The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association presents

ITALIAN LANDSCAPES: TUSCANY & UMBRIA

April 28-May 10, 2016

13 days from $4,187 total price from New York
($3,495 air & land inclusive plus $692 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni and Friends of The University of North Carolina
Join us under the Tuscan – and Umbrian – sun, on a leisurely idyll through two of Italy’s most storied regions. Ancient Etruscan hill towns, timeless landscapes, awe-inspiring art, and especially, openhearted people, render the essence of Italy. And a stay in the Eternal City of Rome adds the grace note to this very special small group tour.

**Day 1: Depart U.S. for Florence, Italy**

**Day 2: Arrive Florence** We arrive in Florence and transfer to our hotel, a historic country estate just 4½ miles from the city center. Late afternoon we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel. 

**Day 3: Florence** Today we discover Florence, “cradle of the Renaissance” and still renowned as a city of art and culture. Our full-day walking tour includes the historic city center, a UNESCO site comprising the Baptistery, Campanile, and Santa Maria del Fiore – also known as the Duomo – whose 14th-century red-brick dome by Brunelleschi remains the largest of its type ever built. At the Galleria dell’Accademia we see Michelangelo’s “David,” as well as the sculptor’s pieces for the papal tombs. After lunch at a local restaurant, our tour ends at another of Florence’s, and indeed Europe’s, treasured museums: the Uffizi Gallery, where we are free to explore on our own. Here hang works by the likes of Michelangelo, da Vinci, Titian, Raphael, Giotto, Caravaggio, and Botticelli, whose “Primavera” (“Allegory of Spring”) ranks as one of the most popular paintings in the Western world. We return to our hotel late afternoon; for dinner on our own tonight we may opt to return to Florence.

**Day 4: Florence** On a morning tour we visit Pitti Palace, the 15th-century Renaissance stronghold later owned by the Medici to house treasures they amassed as one of Tuscany’s ruling families. Now a museum, the Pitti Palace holds important collections of porcelain, silver, and costumes, as well as paintings and sculpture. It also boasts the 111-acre Boboli Gardens, a formal Italian garden with fountains, grottoes, and sculpture from the 16th to 18th centuries. After our tour of the palace and gardens, the remainder of the day is at leisure; we may wish to remain in Florence for independent exploration.

Cover photo: On Day 7 we travel through the Val D’Orcia to Pienza.
Day 5: Florence/Siena/Cortona  Leaving Florence today, we stop in the Tuscan hill town of Siena, whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke the city’s medieval past and whose historic city center is a UNESCO site. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe’s greatest public squares (and where the annual Palio horse race takes place); its Duomo, with works by Bernini, Donatello, and Michelangelo, one of Italy’s finest. We set out on a guided walking tour here then have time for lunch on our own in this city known for its authentic Tuscan dishes. We continue on to Cortona, arriving mid-afternoon. B,D

Day 6: Cortona  Sitting atop a hill rising 2,000 feet from the surrounding plain, Cortona dates to pre-Roman times and today remains a classic example of Etruscan city planning and architecture. We explore this medieval gem today, including the 5th-century BCE city walls from where we can see the vast Valdichiana plain stretching 62 miles across central Italy. We tour the historic city center, and walk the steep, narrow streets that characterize Etruscan design. This is the town that Frances Mayes depicted in Under the Tuscan Sun – so we visit Casa Bramasole, the 200-year-old farmhouse the author lovingly restored. B,D

Day 7: Cortona/Pienza  Today we travel through perhaps one of Tuscany’s most beautiful – and recognized – regions, the Val d’Orcia, an expanse of gently rolling cultivated hills dotted with cypress trees and picturesque villages. A UNESCO site, Val d’Orcia is home to Pienza, conceived in 1459 as an ideal Renaissance town whose design influence eventually spread throughout Europe. Our tour here begins in Pienza’s historic center, with its lovely square surrounded by two palaces and the Renaissance Duomo. We walk cobblestone streets to a lookout point for breathtaking views of Val d’Orcia below. Then we enjoy lunch together and a special tasting of Montepulciano wines. B,L

Day 8: Cortona/Assisi/Bettone  Leaving Tuscany for Umbria today, we stop in Assisi, birthplace in 1182 of St. Francis. A beautiful town with inviting plazas, winding medieval streets, and Roman ruins, Assisi claims the Basilica of San Francesco d’Assisi as the pinnacle of its many treasures. We tour the famed 13th-century church (now fully restored after suffering earthquake damage in 1997), seeing priceless frescoes by Giotto and Cavellini; and also visit the Basilica of Saint Clare, with 13th-century frescoes and possibly the world’s most famous cross. We have time on our own for lunch and to stroll through this hilltop town as we wish before we depart for the walled medieval city of Bettona and our hotel on the historic main square. B,D

Day 9: Bettona/Todi  We travel this morning to the heart of Umbria to the hilltop town of Post-Tour Extension

May 10-12, 2016
ROME - ON YOUR OWN
3 days/2 nights for $345 total price
Single Supplement: $295
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Your Tour Price Includes
• 2 nights’ accommodations at Ambasciatori Palace (Deluxe)
• 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
• Transfer to airport
Todi, which is little changed over the centuries and whose Piazza del Popolo ranks as perhaps the finest public square in all Italy. Flanked by a 16th-century cathedral and three grand palazzos, the square is the center of life here, as we see on our tour. We also visit a local museum featuring Etruscan and Roman artifacts unearthed in the region. After free time for lunch on our own, we return to Bettona; the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before dinner at our hotel. B,D

Day 10: Bettona/Orvieto Today we visit the popular Umbrian town of Orvieto, with its dramatic setting atop the steep walls of a flat volcanic rock (tufa). We discover this once impregnable Etruscan settlement on a walking tour. Highlights include Orvieto Cathedral, the medieval Duomo featuring a chapel with a fresco by Fra Angelico, as well as Luca Signorelli’s masterpiece, “The Last Judgment.” Then we enjoy a small group highlight as guests at the country home of the celebrated chef of Orvieto’s Ristorante Zeppelin (a Culinary Art Institute) for a cooking lesson and dinner overlooking the vineyards. B,D

Day 11: Bettona/Rome We leave the Italian countryside today for Rome, the Eternal City on the Tiber whose history spans some 2,500 years. Mid-afternoon we reach our hotel; dinner is on our own. B

Day 12: Rome This morning we encounter ancient Rome, beginning at the Colosseum, built in 72 CE to stage gladiator spectacles; and the temples of the Forum, ancient Rome’s political and legal center. This afternoon is at leisure to explore independently; tonight we bid “arrivederci” to Italy at a farewell dinner. B,D

Day 13: Depart for U.S. We depart early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe and First Class hotels
- 21 meals: 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: April 28, 2016

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Boston, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Land Only (transfers not included)</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $692, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $795. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $4,395 per person; Premium Economy - $895 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

For reservations and information, please call the UNC General Alumni Association toll-free at
1-877-962-3980
Or call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at
1-888-370-6765
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time
Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow Tar Heels and friends on a special 13-day journey to Italy. Discover the breathtaking scenery and charm of two of Italy’s legendary regions: Tuscany and Umbria.

Begin in Florence, “cradle of the Renaissance.” Here, stops on your walking tours include the Galleria dell’Accademia, the Uffizi Gallery, and Pitti Palace. Enjoy time in Siena on your way to Cortona, with its ochre-colored buildings and great public square, the Piazza del Campo. In the medieval town of Cortona, take in amazing views from atop the city walls of the vast Valdichiana plain stretching 62 miles across central Italy. Travel through one of Tuscany’s most beautiful regions, the Val d’Orcia, and tour Pienza’s historic city center before a special wine tasting. Stop in Assisi en route to Umbria, and tour the famed Basilica of San Francesco d’Assisi and Basilica of Saint Clare. Tour the hilltop town of Todi and the popular town of Orvieto, before ending your journey in Rome.

Space on this exclusive UNC tour is limited to just 24 guests and we anticipate that it will fill quickly. We encourage you to make your reservations today.

Yours in Carolina,

Douglas S. Dibbert ’70
President, UNC General Alumni Association
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; accommodation charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200;Cancel 94-45 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.

Responsibility

The liability of the University of North Carolina General Alumni Association (UNC GAA), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The UNC GAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The UNC GAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a substantial amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UNC GAA assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own air arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.