



## SHORT ESCAPE: ITALY – UMBRIA AND TUSCANY

On this compact journey through Umbria and Tuscany, discover endless green pastures, medieval hill towns, and world-class Renaissance art.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Europe, Italy



7 days from AU\$12,635 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Peaceful medieval hill towns, dense forests and a wholesome culture of foraging define Umbria, a landlocked region in central Italy. Wine tasting, truffle hunting and scenic hikes are all fantastic options in this region known as Italy's green heart. In Tuscany, with its picturesque rolling hills lined with cypress, world-class art and superb wines and *cucina povera*, the Tuscan experience is perfectly in symbiosis with the land.

### Journey Highlights

- See one of Italy's most striking Gothic cathedrals in Orvieto
- Soak up the scenery and serenity of Todi, a delightful town seemingly untouched by modern tourism
- Admire the mighty Roman bridge and majestic fortress that dominate Spoleto's skyline
- Search for truffles in the woods or unlock the secrets of Umbrian cuisine at a cooking class
- Sample outstanding Umbrian and Tuscan wines at traditional local vineyards



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Orvieto**

Welcome to Umbria! Meet your A&K Guardian Angel and driver upon arrival, for a private transfer to your hotel just outside Orvieto, where you're free to unwind.

#### ***Locanda Palazzone***

### **Day 2: Orvieto**

Visit Orvieto, a picturesque medieval town set apart by its impressive location atop a rocky plateau overlooking local vineyards and offering dazzling views of the surrounding area. Follow narrow cobbled streets to its captivating cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece both inside and out. Orvieto boasts the most ancient winemaking traditions in the region, with time-honoured viticultural practices include storage of wines in cellars dug out of the volcanic bedrock.

This afternoon after lunch (payable locally), enjoy a tour and tasting session at a traditional winery.

#### ***Locanda Palazzone / Meals: B***

### **Day 3: Orvieto - Norcia**

En route to Norcia, explore Todi and Spoleto, two sleepy hilltop towns that are small in size but big on monuments from the Etruscan and Roman civilisations to the Middle Ages. Climb the bell tower at the Church of San Fortunato for sweeping views over Todi's elegant medieval palaces and tranquil piazzas.

Spoleto's formidable fortress and spectacular ten-arch bridge are both unmissable, dominating its skyline.

Lunch is at leisure, continuing afterwards to your hotel.

#### ***Palazzo Seneca / Meals: B***

**Day 4: Norcia**

Design your Day today, choosing one of the two activities below which showcase the gourmet delicacies of Umbria:

**Truffle Hunting and Ricotta Cheese Making**

Embark on an exciting truffle hunt this morning, in search of "black gold", the black truffle. Later, a trusted cheesemaker will show you all the secrets and the process of preparing ricotta cheese outdoors, surrounded by nature. Cap off this unique activity with a picnic in the forest, a chance to feast on delicious regional produce.

**Cooking Class at the Michelin-starred Restaurant Vespasia**

Join two celebrated chefs at an acclaimed restaurant, who will reveal the secrets of Umbrian and Italian cuisine. Learn how to recreate the dishes prepared at home, before sampling each mouth-watering creation.

***Palazzo Seneca / Meals: BL***

**Day 5: Norcia - Cortona**

Travel to the Tuscan countryside by way of Assisi and Perugia.

In the peaceful Umbrian town of Assisi, enjoy a guided walking tour, visit the beautiful Basilica di San Francesco, built in the 13th century to house the body of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of Italy, and the Gothic Church of Santa Chiara.

Continue to Perugia and visit the Collegio del Cambio (Exchange Guild) where elaborate frescoes decorate the meeting room and chapel of the guild of bankers and money changers, as well as the imposing Palazzo dei Priori housing the National Gallery of Umbria with magnificent paintings, frescoes and sculptures.

In the afternoon, bid farewell to Umbria and travel to your hotel in Tuscany.

***Il Falconiere Relais & Spa / Meals: B***

**Day 6: Cortona**

This morning you may opt to start your day with an unforgettable birds-eye view over Tuscany from a private hot air balloon (additional cost). You'll ascend into the sky for a one-hour flight filled with awe-inspiring views as the sun rises over the rolling hills, vineyards, and medieval towns that dot the region. Afterwards, you'll enjoy a lavish breakfast showcasing the finest local produce and a toast with a glass of Prosecco.

Enjoy a day at leisure to wander the pretty cobblestone streets of Cortona. The epitome of a Tuscan hilltop town is immortalised in Frances Mayes memoir and film "Under The Tuscan Sun". Explore narrow shop-laden streets and hidden stone staircases, enjoy breathtaking views and spend some time in one of the local cafes.

***Il Falconiere Relais & Spa | Meals: B***

**Day 7: Depart Cortona**

Say goodbye to Tuscany after breakfast, with a private transfer to the airport in Florence or Rome.

***Il Falconiere Relais & Spa | Meals: B***

## Map



## Accommodation

### Il Falconiere Relais & Spa, Cortona



This splendid 17th-century manor lies in a privileged position between Tuscany and Umbria, giving its guests the best of both worlds. The Relais & Châteaux property is nestled at the foot of the hill where the Etruscan Cortona rises, close to medieval villages ripe for exploration.

Each of the 34 rooms and suites is unique and enriched by the inspiration of local artisans. All rooms share the style of simple old-world Tuscany with picturesque views of olive groves, vineyards and the Cortona countryside. Guests can relax by the outdoor pool, with sun beds and deck chairs. The Thesan Etruscan Spa offers a sauna, sensory showers and a Turkish bath, as well as beauty treatments and massages.

Set in a converted orangery, the restaurant is Michelin-starred and serves traditional Tuscan dishes. Guests can sample the estate's own Baracchi wines or join one of the *Cooking under the Tuscan Sun* gourmet cooking courses. The Baracchi family who inhabit this three-hundred-year-old villa, welcome their guests with a passion and typical Tuscan warmth.

# Abercrombie & Kent

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