

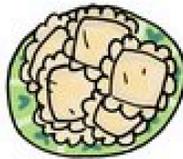
# ITALY

UMBRIA – FLORENCE – CAMOGLI

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pasta col  
pesto



ravioli



polenta



focaccia



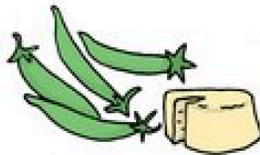
spaghetti



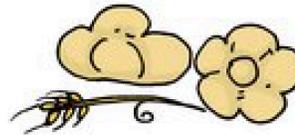
gnocchi



pizza  
margherita



fave e pecorino



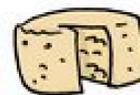
rosette



mozzarella



vino



parmigiano

## DAY 1 – ROME TO SPELLO

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Self-drive approximately 2.5-hours to your villa in **Spello**. Check-in is at 4:00 PM. Please call the villa owner's assistant, at least 45-minutes before arrival and she will meet you in the parking lot.

For breakfast, we can stock the villa in advance at additional charge. There is a nice little coffee shop in the center of town and a bakery up the hill to buy brioches to bring home.

There are many things to do and places to explore in Umbria. Suggestions for how to spend your days in the area are included in your packet, see *The Towns & Villages of Umbria*.

A table has been reserved for dinner at **La Cantina di Spello**, the best in town and just 5-minutes walking distance from the villa.

## DAY 2 – SPELLO

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**10:30 AM:** A special Sunday **cooking class** with a local chef will take place at the villa today. Sara will arrive around 10:30 AM and you will enjoy a lunch of what you've prepared this afternoon. From homemade pasta to various antipasti dishes, fresh bread and of course typical Umbrian desserts—you'll have a chance to prepare it all!

A table has been reserved for dinner at **Ristorante Il Pinturicchio**, a traditional Umbrian restaurant less than 5-minutes walking distance from the villa. Confirmed with Andrea on 7/18.

## DAY 3 – SPELLO

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At leisure in Umbria. Suggestions for things to do and see on your own will be provided in your final packet.

## DAY 4 – SPELLO

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**10:15 AM:** Self-drive from approximately 45-minutes from Spello to an ancient Umbrian village, surrounded by mountain forests and pastures that have been owned since 1486 by the family that you will spend the day with.

You will be met by the family's expert truffle hunters and a pack of highly-trained (and very friendly) dogs as you head further into the mountain forests to begin the truffle hunt. As the

dogs get to work you're surrounded by stunning views in every direction, and after about an hour of hunting you will stop in the hills for a truffle sampling accompanied by a glass of prosecco.

Return to the village, where Francesca will lead you to the pasta room. Here you'll watch her prepare traditional fresh pasta, as you sample homemade salami, prosciutto and pecorino cheese.

The day ends with a long Umbrian lunch which includes the homemade pasta, a meat dish and of course vegetables from the farm.

## DAY 5 – SPELLO TO FLORENCE

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Self-drive approximately 2-hours from Spello to **Florence** today. Please note that check in at the hotel is at 2:00 PM. You may wish to make a stop in **Arezzo** en route.

We will reserve a table for dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Arno River this evening.

## DAY 6 – FLORENCE

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**9:00 AM-1:00 PM:** After breakfast, you will be met at the hotel by your guide and driver for a half-day exploring beautiful Florence.

The driver will be with you from 9AM-11AM for a transfer to Piazzale Michelangelo for the first stop, and later back to the city where you will continue the day with your guide on foot.

Michelangelo, Leonardo, Botticelli and Brunelleschi have all passed through the streets of Florence, a city best-known for being the seat of Renaissance art. Florence is the ancestral home to silk weavers, leather makers and silver workers—this is a city of creativity and commerce.

The first stop today is **Piazzale Michelangelo**, then back to the city center, where you will visit the **Duomo** (*the Florence Cathedral, visit the interior if time and line allows. For the Duomo there is a mandatory queue for everyone and we cannot skip the line*) with the famous Brunelleschi Dome and its square, the Baptistery doors and the Giotto Bell Tower.

Your guide will leave you at a local spot for lunch following the tour, and the afternoon is yours to explore and shop around Florence.

On your own this afternoon, you might visit the **Museo Galileo**, housing all sorts of instruments, globes, maps and telescopes (two of Galileo's originals!). The museum highlights the life and

discoveries of the scientist who influenced the religious, scientific and philosophical thinking of his time.

## DAY 7 – FLORENCE

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**9:00 AM-3:00 PM:** After breakfast, you will be met at the hotel by your guide for a half-day tour focused on the city's Renaissance art and architecture.

*\*Please note: For all guided visits and tours we will have pre-purchased tickets, meaning that you will be "fast-tracked" to the entrance. Please make sure to carry photocopies of your passports with you.*

Your first stop is the **David Statue**, followed by the **Uffizi Gallery** (which houses paintings by Botticelli, Leonardo, Michelangelo and many more).

After the Uffizi, you may visit one or two of the following locations based on your interests:

- Pitti Palace (Raphael, Titian, Rubens and many more artist, paintings)
- The Bargello Museum
- Dante's neighborhood and Piazza San Firenze
- Santa Croce square and Basilica (visit to the interior) which is home to Michelangelo's tomb (many famous people including Galileo, Machiavelli and Rossini are buried in this church).

Your guide will leave you at a local spot for lunch following the tour.

A table for dinner this evening is reserved at a Florentine trattoria that is popular with locals.

## DAY 8 – FLORENCE TO CAMOGLI

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Self-drive approximately 2.5 hours from Florence to **Camogli** today. Please note that check in is at 2:00 PM.

**Camogli** is a charming fishing settlement sandwiched between Genoa and Portofino. The village's multicolored buildings have been painted according to fresco and *trompe-l'oeil* techniques, and it is said that sailors and fisherman used the colorful facades as a point of reference when at sea.

A table has been reserved for dinner at **Da Paolo**, a lovely seafood restaurant (you can ask for a simple pasta with tomato or pesto sauce as well) tucked away down an alley in Camogli.

## DAY 9 – CAMOGLI

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**11:00 AM-2:00 PM:** Food blogger and expat (expert!) guide Elizabeth will meet you at the hotel for a 3-hour tour that focuses on specialty foods and snacks of Liguria.

Follow Elizabeth in your rental car to **Recco**, where you will taste the best of what the region is known for: **focaccia**! From there, you'll visit a local winery in **Riva** for a brief tasting before continuing on to **Sestri Levante** where you'll taste a handful of traditional foods. The experience ends, of course, with gelato. Your time with Elizabeth is not only about food, as she will provide you with historical context and knowledge of the area.

## DAY 10 – CAMOGLI

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**9:00 AM-2:00 PM:** A private boat is confirmed for a **5-hour excursion on the water today**, departing from and returning to Camogli. The boat is suitable for day trips around the Golfo del Tigullio, including Santa Margherita, Portofino, San Frattuso, Punta Chiappa and Camogli—an excellent way to experience Liguria's dramatic coastline.

Lunch is served onboard this afternoon, and you'll have time to swim and further explore before returning to Camogli.

A table has been reserved for dinner this evening at a quaint little restaurant located in the hills above Camogli, approximately 15-minutes by car from your hotel.

## DAY 11 – CAMOGLI

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A very **special cooking experience at a local restaurant** is on today's agenda. The restaurant is located approximately 15-20 minutes by car from Camogli.

The day begins over homemade cookies and cappuccinos, as the restaurant owner describes for you the day ahead. You will begin by preparing dough for the focaccia, in addition to local dishes such as vegetable torte (typical quiche), pesto, lamb shops, chicken, porcini mushrooms and of course lots of desserts including gelato and tarts.

While the focaccia bakes you will be led through the kitchen garden, after which you'll have a light brunch on the terrace accompanied by house-made beer. In the afternoon, you'll have time to explore the area and/or return to Camogli (between 2PM-8PM) before dinner back at the restaurant this evening, around 8 PM, during which you will taste everything that you prepared this morning.

## **DAY 12 – CAMOGLI TO MILAN**

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Self-drive approximately 2.5 hours from Camogli to **Milan**, where we suggest spending at least two days to experience the city before your return home.