



CHIANTI & the ITALIAN RIVIERA

featuring

**TAVARNELLE
VAL DI PESA**

San Gimignano

Florence

Siena

Lucca



**SESTRI
LEVANTE**

Portofino

Cinque Terre

Santa Margherita



An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



SPONSORED BY

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MAY 28-JUNE 6, 2011

Other dates available upon request

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In her novel “Under the Tuscan Sun,” Frances Mayes captures the romance of the Italian countryside. Endowed with a temperate climate, the Chianti region of Tuscany is blanketed with shimmering olive groves and verdant vineyards that have supported a 3,000-year heritage of savory cuisine and extraordinary wine. Its hilltop towns and villages display a historic wealth of artistic and architectural treasures. The Italian Riviera was once a collection of fishing villages, but the beauty of these towns has attracted global attention. Enjoy picturesque harbors and hillsides that erupt in the colors of pastel homes. This exploration of the land and the sea reveals characteristics of two regions that are unique, yet consummately Italian.

“THE NOBLEST PLEASURE IS THE JOY OF UNDERSTANDING.”

— LEONARDO DA VINCI, ITALIAN RENAISSANCE PAINTER AND INVENTOR, 1452-1519

Above: Florence

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience two of Italy’s best-loved regions, **Chianti** and the **Italian Riviera**.
- Learn the art of winemaking during a private tour and tasting at **Castello di Monsanto**.
- Explore the storied towns of **San Gimignano, Siena, Lucca** and **Carrara**.
- Travel the **Chianti Road** to visit the well-preserved hilltown of **Castellina**.
- See the ancient walled city of **Lucca**.
- Immerse yourself in the incomparable ambience in **Florence**.
- Journey to the picturesque towns of **Santa Margherita** and **Portofino**.
- Visit beautiful and remote **Cinque Terre**.
- Learn the secrets to preparing flavorful Tuscan cuisine during a **private cooking demonstration**.

Alumni Campus Abroad[®] Advantages

This program offers unique value-added features that promise you an outstanding educational experience in a very special environment:

- **Settle into Italy** for a stay of eight nights and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyles of two locales.
- **Two first-class hotels** provide comfortable accommodations and the perfect base from which to explore the region’s renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** during excursions and events that allow you to mingle with area residents and gain insight into everyday life in their community.
- **Informative educational lectures** are presented by local experts and **excursions** are led by knowledgeable guides.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive services for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.



Dear Alabama Travelers,

Join Alabama Alumni and Friends for an exploration of ***Chianti and the Italian Riviera***, two of Italy's most glorious regions. Begin your journey in Chianti and soak up the sun and smell of cypress and olive groves while savoring the pace of Tuscan life in San Gimignano, Lucca, Florence and Siena. Discover the coastal villages of the Italian Riviera and admire vineyards and orchards on terraced cliffs overlooking blue water.

This unique itinerary visits the region's best known attractions, as well as its hidden treasures, while allowing you the freedom to pursue your own interests. We offer the ideal balance of scheduled events and flexible free time. You'll enjoy preferred access to popular attractions, along with specially arranged cultural experiences. This program's exclusive educational programs are focused on the region, its history and its people.

This unforgettable experience is priced at an excellent value. It's the perfect combination of planned and spontaneous discovery in one of the world's most beautiful places. **Space is limited to ensure your comfort, *so make your reservations today!***

Sincerely,

Ashley Hodges
Alumni Tour Coordinator
University of Alabama National Alumni Association

"This towne ... is famous for the marble, ... as well for the exceeding whiteness of some stones, as for the length of pillars and tables digged thence...."

~ Fynes Moryson,
English travel writer,
on Carrara in
An Itinerary, 1617

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."

~ Michelangelo
Buonarroti,
Italian Renaissance
sculptor, architect, painter
and poet

"Everything in Lucca is good."

~ Hilaire Belloc,
English writer,
The Path to Rome, 1902

Seeing is believing.

~ Italian proverb

The Tuscan hills, undulating in hues of gold and emerald, have borne witness to Etruscan ingenuity, medieval power struggles and the creation of world-renowned art and architecture. During the day, discover the vestiges of Tuscany's epic history before returning each evening to a spectacular villa.

Continue your journey on the glorious Italian Riviera. Discover dramatic coastal villages and architectural treasures. Stay in romantic Sestri Levante, a gorgeous town of enticing beaches, lush gardens and converted castles. Surrounded by ancient olive groves and overlooking the sea, Sestri Levante embodies the spirit of the Italian Riviera.

DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Florence, Italy**, aboard scheduled jet service*.

CHIANTI

DAY TWO

TAVARNELLE VAL DI PESA

Upon arrival in Florence, transfer* to **Tavarnelle Val di Pesa** and the *Villa Borgo di Cortefreda*.

This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY THREE

SAN GIMIGNANO & THE CHIANTI ROAD

Excursion: A Medieval Manhattan.

Admire the 14th-century fortified town of San Gimignano's remarkable skyline. Wealthy patrician families built these tower houses as symbols of power.

Excursion: La Chiantigiana. Journey along the Chianti Road through hill country embossed with manicured vineyards and silvery olive groves. Visit Castellina, a well-preserved medieval garrison.

Local Flavor: Enjoy local specialties during lunch at a restaurant in Castellina.

Excursion: Chianti Classico. Travel through the idyllic landscapes of the Elsa Valley to Barberino Val d'Elsa and the elegant Castello di Monsanto winery.



Surrounded by 178 vineyard-clad acres, enjoy a tour and tasting of the region's wines that have evolved to the familiar table wine in round, straw-bound bottles.

Educational Focus: The Medici and Florence's Cultural Rebirth.

The Renaissance masters who flourished in Tuscany advanced European art. Take a look at this enlightened and prolific period dominated by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raffaello and other greats.

DAY FOUR

FLORENCE

B/D

Excursion: Cradle of the Renaissance.

A walking tour through Florence highlights its prodigious architecture, much of it built under the patronage of the powerful Medici family. Admire the distinctive façade of Santa Maria del Fiore, better known as Il Duomo. The Baptistry is famous for the bas-relief Old Testament scenes on its bronze doors known as the "Gates of Paradise."

Independent Exploration: The rest of the day is yours to explore Florence.

DAY FIVE

SIENA

B/L/D

Educational Focus: Contemporary Italy.

Discuss Italy's role in the European Union and its political, economic and social status.

Excursion: Gothic Grandeur. Situated atop three hills, Siena has changed little from its medieval beginnings. See the stunning bas-reliefs that adorn its Gaia Fountain, the Mangia Tower that stands 300 feet tall and the Duomo, regarded as one of Italy's greatest.





UNESCO

The historic centers of **Florence**, **San Gimignano** and **Siena**, and the villages of the **Cinque Terre**, are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program. They were designated due to universal scenic, historic or artistic value.

Cultural Event: *Tuscan Cuisine.* Villa Borgo di Cortefreda's chef demonstrates regional cooking techniques.

ITALIAN RIVIERA

DAY SIX

LUCCA, CARRARA & SESTRI LEVANTE

B/L/D

Today, depart for **Sestri Levante** and the *Hotel Vis à Vis*.

Excursion: *The City of 100 Churches.*

Chestnut and holly trees line the 16th-century wall that encircles Lucca's grid of narrow streets and many churches. It was here in 56 B.C. that Julius Caesar, Pompey and Crassus forged the First Triumvirate. The 11th-century Romanesque Cathedral of St. Martin displays a cedar crucifix reputed to be a true portrait of Christ.

Local Flavor: Enjoy local specialties during lunch at a restaurant in Lucca.

Educational Focus and Excursion:

When Marble Comes Alive. Visit the quarry where Michelangelo chose his prized marble and a museum dedicated to Carrara's renowned marble industry. Watch a local sculptor's demonstration.

DAY SEVEN

SESTRI LEVANTE, SANTA MARGHERITA & PORTOFINO B

Educational Focus: *The Riviera di Levante, A Painter's Palette.* Trace the history of this enchanting region crowned by the magnificent Cinque Terre, home to artists, writers and explorers.

Excursion: *Santa Margherita and Portofino.* Travel the coastal road to Santa Margherita, a town of colorful flowers, swaying palm trees and hillside villas. Cruise to Portofino, playground of the rich and famous, and stroll the promenade between the harbor and the brightly colored shops and houses. Admire the sparkling bay from the Church of San Giorgio, and see the medieval fortress of Castello di San Giorgio and the Punta del Capo lighthouse.

Educational Focus: *Tasteful Cinque Terre.* Sample the region's food and wine with local residents who can explain Cinque Terre cuisine.



Far left:

Florence

Center

(upper): Church
San Pietro,
Portovenere

Center

(lower):
Vineyards,
Chianti Road

Left:

Portofino

Lower left:

San Gimignano

DAY EIGHT CINQUE TERRE

B/L/D

Excursion: *Beautiful Isolation.* For centuries, rugged mountains separated the five villages of the Cinque Terre from the surrounding area. Today, it still is accessible only by train, boat or foot. Travel to pretty Portovenere on your way to Vernazza, an elegant village overlooking the azure water. Marvel at Genoese towers and the Gothic Church of Santa Margherita d'Antiochia. A train takes you to Riomaggiore, where colorful houses cover the hills. Walk along romantic *La Via dell'Amore*, a paved trail that reveals breathtaking vistas of the glistening sea and coast. At the trail's end, admire the homes that cling to the cliffs in Manarola. Return to Sestri Levante by train.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Vernazza.

Educational Focus: *Meet the People.*

Meet some friendly local residents for a chat about life in Italy today.

DAY NINE

SESTRI LEVANTE

B/D

Independent Exploration: The day is at leisure to explore Sestri Levante or to pursue other interests.

This evening, attend a *Farewell Reception* and *Graduation Ceremony* before dinner.

DAY TEN

B

After breakfast, transfer to the Florence airport for the return flights to your gateway city.*

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

** Provided for Air Program participants.*

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- Four nights in Tavnarnelle Val di Pesa at the first-class *Villa Borgo di Cortefreda*.
- Four nights in Sestri Levante at the first-class *Hotel Vis à Vis*.

Meals

- Enjoy an extensive meal program, including eight breakfasts, four lunches and seven dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at featured local restaurants.
- Gather at a **Welcome Reception and Dinner** at the hotel.
- Attend a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony**, followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For full details, please refer to the Day-by-Day Itinerary.)

- Informative educational programs presented by local experts to enhance your insight into the region.
- All excursions:
 - Journey to **San Gimignano**.
 - Travel the **Chianti Road** to **Castellina**.
 - Tour the **Castello di Monsanto** winery and enjoy a tasting.
 - Explore Renaissance **Florence**.
 - Admire Gothic **Siena**.
 - Discover **Lucca** and **Carrara**.
 - Travel to **Santa Margherita** and **Portofino**.
 - Explore the **Cinque Terre**.
- Attend a **private cooking demonstration** by the chef at the hotel.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and **expert English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

ITALY

Portofino
Santa Margherita
Carrara
Lucca
Sestri Levante
Cinque Terre
Tavarnelle Val di Pesa
San Gimignano
Florence
Castellina
Siena

ACCOMMODATIONS



VILLA BORGO DI CORTEFREDA

TAVARNELLE VAL DI PESA

Ideally located in the Tuscan countryside — in the village of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa near the city of Siena — the *Villa Borgo di Cortefreda* combines the charming ambience of a scenic country estate with state-of-the-art technology and comfort. Situated atop a hill, it features a marvelous view of the beautiful Chianti Valley. Hotel amenities include a restaurant and bar, fitness room, sauna, large outdoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi. Its air-conditioned guest rooms feature a direct-dial telephone, satellite television and a minibar.



HOTEL VIS À VIS

SESTRI LEVANTE

This hilltop hotel commands breathtaking views of the water and is close to local shops and other places of interest. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the garden or enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool. Relax on the terrace and watch the sunset. Enjoy culinary delights in the hotel's restaurant and a stunning panorama of the surrounding scenery. At the end of the day, retire to the comforts of your guest room. Each is tastefully appointed with individual climate controls, satellite television, a minibar and a direct-dial telephone.

Reserve your trip to Chianti & the Italian Riviera today!

For Office Use Only: B #: _____ Date: _____
Trip #: 7-19533W PSR: _____

Send to: Chianti & the Italian Riviera
Ashley Hodges
University of Alabama National Alumni Association
P. O. Box 861928
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017
Phone: 205-348-1547 Fax: 205-348-5958

Please contact AHI Travel at 800-323-7373 with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
Title First Middle Last Class Year

(2) _____
Title First Middle Last Class Year

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$325 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Land and Air Program

- I/we reserve the Land Program and request the roundtrip Air Program to and from Florence, Italy, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure.***

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by March 14, 2011 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

Need pre- or post-trip assistance? *

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact **AHI Travel at 800-323-7373** no later than **60 days prior to departure** and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

* A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

LAND PROGRAM

May 29-June 6, 2011

Full Price

\$3,045

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price

\$2,795*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$125 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$325 (limited availability).

AIR PROGRAM

May 28-June 6, 2011

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific Group Air Schedules for this departure utilizing round-trip, scheduled jet service from North America to Florence, Italy.

Those participating on these flights will enjoy motor coach transfers between the arrival/departure airport abroad and the hotels, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your *Reservation Confirmation*, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your *Final Invoice* approximately 90 days before departure. Prices quoted to you will include all domestic and foreign governmental airport departure taxes and fees and any applicable fuel surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive **Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance**, subject to policy terms.

NEW ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan now offers a low-cost **Any Reason Cancellation** feature. Book worry free!

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS - On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

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Top to bottom:
 Magnificent view of the Mediterranean, Portovenere Cathedral, Siena
 Ponte Vecchio, Florence
 Italian Renaissance painting, Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Cover photos:
 Vineyard, Chianti
 Vernazza, Cinque Terre



A word about your Tour Operator

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 48 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.** Benefit from the expertise of local guides who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into the local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



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University of Alabama National Alumni Association

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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.