

V. SATTUI WINERY TOUR OF THE COUNTRYSIDE OF TUSCANY AND UMBRIA 2024

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2024

Castle Owner's Tour

For eight nights, you can have the exclusive opportunity to be escorted through the most magical parts of **Tuscany** and **Umbria** by **Castle delle Serre** owners, Salvatore Gangale and the V. Sattui wine family. We invite you to join in this intimate collaboration and cultural experience with Salvatore as he shares his most influential perspectives of the food, wine and history of his native country of Italy. Based on over forty years of experience, we assure you that you will relish in the most authentic meals and local experiences during this stay, effectively capturing the essence of la dolce vita only as a true Italian could.

Day 1 (10/11) Friday - Chianti and sleep at CDS (Departure 9:30 am)



Salvatore, our host, will meet us in Florence in the lobby of the Hotel River at 9:00am. At 9:30 am our group will depart on board our deluxe air-conditioned private motor coach and head south exploring some of the hidden treasures of the enchanting Chianti countryside. We will drive through Chianti's rugged hills of unspoiled forests, beautiful vineyards, castles, stone churches, monasteries, and farmhouses to visit the quaint village of **Greve and Radda** in Chianti. Next, we'll be visiting the top Super Tuscan winery to the south of us. At the winery we will have a private vineyard and cellar tour followed by lunch and a tasting on the premises. Castello delle Serre will be our home for the next eight nights. A welcome dinner and music will complete the first day of our tour.

Day 2 (10/12) Saturday - San Gimignano and sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



Today we will traverse the **Chianti** region on our way to **San Gimignano**, "Delle Torri" (of the beautiful towers). This is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Tuscany, where 16 of the 70 original towers of **San Gimignano** remain today. The towers were originally used to watch for invading enemies and later became a symbol of power for many of the richest families. If you choose you may want to climb up one of them to get a sense of history and to enjoy the beautiful view. We will then taste some of the best local Vernaccia (white wine) with a light lunch and get our first taste of the sweet life with the best gelato in Tuscany. We'll return in time for a Castle tour explaining the restoration of this Historic Registry Building before enjoying a local dinner.

Day 3 (10/13) Sunday - Siena and sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



After enjoying our morning espresso we will then depart with a local guide for the medieval city of **Siena**, most famous for its horse race, the Palio. Our tour guide will lead us through this charming city unspoiled by time. We will visit the Medici town hall, the magnificent Piazza del Campo (town square), the spectacular sculpture-studded Duomo (church) and its museum with works by Pinturicchio, Pisano and Michelangelo, and visit the most important parts of the city. We will then lunch in one of the most authentic local restaurants of Siena, eating as the contra's (rivaling neighborhood factions) of Siena do just before their traditional Palio horse race. After lunch we will be on our own to shop and explore the city of Siena. We will return to Castello delle Serre for a casual dinner with wine.

Day 4 (10/14) Monday – Montalcino and Pienza sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



We will travel to "Picture Perfect Pienza". This little gem of a city was created by Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, who became Pope Pius II. He transformed the farming village where he was born into his personal renaissance utopia. We will have lunch at the local Pecorino di Pienza Cheese producer before proceeding to the fortified town of Montalcino for a tasting of the famous Brunello di Montalcino wine ("the king of Italian reds"). Montalcino is situated on the "little mountain" with a 14th century castle. It was a retreat for the Sienese when the Emperor Charles V captured their city. We will enjoy a fine dinner at a local restaurant on the way back to the Castello.

Day 5 (10/15) Tuesday - Montepulciano and sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



Today we will tour the unknown countryside of Tuscany. We'll explore the byroads and quaint villages not in the tourist books; the places that are still unspoiled. Our first stop will be a new facility of one of Montepulciano's most historic wine producers with a unique sensory experience. You will enhance your wine knowledge and sharpen your sensory skills in a fun, interactive wine education and lunch. After this wine tasting of VINO Nobile, we will venture in the beautiful town of **Montepulciano** to visit the historic center including one of the most ancient wine caves of Italy. This will be followed by time to shop. Later we'll return to Castello delle Serre for a casual pizza night with the Castello family!

Day 6 (10/16) Wednesday - Visit Deruta for Ceramics and Sagrantino Winery. Sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



In the morning we will travel to Deruta, the center of Italian maiolica ware (pottery) since the 14th century. We will observe “Ceramisti” modeling the clay in a pottery factory where we can purchase the wares and have them shipped to our homes. Next, we’ll be visiting Sagrantino Winery. Sagrantino is the Italian grape of the Umbria region. Known for its high tannic levels, this fruit produces wines that are inky purple with an almost-black center. The bouquet is one of dark, brooding

red fruits with hints of plum, cinnamon and earth. This wine has a relatively small production and is not widely known outside Italy! Then it is time for another delicious local dinner before we retire back to the Castello for the night.

Day 7 (10/17) Thursday - Assisi and sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



After breakfast, we depart for Assisi. We will tour with an authorized local guide this beautiful medieval town, with lovely views and fountains-splashed piazzas. We will visit the Basilica di San Francesco with its beautiful frescoes, the Temple of Minerva, the Basilica Santa Chiara and stroll through the streets where St. Francis walked. We will shop at our leisure with a light lunch. We will return back to the Castello for another great local dinner night.

Day 8 (10/18) Friday - Truffle Hunting with lunch and wine tasting at a local Agriturismo



For our final day, we will show you the Tuscan countryside with a once in a lifetime experience, truffle hunting! Arrive at a local agriturismo farm and first learn about the wine produced here. Afterwards, we will learn all about truffles. Following an informative lesson, venture out into the woods with the award winning truffle dogs to find some for yourself!

Once our hunt has concluded, we will then return to the kitchen to enjoy lunch made with the very same truffles we found along with the farm’s homemade wine.

We will return on the early side to pack for our departure early the next morning. Dinner to be provided at the Castello.

Day 9 (10/19) Saturday - Florence (Departure 9:30 am)

Early departure from Castello delle Serre. The first drop-off will be at the train station around 10:30 am, if needed. The second drop off will follow immediately at the **Hotel River** in **Florence**.

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"OPEN YOUR HEART AND YOU WILL SEE.....ITALY."
~ ROBERT BROWNING

HOSTED BY SALVATORE GANGALE

Tour Host: **Salvatore Gangale**, Castle delle Serre owner and native to Italy. Salvatore brings with him over forty years of experience, that assures you that you will relish in the most authentic meals and local experiences during this stay as he takes you through Italy as only a local can, effectively capturing the essence of la dolce vita.

Note: Tour will begin and end in Florence.

Friday, October 11th through Saturday October 19th, 2024

The tour will include:

All meals (continental breakfast, lunch, and evening meal)

Bilingual local tour guides

Bus transportation

Eight nights lodging in a premium Italian Castle and a Historic Inn

Accommodations based on double occupancy

Sightseeing, tours, museums

Wine and olive oil tasting

Cooking demonstration

The tour does NOT include:

Air transportation Laundry

Travel insurance Telephone charges, room service

Gratuuity to local tour guides and bus driver

Some of these days may be altered for better seasonal opportunities

If you have any questions regarding details of the tour, please contact:

info@castellodelleserre.com

[+39.338.731.5802](tel:+393387315802) Antonio Gangale | [+39.338.504.081](tel:+39338504081) Salvatore Gangale

Terms and Conditions

This is an active, walking tour of the hill towns. Walking is required and is an important part of this excursion. All trip members are expected to be active, to be in good health, to enjoy traveling as part of a group and to be ready to experience cultural differences with grace and good manners.

Tour Price: \$5295 per person double occupancy plus applicable taxes.

Passports: U.S. Citizens must be in possession of a VALID passport. All other nationalities must check with the Italian consulate for proper papers.

Visas: NO VISA REQUIRED for U.S. Citizens; others check with your local Consulate. This is your responsibility.

Reservations: A deposit of \$2700 per person is required to secure a reservation. Space is limited to 16 travelers and is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Balance Tour Fees: The balance of the tour cost (\$2595) is due on or before July 1st, 2024.

Cancellation: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, AS THE FOLLOWING CANCELLATION POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED.

Cancellation requests must contain the date of the request and submitted in writing to ali@vsattui.com, and will only be accepted for a double occupancy reservation. Should you need to cancel your reservation, your deposit will be returned less the following administrative fee based upon the date of your request RECEIVED by V. Sattui Winery: \$150 for any cancellation occurring before June 14, 2024. \$500 for any cancellation between June 16 through July 16th, 2024. **After July 16th, 2024 there will be no refunds*.**

* In the case of Covid-19 restrictions preventing travel to/from United States and Italy during the dates of the tour, then 1) any payments collected may be applied to a future Tuscany Tour reservation within 12 months or 2) a full refund will be issued.

Validity: TOUR is based on a minimum of 14 participants. In the event the minimum numbers of 14 participants do not book the V. Sattui Tour, V. Sattui Winery reserves the right to cancel the tour. In the event V. Sattui cancels the tour for lack of participants, a full refund will be given. All rates are based on the current value of the US Dollar and are subject to change without notice.

Insurance: We strongly recommend that you take out comprehensive insurance. (Health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation) V. Sattui Winery shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused by any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, omission, or conditions outside the tour agent's control. By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved with such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Traveler is hereby warned of such risks and is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them.

RESERVATION FORM FOR V. SATTUI TUSCANY TOUR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2024

Name(s) _____

in Party _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____ fax _____

Email _____

Enclosed is a check for my deposit of \$ _____ OR

Credit Card: _____ **Exp:** _____ **CVV:** _____

Name on Card: _____ **Billing Zip:** _____

I certify that I have read and understand the important information on terms and conditions for this tour.

Signature: _____

Return completed Reservation Form to: ali@vsattui.com

Or Mail to:

V. Sattui Winery

Attention: Ali Paterson

1111 White Lane

St. Helena, CA 94574