

Gardens & Villas of Tuscany

Benefitting the Kansas State University Gardens



with Troy B. Marden Travel

www.troybarden.com

Dates: October 23 – November 3, 2024

Cost: \$7,500.00 per person, ground package only, airfare not included. Guests will schedule their own round trip airfare into Florence, Italy, from the U.S. and out of Rome, Italy, returning to the U.S. on the specified dates. **Single Supplement:** \$1,500.00 The single supplement will apply to any guests who prefer to have a private room to themselves for the duration of the tour.

Maximum No. of Guests: 8 ***Rooms are available as Doubles (one bed for two people sharing a room), Twins (2 beds for 2 people sharing a room), or Singles (a private room for one person—single supplement, listed above, will apply).***

Included: 10 nights in 4-star or better hotels (Florence, Lucca, Cortona, Grosseto, and Rome—2 nights in each city or town), Transportation by private vehicle (Sprinter or minibus) with a Private Driver, Daily Breakfast + other meals as listed in the final itinerary, Entry Fees for Site Visits and Group Activities, Driver Gratuity, and Troy Marden as your Private Guide.
Please see the **Terms & Conditions** included with this itinerary for complete details.

Flights: **Travelers will be responsible for booking their own international airfare, flying INTO Florence, Italy and OUT of Rome, Italy.** You will depart the U.S. on October 23, 2024, as outlined below, flying overnight to arrive in Florence, Italy on October 24, 2024. You will then depart from Rome, Italy on November 3, 2024, and will land back in the U.S. in the afternoon or evening of the same day. **If at all possible, please book a flight that arrives in Florence before noon on October 24 so we can have lunch and a light afternoon activity before checking into our hotel.**

October 23, 2024—Wednesday—Depart the U.S. for **Florence, Italy, Amerigo Vespucci Airport.** This will be an overnight flight, arriving the following day.

*****Delta Airlines has several options for departures from Kansas City that arrive in Florence before noon on the 24th. United Airlines also has flights from Kansas City that arrive in Florence before noon.** American Airlines' schedules are **not** good from Kansas City (or Manhattan), arriving in Florence very late in the day/evening, with multiple layovers and **many unnecessary hours of travel.**

October 24, 2024—Thursday—Arrive in Florence, Italy. Troy Marden, your guide, will meet the group at the Florence airport, along with your private transport vehicle and driver. Within a 30-minute drive of Florence, there are several Medici villas that date back to the Renaissance. Depending on everyone's arrival time and our lunch arrangements, we will visit at least one and possibly two of these magnificent villas before going to our hotel in Florence to check in. **Lunch included (breakfast will be served on the plane).**

October 25, 2024—Friday—Today, we will spend our day in the beautiful city of Florence. On the agenda will be a visit to the Accademia to view Michelangelo's David, a stop at the Medici Chapel and Tombs inside the Basilica di San Lorenzo, and a visit to a private villa and garden of one of Florence's most prominent families since before the Renaissance. We will try to arrange the day so you have a few hours of free time this afternoon for shopping and sightseeing on your own. This evening, we will gather for an official Welcome Dinner. **Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included.**

October 26, 2024—Saturday—We depart Florence this morning bound for the ancient walled city of Lucca, Italy. Lucca was fortified during the centuries prior to the Renaissance, but was never conquered by outside forces, leaving its entire city wall and ramparts completely intact. Today, the top of the wall forms a unique and beautiful park around the perimeter of the city where visitors and locals can walk and bike. Before arriving in Lucca, we will make a stop in the

Chianti region of Tuscany for a visit to the Principe Corsini Winery where we will be treated to a private tour of the garden, the villa, and the winery before enjoying a specially prepared lunch and wine tasting. After arriving in Lucca, you will have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at your leisure. **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

October 27, 2024—Sunday—Today, we will have a guided walking tour of Lucca to learn about its history, art, architecture, and more, as well as a visit to a private palazzo and garden in the city. The nearby Villa Reale di Marlia which, in the 19th-century, was home to Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi, sister to Napoleon and Princess of Lucca will be our afternoon destination. You will have the evening at your leisure. **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

October 28, 2024—Monday—Cortona, of “Under the Tuscan Sun” fame, will be our destination for the next two nights. We will arrive in Cortona by way of one of Tuscany’s best-known hill towns, San Gimignano. With 14 of its medieval towers still intact, San G is one of the region’s most iconic destinations. Nearby, there are wineries, olive groves, and beautiful farms, and inside the city walls are exquisite local shops full of regional arts, food, antiques, and more. There are many things to do in the area surrounding San Gimignano and we are looking into several options for the group. This evening, we will arrive in Cortona in time to check into our hotel and enjoy dinner on your own at a local restaurant. **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

October 29, 2024—Tuesday—We have had very little down time on this tour so far, so today will be a light day of activity. You will have the option of visiting the exceptional Etruscan museum in Cortona and Troy is working on hiring a local guide for a short walking tour of the town. There are many shops, galleries, and restaurants to explore, as well as several beautiful areas to walk both in and around Cortona. For those who are feeling adventurous, the Basilica di Santa Margherita lies at the very top of the rather steep hill and the “Via Crucis”, with its stations of the cross, leads directly to it. Inside, you may be shocked to discover the body of Santa Margherita lying in quiet repose inside her glass coffin, where she has remained for centuries. This evening, we will all gather at one of Cortona’s best restaurants for dinner. **Breakfast and Dinner included.**

October 30, 2024—Wednesday—In central Tuscany, its famous towns crown the hills in nearly every direction and Italian cypress line the drives to stunning villas and estates. We will make our way through this most beautiful part of Tuscany as we transfer from Cortona to Grosseto, stopping first at the garden of La Foce and then, along the way, near one of its most famous towns—Montalcino. If you know Italian wines, you will recognize this area as the one where the classic Tuscan Brunello is born, along with Rosso di Montalcino and many others. We will visit the world-famous Castello Banfi, home not only to world-class wines, but also to a product that may surprise you. Condimento Balsamico Etrusco is the Banfi estate’s Tuscan version of balsamic vinegar (true balsamic vinegar is protected and can only be made in Modena, between Bologna and Parma) and we will be treated to a tasting of both wine and their Condimento Balsamico Etrusco. By late afternoon, we will arrive in Grosseto. **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

October 31, 2024—Thursday—Today will be a day spent touring near Grosseto, the capital of Tuscany’s Maremma. Exact destinations are still in the works, but there is no shortage of places to see in this beautiful region along the Tuscan coast. **Lunch OR Dinner will be provided in addition to Breakfast.**

November 1, 2024—Friday—As our tour winds down, we will make our way to Rome for the final two nights of the trip. Along the way, we visit either the private villa and garden of a prominent Italian family (pending confirmation) OR we will visit one of Tuscany’s most unusual sculpture parks dating back to the 16th century. Time permitting, we will visit the Villa d’Este at Tivoli on our way into Rome. Otherwise, we will make our way directly to Rome and to the final hotel of our stay. **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

November 2, 2024—Saturday—This morning, we have several options available to us for touring in Rome. These include some of the best-known sites like the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Roman Forum, as well as some lesser-known sites like the Doria Pamphilj and/or the Palazzo Colonna. We will wait to work out the itinerary for this final day until we know who all the guests are and how much time, if any, they have spent in Rome previously. Guests will have the afternoon free for sightseeing and shopping on their own and we will all reconvene in the evening for a very special Farewell Dinner. **Breakfast and Dinner included.**

November 3, 2024—Sunday—Guests will make their own way to the Rome Fiumicino airport at the appropriate time for their flights home to the U.S.

Troy B. Marden Travel—Terms & Conditions

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS To guarantee your reservation, deposits, along with single supplements for individual travelers, must be received either by check, credit card, or electronic payment (PayPal or Venmo). Payments must be made in accordance with the payment schedule stated in the itinerary and/or on the website, as well as at the bottom of this form. Credit card and E-payments will be subject to a 3.5% surcharge to cover processing fees.

*****DEPOSITS***** Beginning January 1, 2021, deposits for tours will no longer be fully refundable. Deposits of \$500-\$1,000.00 per person will be required for all tours and will be specified on individual Booking Forms. 50% of the deposit (\$250.00 - \$500.00 per person) will be non-refundable, but **will be transferable** to another tour should you be forced to cancel your reservation. The remaining 50% (\$500.00 per person) will be refundable up to 120 days prior to travel, per the cancellation and refund policy below. Any cancellations fewer than 120 days from travel will be subject to the fees laid out in the same policy. **Single Supplements must be made along with initial deposits. These will remain fully refundable until 120 days prior to travel.** After that time, the cancellation fees outlined below will apply.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS Cancellations are subject to the following **per person fees based on the total package price** as offered by Troy B. Marden Travel:

Cancel 120 days or more prior to departure—Deposits will be 50% refundable. The remaining 50% will be retained by Troy B. Marden Travel and **may be applied to a future tour**. If more than the deposit has been paid, the full balance, less 50% of the deposit fee, will be refunded.

Cancel 90-119 days prior to departure—25% Cancellation fee, per person, applies

Cancel 60-89 days prior to departure—50% Cancellation fee, per person, applies

Cancel fewer than 60 days prior to departure—No Refunds

***Refunds of domestic flights as part of an itinerary cannot be guaranteed once flights have been booked.

Reservations made after any cancellation deadline has passed will still be subject to the cancellation policy and deadlines. In the event a client is required to cancel, that client's reservations may be transferrable to another client. However, transfer of reservations cannot be guaranteed for every tour and will be addressed on a case by case basis. This cancellation and refund policy refers to the ground package only, as set forth by Troy B. Marden Travel in the trip itinerary. Airfares are the responsibility of the passenger and any cancellations or changes to airfares are subject to the agreement between the passenger and the airline.

PASSPORT INFORMATION A valid passport is required for **all** international tours and for some tours to U.S. Territories and is the responsibility of each passenger. **Passports must be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the traveler's RETURN DATE.**

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS Troy B. Marden Travel **and its passengers** will follow **all** rules and guidelines regarding Covid-19 for all countries. There will be no exceptions. This includes proof of vaccination, quarantining, and all other requirements as they are laid out by the U.S. Government or the governments of other countries. These rules and guidelines may vary. **Any person choosing not to be vaccinated assumes any and all responsibility for the consequences thereof including, but not limited to, rejection at borders, return home, accommodation, infection or illness, hospitalization, or death. Troy B. Marden Travel, nor any of its agents, will be held liable for any form of Covid-related postponement, cancellation, expense, medical care, et al.**

TRIP CANCELLATION AND MEDICAL INSURANCE Troy B. Marden Travel does not provide trip cancellation or medical insurance of any kind, but strongly urges passengers to secure insurance through their own agents, credit card companies or other providers. **Should the client choose not to secure trip cancellation insurance, it is agreed that Troy B. Marden Travel or its agents will not be held liable for any refund of monies lost, nor the reimbursement of any expenditures, due to unexpected illness, injury, or any other cause of cancellation fewer than 120 days prior to departure.** Further, it is agreed that all clients maintain up-to-date medical insurance for coverage in the event of any health or medical emergencies or needs during a tour, whether in the U.S. or abroad. Should the client choose **not** to maintain up-to-date medical coverage, the client agrees that Troy B. Marden Travel or its agents will not be held liable, financially or otherwise, for any health or medical circumstances that may arise before, during, or after the completion of any tour.

TOUR PRICES AND PRICE CHANGES All tour **prices are based on double occupancy** and are in U.S. Dollars. Single supplements cover additional charges for single occupancy rooms as imposed by the hotel, bed and breakfast, or other provider of accommodations. Tour prices are based on a minimum number of passengers, which may vary between tours. Should the number of passengers fall below the minimum, **Troy B. Marden Travel reserves the right to adjust the tour price and impose a surcharge to cover losses.** Tour prices are also based on hotel rates, motor coach rates, and other rates negotiated many months in advance of departure and, for international tours, on an exchange rate which is subject to change based on world financial markets. Should any portion of any tour see a significant change in price for reasons beyond our control—including, but not limited to, hotel rate changes, motor coach rate changes or fuel surcharges, or a significant change in the currency exchange rate between countries—Troy B. Marden Travel reserves the right to adjust the tour price in accordingly.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS Tour prices include hotel accommodations, ground transportation, entry fees, tips for drivers and guides, and meals as specified in the final itinerary. Tour prices **do not include** airfares unless specifically noted as part of the tour itinerary (i.e. a tour may include a domestic flight within a country or a short flight between countries if those flights are deemed a necessary part of the itinerary), travel insurance, excess baggage fees, items of a personal nature, telephone calls, room service, optional tour extensions, hotel accommodations for additional nights before a tour commences or after a tour ends, spa treatments or other hotel/resort services, meals not listed in the itinerary, alcoholic beverages or other special beverages ordered at group meals, or tips to hotel personnel. At some special group meals, all beverages may be included. The customer will be made aware of these special occasions on a trip by trip basis.

TOUR CANCELLATION BY TROY B. MARDEN TRAVEL On the rarest occasions, it may be necessary for Troy B. Marden Travel to cancel a tour. These could include, but not be limited to, war, civil unrest, family illness or death, adverse weather conditions, global pandemic or other health-related crises, or other acts of God that may threaten the comfort and/or well-being of the client. If Troy B. Marden Travel is forced to cancel a tour due to unforeseen circumstances, Troy B. Marden Travel will make reasonable effort to recover monies paid to vendors (hotels, coach companies, site visits, restaurants, etc.) up to the date of cancellation. **Troy B. Marden Travel cannot guarantee the recovery of funds from vendors in these circumstances.** Recovered funds, if any, will be distributed equally between travelers, less the \$500 non-refundable deposits laid out in the **Reservations & Payments** and the **Cancellations and Refunds** sections of this agreement. The non-refundable portion of the deposits **will remain transferable** to a future tour.

RESPONSIBILITY Tour itineraries are planned well in advance. Troy B. Marden Travel reserves the right to make alterations to any itinerary should local conditions dictate. When weather or unforeseen conditions of any kind which are beyond our control affect our routes or itinerary, Troy B. Marden Travel and its representatives reserve the right to provide a suitable alternative. In exceptional circumstances outside the control of Troy B. Marden Travel or any of its representatives, agents or suppliers, including, but not limited to the threat of war, political unrest, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist threat or action, disease outbreak or other health concerns, legal or illegal labor disputes, adverse weather conditions or an Act of God, Troy B. Marden Travel, its representatives, suppliers, or agents cannot be held responsible for such limitations or withdrawal of facilities. The use by Troy B. Marden Travel of transport and accommodations in connection with any tour is subject to the conditions of the owners/operators of such transport or accommodations for whom Troy B. Marden Travel acts as an agent. Troy B. Marden Travel does not, under most circumstances, book air travel unless the itinerary requires shuttling of passengers between local destinations by air. Unless specifically stated in the itinerary, the client is responsible for their own domestic and/or international airfare and for meeting the group at the destination at the given time.

Troy B. Marden Travel will not be responsible for damages or inconvenience caused by late arrivals, departures or changes of schedule beyond their control. Troy B. Marden Travel does not hold any responsibility for the conduct of any of its members, hotel, motorcoach, cruiseline, train, airline, or other personnel that are not their own. Troy B. Marden Travel reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of its tour/cruise at its discretion. Troy B. Marden Travel or its Tour Director retain the right to require any participant to withdraw from a tour/cruise at any time, if determined to be in the best interests of health, safety, and general welfare of the tour/cruise group or of the individual participant. Payment of the deposit constitutes the acceptance of these terms and conditions. Itinerary and hotels are subject to change based on local conditions and availability.

Please print the following Booking Form (2 pages), fill out, sign, and return to the address listed at the bottom of the form. Thank you!

Troy B. Marden Travel
Booking Form for
Gardens & Villas of Tuscany
Benefitting the Kansas State University Gardens

TRAVELER # 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Room Type (Please Circle One):

Single—A private room for one traveler (Single Supplement applies)

Double—A room with one bed for two people

Twin—A room with two beds for two people

TRAVELER # 2 (If Double or Twin Occupancy, please list the second traveler below.
Include address, telephone and email if different from above.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Food Allergies and/or Dietary Preferences—Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs or preferences. On every tour, we do our best to accommodate anyone who might choose vegetarian diets, be gluten intolerant, or have other food allergies or preferences. While we cannot guarantee that every preference can be met, we will always do our best to ensure that every guest can enjoy group meals. **Please list any dietary needs or preferences below:**

I have read, understand, and accept the Terms & Conditions provided by Troy B. Marden Travel.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: tbmgardens@gmail.com

Phone: (615) 974-5566

Mailing Address: Troy Marden
7012 City Center Way #275
Fairview, TN 37062

*****Reservations will not be considered complete until payment is made to Kansas State University and a completed and signed Booking Form is received by Troy B. Marden Travel. You may mail the completed and signed Booking Form to the physical address above, or scan and send to the email address provided.*****