



Experience  
the  
**Serene  
Season**

# Florence

Art, Culture & People

PRESENTED BY



VANDERBILT  
Alumni Association

**October 13-21, 2023**



# A World of Discovery

Established by Julius Caesar in 59 B.C., and beloved by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, this timeless city on the banks of the Arno has endured uprisings, floods and Allied bombs, yet despite history's highs and lows, beautiful Florence always flourishes.

What sets our journey to Florence and the Tuscan hilltop towns apart is AHI's unwavering commitment to connecting you to the world's people, places and cultures. By weaving together discovery, education and authentic local experiences, we deliver new insights and fresh perspectives to enrich your life.

The incomparable value of our journeys is rooted in the personalized care you receive from AHI's Travel Directors. These outstanding professionals create a welcoming atmosphere and handle every last detail so you can focus on the wonder of the world before you. We also partner with the most knowledgeable guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines.

Designed for you, the curious traveler, this AHI journey invites you to open a new chapter in Tuscany. Our first page is Florence, the city of rebirth.

Above: Michelangelo's David | Cover photo: Piazza del Duomo

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Experience the true essence of enchanting Florence during a **quieter time of year**.
- ▶ Stroll through the city's intimate streets, a veritable **outdoor museum** of Renaissance glories.
- ▶ Marvel at the breathtaking **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore**, topped by Brunelleschi's magnificent dome.
- ▶ Take more time to enjoy **Michelangelo's David** and the priceless art in the **Uffizi**.
- ▶ Revel in the medieval brilliance of **San Gimignano** and **Siena**.
- ▶ Sip Italy's iconic wine in the romantic **Chianti countryside**.

## Dear Vanderbilt alumni and friends,

Join us as we embrace Tuscany, a region cherished the world over for its magnificent Renaissance art, irresistible cuisine and rich cultural heritage. Tuscany's ancient ramparts, lively piazzas and sweeping vistas have a power that can reignite passions, shift perspectives and reacquaint us with the natural rhythms of history and daily life.

Stay in a peaceful 19th-century oasis in Florence and enjoy the walkability of this iconic city. Feel the rosy glow of Siena, the charm of Colle di Val d'Elsa and San Gimignano, and the warmth of a Chianti winery. Live like a local as you experience meaningful, unhurried interactions and savor *la dolce vita*, Italy's sweet life.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration during an off-peak time of year. Enjoy enlightening lecturers, the camaraderie of curious, like-minded travelers and the freedom a detail-oriented Travel Director provides. Space on this exclusive journey is limited, so *carpe diem!* Let's seize the day!

Sincerely,



Cary DeWitt Allyn  
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program

The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed trip offers unparalleled learning opportunities for an exclusive "beyond the classroom experience."

**615-322-3673**

**[www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/travel](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/travel)**







### Day 1 | In Transit

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Depart your gateway city for Florence, Italy. 🌐

### Day 2 | Florence, Italy

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Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the Sina Villa Medici. This evening, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

### Day 3 | Florence

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**Discovery: Florence Walk.** See the premier city of the Italian Renaissance with an expert during this fascinating tour. Stand in awe of the glorious Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, crowned by Brunelleschi's red-tiled dome. See Giotto's impressive campanile, a 14th-century bell tower, and the Baptistery with scenes of the Old Testament on its doors. Explore the Piazza del Duomo, then cross the Arno River via the famous Ponte Vecchio, Florence's iconic stone bridge. At Piazza della Signoria, the city's political heart since the 14th century, witness the stately Palazzo Vecchio and the colossal Fountain of Neptune.

Afterward, soak up the neighborhood atmosphere during lunch with fellow travelers.

**Free Time:** Follow your own path. Browse in shops or visit one of the many museums.

### Day 4 | San Gimignano | Chianti

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**Discovery: San Gimignano.** Soak up the beauty of the rolling Elsa Valley as you journey to San Gimignano, the majestic Tuscan hill town topped with 14 beautifully preserved medieval towers. Stroll San Gimignano's red-brick lanes with a guide and learn about the Romanesque cathedral and the Piazza della Cisterna, where locals have gathered and traded since the Middle Ages.

After your tour, glean Tuscan cooking tips from a talented chef who will prepare lunch for your group.

**Discovery: Chianti.** Taste Tuscany's *terroir* today during an excursion to the captivating Chianti region with its olive groves, woodlands and vineyards. At Castello di Monsanto, an elegant winery built in 1750, sip wines produced from handpicked local grapes.

**Free Time:** Dine at your leisure this evening. Try Florentine favorites like *tagliolini* with truffles or *pappardelle* served with ragu sauce.

### Day 5 | Florence

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**Discovery: Accademia Gallery.** Explore one of the city's most celebrated museums, which houses Michelangelo's larger-than-life,



Top: Ponte Vecchio over the Arno | Above: Hills of Tuscany



marble statue of David. Three times the size of a human being, it exemplifies Michelangelo's intricate knowledge of the human form. View Italian masterpieces as well as a collection of priceless musical instruments.

**AHI Connects: Italian Coffee and Café Culture.** Spend time in one of Florence's oldest cafés and enjoy a traditional drink and pastry. Delight in a discussion about the social rituals behind Italy's delicious national pastime.

**Free Time:** The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore. For stellar views, visit the hilltop Piazzale Michelangelo or sneak away to the lesser-known Giardino Bardini, a peaceful green perch overlooking the city.

**Enrichment: Renaissance Art.** Gain greater insight into Renaissance art during a lecture by an expert. Ponder the artists' shift to realism, the changing subject matter, a new emphasis on light and shadow and more.

Dine with fellow travelers tonight and share the day's highlights, from favorite Renaissance paintings to top picks of pastries and *gelato*.

### Day 6 | Florence

**Discovery: Uffizi Gallery.** Navigate the renowned Uffizi Gallery with a savvy guide. The vast museum is home to thousands of masterpieces including Botticelli's breathtaking "The Birth of Venus," Caravaggio's gripping "Medusa," and da Vinci's "Annunciation."

**Free Time:** Enjoy lunch on your own and



the afternoon at leisure.

**Enrichment: Contemporary Italy and Life in Florence.** Attend an engaging talk about Italy's place in the European Union and current political, economic and social trends affecting the city and country.

### Day 7 | Colle di Val d'Elsa | Siena

**Discovery: Colle di Val d'Elsa.** Travel into the Tuscan countryside today and explore Colle di Val d'Elsa. This intimate hill town is famed for its centuries-old tradition of crystal glass production. Join an insightful guide and learn about Colle's position on the medieval trading and pilgrimage routes as you stroll down its picturesque streets.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at an area restaurant.

**Discovery: Siena.** Feel the warmth of storied Siena, the Middle Age gem known for its rosy-pink hue. A guided tour takes you to see the acclaimed, shell-shaped Piazza del Campo; the Torre del Mangia, Siena's iconic bell tower; and Fonte Gaia, the Joyful



Castello di Monsanto wine cellar



Uffizi Gallery



## INCLUDED FEATURES



### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Historic Center of Florence
2. Historic Center of San Gimignano
3. Historic Center of Siena

Fountain, supplied with water from ancient aqueducts. Visit the stunning Italian Gothic Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta.

**Free Time:** Browse Siena's wine shops or sample sweet Sienese treats like *panforte* and *ricciarelli*, chewy almond cookies.

#### Day 8 | Florence

**Free Time:** Enjoy a full day exploring Florence and its environs! Consider a visit to the splendid, art-filled churches or the Pitti Palace's opulent galleries where the Medici, Lorraine and Savoy families once resided. Steps away, the serene Boboli Gardens invite you to picnic or unwind amid elegant Renaissance statues, grottoes and fountains.

Tonight, over an aperitif in the hotel's garden, celebrate your wonderful sojourn with fellow travelers, then gather for a Farewell Dinner.

#### Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈️ Flights and 🔄 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

### A Note About Activity Levels

We want you to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. That's why we have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website to review the itinerary for full details about our activity levels.

#### Excursions on this program require:

- ▶ walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces
- ▶ getting on/off motor coaches

#### Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- 7 nights in Florence, Italy, at the deluxe Sina Villa Medici.

#### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

#### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small Group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan that covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
  - Gain a deeper understanding of Florence's rich history on a guided walk.
  - Feel transported to another century in the shadow of San Gimignano's towers.
  - Learn how to cook the Tuscan way with tips from a local chef.
  - Sip Chianti at its birthplace during a tasting in the region.
  - Feast your eyes on masterpieces, including Michelangelo's David, at the Accademia Gallery.
  - Trace the development of Italian art in the Uffizi's collections.
  - Delight in the charming hill town, Colle di Val d'Elsa.
  - Take in medieval Siena's grandeur.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** Striving for a positive, purposeful impact on the destinations we visit: preserving the environment, supporting local communities and giving back to the places we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
  - Free time to pursue your own interests.
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - Complimentary travel mementos.

## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we're here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

Our top-notch, dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level! Share a laugh, learn where to find the best café and enjoy their unique perspectives on the local scene.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



## Sina Villa Medici | Florence



Our travel experts have carefully selected this deluxe property based on its peaceful, yet convenient, location and luxuries. This lush retreat within central Florence features a lovely garden, a cozy and inviting lounge and a wellness center. Enjoy strolling the neighborhood's intimate streets and receive attentive service and amenities during your stay.

# Florence in the Serene Season

Trip #:7-27638W

Call our travel experts at **615-322-3673** to reserve your place!  
(Preferred registration method.)

**Please have the information outlined below available to share with our AHI Travel Experts.**

**If you prefer,** you may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to our office. Once this request is received in our office, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within one business day to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

**Send to** Vanderbilt Travel Program  
c/o AHI Travel  
International Tower-Suite 600  
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631

**I/we would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).**

Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

**Full Legal Name** (*exactly as it appears on passport*)

**1)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

**2)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

## Single Accommodations

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

## Flights

- Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Florence, Italy,  
to depart from: \_\_\_\_\_  
Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

- First Class     Business Class     Premium Economy
- No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Your full balance must be paid by **July 15, 2023** (90 days prior to departure). Reservations received before this date are eligible for a discount if full payment is made at the time of booking. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by eCheck, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex.

**Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://vander.ahitravel.com/destinations/1701A?schoold=181>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.**



## PROGRAM DATES

**Air Program dates:** October 13-21, 2023

**Land Program dates:** October 14-21, 2023

## LAND PROGRAM

Full Price

Special Savings

Special Price\*

\$3,645

\$250

\$3,395

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).

### Let us arrange your flights!

#### AHI FlexAir

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates.
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.

**Travel stress-free  
with AHI FlexAir.**

### TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than half a century, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:**

- ✓ **Included AHI Travel Assurance** covers travel- and health-related contingencies. Available for U.S. residents only.
- ✓ Increased booking flexibility and relaxed cancellation penalties.
- ✓ **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey.
- ✓ Travel Directors specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols.
- ✓ A global network of partners rigorously following new procedures and protocols.
- ✓ **Enhanced sanitization practices** for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches.
- ✓ Tour operations modified for smaller groups and greater physical distancing.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer available for guest use.

Florence



Piazza della Signoria,  
Florence



Cathedral, Siena



615-322-3673

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**VANDERBILT**  
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**SMALL GROUP  
MAXIMUM OF  
24 TRAVELERS**



Florence

## Embrace timeless, triumphant Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance!

**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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