpaia Castellina in Chianti Farewell Dinner at the Villa



# Snapshot of Itinerary

## Florence

Your time is valuable, and you've traveled several thousand miles to get here, we know not everyone has the same plans for Florence. For this reason we will custom create an itinerary that is special to your interests.

Day 8 - September 28 Transfer to Florence  
Luxury Accommodations at Sina Villa Medici  
Carro Matto Festival (Crazy Cart)  
Sunset Walking Tour of Florence

Day 9 - September 29 Florence

Day 10 - September 30 Florence

Day 11 - October 1 Florence

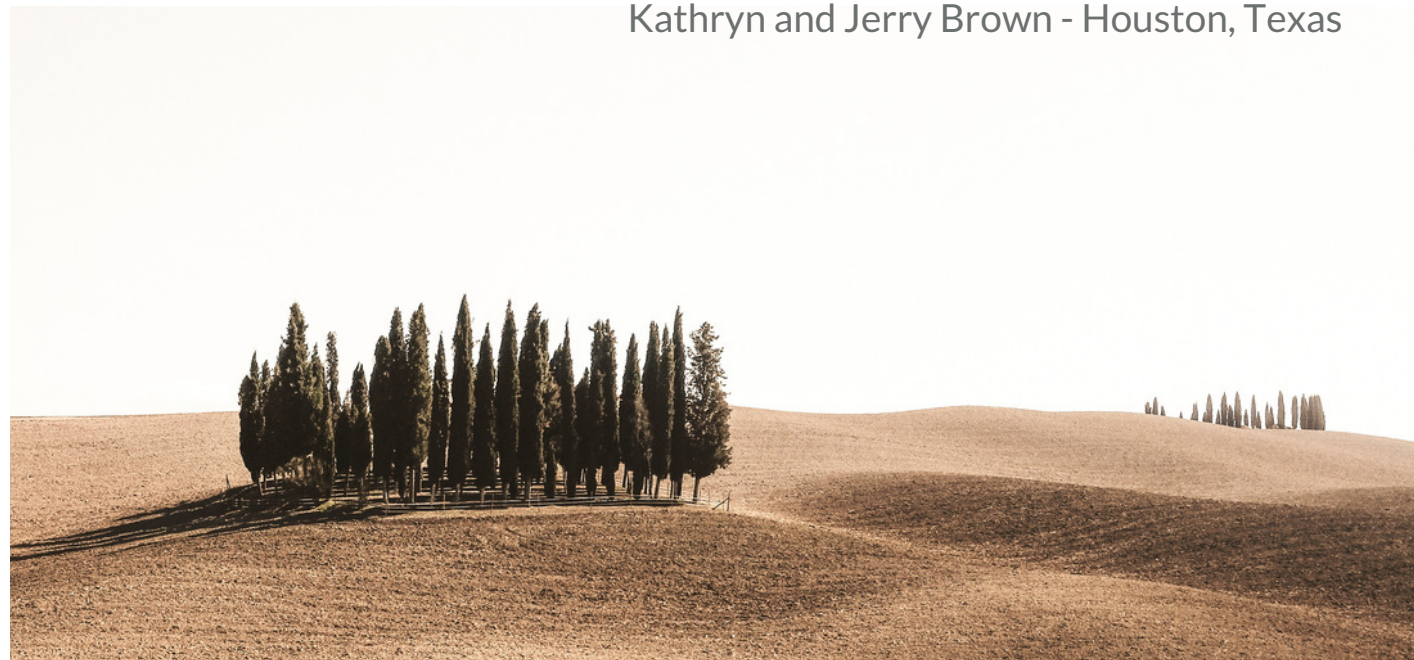
Day 12 - October 2 Arrivederci! Departure from Florence





*There's been so much that my husband and I have both loved about our trips with Anne and Dennis that it might be hard to keep it to a couple of sentences. We have traveled with Villas and Vines six times since 2010. Every trip has been first class from beginning to end, including our accommodations, meals, wine tours, and shopping trips.*

Kathryn and Jerry Brown - Houston, Texas







## AHHH...TUSCANY!

What's not to love about Tuscany? Tuscany has it all; from its timeless landscapes, traditions rich in history, Renaissance art, architecture, ornate churches, incredible food, superb wines and local artisans. You'll not only spend time in Siena and Florence but you will also visit the smaller, quaint villages. Tuscany in the fall is a magical time with the ever changing landscape of colors, cooler days and the Vendemmia (grape harvest) is taking place.

Amazing history lies before you, perfect hilltop villages built inside medieval defensive walls. Some of the sleepy villages we will visit are in remote corners of the countryside and have remained mere specs on the population map for the past several hundred years.

It is not only isolation that has preserved these in Tuscany, it's the lesser known villages where you will find the local artisans, farmers, craftsmen, and their families whose skills have been honed over the centuries.





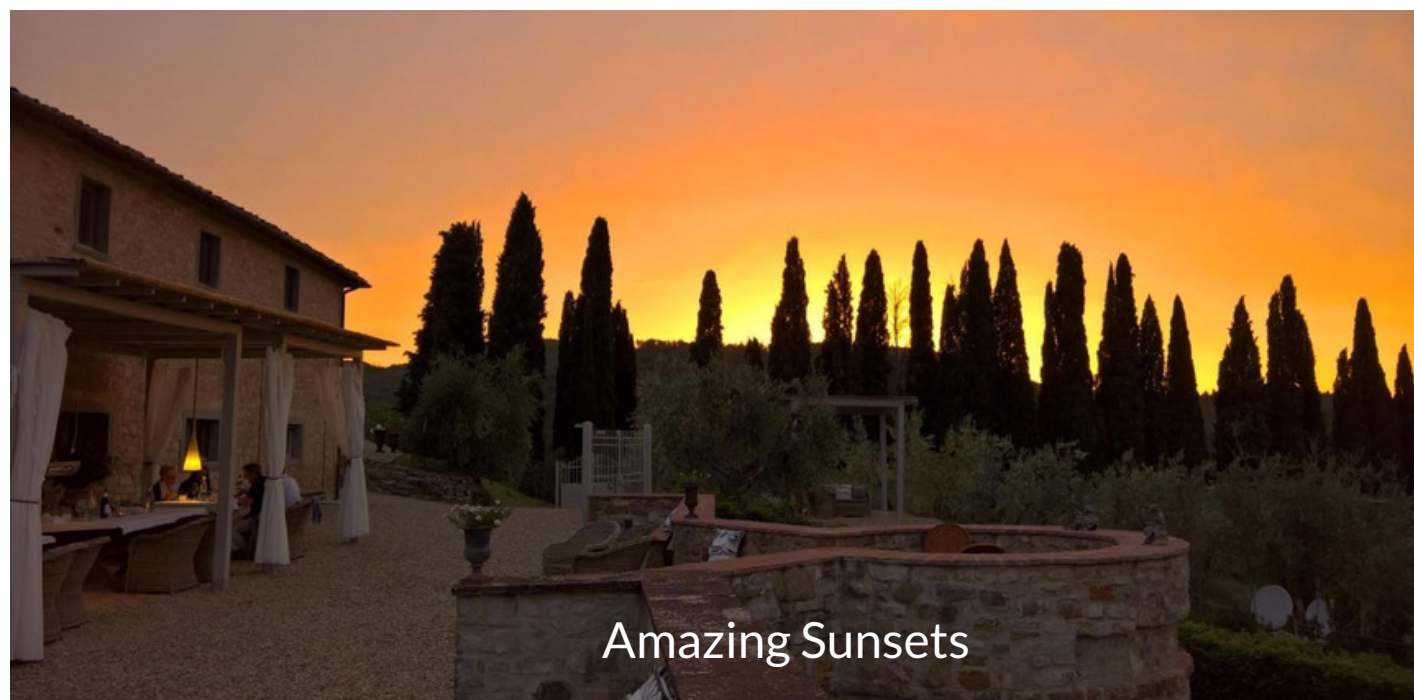
Alfresco Dining



No Buses!



5 Exclusive Tastings



Amazing Sunsets



# Tuscany 7 Nights



Discover the difference Villas-and-Vines brings by combining culture, fun-filled activities, authentic experiences, and luxury accommodations to no more than 16 guests.









Drool over picture-perfect views, patchwork landscapes, stunning sunsets, and “pinch yourself” moments in one of Italy’s most beautiful regions of Tuscany. As your hosts, we’ll show you areas often missed by the whirlwind tourists – and we’re not complaining. We love having the seclusion of our exclusive luxury villa, olive groves, and alfresco dining under the stars all to ourselves.



From the olive groves, to the terraced vineyards to the medieval villages, Tuscany offers the full immersion – yet most end up barely skimming the surface. Not to worry; the vintners, cheese-makers, chefs, and artisans we’ve met over the years would never let that happen to our distinguished guests.



# Villa Details

The villa consists of eight spacious suites with ensuite bathrooms spread out over three buildings: the main villa, the tower and the restored barn which is now the Hideaway Suite. In the main villa this is a formal dining room with seating for 18 guests, a sitting area with a cozy fireplace, a historic wine cellar, and a fully stocked chef's kitchen. Other additions include a wellness space, and a small chapel from the 15th century.

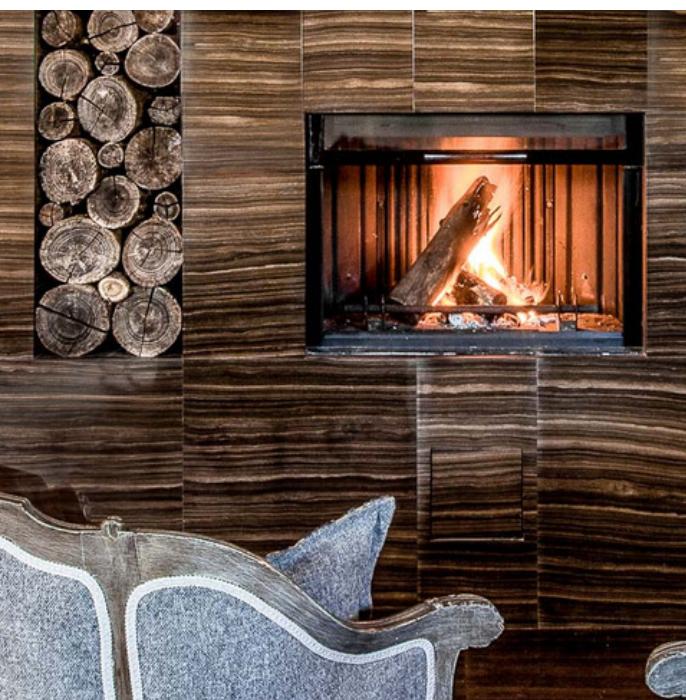
The Hideaway Suite is a place of great peace and tranquility where you can lounge on the secluded terrace and let your senses take over.

The luxury suites located in three different buildings are nothing short of majestic and decked out with all of the modern conveniences you could ask for. They offer exceptional comfort, super comfy king sized beds, Egyptian cotton linens, rainfall shower heads, and designer toiletries. Each of the rooms is unique by design and includes either a sitting area or separate living space complete with antique Persian rugs. For example, in the Ruffoli Suite there's even a stand-alone cast stone tub with gorgeous views from the window, a marble walk-in shower and a crystal chandelier.

There is no shortage of terraces, sun-decks around the pool, sitting spaces and places for alfresco dining with fabulous sunsets in the background. Spend the day relaxing on one of the daybeds by the pool, have a massage, go cycling, horseback riding, or anything else you wish to do. Rest assured, everything has been thought out to ensure you a relaxing stay with outstanding views!









## VILLA SERVICES

English Speaking Concierge  
Welcome Amenity in Each Suite  
Daily Housekeeping with Towel Change  
Daily Breakfast Service  
Beverage Center Stocked with Coffee and Tea  
Fridge Stocked with Non-alcoholic Beverages

## OUTDOOR FEATURES

Swimming Pool and Hot Tub  
Alfresco Shower  
3 Alfresco Dining Areas and Barbecue Area  
Terrace and Sun Loungers  
Outdoor Kitchenette  
San Pietro Martyr Chapel

## IN-ROOM AMENITIES

Egyptian Cotton Bed Linens  
King Sized Beds  
Robes and Toiletries by Erbario Toscana  
Marble Bathrooms  
Chromotherapy Rain Shower Heads  
Sitting Area or Separate Sitting Room  
Ensuite Bathrooms

## AMENITIES

Historic Wine Cellar with Honor Bar System  
Formal Dining with Seating for 18 Guests  
Fully Equipped Chef's Kitchen  
Wine Fridge and Ice Maker  
Fireplaces  
WiFi, Stereo System, Televisions  
Heated Floors and Air Conditioning  
Wellness Area and Hammam Bath  
Alarm System

*Our trip to Tuscany was wonderful! Anne & Dennis know so much about the region and offered us great opportunities to visit towns, restaurants and wineries we never would have found on our own. The accommodations were great, the food & wine were divine and the excursions well laid out, but it was also nice to be able to choose to go with the group or venture off on our own (which we did one day). We thoroughly enjoyed our travel experience with them and hope to do it again!*

Kristen and John Sexton - Cypress, Texas



We believe the most extraordinary places are luxurious villas – where the villa itself is an intimate expression of the area we are visiting. That’s why we keep our groups small (less than 16 guests); so we can stay at spectacular places like this centuries old yet beautifully renovated villa in the heart of Chianti.

### **HERITAGE VILLA (THE MAIN VILLA)**

Lamole Suite - 38 sqm - 1st Floor

Trip Price: \$6,900 per person/double occupancy

2 room suite: bedroom, living room with chaise lounge, bathroom in marble with large walk-in shower, rain shower head; all rooms have windows offering views of the Chianti countryside.

Ruffoli Suite - 45 sqm - 1st Floor

Trip Price: \$6,900 per person/double occupancy

2 room suite: bedroom, private spa-bathroom in marble with freestanding cast stone bathtub, chaise lounge, daybed, shower with rain shower head, rooms offer views of the Chianti countryside.

Greve Suite - 30 sqm - 1st Floor

Trip Price: \$6,900 per person/double occupancy

1 room suite: 1 bedroom with a separate bathroom in marble with large shower. Three windows offer views of the Chianti countryside.

Casole Suite - 59 sqm - 1st Floor

Trip Price: \$6,900 per person/double occupancy

2 room suite: Bedroom with integrated bathroom in marble with large shower and rain shower head. There is a small single bedroom under the eaves accessible via an external staircase. Both rooms offer views of the Chianti countryside.

### **GARDEN VILLA**

Hideaway Suite - 70 sqm - Ground Floor (Loft Suite)

Trip Price: \$7,500 per person/double occupancy

Living room and bathroom in marble with a freestanding cast stone bathtub and large walk-in marble shower on the ground level. The bedroom is access via internal staircase. The room comes with a garden and picture-book views of the Chianti countryside.

### **THE TOWER**

Panzano Suite - 48 sqm - 2nd Floor

Trip Price: \$7,100 per person/double occupancy

2 room suite: Bedroom with freestanding cast stone bathtub, bathroom in marble with chromo-therapy rain shower head, living room, and views of the Chianti countryside from all three rooms.

Torre Suite - 55 sqm - 2nd and 3rd Floors

Trip Price: \$7,300 per person/double occupancy

Bedroom accessible via an internal staircase (highest room of all buildings with spectacular views of the Castle of Panzano) and open fireplace, dining room with integrated show kitchen, bathroom in marble with large shower with chromo therapy rain shower head.

Giardino Suite - 42 sqm - Ground Floor

Trip Price: \$7,100 per person/double occupancy

This is a two room suite with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in marble with a freestanding cast stone tub or large walk-in shower with chromo therapy rain shower head. The rooms are connected by internal doors, both with direct access to the garden or atrium and views of the Chianti countryside.







# Florence 4 Nights









# Magnificent Florence

Florence is universally renowned, loved and admired during most of the year by a dense crowd of tourists. Traveling to Florence many times, we found that most of the tourists are primarily on three or four of the main streets. We'll show you how to see Florence without being surrounded by the large tour groups. With four days in Florence at your own pace you'll have time to discover both the iconic sites as well as the hidden gems that Florence has to offer.

The question is where do you start in Florence? The best way to experience the true spirit of the city is to start walking in the maze of narrow streets. There are many small piazzas which fill every morning with the sounds and colors of little street markets. Florence has something for everyone: art galleries and museums, beautiful churches, street chalk artists, lively piazzas, shopping galore, gardens, restaurants, artisans, and so much more.

Anyone open to the city's inner spirit will discover much happiness. Few visitors can claim truly to know Florence, but each visit provides an incentive to return again and again. It is an experience available to everyone; from the surrounding hillsides and "rooms with a view" to the banks of the Arno and windows on rooftops, from the shadows of its narrow streets to its cafe terraces and the courtyards of its palaces, Florence constantly turns a new face to the visitor.







SINA VILLA MEDICI  
FIRENZE



# Villa Medici

The Villa Medici is a converted 18th century villa in the historic center of Florence with an open-air pool and tranquil gardens. Renovated in 2017, this elegant and understated 5-star luxury hotel is located in a tranquil area of Florence, away from the crowds of tourists, yet it is within walking distance to the sites.

Daily Breakfast  
Superior Rooms  
Daily Maid Service  
Complimentary Breakfast  
42-inch Flat Screen Television  
Complimentary WiFi  
Safe, Minibar  
Air Conditioning  
Two Restaurants and a Bar  
Outdoor Swimming Pool  
Spa Services  
Wellness Center and Gym





# Detailed Itinerary

**September 21, Saturday** - Arrival in Tuscany - Greve in Chianti  
Plan to arrive in Florence at the airport (Amerigo Vespucci Airport, also known as Peretola) no later than 1:00 pm where you will be met by Anne or Dennis. From there we will pick up our rental cars. Our friend who owns a small wine shop in Greve will treat you to a wine tasting and light lunch. Under the porticoes in Greve, there are plenty of shops selling local specialties. In the afternoon, you can settle into your room at the villa. A welcome reception and dinner is planned at the villa for this evening.

## **September 22, Sunday** - Panzano

Panzano is a tiny hilltop village and camera-worthy views of the valley. Today is the last day of the Vino al Vino Festival where you can taste hundreds of wines and meet the wine makers. You haven't visited Panzano until you've been to Dario Cecchini's butcher shop and tried his roasted pork shoulder with a sweet pepper mostarda (jam) and a glass of Chianti. Besides the local vendors selling crafts and foods such as honey, olive oil, and pecorino cheese there are some nice shops. Carlo Fagiani's is the best place for made-to-measure shoes and boots at reasonable prices. His tiny shop also makes clothing, handbags and belts. At the top of the village is the 12th-century church Santa Maria Assunta with bronze doors.

After Panzano, we will drive some of the winding and picturesque roads. Tonight, a master pizzaioli will join us at the villa for a pizza party on the terrace (weather permitting). The featured wines for this evening will be from Cavalli Vineyards, Roberto Cavalli's son owns the winery next door to the villa.





# Detailed Itinerary

## September 23, Monday - San Gimignano and Volterre

Centered around two piazzas is the town of San Gimignano that dates back to the 10th century. At one time there were over 70 towers of which 13 remain today. Medieval architecture is abundantly represented and one of its main attractions. Every time we come to San Gimignano we stop at one of the local restaurants with the best view. Just ask and we'll make a reservation for you.

A short distance from San Gimignano is the fortified town of Volterre. On the edge of town in Volterre, a Roman amphitheater and the Rocca (the fortress), gives the impression they meant business when it came to keeping their town safe. This town is known for its alabaster artisans and workshops. The artisans are distant descendants of the Etruscan alabaster craftsmen whose designs, on display, still inspire the local art. *The photo in the center is a shirt and pair of shoes carved from alabaster.*

## September 24, Tuesday - Siena and Monteriggioni

A trip to Tuscany wouldn't be complete without a visit to Siena, whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke the city's medieval past. Siena looks much like it did in the 16th century except for the selfie-taking tourists. Siena is surrounded by four and a half miles of medieval walls today. The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta is as beautiful on the inside as it is on the exterior. Inside, the Cathedral contains original artwork by Bernini, Donatello, and Michelangelo. The city's narrow streets and sun-filled squares are full with artistic treasures in the form of paintings and sculptures. This circular hilltop village of Monteriggioni is perched high up on a natural hill above the olive trees, the ideal spot for building its defensive walls. The 13th century towers in the wall have remained unchanged since the Middle Ages.





# Detailed Itinerary

## September 25, Wednesday - Montepulciano and Pienza

After entering the town gates of Montepulciano on Corso Street, you'll pass Renaissance palaces before arriving at the Piazza Grande. The views from the top are simply spectacular. This lovely hilltop town is rich in church architecture. One of the best reasons to visit is to try the great Brunello wines.

Next, is the lovely town of Pienza and a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was transformed by Pope Pius II into the "Ideal City of the Renaissance" with its delightful street names that reflect peace rather than war. Stroll down Via della Fortuna (Fortune), Via dell'Amore (love) and Via del Bacio (Kiss). This town is so picturesque that Romeo and Juliet and The English Patient were filmed here. Pienza is known for its gourmet shops displaying foods of the region especially the pecorino cheese.

## September 26, Thursday - Impruneta and Montefioralle

This morning we will lounge around the villa and have another leisurely breakfast. We will leave mid-morning for Impruneta, famous throughout the world for terracotta pots. We will visit a small factory with an antique kiln known for making large pots and statues formed by hand from the ground up. The techniques used today are the same as those used during Roman times.

This afternoon, Chef Stefania holds cooking classes in her welcoming Tuscan kitchen. She will share her family recipes learned from her mother and grandmother then add her own twist with unexpected flavors and combinations of ingredients. Most of the ingredients used are grown organically from her own garden. Participants will make a complete 4-course meal including made from scratch pasta. Once the meal is complete everyone will enjoy the fruits of their labor. For anyone not into cooking classes, you will enjoy a lovely dinner with wine at one of our favorite places.





# Detailed Itinerary

## September 27, Friday- Volpaia and Castellina in Chianti

Today we take another beautiful drive up in the hills to another picture perfect village. The medieval village of Volpaia is owned by the Stinti family and they turned the entire town into their winery. After lunch, we will visit the Etruscan town of Castellina driving through gorgeous countryside, rolling hills, and more picture perfect towns. The buildings are from the 15th century including the ancient fortress that dominates its skyline, the Rocca Comunale. Castellina offers amazing views, nice shops and my favorite gelato in all of Italy. This evening we will have a special farewell dinner at the villa. This is one of my favorite towns for shopping for local items: olive wood cutting boards, paintings, sculptures, scarves, linens and more.

## September 28, Saturday - Transfer to Florence

We leave the countryside this morning after breakfast for Florence. We return our rental cars and go by private transfer to our luxury hotel. Our hotel for the next four nights is the beautifully restored Villa Medici which is sometimes referred to a resort in the city.

To help get you acquainted with the city, we will have a private sunset walking tour of Florence.

The last Saturday of September the winemakers guild brings the new wine to Florence for a blessing, after which the consecrated wine is offered to the city authorities and is known as the "Carro Matto" (crazy cart) festival. The cart contains 1300 flasks and is drawn by a pair of oxen just as it has been done since the 13th century. The straw covered flasks protected the bottles from heat and breakage while it was being delivered to the various taverns and trattorias.





# Detailed Itinerary

## September 29, Sunday - Florence

Enjoy a day of total freedom in one of the world's most beautiful cities. We are happy to assist you in making reservations to see museums if needed. For those who have not visited the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's David, it highly recommended and so is the Uffizi Gallery. You are at your leisure to shop the many stores, visit the churches, or simply sit in one of the many piazzas and watch the people. Of course, we are here to arrange for tours, dinner reservations or anything else you need. All guests are invited to join your hosts for dinner when we are in Florence.

## September 30, Monday - Florence

Many of the popular museums are closed on Mondays, but there is still plenty to do. The Medici Chapels, the Duomo and the Basilica of Santa Croce are both open on Monday's. Inside the Monastery of Santa Croce the skilled artisans of *Scuola del Cuoio* have been crafting leather clothing, handbags, and other items using ancient tools and techniques. The skins are tanned according to the best Italian traditions, and customers initials are engraved with 22 carat gold.

A short walk from Santa Croce is one of the best artisan gelato shops in Florence. We can even arrange for you to have a gelato making class. How about a visit to the incredible Mercato Centrale? This is one of the finest modern day grocery stores you will see. On the first floor there are hundreds of locally owned stalls from butchers, cheese makers, florists, fruits and vegetables and fresh seafood. Upstairs are places to grab a quick meal and enjoy a glass of wine.

The *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* is the museum and workshop of semi-precious stones and mosaics. This museum offers various sections that range over three centuries and contain a display of Florentine mosaics. This workshop has restored many of the inlays in the Medici Chapel and other exhibits you have seen elsewhere in Florence.





# Detailed Itinerary

## October 1, Tuesday - Florence

Make the most of your last full day in Firenze! A visit to the Oltrarno section of Florence is a nice option for today. The Oltrarno district is known for its artisans who carry on the traditions passed down through the centuries. Wandering its narrow streets you'll find many talented craftsmen just as they have done for centuries in this area. This area has many great restaurants, beautiful churches and is much calmer and less touristy than the other side of the Arno.

## October 2, Wednesday - Florence

Today is the end of our eleven days in Tuscany. Arrangements will be made for those needing transportation back to the Florence airport. For those staying longer in this beautiful country, enjoy the remainder of your stay in Italy. Until next time, Ciao!

For those who aren't ready to return home; ask us about our post trips.

PRIOR TO THE TRIP GUESTS WILL RECEIVE OUR DETAILED GUIDE WITH OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS, SHOPS, AVAILABLE TOURS AND MORE.





# What's Included

- Assistance with travel planning before and during the trip such as airline tickets, museum tickets, private tour guides and concierge services
- Welcome gift in each room at the villa
- 7 Nights in a luxury villa in the Chianti region of Tuscany.
- 4 Nights at a luxury hotel in Florence's city center
- Daily breakfast
- Wine tasting at one of the local wineries
- Light lunch and wine tasting on the day of arrival
- Welcome reception with dinner on the evening of arrival
- Wood-fired pizza dinner on the terrace at the villa one evening (in the dining room if inclement weather)
- Farewell dinner with wine prepared by a private chef
- Gratuities for all included meals
- A choice of: Hands-on cooking class including wine and a meal with the foods prepared in class OR a gourmet Tuscan dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants
- Shared car rental for 7 days while we are at the villa complete with pre-loaded GPS, fuel and insurance (A valid U.S. driver's license and major credit card required for all drivers). Fuel is provided for areas included in the itinerary. (If you are not confident with a shared vehicle, a driver with a Mercedes vehicle will be provided.
- Private sunset walking tour of Florence with our small group
- Tourism fee of 4 euros per day per person
- Transportation from the villa to Florence, gratuities included
- Return transportation to Florence airport for those returning home today



# What's Not Included

Airfare and airport taxes

All transportation not expressed as included is not included

Cab fare(s)

Excess baggage, baggage loss and/or forwarding of baggage

Travel insurance - Travel insurance is HIGHLY RECOMMEND in the event of unforeseen circumstances related to travel, sickness and among other reasons

Tickets and fines for moving and parking violations or unpaid tolls

Gratuities other than what is specifically mentioned as being included

Entry fees to museums/galleries and other places wherever entry fees apply

Beverages and meals other than what is not specifically mentioned as included in the price

Wine from the honor bar at the villa other than what is given during arrival - Each quest will have their own tab if they drink from the honor bar

Medical expenses

All personal expenditures

Extra charges at the villa or hotel such as wine that is not included, bottled water, laundry, or other incidental charges

Additional linen or towel changes other than what is provided in the weekly rental fee

Additional beverages or groceries not provided by Villas and Vines

Expenses related to unforeseen travel conditions, weather conditions, flight delays, train delays, airport blockages, terrorism and strikes.

Any travel expense not specified to be included is not included



# Reserve Your Place

**TRIP PRICE:** \$6,900 per person double occupancy  
**TRIP DATES:** September 21 - October 2, 2019  
**DEPOSIT:** Non-refundable 50% deposit  
**FINAL PAYMENT:** 150 Days prior to start date of trip  
**TUSCAN VILLA:** 7 Nights  
**FLORENCE LUXURY HOTEL:** 4 Nights

## Booking Procedure

Please read the conditions of travel as your booking is subject to the terms listed below. A contract is entered into once your travel advisor or ABC Travel Logic LLC , (DBA Villas and Vines) receives your deposit and we accept and confirm the booking. Please note that travel arrangements are not confirmed until stated so in writing by Villas and Vines. **Payment of any monies constitutes acceptance and understanding of Villas and Vines Terms & Conditions as stated in this document, and as listed on our website.**

STEP 1. You may reserve on our website by clicking the "reserve now" link or send an email to Anne@Strongtravel.com or Anne@villas-and-vines.com

STEP 2. Complete the Reservation Form with requested information such as travelers names, passport, etc. and hit the button to submit. For those reserving by email you will be sent a link to complete your reservation.

STEP 3. We will send a secure link to submit the deposit for the down payment. Once we receive the non-refundable 50% deposit your spot is reserved. Copies of all documents will be emailed to you with a confirmation of your payment. We accept: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Wire Transfer and **Personal Checks. NOTE: There is a 5% convenience fee for all payments made by credit card.**

STEP 4. The final payment is due on or before April 24, 2019. A notice will be mailed out in advance of when the final payment is due.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **Bookings and Reservations**

Bookings and reservations with ABC Travel Logic, dba Villas and Vines Travel are accepted in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out below. In these Terms and Conditions references to you and your include all persons on whose behalf a booking is made (or any of them). Villas and Vines is an independent affiliate of Strong Travel Services, Inc.

Reservations may be made by email or by calling Villas and Vines at 800-929-1078 or by reserving on our website. If we are unable to accept your booking, we will of course return your payment to you. Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Trip is not confirmed until the non-refundable deposit, Terms & Conditions and Liability Waiver has been received, accepted by traveler(s) and accepted by Villas and Vines. Post-dated checks are not acceptable. We accept personal check, wire transfer, American Express, Visa, and MasterCard for your convenience.

## **Deposit and Payments**

### **Small Group Luxury Tours for Bookings with Less Than One Year from Departure Date**

A per person non-refundable deposit of 50% of the trip price must be paid at the time of booking for bookings made with with year or less from the trip date departure. The balance of the trip must be paid prior to 120 days before you travel. If you book your travel on or after 150 days of departure, the full amount of your trip must be paid in order to confirm the booking.

### **Small Group Luxury Tours for Bookings with More Than One Year from Departure Date**

A per person non-refundable deposit of 25% of trip price must be paid at the time of booking for bookings made with more than one-year prior to the departure date. A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the quoted trip price, per person is required to reserve your place for any trip with more than 1 year prior to the trip start date. An additional payment of another 25% of the trip price per person is required once the trip is less than one year from the departure date. The remaining balance is due 150 days before departure.

## **Custom and Private Group Travel**

For custom or private trips the payment terms are based on the actual travel package selected. The payment terms will be communicated in writing to the primary contact for special groups and private custom travel.

Note: Certain tour destinations, or tours booked require additional advance deposits and/or have different payment terms and conditions. In such cases, the additional deposit amounts and related payment terms and conditions will be advised once required.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## Final Payments

If the final balance is not received on time both for regular journeys and special offers, Villas and Vines reserves the right to treat the booking as cancelled by you and to levy cancellation charges. If you book your travel 150 days or prior to departure, the full amount of your trip must be paid in order to confirm the booking.

If we are unable to accept your booking, we will of course return your payment to you immediately. Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Trip is not confirmed until the non-refundable deposit, Terms and Conditions and Liability Waiver has been received, accepted by traveler(s) and accepted by Villas and Vines

## Pre and Post Trips

For pre and post trips the full amount of the trip price is due to confirm and reserve your reservation.

## Air Reservations

For any air tickets handled by Villas and Vines, full payment for air is required at time of booking in order to secure the fare quoted. As a general rule, passports must have at least six months of validity when traveling internationally. Most countries will not permit a traveler to enter their country unless the passport is set to expire at least six months after the final day of travel. Passports should also have at least two blank pages remaining in their passports as well.

## Payment Schedule

Payment Terms	Amount (Per Person)	Date of Payment
Booking Amount	50% of Trip Price	Immediately upon booking prior to 151 days before trip date.
Balance Payment	Remaining Balance	Immediately or after 151 days from the start date of trip whichever is earlier

If you wish to pay by check, please address your check to "Villas and Vines" along with your documents and send to:

Villas and Vines  
c/o Strong Travel Services, Inc.  
8235 Douglas Avenue  
Suite 1040  
Dallas, TX 75225

Villas and Vines is an independent affiliate of Strong Travel Services, Inc.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **CANCELLATION BY YOU THE TRAVELER**

All tours, travel arrangements and accommodations are secure from the time of confirmation of booking. Consequently a cancellation fee will apply on all cancellations. All cancellations and refund requests must be made in writing (email is acceptable as long as "cancel or refund" is in your subject line and sent from the customers email). Your cancellation date will be the date we receive your notices. We are not able to accept verbal cancellation requests. Deposits are non-refundable. No refunds will be given to someone who has failed to pay their balance on time and/or decides to withdraw from the Trip. Refunds are based on the deposit and all money being previously paid. Refunds of final payment will be honored as follows:

### **Luxury Small Group Journeys:**

Notice received with at least 121 days prior to start date of the trip/tour: \$1,000 refund

Notice received with less than 120 days prior to the scheduled trip/tour: No refund

In the event, it is necessary to cancel, customers may sell their place on the trip/tour. **Please see TRANSFER OF BOOKING for details.**

### **Private and Custom Trip(s)/Tour(s):**

Terms vary and are based on the agreements between the parties. Cancellation terms will be communicated in writing to the primary contact based on the type of accommodations and tours selected.

### **Air Travel**

Any air tickets issued at any time are subject to the terms of the airline. To protect your investment, we strongly recommend that you purchase full coverage travel insurance. All air fares are subject to restrictions, cancellation penalties, change fees, and general airline policies and may change without notices. Certain airfares are subject to airline administration fees. Internal air arrangements are confirmed on commercial or scheduled flights, unless otherwise specified; requests for private charters must be made directly with Villas and Vines. Should you cancel or change your air reservation once flights have been ticketed, cancellation and change fees may apply. Air, seat and meal requests are the sole responsibility of the traveler. We cannot be held responsible for aircraft or seat assignment changes made by the airline. Note that regional flights overseas often will not accept advance seat or meal requests. Clients are responsible for reconfirming all flights within 48 hours of each flight. Travelers are responsible for providing Villas and Vines with official (airline issued), complete and up to date international flight details.

### **Refunds Once the Trip has Commenced**

No refunds will be made after commencement of your tour, whether for early termination, voluntary absence from the tour or for any unused services. Your decision not to travel due to State Department warnings, fear of travel, illness, or any other reason, will be deemed a cancellation. If a flight or other delay for any reason causes you to miss services, no refunds will be given. Please see our Limits on Responsibility elsewhere in these pages. A change of trip date or change of travel destination(s) may be treated as a cancellation and cancellation fees may apply.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **Transfer of Booking**

If you are prevented from taking your trip you may find another person to take your place. This right of transfer may be subject to a fee of \$300 per person. You and the transferee shall be liable to Villas and Vines for the payment of the balance, together with any additional charges imposed by the suppliers providing the component parts of your vacation. You are not permitted to transfer your booking to another tour.

## **Force Majeure**

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of Force majeure. In these conditions, force majeure means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include, whether actual or threatened, war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

We reserve the right to alter the scheduled itinerary accordingly and compensation cannot be paid. We will make every reasonable effort to provide the booked arrangements but minor changes may occur. If changes are significant, we shall where possible, inform you or your travel agent before your departure. Most changes are minor.

## **Travel Insurance**

It is your responsibility to seek information on travel insurance companies. Travel insurance is highly recommended by Villas and Vines (to cover any costs you may incur by canceling your Trip, airline tickets, loss of luggage, trip delay, medical evacuation, etc.). It is not mandatory to have travel insurance to sign up for this Trip. Whether or not you purchase travel insurance, you will be responsible for all expenses incurred following loss or damage to your property, any unforeseen travel expenses related to going on this Trip (flight delays, strikes, airport shut-downs, weather conditions, terrorist threats, etc.). Purchasing health coverage is your responsibility. Please inquire with your own health insurance company on whether they offer coverage overseas and their policy on reimbursement. You are responsible for any medical expenses incurred in the event you become injured or ill during your Trip or should you be subject to lost or stolen property incidents.

## **Travel Documents**

U.S. citizens and permanent residents are required to possess a valid passport to travel to Europe. All tour participants must be in possession of a passport valid for six months from their date of arrival in any foreign country. For some tours, you will also need to have multiple consecutive blank visa pages within your passport (the number varies depending on the destination(s)). It is the sole responsibility of the tour participant to secure a valid passport with sufficient blank pages for immigration and visa stamps.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **Property Damages**

You will be held responsible for the destruction of property or property contents caused either by accident or negligence to the villa and/or hotel. You must leave the villa and hotel premises in the same order and condition as when checked in.

Villas are non-smoking properties. Guests who violate this policy may be charged a \$2,500 fee by the villa management.

## **Villa Accommodations**

Villas and Vines contracts with specific villas for our group trip. By European standards, bathrooms and bedrooms are smaller compared to the U. S. equivalent. We search many properties in order to select high end properties with beautiful rooms and updated bathrooms and still offer a reasonable price to our guests. We do our best to select villas that offer king size beds or are able to push two single beds together in order to make it a king size bed. We do our best to select villas with bathrooms to U.S. standards but can't guarantee it. As with many historic buildings in Europe, rooms tend to be different from one another, different size, layout, decoration, view, and most include some stairs. Please keep this in mind as a view is not guaranteed. Rooms are usually assigned to guests in a random manner by the tour hosts, villa or hotel staff unless you have requested to pay for an upgrade (when available) or if you have a particular request relating to health reasons. Some accommodations may include concierge, laundry service or self-service washing machine, internet access, hair-dryers, and other amenities/services, while others may not. Please let Villas and Vines know of any particular questions or needs you have to make sure this Trip is for you. Keep in mind the villas are non-smoking properties.

## **Hotel Accommodations**

Accommodation classification is based on a combination of factors including price, location and quality. In remote areas accommodation may be provided on a best available basis. Prices are based on double occupancy rooms with private bath facilities. Note that in many countries king beds are not always available. We will do our best to locate non-smoking rooms but are not always able to guarantee it. Villas and Vines reserves the right to substitute comparable or better accommodations without notice.

## **Meals**

If you have allergies, sensitivities or special dietary requirements, glucose or other food intolerance, if you are hypoglycemic, vegetarian, vegan, lactose-intolerant, diabetic, etc., you will be responsible for purchasing at your expense any additional food that is not served during the included group meals. Villas and Vines will do their best to accommodate special diets, but will not assume any extra costs associated with ordering additional food or specific ingredients not readily available. Breakfast is included each morning, but each villa or hotel may have a different way of serving breakfast (varying in the amount of food prepared). Bacon and eggs are not typically served in Europe for breakfast.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **Photography**

Villas and Vines reserves the right to take photographs of guests during escorted trips and tours and to use them for promotional purposes. By traveling with Villas and Vines, guests agree to allow their image to be used for marketing and promotional purposes. Guests who prefer that their image not be used are asked to advise Villas and Vines before or during the Trip and to send a written notice to our email address: Anne@villas-and-vines.com

## **Complaints**

In respect of matters arising during the trip must be reported to Villas and Vines trip host immediately so that any problem may be remedied on the spot. Our priority is to give you an enjoyable vacation, and we strive very hard to do so. Failure to do so may hinder our ability to resolve the problem and/or investigate it fully. We regret we cannot accept liability for any claims which are not notified to ourselves and/or our suppliers strictly in accordance with this clause.

## **Guests Behavior While On a Small Group Tour**

When you book with Villas and Vines you accept responsibility for the proper conduct of your party. Villas and Vines reserves the right to accept, reject or not retain any person as a trip participant whose condition or general deportment impedes the operation of the trip or, in the opinion of the tour hosts affects the rights and enjoyment of other guests. A guest not retained on the trip shall have no cause for complaint or refund, and shall bear any and all extra expenses that ensue.

## **Baggage**

We will do our best to accommodate everyone's luggage. However, we have found it difficult to fit the luggage in the vehicles if guests bring more than one large and one carry-on suitcase per person. If you exceed this limit and there is not enough space in the vehicle to transport your excess luggage, it will be at your own expense to have it transported. If you anticipate that your luggage will exceed this amount, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can arrange larger vehicles for airport transfer and sightseeing accordingly. All money, valuables and travel documents should be packed in a carry-on bag for which you are responsible at all times. Villas and Vines cannot be responsible for loss or damage to baggage. Insurance is strongly recommended. All baggage is transported at owner's own risk. Please check directly with the airline for specific baggage allowances.

## **Health and Physical Condition**

Participants are understood to be in sufficient good health to undertake foreign travel. Please notify Villas and Vines in writing as early as possible of any physical or health conditions or other special needs while traveling (disabilities, access to medications, requests for large seats, bathtub or shower). We make this request to ensure that your comfort and convenience are taken into consideration for all travel services we arrange. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of our travelers. While this is not a physically demanding trip guests should be able to stand on their own and able to walk for extended periods of time. Guests with a handicap sticker may have access to close-in parking in most areas. Guests requiring special assistance must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance. We will be happy to assist with the handling of the luggage for guests who require a little extra assistance.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## **Brochure and Website Accuracy**

Villas and Vines reserves the right to change any of the prices, services or other particulars contained in the brochure or website at any time before we enter into a contract with you. If there is any significant change, we will notify you before you enter into such contract. All information is given in good faith and believed correct at the time of publishing. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, occasional errors do occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances; you must therefore check your trip details carefully prior to making your booking.

## **Changes to Itinerary**

Should events beyond our control be required, Villas and Vines reserves the right to alter or modify the itinerary without advance notice, to withdraw any tour component from your trip and/or to substitute a tour component of equal standard. If any trip has to be delayed due to bad weather, travel conditions, flooding, flight or other transportation delays, over booking, government intervention, acts of war, acts of terrorism, sickness or any other contingency beyond the control of Villas and Vines, the additional costs of the delays and rerouting will not be included and will be the responsibility of the tour participant. If a tour is canceled, our liability is limited to a full refund of your tour payments, and we will not be liable for any other costs, damages, or refunds of any kind for any loss, delay, inconvenience, disappointment, or expense whatsoever in such circumstances. If, for reasons beyond our control, a tour in progress must be interrupted or cancelled, we will, in good faith, consider refunding a portion of the price, depending on our actual costs incurred, compared to the tour in your itinerary.

## **Supplier's Conditions**

Car rentals, hotels, drivers, guides, the villa and other suppliers have their own booking conditions and you will be bound by these as far as the relevant provider is concerned. Some of these conditions may limit or exclude liability on the part of the relevant provider and they are often also subject to international conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

## Limits of Responsibilities

With this agreement I release Villas and Vines and all its officers, directors, affiliates, collaborators, agents, employees or Trip participants from any legal liability for any unexpected occurrence that may take place arriving to and/or while in Italy and/or on the Trip, and/or after the Trip is over. I understand that Villas and Vines assumes no liability for any lost or stolen items, injury or death for any reason (including but not limited to car or any other transportation related accident), terrorism, any injury or illness related to food intake or poisonings, or other medical problems. I understand travelers insurance; personal medications and all medical needs are my responsibility and not that of Villas and Vines. I understand that Villas and Vines can make no refunds due to missed days, activities, or hotel accommodation because of weather conditions, as well as strikes and/or other unexpected occurrences during the Trip. Furthermore, I understand if I elect to forego any meal and/or activity for any reason, no refund for the meal and/or activity will be made. I am responsible for any medical expenses incurred in the event I become injured or ill during the Trip.

For participation in this Trip packaged by Villas and Vines, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless any owners, sponsors, guides, workers, volunteers, and owners of both public and private land where the activities during the Trip are to take place. This shall include officers, directors, affiliates, collaborators, agents, employees or Trip participants, of Villas and Vines subcontractors, and Villas and Vines. I shall release Villas and Vines and its officers, directors, affiliates, collaborators, agents, employees or Trip participants from any negligent act or omission and from any loss, damage, or cost incurred due to participation in this Trip.

Except where otherwise stated in these Terms & Conditions, neither Villas and Vines, Strong Travel Services, Inc. or any Third Party Supplier can accept liability or pay compensation where our performance of our or our supplier's contractual obligations is affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage or loss as a result of force majeure. In these terms and conditions force majeure means any event which we / the supplier of the service(s) or the third party supplier could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include but not be limited to; actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, epidemics, fire, and all similar events outside the control of the party concerned. Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide the travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service to be provided on the journeys, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. When you travel with an airline the Conditions of Carriage of that airline will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. Your Travel Agent or the airline can advise you of these conditions. The participant waives any claim against Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. for any damage to, or loss of, property, or injury to, or death of, due to any act, or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. cannot be held responsible for any claim, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death from participation in activities, including but not limited to, driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, canoeing riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, surfing, horseback or camel riding, and any other activities. Participant knows and is familiar with the activities in their itinerary and is able to confirm that they meet the physical requirements to participate. The venue for all claims or disputes shall be exclusively in Collin County, Texas, U.S.A., whose courts, using Texas Law, shall have exclusive jurisdiction. Damage claims against Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. shall be limited to the value of the particular item in dispute and not for any incidental, consequential, or special damages. Villas and Vines and Strong Travel Services, Inc. assumes no responsibility for representations made by others including, but not limited to, any employee of Villas and Vines or Strong Travel Services, Inc. or independent travel agent. Payment for reservations on any Villas and Vines travel arrangements shall constitute consent to all the provisions in the Booking Terms & Conditions published herein and is binding on all travel participants.



# Booking Terms and Conditions

I agree to indemnify Villas and Vines, Strong Travel Services, Inc. and their officers, directors, affiliates, collaborators, agents, employees or Trip participants from any claim or damage arising out of my actions during the Trip. This agreement shall be legally binding on me, my heirs, my estate assigns, legal guardians and personal representatives, and shall be construed according to the laws of Texas and in the courts of Collin County. There shall be no amendments or waivers to this agreement unless in writing signed by all parties. Any waived breach shall not be considered the waiver of any additional breach.

As the traveler, I agree to present any claims against Villas and Vines or Strong Travel Services, Inc. within 30 days after the tour ends, and agree to a mediation prior to filing any suit, and I acknowledge that this expressly limits the applicable statute of limitation to one year. Villas and Vines' and Strong Travel Services, Inc. maximum liability, for any reason whatsoever, will be limited to the amount paid to Villas and Vines for its services. All disputes will be governed by Texas law and subject to the sole jurisdiction of courts located in Collin County, Texas.





Villas and Vines Travel  
[www.villas-and-vines.com](http://www.villas-and-vines.com)  
800-929-1078  
Cell: 214-558-7748  
Email: [Anne@StrongTravel.com](mailto:Anne@StrongTravel.com)



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