

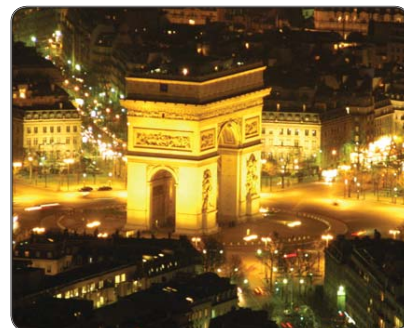
PARIS & ITALY: Culinary Tour

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to Paris.

Day 2: Arrive today in **Paris**. Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Later, your guide will leave you in the Latin Quarter. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops.

Day 3: This morning is dedicated to discovering the secrets of French cuisine. Meet your guide and chef for your visit to a local market. Learn about some of the popular foods and pick up items you will need for your **cooking class** which will follow your market visit. Eat what you prepare. Walk the Champs Elysee, Ave de Montaigne, Rue du Faubourg, and Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. See the **Arc de Triomphe**. Tonight a Seine Cruise.



Day 4: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. The remainder of the day visit some of Paris's grands magasins (department stores), Galeries Lafayette and Printemps. Tonight ascend the **Eiffel Tower**.

Day 5: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Return to Paris and see the famous cabaret, Moulin Rouge. Walk the Boulevard Clichy to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque and lively quarters of the city. Climb or take the funicular up to **Sacre Coeur**, a beautiful white basilica, magnetically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Tonight transfer to Florence.

Day 6: A visit to **Florence** is a visit to the living museum of Italian Renaissance. Meet your guide for a half-day guided orientation walking tour. This will include all major landmarks such as the gorgeous pink, white and green Duomo, the Bell Tower, Pont Vecchio and the medieval district. This walking tour will have a gastronomical 'flavor' to it. One of the stops will be the central food markets which is a bustling marketplace spanning two massive floors. Have a chance to sample a lot of the wonderful produce and your guide will also explain some of the traditional Tuscan dishes. The remainder of the afternoon is free to shop in San Lorenzo Market or visit the Santa Croce area where Galileo, Michelangelo and Dante have their monuments. This evening you will enjoy a Tuscan **cooking class**. The class will be attended by a professional chef and everyone will actively participate. Eat what you prepare.



Day 7: Board your private coach for a full day tour visiting the beautiful countryside of **Tuscany**. Your first stop is **San Gimignano**, a spectacular medieval city that has the feel of a museum. From a distance, the towers of this 13th century town that were symbols of power and wealth of the city's medieval families, dominate the lush landscape of wheat fields, olive groves and vineyards. A lovely traditional Tuscan lunch will include a tasting of their salumi products such as salame, prosciutto, capocollo and guancia. The tour includes a walk up Pig Hill to see the piglets and a glimpse into the seasoning/curing room, and finishing. On the way back to Florence stop at a farm where they raise goats for cheese. Also have a tasting and an explanation of the production process. You will of course also get to meet the goats! Also stop at a villa for olive oil tasting.



Day 8: Enjoy a 4 hour **cooking class**. Transfer to **Pisa** for a look at the architectural project gone terribly wrong, the **Leaning Tower**. See the beautiful Campo dei Miracoli Square with its famous group of Romanesque buildings, the Duomo, the Baptistry and the Leaning Tower.

Day 9: Visit the **Uffizi Gallery**, a museum the result of a process of acquisition, selection and rearrangement stretching over several centuries and consist mostly of antique sculpture and paintings ranging from the 13c to 18c. Later transfer to Venice.

Day 10: Make your way into the magical city of **Venice**. The unique nature of Venice has amazed people since the very beginning of its existence. Venice is comprised of more than 100 islands; all linked by bridges, making it necessary to walk to most places. Meet your guide for walking tour of this unique city. Your tour includes the Bridge of Sighs, the bridge that connects the Doge's Palace with the prisons, in which Casanova was incarcerated but from which he made a fantastic escape. See Dodges Palace, the Clock Tower, Piazza San Marco and the graceful **Rialto Bridge**, which is halfway along the canal. After your walking tour, lose yourself in the maze of streets and ambiance of this glorious city. Take a gondola ride, or relax at an outdoor café along one of the many canals designed to allow an armed galley to pass under it.

Day 11: Today unfortunately your tour must come to an end. Ciao Italy.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare from Paris return Venice
- One way flight Paris – Florence
- Assistance upon arrival in Paris
- 9 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 9 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners
- Coach transfers
 - o Paris – return airport
 - o Florence – airport to hotel
 - o Full day visit to Tuscan countryside with visits according to itinerary
 - o Return Florence to Pisa
 - o Venice – hotel to Venice
 - o Florence to Venice
- Guided walking tours
 - o Paris
 - o Culinary and orientation Florence
 - o Venice
- Entrances/ visits
 - o Guided visit to Louvre Museum
 - o Guided visit to Versailles with audio guide
 - o Seine River boat Cruise
 - o Visit to Eiffel Tower
 - o Visit to Uffizi Gallery
 - o Vaporetto transfer in Venice
- Cooking classes and market tours
 - o 1 in Paris
 - o 2 in Florence
- 4 day metro pass in Paris

