



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

### The Tuscan Riviera

Friday, October 1 – Friday, October 8, 2010

Riviera, n, definition: a coastal region frequented as a resort area and usually marked by a mild climate. This new Travel Club holiday combines the highlights of beautiful Tuscany with accommodations in Lido di Camaiore, a charming beach resort. Located on the sea between Viareggio and Marina di Pietrasanta, the Lido is famous for its wide beach with fine, golden sand and beautiful promenade. The old town area of Camaiore is dotted with scrumptious villas surrounded by parks and beautiful squares complete with fountains and gardens. There are certain places not to be missed when you travel to Tuscany and we've included medieval Lucca and stunning Pisa; in Portofino you'll visit Castello Brown and delight in its gardens and breathtaking views; your day in Florence includes a walking tour and free time to explore. In Torre del Lago you'll visit the Villa Puccini Museum of composer Giacomo Puccini, enjoy a cruise on Lake Massaciuccoli and stop at the Roman excavations.

#### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled **Alitalia Airlines** flights from Boston to Pisa, via Rome
- Six nights' three-star accommodations at the **Hotel Villa Toscana** in Lido di Camaiore
- Twelve meals: 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Wine tasting and light lunch at Fattoria Il Poggio
- Wine tasting at hotel
- Cooking demonstration at hotel
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local Tour Manager

#### Rates

**\$1,199** per person double occupancy

**\$1,439** single reservations

Triple occupancy may be available upon request. Add **\$380** for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.

#### Accommodations

##### **HOTEL VILLA TOSCANA**

Viale Colombo 209 Lido di Camaiore, Italy

Tel: 039 0584905109 [www.hotelvillatoscana.com](http://www.hotelvillatoscana.com)

**"The warmth of a home, the comfort of a hotel" --** that is the Hotel Villa Toscana. A unique atmosphere, warm and welcoming and a simple but elegant style, are the features that make Villa Toscana a charming small hotel. Surrounded by a lovely garden, the hotel is located a few steps from the beach on the shores of Lido di Camaiore, at the heart of Versilia. Villa Toscana Hotel has 9 rooms with all comforts such as air conditioning, minibar, hairdryer and wireless internet service. Each room is marked with the name of a town in Tuscany. Inside, the hotel houses the renowned restaurant Tuscany that will delight you with an extensive menu of dishes typical of the renowned Tuscan cuisine and local, with great care and elegance

#### **Please note:**

This is an exclusive SOMC group and not escorted by a Show of the Month travel host

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Early evening departure from Boston to Rome, via Alitalia Airlines. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the in-flight entertainment.

### Day 2: Arrive Rome – transfer to Pisa

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Clear immigration and proceed to your connecting/domestic flight to Pisa. Upon arrival in Pisa you'll retrieve your luggage, clear customs and meet our local representative who will assist you with the transfer to the **Hotel Villa Toscana**. **Lido di Camaiore** is a charming resort town on the Tuscan Riviera famous for its beautiful promenade rich in flowers, palms, pubs and elegant shops. Check in and receive room assignments. Later enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner at the hotel.

(D)

### **Day 3: 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. Continue on to Montecarlo in the beautiful Tuscan countryside to the "**Fattoria Il Poggio**" for a wine tasting and light lunch. Later in the afternoon transfer to Pisa to admire the Wonder Square and the Leaning Tower. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, L, D)**

### **Day 4: Portofino –Cooking demonstration**

Today after breakfast depart for an excursion to Portofino, the very incarnation of the Dolce Vita. You'll visit Castello Brown, a house museum located high above the harbor of Portofino. This site is well suited for harbor defense, and appears to have been so used since the 15th century. You can stroll the Mediterranean gardens and enjoy the breathtaking view of the bay. In the afternoon return to the hotel for a cooking demonstration of "**Tuscan Cuisine.**" **(B, D)**

### **Day 5: Torre del Lago**

Depart after breakfast for Torre del Lago, a small town between Lake Massaciuccoli and the sea. **Giacomo Puccini**, the Italian composer whose operas include Laboheme, Tosca and Madame Butterfly, called this area "paradise." Puccini turned an old watchtower by the lake into his villa, now a museum, and wrote many of his operas here. You will be treated to a boat tour on Lake Massaciuccoli and view see the natural reserve at Oasi Lipo, home to many species of birds. On the way back to the hotel a stop will be made at Viareggio, a coastal town famous for its promenade. **(B, D)**

### **Day 6: Florence**

Today you'll set off 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 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 Lido di Camaiore in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

### **Day 7: Day of Leisure.**

Breakfast and dinner at the hotel today and the rest of the day is yours to enjoy on your own **(B, D)**

### **Day 8: Return to Boston**

Early morning coach and a to-go breakfast as you are transferred to the Pisa 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 a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**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.