

TUSCANY CULINARY TOUR – JUNE 2-9, 2012



Join native host and tour leader **Riccardo Bambi** for this special adventure created for wine and food lovers, and featuring special guest appearances by Chef **Francesco Mangano**.

Come on this trip and bring a friend! You will experience informative culinary demonstrations, taste great food and wines, and visit classic historical sites to help you digest the flavors of Tuscany.

8-day land package = \$1,950 per person sharing a double room (air fare excluded)

Add \$450 if opting to have your own room. Prices are based on 8 participants minimum.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Meal inclusions: **(B)**=Breakfast, **(L)**=Lunch, **(CC)**=Cooking Class, **(D)**=Dinner

Friday, June 1 - Departures from the U.S. (book your air with Suite Retreats, or make your own arrangements).

Saturday, June 2 - **“Benvenuti!”** A courtesy transfer from the **Florence airport** to our **Chianti B&B** will be provided to those participants who selected to travel on the group flight booked with Suite Retreats (others can make their own arrangements, or ask for options). Check in, settle, and join our **group welcome dinner**. **(D)**

Sunday, June 3 - **Chianti Classico**. As our first outing we will enjoy discovering quaint villages, a medieval hamlet, and more jewels of this area. **Cooking class** with Chef Francesco followed by group **dinner**. **(B, CC, D)**

Monday, June 4 - **Chianti Colli Senesi and Vernaccia**. Sightseeing filled day including **San Gimignano and Siena**. Today we will enjoy a **wine tasting** followed by a **group lunch**, and some time to explore on your own. If time permits, we will also try to squeeze in an extra fun stop to visit **Monteriggioni** castle. **(B, L)**

Tuesday, June 5 – **“Super” Tuscan Coast**. Today we will experience a nice mix of seaside and medieval villages, work in some free time, and enjoy a **fish cooking demo** with Chef Francesco, followed by **dinner**. **(B, CC, D)**

Wednesday, June 6 - **Florentine hills**. B&B check out, some more Chianti Florence hills sightseeing on the way to a special treat... we will meet the owner and visit a private villa that once belonged to the Mona Lisa’s family, have an **oil tasting**, and **group lunch**. **San Miniato al Monte** and **Michelangelo Square** are our “must see” panoramic stops today, to give you a good introduction to **Florence**, then on to the city center. B&B check in, some time to get settled in your new home, brief orientation walk, and enjoy a free evening. **(B, L)**

Thursday, June 7 - **Florence**. After **breakfast**, join an optional informal historical city center walking orientation tour including some main sites, San Lorenzo market, and a **group lunch** at one of Riccardo’s favorites. Free rest of the day to explore on your own. Suggestions will be provided, or arrangements made... Just ask! **(B, L)**

Friday, June 8 - A free last day for you to take advantage of. Again, if you need suggestions or special arrangements made just ask, but definitely plan to join us for a **group celebratory dinner** downtown. **(B, D)**

Saturday, June 9 - **“Arrivederci!”** Departure day: B&B check out, and departures (details to be defined). **(B)**

Program is subject to changes.

Planning on extending your stay? We will be delighted to help you with your arrangements.

For further information on this or other tours call Riccardo (608) 338 9758 or email info@suiteretreats.com

Tuscany Culinary Tour Details

June 2–9, 2012

Tour cost: \$1,950 per person in double occupancy

Add \$450 if opting for your own room - 8 participants minimum guaranteed

Main Services and Inclusions:

- Pre-trip get together and Tuscan delights' tasting at Osteria Papavero (by RSVP, and date TBA)
- 5 overnights in select Chianti Agriturismo/s + 2 overnights in Florence historical city center B&B/s
- Transportation by private rental minivan/s for all of our group transfers and group day tours
- Breakfast daily
- 7 group meals (5 memorable meals + 2 cooking classes led by Chef Francesco Mangano, both followed by a meal)
- All 7 group meals include beverages (water, wine, and coffee)
- Professional services of your tour leader Riccardo, local personnel, and special guest chef Francesco

Services not included:

- Air tickets for the participants (see note*)
- Travel insurance (see note*)
- Anything not indicated as included in the program, or any items of personal nature

Note*: SUITE RETREATS can help you book your flights (just ask!), and arrange insurance coverage through our global partner Travelex. For general insurance coverage and plan information you can call Travelex directly toll free at 1-800-228-9792. If you choose Travelex as your travel insurance provider, please mention you are traveling with us, SUITE RETREATS, and our agency location number: 49-0022.

Your Tour Leader, and special guest Chef:

Riccardo Bambi is a native of Florence, cradle of the Renaissance and Tuscany's capital. Bilingual in Italian and English and with a major in four Languages and Tourism, Riccardo grew up in the city of Florence helping his father, a Florence watch artisan. After school, Riccardo's love for travel took him all over Europe. His professional career consists of about 20 years of experience between Italy and the United States, and mainly in the travel industry and in the food business. In 2006, last time Riccardo moved back to the States with his family, he realized his life-time dream and created SUITE RETREATS, a home-based custom travel services company serving individuals, groups and corporate businesses. Riccardo leads several art and culinary tours to different areas of Italy every year. A Tuscan wine and food lover, Riccardo enjoys good food in general, home cooking, and sharing recipes with friends.

Francesco Mangano has been cooking professionally for over 10 years. He grew up in a family of restaurateurs (his grandmother owns a little "osteria" in downtown Bologna), cooking with his aunts and uncles since he was a kid. His culinary experience ranges from New York's Felidia Restaurant, where he apprenticed, to Rino Senatore's Restaurant in Bologna (Rino is the official Italian chef for both King Juan Carlos of Spain and the Japanese Emperor), where he honed his skills in Tuscan cuisine. He received a Masters in Food & Wine Tourism and Promotion of Regional Products in 2004 from the University of Siena and Arezzo. He moved to Madison with his wife after graduating. Francesco opened Osteria Papavero in 2006, where he mainly focuses on Tuscan and Emilia Romagna regional foods.

Reservation Form / Tour Terms and Conditions

Reservations: Fill out this form ASAP and send it along with your deposit to reserve your space. Spots are limited. For this special tour we may limit the number of participants to a maximum of 20, and reservations are secured on a first-come first-serve basis (considering time deposits are received).

Deposit: A deposit of \$500 per person (check made out to SUITE RETREATS) is required and needs to be sent with your Reservation Form in order to secure your spot. We will hold your check until the minimum of participants (8) is reached; at this point you will be notified that our tour is a for sure go, all deposit checks that we have received from you will be now cashed and become not refundable.

Air (optional): If choosing to fly with the group this arrangement and payment will also be due at this time. If you elect to make your own air travel arrangements instead, you can join us at our Agriturismo on June 2, 2012 (if you need a ride we can arrange it for you for a small extra. Just ask!).

Final Payment: Balance of \$1,450 is due by April 15, 2012 (check made to SUITE RETREATS). If you should have opted for a Single Room occupancy option (+\$450), your balance due is \$1,950 instead.

Cancellation and Refund: If a written notice (email ok) of tour cancellation is received by us by May 2, 2012, 50% OF YOUR PAID BALANCE will be refunded (Note: THIS EXCLUDES THE NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT!). NO REFUNDS will be granted for cancellations received after May 2nd, or for no shows.



Yes! I want to join your TUSCANY CULINARY TOUR – JUNE 2-9, 2012.

Name: _____ Single Supplement Yes: _____ No: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State : _____ Zip Code _____

Phone : _____ Cell Phone : _____

Email: _____

- I AM I am NOT interested in purchasing a round trip air fare
- I AM I am NOT interested to extend my travel dates

Signing this form I accept this tour and Suite Retreats general Terms and Conditions.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Notes: Please check our website, email or call us for any updates on this tour. Also, a more detailed day-by-day itinerary will be available and sent to all participants closer to this tour departure date.

Mail this Reservation Slip and your Deposit Check (\$500) now to:

SUITE RETREATS ~ 4901 Bayfield Terrace ~ Madison, WI 53705