



Gluten Free Joy Boutique Tour to Florence & Tuscany^

9 nights: Sept 27-Oct 6 2020

Cost: \$5499 (Super Early Bird \$5100 / Early Bird \$5299)*

Day 1: Arrive Florence

Pick up Transfer (optional**)

Settle in to your delux accommodation (2 nights) at Palazzo Guadagni, a 16th century palace located in a beautiful piazza in the historic centre of Florence.

5pm Welcome & sunset drinks at the rooftop garden bar

PM: **Dinner at local pizzeria** (with guide)

Day 2: Explore Florence

AM Historical walking tour of Florence (with local guide) (3 hours)

Afternoon: free time to explore this beautiful city (museum tour visits, shopping or just wandering & eating gelato!)

...you can visit the Duomo, Uffizzi, Gallerie Accademia, or wander the grandeur of the Pitti Palace & its stunning gardens

PM: **Dinner at a local ristorante**

Day 3: Florence + Tuscany Arrival

FREE TIME: explore Florence at your leisure

3pm Pick up transfer to the Tuscan Villa, our home for the next 7 nights: Villa Pandolfini, a 14th century renaissance villa set in a 150 hectare estate of forest, vineyards & olive trees once host to Napoleon Bonaparte and King Charles III of France!

7pm **Welcome Dinner**

Day 4: Full day Tour - Hidden Treasures of Tuscany

A full day exploring and experiencing the essence of Tuscany!

We visit the magnificent hill top towns of Pienza & Montalcino, enjoy a Brunello wine tasting and cellar tour, take in the gorgeous scenery at a long table lunch overlooking the vineyards, and explore an ancient Abbey.

Dinner locally at pizzeria

Day 5: Markets & Cooking

Today is all about understanding and creating the cuisine the Italians are famous for! We start with a morning tour to the produce market in Florence where the local Florentines go to source the freshest produce. We then head back to the Villa's famous cooking school to learn how to create some of the favourite dishes of the region, incorporated into a delectable 5 course meal that we then enjoy together, all gluten free of course!

Free afternoon

Dinner: self-cater / local restaurant

Day 6: Full Day Tour – Delights of Tuscany

The most picturesque medieval hilltop towns are on the agenda for today's full day tour of Tuscany. We visit San Gimignano, Certaldo & Siena, with a breathtaking cliff top lunch and an aperitivo overlooking Siena's famous central piazza part of the fun. And of course, plenty of free time to wander the streets to soak in the history and culture of the region, indulge in some shopping, or explore a museum.

Dinner: Grazing platter on villa patio

Day 7: REST DAY / Optional Activities

This is your chance to catch your breath & relax in the villa's beautiful surroundings...perhaps take a swim in the pool or enjoy some quiet moments on the patio, or if you still have plenty of energy, why not add in some extra excitement, choosing from the following OPTIONAL activities (additional cost**):



- ~Cooking Class (incl. lunch)**
- ~½ Day afternoon Tour to Lucca & Pisa (min 4 ppl)**
- ~Transfers to Florence for self-explore/museum visits**

Dinner: self cater / local restaurant

Day 8: Full Day Tour – Cinque Terre

A full day tour travelling to one of Italy's famous locales...the stunning sea side region of Cinque Terre with its cliff side seaside towns dotted with their iconic colourful houses. We visit the towns of Manarola, Vernazza (incl lunch) + Monterossa (bring your swimmers!), enjoying an additional ferry ride (weather permitting) on our return to capture the beauty of the region from another perspective!

Dinner: self cater / local restaurant

Day 9: Medici Villa & Ceramics Tour + Optional REST/Cooking

Free morning

Late morning we set off on a ½ day tour to explore one of Medici's residences in Poggio A Caiano, Artemino, a nearby medieval hamlet, as well as enjoying a visit to a local ceramics factory. A wander through this grand villa, built for Lorenzo the Magnificent in the 15th century, with its ancient frescoes & beautiful gardens, provides a relaxing wind up to this 'pinch me' holiday. We then lunch in a stunning hilltop trattoria.

OPTIONAL Extra Activity: Cooking Workshop**

7pm **Farewell Dinner**

Day 10: Depart

10am Transfer to central Florence/airport/train station.

TOUR Inclusions:

9 nights accommodation in a delux room (twin share)

Buffet breakfast/breakfast hamper supplies for 9 days (GF), including fruit, prosciutto, cheeses, juice, coffee, tea, as well as specially sourced local GF pastries, cereals & breads.

1 cooking class (GF)

Florence market visit with chef

½ day historical walking tour of Florence

2 Full day Tours to Tuscany

1 Full day Tour to Cinque Terre

½ day tour to Medici Villa & Ceramics Factory

5 lunches + 6 dinners: (all GF)

Return transfers from Florence (not included Pick Up Transfer*)

Apron + Recipe Book

NOTE: all provided meals authentic Italian cuisine, GF & coeliac safe. Glass of wine included.

****Optional additions (pp):**

Pick Up Transfer (50 euro 2 ppl)

Extra Cooking Workshops: Day 7 (140 euro) + Day 9 (100 euro)

1/2 Day Tour to Pisa/Lucca 120 euro (min 4 ppl)

Additional return transfers to Florence from Villa (40 euro for 4 ppl)

*NOTE: Max 10 persons on tour. All meals have been pre-vetted by Jane from Gluten Free Joy to ensure compliance with coeliac safe food handling practices. * Super Early Bird Price applied if \$300 non-refundable deposit paid by Nov 30, 2019; Early Bird Price applied if 30% non-refundable deposit received by Feb 28, 2020. Prices are per person \$AUD, land only, based on double occupancy. Single occupancy will incur extra charges (\$1000). Florence room choice allocated on a first-in first choice basis. Additional nights at the hotel can be booked for you pre tour.
^Slight variations to itinerary possible subject to weather conditions & availability of venues.*