

Italian Hospitality Collection Launches ‘The Tuscan Route’, a Journey Through a Lesser Known Tuscany



Nine-Night Scenic Drive Through Tuscany in a Vintage Italian Car Including Stays in The Region's Most Illustrious Properties

April 2017...// [Italian Hospitality Collection](#) is delighted to launch a brand-new, nine-night experience inspired by South Africa's famed Garden Route for those wanting to escape the crowds and discover a Tuscany known only to Tuscans.

The Tuscan Route will see guests speeding through Tuscany's gentle hills and roads lined with cypress trees in a classic Italian car, whilst staying at Italian Hospitality Collection's three historic Tuscan thermal spa hotels, enjoying daily spa treatments and thermal mud applications, bathing in the three properties' healing thermal swimming pools and visiting a carefully selected roster of pit-stops that give an insight into Tuscan life.

Taking a route via Montepulciano, Vinci, Florence, Monsummano Terme, and Pisa during their nine-night trip, guests will be encouraged to visit a number of handpicked sites and can book a range of experiences recommended by the knowledgeable Italian Hospitality Collection team.

Italian Hospitality Collection will arrange vintage Italian car hire for the guests and book the spa daily treatments included at each hotel so that guests will not have to lift a finger. Guests can choose to drive themselves or book a chauffeur for an extra cost.

Guests will stay at Italian Hospitality Collection's three historic spa hotels: Fonteverde, Bagni di Pisa and Grotta Giusti, that were formerly the villas of the Medici family, the Grand Duke of Tuscany and 19th century poet Giuseppe Giusti respectively. Original frescoed hallways and ceilings, Tuscan terracotta, and marbled floors evoke a time when VIPS of yesteryear stayed here, including Gustav of Sweden, George IV of England and Mary Shelley.

Handpicked experiences include:

- A trip to Montepulciano, a medieval hilltop town famed for glorious views and robust red wines. Lesser known for being one of the filming locations for the Twilight Saga: 'New Moon'
- Tuscan food and wine tasting at the Avignonesi Winery with a 19th century villa, chapel and historic cellars to explore
- A visit to artisan Chocolate-Makers Slitti, the 'Armani of the chocolate world'

- A visit to Lucio Picone's artisan workshop where he crafts exquisite custom-made shoes. Luigi works for a handful of discerning customers and all his shoes are made by hand
- Drifting through silent skies over Pisa and the surrounding countryside during a Hot Air Balloon Ride, followed by tasting a selection of local wines and delicacies to celebrate the flight
- Learning about the hallowed Tuscan practise of olive oil making and enjoy an Extra-Virgin Olive Oil tasting
- Traditional willow basket-weaving in a beautiful, historic setting on the banks of the river Serchio
- A trip to the enchanting village Vinci and the Leonardo da Vinci museum, 3km from the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci
- A tour of the Etruscan Tomb of the *Infernal Quadriga*
- Floating therapy or cave diving in Grotta Giusti's thermal grotto and lake - the largest thermal cave in Europe

Italian Hospitality Collection's three properties are scattered across what is, arguably, Italy's most beautiful region and while all three are palaces dating back to the renaissance period, each have their own distinctive characteristics.

Fonteverde is perched on the edge of the Val D'Orchia, overlooking a view so valued it has won UNESCO world heritage status. Bagni di Pisa is situated just minutes from the famed Leaning Tower and has palatial suites adorned with original frescoes. Grotta Giusti, which has just had an elegant refurbishment, is the only hotel in the world to have its own underground thermal lake and thermal cave - it is the largest thermal cave in Europe. Heated by the steam from the lake, these caves act as a natural steam room and are a truly unique location for a treatment.

Prices for the Tuscan Route package start at from €10,888 for nine nights for two people, based on two people sharing a Deluxe double room. The price includes Vintage Italian car hire, three nights at Fonteverde, three nights at Bagni di Pisa and three nights at Grotta Giusti on a half-board basis, and nine spa treatments per person split across the hotels. To book email: tuscanroute@ihchotels.it or call +39 0578 572333. For more information visit: www.italianhospitalitycollection.com

The experience can be tailor-made according to individual requirements, number of nights can be changed or a chauffeur added for example.

**Price in pound sterling according to today's exchange rate.*

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For further press information please contact one of the team at Grifco PR on: 020 7385 7090 or email Flora Beaumont Flora@grifcopr.com, Laura Critoph Laura@grifcopr.com or Marielle Ruiz Marielle@grifcopr.com

About Italian Hospitality Collection

Italian Hospitality Collection is a world-class hotel, resort and spa brand that provides rich, authentic experiences for avid travellers who seek to feel loved, cherished and indulged in a genuine Italian lifestyle. Created in December 2014, Italian Hospitality Collection aims to be ambassador of the Italian culture, art and nature, with its collection of exclusive hotels in landscapes of excellence: Chia Laguna in Sardinia, with its unique crystal-clear waters and Fonteverde, Bagni di Pisa and Grotta Giusti in Tuscany, the country of thermal spas, history and unique wine routes.

Website: www.italianhospitalitycollection.com