



**Since 2006, a unique tour concept has evolved, providing luxurious cultural and gastronomic enjoyment for intimate groups of discerning kosher travelers through Naomi Catering of Jerusalem.**

## **"Taste of Tuscany": the classic tours, 2010** *with master cooking classes*

**You have several opportunities to join such a tour in 2010**

The tours offer: -

- beautiful hotel accommodation in a historic building restored to the highest level while maintaining authentic features
- one hotel for the entire duration of your stay – no packing and unpacking and freedom to take days "off"
- intimate groups of like-minded, cultured individuals, who appreciate the finer things in life (and who don't usually travel with groups)
- day trips of general and Jewish interest – ancient Pitigliano, fabulous Florence, Pisa and its tower (but not only), proud Siena, lovely Lucca, San Gimignano, Barga and the Garfagnana
- visit to a noble villa, to help understand better the current demography of "old Europe"
- breath-taking (pun intended) hiking in the hills of the Cinque Terre
- an opportunity to meet some of the remaining local Jewish people and hear their fascinating stories
- authentic Tuscan cuisine, prepared by renowned local chefs, with minimal adaption for reasons of Kashrut
- unlimited Italian non-mevushal wines – Pitigliano light red and white, Chianti rosso and rosso di Montalcino
- the world's best ice cream and coffee – decide yourself whether San Gimignano, Lucca or Barga is better
- fashion, household and leather shopping in the markets and towns
- hands-on cooking with "maestri" - master chef teachers; Tuscany is famous for its multitudinous cooking schools
- cycling – a "must" around the walls of Lucca; for serious bikers we can arrange serious cycling with/out a professional guide

**Kashrut:** a mashgiach tmidi will represent the Chief Rabbi of Florence, Rabbi Levi; we use regular milk, but chalav yisrael observers can be accommodated.

# "Taste of Tuscany"

## Typical itinerary

subject to change - due to any one of a hundred Italian variables



### **Friday: 09.00 depart Rome airport (FCO)**

Light snacks will be available on the bus

#### **11.30 arrive Pitigliano "little Jerusalem"**

This striking cliff-top village was formerly home to a thriving Jewish community – we'll visit the ghetto with its synagogue and museum.

Picnic lunch in town piazza

#### **17.00 arrive Lucca**

Hopefully there will be time for an overview tour of Lucca, preferably by bicycle around the famous city walls, before driving to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat. Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner according to season.

**Shabbat:** 0800 coffee and cake : 0830 Shachrit : 1015 full breakfast

#### **11.30 short stroll in vicinity of hotel**

1400 Mincha, Shabbat lunch and rest to recover from the journey!!

#### **Before the end of Shabbat: walk into Lucca town**

A light supper will be served before or after the end of Shabbat

#### **Half-hour after Shabbat, leave Lucca for Pisa**

No trip would be complete without seeing the tower – "after hours" the stalls of kitsch and the day-trippers are gone; Jewish Pisa is also featured

**Sunday:** 08.00 Shachrit: 08.30 breakfast: depart 09.30

#### **10.45 Florence - guided walking tour (Firenze)**

Statue of David, the cathedral (duomo), Piazza della Repubblica, Ponte Vecchio and famous synagogue (ending with mincha)

14.30 picnic lunch

#### **15.30 free time in Florence**

If you wish to visit the Uffizi Gallery you should pre-book. Otherwise you can explore this gorgeous city in greater depth according to your interests, visiting palaces, museums and galleries, the leather market and stores.

#### **17.30 depart Florence, via Piazzale Michelangelo**

From here you will get the best panorama of the city. Those wishing to stay longer in Florence may return later by train or bus.

#### **19.00 hands-on cooking session in our hotel, or relax**

21.00 Ma'ariv and dinner

**Monday:** 08.00 Shachrit : 08.45 breakfast: depart 09.45

**10.30 arrive Villa Torrigiani**

Lucca is famous for its aristocratic villas; this one is most interesting as we'll be able to tour both inside the villa and the gardens: depart 12.00

**12.45 arrive Barga**

In this medieval mountain top village where time has stood still for hundreds of years you'll climb the winding narrow streets to the duomo at the top of the village to breathe the clean air and enjoy the 360° panorama; picnic lunch in Barga: depart 14.30

**16.00 arrive Viareggio**

Take a "surrey" or a bike to ride the promenaded or tour the town; the shops are open!! Mincha in the shul: depart 18.00

**19.00 mini opera concert in Lucca or cooking session**

21.00 Ma'ariv and dinner

**Tuesday:** 08.00 Shachrit : 08.30 breakfast: depart 09.30

**11.15 arrive at San Gimignano**

Free time to explore the famous city of towers – climb to the top, see the stores, enjoy a coffee, take lots of pictures

**13.00 visit agriturismo Bibbiano**

Uniquely Italian concept: producers of wine and oil and a thriving vacation rental business with the ultimate view: picnic lunch and swim

**15.30 Siena**

Visit the famous Piazza del Campo, home of the Palio horse race, the beautiful synagogue, daven mincha, and, if we are lucky, meet one of the community's leaders; free time for wandering around this bustling ancient university city: depart 1900

2100 Ma'ariv and dinner

**Wednesday:** 08.00 Shachrit : 08.30 breakfast ; 09.30 depart

**10.30 arrive at Forte dei Marmi**

Tuscany's most elegant seaside resort, home to Andrea Bocelli and a great weekly country textile market; wander around, shop, sip coffee and people-watch; picnic lunch: leave 13.30

**15.10 La Spezia** train to **Corniglia** for hike on **Cinque Terre**

**18.24** train back from **Vernazza** to La Spezia and bus back to hotel

20.30 Ma'ariv and farewell dinner

**Thursday:** 0800 Shachrit : 0845 breakfast

1030 depart hotel for Pisa airport and train station

Those with later departures can take a train from Lucca to Pisa station/airport every half hour, at 12 and 42 minutes past the hour to Pisa airport; the journey takes 30 - 43 minutes.

**Land-only Price from 2750 euro per person sharing**

(DLX room and single supplements additional)

**Naomi's promise:** "From the minute you land, until the minute you take off, you will not need to spend one cent". (You'll probably spend many cents, but that's because you want to, not because you have to!!)

If you wish to have a Rome (or other) pre/post tour, we will help there too.

## ***not included in the price of your trip***

- **flights:** most (but not all) tours run from Friday a.m. to Thursday a.m. You will be met at Rome Fiumicino airport **0900**; on departure day, we will bring you to Pisa Galileo Galilei airport or to Pisa/Lucca train stations.
- **"serious" cycling:** your ride around the walls is on us, but we can arrange cycling tours with professional guides and professional bikes.
- **spending money for shopping:** Lucca's stores are gorgeous and not overpriced as the town is not too touristy. The village markets of Tuscany are a must. Free time will be given in Siena, Florence and San Gimignano for you to choose whether to sight-see or spend!!
- **upgrades:** deluxe rooms (DLX), and single occupancy are available at an additional price (see booking form).
- **extensions:** if you wish to arrive in Lucca before the trip commences or (more commonly) stay for a few days after, on a kosher full board basis, this is sometimes possible.
- **insurance:** all clients should be aware that while all efforts are made to avoid any problems before during or after your trip, Naomi carries no insurance for your health or luggage. While using the services only of registered suppliers, we recommend that you purchase **fully comprehensive travel insurance as Naomi cannot be held liable for any mishaps during your stay.**
- **tips:** at your discretion, but we recommend 100 euro per person for the week for drivers, chefs, waiters and chambermaids and can make the distribution for you

### **important suggestion:**

- **Whether or not you intended to spend time in Rome before your tour, we strongly recommend you stay the night before the tour starts in a hotel by the airport (the Hilton is IN the airport with shuttles to the city), in case your flight is delayed. We cannot wait for late arrivals as it is unfair to other guests. The cost of "catching up" by taxi/plane is MUCH greater than the cost of a night at the airport hotels!!**

If you wish to have a Rome (or other) pre/post tour, we will help there too.

### **Dates in 2010**

#### **Special tours**

April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>: writers' workshop

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: artists' workshop, cycling

(Staying in 5\* villa hotel designed by Michelangelo: supplement 750 euro p.p. )

May 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: singles tour

#### **Classic tours**

June 11<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>: classic tour - all welcome

July 22<sup>nd</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>: classic tour - all welcome

October 22<sup>nd</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>: classic tour - all welcome

When you register for your Naomi trip through Emunah of America, you are helping to support over 250 Emunah projects and programs throughout the land of Israel. Recipient of the 2008 Israel Prize for 60 years of outstanding service to the people of Israel, Emunah continues to build a Jewish future in Israel, one child, one family at a time!

Emunah acts as reservation agent only and accepts no responsibility or liability for the program. Please read the 2 page registration document carefully to make sure you are aware of the terms and conditions – complete and sign both pages of the document and return to Emunah.

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