



ARTour to ITALY

Explore Rome & the
Umbrian & Tuscan
Countryside

April 11 – 23, 2024

Join the Arts Council & Collette Tours on this small-group journey through Italy's roads less traveled, discovering endless treasures from Rome to Umbria to Tuscany, while taking in marvels of food, wine, culture, & history along the way.

DAYS 1 & 2: DEPART FOR ITALY – Upon arrival, a Collette tour manager will lead us to the **Kolbe Hotel** for a 3-night stay in the heart of historic Rome. After settling in, enjoy free time to explore the remains of the great Roman civilization at **Palatine Hill** across the street, or the nearby neighborhood of **Trastevere**, Rome's medieval heart. (Meals: At your leisure)

DAY 3: VATICAN & SISTINE CHAPEL – Take a guided stroll to soak up the lively atmosphere of Rome's **Testaccio** neighborhood. Taste your way through the beloved **Testaccio Farmers Market** before pausing at a local trattoria for a dish of pasta and a glass of wine. Then join a special "after hours" visit to the **Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel**, including a welcome drink in the **Vatican Museums**. With significantly less crowds, this time of day allows for a more relaxed and enjoyable experience. (Meals: B/L)

DAY 4: DAY IN ROME + OPTIONAL EXCURSION – Make the most of your free day in Rome by strolling through the **Borghese Gardens & Galleries** to see works by Raphael & Caravaggio, toss a good luck coin into the **Trevi Fountain**, & see the **Pantheon**. ***Optional Tour*** Delve into Rome's classical heritage with an optional tour to the **Colosseum & Roman Forum** for an additional \$89 (*select at registration*). Enjoy a welcome dinner with your Collette tour director. (Meals: B/D)

DAY 5: ORVIETO – Olive & cypress trees accent the Etruscan hill town of **Orvieto**. Stroll through history with a local expert visiting the prominent Gothic cathedral to gaze at a remarkable Signorelli fresco. After time to explore on your own, continue to **Trevi** to settle into a 3-night stay at **Antica Dimora Alla Rocca Hotel**. (Meals: B/D)



Ponte delle Torri Bridge

DAY 6: SPOLETO – Medieval palaces command the foreground of **Spoleto**. Enjoy a walking tour through centuries of architectural history...from the **Ponte delle Torri Bridge** to the gilded elegance of the **Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta**. Explore more on your own before learning about olive oil at a family run *frantoio* (olive presser). Join in a cooking class at a local restaurant located in a former 12th century abbey. (Meals: B/D)

DAY 7: ASSISI – In **Assisi**, birthplace of St. Francis, learn about the city's history on a walking tour through the city's medieval streets. Visit the famous **Basilica of St. Francis**, adorned with 13th century frescoes by Giotto depicting the life of St. Francis. For lunch, a local family welcomes you to their country home. (Meals: B/L)

DAY 8: ONTO TUSCANY – Depart Umbria for the villages of Tuscany, nestled among the rolling hills & cypress trees of the **Val d'Orcia region** (UNESCO). Taste flavors of the region at a pecorino cheese farm & view the sparse farmhouses & open fields on your way to the Renaissance village of **Pienza** (UNESCO). Enjoy a scenic, 2-night stay at **Hotel Corsignano**. (Meals: B/L)

DAY 9: BAGIO VIGNONI – Travel to the unique hamlet of **Bagno Vignoni**, whose central piazza is filled with thermal water once used to cure pilgrims on their way to Rome. Explore hilltop **Montalcino**, namesake for Italy's red wines, the **Brunello**. Tour a winery before indulging in a multi-sensory tasting pairing wine with music. Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening. (Meals: B)

DAY 10: SIENA – Enjoy a walking tour through **Siena**, delving into the local history as you learn about the world-renowned **Palio Horse Race**, plus free time to explore its cathedral or the town hall's frescoes. Later, enjoy a drive through Tuscany's Chianti region to **Villa San Lucchese**, our hotel for the next three nights located in a restored villa. (Meals: B)



Pantheon in Rome



Interior view of Basilica of St. Francis

For additional information, contact Katherine MacRae • 910.692.2787 • katherine@mooreart.org.



Arts Council of Moore County
 Post Office Box 405
 Southern Pines, NC 28388
 910-692-ARTS (2787)
 www.MooreArt.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Southern Pines, NC
 Permit No. 55

ACMC ARTours



“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” – *Saint Augustine*



DAY 11: FLORENCE – Explore **Florence**, the *Cradle of the Renaissance*, with a local expert. Stroll along the glittering storefronts on the **Ponte Vecchio**, the only Florentine bridge to survive WWII. You’ll also take in the **Palazzo Vecchio**, the **Piazza della Signoria**, & **Santa Croce**. Take some time on your own to explore the city’s endless treasures, both historic & modern. Return to your Tuscan villa for the evening. (Meals: B)

DAY 12: SAN GIMIGNANO – Today, you may choose your Tuscan adventure from the following: (1) Join a local truffle hunter in search of the elusive mushroom and sample the goods yourself, ~OR~ (2) Take a countryside adventure on an ATV (all-terrain vehicle) along winding dirt roads, followed by a taste of truffle bruschetta (*select at registration*). Spend the afternoon in **San Gimignano**, whose beautiful 13th century medieval towers stand tall over the surrounding vineyards. As the sun sets, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner of Tuscan specialties. (Meals: B/D)



Ponte Vecchio – Florence

DAY 13: RETURN HOME – As all good things must end, we transfer to the airport & return home. (Meals: B)

COST: **ACMC Member: Double = \$5,698* Single = \$6,398*** (Nonmembers add 15%)
 (per person) **Register with \$1,000 deposit by July 31, 2023. Final payment due January 15, 2024.**

*Costs include 2-night extension in Rome & economy air, which is subject to change until paid in full.

[NOTE: Single accommodations in Italy are often smaller in size and availability is first-come-first-serve.]

Guest Protection Insurance: \$449 per person. (Must be purchased at registration to be in effect.)

Cost Includes: Group Airport transfers & Economy air; tour as described above; 2-night pre-tour in Rome; 17 meals (10-B/3-L/4-D), gratuities for baggage handlers & waitstaff for included meals.

Not Included: Gratuities for motor coach drivers, local guides, Collette tour manager, & housekeeping staff; meals not listed.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This tour’s activity level is a 3 out of 5 and includes walking up to 4 miles in the course of a day, navigating hills & uneven ground. Longer days are balanced with free time. Not appropriate for travelers requiring mobility devices.

NOTE FOR ALL ARTOURS: You should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy our tours. The Arts Council cannot provide individual assistance during the tours and therefore reserves the right to decline to accept anyone on a tour who has a physical condition that could create a hazard to him/herself or could impact the enjoyment of other travelers on the tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 35% of the total cost will be withheld for cancellation after registration deadline on **ALL** ARTours. **NO** refunds after advertised full payment deadline unless substitute traveler is found—at which time transfer fees, if applicable, will be withheld. Trip cancellation insurance is available upon request and must be purchased at registration.

For additional information, contact **Katherine MacRae • 910.692.2787 • katherine@mooreart.org.**