



# Tuscany and Umbria

October 4 - 12, 2005

## The Golden Light of Italian Artistry



*Florence on the Arno*

**W**hat better way to captivate and stimulate your senses than a journey deep into the heart of romantic Tuscany? Here the magnificent harmony of the landscape spreads out in low-lying hills with graceful curves that afford wide views of olive groves, vineyards, and cypress trees bathed in soft, golden light. Here, too, with an adventure that embraces Umbria as well, medieval cities meet Etruscan settlements in the land of St. Francis.

From the consummate artistry of Florence to the art and civilization of the ancient Etruscans to the great treasures of the Renaissance, this is a mind-expanding exploration of culture and countryside. You'll experience a wonderful balance of guided days and free time to explore on your own as we begin our travels in Perugia, steeped in Etruscan history and boasting one of the grandest squares in Italy. Quintessential medieval houses and vaulted passageways beckon you to wander through time, and the glorious Galleria Nazionale reveals Umbria's greatest collection of paintings. Well-preserved historical towns like Gubbio and Cortona stand as age-defying marvels of antiquity, whether you're admiring a 2,000-year-old theater or drifting through Etruscan ruins.

Roaming the countryside or immersed in the cities, there is something of interest for all. The beautiful medieval city of Siena, built around the Piazza del Campo, is a mystical, passionate place, encircled by ramparts and riddled with narrow Gothic streets. In Florence, that cradle of exceptional artistic and intellectual activity ruled by Brunelleschi's magnificent dome and the incomparable Uffizi Gallery, a local guide takes us into the heart of the city's treasures.

And throughout, we'll be reminded that the great Tuscan painters—from Leonardo to Valdarno—filled their paintings with the gorgeous landscapes and light that still seduce today. It has been said, "You learn for the first time in this climate what colors are."

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure: **\$1780**  
The single supplement is: **\$260**

*Airfares are available from many other U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air from Boston on Alitalia.  
All customs fees and airport taxes included.
- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in first class hotels.  
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 7 dinners.
- Guides:** Tour director throughout. Local guides in Perugia, Florence, Gubbio, and Siena.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

*This itinerary is based upon using the following hotels, although Discover Europe reserves the right to substitute hotels of equal or superior standard should these prove unavailable.*

**Perugia** Sangallo Palace Hotel Perugia.  
**Siena** Hotel la Loggia.



**Please Note:** This tour differs from the majority of *Discover Europe* programs in that we are pleased to offer it in conjunction with our Italian partner *Italian Exclusive Vacations*. This means that it will not be a "small-group" trip and the tour director will be supplied by IEV not Discover Europe. By operating the trip in this way we are able to offer it at a very attractive price.





**Tuesday, October 4.** Evening departure for Milan, Italy.

**Wednesday, October 5.** Upon arrival in Milan, you connect with Alitalia's ongoing service to Florence, where a private motor coach transfers you to your hotel in Perugia. Here we will relax before gathering for a preview of our itinerary, followed by dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Perugia**

**Thursday, October 6.** After breakfast, we'll learn about the art and history of Umbria in an absorbing lecture that culminates in a guided exploration of the Etruscan section of Perugia. The medieval and Renaissance areas of this lovely city above the central Tiber valley offer vistas that confirm Henry James's description of Perugia as the "little city of infinite view." The afternoon is free to wander, sampling exquisite Perugina chocolates as you explore Piazza IV Novembre, one of the grandest squares in Italy, with its imposing Priors' Palace and admirably proportioned Great Fountain from

the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Leading off from the far end of the square is the picturesque Via Maesta delle Volte, its medieval houses and vaulted passageways brimming with secrets. In the evening we'll gather for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Perugia**

**Friday, October 7.** Today we'll experience a guided tour of the medieval section of Perugia, taking in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Duomo. In the afternoon, a tour of the glorious Galleria Nazionale, housed on the top floor of the Priors' Palace, reveals Umbria's greatest collection of paintings, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and including works by Duccio, Fra Angelico, and Piero della Francesca. In the late afternoon we'll return to the hotel and meet up in the evening for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Perugia**

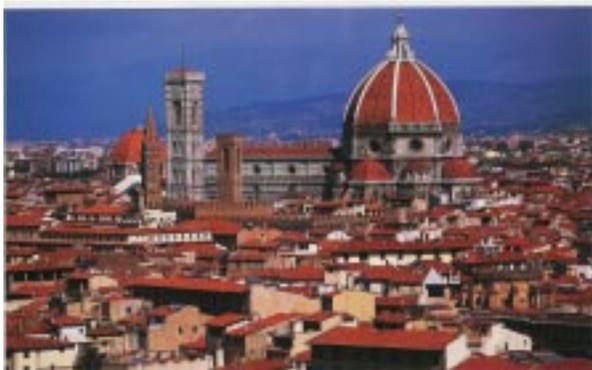


*The medieval city of Siena*

**Saturday, October 8.** Just over a stretch of the Apennines stands Gubbio, the best preserved of all medieval towns. With its roots in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, this picturesque village boasts a sprawling 2,000-year-old theatre just outside the town walls, and is home to the fascinating 2,000-year-old Etruscan and Latin. At the top of the town, the Palazzo Ducale and the Duomo face off against each other—the former notable for its lovely Renaissance courtyard; the latter a 13<sup>th</sup> century graceful construction of lavender-gray brick with a magnificent interior. In the afternoon we'll continue on to Fabriano, famous since the 13<sup>th</sup> century for its manufacture of paper, with its reconstructed, fully operational medieval workshop. Upon returning to Perugia we'll reconvene for dinner in the evening. **(B, D) Overnight: Perugia**

**Sunday, October 9.** This morning we depart for Siena, with a stop en route at Cortona, a particularly well-preserved little town that clings to the steep slopes of a hill blanketed with olive groves. One of the most ancient cities in Italy, it is notable for its Etruscan remains as well as its works of art, including several paintings by Signorelli. Once in Siena, we'll check in to our hotel, with time to relax and explore before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Siena**

**Monday, October 10.** This morning we leave via coach for a full-day's excursion to Florence, winding through the heart of serenely beautiful countryside blanketed with olive groves, vineyards, and cypress. Little wonder, surrounded by such beauty, that for three centuries Florence was the cradle of exceptional artistic and intellectual activity. This morning a local expert takes you on a half-day guided tour of the city, characterized by Brunelleschi's magnificent dome and the lovely old Ponte Vecchio spanning the Arno. In the afternoon, a visit to the incomparable Uffizi Gallery, introduces you to one of the finest art museums in the world—45 rooms of extraordinary Renaissance treasures. We'll return to the hotel for a relaxing dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Siena**



*Brunelleschi's magnificent dome in Florence*

**Tuesday, October 11.** Today you have a full free day to explore the beautiful medieval city of Siena, built around the lovely Piazza del Campo. This mystical, passionate city, encircled by ramparts, invites you to stroll its narrow Gothic streets lined with palaces and mansions that converge on the famous piazza. The city's Duomo is one of the most dramatic in Italy with its striking black and white marble pillars and façade. More than anywhere else Siena conveys the aspect of a medieval city, extending over three converging red clay hills. We'll meet at the hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Siena**

**Wednesday, October 12**

This morning we'll gather for transfer via coach to Florence airport for your flights back to the USA. **(B)**