

Quilting / Painting / Cooking *Under the Tuscan Sun*

Please read:

Your flight from the US to Rome:

Please make sure you book to arrive at the airport on (or before) September 13 by 9:00 AM. Departures should be scheduled for September 20th AFTER 12PM, to allow sufficient time to get to the airport. Call 48 hours in advance to confirm your flight. You may wish to call earlier for seating preferences.

The airport:

It is strongly recommended that you arrive at the airport at least 2 hours prior to departure. Please note that the airlines have gotten very strict with their weight maximums. Most airlines have a limit of 50 lbs per bag, 2 bag maximum for checking. Check limits with your airline. Due to increased security if you have any sharp objects; rotary cutters, blades or palette knives, Swiss army knives, etc, please place them in your checked luggage

How to avoid Jet lag:

1. Drink a lot of water on the flight.
2. Avoid or limit alcohol consumption on board (promotes dehydration).
3. Resist the temptation to sleep on arrival. Instead bathe, eat a snack, have dinner, and stay awake until bedtime Italian time. There is also a product on the market called No-jet-lag you can get it on Magellan's site or at www.nojetlag.com

What to Bring:

A current US passport is necessary for entry into Italy. Please keep your passport handy and secure at all times. You will be asked to show your passport more than once. You do not require a visa. I strongly recommend using a money belt in which to keep all credit cards, money and passport, especially if you plan on spending any extra time touring on your own in me. Ask me how I know!

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Clothing:

Comfortable, casual clothing is advised. However, the atmosphere of the villa lends itself to a more elegant mood for dining in the evenings. Consider rolling your clothing, it wrinkles less and enables you to fit 30% more in the bag.

You will need:

Comfortable walking shoes; you will walk a lot

Somewhat dressy clothes for the evening

A jacket, (especially in the evenings) the weather may be variable, much like October in New York

If the weather turns warm and sleeveless clothing is called for, please have a cover for your shoulders in churches

Umbrella

Rain gear

Sunglasses

If you bring any small electrical appliances (electric shaver, hair-dryer etc.) you will require an adaptor for 110 v. available in luggage, or electrical stores and Radio shack.

Camera

Insect spray ~ those ankle biters come out at dusk

The lighting in the bedrooms is dim for reading, you may want to bring a small clip on reading light.

Most rooms have no TV.

Currency:

Euros are easily attainable through the use of an ATM in Italy (check your bank for ATM fees) as long as your bank is connected to international circuits; and/or has the Visa/MasterCard logo on it: please inquire at your home bank. ATM's have the most favorable exchange rate at this time. We are arriving on Saturday morning so it is advisable to exchange a small amount into EURO upon arrival at the airport. Airport exchange rates are better in Italy than in the USA. Alternatively, you may bring American Express Travelers' Checks; they are easily redeemable but may carry a slightly less favorable exchange rate than the ATM's.

Weather in Tuscany:

Days in mid-October can range from 71'-55', so be prepared for a range of weather.

Food and Wine in Tuscany:

Is of the optimum quality, fresh and organic. If you have dietary needs please inform us prior to your arrival. Tuscany is one of the foremost wine-making capitals of the world. And its wine is made with the minimal addition of sulfites and no preservatives. Therefore, you may find you will consume more without the usual consequences.

Telephones:

For your convenience there is a phone in most rooms and you will be billed separately for your calls. Phone calls from Italy to the USA are about one-third more expensive than the reverse. Cell phones are available for rent at the Rome airport and offer great convenience during your stay if you plan on traveling before or after the program. However they are not necessary during our program (as long as we all meet at our appointed places on time!).

Your Address and Telephone number in Italy:

Villa Barberino, Viale dei Barbarini 19
Meleto Valdarno 52020 (AR) Italy

From the USA: 011 39 055 961321: in Italy 055 961321

Please keep this information with you during our stay, and on your person during our excursions.

Please note:

Italian time is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard time. Phone calls are best received during dinner hour, between 7:30 and 10:00 PM. Most of the staff does not speak English; please have your callers ask for you clearly and slowly by name.

Bed and bath linens will be changed once weekly. Laundry service is available at an extra charge. There is a pharmacy, post office, and delicatessen outside the walls of the villa in Meleto.

The Town of San Giovanni Valdarno (10 minutes by car or bus and where the train station is located) has a cinema, post office, hairdresser, hospital, supermarket, bar, barber shop, and a selection of boutiques and jewelers.

Tap water in Italy is safe, but most Italians drink mineral water in bottles.

Please note:

Beverages are not included. You will be billed individually. At this printing Prices for frequently requested beverages were as follows:

Aqua minerale bottle E3.00

Vino da Tavola (red or white from the villas's vineyard) E10.00

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know, we will do everything we can to accommodate you.

Sincerely,
Esterita