



LUXURY ADVENTURE VACATION B.C.

A FINE TRAVEL COMPANY INC. VENTURE

Trip Details:

- 5 night / 6 days
- From € 1800
- June 19, July 10, August 7, September 4, 2010

The Fine Travel Co. Inc.

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Scoot & Food! Italy & Tuscany on Scooters

Vespa and Chianti:

Two Italian classics that have come to symbolize la dolce vita. Bringing them together is a once-in-a-lifetime travel experience that promises to capture the heart, soul and essence of Italy: some days in central Tuscany filled with scenic day-trips throughout the Chianti countryside aboard your very own 125cc Vespa scooter!



Hit the open road on your own Vespa scooter on this guided tour of Tuscany's Chianti wine region. You spend one night in Florence and then five full days of touring on our 125 cc Vespa scooters. Traveling by Vespa is fun and easy. Our new scooters have an electric start and automatic transmission. Your local guide will lead you along quiet back roads amongst olive groves and vineyards to storybook castles and hilltop villages. This is a great holiday which combines the freedom and exhilaration of touring by Vespa with the delicious food, wine, and romantic landscapes of Tuscany.

Trip Cost Includes:

All accommodations (1 night at the superior 3-star Hotel Royal or Orto de' Medici in Florence and 4 nights at the 4-star Borgo Fontebussi); 5 breakfasts and 4 dinners; 1 cooking lesson and lunch; bilingual guide or guides; one 125cc Vespa scooter with rear carrier bin, helmet, related insurance, and fuel; guided tours as noted in the itinerary; all luggage transfers; pick-up in Florence and final transfer to Monevarchi train station at the end of the trip. Couples can save €100 by riding two to a scooter. Depending on availability at the time of booking, couples may be requested to share scooter and thereby receive the discount.

Price per person: from € 1950 (Euro)

Special offer! Save €150 per person. Trip price for 5-Night itinerary is now: €1,800 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: €200. (Regular price is €1,950).

Special offer applies to trips with at least 4 people. We will run the trip for two people, but then we will request the full trip price. Notice will be given 30 days before departure.

For 7-night itinerary price is now: €2,400 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: €300.

Arrival in Florence: Florence is on the main north-south rail line connecting Rome and Milan. It is served by frequent high-speed trains. There are also several low-cost airlines that fly into both Florence and nearby Pisa.

Not Included: Round-trip airfare; airport/hotel transfers; four lunches; first night dinner in Florence; travel insurance; gratuities; alcoholic beverages; and items of a personal nature.

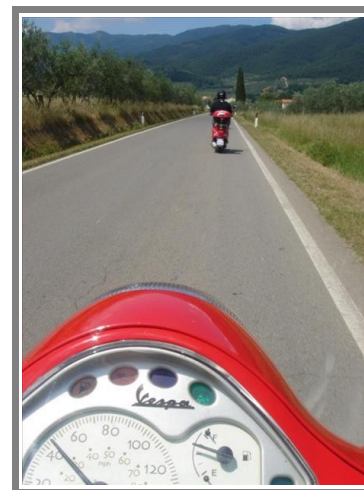
Package itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1 - Saturday: Independent arrival in Florence and check-in at your pre-booked hotel, the Hotel Royal, an elegant 18th century villa that has been transformed into a lovely hotel with garden and pool (some departures stay at the charming Orto de' Medici, a superior 3-star hotel located on the former gardens of the powerful Medici family). Both hotels are conveniently located in the center of historic Florence. Dinner tonight is on your own, but we have many suggestions that you will receive in our pre-departure information. You will meet your guide and the rest of the group tomorrow morning. Should you wish to arrive in Florence a couple of days early, please let us know as we would be happy to extend your reservation in Florence for you. Hotel included.

Day 2 - Sunday: Pick-up in Florence at your hotel at 9 a.m. A private van transfer takes us to the village of Gaiole in Chianti where we pick up our Vespas. Before hitting the open road we will have an orientation and safety talk. We start out in a parking lot and then we head to a very quiet stretch of road to start on so you can get used to driving your Vespa. Indeed, today is designed to get you very well acquainted with your Vespa. We then ride along two scenic ridge roads that offer wonderful views over the romantic Tuscan landscape. We stop for lunch at a local trattoria in the village of San Regolo. After lunch we have a very short ride and walk up to Castello di Brolio to visit the park and gardens of this magnificent and historic castle.

This part of Chianti was fought over by the Sienese and the Florentines for centuries, and Brolio castle was in the thick of it for 300 years. We then wind our way through Tuscan villages and hamlets to arrive at our home for the next four nights, the Borgo Fontebussi. Time for a dip in the pool before dinner, a short walk away in the village of Montegonzi. Hotel, breakfast and dinner included.

Day 3 - Monday: This morning we cross the Arno river and ride toward the imposing Pratomagno mountains. We stop for a cappuccino break in the picturesque medieval town of Loro Ciuffenna, once an important stop on the Roman "Cassia" road and now a colorful village that has retained its traditional character. Afterwards, we continue on to "Il Borro," a Tuscan village which has been bought in its entirety by the Florentine fashion house of Ferragamo and completely restored. We have lunch at the excellent "Osteria del Borro," then have some time to walk around the village shops. The afternoon ride takes us back to Fontebussi through rolling countryside with gorgeous views. You will have time to relax back at the hotel and enjoy a swim before meeting up for an informal wine tasting followed by dinner on the hotel terrace. Hotel, breakfast and dinner included.



Day 4 - Tuesday: We know you have come to Tuscany not only for its romantically beautiful landscapes and fascinating history but also for its excellent cuisine, so today you will learn some secrets of Tuscan cooking. A one-hour ride takes us to Starda Castle, a small, picturesque hamlet of medieval origin. Built around 1000 by the noble family of Conti Guidi it is now home to Gabriela and her husband Giovanni, their dog Grieg and cat Tris, all of whom are wonderful and gracious hosts. Gabriela's son Alessandro will invite us into the restaurant's kitchen, where he will teach you how to cook Tuscan style. You better pay attention, because you will be eating what you are cooking for lunch! Afterwards, we head for the Badia Coltibuono (Abbey of the good harvest) for a guided visit of this beautiful and historic site. The Badia was first established in the 11th century by Cistercian monks who soon started producing wine. Indeed, the Badia Coltibuono is still one of the area's best producers of Chianti Classico and its olive oil is famous throughout the world. Dinner tonight at Fattoria La Forra, a country restaurant a short distance from Fontebussi. Hotel, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 5 - Wednesday: Today we ride to Siena, one of Italy's most beautiful and historic cities. We have a guided visit with Rita, a native of Siena and our favorite city guide. Only a native of this Gothic city can explain the furor and passion that surround the famous bareback Palio horserace, which is run around the city's 12th century Piazza del Campo twice a year. You will have free time to explore Siena's exquisite historic center and admire its Gothic architecture. Of course, you might get side-tracked by the shops and cafés along the Banchi di Sopra, Siena's main pedestrian shopping street. Free lunch in Siena and then rendez-vous in the Piazza del Campo for our return ride via Monteperti and Castelnuovo Berardenga. Dinner tonight on the terrace at Borgo Fontebussi. Hotel, breakfast and dinner included.

Day 6 - Thursday: Today we depart at 10:15 to allow you time to pack your bags and enjoy a relaxing morning swim. A thirty minute ride takes us to the hilltop town of Radda in Chianti where you will have free time to enjoy the view from the medieval walls and to check out its antique shops and cafés. Then it is on to Rampini ceramics, arguably the best producer of hand painted ceramics in all of Italy. The head designer will explain to us how majolica ceramics are made, a process that remains essentially unchanged since the Renaissance age. Of course you may also peruse the lovely showroom attached to their workshops (they ship world wide!). One last beautiful ride on our trusty Vespas take us to the village of Gaiole in Chianti where we will have lunch at Trattoria Sfizio. Chef Fernanda serves up homemade dishes using the freshest ingredients. We will be picked up at the restaurant at 15:00 and transferred by van to the Montevarchi train station, via Borgo Fontebussi to pick up our luggage, for the 16:14 p.m. train to Florence and Rome. Travel time to Florence is 40 minutes, and 2 hours 50 minutes to Rome. If you need to leave the trip earlier, then please let us know and we can arrange a transfer for you at your expense. Breakfast and transfer to the train station included.



The Hotels - In Florence you spend one night at the **Hotel Royal**, an elegant 18th century villa that has been transformed into a lovely hotel with garden and pool (some departures stay at the charming Orto de' Medici, a superior 3-star hotel located on the former gardens of the powerful Medici family). We then move to the countryside for our 4-night stay at the Borgo Fontebussi, an 18th century manor house that has been lovingly restored and turned into a beautiful 4-star boutique hotel. A new 25-meter swimming pool has been added to the grounds to create a wonderfully relaxing environment. Borgo Fontebussi is the perfect base from which to explore Tuscany by Vespa. Should you opt for the 7-night "Extended Southern Tuscany" itinerary you stay two nights in the delightful village of San Giovanni d'Asso at the Locanda del Castello, a small family-run "boutique" style hotel located within the 16th century castle that dominates the village.

The Vespas - We have brand new, bright red 125 cc Vespa scooters. They are lightweight, comfortable, and easy to ride, with an electric start and automatic transmission. The brakes are on the handlebars, like on a bicycle. We provide you with helmets with visors. The 125 cc Vespa is powerful enough for two people to happily cruise through the Tuscan countryside. Top speed is 80 kph but we will be touring at a slower, more

comfortable and safe speed. Indeed, we usually do not exceed 50 kph (30 mph). Of course, couples can ride together on one Vespa (and save €100 for one person!). We also have two smaller 100cc Sym "Mio" scooters for those in need of a shorter, lighter ride.

Touring by Vespa is a wonderful way of exploring all that Tuscany has to offer. You become a part of the environment rather than being sealed off from it. You can stop when and wherever you want, and parking is never a problem. Come and feel the thrill of cruising down the open road, under the Tuscan sun!

IMPORTANT: QUALIFICATIONS!

You must be over 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license to drive a Vespa. Of course anyone can be a passenger. To drive a Vespa, previous experience on a scooter or motorbike is advantageous and highly advised, but not necessary, but only if you are a good driver, athletic and coordinated, and you are used to riding a bicycle. If you cannot ride a bicycle we do not advise you to try and ride a scooter for the first time on this trip. Indeed, if you have never ridden a scooter before we highly recommend that you rent a scooter locally and try it out before coming on the trip. Although our Vespas are easy to ride, a good sense of balance and coordination is required. The Vespas have a 125cc engine and an all-steel frame. They are lighter and easier to drive than a larger motorbike but they are also heavier than a moped (the Vespa weighs 110 kg, or about 235 lbs).

You will be driving a motor vehicle on public roads. You are responsible for your safety but also for the safety of other motorists, bikers and pedestrians. You must be able to control the Vespa and drive it competently. If we feel your driving skills put you and others at risk we reserve the right to take the Vespa away from you. In the event that you cannot ride as a passenger on one of the Vespas, then we will help to arrange an alternative mode of transport, either taxi, or rental car, but at your expense.

What kind of clothing should I bring? What will the weather be like in the Spring and Fall?

Helmets with visors will be provided. The June and September departures avoid mid-summer heat while still benefitting from an ample amount of sunshine. July and August departures will be hot, but the 25-metre pool at Borgo Fontebussi awaits you, and there is always a breeze while you are on your Vespa! Temperatures generally range from 75° to 85° F during the day, dropping approx. 10 degrees at night. Some rainfall is possible on any of the departures so participants should bring appropriate rain gear. In addition to casual, comfortable clothing for the week, we recommend that everyone brings with them, at a minimum, a light- to medium-weight weatherproof jacket and lightweight insulated gloves.

What about something to carry things on the scooter?

Each Vespa scooter has a generous storage bin under the seat designed to hold your helmet when it's not in use. This bin will also carry jackets, purses, cameras, etc. and is lockable. Additionally, each scooter will be equipped with a genuine Vespa Topcase on the rear rack, essentially doubling (and then some) the storage capacity under the seat.



Ciao!