

7 Day Casa Innocenti Tour

Sample Itinerary: The tours listed are not in chronological order to be followed on a day-to-day basis. However, all tours listed will be conducted throughout the week.

ARRIVAL: DAY 1 – Meet in Rome or Grosseto & transfer to Casa Innocenti (Arcidosso)

We will meet you in either Rome or Grosseto and transfer you to Casa Innocenti (in the village of Arcidosso) - your vacation home next to the castle. After settling in, your host and chef, Carlo will show you his beautiful home. Then you can either relax in the garden or take a walk through the enchanting streets of Arcidosso. For dinner you will enjoy a Tuscan meal prepared by Carlo.

- **Siena**

In the morning, after your breakfast, you'll set off for Siena. You will visit the famous Piazza del Campo, the main square where the people from Siena ("i senesi") organize, twice a year, a medieval horse race known as Il Palio. Facing the square there is the beautiful tower "Torre del Mangia*rd where, if you wish, you can climb up to the top to admire a marvelous view of the city. You can also visit the Duomo which is a gothic style cathedral. You will have lunch in a quaint restaurant in Piazza del Campo. Once home, you will have a chance to rest before your cooking class and dinner with Carlo and Pascale at Casa Innocenti.

- **Montalcino (wine country); Pienza**

In the morning, you'll set off for Montalcino, a town famous for its Sangiovese grape vineyards that produce the celebrated Brunello wine. You will visit the magnificent 14th century Rocca (a fortress) and enjoy wandering around the village and exploring picturesque little shops. Then, your guide will bring you to visit a small family owned winery just outside Montalcino. The owners will show you their cellar and explain to you wine-making procedures & techniques. You can then taste the Rosso di Montalcino & Brunello wines. From there, you will continue on to Pienza, where you will have lunch in a local restaurant and then visit its main square, Piazza Pio II, which is a model of Renaissance planning. This main piazza is so attractive that it was chosen to shoot scenes for the film The English Patient. Evening dinner with cooking course at Casa Innocenti.

- **The Etruscan villages: Pitigliano, Sorano, Sovana**

You'll start off the day with a cooking course culminating with lunch. Then you will be off to Pitigliano. This medieval town built on tufa stones features a fascinating ghetto with its own Synagogue and Jewish cemetery. Then, you'll continue to Sorano, where you can visit the massive fortress (built by the Orsini family), the rest of the village and have lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch, you will go to Sovana, Pope Gregory VII's birthplace, visit its country church and the old town square which is surrounded by cafes and little souvenir shops. Evening dinner with cooking course at Casa Innocenti.

- **The small towns of Monte Amiata**

Today, you will have a cooking class starting in the morning: an extraordinary lesson & lunch awaits you! Pascale will teach you will learn how to prepare home-made pasta (the Tuscan tagliatelle or tortelli - ravioli with fresh ricotta and spinach), and Carlo will show you how to prepare the traditional meat sauce (ragu' toscano) or for vegetarians a fresh and tasty tomato sauce. After lunch, you will have the opportunity to visit the small towns of Monte Amiata: Santa Fiora with its historic center and ancient Parish Church which contains fine terracotta bas-reliefs by Andrea della Robbia (15th century), and La Peschiera, the private gardens and swimming pool of the Sforza family (16th century). You will then go to Abbadia San Salvatore, where you will visit its famous abbey and the crypt built by the Longobards, and finally, on your way back, you'll take a ride through the enchanting forest of Monte Amiata. In the evening, you will enjoy your dinner at Carlo's "trattoria" La Locanda del Prete.

- **Castiglione della Pescaia**

Today, you will enjoy a trip to the seacoast to the pretty seaside village of Castiglione della Pescaia. This old fishing village stands up high on a hill with its castle looking over the turquoise bay. You will enjoy a tasty lunch at a local restaurant. In the evening, you will have your farewell dinner at either La Locanda del Prete or at a local pizzeria.

- **DEPARTURE: DAY 7 ***

You can choose to have a final breakfast at the house or at your favorite cafe in Arcidosso before heading back to Rome or Grosseto.