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## GOURMET TUSCANY

Apr 20, 2025 - Apr 27, 2025

**\$2299.00 PP dbl. occ. per person**

On this affordable Italy tour small group discovery package, the town of Montecatini serves as your home base from which to venture out to explore the surrounding landscapes of breathtaking Tuscany and getting to know its culinary and wine traditions. You'll indulge in picturesque scenery, world-class local wines, traditional cuisine, and cultural discoveries. From the rolling hills of Montalbano to Vinci and beyond, we'll take you through bountiful vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees. You'll even visit the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci to experience the Renaissance master's life and art. Traveling through some of the most stunning and lush natural landscapes in Italy, you'll embark to visit idyllic spots, including the gorgeous Chianti Valley and the Etruscan Coast. As you visit quaint wine shops, cafes, historic estates, and museums, you'll feel immersed in the history and traditions of each destination. In addition to sampling the local gourmet Tuscan fare, you'll also be treated to an Italian cooking lesson. You'll prepare an authentic Italian dish inside a rustic Tuscan farmhouse where you and your travel companions will enjoy your culinary creations—complete with master-chef prizes. You'll also learn the art of Italian dessert making at your hotel and get to taste some of the celebrated Chianti and Super Tuscan wines right where they are produced. You'll revel in the beauty of becoming familiar with a single destination of Montecatini while making priceless discoveries of locales that are off the beaten path—perfect for the smart, creative, and budget-minded travel lover.

## Trip Summary

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### April 20 - Sunday

TRANSFERS FROM FLORENCE TO MONTECATINI

ARRIVE IN MONTECATINI, ITALY

Check in at Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade - Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade

Dinner

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### April 21 - Monday

MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO VINCI

Breakfast

Lunch

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### April 22 - Tuesday

MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO THE CHIANTI VALLEY

Breakfast

Lunch

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### April 23 - Wednesday

MONTECATINI

Breakfast

Dinner

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### April 24 - Thursday

MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO LUCCA

Breakfast

Lunch

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### April 25 - Friday

MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO BOLGHERI

Breakfast

Lunch

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### April 26 - Saturday

MONTECATINI

Breakfast

Dinner

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### April 27 - Sunday

MONTECATINI

Breakfast

TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT IN FLORENCE

## April 20 - Sunday

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### TRANSFERS FROM FLORENCE TO MONTECATINI



### ARRIVE IN MONTECATINI, ITALY

Check into your hotel. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a special welcome dinner.



### Check in at Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade



#### Hotel Settentrionale Esplanade

Viale Pietro Grocco 2/4, Montecatini Terme, Toscana, Italia, 51016



### Dinner

## April 21 - Monday



### MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO VINCI

This morning, head out into the lush, rolling landscape of the Montalbano hills. Pass terraced grape vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees on your way to the quaint village of Vinci, birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, learn all about the Renaissance master at the museum dedicated to his life and many areas of interest from painting, sculpting, and inventing, to anatomy, music, and cartography! Round up the morning with the visit of a local bakery. Learn how bread is made and enjoy a light lunch with an opportunity to sample local products such as focaccia bread, sandwiches, wine, cheese, cold cuts, and olive oil.



### Breakfast



### Lunch



## MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO THE CHIANTI VALLEY

Cradled between the provinces of Florence and Siena, the Chianti Valley is the heart of Tuscany, and has been hailed for its exceptional wines since the 13th century. Your journey today takes you to Greve, with time to visit the village and to enjoy lunch at a charming wine shop. Complete the day with the visit of a historic Tuscan estate known for its Chianti wine production.



### Breakfast



### Lunch

## April 23 - Wednesday

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### MONTECATINI

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Montecatini. Maybe go for a walk in the Parco delle Terme with its tall shady trees. Most of the afternoon is dedicated to the Italian cooking lesson at a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. Once you arrive at the farm, enjoy a welcome drink, explore the orchard to pick some fresh ingredients, learn about Italy's most famous delicacies, and then roll up your sleeves for a fun, hands-on cooking experience. This evening, relax with your traveling companions and taste the delectable dinner you prepared—maybe your team will win the master chef prize!



### Breakfast



### Dinner



## April 24 - Thursday



### MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO LUCCA

Visit Luca a stunning showcase of medieval architecture and layer upon layer of rich history and culture. Marvel at the beautiful art and tapestry collections at the baroque Palazzo Mansi National Museum, then take a guided walking tour around the Old Town with its fine, intact Renaissance-era wall, cobblestone streets, and café-lined piazzas. A lively café-crawl snack brunch is included, followed by a main course at a local restaurant. Then, your Local Guide will introduce you to the stunning ornamental gardens and grand arched ceilings of Palazzo Pfanner.



### Breakfast



### Lunch

## April 25 - Friday

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### MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO BOLGHERI

Travel through the vineyard-dotted countryside and along cypress tree-lined Viale dei Cipressi for your grand entrance into enchanting Bolgheri. With its red-brick castle and atmospheric Old Town, it's not hard to imagine that Bolgheri jumped right off the pages of a storybook. There's time here to visit one of the wine cellars and taste Bolgheri's celebrated Super Tuscan reds. First created in the 1980s, many wine experts believe these now rival French Bordeaux. Later, stop at nearby Castagneto Carducci, known for its splendid panoramic views of the Etruscan Coast. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and the chance to sample the local liqueur.



### Breakfast



### Lunch



## April 26 - Saturday

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### MONTECATINI

This morning is yours to do as you please. You could choose to explore more of the city on your own, to relax and shop for souvenirs, or to join an exciting optional excursion. This afternoon is dedicated to a baking class at your hotel, focusing on the creation of cakes and desserts.



### Breakfast



### Dinner

## April 27 - Sunday

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### **MONTECATINI**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.



### **Breakfast**



### **TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT IN FLORENCE**

## Information & Documents



### GOURMET TUSCANY

#### 8 DAY TOUR FROM MONTECATINI TO MONTECATINI

On this affordable Italy tour small group discovery package, the town of Montecatini serves as your home base from which to venture out to explore the surrounding landscapes of breathtaking Tuscany and getting to know its culinary and wine traditions. You'll indulge in picturesque scenery, world-class local wines, traditional cuisine, and cultural discoveries. From the rolling hills of Montalbano to Vinci and beyond, we'll take you through bountiful vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees. You'll even visit the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci to experience the Renaissance master's life and art. Traveling through some of the most stunning and lush natural landscapes in Italy, you'll embark to visit idyllic spots, including the gorgeous Chianti Valley and the Etruscan Coast. As you visit quaint wine shops, cafes, historic estates, and museums, you'll feel immersed in the history and traditions of each destination. In addition to sampling the local gourmet Tuscan fare, you'll also be treated to an Italian cooking lesson. You'll prepare an authentic Italian dish inside a rustic Tuscan farmhouse where you and your travel companions will enjoy your culinary creations—complete with master-chef prizes. You'll also learn the art of Italian dessert making at your hotel and get to taste some of the celebrated Chianti and Super Tuscan wines right where they are produced. You'll revel in the beauty of becoming familiar with a single destination of Montecatini while making priceless discoveries of locales that are off the beaten path—perfect for the smart, creative, and budget-minded travel lover.



### PRICING

**Price: \$2299.00 pp dbl. occ.**

**Nonrefundable Deposit of \$250 due at Time of Booking**

**Final Payment Due February 12, 2025**

**Travel Insurance is included in price**



### SOLO PRICING

There are 5 spots that are available with zero single supplement. After those spots are taken it is \$180.00 to go solo.



### PRE-HOTEL IN FLORENCE

#### AN ENCHANTING TALE OF FLORENCE

**THERE ARE PLENTY OF BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN THE CENTRE OF FLORENCE, BUT NONE LIKE HOTEL ORTO DE' MEDICI.**

Some people come for our **location**, as being so close to everything makes your stay so much easier. Other visitors like our **staff** best, because all of them are always ready to help with a smile. To other guests, it's about the **newly-renovated rooms** and the **freshly-squeezed orange juice**, which we serve each morning in the frescoed 19th-century dining room.

But what makes this hotel so different than the rest is probably the **unique story** that's related to it, which takes you back to an afternoon of 1489: then, among the garden white roses, a 14-year-old Michelangelo first learned to shape the Carrara marble.





### **Hotel Orto de' Medici**

Via San Gallo, 30

+39 055 483427



### **TRANSFERS**

**Airport to hotel - \$35.00 (for arranged transfer)**

**Hotel in Florence to Hotel in Montecatini - \$55.00 PP**

**Montecatini to Airport in Florence - \$55.00 PP**