



**Day 4- Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>****Lakes****BLD**

This morning we depart for the Italian Lakes visiting **Franciacorta** en route. This region of Lombardy is known for its excellent sparkling wines. We'll enjoy a cellar visit and tasting before traveling on to the charming town of **Bergamo** for a cable car trip to the old town of **Bergamo Alta**. Lunch is served in a local osteria (a place serving simple food and wine), followed by a guided tour of the town. Later, we will check in to our hotel in the lakeside town of Lecco.

*Overnight Lecco***Day 5- Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>****Lakes****BL**

We start our exploration of the lakes with a private boat cruise up the western branch of **Lake Como**. We'll enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery before arriving at **Villa Carlotta** for a tour of the villa and gardens. We continue by boat to **Bellagio** for lunch at a lakefront restaurant followed by a tour of the village and the gardens of **Villa Melzi**.

*Overnight Lecco***Day 6- Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>****Lakes****BL**

Today we explore the charming village of Varenna. **Varenna** has a tiny harbour, steep, narrow lanes and a romantic lakeside promenade. We'll visit the gardens of **Villa Monastero and Villa Cipressi**. After lunch at the Hotel Royal Victoria, we'll take a short journey to the town of **Bellano** to see the **Orrido**, a spectacular natural gorge.

*Overnight Lecco*

**Day 7- Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Lakes**

**BL**

**Lake Maggiore** awaits us today as we discover the magical island of **Isola Bella**. Beginning in 1630, three islands in the lake were turned into retreats by the Borromeo family, complete with elaborate villas and fragrant gardens. We'll enjoy lunch on the island of **Isola de Pescatori** before some free time back in **Stresa**.



*Overnight Lecco*

**Day 8- Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Lakes**

**BD**

Today is a **free day** to relax or further explore this beautiful region. For those who'd like to book something in advance, there are optional cooking classes, food tours and wine tasting tours available. This evening we'll enjoy a 4-course **farm to table dinner** in a picturesque farmhouse setting.

*Overnight Lecco*

**Day 9- Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Siena**

**BLD**

This morning we travel south into **Tuscany**. We'll see beautiful countryside along the way and stop for lunch in the **Modena** area, famous for its balsamic vinegar. We'll visit an **Acetaia** where barrels of balsamic vinegar are stored. Next stop- the beautiful town of **Siena**.

*Overnight Siena*

**Day 10- Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Siena**

**B**



Today we have a **walking tour of Siena**. This pedestrian friendly city is Italy's premiere medieval experience. Situated atop 3 hills with scenic views all around, Siena has loads of charm and many red brick lanes to explore!

*Overnight Siena*

### Day 11- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Siena

BL

We start our day with a scenic drive through the rolling, vineyard-covered hills of the **Chianti** countryside. This region is known for producing some of the best red wines in the world as well as its charming stone villages and hilltop castles. We'll explore two of these villages- **Vertine and Castellina** and have lunch at the beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> c. **Villa di Geggiano**.



*Overnight Siena*

### Day 12- Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Siena

BL

Today we begin with a panoramic drive through the countryside to a private **Etruscan museum**. The Etruscans inhabited this region c. 900 B.C- A.D 1 and traces of their existence are found throughout Tuscany. Later, we visit the **Val**



**D'Orcia** region- some of the best scenery in Italy and an UNESCO World Heritage Site! We'll explore Pienza and Chianciano villages and have lunch in the tiny medieval town of **Monticchiello**. We end the day with a visit to the famous **La Focce Gardens** overlooking the hills of this beauty- filled region.

*Overnight Siena*

### Day 13- Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Florence

BL

Today we move on to Florence, but first we'll explore the **Clay Hills**- one of the most unique landscapes in Tuscany. The rolling fields are dotted with biancane, mounds of pure clay which, if fired, takes on the warm hues of terracotta (cooked earth). We'll visit the 14<sup>th</sup> C. monastery of **Monte Oliveto Maggiore**, home to frescoed masterpieces by Sodoma and Signorelli. Next, we'll continue to the **Madonna Bella Farm** outside Siena where we'll see the olive groves and vineyards and learn how olive oil and fresh/dried pasta is processed. We'll enjoy a food and wine pairing feast-all from the farm.

*Overnight Florence*



**Day 14- Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Florence**

**BLD**

*Buongiorno*-Florence! Home to the best Renaissance art in Europe, Florence is an art-lover's paradise. Today we enjoy a **city highlights tour** with a visit to the **Boboli Garden** and the **Accademia**, home to Michelangelo's most famous work- *David*.



Consider extending your trip to further explore all of Florence's cultural treasures or the rest of Italy!

*Overnight Florence*

**Day 15- Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

This morning we say *arrivederci* to Italy as we return home.

**B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**

*Please note that the gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit, the group will be hosted as specified.*

### **Inclusions:**

- 13 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located where available
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver and guide
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes
- tour manager, Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

### **Costs:**

Tour is **priced in Euros** and final payment will reflect the actual cost. Price is based on a minimum of 20 participants and a maximum of 24.

Based on double occupancy- **4680 Euros** per person

Based on today's rate of exchange (2/3/2019) approximately: \$5362

Single supplement: 1690 Euros...based on today's ROE approximately \$1937

### **Airfare:**

Flying into Milan and out of Florence- **\$1,100** including all taxes and fees.

### **Payment schedule and cancellation policy:**

A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is non-refundable.

Final payment is due **August 1st** and is non-refundable.

A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make **checks payable to Travel Leaders** and along with your reservation form, mail to the address below:

Travel Leaders  
Attn: Dee Montpetit  
5611 196<sup>th</sup> ST SW  
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

**Insurance:**

Insurance is highly recommended and is an additional \$422 per person if combining air and double occupancy accommodation. Please include with your deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage. See link for sign up provided in email.

**Documentation:**

You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity from the return date to enter Italy. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

For more information, contact:

Dee Montpetit at **425-208-6515** or email: **dee@mapetitegardens.com**

## Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passport Information:

Passenger One: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Special requests:

Single or requesting share: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical: \_\_\_\_\_

Seat requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequent flyer number: \_\_\_\_\_

Either Delta, KLM or Air France