

MERIT VACATIONS TERMS & CONDITIONS**RESPONSIBILITY**

Merit Travel Group Inc doing business as Merit Vacations, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- Your failure to advise us the name of the traveler exactly as it appears on the passport;
- Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- Personal injuries or death;
- Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within 7 days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$500 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Deposit requirements for some tours may vary. You will be advised of such cases at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed

as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited.

There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services.

Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare . If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

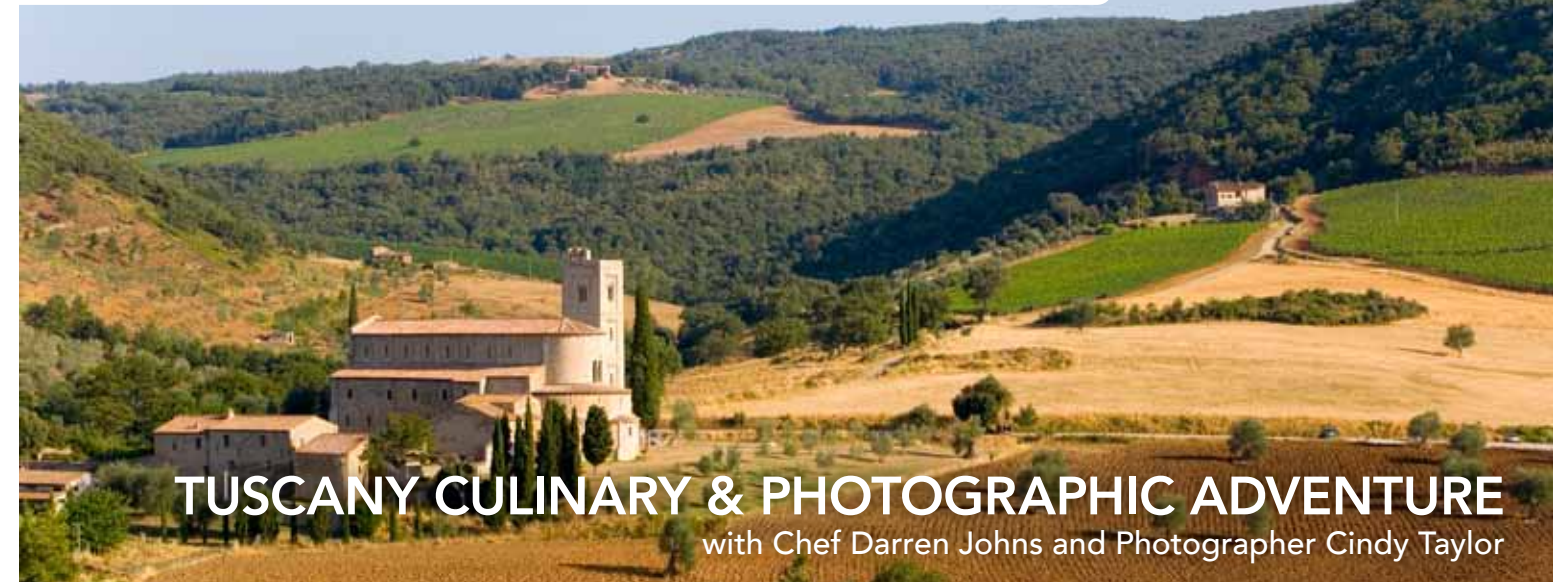
Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Vacations in writing upon your return.

Merit Travel Group Inc Reg. No: ON- 4499372/4499356
BC-33127/34799/34798 QC-7002238
200-111 Peter Street, Toronto ON M5V 2H1



TUSCANY CULINARY & PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE

with Chef Darren Johns and Photographer Cindy Taylor

7 nights

\$3,380

Departs Oct 13, 2011



Professional Chef Darren Johns and Pro Photographer Cindy Taylor are your hosts on this wonderful Culinary and Photographic adventure. Through the lens, kitchens and vineyards - you will explore the rich history and culinary traditions of Italy. Come with us as we explore the towns, streets and countryside of this richly picturesque and culinarily provocative region.

It's a rare opportunity to enjoy the life that is Italy. A luscious feast for all of your senses!

INCLUDES

- Return air
- 7 nights accommodation in Tuscany
- 12 Meals: 2 full breakfasts prepared by chef Darren Johns, 5 Continental buffet breakfast, 1 Welcome Dinner in hotel (3 courses - drinks not included), 2 full Italian dinners prepared by chef Darren Johns, 1 farewell dinner in villa in Montecatini area
- Two wine tastings: 1 wine tasting in Siena Area, 1 wine tasting in San Gimignano
- One oil tasting in Lucca
- Three cooking classes: 1 cooking class in Montecatini, 1 cooking class in Florence, 1 cooking class in Arezzo area
- Four half day guided tours: 1 half day tour in Florence (03 hours), 1 half day tour in Pisa
- 1 half day tour in Siena, 1 half day tour in Lucca
- Entrances to Santa Croce in Florence, Cattedrale in Siena & the Contrada museum in Siena
- Coach transportation throughout as per itinerary
- Professional multilanguage local tour escort
- Airport departure taxes & all local taxes

CDN\$, per person, double occupancy. Return air is from Toronto. Trip is based on min 20 participants. Single supplement add \$315.

Contact Georgia Kourakos, Product Manager
1.866.696.8591 416.364.3775 x 4259
www.meritvacations.com

merit
...for the experience

Contact Georgia Kourakos, Product Manager
1.866.696.8591 416.364.3775 x 4259
www.meritvacations.com

merit
...for the experience



merit hosted

DARREN JOHNS – CHEF, CHOCOLATIER



Darren is a Red Seal Chef and has national memberships in both Canadian Culinary Federation and Escoffier Society, both based in Toronto Canada. His diverse niche business has taken him to top 4 Star hotels in the Canadian Rockies, award winning inns, the Columbia Glacier and the Canadian Arctic on a month long expedition for a foreign film

team assignment. In 2004 a U.S. Naval assignment had him aboard the American destroyer USS Ross and the Los Angeles Class nuclear submarine USS Minneapolis St. Paul. Darren accredits his culinary / chocolate influence to his travels throughout Italy.

FULL ITINERARY

Day 1: October 13 DEPARTURE FROM TORONTO on Air Transat, Flight TS 314 departs at 8:55 p.m. arrives Rome at 11:40 a.m. the following day.

Day 2: October 14 ARRIVAL AT ROME AIRPORT.

Transfer to the Villa Pitiana hotel in Montecatini your home base in Tuscany for 7 nights. Welcome dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 3: October 15 PISA – COOKING CLASS

Sumptuous breakfast provided by chef Darren Johns

Morning at leisure in Montecatini then transfer to local restaurant for your cooking class where you will learn how to cook some local dishes. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon departure to Pisa for guided tour of the city. Return to Montecatini. Open Cooking Class with Darren Johns, or late day sunset photography workshop with Cindy Taylor. Dinner provided to all. (B, L, D)

CINDY TAYLOR – PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER



Cindy Taylor is a seasoned, award winning professional photographer who loves to travel the world and inspire others to share her passion and knowledge for the craft. She has an innate love of finding and capturing the moments that define a story. She will help you capture the essence of Italy for a lifetime of memories. No experience necessary. Beginner point and shoot to pro levels!

Day 4: October 16 FLORENCE – COOKING CLASS

Today we are off to Florence. transfer to Local restaurant for your Pizza Class followed by lunch at the restaurant. In the afternoon guided & photographic tour of the city including: Franciscan church of Santa Croce, known as the "Pantheon of the Italian Glories" where many illustrious Italians, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Machiavelli, are buried. The visit also includes the religious centre (the Baptistry, the Duomo and Giotto's Bell-tower), as well as the political centre (Piazza della Signoria) of the city. Return to Montecatini. Dinner on your own. Overnight. (B, L)

Day 5: October 17 SIENA, WINE TASTING, PHOTOGRAPHY

Morning photographic walking tour of Siena. Admire the Cathedral, the Piazza del Campo, the Town Hall, and San

Domenico. At the end of the tour immerse yourself in the magical atmosphere of the Palio through the visit of one of the " Contrada (District) Museum". Free time for lunch. In the afternoon wine tasting in local cantina. Return to Montecatini. Dinner on your own. Overnight. Pointers and photographs throughout the day with photographer Cindy Taylor. One on One time can be arranged at no charge. (B)

NOTE: Day 5 – optional day & Chocolate Tour with Chef Darren Johns.

Eurochocolate Festival In Perugia (train from villa to Perugia)

Artisan Chocolatier/chef Darren Johns will take you on a fabulous journey of taste and discovery. Journey by train to Perugia, spend the day enjoying one of life's sinful pleasures – experience and taste some of the world's finest chocolate! Perugia's annual Eurochocolate festival draws countless visitors from all corners of the world. Today, it is one of the most important chocolate festivals in Europe and features everything from theatre and music performance to cooking demonstrations and chocolate art exhibits. A highlight for most visitors is the collection of outdoor chocolate sculptures; between all the chocolate used in the artwork and all the chocolate being sold by vendors outdoors, if the weather is warm you won't be able to walk through town without breathing the chocolate-scented air.

Day 6: October 18 SAN GIMIGNANO AND CHIANTI AREA – WINE TASTING.

Early morning sunrise workshop with photography Cindy Taylor. Sumptuous breakfast provided by chef Darren Johns.

After breakfast departure to San Gimignano, famous for its towers. Time to explore the town. Then we will explore the Chianti area, the famous land of vineyards and hilltop towns. Enjoy its landscape driving through Castellina, Radda in Chianti and Greve. Visit of a local vineyard along with a wine tasting. Return to Montecatini. Overnight. (B)

Day 7: October 19 CORTONA – COOKING CLASS

Departure to Cortona area for your second to last cooking class followed by lunch. In the afternoon panoramic & photographic tour of Cortona. Return to your hotel in Montecatini. Large traditional Italian cooking class & dinner provided by chef Darren Johns. Overnight. (B, L, D)

Day 8: October 20 LUCCA – FAREWELL DINNER

After breakfast departure to Lucca for guided tour of the city. Oil tasting in local farmhouse Return to Montecatini and rest of the day at leisure. Farewell dinner in local Villa. (B, D)

Day 9: October 21 DEPARTURE ROME – TORONTO

Breakfast in hotel then transfer to Rome for your flight back to Toronto. Air Transat flight TS315 departs Rome at 2:00 p.m. arrives Toronto at 5:45 p.m. (B)