



# *French Wine*

## EXPLORERS

### Treasures of Tuscany and Piedmont

October 8-14, 2017

7 days, 6 nights | Limited to 12 guests

**Tuscany's** history, traditions and culture extend to magnificent cities, medieval hilltop villages and hamlets scattered around an iconic countryside. This is Italy's heartland. Wine and food are the lifeblood of this wonderful region, making for a perfect wine tour. In the northwest corner of Italy sits **Piedmont**, one of the most magical wine regions in the world. Here you can find some of the **world's greatest wines**. Sharing borders with France and Switzerland, this is a magical area of mountains and valleys, vineyards, castles and incredible cuisine.



# TREASURES OF TUSCANY AND PIEDMONT \*

## DAY ONE

## WELCOME TO TUSCANY

D

Arrive on your own and check into **The Hotel Palazzo San Lorenzo**. *This 4-star hotel in Tuscany is in the medieval town of Colle Val d'Elsa, right in the heart of the region, and is famous the world over as the "City of Crystal".* The hotel, which is in a fantastic position between Siena and Florence, is the ideal starting point for getting easily to the most enchanting parts of this noble land, its charming little towns and to the Chianti region. Late afternoon, meet your guide for a welcome drink and an overview of the wines of Tuscany. Then head to your first meal located a few minutes by foot from your hotel, the **Michelin 2\* Arnolfo**. Enjoy a **welcome dinner paired perfectly with wines of Tuscany**.

## DAY TWO

## BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

B, L, D

Today is dedicated to Brunello! **Brunello di Montalcino** ranks as one of Italy's most prized and most expensive wines. Brunello di Montalcino can age for between 10 and 30 years. These wines mature into an amply flavored wine of deep ruby to brick-red color complimented by a rich and complex bouquet. The wines of Brunello di Montalcino stand in a class of their own. You will enjoy an amazing guided visit and tasting at the **Tenute Silvio Nardi**, an extensive estate dotted with small vineyards that makes modern, sleek, reliably excellent Brunello. Your wonderful lunch will be at **Il Leccio Trattoria, on top of the hilltop village St. Angelo in Colle**, overlooking the splendid Orcia valley, an elegant Tuscan restaurant with superb wine list and authentic, fresh tastes. Next up is a guided visit and tasting at **Soldera, an "old school" master of Italian wines**. Gianfranco, the owner, makes no compromises with his wine and philosophy of wine production. His divine Brunello has exceptional aging potential. You will have free time to visit the charming town of Montalcino and taste some incredible vintage Brunello in a fine wine shop as well as explore the town with its incredible views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon. **Dinner with wine** tonight will be at a local restaurant just a few minutes by foot from your hotel. Return to your hotel after dinner.

## DAY THREE

## MONTEPULCIANO

B, L

**Montepulciano**, the Renaissance city where the day's tour begins, is a particularly well preserved hilltop town surrounded by one of Tuscany's most enchanting landscapes: the Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana valleys. The area is noted for its red wines, the most famous being **Vino Nobile di Montepulciano**, a medium-body wine rich in color, with a good tannin structure. After strolling around the town and learning about the local history and handsome 16th century palaces, you will visit one of the ancient vaulted town cellars and taste **Vino Nobile**. **Lunch is served in a restaurant** in the historic center of the old city, or if possible, at a **local estate featuring a library of wines from the estate**. Free time to discover Montepulciano. Then a drive through the beautiful countryside, and visit the second winery where you will have the opportunity to learn the viticulture and discover the painstaking production process in addition to tasting the wine. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon, enjoy an evening on your own.

## DAY FOUR

## BOLGHERI AND PIEDMONT

B, L

Transfer to the **Ornellaia winery**. Tenuta dell'Ornellaia is an Italian wine producer in Bolgheri, known as a producer of "Super Tuscan" wine. The winery is considered one of Italy's leading Bordeaux-style red wines. Enjoy your private guided tour of the estate followed by tasting of three wines. Then a special treat awaits us: a **private four course wine tasting lunch at Ornellaia**. What better way to savor La Dolce Vita! **Next we transfer to Piedmont**. Sometimes referred to as 'Tuscany without the tourists', **Piedmont's** undulating hills striped with vineyards bear more than a passing resemblance to its famous southern counterpart. Piedmont is the region that produces the largest number of best known, noble, and world-appreciated prize-winning wines, such as **Barbera, Barolo, Barbaresco**,



and **Asti Spumante** among others. Meanwhile, the cuisine, with its rich sauces and use of butter instead of olive oil, evokes France just as much as it does Italy. Enroute, we will **pause for free time in a seaside town along the Ligurian coast**. Check into your hotel in Piedmont: **Villa d'Amelia**. A late 19th century country house just ten minutes from Alba in the Piedmont region, famed for the coveted white truffle and Barolo and Barbaresco wine, Relais Villa d'Amelia stands on a ridge among lush woods and hazelnut groves. With stunning views of the Monviso Alps, the hotel promises great food and wine, a wellness center, a heated pool and is within easy reach of Barolo. After a full day of activities and driving we will offer aperitifs with small plates for the evening.

## DAY FIVE

## BAROLO

**B, L, D**

Your discovery of Piedmont's top wine, **Barolo**, begins with a visit to the town of **Alba** (Italian for "dawn"), a world capital of wine and truffles since Julius Caesar's day. Then you will be off to the bountiful, pulsing heartland of the Barolo wine region. Your first winery visit is to **Paolo Scavino**, one of the region's most highly-rated wineries, and includes a guided visit to the cellars and a guided wine tasting of the estate's outstanding wines. The second town you will visit is **Barolo itself**. The historical town center is a great fortification, with the rest of the town huddling up against it for protection. Enjoy a delicious **lunch in a local trattoria**. In the afternoon you will enjoy a **second round of Barolo tastings** and enhance your appreciation of this area's renowned wines at a small family-run winery known for excellence, such as **Barale** or **Giangeranco Alessandria**. Return to the hotel late in the afternoon. Dinner with special wines will be at a **local restaurant** not far from the hotel.

## DAY SIX

## BARBARESCO

**B, L, D**

This morning we will discover **Barbaresco wines**. Barbaresco is in a way the younger brother of Barolo. Both of these red wines are made in the Piedmont area from the Nebbiolo grape. While **Barolo wines are rich and full-bodied**, **Barbaresco wines are more elegant and aromatic**, though still powerful. Also, while Barolo wines have been around for centuries, the Barbaresco heritage is only a few hundred years old. You'll visit a top rated winery followed by a **cooking class and lunch with a local chef**. Return to your hotel midafternoon for free time to relax. Tonight enjoy your **gala dinner at the 3 Michelin star restaurant Piazza Duomo in Alba**. *Piazza Duomo is the result of a collaboration with the Ceretto family, an influential Piedmontese dynasty which produces much of the region's famed wine and produce. As such, the chef, Enrico Crippa, gets first pick of some spectacular produce: game, woodland mushrooms and, of course, truffles. The optimum time to visit the restaurant is in October and November when the white truffle season is in full swing and Crippa offers a truffle menu of legendary decadence.*

## DAY SEVEN

## TRANSFER TO TURIN

**B**

Your tour ends with a **group transfer to Turin mid-morning**. Continue your journeys with fond memories of the treasures of Tuscany and Piedmont, and all their splendor.

Legend for meals included in your tour: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

*\*Itinerary subject to change: every effort will be made to keep the itinerary as close as possible to what appears here; however, the final itinerary may vary due to wine producer schedules, availability and factors beyond our control.*

Featured In:

**TRAVEL+  
LEISURE**

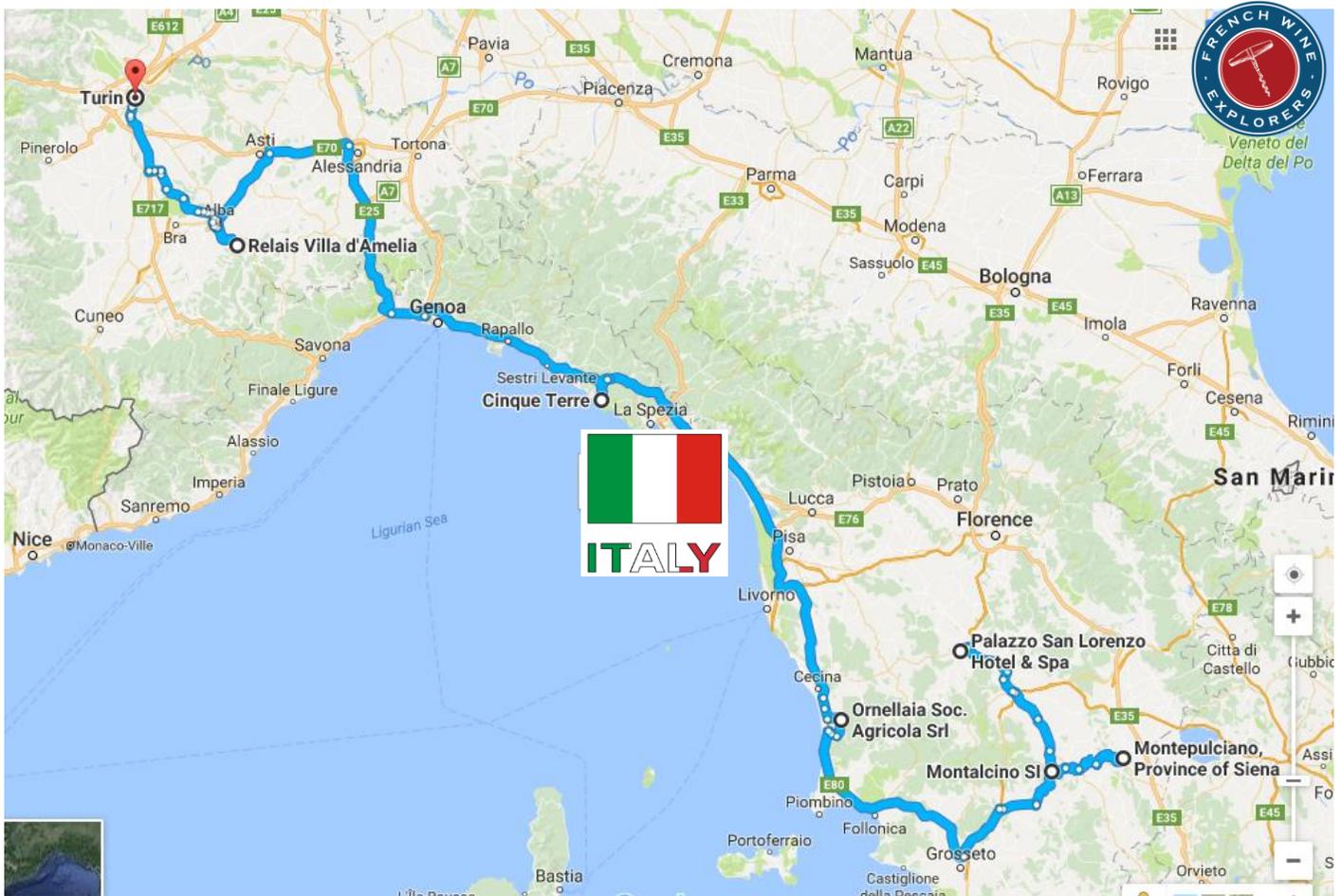


Rachael Ray  
**everyday**



**WINEENTHUSIAST**  
MAGAZINE

**GOURMET**  
TRAVELLER



## YOUR 7 DAY, 6 NIGHT LUXURY TOUR OF TUSCANY AND PIEDMONT INCLUDES:

- 3 nights' accommodations at 4\* Boutique Hotel Palazzo San Lorenzo in Tuscany
- 3 nights' accommodations at 4\* Relais Villa d'Amelia in Piedmont
- All VIP tours and tastings at the regions' finest wine estates
- 5 lunches with premium wine, including a special wine tasting lunch at Ornellaia
- 4 gastronomic dinners with premium wines, including Michelin 3\* Piazza Duomo in Alba
- Buffet breakfast each day; deluxe air-conditioned motor coach transportation throughout
- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide throughout the tour
- A full packet of information on the region and wine tasting sent to you in advance of the tour, all local taxes, all gratuities for included restaurants

**Price per person, double occupancy: US\$5990.00**

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 12 GUESTS • RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!**

*"I have not had a chance to thank you for facilitating our wonderful trip. We are still feeling relaxed and very European... hopefully that will not wear off soon. We made gnocchi the other night - it turned out better than I thought it might! Thanks again, Pascale." Val B. Tuscany and Piedmont Tour*

### To reserve this program:

Please complete the enclosed reservation form and return to us by email, fax or postal mail. For assistance, please contact us at [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com) or toll free (U.S.)

# French Wine

## EXPLORERS

# Reservation Form

To reserve your tour: please fill out the Reservation Form and Questionnaire.  
Then fax all the forms to us at **1-443-458-0975 (USA number)**; or email them to [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com)  
You will receive confirmation within 48 hours of receipt.

### Treasures of Tuscany and Piedmont

October 8-14, 2017

**US\$5990.00 per person, double occupancy**

*Please note: guests living in separate residences must fill out separate reservation forms*

Guest Name As On Passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name As On Passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number to call \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have your cell phone with you on tour? \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (name/telephone): \_\_\_\_\_

Room preference (please check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Double (1 large bed) \_\_\_\_\_ Twin (2 single beds)

**Trip Cancellation Insurance:** We strongly encourage you to purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance and additional health insurance to protect against financial loss from missed flights, unforeseen accidents, incidents, illness, and/or loss of baggage.

**PAYMENTS:** A Deposit of **US\$1500.00 per person** is due at the time of reservation. The **Total Balance** will be charged to your credit card 90 days before the tour start date, we will advise you prior to charging your card.

**Please fill in all blank fields:**

I have read and accept the enclosed French Wine Explorers terms and conditions listed in the enclosed Participant Agreement. *(Please check the box above)*

I authorize French Wine explorers to charge the Deposit of US\$1500.00 per person at this time for \_\_\_ guests for the total Deposit of US\$\_\_\_\_\_ and the Total Balance Due 90 days prior to the Tour start date, to my:

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Code (3 numbers on back of VISA/MasterCard; 4 numbers on front of Amex): \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If credit card billing address is different than address given above, please give billing address here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# French Wine

## EXPLORERS

# Guest Questionnaire

Please take a moment to fill out this questionnaire so we may get to know you and customize your tour as much as possible.

Guest 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you celebrating any milestones or special occasions while on tour? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate your knowledge of wine and wine tasting?

Guest 1: *Novice*

*Basic knowledge*

*Quite knowledgeable*

*Professional*

Guest 2: *Novice*

*Basic knowledge*

*Quite knowledgeable*

*Professional*

Which phrase best describes your interest in wine? (Check one)

Guest 1:

Guest 2:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I am somewhat interested in wine tasting*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I'm a wine enthusiast, and want to learn more about wine*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I'm a serious oenophile, wine is my passion*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I'm a wine professional (Please specify)*

Do you:

\_\_\_\_\_ Belong to a wine tasting club or society? If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend local wine tastings? If so, how often? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Take wine tasting classes? If so, when and at what level? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit wineries for wine tastings? If so, where and how often? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Have a wine cellar? If so, how many bottles? \_\_\_\_\_

What's in your cellar? *(Please be specific, as some of this information is required by our estate partners):*

\_\_\_\_\_

Where do you purchase your wine? *Please specify a retailer or wine merchant.* \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to purchase wine to be shipped home during your tour? \_\_\_\_\_

*There is no obligation to buy wine while on tour, but this helps us with planning time for those who are interested in purchasing wine to be shipped home. Usually there is a 6-12 bottle minimum to purchase wine to be shipped home, depending on the estate.*

Do you have any physical issues we should know about? *(Particularly if you have trouble walking, standing for long periods, or climbing stairs)*

If yes, please explain here:

Do you have any food allergies or strong dislikes? *(e.g., foie gras, escargots, shellfish, certain meat such as lamb, squab, veal, sweetbreads, etc. - please be specific since we are unable to make changes at the last minute for pre-planned meals)*

Do you have your arrival and departure information? Please detail flight / train information below:

Additional travel needs (transfers, hotel accommodations in another city, etc. or additional comments):

# French Wine Explorers Participant Agreement

Pascale Bernasse & Co., Inc. d/b/a French Wine explorers (“we” or “us”) provides certain tours in the countries of France and Italy (each a “Tour”). These terms and conditions apply to the Tour named on the Guest Reservation and Payment Form (the “Tour”) and the program for this Tour (the “Itinerary”).

**RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:** A deposit of \$1500.00 per participant (except when otherwise noted in writing by us) and a completed Guest Reservation Form (“Reservation Form”) are required with this Participant Agreement to reserve space for each Tour. The balance of the Tour payment price (“Tour Fees”) is due 90 days before the Tour start date (as listed on the Itinerary). If we do not receive full payment by 90 days prior to the tour start date, we may cancel your reservation and retain the deposit. All prices are in U.S. Dollars, and based on double occupancy. Due to exchange rate changes and other factors, we do not guarantee the amount of the final Tour Fee until 90 days prior to the Tour start date. If you make your reservation within 90 days of the Tour start date, the Reservation Form must be accompanied by the Tour Fee. Except as expressly stated in the Itinerary, you are solely responsible for any Tour-related costs that you incur.

**CLIENT CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:** If you choose to cancel your reservation, we must receive written notice of said cancellation either via certified mail, overnight courier, or e-mail sent to [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com) (with confirmation of receipt thereof from us), and you shall be subject to the following cancellation fee schedule: If we receive written notice 91 or more days prior to the Tour start date, we shall retain the \$1500.00 deposit per person. If we receive written notice 61-90 days prior to the Tour start date, you shall incur a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the payment price for the Tour. If we receive written notice 60 days or fewer prior to the Tour start date, or if you are a no-show, you shall incur a cancellation fee equal to 100% of the payment price for the Tour. If a flight or other delay for any reason prevents you from joining the Tour on the Tour start date, you will be considered a no-show, and we cannot provide a full or partial refund or credit toward a future Tour, but you may join the Tour late if you wish.

**OPERATOR CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION:** We may cancel any Tour at any time before departure for any reason, including without limitation if we deem the number of participants signed up for a given Tour to be insufficient to operate such Tour. We will make commercially reasonable efforts to keep the Itinerary as it has been published; however, the final Itinerary may vary due to wine producer schedules, availability and factors beyond our control. We may in our sole discretion substitute services or goods of similar quality for any service or good stated in the Itinerary. If a tour is cancelled, our liability is limited to a full refund of your deposits and Tour Fees, and we will not be liable for any other costs, damages, or refunds of any kind for any loss, delay, inconvenience, disappointment, or expense whatsoever in such circumstances. If for reasons beyond our control, a Tour in progress must be interrupted or cancelled, we will in good faith consider refunding a portion of the Tour Fees depending on our actual costs incurred compared to the Tour as originally contemplated.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** We strongly encourage you to purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance and additional health insurance to protect against financial loss from unforeseen delays, accidents, illness, loss of baggage, etc.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Standard Guest accommodations during a Tour are double or twin occupancy and will include fully equipped, en-suite bathrooms. Operator shall charge an additional fee for any single room accommodations during a Tour.

**CERTIFICATION OF GUEST'S HEALTH:** Responsibility to Inform Operator of Disabilities or Pregnancy: By signing below and/or tendering any portion of the Tour Fee to Operator, you certify that you do not have any condition or disability that would create a hazard for you or other guests participating in the Tour, and that you understand that health care standards, facilities, and services abroad may be different or even inadequate for treating certain health conditions. You agree to inform us via certified mail or e-mail sent to [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com) (with confirmation of receipt thereof from us) at the time you tender your first payment of the Tour Fee (or at such later time when you become aware of such a condition) of any existing physical or mental illness, disability, pregnancy or any other condition for which you may require medical attention or special accommodation during the Tour. We make no guarantee to be able to accommodate you for such condition during the Tour, and we make no representations or warranties regarding special accommodations or handicap accessibility on the Tour.

**RESPONSIBILITY/LIABILITIES:** We act only in the capacity of agent for the suppliers of the travel services named in the Itinerary or otherwise providing services or goods in connection with the Tour (the Suppliers”), such as hotels and other lodging providers, local hosts, chateaux, wineries, sightseeing tour operators, bus lines, car rental companies, driving services, restaurants, and providers of entertainment. We assume no responsibility for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason (1) any act or omission of any of the Suppliers or airlines providing flights to or from your Tour, or (2) any matter beyond our exclusive control including but not limited to a delay or cancellation of a flight that causes you to miss any portion of the Tour. We have no special knowledge regarding the financial condition of the Suppliers, unsafe conditions, health hazards, weather hazards, or climate extremes at locations to which you may travel. For information concerning possible dangers at destinations, we recommend contacting the Travel Warnings Section of the U.S. State Department at (202) 647-5225 or [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), and click on “Travel Warnings.” For medical information, we recommend contacting the Centers for Disease Control at (877) FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). You assume full and complete responsibility for checking and verifying all passport and visa requirements of the destinations and for complying with all laws of the country in the Itinerary. You are also responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the Tour guide during a Tour. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the Tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition behavior renders you unfit for the Tour or unfit for continuation once the Tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of Tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the Tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the Tour or use certain Goods included in the Tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the Tour or Goods. You must be over the age of 18 to participate in the Tour. You agree to indemnify and hold us harmless from and against any costs, damages, losses, or liabilities arising out of your or your companions' actions or omissions or (if you checked the box indicating that you are signing on behalf of yourself and your traveling companions) arising out of your companions' claims that you were not authorized to sign.

**GENERAL:** Any dispute related to the Tour shall be governed by Maryland law without regard to conflict of laws principles. The federal or state courts in Maryland shall be the exclusive forum for any lawsuit related to the Tour, and you consent to the personal jurisdiction by said courts. You agree to present any claims against us within 30 days after the Tour ends and to file within one year of the incident, and you acknowledge that this expressly limits the applicable statute of limitations to one year. You agree to grant us (and third parties with whom we may engage in joint marketing) a worldwide, royalty-free, fully paid up license to use your photographic, video, or digital likeness solely for our promotional and/or commercial purposes. Facsimile transmission of any signed document shall be deemed delivery of an original. At our request, you shall promptly provide an original document as well. If there are any conflicts between this Participant Agreement, the Reservation Form, and the Itinerary, this Participant Agreement shall apply.