

Media Trip Itinerary

Tuscany and its golf courses

Golf, Wine & Gourmet in Tuscany
November 1st - 6th, 2011

Program

Day 1 – Arrival in Pisa airport, transfer to the beautiful 5 star hotel, Bagni di Pisa Natural SPA Resort, check-in. Welcome cocktail party with delicatessen from the **chocolate valley**. The chocolate valley is the name that experts give to the valley in between Pisa, Pistoia and Prato. Artisans and artists of chocolate work in this and have made their specialities famous in the world.

Day 2 – Morning: Transfer to **Castelfalfi golf course**. *At the Mountain Course (par 72, 6,351 meters) both front and back nine begin and end south of where the clubhouse is located and are built so that golfers can experience the stunning views, no matter which nine they play first. Thanks to the existing woodland, the Mountain Course is structured so that, with few exceptions, one has the feeling of individuality on each fairway. The topography of the land, its incorporation into the landscape, the design of hazards, and the different orientation of each fairway give them an individual character and make them highly memorable. In particular, breathtaking holes such as number 9 and 18, which dive down to a peninsular green in the direction of the Castello, provide a real enrichment to a game of golf.*

– round of 6 holes –

Afternoon: Visit the amazing medieval town of San Gimignano.

Taste of one of the most popular specialities of the region: **Truffles!** The Tuscan production of truffles covers about one third of the national association of truffle-sellers who annually, in the month of November, organise an exhibition-market where it is possible to admire the most beautiful, and fragrant, examples. This fungus-tuber loves fresh terrain, proliferate at the roots of the broad-leaved trees, growing at about 20 cm., in depth, the harvesting season goes from late summer to the beginning of winter. Its particular hypogean fungus condition, its strong and intoxicating perfume and its unusual and decisive taste, make it the 'prince' in respect to all other natural foods: there is no other product, actually, in nature which has the same evocative force, the same fascination, even a little sinister, and morbid taste.

Transfer to beautiful UNA Palazzo Mannaioni. Special Truffle dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – Morning: Transfer to **Ugolino Golf Course**. *Considered one of the most suggestive Italian golf courses and included on Chris Santella's list of the Top 50 most beautiful in the world. The Florence Golf Club, is the oldest establishment of its kind in Italy, designed by the British architects Blandford and Gannon, on the Via Chiantigiana in 1933. Naturally very sloping, this course presents many challenges with plenty of obstacles, bunkers and small putting greens.*

The course is only 5676 meters (or 6207 yards) in length, but this does not mean that it is an easy one. On the contrary, it can be difficult but stimulating for golfers of all levels who will find many unusual hazards to be overcome on this green. The course follows the natural features of the rolling Tuscan hills, which makes for many ups and downs, and it is bordered by trees.

– round of 6 holes –

Afternoon: **Chianti region** Tour, visit of famous wine property Ruffino and wine tastings.

With no doubt Tuscany is one of those wine regions that give some of the most important reds in the world. It is a region full of tradition, but in continuous evolution since the introduction of international grape varieties and the use of the French barrels that became common in the seventies. Beginning in the 80's and through the 90's the new wines, Super Tuscans, were a peak for Tuscan wine producers growing wines with an international taste that gave a very good name to the area.

Transfer to majestic Castle Montemasso property of the Folonari family, important wine producers in Tuscany, gala dinner and overnight.

Day 4 – Morning: Morning: Transfer to **Poggio dei Medici Golf Course**. *The landscape is that of olive trees and cypresses dotting the Tuscan hills, not to mention hayfields and poppy fields. The course at Poggio dei Medici, which derives its name from the land (“poggio” means hillock), was constructed around the stunning hotel and was designed by the architect, Alvise Rossi Fioravanti, and the professional golf player, Baldovino Dassù. It allows for golfers to play up to four different rounds of golf on its 18 holes, all the while taking in the gorgeous views and catching amazing glimpses of the Tuscan countryside. Home of the Italian Women’s Open from 1999 to 2003, is a world-class Golf Course of modern design.*

After the game a wonderful **Olive Oil Experience**. Learn how do you recognize good olive oil in the oleoteca you can discover your hidden talent by taking a short olive oil tasting course. Our expert will show you how to warm special ampoules containing small quantities of oil in your hands so that you can appreciate its fragrance, and then teach you to recognize the characteristics of the oil by tasting it using special ceramic spoons

Afternoon: Transfer to **Le Pavoniere golf course** *Designed by Arnold Palmer, the world-famous golf player, the golf course at Le Pavoniere stands out both for its harmony with the surrounding landscape and the linearity of its layout. Its design allows for a relaxing round of golf while still providing all of the excitement of a demanding game. The course is filled with lots of water hazards, long fairways, and greens made up of rolling hills to make it truly challenging.*

- 6 holes round-

Dinner at Le Pavoniere. Departure to Pistoia, overnight

Day 5 – Morning: Transfer to **Montecatini golf course** *The outline of the course measures around 6000 meters (around 6405 yards) and follows the natural contours of the land, creating a difficult and challenging course, quite undulating, with natural obstacles and hazards which are sure to put any golfer’s skills to the test for at least five of the eighteen holes. The first nine holes are characterized by olive trees which follow the tricky doglegs of the fairways and the edges of the course while the second half of the course also offers striking images of the Mediterranean landscape, not to mention the colors and perfumes coming from the abundant amount of heather, broom and laurel. There are two lakes on the course, making the course even more complicated.*

- 6 holes round –

Afternoon - Guided visit of **Pistoia**. Relatively undiscovered this city as very many secrets jewels. The city centre is a well-fortified medieval complex, from its walls, still intact in some parts, down to its centre where the magnificent Piazza del Duomo is located. It appears both austere and majestic, almost magically concealed from the many little streets that have kept their medieval aura. The hospital, dating back to year 1200, was at first just one of several institutions making up the city's health system but it was to become, especially during the terrible plague year narrated by Boccaccio, the most powerful welfare organization in Pistoia, thanks also to the estates and donations that it received. Confirmation of this prestige can be seen in the fact that in the late 1400s the Ospedale became the object of bitter fighting between opposing factions. Renovation of the hospital recently bring back to light a unique and intriguing city basement that witnesses the urban development since the roman oppidum Pistorum which gave birth to the actual Pistoia. This amazing site is still yet unknown by the mass of tourists that come to Tuscany every year but it is to become an important and unique attraction of the region.

Day 6 – Morning : Check-out and transfer to the airport.

