



Italy with Stefano – Food and Culture tour to Umbria

Friday 8th to Friday 15th May 2026

Hosted by celebrity cook, Stefano de Pieri

7 nights/8 days

"Come and join me on an unforgettable journey through Umbria. Come with me and share in the history, the arts, the food and the wine of this region, and above all, to relax with a laugh or two" - Stefano de Pieri

DAY 1 – Friday 8th May 2026

Approx 1.30pm (time TBC) - Meet Stefano and fellow guests at Rome airport to enjoy a Minibus transfer to your Villa – Stefano will be waiting for you in the arrival area with a sign AVANTI ITALY

Welcome to Umbria! Upon arrival at our villa in Umbria, enjoy a welcome refreshment prepared by Carmine Estate chef on arrival.



Free afternoon to relax at the villa with a glass of wine and enjoy the surrounds of the villa, including the heated swimming pool, gardens, vineyard, olive grove and numerous walking tracks.

7pm - Welcome dinner at Villa – traditional Umbria dinner prepared by local chef using estate grown local produce and tasting estate grown Wines.

(D)

DAY 2 – Saturday 9th May 2026

7:30am – 9:30am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

9:30am - Truffle Hunting at the estate



12pm – Lunch and wine tasting at Vineria del Carmine

3pm – Departure for Gubbio for a tour of the town that includes Palazzo Ducale and Amphitheatre.

Dramatically perched on a hill overlooking the ruins of its 1st A.D. Roman theatre, here in Gubbio time seems to have quite literally stopped in the Middle Ages. Gubbio's "detachment" from today's world is also a reality: the town is not on a railway line – here, one feels in a world apart. The visit of Gubbio starts with a stop at to pay homage to World War II martyrs at a revered local shrine. You will be taken through Gubbio's most stunning (and hidden!) medieval backstreets to the imposing 14th c. Palazzo dei Consoli, said to rival Palazzo Vecchio in Florence in its beauty.

7pm – Dinner in Gubbio before returning to the villa

(B,L,D)

DAY 3 – Sunday 10th May 2026

7:30am – 9:00am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

9:00am – Monterchi and Sansepolcro day to visit famous artworks by Piero della Francesca. Today we will visit Monterchi chapel, Duomo di San Sepolcro and Museo Civico Sansepolcro.

Lunch in Sansepolcro and then return to villa.

7pm – Pizza night at the villa by staff

(B,L,D)

DAY 4 – Monday 11th May 2026

7:30am – 9:00am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

9:00am – Porchetta Cooking class at the villa (porchetta will be served for dinner)

Departure for Perugia for lunch and chocolate making lesson

Called by Henry James, "city of the infinite view", Perugia's Etruscan glory lives on in the Etruscan city gate of the 3rd c. B.C. – hidden away in the massive Papal fortress of the 16th- c. This reach across the ages synthesizes Perugia, a stunning medieval hill town of "layers."



4pm – Option visit to Cashmere factory Rocco Ragni on the way back to the villa

7pm – Dinner at the villa by staff (including the Porchetta from today's cooking class)

(B,L,D)

DAY 5 – Tuesday 12th May 2026

7:30am – 9:00am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

9:00am – Departure for Arezzo to once again marvel at some amazing artwork from Piero della Francesca at the Basilica of San Francesco and the Cathedral.

1pm – Lunch in Arezzo



4pm – Stop in Cortona for a visit of the town (made famous due to the movie, Under the Tuscan Sun)

7pm – Dinner at the villa by staff

(B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Wednesday 13th May 2026

7:30am – 9:30am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

Visit to Umbertide Market to choose fresh produce for cooking class with Stefano at the villa

Free day to enjoy the surrounding areas or sit and relax at the villa.

Or for those that wish, spend the day cooking with Stefano – preparing both Lunch and Dinner.

(B,L,D)

DAY 7 – Thursday 14th May 2026

7:30am – 9:30am - Breakfast at the villa by staff.

10am - Assisi & Spello full day

Assisi – justly acclaimed “crown jewel of the medieval hill towns” – encompasses its rich historical and artistic heritage. We start in the stunning 3-level Romanesque/Gothic Basilica di San Francesco built in the 13th c. to house the body of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of Italy and most beloved of all saints for the Italians.



Lunch at a local restaurant in Spello

Visit of **Spello** including visit Baglioni Chapel in Spello, featuring Pinturricchio's fresco.



6pm – Return to the villa

7pm – Dinner at the villa by staff

(B,L,D)

DAY 8– Friday 15th May 2026

7:30am – 9:30am – Farewell breakfast at the villa by staff.

9:30am – Departure for Orvieto for a visit of the city and Cathedral



Orvieto sits on a volcanic tufa-rock plateau, an impregnable position cleverly selected by the Etruscans, probably its first inhabitants.

After exploring the Etruscan tombs outside the city, a funicular up the tufo plateau takes you to the centro storico of Orvieto. A walk up one of the main streets takes you past the workshops of many an artisan, winding past the 13th c. municipal palace. Not far away, uncover Etruscan ruins in a medieval church and stop to visit the workshop of a famed wood-worker.

You'll want to take in the wonders of Orvieto's zebra-striped Gothic Duomo – and not just the famous splendid Renaissance fresco cycle of Luca Signorelli.

A masterpiece of the "international Gothic" style adorns the cathedral and 13th-century relics fascinate the visitor, as well as one of the finest existing examples of Sienese goldsmith/inlay work of the 14th -c.

Lunch and wine tasting at **Locanda Palazzone**

Departure from Palazzone after lunch and transfer to Rome centre (drop off point TBC), arrival late afternoon.

Conclusion of tour and time to bid farewell.

(B, L)

Arrivederci e Buon viaggio!

Inclusions

- Celebrity cook, Stefano de Pieri as your personal host throughout the tour
- Accommodation at luxury Villa Chiesa del Carmine <https://chiesadelcarmine.com/>
- Private bus transfers from Rome airport to villa and return to Rome centre
- Private bus transfers throughout the tour
- Truffle hunting
- Wine tasting with lunch at Vineria del Carmine
- Visit Piero della Francesca artwork in Monterchi and Sansepolcro
- Chocolate making lesson in Perugia
- Pizza night at Vineria del Carmine
- Lunch and winery visit at Locanda Palazzone
- All entrance fees to listed visits
- Cooking day at the villa with Stefano
- All meals as outlined in the itinerary including 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners

Please note that all meals do include beverages, however additional beverages and snacks are not included in the tour

COST

AUD \$11,900 per person/twin share (\$23,800 per couple)

Early-bird price: \$10,900 per person, twin share (\$21,800 per couple)

SAVE \$1000pp - if booked and deposit paid by 30th June 2025

Deposit – due at time of booking to secure your place

AUD \$3,000 per person

(Non-refundable)

Final payment is due no later than 6th February 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Final payment is due no later than 6th February 2026. Cancellations of bookings will be subject to AUD \$3,000 per person cancellation fee plus any charges imposed by the principals operating the tour. Cancellations after final payment can be up to 100% cost of the tour.

Prices specified are based on tariffs applicable at the time of printing; these may be subject to change without prior notice until final payment date. Group cost quoted for this tour is based on a minimum of 8 guests. If the minimum number of guests is not reached the tour may be cancelled and deposits will be refunded to those that have paid.

Itinerary subject to change.

If Stefano de Pieri is not able to fulfil his commitments as host due to illness or death in the family then the tour will either be cancelled or proceed with an alternative host. **It is strongly advised to take out an insurance policy that covers you for such an unlikely event. All guests must have travel insurance.**

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you, the traveller, purchase travel insurance which provides cover for such things as pre-tour cancellation, personal accident and sickness (including COVID), medical expenses, emergency evacuation/repatriation, loss of luggage and personal effects.

Travel documents

Travel documents/Vouchers will be sent via email 30 days prior to the traveller's arrival in Italy.

Refunds

All refunds will be processed within 30 days of cancellation.

Visa/entry requirements

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have the correct visa and meet all entry requirements into Italy.

Unforeseen circumstances

Avanti Italy and its suppliers intend to provide you with all services as mentioned in the tour itinerary. In rare cases, when it is not possible to fulfill a service due to availability of requested service, we will provide a suitable alternative comparable in price and standard.

If any event beyond control of Avanti Italy and its suppliers occurs, whether it be airport or seaport closures, war or terrorist threats, civil unrest, or any other unforeseen circumstance, causing either delays or change of vacation arrangements, Avanti Italy cannot accept liability for any resulting loss, damage or expense and any refund will be subject to deduction of reasonable expenses.

Photography

In booking this tour, you agree with allowance of your photograph to be taken on tour and that it can be used for marketing/promotion purposes.

Please note that your booking is not secured until the booking form has been completed and returned and deposit payment has been made.

CONTACT

For further information contact, Emily Tassone at Avanti Italy

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