

# Impressions of Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany

## October 2020

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*Journey from the Amalfi Coast, twisting along the sapphire Mediterranean, to the pastoral landscapes of Tuscany—and discover the varied delights of Italy on this delightful group adventure. Seek out the art and architectural wonders of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and ancient world...explore unforgettable history on display from Pompeii to Florence...and enjoy a taste of authentic Italian life during a Home-Hosted meal in Sorrento.*

*With stays on the Amalfi Coast and in two Tuscan villages that reveal the culture and scenery of both the north and south of the region, you'll have the most comprehensive Italian experience with a host of included tours and in-depth discoveries—including meeting a local cheesemaker in the beautiful Orcia Valley and visiting the medieval city of Siena. Bella Italia is eager to welcome you. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!*

**REMINDER:** Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.

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## Snapshot Itinerary: New Impressions of Tuscany 2020

Travel Dates: *October 2020*

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Day 2 – Rome, Italy

Day 3 – Rome / Olive Oil Mill Visit / Sorrento

Day 4 – Sorrento / School visit / Optional Sorrentine Farm Experience / Italy & the Camorra Discussion

Day 5 – Sorrento / Pompeii / Home-Hosted Dinner

Day 6 – Sorrento / Amalfi Coast

Day 7 – Sorrento / Optional Naples Tour

Day 8 – Sorrento / Piana delle Orme Museum / Chianciano

Day 9 – Chianciano / Pienza & the Orcia Valley / Cheesemaker Visit / Art of the Renaissance Discussion

Day 10 – Chianciano / Cortona

Day 11 – Chianciano / Siena / Montecatini

Day 12 – Montecatini / Tuscan Vineyard Visit

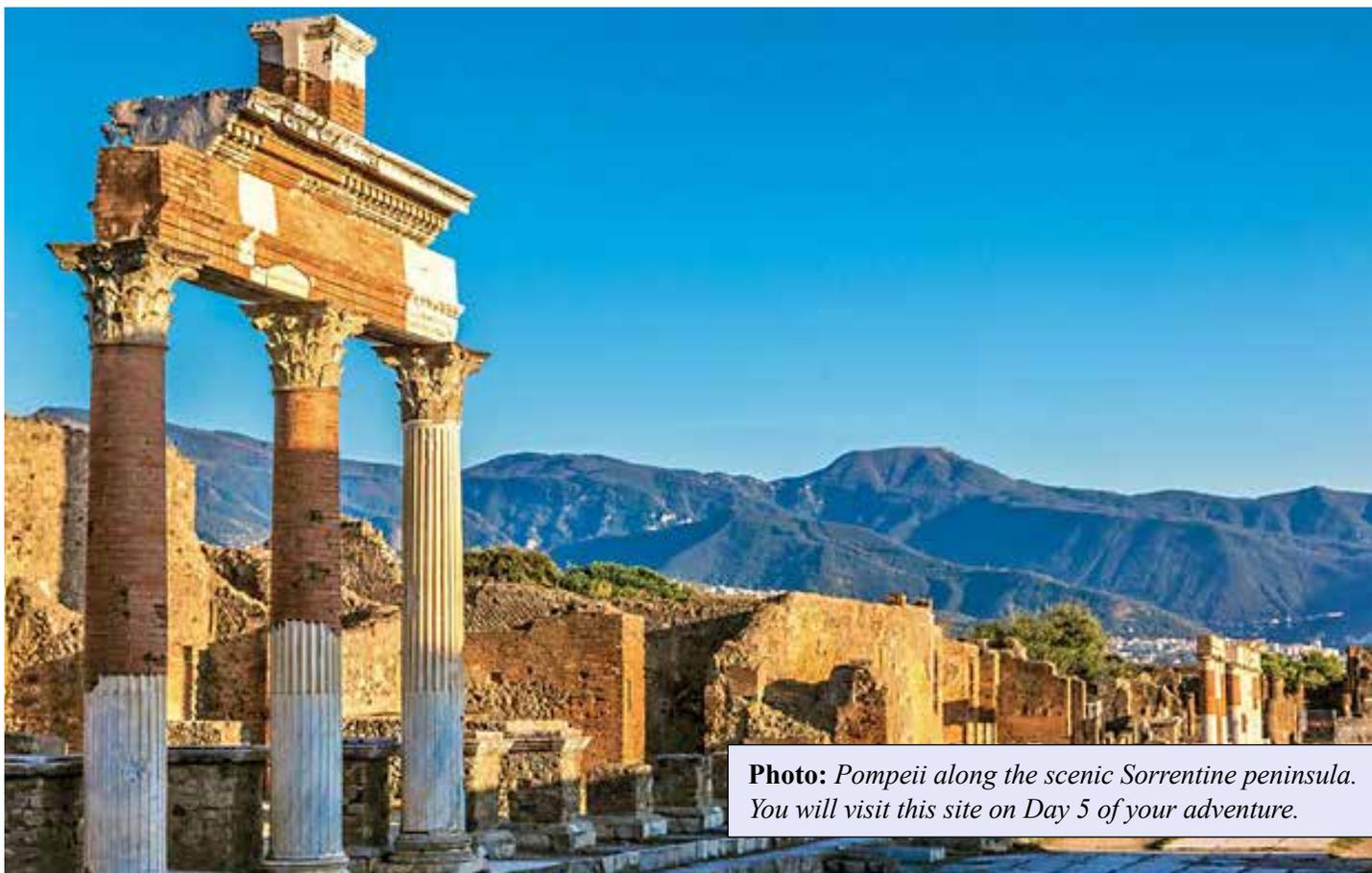
Day 13 – Montecatini / Florence

Day 14 – Montecatini / Optional Pisa Tour / Italy's Lucciole Discussion

Day 15 – Montecatini / Vinci

Day 16 – Montecatini / Return to U.S.





**Photo:** Pompeii along the scenic Sorrentine peninsula. You will visit this site on Day 5 of your adventure.

## **Detailed Itinerary: Impressions of Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany 2020**

### **Day 1 – Depart U.S.**

You depart the U.S. this evening for your journey to Rome, Italy.

### **Day 2 – Rome, Italy**

You'll be greeted at the airport by a Grand Circle representative who will assist you to your hotel where you'll be joined by your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who took our optional pre-trip extension to Rome, Italy. Dinner is on your own tonight.

### **Day 3 – Rome / Olive Oil Mill Visit / Sorrento**

After breakfast, begin the ride to the cliff-side town of Sorrento. On the way, you'll stop for an exclusive Discovery Series visit to a local olive oil mill. Here, you'll learn about the production process that creates the famous Italian olive oil. You'll also savor a light lunch here—with the freshly-pressed extra virgin oil as the main attraction.

Arrive in Sorrento early this evening, with an included Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant tonight. With its romantic location on the cliffs over the Bay of Naples, Sorrento has long been the subject of songs and legends. It was here that the mythical sirens, with the beauty of their sweet singing, lured sailors to shipwreck on the rocks.

### **Day 4 – Sorrento / School visit / Optional Sorrentine Farm Experience / Italy & the Camorra discussion**

This morning after breakfast, you'll have the chance to visit children at Santa Maria della Pietà School (when in session), supported by Grand Circle Foundation. Meet the local bambini in their classroom, and see firsthand how your travel dollars have been put to use to provide new tools and technol-

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ogy to teach the children vital scientific skills. After your school visit, you'll have free time in the afternoon to seek out lunch on your own.

Then, get to know Sorrento during a discovery walk with your Program Director, which takes you to see the cathedral, Piazza Sant'Antonino, the Public Gardens, the town's quaint little alleys, and its main square, Piazza Tasso. Amble along Corso Italia, the town's main pedestrian thoroughfare, lined with picturesque shops offering food and handcrafts.

This afternoon, you might choose to join our optional Sorrentine Farm Experience. Head to Sorrento's unique countryside, where the terraced farmlands cling to the steep cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean. Here, you will learn the ancient

### **Important Travel Notes:**

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the "What to Expect" box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, please contact the Southern Exposure staff at **(269) 962-1255** during business hours.

secrets of how agriculture was developed around this vertiginous landscape. You'll also see what goes into the production of local specialties, like olive oil and limoncello liqueur. Then, prepare and savor your own pizza for lunch, made in true Sorrentine fashion—topped with farm-fresh ingredients.

This evening, partake in an exclusive Discovery Series discussion about Italy & the Camorra to learn about this crime syndicate and their impact on Campania, led by a local expert with first-hand experience about the mafia's influence on the region.

**Sorrentine Farm Experience - \$70/person**  
Venture inland to the lovely countryside outside Sorrento to an agriturismo farm. First, you'll tour the farm and learn about the production. Using fresh ingredients, you'll learn how to make pizzas in true Italian fashion during a hands-on lesson—and savor the delicious results.

### Day 5 – Sorrento / Pompeii / Home-Hosted Dinner

This morning, we'll depart Sorrento for a half-day excursion to Pompeii, traveling along the scenic Sorrentine peninsula, enjoying dramatic views of the countryside, cliffs, and the sea along the way. Totally buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 and not rediscovered until the 17th century, Pompeii's antiquities offer you an unparalleled view of everyday Roman life. In the company of a local expert, walk in the footsteps of the Romans over ancient cobbles and pavement, spending a few hours at some of the most significant sites to learn how its people lived, built their homes, and conducted business. After your tour, you'll have time to explore independently, then enjoy an included lunch before returning to Sorrento.

Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring Sorrento on your own. Perhaps you will choose to walk down to the port of Marina Grande—a picturesque, hidden harbor community which has retained much of its charms due to its secluded location.

This evening, enjoy a special Home-Hosted Dinner with a local family. Throughout this exclusive Discovery Series event, you'll become acquainted with Italian social life as you break bread with a family in their home and enjoy the meal from their authentic Italian kitchen. Traditional cuisine here often incorporates the freshest seasonal ingredients from the nearby markets. .

### Day 6 – Sorrento / Amalfi Coast

After breakfast, depart for a full-day motorcoach tour of the beautiful Costiera Amalfitana (Amalfi Coast), sure to be a highlight of your stay in Sorrento.

On this leisurely tour, discover what is perhaps Italy's most beautiful coastline—a UNESCO World Heritage Site richly imbued with centuries-old charm. Enjoy views of remarkable Positano, whose buildings happily cling to the cliffs and seem to tumble toward the sea; and then continue to the town of Amalfi, romantically situated at the mouth of a deep gorge. You'll also enjoy a boat ride along its ruggedly stunning shoreline, decorated by colorful fishing boats and wondrous rock formations.

Enjoy some free time and an included light lunch in nearby Scala, the oldest town in the Amalfi Coast with a history that stretches back 1,000 years. Perched roughly 1,200 feet above sea level, Scala overlooks the ocean and benefits from a year-round temperate climate. This evening, dinner will be on your own.

Please note: Boat ride is weather permitting. The film featured above is for entertainment purposes only; Naples is not included on this itinerary.

## What to Expect: Impressions of Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany 2020

■ **Physical Requirements:** Pacing is 4 locations in 16 days, including 1 single-night stay in Rome. Walk 3-4 miles unassisted and participate in 3-6 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. Program Directors reserve the right to modify participation or send travelers home if their limitations impact the group's experience. Terrain & Transportation – Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones. Travel by 45-seat motorcoach, and public transportation that requires ability to stand up and hold handles while vehicle is in motion. Public transportation including bus, train, boat, and funicular.

■ **Climate:** Due to the varied geography of the regions we visit on this program you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions. We recommend that you bring a rain jacket and sun-block regardless of the time of year.

### Passport & Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the U.S. State Department handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable.

### Vaccinations Information

Generally speaking, vaccinations are not needed for this trip. However, for the latest list of vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). In addition, we recommend these three additional health steps before you leave on your trip:

- Have a medical checkup with your doctor.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup, if possible.



### **Day 7 – Sorrento / Optional Naples Tour**

Explore Sorrento on your own today. Or, join an optional full-day tour of Naples. On a discovery walk with your local guide, uncover this vibrant yet ancient city. Enjoy free time after your tour to pursue your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll delve into the city's millennia-old history at the national Archaeological Museum of Naples, or stroll into the artisan workshops that dot the city. You'll also get to know the city's people during lunch at a local cultural center—included with the cost of your optional tour—before returning to Sorrento later this evening, where dinner is at leisure.

Naples - \$120/person

Enjoy a full-day visit to Naples, one of the world's most beautiful seaports. Naples is dramatically situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the looming bulk of Mount Vesuvius. This colorful and vibrant city epitomizes Italy's national character: cheerful but chaotic. Naples is a city of great contrasts, aware of a heritage that springs from diverse cultural influences: Ancient Greek and Roman, Norman, French, Spanish, and, of course, Italian.

The tour features a discovery walk with a local guide, as well as some leisure time to explore on your own. Some city highlights include the National Archeological Museum, one of Europe's most valuable repositories, as well as the Palazzo Reale and Teatro San Carlo. The cost of this optional tour also includes lunch at a local cultural center, where you'll get to know some of the city's people and its traditions.

### **Day 8 – Sorrento / Piana delle Orme Museum / Chianciano**

Your journey today will take you on a 300-mile journey through four regions of Italy: Campania, Lazio, Umbria, and Tuscany. Along the way, you'll visit Piana delle Orme, an interactive outdoor history museum set amidst the lush environs of an agricultural landscape located near Anzio, the site of an Allied landing during World War II. The interactive nature of the park is sure to enlighten you about Italy's 20th century history with a number of exhibits dedicated to Italy's role in World War II, and the campaigns in Europe and North Africa. In addition to military history, you can learn about rural civilian life, 20th century agricultural innovations, and the country's industrialization.



After an included lunch at the museum, continue your journey to the Tuscan town of Chianciano—famous since the age of the ancient Etruscans for its thermal mineral waters. Upon arrival, you'll check in and enjoy an included dinner at your hotel tonight.

**Day 9 – Chianciano / Pienza & the Orcia Valley / Cheesemaker Visit / Art of the Renaissance Discussion**  
After breakfast, visit Chianciano Terme's Etruscan Museum. Here you'll learn about the Etruscan origins of this region, and discover more about this mysterious civilization that preceded the Romans in this area.

Then, you'll explore the village of Pienza. A Renaissance jewel, Pienza is the first example of town planning executed after the fall of the ancient Roman Empire twelve centuries earlier. It is also the only example of a city actually made from a prototype—designed by Bernardo Rossellino, the early 15th-century sculptor, for Pope Pius II. The plan for Pienza was commissioned by the Pope to celebrate the ideas of the Renaissance. Join your Program Director for a discovery walk, and admire the vistas from the town overlooking the valley and a mountain peak that was once a volcano. You'll also have some free time to explore on your own—and to discover the many food shops selling the excellent local export, pecorino cheese.



Pienza is a virtual standing museum: The focus of the town's design is its piazza, which is closed on one side by the cathedral and Palazzo Piccolomini on the other. Designed by Rossellino, the palazzo was the home to Pius's descendants until 1968 and is one of the places in the beautiful Orcia Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where many scenes in the motion picture *The English Patient* were filmed.

Next, visit a local cheesemaker for another exclusive Discovery Series event, sampling local fare during a light lunch as you taste the locally produced sheep-milk cheeses.

Tonight, join us for a Discovery Series discussion on *The Art of the Renaissance*, and learn how Tuscany was at the vanguard of a cultural movement that would change the world. Dinner is on your own in Chianciano Terme this evening.

#### **Day 10 – Chianciano / Cortona**

This morning, explore Cortona, one of Tuscany's loveliest hillside villages. Serenely situated at an elevation of 1,800 feet on the crest of Mont Sant'Egidio, Cortona offers unforgettable views of the Valdichiana Plain and expansive Lake Trasimeno—one of the widest and most harmonious vistas in all of Italy. One of the twelve Etruscan cities, Cortona's central neighborhoods look just as

they did when it was a medieval city-state. The fortress overlooking the town was built by the Medicis in 1549, and it was home to noted artists Signorelli and Severini. Ancient tradition holds that the legendary Ulysses was buried here. Closer to our own forms of storytelling, it was here in Cortona that author Frances Mayes bought the home she restored in *Under the Tuscan Sun*, and the motion picture was filmed here, too, as was Academy Award-winner *Life is Beautiful*.

Your Program Director will lead you on a discovery walk through the village this morning, including visits to Piazza della Repubblica, a beautiful main square at the heart of Cortona, and the Piazza Signorelli, a bustling plaza full of restaurants, cafes, and the grand theater, Teatro dell Signorelli. Afterwards, enjoy lunch on your own and some free time to discover Cortona at your own pace.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

#### **Day 11 – Chianciano / Siena / Montecatini**

After breakfast, check out of your hotel head to the medieval walled city of Siena, built on three ridges and dominating the land between the valleys of Arbia and Elsa. Siena was a rich and powerful city during the Middle Ages, and from the twelfth century into the 16th century, its banking activities and trade in wool and textiles placed it in direct rivalry with Florence. Its influence decreased



after that time, as it spent much of its energies in defense against foreign conquerors.

Today's Siena still retains the air of the Tuscan Middle Ages. The 334-foot slender Italianate tower of the Town Hall soars from the rim of the Piazza del Campo, an inclined, central square that is one of the most beautiful in all of Italy. Surrounding this square are numerous lovely palaces dating from the twelfth to 16th centuries. Here, and throughout the city, are some of the most splendid examples of Gothic architecture in Italy.

On an included walking tour this morning, you'll wander up and down Siena's cobbled lanes, passing medieval red-brick palaces decorated by elegant Gothic frames in white marble. You'll wind your way on a three-mile route through the city, also passing the palace of Monte dei Paschi di Siena—Europe's oldest bank, founded in 1472.

Awaiting you at the highest part of the city is the splendid cathedral. As you visit the interior, note the colorful frescoes in the Piccolomini Library, painted by Pietro Perugino, the mentor of Raphael.

After your tour, you'll have some free time to explore on your own before lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, you'll depart for Montecatini and arrive in time for an orientation walk. Dinner will be on your own.

### **Day 12 – Montecatini / Tuscan Vineyard Visit**

This morning you'll explore the elegant and beautifully preserved Art Nouveau spa district, including a visit to Tettuccio Spa. Unlike spas that offer clients a soak in their curative waters, Tettuccio Spa is known for its drinkable mineral waters—claiming to cure a range of ailments. Please note: The interior of Tettuccio Spa is not available during the months of November and December.

Next, travel by funicular (when available) to Montecatini Alto, the original settlement of today's Montecatini. The wonderfully preserved medieval village is situated high above the "new" town, and offers spectacular views. After your discovery walk, enjoy lunch on your own, then ride the funicular again to descend back down into the main part of town. Please note: The funicular only



### **What's Included in the Package**

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Italy.
- Accommodations for 14 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths.
- 26 meals—14 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 6 dinners (including 1 home-hosted dinner).
- 18 included features: 11 guided tours and 7 exclusive Discovery Series events:
- Exclusive Discovery Series events, including: Olive Oil mill visit / Italy & the Camorra discussion / Home-Hosted Dinner / Local cheesemaker visit / Tuscan vineyard visit / Italy's Lucciole discussion
- Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- Personal headsets on all included and optional tours
- Private motorcoach travel on your main trip
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person
- Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers

operates between the months of April and October. For the remainder of the year, a motorcoach transfer is available instead.

You'll then have some leisure time to relax at the hotel or to explore Montecatini on your own before departing by motorcoach on a short drive through the countryside to a Tuscan vineyard. Here, during an exclusive Discovery Series event, you'll closely acquaint yourself with a vital part of Tuscany's economic and social scene as you sample a few vintages and enjoy splendid views of the vineyard during an included wine tasting and light buffet dinner.

### **Day 13 – Montecatini / Florence**

Explore legendary Florence today, set on the banks of the Arno River. Florence came into its own as a commercial and cultural center during the 13th century, when merchants and tradesmen organized guilds that commissioned works of art to adorn their churches and palaces. It was this revival of interest in art and architecture that gave birth to the Italian Renaissance, an amazing outburst between the 14th and 16th centuries that completely changed the face of this Tuscan town. The names of the great artists of Florence define the Renaissance—Dante, Boccaccio, Fra Angelico, Donatello, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo.

Begin your exploration of Florence with a morning walking tour of the city, which includes a visit to the Basilica of Santa Croce, the largest Franciscan church in the world, and the final resting place of such famous figures as Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo. And from the glorious square of the Duomo, marvel at the marble facade of the cathedral and its remarkable octagonal dome, designed by Brunelleschi, one of the most magnificent structures of Renaissance Florence. While there, you'll also view the Gates of Paradise, impressive bronze doors that intricately depict scenes from the Bible. Continue on to the Piazza Signoria, the political center of Renaissance Florence.

Enjoy lunch and the afternoon on your own to make your own discoveries. You may wish to visit one of the many fine Florentine leather showrooms. The art of Florentine leather tanning has been passed down through many generations to the tanners of today. Although machinery has changed with improvements in modern technology, many of the old dyeing techniques have remained virtually unchanged. Tonight, return to Montecatini for dinner on your own.

### **Day 14 – Montecatini / Optional Pisa Tour / Italy's Lucciole Discussion**

Enjoy a day of leisure today, making independent discoveries in Montecatini or simply unwinding at your hotel.

Or, join us on an optional tour to the city of Pisa, fa-

mous for so much more than its iconic Leaning Tower. You'll explore the Piazza dei Miracoli (the Square of Miracles)—decorated by the stunning marble architecture of its Cathedral, the Baptistery (with its marvelous echo), and, yes, the Leaning Tower. You'll stand beneath this famous tower, which brings to mind one of civilization's most illustrious names—Galileo Galilei, the genius who helped to found modern science. At the square's Cathedral, you can still view the lamp that inspired Galileo's theory of the pendulum. He used the vantage point of the top of Pisa's celebrated Leaning Tower to demonstrate principles of speed and velocity. This tour also features an included lunch.

Early this evening, take part in a fascinating and controversial exclusive Discovery Series event. Discuss how Italy's *lucciole* (fireflies, an Italian term for prostitutes) and legalized prostitution has affected today's society. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

#### **Optional Tour: Pisa - \$145/person**

Discover the city of Pisa on this optional tour. Explore the Piazza dei Miracoli (the Square of Miracles), which includes the stunning marble architecture of its Cathedral, the Baptistery (with its marvelous echo), and, of course, the Leaning Tower. At the square's Cathedral, you can still view the lamp that inspired Galileo Galilei's theory of the pendulum. He used the vantage point of the top of Pisa's celebrated Leaning Tower to demonstrate principles of speed and velocity. This tour also features an included lunch at a local restaurant. Please note: Admission to the interior of the Leaning Tower is not included on this tour.

### **Day 15 – Montecatini / Vinci**

You may be familiar with Renaissance icon Leonardo da Vinci, but did you know his name comes from the town where he was born? Today, you'll discover Vinci, a quintessentially Tuscan village, and follow in the footsteps of one of the world's greatest artists. As well as a walking tour, enjoy a visit to Museo Leonardiano, the museum of Leonardo da Vinci, and admire its collection of da Vinci's works, including drawings and models of his many inventions.

Return to Montecatini for lunch on your own and an afternoon of leisure. This evening, reconvene with your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner, where you can relive the experience you have had together.

### **Day 16 – Montecatini / Return to U.S.**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight home.



## Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

**Trip Name:** Impressions of Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany 2020

**Trip Dates:** Oct. 2020 (exact dates to come)

**Base Price (PP):** \$3,695\*

**Rd. Trip Airfare:** \$1,200\*

**Trip Insurance:** \$599\*

\* **Note** – The prices listed above are for the the current 2019 season and are subject to change for the planned 2020 trip explained in this document.

**Trip Cancellation Coverage** – Trip cancellation insurance for “Impressions of Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany 2020” is not required but is highly recommended. For details, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255 during normal business hours.

**Reservation Deposit:** The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$350 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

**Need Help?** For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure office during normal business hours at (269) 962-1255, Monday - Friday.

### TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at (269) 962-1255 A \$350 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

**Note:** The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

**Pricing Disclaimer:** *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255.*