From art and culture to food and wine, experience all that Tuscany has to offer while based in the Tuscan and Italian Renaissance capital of Florence. Travel through the scenic countryside and take-in the postcard-perfect vistas as you journey to Pisa, Siena, Monteriggioni, Chianti and Leonardo’s hometown of Vinci. Sample local wine and learn the secrets of preparing delicious Italian cuisine at a hands-on cooking class. Experience Italy’s ‘La bella vita’ – the good life!

Day One: Depart the USA

Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Florence, Italy.

Day Two: Florence, Italy

Upon arrival in Florence, you’ll be met by a guide and transferred to your hotel. Flights should arrive by 3:00pm.

This afternoon, begin your immersion into the local flavor of Tuscany with a visit to the Mercato Centrale. In this large, covered market in San Lorenzo, you’ll see impressive food shops operated by the ‘Artisans of Taste’ where authenticity, spontaneity and tradition play a leading role in bringing the taste of Tuscany to life.

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner of authentic Tuscan cuisine at a local restaurant in the Mercato Centrale.
Day Three: Florence

After breakfast, join your local guide and walk in the footsteps of great rulers, artists and philosophers as you discover the breathtaking capital of the Italian Renaissance. Visit the famous Accademia Gallery where you get an up-close view of Michelangelo’s masterpiece, David - undoubtedly the world’s most famous sculpture. See the cathedral and famous bronze doors of the Baptistery in Duomo Square. Shops line the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval stone arched bridge spanning the Arno River, and there is plenty of artwork to admire as you visit the main-square and heart of the city, Piazza della Signoria.

This afternoon, enjoy a wine tasting as you sample some of the local wines for which this area is famous.

After a day of indulgence into the culture and beauty of Florence, enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day Four: Pisa and Vinci

After breakfast, travel to Pisa to visit its iconic landmarks: Piazza dei Miracoli and the Leaning Tower. Your local guide will explain the history of this beautiful little town as you walk through the square, admire the architecture and see the historic walls of this medieval city.

After an included Tuscan lunch in a local restaurant, continue on to the town of Vinci, the hometown of Leonardo. Visit his former home and the Leonardo Museum where his models and sketches await your discovery.

Return to Florence this evening where you have time at leisure for dinner on your own.

Day Five: Florence

After breakfast, enjoy a relaxing morning in Florence. It’s the perfect opportunity to visit another museum, stroll along the Ponte Vecchio, climb to the top of the Duomo for amazing views of the city, shop for leather or souvenir items or simply relax at a sidewalk café.

This afternoon you’re in for a treat as you attend an entertaining cooking class. During this hands-on experience, a professional chef will reveal the secrets and tips of preparing delicious Italian cuisine. After the lesson, enjoy the dishes you created, paired with the perfect local vintage of wine!

Day Six: Siena and Monteriggioni

After breakfast, depart Florence for a full-day excursion to Siena and Monterioggioni. Upon arrival in the lovely town of Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the local
guide will show you its artistic masterpieces including the Cathedral complex and the Piazza del Campo – home to the famous Palio horse race. During the walking tour, see the Duomo of Siena, the Palazzo Pubblico – formerly the City Hall and many buildings of Italian Romanesque-Gothic architecture.

After an included lunch at an Italian restaurant, continue by coach to the enchanting hamlet of Monteriggioni, a 13th-century medieval village where time seems to have stood still. Its imposing walls and castle were inspiration for some of Dante’s poetry, and the village can be seen in many movies, including The English Patient and Gladiator.

After a day of medieval exploration, return to Florence this evening and enjoy dinner on your own.

**Day Seven: Chianti**

After breakfast, venture out into the scenic Chianti countryside to a prestigious estate where you visit the castle, its gardens and the ancient cellars. A highlight of the visit may be the included wine tasting, led by an expert in the field and accompanied by lunch in this wonderful venue.

This evening in Florence, enjoy a farewell dinner with your traveling companions and newfound friends.

**Day Eight: Home**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, pack your bags and check out. After a cultural immersion into the history, local lifestyle and cuisine of Florence and the Tuscany region, it’s time to bid ‘arriverderci’ to Italy as you transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**Your Package Includes:**
- 7 Nights accommodations
- 6 Breakfasts
- 3 Lunches
- 3 Dinners
- Time to explore the Mercato Centrale Covered Market
- Guided walking tour of Florence
- Visit the Accademia Gallery and witness Michelangelo’s masterpiece, David
- Afternoon wine tasting in Florence
- Time to explore Florence
- Hands-on cooking session with a local Italian chef
- Guided tour of Pisa and Vinci
- Witness the Piazza dei Miracoli and the Leaning Tower
- Visit Leonardo’s former home and museums
- Guided walking tour of Siena
- Time to explore the enchanting village of Monteriggioni
• Wine tasting in a prestigious estate in Chianti
• Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per traveler
• Fully escorted
• Motor coach transportation
• Taxes and Gratuities (NOTE: Gratuities for the full-time escort, local guide’s and coach driver are not included and are at your discretion based on service.)

Pricing Information:

• Per person double occupancy: 2,649.00
• Per person single occupancy: 3,598.00

NOTE: Above prices do not include roundtrip air transportation. Notch Above Tours will gladly arrange air transportation as well as pre and post night stays upon request. Prices and itinerary are subject to change.