

Conquering Cuisine by Denis Chiappa presents...

Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside

with Optional 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

April 11 – 21, 2026



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! See inside for details.

For more information contact
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Small Group Travel rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

11 Days • 15 Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Rome, Spoleto, Olive Oil Mill, Assisi, Home-Hosted Lunch, Truffle Hunting, Pecorino Cheese Farm, Pienza, Orcia Valley, Pasta Factory Visit, Bagno Vignoni, *Brunello* Wine Tasting, Siena, Florence, San Gimignano

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Day 2	Kolbe Hotel Rome, Rome
Days 3 – 5	Hotel Dei Duchi, Spoleto
Days 6, 7	Hotel Corsignano, Orcia Valley
Days 8 – 10	Villa San Lucchese, Tuscany

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1: Saturday, April 11, 2026 Overnight Flight On a journey through Italy's roads less traveled, discover its endless treasures from Rome to Umbria to Tuscany, and the marvels of wine, cuisine, culture, and history in between.

Day 2: Sunday, April 12, 2026 Rome, Italy Italy's dynamic capital city beckons. Get a taste of the local culture and start your journey at a delicious welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Monday, April 13, 2026 Rome - Spoleto - Umbria Olive and cypress trees accent the Umbrian hill town of Spoleto. Stroll the historic streets with a local expert and see centuries of architectural history, from the ruins of the Rocca Albornoza castle to the gilded elegance of the Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta. Pause at a family-owned *frantoio* (olive presser), where olives are pressed each November.* After learning about the many varieties of trees and oil-making methods, join a tasting of the EVOO produced at the mill. Then, take in the splendors of country life in a pristine Umbrian hill town, your home for the next 3 nights. (B, D)

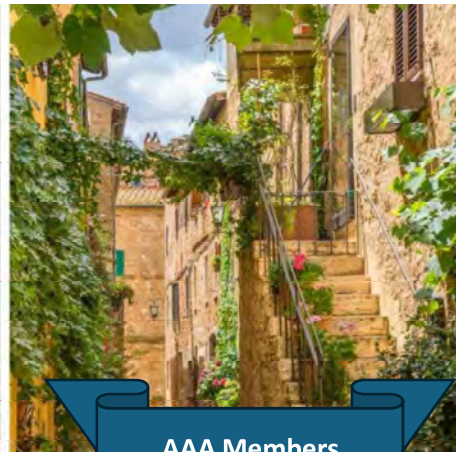
Day 4: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Umbria Pre-sunrise, consider an optional balloon flight over the Umbrian countryside.** Your included program instead, takes you to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Set out on a walking tour of the old city with a local guide, learning about its history as you stroll the medieval streets. Visit the famous Basilica of St. Francis. Later, a local family welcomes you to their country home for lunch as their honored guest. Share stories and make an Umbrian friend (or two). (B, L)

Day 5: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 Umbria In the shadow of the Apennines, experience Umbria's epicurean side. Join a local truffle hunter in search of the elusive *funghi* in the company of his trained, truffle-sniffing dogs. Sample the goods yourself during a rustic, home-cooked lunch before returning to your hotel in the late afternoon. (B, L)

Day 6: Thursday, April 16, 2026 Umbria - Pienza Leave Umbria for the villages of Tuscany, nestled among the rolling hills and cypress trees of the Val d'Orcia region (UNESCO). Taste the flavors of the region at a dairy farm producing prized sheep-milk *pecorino* cheese. Snack on some of the cheesemaker's creations and take in the views of the sparse farmhouses and open fields on your way to Pienza (UNESCO), a Renaissance village where flowers and plants adorn the cobblestoned streets. The evening is yours to eat, drink, and explore the local scene. (B, L)

Day 7: Friday, April 17, 2026 Pienza Embark on a culinary journey through the undulating landscape of the Orcia Valley. Begin your day with a visit to an artisanal pasta factory, producing the local specialty – *pici* – with its organically-grown wheat. Pause in the unique hamlet of Bagno Vignoni, whose central piazza is filled with thermal water once used to cure pilgrims who stopped here on their way to Rome. Then explore hilltop Montalcino, namesake to one of Italy's great red wines, the *Brunello*. Tour a winery's estate and cellar before indulging in a multi-sensory tasting, pairing wine with music. Back in Pienza for an afternoon at leisure, maybe you'll explore the countryside along one of the many white roads that cut through the farmland. (B)

Day 8: Saturday, April 18, 2026 Pienza - Siena - Chianti Region Take a guided walking tour through Siena, delving into the local history as you learn about the world-renowned Palio Horse Race. Enjoy free time to explore more of this hilly town, perhaps visiting its cathedral or the town hall's frescoes. An afternoon drive through Tuscany's Chianti Region takes you to the restored Tuscan villa** where your hotel is located. (B)



**AAA Members
receive an additional
\$50 off per person!**

Per Person Rates*:

Double \$5,919; Single \$6,519; Triple \$5,869

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Newark Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$1,690; Business Class \$4,190

- * Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by AAA Vacations®. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

Day 9: Sunday, April 19, 2026 Chianti Region Explore Florence, the “Cradle of the Renaissance,” during an extensive walking tour in the company of a local expert. View the Ponte Vecchio, the only Florentine bridge to survive WWII. Take in the Signoria Square and its imposing Palazzo Vecchio, where, for over 300 years, the Medici Family ruled over the city. Admire the Piazza del Duomo, richly adorned by polychrome marble and gilded bronze doors. Take some time on your own*** to explore the city’s seemingly endless treasures, before returning to your Tuscan villa in the evening. (B)

Day 10: Monday, April 20, 2026 Chianti Region Spend your morning in San Gimignano, whose 13th-century medieval

towers stand tall over the surrounding vineyards. Nicknamed “the Manhattan of the Middle Ages,” San Gimignano’s towers soar over the landscape making its distinctive skyline stand out against the rolling hills. Taste authentic Italian gelato from an award-winning ice cream parlor while you wander the cobbled streets and gaze up at the imposing towers during time at leisure in this Tuscan gem. Return to your hotel mid-afternoon. As the sun begins to set, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner of Tuscan specialties. (B, D)

Day 11: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 Chianti Region - Tour Ends Your journey through Tuscany and Umbria comes to a close today in your restored Tuscan villa. (B)

Experience It! The Orcia Valley

Travel off the beaten path and discover the Orcia Valley, home to the quintessential rolling hills of Tuscany. Visit the Italy of your dreams as you wind your way through vineyards, farmlands, and endless green landscapes. Cypress trees dot the skyline, sprinkled between rows of vines and flowers. This UNESCO World Heritage Site’s landscape has been sought after since the time of the Renaissance, passing down through generations of farmers. One of its most beloved towns – Pienza – was the former home of Pope Pius II. Today, find flowerbeds and potted plants adorning the cobblestone streets, integrating the area’s natural beauty into everyday life. Another one of the region’s main towns is Bagno Vignoni, whose unique central piazza is filled with thermal water due to a nearby extinct volcano.

EXTEND YOUR VACATION WITH

Optional 4 Days 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$999.00 USD double, \$1,299.00 USD single, land only

**For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit
gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1306777**

PLEASE NOTE:

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 16 people (maximum of 24).

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

In Italy, some of our hotels and most unique sightseeing can mean accessing smaller towns or country roads that limit or restrict motor coach access, especially in the historic areas of Spoleto, Assisi, Siena, San Gimignano and Florence. The latter requires a minimum 2.7 miles (4.3 kilometers) of walking over flat but cobblestoned streets with narrow sidewalks. The truffle hunting activity takes place in the countryside on unpaved paths and in wooded areas. To participate you must wear comfortable walking or hiking shoes. Waterproof shoes are recommended as mud and puddles are common in the area.

Most national museums in Florence are closed on Mondays.

*Olives are picked over a period of approximately 45 days. The exact starting and ending day depends on the weather and can vary from mid-October to mid-December.

***Due to the extensive walking required in Florence, free time will be limited to approximately 3 hours, during which, you may wish to visit the Academy or the Uffizi Museums. Both are closed Mondays, and both require advance reservations as tickets are often sold out on the day, or close to the day of visit. If you are interested, we recommend that you purchase tickets online, prior to departure, through the museum's official website. You can expect your included walking tour to conclude by 1:00 p.m. and you will meet again for departure to Montecatini around 4:00 p.m. If booking tickets for one of the above museums, allow yourselves 30 minutes to reach them from the end point of your walking tour and 30 minutes to return to the meeting point in the afternoon.

When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

**Villas and country estates in Tuscany are dotted throughout the region and we use different properties on this program. Some may be located in the countryside, removed from a city center. Still others may be closer to the hustle and bustle of the region. Each one is unique, full of history, with many amenities, and brimming with true Tuscan flavor. This is part of the fun!

**If you join the optional balloon ride, you will miss the included guided tour of St. Francis' Basilica in Assisi. Although you will have some free time for a quick visit on your own before rejoining the rest of your group. This optional tour is not suitable for people suffering from vertigo. There are minimum height and maximum weight restrictions (minimum height is 4 feet, 6 inches or 140 centimeters; maximum weight is 220 lbs. or 100 kg). You will be required to sign a waiver prior to take off.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Our departure transfers will depart from Tuscany region to either Florence or Pisa airport.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.



Our air passengers will arrive into Rome airport and depart from Florence or Pisa airport.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Effective for travel in May 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of August 05, 2025 are based upon availability. Final payment due by January 11, 2026. Deposits are refundable up until August 12, 2025.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

**For important reservation information visit
gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1306777.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**



162 Middle Street
Pawtucket, RI • 02860
Phone: 1-888-344-5578 Fax: 1-401-727-9014

BOOKING NUMBER: 1306777

TOUR: Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside *featuring Italy's Charming Hill Towns*

DEPARTURE DATE: April 11, 2026

GROUP NAME: Conquering Cuisine by Denis Chiappa

Available Options

AAA Vacations® Complimentary Inclusion:

Receive up to a \$50 credit to use toward the optional tour of your choice

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Assisi

Early Morning Hot Air Balloon Ride and Prosecco Breakfast \$270 USD

As the sun rises, soar above the gentle hills of Umbria in a hot air balloon. Departing the hotel at daybreak, a short transfer by minivan takes you to the balloon launch site. After a safety briefing with your pilot, jump into the balloon's basket for a memorable flight above the Umbrian countryside. The flight path and duration are dictated by the winds, so be prepared to go with the flow! Take in the landscape dotted with farms and villages as it awakes and changes color with the sunrise. Enjoy the feel of the wind on your face, the thrilling roar and heat from the balloon's burner as you ascend, and the rustling sound of the balloon's fabric and occasional woosh of the burner reigniting throughout the ride. After your landing, transfer to a local winery, where the owners will host you for a prosecco paired breakfast, and then continue to Assisi.

If you join this optional tour, you will miss the included guided tour of St. Francis' Basilica in Assisi, but you will have some free time in town for a quick visit on your own before rejoining the rest of your group this day. This optional tour is not suitable for people suffering from vertigo. There are minimum height and maximum weight restrictions. You will be required to sign a waiver prior to take off. This option must be booked at least 30 days prior to departure. *Duration: Approximately 4 hours.* Transportation is included. (Due to weight limitations on this option, for passengers weighing over a certain weight, there will be a 220% increase in the rate.)

Extend your vacation with

Optional 4 Days 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$999.00 USD double, \$1,299.00 USD single, land only
3 Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner

Day 1: Overnight Flight

You are on your way to the eternal city of Rome.

Day 2: Rome, Italy

Arrive in Rome, enjoy time to get settled into your hotel and acquaint yourself with the area on your own. Perhaps you'll explore the nearby neighborhood of *Trastevere*, Rome's medieval heart.

Day 3: Rome

Delve into Rome's classical heritage during a walking tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum in company of an expert guide. Make the most of a free afternoon in Italy's capital city before tasting your way through Rome's beloved *Monti* district during an evening tour of its favorite pizza parlors. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 4: Rome

Start your morning with a stroll in Rome's Renaissance and Baroque gems. Meander through Rome's streets all the way to the top of the Spanish Steps for a view over the rooftops and pause to toss a good luck coin into the Trevi Fountain. Conclude your extensive walking tour in the oval-shaped Piazza Navona before enjoying an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening, meet with your fellow travelers to start off your exploration of the Tuscan and Umbrian countryside. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Please Note:

The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3. This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable as is climbing 3 flights of stairs. You can handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time. This level is not a fit for travelers that require mobility assistance devices.

Fully-guided extensions are perfect for travelers who want the complete experience of a new destination and local experiences. Travelers will have a dedicated guide throughout this entire extension.

The space on this extension is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Applicable charges may apply at time of request.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The Vatican Museums are closed on Catholic holidays and Sundays, except the last Sunday of each month when admission is free of charge. The Vatican Museums are one of the most popular sites in Rome. Tickets are in high demand and are difficult to obtain on the day, or close to the day of visit. If you are interested, we recommend that you purchase tickets online in advance through the museum's official website. Tickets should be purchased for the arrival day or for the afternoon of your second day in Rome.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Air inclusive rate is valid for guests who have purchased our air package for the full tour, depending on the air schedule selected. Rate may vary for those who have purchased their own air.



Special Needs Form

Please complete this form, sign and return it to us within 14 days of receipt.

Email TravelOperations@memberchoicevacations.com

Fax 401.727.4745

Mail Member Choice Vacations: Travel Operations
180 Middle Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

TRAVELERS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

You must report any disability requiring special attention to AAA Member Choice Vacations at the time the reservation is made. *AAA Member Choice Vacations will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants. Such participants, however, should be aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside of the United States and facilities outside the United States for disabled individuals are limited. It is strongly recommended that persons requiring assistance be accompanied by a companion who is capable of and totally responsible for providing the assistance. Neither AAA Member Choice Vacations nor its personnel, nor its suppliers, may physically lift or assist clients into transportation vehicles. If a traveler thinks he or she might need assistance during a trip, he or she should call AAA Member Choice Vacations to determine what assistance might reasonably be given. AAA Member Choice Vacations cannot provide special individual assistance to tour members with special needs for walking, dining or other routine activities. Internationally, a great deal of walking may be necessary to fully enjoy the destination. Travelers should be in good health and must be able to walk reasonable distances. In some areas, travelers may be required to walk on uneven ground, cobblestone streets or raised thresholds.

****To request a wheelchair accessible room on a cruise, the traveler or person sharing the room must have a recognized disability that alters a major life function and requires the use of a mobility device and the use of the accessible features provided in the wheelchair accessible stateroom. The cruise company may take appropriate action against someone who has reserved or purchased such a stateroom fraudulently. Action may include but is not limited to removal from the stateroom to a non-accessible accommodation up to denial of boarding.***

Reservation # _____

Name: _____ Male or Female (circle one)

Are you traveling with a wheelchair? Yes No

If you answer "YES"

- Does your wheelchair collapse? Yes No
- Can you stand and climb steps to board the coach without it? Yes No
- Are you capable of lifting your own wheelchair? Yes No

If you are not capable of lifting your own wheelchair who will provide assistance?

This form cannot be processed without the dimensions of your wheelchair:

Height _____ Length _____ Width _____

Are you traveling with a walker? Yes No

If you answer "YES"

- Does your walker collapse? Yes No

This form cannot be processed without the dimensions of your walker:

Height _____ Length _____
Width _____

Tour Managers and drivers do not provide assistance lifting, pushing or carrying wheelchairs or walkers.

Motorized scooters are not permitted on tour.

Are you requesting any hotel room accommodations? Yes No

If "YES" Please indicate if one or more of the following is required in the washroom.

- Walk-in shower Yes No
- Grab bars Yes No
- Raised toilet seat Yes No

Please provide any details in reference to the nature of your request.

Most hotel rooms that can accommodate the request will be equipped with only 1 bed.

Do you understand and accept? Yes No

AAA Member Choice Vacations cannot guarantee the availability of such rooms as many hotels have a limited number of rooms that are equipped with the above accommodations.

Are you traveling with an oxygen tank? Yes No

If you answer “YES”

- You must contact the airline directly to arrange transportation of the oxygen on the plane. Oxygen requests vary by airline and location and can take up to 2 weeks to request.
- You are responsible for supplying your own electrical cords, and converters as needed.

This form must be remitted within 14 days of receipt for any special needs accommodation request.

The Americans with Disabilities Act only applies in the United States. Many international destinations cannot accommodate passengers’ requests. AAA member Choice Vacations will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants but we cannot guarantee that all requests will be honored on international destinations. AAA Member Choice Vacations also regrets that it cannot provide individual assistance to a tour member with special needs for walking, dining or other special personal needs. It is strongly recommended that persons requiring assistance be accompanied by a companion who is capable and totally responsible for the assistance.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Internal Use Only

Reason: _____

Tour: _____ Reservation # _____

TS/Group: _____

Tour Date: _____