

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

# New Year's in Tuscany

**Sunday, December 26, 2010-Sunday, January 2, 2011**

For the first time, The Travel Club invites you to join us in **Tuscany** on a very special holiday for New Year's Eve. Our Spring and Fall departures to Tuscany sell out each year and return with rave reviews. This new program offers the same wonderful excursions to two of our favorite places-**Florence and Lucca**- and also introduces 3,000 year-old **Volterra**. Surrounded by imposing walls, this medieval treasure is a city of museums that showcase numerous Etruscan archaeological finds- and a more recent claim-to-fame from its inclusion in the Twilight book series. At the **Fattoria Il Poggio in Montecarlo** you'll be treated to Tuscan snacks as well as a sample of local wine , olive oil and balsamic vinegar. The **Grand Hotel Plaza & Locanda Maggiore** will welcome you with dinner and wine each night. You'll enjoy a special traditional fish menu and relax with live entertainment, music dancing and candlelit farewell dinner. The special **New Year's Eve Gala dinner** includes wine and spumanti, live music and dancing.

### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights Alitalia from Boston to Florence via Rome
- Six nights' first class accommodations: Grand Hotel Plaza, Montecatini Terme
- Welcome drink at hotel
- Buffet breakfast daily
- New Year's Eve Gala Dinner with wine, live music, dancing and entertainment
- Farewell Tuscan candlelit dinner with wine, live music and dancing
- Two dinners with wine
- Wine Tasting and snack at Fattoria Il Poggio in Montecarlo
- Round-trip private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### Rates

**\$1,629** per person double occupancy  
**\$1,879** single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request.

Add \$395 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.

### Features

Full-day excursion to Florence with guided walking tour, full-day excursion to Volterra with guided tour, excursion to Lucca with guided walking tour, visit to Montecatini Alto, Tasting of olive oil, balsamic vinegar and wine with snack at Il Poggio in Montecarlo, New Year's Eve gala dinner featuring live music and dancing

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Depart from Boston this evening on Alitalia Airlines. Dinner is served aloft along while crossing the Atlantic. Relax and enjoy in-flight entertainment.

### Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Florence – transfer to Montecatini

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. You will clear immigration and proceed to your domestic flight for Florence. Upon arrival, you clear customs and meet your professional Tour Manager who will escort you to the Grand Hotel Plaza in Montecatini Terme. After check-in and room assignments you'll enjoy a welcome drink and have the balance of the afternoon to relax and get settled. In the evening you'll get acquainted over dinner with wine at the hotel. **(D)**

### **Day 3: Florence**

Today you'll set off for a full-day visit of Florence. Upon arrival in Florence you'll enjoy a half-day guided walking tour featuring the Duomo, the Baptistery with the Gate of Paradise, Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio. The afternoon is free to explore on your own or shop for Florentine leather and gold. You'll return to Montecatini in the late afternoon. Dinner with wine is included this evening. **(B,D)**

### **Day 4:Volterra**

After breakfast depart by motorcoach to the town of Volterra which has had sudden recent fame thanks to the movie series Twilight which was partly set there. Volterra is a town of great architectural interest located between the rivers Bra and Cecina. The main features are two fine castles and numerous Etruscan remains. Your guided tour will include a visit to the Guarnacci museum which houses one of the most interesting displays of Etruscan antiquities. Return to Montecatini for a special dinner with wine, live magician entertainment, music and dancing. **(B,D)**

### **Day 5: Lucca**

Today's full day excursion is a lovely treat. First you'll visit Lucca, the only medieval town in Italy still surrounded by its original 14th century walls. Lucca is a town filled with ancient Roman ruins, as well as great furniture, jewelry and antique shops. Enjoy a guided walking tour including admission to Palazzo Mansi. Continue on to Montecarlo in the beautiful Tuscan countryside to the "Fattoria Il Poggio" for a wine tasting and lunch -- a real "Paesana Feast." In the late afternoon return to hotel for dinner with a special fish menu with wine, music with belly dancer and dancing. **(B, L, D)**

### **Day 6: Montecatini**

After breakfast you'll visit Montecatini Alto -- the original Montecatini settlement, lying a few hundred meters above the "new town." The views from here are splendid and the delightful Piazza Giusti is home to some good bars and restaurants. Return to Montecatini for free time to get ready for the big evening. Tonight a special New Year's Eve gala dinner including wine and spumante is yours to toast in the New Year. This special evening to welcome in 2011 will feature live entertainment with music and dancing. **(B, D)**

### **Day 7:Montecatini**

Enjoy a morning at leisure. In the afternoon you will have a cooking demonstration at the hotel. This evening there will be a farewell Tuscan candlelight dinner with wine, live music and dance. **(B,D)**

### **Day 8: Departure for Boston**

You will be transferred this morning to the Florence airport for your flight to Rome. Once in Rome you will connect to your transatlantic flight to Boston. **(B)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured.* We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*