

YMCA of the Fox Cities presents...

Spotlight on Tuscany

October 3 – 11, 2026



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! See inside for details.



For more information contact

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9 Days • 10 Meals: 7 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Montecatini Terme, Lucca, Family-Owned Winery Experience, Florence, Pisa, Cooking Class, Cheese Farm, San Gimignano

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 Overnight Flight

Days 2 – 8 Grand Hotel Vittoria , Montecatini Terme

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Optional Tour: Day 6 / Thursday, October 8th, 2026 Montecatini Terme

Truffle Hunting Experience in the Tuscan Countryside \$119 USD

Embark on a culinary journey through the picturesque Tuscan countryside, where tradition meets modernity in the art of truffle hunting. Your adventure begins with a guided truffle hunt, led by a local expert and their specially trained dogs. As you wander along unpaved trails through fields and woods, learn about the fascinating world of truffles and the techniques used to forage these hidden gems. After the hunt, indulge in a buffet lunch served in a rustic veranda. Savor the flavors of freshly foraged truffles, one of Italy's most prized culinary treasures, paired with local delicacies and the warm hospitality of your hosts. Whether you're a seasoned foodie or simply looking for a relaxing day out, this activity promises to be a memorable part of your trip. *Duration: Approximately 6 hours.* Transportation is included.

Day 1: Saturday, October 3, 2026 Overnight Flight Rolling landscapes, savory wines, authentic food and stunning architecture – find all of this and more in Tuscany. Unpack once on this journey among Italy's most charming towns.

Day 2: Sunday, October 4, 2026 Montecatini Terme, Italy Your tour opens in the famous spa resort town of Montecatini Terme, nestled in the heart of the rolling hills of Tuscany. As travelers' arrival times will vary, we have not included any sightseeing today. Spend the day as you wish, exploring the town independently. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers during a welcome dinner where regional foods and Italian wines kick off your adventure. (D)

Day 3: Monday, October 5, 2026 Pisa Journey to the ancient maritime Republic of Pisa for a visit of its famous *Piazza dei Miracoli* (Field of Miracles). The moniker was coined to describe the magnificence and wonder of the architectural masterpieces within the square, which is uniquely paved in grass. Keep your camera handy to capture the gravity-defying inclination of the iconic Leaning Tower. This evening, travel to the quiet countryside to learn the secrets of traditional Tuscan cuisine. Partake in a cooking class, using local ingredients and culinary techniques that have been passed down for generations. Enjoy your freshly-prepared meal for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 Florence Welcome to Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance." Join a local Florentine guide and embark on an extensive walking tour exploring the city's vast historical center. At the Piazza del Duomo, marvel at the ornate façade of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the gilded bronze doors of the Baptistery. Take in views of the Piazza della Signoria, the center of Medici power, and Santa Croce Square before enjoying the remainder of your time in Florence to explore this unparalleled open-air museum at your leisure.* (B)

Day 5: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 Montecatini Terme Today, learn more about Montecatini's history during a half-day guided walking tour and visit to the historic Tettuccio Spa,** known for the health benefits in its mineral drinking waters. This afternoon, **it's your choice!** Choose to relax in Montecatini, spending the afternoon at leisure **-OR-** set off for Borgo a Mozzano, where you will see its unique Devil's Bridge and the nearby remains of the Gothic Line – the Germans' last defense during WWII. Visit the Museum of Liberation and see authentic fortifications and bunkers. (B)

Day 6: Thursday, October 8, 2026 Montecatini Terme Enjoy a day at leisure or embark on an optional truffle hunt, led by a local expert and their specially trained dogs. As you wander along unpaved trails, learn about the fascinating world of truffles and the techniques used to forage them. Indulge in a truffle-themed buffet lunch before returning to Montecatini mid-afternoon for an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 7: Friday, October 9, 2026 Lucca Enjoy a guided tour of Lucca, Tuscany's best-kept secret. Discover Renaissance walls, Romanesque churches, and medieval streets flanked by towers. Explore the lively city center on your own and discover the piazza built on top of a Roman amphitheater. This afternoon, make your way to a Tuscan winery and learn about the art of winemaking as you taste local varieties before returning to Montecatini for an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 8: Saturday, October 10, 2026 San Gimignano Take in the rural atmosphere of a family-owned farm among the goats, cows, and organic gardens and sample their local products. Soak in breathtaking views as you travel to the hilltop village of San Gimignano, one of Tuscany's most picturesque places. Explore this enchanting medieval town, from its famous 14 towers to its magnificent vistas overlooking vineyards. Enjoy free time and perhaps indulge in some gelato, before returning to Montecatini in the late afternoon. This evening, join your travel companions for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Sunday, October 11, 2026 Montecatini Terme - Tour Ends Your journey comes to a close today. Depart with many fond memories of Tuscany. (B)



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$4,749; Single \$5,049; Triple \$4,699

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from OHare Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$1,890; Business Class \$4,290

- * Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

* *All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change*

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

Important Tour Information:

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The included activities are not suitable for travelers using motorized scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, or Zimmer-frames.

Italy imposes strict limits on tour bus circulation and mandatory drop-off and pick-up points, especially in historic areas such as Montecatini, Lucca, Pisa, San Gimignano, and Florence. In Florence, you must be prepared to walk approximately 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) to complete the sightseeing with limited opportunities to sit. The full-day walking tour takes place over

flat, but cobblestone, streets with narrow sidewalks that are often crowded. For your well-being, we recommend bringing comfortable walking shoes.

Days of features are interchangeable.

Most shops and businesses in Italy are closed on Sundays and on national/religious holidays.

*Due to the extensive walking required in Florence, free time will be limited to approximately 3 hours, during which you may wish to visit the Academy or the Uffizi Museums. Both are closed on Mondays and both require advance reservations, as tickets are often sold out on the day or close to the day of the visit. If you are interested, we recommend that you purchase tickets online, prior to departure, through the museum's official website. You can expect your included walking tour to conclude by 1:00 p.m. and you will meet again for departure to Montecatini around 4:00 p.m. If booking tickets for one of the above museums, allow yourselves 30 minutes to reach them from the end point of your walking tour and 30 minutes to return to the meeting point in the afternoon.

**The interior of Tettuccio Spa is closed to visits during the months of November and December. They do not offer spa treatments such as massages. This is a hydrotherapy center that offers drinking waters which have healing effects on internal organs and therefore can only be consumed under medical supervision.

Experience It! Walls of Lucca

Lucca is famed for its extensive, well-preserved city walls, which date back to the Renaissance. This massive fortification, while never actually used for defense, represents what was, at the time, the height of military technology. The walls, studded with gates and bulwarks (defensive elements), were built from stone, brick, and earth. In 1812 the gates were closed, saving the city from flood waters when the Serchio River overflowed. In the 1820s, Maria Luisa de Borbón, duchess of Lucca, had some of the walls converted to green spaces that later became a large public park. Today, the walls of Lucca aren't only a famous city attraction but a place for people to play, stroll, picnic, and enjoy *la dolce vita*.

For more information on this tour or to sign up visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1334575>

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Air travelers will arrive and depart from Florence or Pisa airports.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Travel Requirements:

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

ETIAS visa waiver requirements are anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2026, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of March 28, 2026 are based upon availability. Final payment due by July 05, 2026. Deposits are refundable up until April 04, 2026.

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For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1334575>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.