



A Taste of Italy

The Ultimate Food Lovers Journey to Italy

With Iole Agüero

September 5-14, 2019

"You may have the universe if I may have Italy."
Giuseppe Verdi



Fine aromatic wines, rare Renaissance art, colorful outdoor markets and undiscovered medieval villages await you on this culinary adventure to Italy.

Discover Lucca, Bologna and Venice. Sample Italy's sumptuous wines and participate in three cooking classes taught by respected Italian chefs! On this small group adventure, you'll relax in the charming hill town of Lucca, enjoy a day in the Cinque Terre, explore Italy's celebrated culinary capital of Bologna and enjoy the flavors of Venice. Hosted by Master Chef Iole Agüero, this one-of-a-kind food and wine extravaganza promises to be a trip of a lifetime!

JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Fly to Florence

3 Nights Lucca, Puccini's Lucca

3 Nights Bologna, Emilia Romagna (*Italy's Culinary Capital*)

3 Nights Vivaldi's Venice



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS!

- A splendid Vivaldi concert in a baroque church in Venice
- An exclusive tour of the museum of Ancient Instruments of Bologna where Mozart studied and Rossini lived
- Cheese and balsamic vinegar tastings with the producers
- Three cooking classes
- Excursion to the towering Tuscan hill town of Lucca
- A full day exploring the Cinque Terre
- An interesting group of art, food and wine lovers



IT'S INCLUDED

- Hosted by chef Iole Agüero
- Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions program director
- Charming, centrally-located hotels
- A 48 hour ferry pass in Venice
- Private guided museum tours by local experts
- Transportation aboard an air-conditioned mini coach
- All breakfasts, plus 9 multi-course meals featuring regional specialties served in local bistros and neighborhood restaurants
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Mouthwatering wine, balsamic vinegar and cheese tastings with the producers
- Gratuities for your driver, guide and local guides
- Entertaining Italian lessons en route
- Pre-trip educational reading/video and packing lists
- Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions

NOT INCLUDED Airfare, alcoholic beverages with meals, any meals not mentioned, room/mini-bar service, gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, items of a personal nature and anything not listed in the “Included in your Journey” section above.

TRIP FACTS

10 Days/9 Nights (*not including air travel*)

\$4,395 per person double occupancy land (based on 17 passengers*)

\$979 single supplement

Trip begins in Florence on September 5

Trip ends in Venice on September 14

*\$200 small group comfort charge applied for 12-16 guests.



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RESERVATIONS: Please call Earthbound Expeditions or visit us online. A \$500 deposit is required to secure your space. Deposits are fully refundable for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. A \$75 per person processing fee applies to all cancellations.

SAVE UP TO \$200

Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 ♦ Pay your final balance by check and save \$100

YOUR CULINARY JOURNEY BEGINS...

Day 1: September 5 - Florence to Lucca, Tuscany

Though often teeming with tourists, Florence is still well worth the intellectual and physical effort, for inside the city walls lies one of the world's greatest collections of paintings, architecture and sculpture. Simply said, the city contains the entire history of the Renaissance. Works by Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Brunelleschi and their fellow masters sit side by side in Florence's world renowned galleries.



If you have not already spent time in Florence, or simply love this city, we suggest that you arrive a day or two early and soak up the sites before meeting your host, Iole Agüero, and fellow traveling companions this morning at 9am.

Once we have gathered everyone up we'll depart for Puccini's Lucca via the walled city of San Gimignano. Enjoy a welcome wine tasting in San Gimignano and a bit of time to stroll this historic medieval gem before continuing on to Lucca. *Sleep in Lucca (B, L)*



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Day 2: September 6 - In Pursuit of Puccini

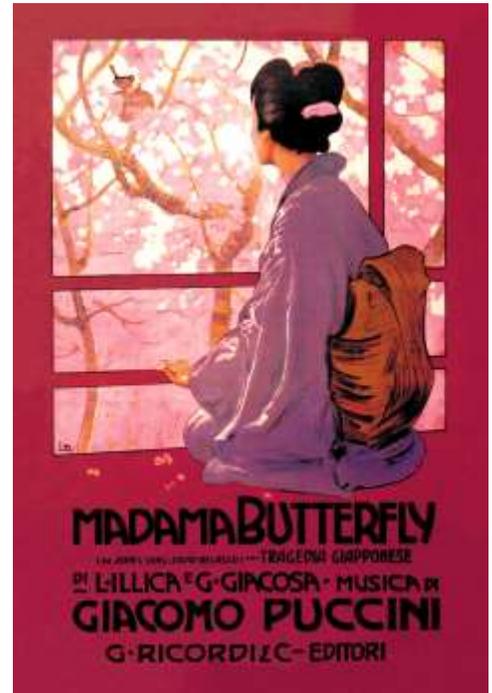
Puccini, one of nine children, was born Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini in Lucca in Tuscany, in 1858. The Puccini family was established in Lucca as a local musical dynasty.

Puccini was given a general education at the seminary of San Michele in Lucca, and then at the seminary of the cathedral. In 1880, at the age of 21, Puccini composed his Mass, which marks the culmination of his family's long association with church music in his native Lucca.

Today, we'll walk in Puccini's footsteps by visiting the very home where Puccini was born and after, enjoy a cooking class with a local chef!

For lunch we will dine in a restaurant loved and frequented by Puccini himself.

Sleep in Lucca (B, L)



Day 3: September 7 - West to the Cinque Terre



This morning we set out to experience the jewels of the Italian Riviera. Nestled at the base of jagged cliffs, these five ancient fishing villages hug the dramatic Mediterranean coastline, set apart from the outside world and its rigors. Today, sample the world's best pesto, take a dazzling coastal walk and stroll some of Italy's most charming seaside villages. Return to Lucca in the evening. *Sleep in Lucca (B, D)*

Day 4: September 8 - Modena, home of Balsamic Vinegar

The music of Toscanini, Monteverdi, Verdi, Pavarotti and Stradivarius will forever be associated with the province of Emilia-Romagna. Not only is this region one of the great centers for music, but the area surrounding Bologna also produces some of Italy's most celebrated cuisine, produce and artisanal products.

Savoring the region's edible art is on the program for today and you'll be having tastings with the producers of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese and visiting a family estate to sample authentic Balsamic vinegar de Modena. We continue on to Bologna in the late afternoon. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*



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Day 5: September 9 - Flavors of Bologna



Your day of gourmet delights begins when you meet your knowledgeable English speaking guide in the city center of Bologna. The largest city of the Emilia-Romagna Region, Bologna is rich with architecture, history, student life and artisan food products. Your guide will show you a fascinating side of the city that most tourists never discover. Together you will visit several historic bottegas (small specialized food shops) and begin your taste adventure by sampling their products. Hear the stories and legends of Bologna as you pass through the covered walkways and side streets. Next up is the historic medieval market, a one-of-a-kind foodie experience! See the huge rounds of mortadella, flavorful ciccioli and sausages and the mouthwatering chocolate treats found only here. A fun, informative cooking class will be offered this afternoon. *Sleep in Bologna (B, D)*

Day 6: September 10 - A Taste of Bologna

Today is another culinary rich day in Bologna. After an included lunch you'll be treated to one of the world's greatest collections of musical instruments and manuscripts at the "Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale." Here you'll find Rossini's original *Barber of Seville* score, Mozart's exam which he took and failed while in Bologna, and original portraits of Vivaldi, Rossini, Farinelli and many others important to the history of music. After the museum visit, enjoy another delightful cooking class with a respected local chef.



Your afternoon is free to shop and explore Bologna. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*

Day 7: September 11 - North to Romantic Venice via Parmigiano-Reggiano tasting

After we depart Bologna this morning we'll stop to meet the producers of local Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese. Then, after a delicious tasting we continue our drive north.



Bursting with baroque cathedrals, outdoor markets, islands and piazzas, Venice is the perfect place for us to end our culinary journey of Italia. Home to Casanova, Vivaldi and Marco Polo, Venice was the single most powerful city state in 13th century Europe. With an economy equal to that of France it is no wonder Shakespeare located his "merchants" in Venice. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our centrally-located hotel. This evening we'll enjoy a Venetian feast fit for Casanova himself. *Sleep in Venice (B, D)*



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Day 8: September 12 - To Market, To Market!

Our day begins with a fascinating tour of the Rialto market and the Piazza San Marco with our local guide. These are the very streets where Vivaldi and Marco Polo used to stroll. Together we'll learn why Venice was one of the great centers for the culinary arts in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

Enjoy an independent lunch and free afternoon before meeting your host for an evening out of the town.

Cicchetti (pronounced chee-KET-eeh) are Venice's answer to Milan's aperitivo and to Spain's tapas. They're small plates of food, usually nibbled over glasses of wine and among friends in the evening or at lunchtime and are served at *bàcari* (BAH-car-eeh) - small, local bars hidden all over Venice. What's on the plate depends on the place; some *bàcari* lean toward fried offerings, while others specialize in fresh fish, meats, cheeses... the list goes on.

We'll make a whole meal out of cicchetti by ordering several plates and even starting a cicchetti "crawl" at a couple of different places! *Sleep in Venice (B, D)*

Day 9: September 13 - Exploring Venice on your own

Now that you have gotten to know Venice a bit, today is yours to explore on your own. We can suggest hopping a ferry to Murano or Burano, visiting La Fenice opera house, and walking about the historic Jewish ghetto or the Venetian Arsenal. You may wish to climb the towering *campanile* (bell tower) for a spectacular view of the city. The day is yours to do as you please, or for embracing the Italian notion of *Dolce far Niente* - the sweetness of doing nothing!



Meet your host and guide early this evening for a farewell feast followed by a concert featuring Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. *Sleep in Venice (B, D)*

Day 10: September 14 - Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Arrivederci tutti! Whether you stay on to see more of Venice, or return to the US, we wish you a very safe and pleasant journey.

~ JOURNEY DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ~



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RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

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RAVES & REVIEWS

Here's what former guests are saying about this small group journey!

"I have two albums of 300 pictures of memorable moments and they're all wonderful! The trip was well planned and led, well paced and exceeded my already high expectations."

Lynne Apple

"The itinerary was excellent, without prolonged bus rides, and providing a chance to tie together different areas within the broader region. For example, we had an opportunity to understand the ancient rivalry between towns, and to even flavor the nuances of the different wines in Umbria and Tuscany."

Peter Wray

Most memorable moment? "A candle light dinner in the courtyard at castle di Modanella where our tour companions cooked and I supplied linens and table setting with fresh picked wild flowers."

Judith Zylkowski

Most memorable moment? "Group potluck dinner at Castello di Modanella – good food, good wine, full moon, trip to Grappa factory/butcher shop/Verrazzano winery."

Connie Bigbie

"I talk about – rave about Earthbound Expeditions constantly and am looking forward to another "magical adventure"."

Jean Chavez



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Earthbound Expeditions offers customized overseas adventures for universities, museums, garden clubs, and numerous public radio stations. Earthbound Expeditions is committed to supporting environmental education, local small businesses and providing guests with a one-of-a-kind, authentic travel experience. Whenever possible, Earthbound reserves locally-owned hotels, utilizes the talents of local lecturers, and dines in family-owned establishments. Earthbound also supports projects like the Children's Eternal Rain Forest of Monteverde, Costa Rica, the Soweto Youth and Development Project of South Africa, the *Mama Rosie Orphanage in Cape Town and is assisting families and projects in Cambodia and the USA.*

Environmental Commitment

Through Earthbound's proud partnership with the Carbonfund.org, Earthbound Expeditions makes annual donations so as to help offset a guest's carbon footprint. For every guest who signs up on an Earthbound Expedition, \$50 will be donated back to the Carbonfund.

The Carbonfund.org motto, "Reduce what you can; offset what you can't" fits perfectly with Earthbound Expeditions' long established philosophy of supporting locally-owned businesses, promoting education and embracing the concept of "slow" travel.

By using a simple carbon calculator, Carbonfund.org is able to determine the size of your carbon footprint for any specific domestic or overseas adventure. You then may purchase carbon credits. These credits go towards supporting (1) renewable energy, (2) energy efficiency and (3) reforestation projects.

For more information see: <http://www.carbonfund.org/Calculators>.

Listen to Matthew's travel advice & stories on KNKX-NPR Public Radio:
<http://knkx.org/term/going-places-0>



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