

## **August 2 –Depart**

### **August 3<sup>rd</sup> -Arrive. Orientation to Siena**

This wonderful city is home to some of the most famous medieval art and architectural treasures. Siena offers a never-ending number of cultural sights and interests.

### **August 4<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Ronald Herzman, “Dante’s Siena”**

### **August 5<sup>th</sup> - San GiMignano**

Known as “City of the Beautiful Towers”, San Gimignano is set high on a hill overlooking the Elsa Valley. Begun as a small Etruscan village in the Hellenistic period, in the 10th century it was renamed for the Holy Bishop of Modena, St. Gimignano, who is said to have saved the village from Attila the Hun. San GiMignano has managed to conserve fourteen of its original towers, which have become iconic symbols for the city.

### **August 6<sup>th</sup> - Life in the Contrada**

A contrada is a district, or ward, within an Italian city. The most well-known are those of Siena - the seventeen “contrade di Siena”. Each is named after an animal or symbol, and each has its own history and set of mythological associations.

### **August 7<sup>th</sup> - Sant’ Antimo/ Montalcino**

Montalcino, a walled hilltop town known for its vineyards, produces some of the most esteemed red wines in Tuscany. To the South is the neighboring village of Sant'Antimo. A major attraction of Sant’ Antimo is the Abbey, one of the most beautiful Romanesque churches in Italy.

### **August 8<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Bill Cook, Private tour of the Uffizi in Florence**

One of the oldest and most famous art museums in the Western world, the Uffizi gallery was built in 1581. The space was originally intended for offices and to host bureaucratic meetings, hence the name Uffizi (“offices”), as opposed to holding the masterpieces it houses today. The masterpieces you will see here are by artists Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Sandro Botticelli, among many others.

### **August 9<sup>th</sup> - Cooking School**

Experience the true flavors of Italy as you take a cooking class in the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside, and learn some Italian cooking secrets to bring home with you!

### **August 10<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Rob Doggett, “English Love Poets in Italy”**

### **August 11<sup>th</sup> - Rome**

The capital of Italy, as well as the subject of countless songs and poems, Rome is a cultural and romantic icon. It features the ancient Roman Colosseum where gladiators fought to the death, the Pantheon - the best-preserved building in Rome, the whimsical Trevi Fountain, the Sistine Chapel, and of course the Vatican - home of the Pope.

### **August 12<sup>th</sup> - Depart for home**