

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Cooking in Siena, Tuscany

Friday, November 26 – December 4, 2010

If you'd love to impress your family and friends this holiday season, join us in Tuscany for hands-on cooking lessons complemented by touring, a winery visit and free time to shop for the best gifts under the tree. It's time to roll up your sleeves at the **Lella Cesari Ciampoli Cookery School** where your three lessons will be centered around three Christmas menus, including Tuscan-style antipasti, stuffed homemade pastas and meat entrees and traditional sweets. Located in a 13th century building near the **Piazza del Campo** in Siena's historic center (and near your hotel) the school was established in 1996 as Siena's first culinary school for foreigners. From the maze of old narrow streets to the original city wall fortifications, visiting medieval Siena is literally a trip back in time—Roman times, that is—as the famous **Campo** (the original marketplace) was the probable site of a Roman forum. Today, the Campo is a large open square, surrounded by bustling restaurants and cafes housed in old ornate buildings. You'll find a multitude of shops filled with decorations, household items and spices, colorful majolica and terracotta and tempting food and wine markets. (And, we're told the traditional Christmas Market should start on December 1.) You'll even have time to visit one (or more) of the famous markets in Florence during your visit.

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia** Airlines flights from Boston to Florence, via Rome
- Seven nights' accommodations: **Hotel Cannon d'Oro**
- Continental buffet breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant
- Three "hands-on" cooking lessons, followed by dinner, at **Lella Cesari Ciampoli's Cookery School in Siena**
- Half-day walking tour of Siena
- Full-day excursion to Florence with guided walking tour
- Half-day winery visit including wine tasting
- Escorted, round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers

Accommodations

Hotel Cannon d'Oro

Via Montanini 28
Sienna, Italy
Tel +39 0577 44321

The Hotel Cannon d'Oro in Siena is centrally located on Via Montanini, an elegant shopping street only 200 metres from the famous Piazza del Campo. The Hotel has 30 recently restored rooms, each with its own bathroom, telephone and cable TV. The Hotel has a rich history. Until 1262, it was a former palace owned by the noble Bulgarini family.

Rates

\$1,299 per person double occupancy

\$1,529 for single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$430 for current air taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on your Alitalia flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive in Rome transfer to Florence -Siena

Arrive in Rome, and transfer to your connecting flight to Florence. Once in Florence, retrieve your luggage and clear customs. You will be met by our local representative who will assist you during your private motorcoach transfer to the **Hotel Cannon d'Oro in Siena**. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. This evening join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

Day 3: Siena

This morning after enjoying breakfast you'll depart on a guided half-day walking tour of Siena. The afternoon and evening are at leisure. **(B)**

Day 4: Siena

Enjoy breakfast and have the morning free to continue getting to explore Siena on your own. In the afternoon you'll participate in your first cooking lesson at the **Cooking School of Lella Ciampoli**; followed by dinner at the school. **(B,D)**

Day 5: Florence

After breakfast this morning you will depart by for a full-day visit of **Florence**. Upon arrival you'll enjoy a half-day guided walking tour featuring the **Duomo**, the **Baptistery with the Gates of Paradise**, **Piazza della Signoria** and **Palazzo Vecchio**. The afternoon is free to explore on your own or shop for Florentine presents! You'll return to Siena in the late afternoon. Evening at leisure. **(B)**

Day 6: Siena

Today you'll enjoy a winery tour to observe how the Italians process their wine and be able to sample at a tasting. In the afternoon participate in another "hands on" cooking lesson followed by dinner at the school. **(B,D)**

Day 7: Siena

Enjoy the morning at leisure and this afternoon you'll head to your third "hands on" cooking lesson followed by dinner at the school. **(B,D)**

Day 8: Siena

Today is a free day to enjoy on your own in Siena. **(B)**

Day 9: Return to Boston

Early morning transfer to Florence airport for your return flight to Boston, via Rome. **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

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.*