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TICO registration #:1257995

## **FOOD FOCUS: FLORENCE**

**Saturday, October 14 to Monday, October 23, 2023**



*The Duomo, Florence*

*Don't miss this opportunity to travel with Lori Chisholm on a foodie tour of Florence and the surrounding Tuscan countryside with visits to her favourite places, with her favourite local guides. Space is limited to 10 persons on a first-come, first-served basis so be sure to act fast!!!*

*\*Please note, you will have to travel on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October to arrive for the start of the tour on the 14<sup>th</sup>.*

*\*\*This tour involves extensive walking, often uphill and/or on stairs and uneven surfaces.*

Cost of tour: Land only – \$3,485 CAD

Single supplement: \$530 CAD

*To keep costs as low as possible, we have not allowed for credit card merchant fees. Credit card payments will be subject to a 3% surcharge.*

### **Proposed itinerary – subject to change**

#### **Day 1 Saturday, October 14th:**

D

Check in to our 3\*Hotel Corona d'Italia ([www.hotelcoronaditalia.com](http://www.hotelcoronaditalia.com)), centrally located at the corner of the famous San Lorenzo Market. Time to settle in, freshen up and begin our exploration of this beautiful city. We'll meet later for cocktails before we stroll to our first Italian meal in a nearby family-owned trattoria.

#### **Day 2 Sunday, October 15th:**

B

After breakfast, our expert local guide Alessandra will take us on a personal orientation walking tour of Florence. We'll learn about Brunelleschi's magnificent cathedral dome and Ghiberti's Baptistry doors. The highlight undoubtedly will be the tour of the Accademia where we'll marvel at Michaelangelo's *Prisoners* and his greatest masterpiece, the colossal *David*. (Alessandra may change the order of the visits.) After the tour, you can lunch on your own or follow my lead to my favourite hole-in-the-wall sandwich shop. The balance of the day is free for exploring.

### **Day 3 Monday, October 16th:**

B, L

This morning after a leisurely but necessarily light breakfast, we join my good friend Antoinette of Taste Florence ([www.tasteflorence.com](http://www.tasteflorence.com)) for our personal food tour through the city. During the tour we will try local regional specialties including wine and sweets. We will visit the Mercato Centrale to taste cheeses, sauces, chutneys and crostini; enjoy a tutorial tasting of balsamic vinegar and olive oils and participate in a wine tasting at a local enoteca. Naturally, we must finish up with dessert, so the tour will end at a gelateria. The rest of the day is free to do as you please.

### **Day 4 Tuesday, October 17th:**

B, L

Today our driver will pick us up at the hotel in a comfortable, 16-passenger vehicle for our trip to Certaldo. There we will spend the morning with Giuseppina at her renowned cooking school. We'll prepare a 4-course meal and enjoy it along with wine, and leave with a souvenir apron. We'll continue on to San Gimignano whose skyline is dominated by a multitude of medieval towers and its shops filled with art, artifacts and local products. We'll wander, perhaps climb the torre for some breathtaking views, and enjoy some of Italy's best gelato. Our return to the hotel by 6:00 p.m. will allow us lots of time for dinner (if we still have room!).



### **Day 5 Wednesday, October 18th:** B

This morning after breakfast, you'll devote your time to the wondrous Renaissance art of the Uffizi Gallery. The finest collection of Italian paintings anywhere includes masterpieces by DaVinci, Botticelli and Michaelangelo. Take as much time as you like, enjoy lunch on your own, and continue your exploration of the churches, galleries and markets of Florence. You can join me for a visit to the lovely Santa Croce church and the leather school tucked in behind (optional extra).

### **Day 6 Thursday, October 19th:**

B, L

Eat a light breakfast today because we have lots of locally-produced delicacies ahead of us! Once again, our driver will be picking us up, this time for a day trip to the Tuscan countryside south and west of Florence. We'll start with a visit to a family-run cheese farm where we'll have the opportunity to meet some farmers with a very interesting history. We'll enjoy a vineyard walk, a tour of the dairy and cellar and then a tasting with wine, cheese, breads and olive oil. From one farm to another: it's time to learn about olive oil from the people who harvest the olives and process them in the time-honoured way. At Tenuta San Vito, an organic agriturismo, we'll taste their extra virgin olive oil as well as their family-produced wines and then enjoy a light lunch with them. We should be home by 4:00.

### **Day 7 Friday, October 20th:**

B

After breakfast, a free day to tour, visit, re-visit, explore and, of course, shop for souvenirs. There are lots of options: a day trip to Pisa, Bologna, Lucca, Venice or Siena? (we are 5 minutes from the train station!)...the Bargello Gallery?...the Pitti Palace? ...a climb up the Duomo?...a wander through the Oltrarno district?

### **Day 8 Saturday, October 21st:**

B, D

After breakfast, you will have most of the day free but we will gather at 4:00 to be picked up in our Mercedes for dinner in Panzano in Chianti. On the way, we'll stop in the lovely little town of Greve in Chianti. Upon arrival in this town, we'll stroll and take an aperitivo in a local enoteca. Off to a further aperitivo at the Macelleria Cecchini, home of Dario Cecchini, the world's most famous - and infamous! - butcher. Upstairs, we

will enjoy one of the most exciting meals in all of Italy: a five-course dinner, prepared in front of us, featuring *bistecca alla Fiorentina*, fresh bread, and unlimited Chianti. (vegetarian option available) We'll be home late but we can sleep in in the morning...

**Day 9 Sunday, October 22nd:**

B, D

We will have the morning and afternoon free to continue exploring Florence, and to revisit our favourite shops and cafés. At 5:30, we'll wander down to the Arno for a private boat excursion with a *renaiolo* as our guide (weather and water levels permitting!). And then for our farewell dinner, we'll celebrate our fabulous week in a typical Tuscan ristorante, enjoying our last chance at true, home-cooked Italian.

**Day 10 Monday, October 23rd:**

B

Our tour is over after breakfast. Safe home or carry on!

**Tour Price:** \$3,485 CAD based on twin occupancy. Single supplement: \$530.00 (limited to maximum 2)  
The above price does not take into account credit card merchant fees. We take credit cards but must add a 3% surcharge.

**Tour Price includes:**

- All transportation in a private vehicle as per the itinerary
- 9 nights accommodation in a superior tourist-class 3-star hotel, based on double occupancy, wifi included
- Substantial daily breakfast
- 3 dinners as per the itinerary including welcome dinner, Panzano dinner featuring *bistecca alla fiorentina*, and farewell dinner with wine, coffee and water
- 3 lunches or equivalent as per itinerary
- Welcome aperitivo, Greve aperitivo
- 6 activities exclusive to our group:
  - private historical walking tour with expert guide + whisper headsets
  - private food tour (walking) with expert guide + substantial tastings
  - day trip for private cooking class with lunch and wine, and visit to San Gimignano with gelato
  - private day trip to the Tuscan countryside with farm visits/tours, lunch and tastings
  - late afternoon/evening excursion to Chianti region
  - private boat excursion weather and water levels permitting
- Admissions to:
  - Accademia Gallery
  - Uffizi Gallery
  - San Gimignano Tower -
- Driver and guide gratuities

\*\*\*2-hour lounge pass at Toronto airport if you submit your deposit by May 31, 2023

**Tour Price does not include:**

- Flights and transfers – the tour begins and ends at the group hotel in Florence
- Beverages with meals
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Insurance – please contact Pauwels Travel for rates

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

## RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible. We request you send your registration together with a refundable e-transfer of \$750.00 per person. The feasibility of operating the tour will be reviewed 90 days prior to departure and if deemed operational, registered participants will be offered the opportunity to reconfirm their place by paying an additional interim payment of \$1,000.00 per person or withdraw their registration and receive a full refund of their deposit. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form and refundable deposit. Interim payments for this tour due: July 1, 2023.

## REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

## CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date. For cancellation received in writing 89 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

89 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

## RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

## RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.

2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.

3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released

Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.

5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.

6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.

7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.

9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

Please book \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on the “Food Focus: Florence” tour October 14 - 23, 2023.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750.00 per person, refundable until departure is guaranteed on May 31, 2023.) E-transfer to **tours@pauwelstravel.com** with *Florence 2023* in the notes.

**\*Please do not book any airfares related to the tour until you have been notified the tour will be operating.**

Deposit and insurance premium if taken are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance.

**WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.**

PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for Elizabeth”) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) \_\_\_\_\_ double (1 bed) \_\_\_\_\_?

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

All-inclusive Package \_\_\_\_\_ Non-medical Package \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ OR Decline Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT:  Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel  E-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

“I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment”.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

15 Egerton Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 4L4

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