

# A Taste of Tuscany & Umbria

*May 5-16, 2012*

**SV** SAGINAW VALLEY  
**SU** STATE UNIVERSITY

**Trip Preview Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 18 @ 5 p.m.  
Location: Curtiss 129



**Fisher Lifelong Learning Institute**

## This 12 - Day Trip Includes:

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers, and motorcoach transportation to the Detroit airport
- Ten nights accommodations in comfortable and well-located hotels
- Nineteen meals including a breakfast buffet each morning, two light lunches, and six dinners highlighting local Italian specialties
- Three wine tastings in San Gimignano, Montalcino, and Orvieto
- All tours and admission fees as outlined in the trip itinerary
- Pre-trip class on Italian history, culture and language by our faculty trip leader, Julie Keil
- Pre-trip dinner approximately two weeks prior to departure featuring Italian cuisine and wine

Our travel provider



## Featured Food and Wine Events:

- Day 2: Welcome dinner in Florence
- Day 3: Private Tuscan Cooking Class, including dinner
- Day 5: Wine tasting in San Gimignano, and local dinner in Siena
- Day 6: Brunello wine tasting in Montalcino
- Day 7: Traditional Umbrian Dinner
- Day 9: Wine tasting dinner in Rome
- Day 11: Farewell dinner in Rome with entertainment by tenors



## Our SVSU Faculty Host



Julie Keil began her love for Italy in 2000 when she went on her first trip there. She and a friend spent 17 days touring Italy and she has been back 11 times since then, mainly investigating Rome and Tuscany. Her most recent trip to Italy was in May of 2011 when she took 15 college students to

Rome, Florence and Verona. Julie has a law degree, as well as a Masters degree in European history. She is currently working on her dissertation for her PhD in political science. She teaches international law, world politics and comparative politics for SVSU, and has taught classes on Rome and genocides for OLLI. Julie has been to most of the cities we'll be visiting and particularly loves the Tuscan town of San Gimignano. She speaks some Italian and will brush up on it prior to our departure.

## Pre -Trip Class and Dinner

Professor Keil will be offering a class in April which will explore the history and culture of the areas we will be visiting. She will also cover some simple Italian language. We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure, which will feature traditional Italian fare. You will receive your travel documents and we will go over trip logistics. You will receive specific dates for the class and pre-trip dinner upon registration.

## About Our Lodging

In each city, we will be staying in three and four star hotels located in close proximity to the major attractions. The hotels that our provider uses for the majority of their tours include:

- Palazzo Ricasoli Residence in Florence (3 nights)
- Hotel Garden in Siena (2 nights)
- Sangallo Palace Hotel in Perugia (2 nights)
- Palazzo Carpegna in Rome (3 nights)



# Trip Itinerary



## ■ Day 1: Saturday, May 5

Depart SVSU via motorcoach for our overnight flight from Detroit to Florence.

## ■ Day 2: Sunday, May 6 (Florence)

Welcome to Florence, Italy! Our Go Ahead representative welcomes us at the airport and escorts us to the hotel. The rest of the day is free for strolling along the cobble streets and stone bridges of Florence, or just relaxing in the hotel. This evening, become acquainted with your fellow travelers as well as the region's famed cuisine at this evening's welcome dinner. (B, D)

## ■ Day 3: Monday, May 7 (Florence)

Discover the timeless city of Florence, birthplace of opera and the Italian language. Today's guided tour introduces you to the city's Renaissance splendor. Marvel at Brunelleschi's masterpiece - Florence's massive pink, white and green Duomo. Then enter the church of Santa Croce, where the tombs of Galileo and Michelangelo as well as the Dante Memorial are displayed. This evening, learn to make cuisine the Italian way at a private Tuscan cooking class. Then enjoy the freshly prepared meal with your fellow chefs. (B,D)

## ■ Day 4: Tuesday, May 8 (Florence)

Bask in a free day to explore the Renaissance City on your own. Browse the shops of the Ponte Vecchio or simply people-watch as you sample some tasty gelato. Looking for a little more structure to the day? Our travel provider offers an optional excursion to the walled city of Lucca and Colle Verde, a rural farm where olive oil is pressed. There is also an optional Florentine Dinner which you might consider. Both of these optional excursions have an additional charge. (B)

## ■ Day 5: Wednesday, May 9 (San Gimignano/Siena)

En route to the enchanting city of Siena, stop in San Gimignano, "the city of beautiful towers." Take in views of glorious scenery before continuing to a local wine tasting, where you'll have the opportunity to sample some of the region's fine wines. Arrive in Siena for this evening's included dinner. (B,D)

## ■ Day 6: Thursday, May 10 (Siena)

This morning, travel through vineyards and olive groves to the hill-top town of Montalcino, famous for its Brunello di Montalcino wine. Enjoy the opportunity to taste this local treasure and an included light lunch. Follow a local expert guide on this afternoon's tour of Siena, longtime rival of nearby Florence. Visit Siena's Romanesque Duomo and Nicola Pisano, along with the famous Piccolomini Library. Walk along medieval streets to the Piazza del Campo. Each summer, dare-devils race horses bareback around this main piazza during the famed Palio. (B,L)

## ■ Day 7: Friday, May 11 (Cortona/Perugia)

Continue your travels across the Italian landscape to reach Cortona, perched on a Tuscan hillside for panoramic views of the plains below. Meander through the steep, narrow streets and look for the remains of the original city wall before a visit to the Museum of the Etruscan Academy of Cortona, home to an impressive collection of Etruscan artifacts. Cross over the Tuscan border into the Umbrian region, and arrive in Perugia. After checking into the hotel venture into the Umbrian countryside for a dinner of regional specialties. (B,D)

## ■ Day 8: Saturday, May 12 (Perugia)

A local guide introduces you to the vibrant streets and landmarks of Perugia, the medieval town symbolized by the Etruscan Arch. See the Palazzo dei Priori, the gorgeous medieval palace begun in 1298, and the Cathedral of San Lorenzo. Enjoy a free afternoon by wandering along the stately Corso Vannucci, an avenue reserved for pedestrians, to visit some of the cafes and shops. You might wish to visit the Duomo, with its elaborately carved choir stalls, or the renowned Archaeological Museum. You will also have the option of adding, for an additional charge, an excursion to the beautiful Assisi, a pilgrimage site and home to the church of St. Francis. (B)

## ■ Day 9: Sunday, May 13 (Orvieto/Rome)

Journey across the Umbrian valleys today en route to Rome. Stop along the way in Orvieto, which you'll reach via funicular, for a wine tasting followed by a light lunch. Arrive in Rome, the Eternal City, in time for three-course dinner. (B/L/D)

## ■ Day 10: Monday, May 14 (Rome)

Stay in Rome for another two days to examine the myriad of treasures of the Italian capital. With a free day to explore on your own, you might linger over a sumptuous meal at a sidewalk café in Piazza Navona. Or experience the grandeur of the Roman empire on an optional Imperial Rome tour (extra charge). (B)

## ■ Day 11: Tuesday, May 15 (Rome)

Spend another day at your leisure in Rome, or take an optional tour of Vatican City, with visits to the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel (extra charge). Tonight, we'll end the day with an elegant four-course dinner in the heart of Rome. While you dine on a flavorful meal, you'll be entertained by talented singers performing some of opera's most beloved masterpieces. (B/D)

## ■ Day 12: Wednesday, May 16 (Rome/Home)

Sadly, our trip comes to an end. We will be escorted to the airport for our return morning flight home. A motorcoach will drive you from the Detroit airport back to SVSU. (B)



## General Information

### Activity Level

Participants must be able to handle their own luggage, climb a few stairs, stand for up to an hour, get on and off a motor coach easily and walk a few blocks indoors or out.

### Weather Projection

The weather should be comfortable, the average high in Florence in May is 74 and the average low is 52.

### Information and Reservations

Call the SVSU-OLLI office at (989) 964-4475 for further information or to make your deposit. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Trip Insurance

It is highly recommended that you purchase insurance. You will be sent insurance information upon receipt of your initial deposit, or you may purchase insurance on your own.

### Air Details

Our package includes round trip air and fuel surcharges. It also includes estimated government imposed taxes and fees. Should the actual taxes and fees be substantially more than our estimate, we reserve the right to increase the amount of your final balance due.

### Cancellation Fees

All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office. If we can fill your space with someone from a waiting list prior to February 1, you will receive a full refund. After February 1, the following fees apply to everyone: 71+ days prior to departure, \$300; 70-46 days prior, \$450; 45-8 days prior, \$1,000; 7 or less days prior, 100%. We highly recommend trip insurance.

### Trip Sponsors

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Go Ahead Tours. OLLI was established in 2001 as an educational resource for mid-Michigan residents who are 50 years of age or better. Founded in 1990, Go Ahead offers over 85 itineraries to 60 countries across the globe. They are part of Education First, the world's largest private education company whose mission is: to break down the barriers of language, culture, and geography that divide us.

## A Taste of Tuscany & Umbria May 5-16, 2012 Registration

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name *(exactly as it appears on your passport)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name *(exactly as it appears on your passport)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Trip Costs

- \$3,999 OLLI Members (double occupancy)
- \$4,059 Non-Members (double occupancy)  
*(Non-member fee includes OLLI membership)*
- \$385 Single Supplement

### Deposit & Payment Schedule

- \$500 will hold your spot.
- A second payment of \$1,500 is due by December 15, 2011.
- The final balance is due by February 1, 2012.

### Payment Method

Check (payable to SVSU) Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Three Ways to Register:

- Call (989)-964-4475
- Fax the registration form to (989)-964-2656
- Mail form with payment to:  
OLLI of SVSU  
7400 Bay Road  
University Center, MI 48710