



STONES

OF THE
YARRA VALLEY

Join Steve & Vonnie on a stunning tour of Cortona and Tuscany as they share their Italian lifestyle for a week of remarkable tours, breathtaking experiences and special events.

Saturday May 23, 2020 - Saturday May 30, 2020



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INCLUSIONS

An incredible 7 days & 7 nights of accommodation at the stunning Villa Laura in Cortona - famous for being the host venue in the film 'Under The Tuscan Sun'

All breakfasts, most lunches & all dinners. (All dinner packages include selected Tuscan wines)

All day tours

All in-villa events & activities

All travel to and from tour locations as detailed in the itinerary

Pricing

The Farmhouse Package - \$5,400 per person

Pricing is based on couples per room. One room at Villa Laura has twin facilities. Guests requesting a single person occupancy will be required to pay an additional \$3,000 per package



Accommodation

All rooms feature stunning Italian design and class and include ensuite bathrooms.

These rooms all enjoy a beautiful view over the Villa Laura garden and feature antique furniture, travertine stone in the bathrooms and the highest quality bedlinen.



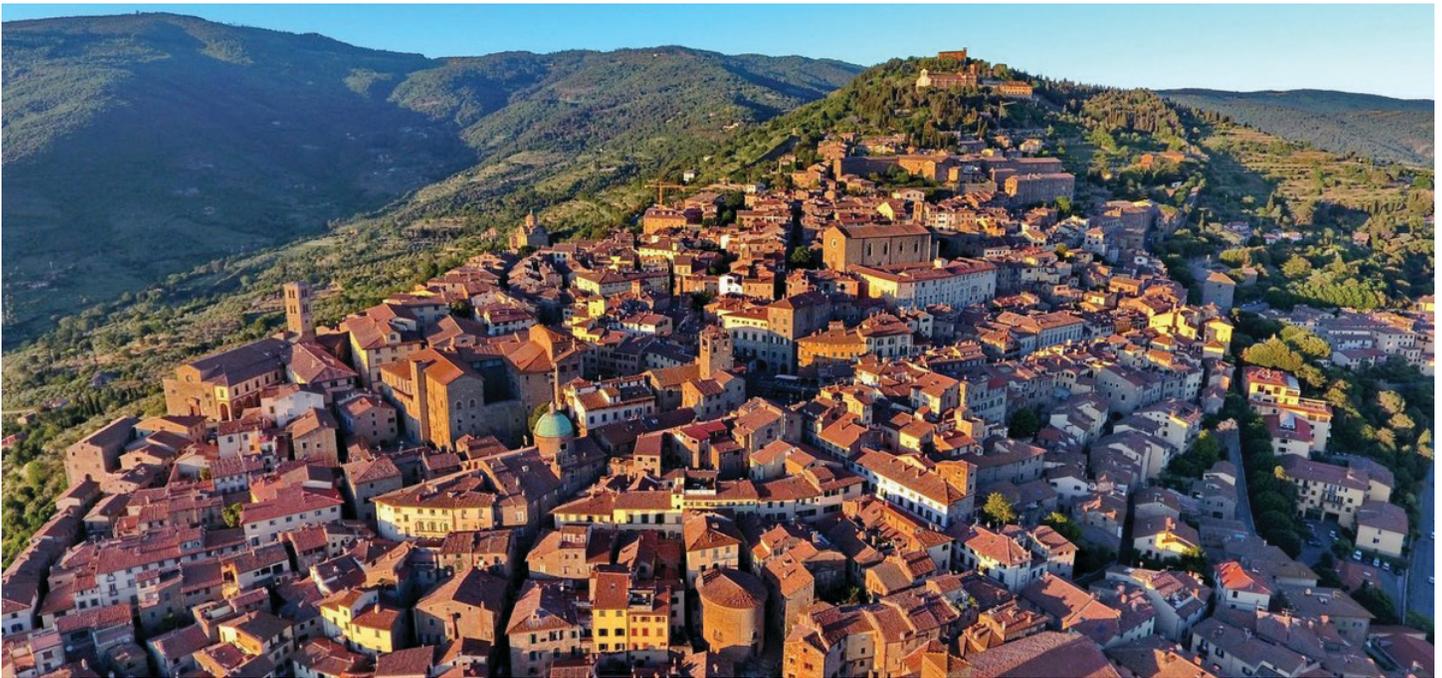


Storia a la Villa Laura

Lavishly restored in 2010, the 700 square metre Villa Laura traces its history back to Etruscan times, and the gorgeous wine cellar in the villa dates back to 600 A.D. Subsequent generations built and rebuilt the villa and it took its present day form in the early 17th century. The estate comprises three structures, the main Villa, the Farmhouse and Limonaia. Each room is lavishly furnished with boutique Italian furniture and incredible attention to detail.

Villa Laura is without a doubt one of Tuscany's most sought-after properties, and we are privileged to have secured it for what is sure to be a magical week in Cortona.





Saturday - La Venuta!

Check in at Villa Laura is from 3pm, please advise if you require transport from the local train station ahead of arrival. A grazing table will be available for those looking for a late lunch after a long journey!

Aperitivo hour is from 6pm, where guests are invited to unwind over a few drinks and get to know each other.

Saturday night is the Welcome to Cortona Dinner, an incredible night held at Villa Laura that celebrates the very best culinary experience this region has to offer.

Sunday - Cortona

Breakfast will be enjoyed at Villa Laura, before boarding a private bus transfer up the hill for a guided tour of the incredible 3,000 year old town of Cortona. Lunch is to be held at one of our favourite spots in the Piazza Signorelli. Following lunch you are all invited to continue your exploration of the town.

The bus returns to Villa Laura at 4pm for relaxation. As is tradition, Aperitivo Hour is on from 6pm. We then return to the township of Cortona for dinner at the very special La Logetta restaurant, overlooking Piazza Republica.





The Winding Roads of Tuscany *Monday - Vespa Tour*

A busy day today with a trip to Montepulciano for a short guided tour of this classically Tuscan town. On to Pienza, the home town and holiday destination of Pope Pius II where we pick up our Vespa's for an invigorating ride through Val D'Orcia, stopping at some great little towns and lunching in a location that will make you feel you have entered a Tuscan art masterpiece.

After dropping off the bikes we have a little time to walk Pienza and enjoy perhaps the very best view in all of Tuscany. Home for a special casual dinner at Steve & Vonnie's home, Bobolino, with pizza and wine by the pool.



Tuesday - Chianti

Today we head off to Castellina in Chianti to visit the beautiful Gagliole winery and taste some Chianti Classico. Following this we hit the winding country roads to Panzano to visit the eccentric Dario Cecchini to enjoy his indulgent butchers lunch.

Following his recent feature in Netflix' Chef's Table series, Dario is world famous for turning butchery into an art form and is set to host a remarkable lunch of meat, meat and more meat (vegetarians don't fear, you will be very well looked after!)

Back to Villa Laura for an Aperitivo and a light grazing dinner around the barbeque - perhaps chicken or fish tonight!



Cook like an Italian! Wednesday - Cooking Class

Working closely with a traditional Cortonese Chef, today Villa Laura plays host to a classic Italian Cooking Class - an incredibly fun day of laughter, cooking and wine!

Using seasonal & regional produce, you will leave with your very own certificate of Tuscan culinary excellence that is sure to take pride of place in your kitchen back home.

Following the cooking class we enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the grounds of Villa Laura, before we make our way to Cortona's only Michelin starred restaurant: Il Falconaie. A magical restaurant just out of town where you will enjoy a degustation dinner with matched wines. A little dressy and very special!

Thursday - Florence

As you are living like a Medici, why don't we head North to Florence and explore just what the Medici Family built! A guided day tour of Florence, with a visit to the world famous Accademia Museum to view Michaelangelo's extraordinary statue of David.

Following this you are invited to lose yourself in the cobbled streets of Florence for a couple of hours before we board the bus back to Villa Laura. Tonight we are guests at the infamous Molesini Wine & Shine dinner in Cortona. A great night of food and wine from a selected winemaker, with Molesini Enoteca presenting a range of tastings in the Piazza Republica prior to the dinner.





A Day of Wine Friday - Winery Tours

Today we head out into the rolling hills of Tuscany to visit some local wineries. Beginning the tour at a local biodynamic facility, we will learn about the process biodynamic farming has on the vineyard from the winemaker, Stefano Amerighi.

On to Avignonesi, a fantastic winery exploring a variety of remarkable farming techniques on their vineyard. Amazing wines and a light lunch before returning home in the early afternoon. Back at Villa Laura we will enjoy the remarkable skills of Falconer Paolo Fontani, all the while educating us on the 1,000 year old art form. Each guest is invited to enjoy their own special moment with one of his birds!

For our last supper, dinner will be served in the Villa dining room where we will enjoy an evening of fine food, wine and tall tales.

Saturday - arrivederci!

Checkout from Villa Laura is at 11am, giving us ample time to enjoy a relaxing breakfast and espresso before packing our bags for the next journey.





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*For bookings and additional information please do not hesitate to contact
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