

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Savoring Tuscany: An Artful Culinary Journey

9 DAYS: Thursday, September 30 – Friday, October 7, 2027



Embark with us on this new holiday designed to engage and stimulate our five senses during a unique and exclusive experience from The Travel Club. We'll enjoy four cooking lessons at the hotel with a chef from the Italian Academy of Cuisine and learn the art of Tuscan cuisine from traditional recipes. We'll delight in private art studio and gallery visits, wine and olive oil tastings, and a guided walking food tour. Our home base will be the Art Hotel in Pietrasanta – a unique hotel designed to immerse its guests in the local artistic culture with art-inspired décor and works by local artists. From its locations in the heart of Pietrasanta, we'll be close to galleries, workshops and historic sites. We'll explore this marvelous part of Tuscany with excursions to the Lerici, Torre del Lago, Carrara, Torre del Lago and Viareggio.

A SPECIAL TREAT During the October holiday we'll enjoy PIETRASANTA MEDIEVALE, an annual festival and vibrant celebration that transports visitors back to the Middle Ages. The festival features a variety of activities and performances by flag throwers, musicians, falconers, minstrels, dances, fire and sword games, crossbow tournaments.

INCLUDES

- Seven nights' accommodations: **Art Hotel, Pietrasanta** (or similar)
- Welcome beverage at the hotel
- Welcome dinner at local restaurant
- Four cooking lessons with a chef from the Academy of Italian Cuisine
- Guided walking tour of Pietrasanta
- Guided foodie walking tour in Pietrasanta to taste local specialties
- Excursion to Torre del Lago, visit of Roman archaeological site of Massaciuccoli Lake
- Visit to Viareggio to see its Deco Art Nouveau Promenade
- Food and wine experience at a local winery Pistoia
- Visit to a private marble quarry in Carrara
- Tasting of the Tuscan delicacy Lardo di Colonnata
- Guided walking tour of Lerici with tasting of food and wine; sunset tour in Tellaro
- Guided walking tour and food tasting in Lucca
- Guided visit to the local farm market to taste local products and interact with vendors
- Private visit to art studios and interact with artists
- Musical concert and farewell dinner at a private artist house museum
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

RATES

\$3899 Prices are **LAND ONLY** per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$510. Triple accommodations may be available upon request.

Airfare from Boston is \$1030 and will be added to the above price.

Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500. Please note – if you wish to extend your tour or request air or hotel upgrades, please advise us at the time of booking.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Depart from Boston this evening on Alitalia Airlines. Dinner is served aloft along while crossing the Atlantic. Relax and enjoy in-flight entertainment.

Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Florence

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and passport control and proceed to our connecting flight to Florence. Upon arrival we retrieve our luggage before we

ACCOMMODATIONS...

Art Hotel Pietrasanta

Via Provinciale Vallecchia, 50 – 55045

Pietrasanta (LU)

Telephone: +39 0584 742470

Escape to the heart of Tuscany with a stay at **Art Hotel Pietrasanta**, where Italian warmth meets timeless elegance. Nestled just a short stroll from the historic center of Pietrasanta — a town celebrated for its artistic heritage and vibrant cultural life — this inviting 3-star hotel is the perfect base for soaking up the beauty of the Versilia region. From the moment you arrive, you'll be greeted with genuine hospitality and an atmosphere that feels both personal and refined. Every room is thoughtfully designed with comfort in mind, blending stylish décor with modern amenities such as free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, and relaxing spaces that make unwinding effortless after a day of sightseeing. Start each morning with a delicious buffet breakfast — complete with seasonal and local favorites — served in the welcoming breakfast room or al fresco on the terrace. Throughout the day, the cozy lounge and bar spaces provide a laid-back setting for coffee, aperitifs, or casual conversation. Located within easy reach of the **Museo Virtuale della Scultura e dell'Architettura** and historic landmarks, and just minutes from sandy beaches and the scenic Apuan Alps, Art Hotel Pietrasanta invites you to explore art galleries, sculptors' workshops, and charming cafés at your pace. Whether you're seeking a cultural escape, a romantic getaway, or a relaxed Tuscan holiday, this hotel offers an authentic Italian experience with style and heart.

make our way into the arrivals hall. Here we'll meet our Tour Manager who will assist us to our private motorcoach for the transfer to **Pietrasanta**. Upon arrival at the hotel enjoy a welcome drink during check in. This evening we'll take a short walk to a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. **(D)**





Pietrasanta, a charming town in Tuscany, is renowned for its vibrant arts scene and rich history. Nestled between the Apuan Alps and the Versilia Coast, it has attracted sculptors, artisans, and artists since the Renaissance. The town's historic center features narrow cobblestone streets, bustling piazzas, and stunning marble fountains, reflecting its centuries-old tradition of marble quarrying and sculpture. Visitors can explore numerous galleries, studios, and workshops, showcasing both contemporary and traditional artworks. Additionally, Pietrasanta's scenic mountain backdrop make it a perfect blend of culture and natural beauty, inviting travelers to experience its artistic spirit and idyllic surroundings.



Linked to marble working for centuries, Pietrasanta has attracted master craftsmen, sculptors, and creative artists from all over the world. In the 1950s and 1960s, with the presence of artists such as Botero, Mitoraj, and Tom Sachs, the city became an international laboratory for contemporary art. Today, it is home to dozens of art galleries, foundries, and studios, frequented by both established names and young talents.





Day 3: Pietrasanta walking tour, cooking class, private art studio visit, musical concert and farewell dinner at private home and studio

This incredible day begins with a guided walking visit to the local farm market with stops at the market stalls to taste local products and interact with vendors making this an immersive cultural experience. Return to the hotel for our first cooking class followed by lunch. In the afternoon we'll enjoy a private visit to Art Studios to admire the art work and interact with the artists. This will be followed by a music concert and a farewell dinner at the private home and studio. **(B L D)**



Day 4: Pietrasanta Medievale

The Medieval Festival in Pietrasanta is a vibrant celebration that transports visitors back to the Middle Ages. The festival features a myriad of activities that immerse attendees in the rich history and culture of the era. Streets adorned with medieval banners host artisans, musicians, and performers showcasing traditional crafts, music, and dance. Visitors can indulge in authentic medieval cuisine while wandering through markets filled with handmade goods. Highlights include the stunning historical parades, thrilling jousting tournaments, and engaging workshops that allow participants to learn ancient skills. The festival not only honors the town's medieval heritage but also fosters a sense of community and festivity, making it a memorable experience for all.

After breakfast we'll enjoy this incredible celebration. Later we'll take a guided walking tour of Pietrasanta – called “the little Athens” – due to its rich artistic heritage and its status as a center for sculpture and the arts. During the walking tour, participants will have the opportunity to taste some local specialties at various local establishments, such as bakeries, pastry shops, and cafés. During the late afternoon we'll participate in our second cooking class, followed by dinner. **(B D)**



Day 5: Carrara & Colonnato

Today we travel to Carrara – the marble city – and enjoy a visit to a private marble quarry. Afterwards we'll drive to the village of Colonnato for a tasting of “Lardo di Colonnata.” This prized cured meat is renowned for its unique flavor and production method which involves curing the meat in Carrara marble tanks. Light lunch included. **(B L)**



Day 6: Excursion to Lucca & Cooking Class

Today's excursion is a lovely treat as we head to beautiful Lucca - the only medieval town in Italy still surrounded by its original 14th century walls and filled with ancient Roman ruins. Enjoy a guided walking tour and food tasting of local specialties. With its rich history, vibrant culture, and picturesque scenery, Lucca is a captivating destination for travelers seeking to experience the charm of Tuscany. Later we'll return to Pietrasanta for our third cooking class followed by dinner. **(B D)**





Day 7: Excursion to Lerici & Tellaro

Today's excursion begins in Lerici – a picturesque coastal town in Italy's Liguria region – celebrated for its stunning scenery and charming Mediterranean atmosphere. Nestled along the Gulf of Poets, Lerici boasts beautiful sandy beaches, vibrant harbor views, and historic architecture, including the impressive Castello di Lerici, which dates back to the 12th century. The town's narrow, winding streets are lined with quaint shops, cafes, and local eateries, inviting visitors to savor authentic Italian cuisine. We'll enjoy a guided walking tour through the heart of the historic center, which overlooks the city's small harbor and the beautiful Gulf of Poets. Strolling through the streets of the town we'll have the opportunity to taste the local food specialties and wines of the area. Later we'll head to the village of Tellaro – one of Italy's most beautiful and enjoy a sunset tour. Although stunning in broad daylight, at sunset it becomes truly magical: the warm light of the sun illuminates the village, making the colors of the houses shine with unique shades, creating a particularly evocative atmosphere. **(B)**





Day 8: Torre del Lago - Viareggio – Cooking Class

Today is an excursion to Torre del Lago where we'll visit the Roman Archaeological site of Massaciuccoli Lake. **(B D)**



The Roman archaeological site near Massaciuccoli Lake, offers a captivating glimpse into ancient Roman life. This site features the remains of a grand villa and excavations have uncovered exquisite mosaics, remnants of opulent living spaces, and sophisticated hydraulic works, such as aqueducts and drainage systems, showcasing the Romans' advanced engineering skills.

Next, we'll have a food and wine experience at a family-run agricultural estate before we stop in Viareggio to admire its Deco Art Nouveau promenade. Later we'll return to the hotel for our second cooking lesson followed by dinner. **(B D)**



Roman ruins





Roman ruins

Viareggio



Day 9: Return to Boston

Return to Florence airport for our flight to Rome and transatlantic flight to Boston. **(B)**



Proof of Citizenship: *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity for entry into Ireland. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*