

V. SATTUI WINERY TOUR OF THE COUNTRYSIDE OF TUSCANY AND UMBRIA 2019

Saturday, May 4th - Sunday, May 12th, 2019

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 (5/4) Saturday-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. We will get our first taste of the sweet life with the best gelato in Tuscany before visiting 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 tasting on premises. Castello delle Serre will be our home for the next six nights. A welcome dinner and music will complete the first day of our tour.

Day 2 (5/5) Sunday-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; Returning in time for a Castle tour explaining the restoration of this Historic Registry Building before enjoying a local dinner.

Day 3 (5/6) Monday-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 (5/7) Tuesday- 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 taste some of the famous pecorino cheese produced in this area before we proceed onto the fortified town of Montalcino, situated on the "little mountain" with a 14th century castle. Montalcino was a retreat for the Sienese when the Emperor Charles V captured their city. We will enjoy lunch with the local wine in the village before visiting our favorite producer of Brunello di Montalcino, the king of Italian reds. We will enjoy a fine dinner at a local restaurant on the way back

to the Castello.

Day 5 (5/8) Wednesday- 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. After a wine tasting of *Vino Nobile* in the beautiful town of **Montepulciano**, we'll have lunch in one of the historic cellars in the center of town, followed by time to shop. Later we'll return to Castello delle Serre for a casual pizza party night with the Castello family!

Day 6 (5/9) Thursday-Orvieto and Cooking Demonstration-sleep at CDS (Departure 8:30 am)



We will board the bus for Orvieto, famous for their much celebrated Duomo. The Duomo is thought to have Italy's most beautiful Gothic facade and there we will view the fascinating Signorelli frescos. We will stroll through Orvieto with a local guide and taste the local wines during our lunch. We will return on the early side to pack for our departure early the next morning. A cooking demonstration will take place before dinner at the Castello.

Day 7 (5/10) Friday-Visit Deruta for Ceramics and Sagrantino Winery. Sleep at San Crispino (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 dinner before we retire to San Crispino for the night.

Day 8 (5/11) Saturday-Assisi and sleep at San Crispino (Departure 8:30 am)



After breakfast, we will tour with a 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. Our farewell dinner will be in **Assisi** after we pack for our departure on Sunday.

Day 9 (5/12) Sunday-Florence (Departure 9:30 am)

Early departure for **Florence**. We will stop for cappuccino in **Cortona**, home of the novel and movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" and walk the Corso to see all the beautiful, classic Italian crafts. From leather gloves, to cashmere scarves, Borsellino hats and fine art galleries, Cortona has it all. This charming hill top village was once the summer hunting grounds of the kings of Italy, we will be witness to its small "big city" feel. The first drop-off will be at the train station around 12:00 pm, if needed. The second drop off will follow immediately at the **Hotel River** in **Florence**.

Some of these days and events may be altered for better opportunities

Hotel River

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