



“Buon Viaggio”

Itinerary

(subject to change, so stay tuned)

March 24 to April 4, 2008
Near Siena (8 nights) – Florence (2 nights)

Included meals: BB, L, D = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 1

March 24 (Mon)

USA to Florence

Depart USA to Florence, Italy.

Day 2

March 25 (Tue)

The Lazy Olive Villa – outside of Siena

Upon the arrival in Florence, we will gather in the airport and proceed to the car rental. There we will choose drivers for our five rental cars and drive as a group to The Lazy Olive (approx. 2 hours from Florence). We can stop for lunch on the way. Upon arrival at TLO, we will check in, rest a bit, then take a short drive to the nearby village of Asciano to have dinner at a local restaurant recommended by our hosts at the Villa. Today both lunch and dinner are on our own.

Day 3

March 26 (Wed)

The Lazy Olive – Day excursion to Day Spa

After a good nights sleep (everyone is encouraged to sleep late) and a yummy breakfast at the Villa, we will drive to a nearby day spa – in a former Medici palace – about one and a quarter hours away. There we will nourish our bodies and relax, catching up from our long travels. The spa is a new, sumptuous 5-star complex surrounded by magnificent countryside, featuring a natural thermal water fountain in the middle of a spectacular pool. We'll have entrance to the thermal pools, bathrobe, slippers and towel and choose one of the following treatments: A 20-minute “Massoterapia” relaxation massage; a 20-minute facial massage; or the 1-hour “Etruscan Cure” Sauna and Steam Bath. Lunch is on our own. Then we return to the Lazy Olive for our first family-style welcome feast prepared by our own Private Chef. **(BB D)**

Day 4

March 27 (Thu)

The Lazy Olive – Day excursion to Siena

Right after breakfast, we will gather together and Adam and Stephen will lead us through a very juicy conversation about the adventures of bring in a long-term gay relationship. They have successfully facilitated this very conversation for groups of a hundred. Then we will take a drive into the magnificent medieval city of Siena. There we will be met by a local gay-friendly tour guide who will reveal the rich history of this magical city. Lunch is on our own.

You can return to the Villa for a nice long nap (recommended), returning to Siena for dinner on your own and to experience the night life. Or, you can hang out after your tour and explore the city at your own pace, having dinner when it suits you. NOTE: The late evening is when the Passagiatta takes place. That's when the locals dress up and walk around the main square, socializing, laughing and generally looking fabulous! It's prime people watching time. Hence the recommended nap! **(BB)**

Day 5

March 28 (Fri)

The Lazy Olive – Bike riding, or...

We wake to a lovely breakfast. Then we can opt to rent bicycles and take a lazy, meandering ride through the local countryside. We can stop at the local gastronomies and pick up fresh bread, wine, salume, fruit, cheeses and sweets and search for a magnificent spot in which to have a picnic. Or, this could be a totally free day to split up the cars and go on a self-guided adventure to nearby villiages and hilltowns, back to Siena, whatever. You can even hang out at The Lazy Olive and enjoy the mood of *Il Dolce far Niente!* (*the sweetness of doing nothing*). **(BB)**

Days 6, 7, 8, and 9

March 29 (Sat) through April 1 (Tue)

The Lazy Olive – Full day excursions to nearby Hill Towns and FREE TIME!

After breakfast, we draw up plans for group adventures for the next four days! We can choose which hill towns and villages we'd like to explore. We can venture to Montepulciano, Montalcino, San Gimignano, back to Siena – whatever we'd like. We can have lunch in one village and dinner in another. Be sure to bring your cameras!

We also have the choice to do nothing. No agenda, no schedule, no pressure. We'll have five cars to share and time to plan for daytime activities that suit our pleasure. The Lazy Olive is ours to return to whenever we want, to rest, relax, sleep, whatever.

On one of the days, after breakfast, we'll gather once more for a mid-way check-in with Adam and Stephen. Then it's off to another adventure exploring the rich Tuscan countryside. During these days, all lunches and dinners are on our own, except for Saturday evening when we'll return to The Lazy Olive for our second family-style Italian feast – perhaps with special local guests! **(BB, one D)**

Day 10 April 2 (Wed) Florence

Rise to an early breakfast, say our goodbyes to Daniela, Malcolm and the girls and head off to Florence. After a nice, two-hour drive through the Tuscan countryside, we arrive in Florence, return our cars, share cabs to our hotel and check in for two nights. We then have the afternoon to explore Florence – the Ponte Vecchio; the Duomo; Pitti Palace, etc. Lunch and dinner are on our own. **(BB)**

Day 11 April 3 (Thu) Florence

After breakfast we meet our gay guide and enjoy "*From Savonarola to Michelangelo – A Three-Hour Walking Tour of Gay Florence*". Then we are free to explore the wonder of this beautiful Renaissance city. We can opt for the Uffizi Gallery to view the treasures of such of such famous artists as Da Vinci, Botticelli, Bernini, and Rafael. We can even visit The Academia for a viewing of Michelangelo's David. We can wander through the shops and the markets and watch the boys! Lunch and dinner is at our leisure. **(BB)**

Day 12 April 4 (Fri) Florence to back home

After breakfast we cab it to the airport and return home. Some are opting to go on their own to Venice. You are welcome to do this as well. Just let me know. **(BB)**

Included in your tuition: 7 nights at The Villa | 5 Cars to Share | 2 nights in Florence | Siena Tour | Florence Tour | Day Spa Package | All Breakfasts | 3 Group Dinners | Stephen and Adam's Program | Reservations at the Uffizi and Accademia

Not included: Airfare | Gas | Parking Fees | Tips for Hotel /Restaurant Staff and Guides | All Lunches | Lunches and Remaining Dinners | Gallery / Museum Admission | Bikes | Taxis | Personal Luxury Items | Laundry | Baggage Handling