



A wonderful and personalized alumni trip to Italy organized & accompanied by the professor of Italian Studies: Dr. Paola Basile (a native of Italy).

**When: (In Italy the tour starts in the morning on March 7th to March 14th)
Six UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

Cost: \$4,500 that includes the following:

- Outstanding 5 stars resort hotel with thermal baths + SPA immersed in a dream landscape in Tuscany. Double occupancy.
- **Private Bus** with A/C + Driver for the entire trip and taxi from Rome to the airport
- **Rich Breakfasts**
- **Dinners** with prosecco/wine...
- **Welcome Italian Cocktail** at the Hotel.
- **Cooking class + Lunch**
- **Wine Tasting**
- Trip to **Orvieto** and entrance in the Duomo. (Nominated a UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Drive through the **Val d'Orcia**. (A UNESCO World Heritage site). Our hotel is in the heart of the beautiful Val d'Orcia.
- Trip to the picturesque town of **Anghiari**, entrance in the museum of the battle of Anghiari (the battle that was painted by Leonardo da Vinci), and afternoon trip to **Caprese, Michelangelo birthplace**, entrance into his house/museum.
- Trip to **San Gimignano** and entrance in the Torre Grossa and Palazzo Comunale. (A UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Trip to **Montalcino**, entrance into the **Fortress + Wine Tasting** the famous Brunello di Montalcino (in the fortress!).
- Trip to **Vinci**, the birthplace of the genius Leonardo. Entrance into his house, castle, and museums.
- Trip to Tivoli and entrance into **Villa d'Este and gardens**, (a UNESCO World Heritage site).
- Trip to **Siena**, entrance into the Duomo (a UNESCO World heritage site).
- Bus **drive to Rome**, our second hotel is here not too far from the airport. We will stop at EUR to see the **cherry trees** and enjoy a **gelato**. (Rome is a UNESCO World heritage site).
- Seats are limited to 16 for this trip.
- **To secure your spot, a deposit of \$1,000 is required to be paid by credit card or check. If paying by credit card, call Pamela Dorazio Dean, the Italian American Museum (IAMCLE) Director, at: 330-285-2950; email iamcleinfo@gmail.com**

If paying by check, make it payable to IAMCLE and bring it to Pamela in-person, at IAMCLE, 12111 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland, OH 44106 - or mail it to Pamela Dorazio Dean, WRHS, 10825 East Blvd, Lakeline OH 44095.

The full amount (\$4,500) is due by December 1st, 2026. Full reimbursement by Dec. 14th.

Dr. Paola Basile has organized and led 16 successful study trips abroad for LEC students, alumni, and for the community at large and is taking two new groups to Italy in May and in June 2026. Please see her two recent trip albums (Ctrl + Click):

Trip to Italy 2025: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:f559d38f-6676-4a2a-9506-a807c80a8640>
Student Trip to Italy 2024: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:9815dfe3-be85-42a4-bac4-e2ec7776700e>

Alumni Trip to Italy Fall 2023

Student Trip to Italy 2023

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

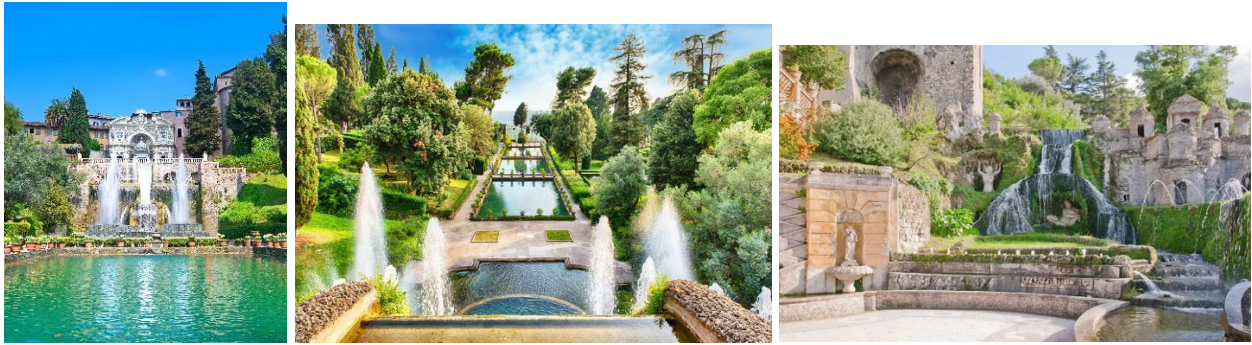
Day 1 – Departure from the USA: March 6 – (It is better to leave on March 4 or 5): When you depart from the US you arrive in Italy **on the next day**. It would be better to leave before March 6, on **March 4 or 5** and spend one day or two days in Rome (by the airport). Please note that if you leave on March 6, you arrive on March 7 in the morning in Rome. Paola can recommend a nice B&B not far from the airport.

Day 2 - March 7: OUR TOUR STARTS on MARCH 7 at 11:00 am -Meeting point in Rome TBA by the airport. Departure at **11:00 am** (local Italy time) for Tivoli. Lunch in Tivoli, entrance in **Villa d’Este** famous for its villa, gardens, and fountains. (approximately 3 hours). From Tivoli, we will drive through the beautiful Tuscan region to our resort hotel in **Val d’Orcia**. You can enjoy the beautiful thermal (hot springs) pools of the hotel, immerse yourselves in the soothing spa, and an environment of enchanting beauty. Happy hour and dinner at the hotel.

Note: The hot springs have therapeutic quality renowned since antiquity. The waters are bicarbonate-sulfate-alkalimetric-hyperthermic, flow out at a temperature of around 38 Celsius. They were highly appreciated by the ancient Romans for their healing powers and found a use in bathing-mud-therapeutic treatments beginning in 1170.

Villa d’Este in Tivoli: a UNESCO world heritage site.

The gardens of the Villa d'Este are among the earliest and finest of the Italian giardini delle meraviglie and symbolize the flowering of Renaissance culture. With its impressive concentration of fountains (500!), nymphs, grottoes, troughs and pools, cascades, plays of water, and music, it constitutes a much-copied model for European gardens. A magic place filled with beauty, myths, genius, and peace. One fountain periodically surges to splash unsuspecting visitors; a water organ fountain plays music at set times; a long row of 100 different “face” fountains offers an intimate place to take a stroll... The rooms of the Palace d’Este were built on the ruins of an ancient Roman villa were ambitiously decorated under the tutelage of the stars of late Roman Mannerism, such as Livio Agresti, Federico Zuccari, Durante Alberti, Girolamo Muziano, Cesare Nebbia and Antonio Tempesta.



Val d'Orcia: Medieval castles, sinuous gills, ancient villages, gorgeous farmhouses, isolated homesteads, roads lined with cypress trees, fabulous vineyards and olive groves and golden fields of grain and sunflowers: these are just some of the elements that form the fantastic and harmonious landscapes of the Val d'Orcia. This rich green valley, which encompasses the Orcia river and where it derives its name, is in southern Tuscany. The entire area is protected as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Day 3 - March 8: After breakfast, our driver will take us through a scenic Tuscan landscape to visit the beautifully preserved medieval village Anghiari to visit its historical center and the museum of the battle of Anghiari (the battle that was painted by Leonardo da Vinci). After lunch we will visit Caprese, the birthplace of Michelangelo, his birthday house inside the medieval fortress. We will also stop at the Caffè GM (Torrefazione) for discovery of historic blends such as Old Tuscan Oak and Nobile, as well as "specialty" coffees. Dinner at our hotel.

Anghiari: Nestled in eastern Tuscany near the border with Umbria, Anghiari is a beautifully preserved medieval village perched above the Tiber Valley. It's the kind of place where time feels paused—stone alleyways, sweeping countryside views, and a quiet, authentic atmosphere far from the tourist crowds of Florence or Siena.

Anghiari is also historically significant: it was the site of the Battle of Anghiari, famously depicted (though now lost) in a mural by Leonardo da Vinci. Wandering the old town is the main attraction. Expect steep staircases, vaulted passageways, and flower-filled balconies. The layout itself reflects medieval defensive design—narrow and winding to confuse invaders. At the Museo della Battaglia e di Anghiari, you can dive into the town's most famous moment—the 1440 battle. Exhibits include weapons, maps, and reconstructions tied to the lost Leonardo masterpiece.



Caprese Michelangelo, a small village tucked in the forested hills of eastern Tuscany, near the border with Umbria. It's quiet, authentic, and far less touristy. It's best known as the **birthplace of Michelangelo Buonarroti**, one of the giants of the Renaissance. The main attraction is the **Casa Natale di Michelangelo**, a small museum inside a medieval fortress. What you'll find: Exhibits about Michelangelo's early life, copies of his famous works (the originals are elsewhere), A historic setting with stone walls and a courtyard. Wandering the village itself is part of the experience.



Day 4 - March 9: After breakfast, our driver will take us to visit an *Agriturismo* where we will have a **cooking class** followed by a rich lunch. Our driver will then take us to visit San Gimignano. Entrance into the Torre Grossa and Palazzo Comunale. Dinner at our hotel.

Tuscan Agriturismo Experience: The philosophy centers on sharing Tuscan culture through authentic experiences. Guests are invited to connect with nature, traditions, and organic local products. Cooking classes offer a fun, hands-on way to learn traditional Tuscan recipes, from appetizers to dessert, while discovering ingredients and techniques. Participants enjoy breaks with snacks and wine tasting, and end by sharing the meal they've prepared, paired with local wines.



San Gimignano: it is a small walled medieval hill town in the province of Siena. Known as the Town of Fine Towers. San Gimignano is famous for its medieval architecture, unique in the preservation of about a dozen of its tower houses, which, with its hilltop setting and encircling walls form an unforgettable skyline. Locals say they are the oldest towers in Europe! Within the walls, the well-preserved buildings include notable examples of both Romanesque and Gothic architecture, with outstanding examples of secular buildings as well as churches. The Palazzo Comunale, the Collegiate Church, and Church of Sant' Agostino contain frescos, including cycles dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. The "Historic Centre of San Gimignano" is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town also is known for the white wine, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, produced from the ancient variety of Vernaccia grape which is grown on the sandstone hillsides of the area. The locals are very friendly, artists and musicians welcome the visitors with their art.



Day 5 - March 10: Morning off to relax in the thermal pools and spa of our hotel or for a bike tour! After lunch, at 1:30 pm, our driver will take us to Montalcino where we can tour the town, taste the famous Brunello di Montalcino inside the medieval fortress, go shopping... Then our driver will take us on a beautiful drive to Gaiole in Chianti. Tentative dinner in the Chianti region or in our hotel.

Montalcino is a classic fairytale hilltop town, set within a full circle of fortified walls and watched over by a mighty castle of medieval perfection. It is immersed in the breathtaking Val d'Orcia Natural Park, renowned all over the world for the production of its precious Brunello red wine. The town has scarcely changed in appearance since the 16th century. Once you get up to the town, a magnificent spectacle unfolds for your eyes: rolling sunny hills dotted with yellow and red flowers, ancient oak trees, picturesque olive groves, scenic country roads winding through perfect vineyards and isolated cypress trees atop hills. The historical center is dominated by the mighty and imposing **Rocca** or fortress built in 1361.



Day 6 - March 11: After breakfast, our driver will take us to the picturesque town of Vinci to visit the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, his house, the castle & the museum. Dinner at our hotel.

Vinci: Known as the birthplace of the artist Leonardo da Vinci, this town is surrounded by a landscape featuring hills and fields, occupied by olive groves and vineyards. Almost 3 kilometers from town, near the hills of Montalbano, lies the commune of Anchiano. Leonardo da Vinci was born here, on April 15, 1452. Vinci and its surrounding areas are full of historical memories that connect them to da Vinci's past, including the Museo Leonardiano (Museum of Leonardo da Vinci) as well as Casa Natale di Leonardo (Birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci) and other landmarks. Many of the tools and models designed by the great genius are featured within this museum and it is housed within the **Castle of Vinci**, also known as the Castle of the Conti Guidi.



Day 7 - March 12: After breakfast, our driver will take us to Siena (32 miles away). We will visit the breathtaking "Duomo" and the museum by the duomo (optional). Paola will then walk you around the city, and you have time for shopping, touring, eating, wine tasting... Dinner at our hotel.

Siena: it is likely Italy's loveliest medieval city, another UNESCO World Heritage site! Siena's heart is its central piazza known as Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio run here, a horse race run around the piazza two times every summer (in the past years, only once). The Campo is dominated by the red Palazzo Pubblico and its tower,

Torre del Mangia. Along with the Duomo (cathedral) of Siena, the Palazzo Pubblico was also built during the same period of rule by the Council of Nine. The civic palace, built between 1297 and 1310, still houses the city's municipal offices much like Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. The Museum dell'Opera del Duomo houses works of art and architectural fragments that were formerly in, or a part of, the Duomo of Siena.



Day 8 – March 13: After breakfast, our driver will take us to Orvieto, to visit another outstanding duomo (cathedral) and the picturesque city (nominated a UNESCO World Heritage site), you have time to go shopping, enjoy a spritz or a gelato.... We will then go to Rome; our second hotel is here not too far from the airport. Second stop in EUR by the lake to see the cherry trees and enjoy a gelato. Dinner at our hotel.

Orvieto city: in Umbria, has recently been nominated a UNESCO world heritage site. Orvieto rises on a natural tableland at the summit of a 150-meter-high tufa cliff emerging, much like an island, from the surrounding plains. The city's distinctive feature comes from the relationship between this sheer cliff and the fabric of the city dominated by its imposing, breathtaking Duomo (cathedral) known as the "Golden Lily" of cathedrals for its golden mosaics that illuminate the splendid façade. The duomo is home to masterpieces by Luca Signorelli and Francesco Mochi and the sacred linen of the Miracle of Corpus Domini. The construction of Orvieto Cathedral began in 1290 at the behest of Pope Nicholas IV.



Day 9 – March 14: Departure from our hotel to the airport of Rome, Fiumicino, “Leonardo da Vinci”.

You can spend more days in Rome if you like. Rome is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.