



Tuscan Countryside, Florence & Rome **September 15 – September 23, 2018**

The splendor of Italy is the destination of dreams. Our perfect retreat in the country, paired with the highlights of Rome, is just the combination to introduce you to some off the-beaten-track activities, as well as world renowned sites. Our week is packed with majestic scenery and enriching experiences. Your personal STI Concierge will be the professional and bilingual, Sharon Richardson. We can't wait to meet you, so get ready to create unforgettable memories with new STI friends in Italy!

We recommend that you print this document as well as the itinerary on the website and take it along with you. It's filled with detailed information from emergency contacts to what to wear. If you have any questions after reading, call us (877) SOLO TRIP (765-6874) or send us an email at service@singlestravelintl.com

SOCIALIZE

Update your STI Profile and Meet your Travel Mates!

Start meeting your fellow travel mates and plan your week in Italy. Plan your vacation and make new friends. To access the Trip Chat, simply log in at www.singlestravelintl.com, select Italy in the "Destination" drop down on the home page and click "Find Trips", then "Learn More" once you see the Tuscan Countryside, Florence & Rome. Scroll down to see the "Trip Chat" and "Who's Going" This is really cool! Try it now, so you know who's who when you get to Rome! Update your profile so that we have your latest travel "wish list" and preferences. Be sure to add your photo to make it more fun for your fellow travelers!

Get Connected!

"Like" and "Follow" us today so you're ready to stay connected everywhere!

#STISingles is not just a hashtag, it's a real destination! Add #STISINGLES to any message, video or photo album post on Facebook to share your journey with your fellow travelers, friends at home and the STI Community!

@singlestravelinternational links your posts back to our page as well. Give it a try!

STAY CONNECTED! SHARE PHOTOS AS WE GO: TAG #STISINGLES

www.Facebook.com/SinglesTravelInternational

www.twitter.com/stisingles

www.Pinterest.com/SinglesTravel

www.Instagram.com/SinglesTravel

****GETTING THERE****

Travel Day Emergency Contact:

If you need assistance during your travels, contact Singles Travel International (Monday-Friday, 9-5 EST) at 877-SOLO-TRIP (765-6874), and press 0 for the first available agent. After hours and weekends, call or text Tammy Weiler, 815-715-6998.

Passports and Visas

A passport is required to travel and must be valid for at least 6 months after return (March 23, 2019). If you do not have one or need a new one, US travelers may contact the US State Department Passport Office in your area immediately or visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/>. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for required documentation. Please check with your local consulate for any needed passports or visas for entry into each country on our itinerary. We recommend that you also make a copy of your passport and carry it with you on your trip packed in a separate location.

Airport

If we've made your flight arrangements, you received an e-ticket confirmation at the time of booking. We recommend that you print your boarding pass from the airline website 24 hours prior to departure. It is required that you check in at the airport at least 2 hours before departure, and you present your valid passport.

At the airport, remember you may change your original seat assignment, and this is the best time to do it for all flights continuing on the same day. Verify that the airline has a record of your frequent flier number on the reservation. Abide by the airline's carry-on luggage restrictions, and note that all liquids, gels and aerosols must be in three-ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are not allowed. All items must be stored in a clear, 1 quart, zip lock bag.

Baggage

Recently, major airlines have changed their policy regarding checked baggage. We recommend that you visit your carrier's website or call them directly for up-to-date information about baggage allowance, weight restrictions and fees.

Delayed Luggage

In the event that your checked luggage is delayed upon arrival, please make your claim with a representative from your arrival carrier, prior to leaving the baggage claim area. Complete the appropriate paperwork to allow them to trace your luggage, get a copy of the report and request a contact number. Once you have completed the claim, inform your STI Concierge, Sharon Richardson, so she may assist with the situation.

Transfers

Round-trip transfers are not included in our tour. We recommend Rome Airport Transportation for private door to door service and a driver waiting in arrivals. You must book online in advance on their [\[website.\]](#)

Post your flight information to our chat to find a share. Rates are better with more riders. Otherwise, the one-way rate is 48 Euros. Other options include taxi (approximately 40 Euros one way), train (14 Euros one way) or shuttle. Details available on the [[Rome Fiumicino Airport website](#)]. All rates are subject to change at any time.

Departures: Once on tour, your STI Concierge Sharon will assist with coordinating your individual transfers back to the airport in Rome.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Savoy Hotel Rome – September 15-18, 2018

Address: Via Ludovisi, 15, 00187 Roma, Italy

Phone: +39 06 421551 (dial 011 from the US)

Website: <http://www.savoy.it>

Internet Access: Wi-Fi available, fees may apply

Accommodations: Classic or Standard Room – Small but great location!

Hotel Villa Casagrande – September 18-21, 2018

Address: Via Giovanni Battista del Puglia, 61, 50063 Figline Valdarno Firenze, Italy

Phone: +39 055 954 4851

Website: <http://www.villacasagrande.it>

Internet Access: Wi-Fi access available, fees may apply

Accommodations: Standard Rooms, Varied

Hotel Cellai – September 21-23, 2018

Address: Via 27 Aprile 14, 52/R, 50129 Firenze FI, Italy

Phone: + 39 055 48 92 91

Website: <http://www.hotelcellai.it/>

Internet Access: Wi-Fi access available, fees may apply

Accommodations: Standard Rooms, Varied

Rooming List

Additional Stay in Rome - Savoy – September 14, 2018		
S/Janice		Single

Main Tour Rooming List		
C/Alfred	Mike H.	Double
C/Nancy		Single
F/Kelly	Jeanne M.	Double
G/Elaine		Single
I/Donna		Single
K/Alyson		Single

M/Diane	Yvonne M.	Double
N/Susan		Double
P/Thomas		Single
S/Janice		Single
W/Teresa		Single

Tuscan Cooking Dinner (11)

September 19, 2018

Nancy C.
Kelly F.
Elaine G.
Mike H.
Donna I.
Alyson K.
Jeanne M.
Susan N.
Tommy P.
Janice S.
Teresa W.

****ITINERARY****

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Welcome to Italy! Transfer on your own to our hotel and enjoy the day in Rome, the #1 travel destination for singles! Catch up on jet lag and enjoy your free day. Our STI Concierge, Sharon, will be on site to help make the day a success.

6:00 p.m. Meet Sharon and your fellow travelers at the Terrace Garden Bar & Restaurant on the rooftop of the Hotel Savoy. Enjoy the view as Sharon fills you in on the week ahead and offers helpful tips for traveling in Tuscany, Florence, and Rome. Then, take a short walk in the vicinity of our superbly located hotel followed by a light dinner in a nearby restaurant (included in our package). Overnight at the Savoy Hotel.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. Buon giorno! Our morning begins with breakfast (included) at the **Café Ludovisi** in our hotel, before we begin our half day walking tour of Rome, with a guide!

9:15 a.m. Meet in the hotel lobby ready to go with comfortable walking shoes and some Euros for lunch.

9:30 a.m. Our tour begins and includes Piazza di Spagna, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Piazza Venezia, the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. During our tour, we will stop for an espresso around late morning, break for lunch (at own expense), and stop off for a gelato in the afternoon! We'll also make a stop at the Trevi Fountain for good luck!

Our tour comes to a stop in the late afternoon and you will have a bit of time on your own before dinner. Sharon is on hand with recommendations.

This evening, join your STI Concierge, Sharon, and new friends at a local restaurant serving Italian specialties (at own expense)! Overnight at the Savoy Hotel.

DAY 3 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Our morning begins with breakfast (included) at the **Café Ludovisi** in our hotel.

1:15 p.m. Meet in our hotel lobby for an afternoon of touring the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica! Our tour is approximately 4 hours touring the famous museums in Vatican City, which house some of the most renowned classical sculptures and pieces of the Renaissance art in the world! Marvel at the Sistine Chapel and the beautiful ceiling masterpiece by Michelangelo and the Stance di Raffaello, decorated by Raphael. Note that this is a change from our original schedule with the Vatican in the morning.

The dome ceiling of St. Peter's Basilica is a big part of the Rome skyline, being the largest church in the world! It is an Italian Renaissance church and contains the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture. Its beauty is unmatched.

The rest of the day/night is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Immerse yourself in the beauty of this cultural city! Overnight at the Savoy Hotel.

****GENERAL INFORMATION****

Weather and Attire

For up-to-date weather information, visit www.weather.com. September is a great time to visit Italy with temperatures in the low to mid 70s. The climate in Tuscany is generally very mild with differences depending on the geography of each area. The warmest months are generally July and August, while June and September offer nice, warm weather in general, without it being too hot. Of course, there are always exceptions or dry spells that cause a few days to get really warm.

Pack lightweight clothes that may be worn in layers, as well as a sweater and a jacket for evenings, as a safeguard. The style of dress may be casual for touring in the daytime, but the Italian's are stylish. If you plan to blend in, leave those Nike's at home! Add a scarf to your wardrobe, men included. ***Please note that bare shoulders must be covered and shorts/skirts must come down to your knees, for the Vatican Museum Tour and entry into St. Peter's Basilica.**

Do not pack cameras or laptops/iPads in your checked luggage, and leave your expensive watches & jewelry at home. You are traveling in an unknown environment, and it is best to avoid attracting attention to yourself or to create temptation. Rome is known for gypsies, be very attentive at major tourist attractions.

Laundry may not be available at all locations, and we recommend that you travel light. Bring a small packet of laundry detergent for a quick rinse of personal items.

Packing List

Take only what you need, don't over pack. Save room for souvenirs and purchases. Pack flat and full to avoid wrinkling. Bring wardrobe basics; mix and match around one or two colors. Don't pack anything valuable, fragile or perishable. Evenings aboard the ship are sometimes cool due to the air conditioning, so a cover up is essential if you tend to get cold easily. Label your luggage with an outside tag, and place an identification card inside each suitcase.

- A smile and an open-minded attitude
- Notepad, reading material and a travel journal to write all about your “Under the Tuscan Sun” experience.
- Bathing suit, we have our own indoor pool!
- Sunglasses, sun block, sun hat or visor
- A good, comfortable pair of broken-in walking shoes
- A pair of shoes for restaurants (loafers, sandals, etc.)
- Ladies will want to bring a nicer warm wrap and gentlemen a nicer jacket, for evening wear.
- Water Resistant Jacket with light lining and/or collapsible umbrella, just in case
- Toiletries: all your daily essentials
- Prescription medications: sufficient supply for the entire trip plus legible written prescription in case of loss. Keep medications in their original, labeled container. Always pack your medications in your carry-on bag!
- Eyeglasses, contacts, contact lens solution. You may want to bring along a written prescription for your eyewear in case of loss.
- Over the counter medications: cold remedy, aspirin/pain reliever, antacid/stomach upset remedy, Band-Aids, money or other anti-bacterial medication.
- Travel alarm clock with illuminated face
- Small, Swiss Army type utility knife. Remember to pack this in your checked luggage!
- Home address book (smart phone with contacts) for sending postcards to all your friends who said they'd go but didn't! A useful tip is to pre-write or print names and addresses of people to whom you want to send postcards on sheets of self-adhesive labels. It saves time and space in your luggage.
- Photography Equipment: Bring a sufficient supply of film, cards, extra batteries and/or chargers.
- A European adapter and converter for your electrical gadgets.

What if?

What happens if you get a flat tire on the way to the airport, an unwelcome bug decides to hit you with a nasty cold or you have to cancel your vacation to take care of a loved one? Last minute conflicts occur all too often with members. If an unexpected event causes a change of plans, you are able to recoup your investment if your vacation is protected. Please email Nancy at nweeks@singlestravelintl.com today for a quote. It's more reasonable than you think!

If you have purchased travel insurance, make sure you take a copy of your policy and emergency contact phone numbers with you in case you need assistance.

Electrical Current

If you have additional devices such as curling irons, electric razors, laptop, camera/phone charger, we recommend that you bring an adapter and converter. Although some hotels will supply adapters on a limited basis, our experience is that it is more convenient to have your own. Below is some practical advice to assist you with the different scenarios.

The electrical current in Italy, like the rest of Europe, is at 240 volts, unlike the 120 volt system we use in the States. Electrical equipment like the charger for your digital camera, a laptop, or a shaver will probably have a transformer built in, in which case, somewhere on the device, it will say something like "INPUT: 100-240V". In this case, all you need is an adaptor for the plugs with blade connectors used in the States to the Euro plugs with 2 rounded pins used in Europe. Other electrical equipment which cannot handle 240 volts will be stamped somewhere with something such as "INPUT: 120V". In this case, you'll need a transformer to convert the 240 to 120, in addition to the adapter, which allows your 2 flat prongs (US) to plug into the socket with 2 rounded pins (Euro). Warning --If you plug in such a device without a transformer, you will get your own fireworks display with sparks and smoke, not to mention possibly blowing the breakers in the facility.

Virtually all laptop computers and some electric razors take universal voltages. Check your equipment to be sure. If the only electric device that you plan to take with you is an electric shaver, you may consider buying a different model which accepts universal voltages, to avoid carrying around a heavy and bulky voltage adapter. Always be sure to check with the manufacturer of the appliance for proper use and conversion. ***Note: At the Villa Casagrande, they only have sockets with 3 prongs and adapters with 2 prongs do not fit in 3 prong sockets.**

Cell Phones and Calling Cards

If you plan on using your cell phone, contact your cellular carrier to verify that your phone is adequate for international usage and to add on a limited time international rate plan to insure better rates. The technology standard is different overseas; therefore, your cell phone may be incompatible or incur high international roaming fees. Your cellular provider will be able to inform and assist you with determining if your phone will work while on vacation. If you access the Internet as you travel, email, Skype, WhatsApp, or Viber are the best modes to communicate and save money.

If you are planning on making telephone calls to the States, and will not have a cell phone, we recommend that you purchase either in the States, or while abroad, a telephone calling card. Beware: the use of the hotel room phone WILL incur high surcharges. When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, you may also use a prepaid calling card; normally, the only additional charge (besides the prepaid long-distance charges) is a local fee of a few cents and possibly a connection fee if you are using your card at your hotel. It is best to check with the hotel's reception desk prior to making phone calls to avoid unexpected charges.

Money/Exchange

The currency used in Italy is the Euro.

Exchange Rates: The exchange rate for the Euro fluctuates often. You may find the current exchange rates in the financial sections of newspapers and on the Internet. You may also find a

number of websites by typing “foreign exchange rates” in your search engine. Two specific websites are: xe.com and money.cnn.com/markets/currencies.

Currency Exchange: Many locations will accept major credit cards, but for incidentals and small vendors you will need some local currency. ATM machines will dispense local currency for internationally accepted ATM cards and/or credit cards. They are usually conveniently located in large cities, but are limited in smaller towns and rural areas.

You may exchange cash and traveler’s checks for local currencies at hotels, banks and exchange bureaus. Banks offer the best rates, but beware, hours are limited in Italy. They are generally open from 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2-5 p.m.

You may purchase Euros from your local bank in advance or get a small amount on arrival at the airport. There is always an exchange at airports.

We recommend that you bring a combination of \$3-500 USD depending on your spending habits for meals and shopping, as well as a debit card for withdrawals and a major credit card, preferably VI or MC.

Credit Cards: Your credit card will be accepted to settle your incidentals bill at all hotels and in major shops and restaurants.

****INCLUSIVE FEATURES****

- 8 Nights Accommodations: 3 Nights in an Historical, [14th Century, Villa Hotel in the heart of Tuscany](#), 3 Nights at the Savoy Hotel in Rome, Perfectly Located Just off the Via Veneto and 2 Nights at the Hotel Cellai in Florence.
- 8 Breakfasts (B); 2 Wine Tastings (WL & WD), 1 Lunch in Siena with Wine (WL) and 3 Dinners (D) including Welcome Dinner in Rome, Heavy Italian Appetizers with Wine (WD) Tasting at our Villa and Farewell Dinner with Wine in Florence! Lots of time to join friends, try new cuisine and meet some locals.
- Services of a Professional Bilingual, English/Italian Speaking Concierge throughout our Tour
- Additional Services of EXPERT LOCAL GUIDES in Rome and Florence
- All On Tour Transportation via Deluxe Motor Coach or Minibus with Air-Conditioning
- Hotel Taxes & Service Charges
- **Visits with Tours in the Following Cities: Visits with Tours in the Following Cities:**
 - **ROME (3)**
 - STI’s LOCAL EXPERT narrates to us through the highlights of the “City of 7 Hills” on our morning walking tour.
 - Tour of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St Peter’s Basilica.
 - **FIGLINE VALDARNO/TUSCANY (3)**
 - **Optional Cooking Class and Dinner with Wine** Produced on the family farm. Three hour “ Tuscan Cooking Class” where we will learn the basics of traditional Tuscan cooking as well as savor the foods prepared by us!
 - **SIENA** – STI’s LOCAL EXPERT takes us on a Private Tour of this ancient city with plenty of time for lunch and shopping.

- **FLORENCE (2)**

- STI's LOCAL EXPERT joins us for an insiders perspective of this art inspiring, Italian city. VIP access to the Academy Museum to see The David. Our tour continues with visits to Romanesque church of Santa Croce, burial place of Michelangelo, Galileo and Rossini, the incredible cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Ponte Vecchio, the legendary 14th century bridge, Piazza della Signoria, featuring a copy of the statue of David and medieval Palazzo Vecchio and a breathtaking view of the city from up high in Piazzale Michelangelo.
- Day at leisure day to give you time for museums, exploring or to shop the biggest names in fashion as well as unique, local boutiques!

Inclusive features are subject to revision at the discretion of STI. Ages listed are not meant as a restriction, but are simply used as a guideline. Singles Travel International does not guarantee the number of guests, ages or ratios.

Not Included in Our Tour Package

Our tour does not include airfare, 6 dinners, transfers, optional excursions and extra hotel nights before or after the tour. You are responsible for alcoholic beverages (except when included in STI events), incidentals such as laundry and phone calls, plus gratuities to STI staff (\$15 per day) and local guides.

It has been our experience over 24 years that the best possible quality of service is achieved when our Concierge Team is compensated by tips from our delighted members. This is their best incentive to make your vacation an exceptional experience. You will have an opportunity to reward your STI Concierge at the end of your tour. It is customary to tip, but of course, gratuities are at your discretion and are greatly appreciated for a job well done!

Tour Etiquette

We are all here to have a fun, memorable vacation. With many personalities onboard, we want to keep the itinerary flowing to make sure we include all aspects of the program. We have a few tips to keep the trip enjoyable for all.

>>Be Respectful

A huge complaint results from people talking and not paying attention while a presenter or guide is speaking. We know everyone is excited being in such an amazing place, and meeting new friends. It proves disrespectful to the guide, as well as the other travelers that are trying to hear what's being said.

>> Mind the clock

There will be many opportunities to exit the motor coaches while on tour, but please remember the time the guide allows. With a busload all waiting for one or two people, impatience may grow. Tours are based on a strict timeline encompassing many components, so we would hate for the guides to have to eliminate a portion of the activities to make up for lost time.

>>Fragrance Free Zone

Over the course of the tour, we will be in close contact with each other while on the coaches. Be respectful and please refrain from wearing colognes, perfumes, and scented lotions when on bus tours or in closed-in meeting spaces. We love that you smell so good, but some of our members may have sensitivity to fragrances.

>> Have Fun!

Good Manners make for more pleasant travel mates. If we all make a conscious effort to lend to good tour etiquette, everyone has more fun.

>> Be On Time!

Since this is a group trip, it is important that you are on time for all group meetings and departure times. Our itinerary is subject to change due to operational needs per the local tour operators and circumstances beyond our control, which may vary from what is printed here.

Play Nice

For the benefit of everyone on our cruise vacation, Singles Travel International reserves the right to accept or reject any vacation participant and to remove any participant whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the other participants. Singles Travel International will not refund or cover any cost or expenses incurred for termination of vacation arrangements due to unacceptable behavior such as Verbally Abusive or Offensive Language, Inappropriate or Abusive Behavior, Uninvited Physical Contact, Solicitation, Harassment, Vandalism, Theft, Violence, Unsafe Behavior, Discourteous or Disruptive Behavior, Consuming Alcohol to Excess (thus impairing one's judgment and reducing one's ability to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations), Carrying Weapons, Explosives or Other Dangerous and Prohibited Items.

Our members and other guests aboard a cruise ship, on tour or in the general public arena do come from different and diverse backgrounds. It is important that everyone have a common understanding of the behavioral standards in place at their destination. Singles Travel International is obligated to obey the Guest Conduct Policy of each cruise line or tour company on which our members participate on vacation. It is our responsibility to report every incident of concern to protect the safety and well-being of all members of our group. Singles Travel International is not responsible in any way for the outcome resulting in the cruise line or tour company decision to alter or terminate the vacation of one of our members. Singles Travel International will not refund or cover any cost or expenses incurred for termination of vacation arrangements as a result of that decision.

E-Survey | Earn \$\$\$ Toward Your Next Vacation

Upon return from your vacation you will receive a mini electronic survey via email. Our future growth and success depends entirely upon how well we serve you. Please use this survey to give us your comments and constructive criticism. *Please answer each item independently without letting a particularly good or bad experience in one area affect your ratings in another area.*

This survey is confidential and reviewed by our entire team. Thank you in advance for helping us maintain our status as the #1 singles travel company!

Complete the survey in 7 days and receive a promo code for \$25 off your next vacation. Double your rewards! Add a 5 Star Review on our Yelp and Google Review pages for a second \$25 bonus.

[Yelp Review](#)

[Google Review](#)

What's your next vacation? Have you made your plans yet for this year? Check out our [STI 2019 Calendar!](#)

EARN \$25 FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER YOU REFER WHO BOOKS A TRIP

Keep in Touch

Stay in touch with new friends via the **STI Community Page** on our site. Search for your group, **Tuscan Countryside, Florence and Rome – Sep 2018**, under Booked Trips. The profiles for your entire group will display. Click each profile to make “friends” and send a message.

**** Share pictures throughout your tour and afterward by adding #STISINGLES to each Facebook post and to your personal Facebook album. ****

We're looking forward to making this your most memorable vacation. Of course, if you have any questions before you go, e-mail us at service@singlestravelintl.com or please call us at (877) SOLO-TRIP (765-6874).

Bon Voyage!

The Crew at Singles Travel International

www.singlestravelintl.com

877-SOLO-TRIP

877-765-6874

A place to express yourself...

www.Instagram.com/SinglesTravel

www.Twitter.com/stisingles

www.Facebook.com/SinglesTravelInternational

www.YouTube.com/SingleTammy

www.linkedin.com/in/singlestravelinternational

<http://pinterest.com/singlestravel/>

<http://blog.singlestravelintl.com/>