

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Insider TUSCANY & UMBRIA

From Timeless Tuscany to the Green Heart of Italy

TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP CALL
800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)



6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates and pricing details

Ageless scenery, rich history and stellar wine and cuisine make Tuscany and Umbria ideal destinations for culturally-curious travelers. Because this region is our second home, we've cultivated our knowledge of central Italy at its best. We've built relationships with locals who know this area intimately and can peel back the layers to reveal its sensuous heart. This trip is filled with special events and encounters—from a behind-the-scenes exploration of Florence to fun-filled cooking classes—giving you the most in-depth and authentic Italian experience. You'll meet artists, chefs and historians, who'll share their stories and expertise. After returning home, don't be surprised if you feel you've become part of an extended *famiglia internazionale*.

Day 1

Meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads shirts) in Florence in front of the **Santa Maria Novella train station** (near the main entrance of the station facing the lawn) at **9 a.m.** Please arrive wearing comfortable shoes for walking. See "Arriving & Departing" for additional logistics information.

Guided Walk in Florence 2 Hours

Private Cooking Lesson 3½ Hours

Shuttle to Vagliagli 1½ Hours

Benvenuti in Toscana! Our trip gets off to a lively start with a walking tour of Florence led by Backroads Trip Leader and certified Florence city guide Florent Catry. Strolling through the less-crowded back streets and passageways, you'll get an insider's view of Florence, from the ancient Etruscan civilization through the Middle Ages to the Renaissance and today, and see a side of the city that would be difficult to discover on your own. (Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes!) The tour ends at the private apartment of our friends Jacopo and Anna, who invite us in for an informal cooking lesson and lunch.

Afterward we shuttle to our hotel Borgo Scopeto, a medieval estate-turned-luxury hotel with amazing vistas of Siena and the Chianti countryside. You have time this afternoon to swim (there are two pools here), play tennis, stroll in the gardens or simply relax and admire the view.

Later we gather for cocktails, introductions and a brief trip orientation followed by a delicious welcome dinner. *Lodging: Borgo Scopeto*

IN BUSINESS FOR
29 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE



Our Accommodations:
PREMIERE INNS

RELAIS BORGO SCOPETO

(2 nights) You'll feel as if you're in a medieval stone village during your stay at this elegant and welcoming hotel, set amid classic Tuscan scenery and featuring two heated swimming pools, tennis courts, a jogging track, immaculate gardens and superb views of nearby Siena.

Vagliagli
phone: 39-0577-320-001
www.relaisborgoscopeto.it

VILLA DI PIAZZANO

(1 night) Sitting just outside of town, this 15th-century manor house offers a swimming pool, beautifully appointed guest rooms and an expansive formal Italian garden.

Cortona
phone: 39-075-826-226
www.villadipiazzano.com

ALLA POSTA DEI DONINI

(2 nights) Set among 5 acres of parkland in the heart of Umbria, this 17th-century villa welcomes guests with its sparkling swimming pool, frescoed rooms, restaurant and wine bar.

San Martino in Campo
phone: 39-075-609-132
www.postadonini.it

**EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS**

Day 2

Leisure Time at Borgo Scopeto
Cultural Tour with Dario Castagno 3 Hours
Shuttle to Siena 30 Minutes Round-Trip
Guided Exploration of Siena 1½ Hours
Time on Your Own in Siena

Begin the day with breakfast at the hotel and an engaging cultural Q&A session with Dario Castagno, a Siena-born tour guide and author of *Too Much Tuscan Sun*. If there's anything you want to know about the Chianti region and Siena—including Il Palio, the city's famous annual bareback horse race—Dario's your man.

After lunch at the hotel, we head into Siena to explore the city's handsome medieval center with local guide Laura Antoni. Learn about its 17 fiercely competitive *contrade* (districts), which have existed since the Middle Ages. Admire the black-and-white striped façade and exuberant ornamentation of the Duomo. Linger at the Piazza del Campo and imagine how it looks twice a year during Il Palio: filled with dirt, galloping horses and frenzied spectators. Discover more of Siena on your own before we reconvene for dinner at a restaurant acclaimed for superb regional cuisine. *Lodging: Borgo Scopeto*

Day 3

Shuttle to Cortona 1½ Hours
Guided Walk in Cortona 2½ Hours
Tuscan Cooking Lessons

This morning we shuttle to Cortona, where we're joined by charming local guide and Cortona native Giovanni Adreani, who leads us through Etruscan tombs, ancient streets, *piazze*, churches and neighborhoods, providing insight into the town's storied past. After the Etruscans, the Romans thrived here until the Goths destroyed the settlement. In later years, the town lay under the patronage of Siena, was then ruled by Naples and finally, Florence. Today Cortona is rich in art and history and is a fascinating place to explore. If you've seen Benigni's *La Vita e ' Bella* (*Life is Beautiful*), you'll probably recognize Cortona's 19th-century Teatro Signorelli, which was in the film. The theater and its piazza are named for painter Luca Signorelli, born in Cortona in 1450.

After a picnic lunch, we shuttle to Villa di Piazzano, our elegant hotel located in the countryside outside Cortona. Read, relax or take a dip in the pool before we gather at Palazzo Vecchio for a fun hands-on cooking lesson under the tutelage of our good friend Viviana Beccarelli. Put your culinary skills to the test as you create (and consume) *piatti tipici Toscani*—typical Tuscan dishes such as bruschetta and pici pasta. *Lodging: Villa di Piazzano*

Day 4

Shuttle to Perugia 45 Minutes
Chocolate-Making Lesson 2½ Hours
Shuttle to Todi 30 Minutes
Time on Your Own in Todi

Get ready for a sweet morning! Arriving in Umbria (welcome to the geographical heart of Italy!), we head to a chocolate factory located just outside the town of Perugia. Here we're treated to an exclusive chocolate-making lesson, and a bit of chocolate history, with a professional chef at the Perugina Scuola del Cioccolato, the School of Chocolate. (We're among the first groups of Americans to ever participate in the school.)



Top Reasons Why *you should take this trip*

We provide the inside connections and knowledge you need to truly experience a place in the most authentic way.

You'll stay in the area's finest hotels, each carefully selected based on our rigorous quality standards.

You'll enjoy the best of the region's cuisine, as well as Backroads' trademark grand picnics.

Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

After stopping for lunch in Torgiano, we shuttle to Todi, situated atop a steep rise between the Tiber and Naia Valleys. According to legend, the village was founded at the precise spot where an eagle dropped a cloth snatched from an Etruscan banquet. Keep an eye out for Todi's ubiquitous insignia: a coat of arms with an eagle clasping a cloth in its talons. You'll have time to stroll around before dinner and take in the many sights. Not to be missed are the church of Santa Maria della Consolazione and the Piazza del Popolo, one of Umbria's most majestic medieval squares. Surrounded by a series of striking palazzi (palaces) and the Romanesque duomo, the piazza is a great place to people-watch.

We spend our next two nights at the stately *Posta dei Donini*, a 17th-century villa set on 5 acres of parkland. You're on your own for dinner this evening to choose from Todi's excellent selection of restaurants. *Lodging: Alla Posta dei Donini*

Day 5

Shuttle to Assisi 1 Hour

Guided Walk in Assisi 2 Hours

Ceramics Studio Visit

Shuttle to San Martino in Campo 30 Minutes

A morning shuttle brings us to the beloved hill town of Assisi, perched amid the rolling hills beneath Mount Subasio. You'll have the opportunity to discover the lesser-known nooks and crannies of this famed pilgrimage center with guide Rosella Fiorucci, who knows Saint Francis' birthplace and hometown "come la sua tasca" ("like her own pocket"). Of course, no visit to Assisi would be complete without a stop at the principal monument to Saint Francis: the Basilica di San Francesco, frescoed floor to ceiling by the elite Florentine and Sieneese artists of the day—Giotto, Cimabue, Simone Martini and Pietro Lorenzetti.

Have lunch on your own in Assisi, before a quick shuttle to the atmospheric hill town of Deruta, one of the world's oldest centers of ceramic production. Here we visit an esteemed ceramics studio to learn about working with majolica and the history and traditions that surround it. During our private class with a local artist, you'll even get to paint your own pieces. This evening we dine at Pantagrue, our hotel's restaurant, which serves Mediterranean-inspired specialties topped off with homemade desserts. *Lodging: Alla Posta dei Donini*

Day 6

Shuttle to Orvieto 45 Minutes

Guided Exploration of Orvieto 1½ Hours

It's our final breakfast together—remember to really enjoy that last cappuccino! From our hotel, we head to Orvieto, one of the oldest towns in Italy, resting on a plateau of volcanic tufa nearly 500 feet above the Paglia Valley. In addition to its dramatic location, the area is also known for its white wines, which have been praised by artists, poets and nobles since the Middle Ages. Though the dry version predominates, also be sure to taste the semisweet *abboccato* variety while you're here.

A local guide takes us back in time on a tour of Orvieto's fascinating "underground city," an intricate maze of tunnels, cellars, cisterns and wells dug into the soft rock. A highlight above ground is the duomo, considered one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world. The façade is a breathtaking example of decorative Gothic style, replete with mosaics, bas-reliefs, spires, arches and bronze figures. The striped interior features a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles and not-to-be-missed frescoes by Renaissance master Luca Signorelli.

We have lunch at a favorite local trattoria before shuttling to the nearby Orvieto train station.

**WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE**



Note

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

Arriving & Departing

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads shirts) in Florence in front of the Santa Maria Novella train station (near the main entrance of the station facing the lawn) at 9 a.m. From here we embark on our walking tour of Florence, so it's a good idea to **arrive wearing comfortable shoes for walking.**

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day of the trip, Backroads provides transportation to the Orvieto train station, arriving at approximately 2 p.m. From here you may catch a train to Florence, Rome or other destinations. Please don't book a train departing before 2:15 p.m.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

This trip begins in Florence, Italy and ends in Orvieto, Italy. We recommend flying into and out of Rome's Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport (airport code: FCO; www.adr.it) or Milan's Malpensa airport (airport code: MXP; www.sea-aeroportimilano.it) and traveling by train to the Florence trip start and from the Orvieto trip end. (See information below.)

For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent, visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)

TAKING THE TRAIN TO FLORENCE

From Rome: If you fly into Rome's Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport, you can take the Leonardo Express commuter train directly from the airport to the Roma Termini train station. The train runs every half-hour from 6:37 a.m. until 11:37 p.m.; average travel time is 30 minutes. Or, you can take a taxi to Roma Termini for \$50–\$60. (Supplements may be charged for excess luggage, late-night trips and on holidays.) Trains from Rome to Florence run frequently. Average travel time on the high-speed Eurostar Italia is 1½ hours.

From Milan: For your convenience, we suggest flying into Malpensa airport rather than Linate. A great way to travel between Malpensa and central Milan is via the large, comfortable airport buses; travel time is about 50 minutes, depending on traffic. For more information on bus transportation to and from the airport, visit www.airpullman.com and www.malpensasashuttle.it.

Another option is to take the Malpensa Express train between the airport and central Milan; the train departs the airport every 30 minutes from Terminal I; travel time is about 40 minutes. Visit www.ferrovienord.it/webmvp/ing/index.html for details. If you plan to travel by taxi between the airport and city center, expect to pay \$85–\$95. Trains from Milan to Florence also run frequently. Average travel time on the high-speed Eurostar Italia is 3 hours.

From Pisa: There is regular train service between Pisa's Galileo Galilei Airport (airport code PSA; www.pisa-airport.com/index.php) and Florence's Santa Maria Novella station; travel time is about 1¼ hours.

**ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU**

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for their consulting services.)

Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details.

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide in the sidebar for starting double-occupancy rates. Note that the chart reflects the Internet and/or Best Available rates, which were accurate at the time of printing, but hotel rates are always subject to change.

Rooms on the street tend to be noisy, so you might want to request a room overlooking the hotel’s garden or courtyard. Make your reservations early during the busy season, as rooms book well in advance.

ROME

Albergo del Sole al Pantheon

Operating as a hotel since 1467, this charming property is best known for its outstanding view of the Pantheon. Guest rooms are simply decorated with white stucco walls, antique wooden beds and arched doorways accented by colorful and lovingly restored 15th-century hand-painted ceilings. Although the price is comparable to grander and more chic hotels, its value lies in its location. Be sure to request a room away from the piazza if you’re sensitive to noise. Piazza della Rotonda 63; Phone: 39-06-67-80441; www.hotelsolealpantheon.com; 31 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆◆◆

Hotel de Russie

Set on the Piazza del Popolo and stuccoed in a distinctive salmon color, the Hotel de Russie has an atmosphere of tranquility that feels more like an elegant private home than a 122-room hotel. The hotel features contemporary décor by trendsetting designer Tommaso Ziffer, who also renovated Florence’s Hotel Savoy, with a color palette of celadon green, violet and ice blue that complements the elegant and streamlined furnishings. Every detail has been thoughtfully considered, from the divine Italian linen sheets and the carefully selected artwork to the luxurious spa and magnificent gardens. It’s no wonder this hotel consistently earns a place on *Condé Nast Traveler’s* Gold List. Via del Babuino 9; Phone: 39-06-32-8881; www.hotelderussie.it; 89 rooms and 33 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆◆

Hotel Hassler Roma

A favorite among both *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel+Leisure* readers for its gorgeous panoramic views and top-notch service, Hotel Hassler reigns as one of the premier hotels in Europe. Located atop the Spanish Steps, the hotel is “easy to find but very difficult to leave,” and with a state-of-the-art fitness facility, its celebrated Imágo restaurant, exquisitely decorated guest rooms and romantic ambience, it’s easy to see why. If your room doesn’t look out over the stunning Borghese Gardens, just borrow one of the hotel’s bikes to explore them firsthand or ask the concierge for their “jogging shoe” map and take a leisurely stroll. Piazza Trinita dei Monti, 6; Phone: 39-06-69-93-40; www.hotelhasslerroma.com; 95 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆◆◆

ORGANIZE A
BACKROADS PRIVATE
TRIP FOR YOUR
FAMILY, FRIENDS OR
COLLEAGUES FOR THE
TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Hotel Lord Byron

In a superb location near the Borghese Gardens, Via Veneto and the Spanish Steps, this small boutique hotel is a peaceful oasis amid the bustle of Rome. Drawing a distinguished and loyal following, this Karen Brown favorite and member of Leading Hotels of the World has received accolades for its refined Art Deco décor, accommodating staff and exceptional setting. For a special treat, dine at the hotel's exclusive restaurant, Relais le Jardin. A minimum two-night stay is required. Via Giuseppe De Notaris 5; Phone: 39-06-32-20404; www.lordbyronhotel.com; 32 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦

Hotel Teatro di Pompeo

Resembling a Tuscan farmhouse with wood-beamed ceilings and red-tile floors, this quaint property was constructed over the ruins of the Theatre of Pompey, the site on which Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C. One section of the theater excavation includes a cave-like room that now serves as a breakfast nook. The guest rooms are spacious, pleasant and quiet. Largo del Pallaro 8; Phone: 36-06-68-72812; www.hotelteatrodipompeo.it; 13 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦

FLORENCE

Grand Hotel

One of Europe's finest hotels, this historic landmark displays a noble Renaissance style highlighted by lavish Italian fabrics, ornate brass chandeliers, marble details and frescoes spanning the guest room walls. The extraordinary staff ensures that your every need is met. For an even more special stay, request a room with a view of the Arno River. Piazza Ognissanti 1; Phone: 39-055-271-61; www.grandhotel.hotelinfirenze.com; 90 rooms and 17 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Helvetia and Bristol

Considered by many to be the quintessential Florentine hotel, the Helvetia and Bristol has a timeless sophistication. A lengthy restoration and a wealth of period décor, such as carefully selected antiques and oil paintings, have returned the hotel to its original ambience and splendor. Additionally, you'll value the ideal location between the Piazza Repubblica and Via Tornabuoni. Via dei Pescioni 2; Phone: 39-055-266-51; www.royaldemeure.com; 44 rooms and 23 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Hotel Savoy

This Ferragamo family-owned property is one of the hottest addresses in Florence. With its décor of white chaise lounges accented by brightly colored pillows, graphic prints, sleek glass and steel furniture, it appeals to anyone who appreciates playful yet elegant contemporary design. On *Condé Nast Traveler's* esteemed Gold List, the Savoy is ideally located on the Piazza della Repubblica and only steps from the Duomo. Request a room at the corner (04 and 06) or a room on the top floor for spectacular city views. Piazza della Repubblica 7; Phone: 39-055-27-351; www.hotelsavoy.it; 88 rooms, 14 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Albergotto Hotel

A recent renovation has given new life to the delightful Albergotto, a former gathering place for European literati and musicians. Light-wood floors give the place a fresh lift, while antique furnishings and walls in mustard hues lend an elegant cozy touch to spacious guest rooms. With an enviable situation on the fashionable Via de'Tornabuoni overlooking the magnificent Palazzo Strozzi, the hotel is a great base from which to explore the city. It's an excellent choice, according to the team at *Karen Brown's Guides*, with a friendly staff and all of the modern amenities. Via de'Tornabuoni 13; Phone: 39-055-239-6464; www.albergotto.com; 22 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦

J.K. Place

This delightful find, situated on the Piazza Santa Maria Novella, has a sleek stylish décor with a fashionable cream and gray color scheme accented by 1950s-style lamps. Still, it maintains an atmosphere of old-world warmth and hospitality by combining these chic touches with traditional elements, such as classical sculpture and a marble Louis XVI fireplace. It's an atmosphere that perfectly complements Florence and lives up to the goal of general manager Ori Kafri, who strives for "precious details and impeccable service." Piazza Santa Maria Novella 7; Phone: 39-055-264-5181; www.jkplace.com; 20 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦

Hotel Il Guelfo Bianco

This three-star hotel may not be deluxe, but if you're looking for a pleasant place to stay in the heart of Florence, *Karen Brown's Guides* thinks this is it. Just 200 yards from the Duomo, it offers individually decorated guest rooms—some overlooking the quiet courtyards and roofs of the Via Larga—with marble-topped desks, antique furniture and exposed-beam ceilings. Some rooms feature painted wood or frescoed ceilings and carved wooden doorways. On the ground floor, you'll find a bar and a reading room. Via Cavour 29; Phone: 39-055-28-8330; www.ilguelfobianco.it; 40 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦

MILAN

Four Seasons Hotel Milano

Condé Nast Traveler's Gold List and *Zagat Survey's* World's Top Hotels and Resorts rank the Four Seasons Hotel Milano one of the top hotels in the world. Originally a 15th-century convent, the hotel has a magnificent colonnaded courtyard and a sophisticated décor of restored original frescoes, granite columns, vaulted ceilings and parquet and terrazzo floors. Its elegant Il Teatro (Armani's favorite restaurant) adds to the atmosphere. If you plan to stay here in October during the fashion shows, book your room far in advance. Via Gesù 6/8; Phone: 39-02-77-088; www.fourseasons.com; 77 rooms and 41 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Grand Hotel et de Milan

Opera lovers will adore this majestic hotel, a member of Leading Hotels of the World, which is located close to La Scala Opera House and fashionable avenues. The old-world décor features fine antiques, traditional crème wood paneling, bronze statues, marble floors and fireplaces and oriental carpets. The hotel offers two classic Milanese restaurants, Don Carlos and Caruso. Via Manzoni 29; Phone: 39-02-72-3141; www.grandhoteletdemilan.it; 77 rooms and 18 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Hotel Principe di Savoia

Evoking Belle Epoque decadence, this Leading Hotels of the World member is flooded with opulence. Built in 1927, all rooms have been redone in 19th-century Lombard style and lavished with plush damask fabrics, gilt and neoclassical antiques. You'll appreciate the hotel's central location on the Piazza della Repubblica as well as the warm hospitality of the staff. Piazza della Repubblica 17; Phone: 39-02-62301; www.hotelprincipedisavoia.com; 401 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

Hotel Spadari al Duomo

Fashionable hip and whimsical, this modern boutique hotel offers a marked contrast to the grande dames with its all-blue interior and contemporary Milanese art. If you appreciate imaginative fresh design and love to stay at the hottest spot in town, you'll delight in the Hotel Spadari al Duomo. You can request a room overlooking the Duomo or the lemon tree-filled courtyard. Via Spadari 11; Phone: 39-02-72-002371; www.spadarihotel.com; 40 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦♦

ORVIETO

Hotel Aquila Bianca

This elegant four-star hotel is situated in the historic center of Orvieto, just a short walk from the main piazza. Guest rooms are comfortable and tastefully furnished. 13 Via Garibaldi Phone: 39-0763-341-246 or 342-271; www.argoweb.it/hotel_aquilabianca; 37 rooms. Rates: ♦♦

Hotel Duomo

Just steps from the cathedral of Santa Maria, the three-star Hotel Duomo offers comfortable rooms and a welcoming atmosphere. The individually decorated guest rooms boast furnishings designed by Maestro Livio Orazio Valentini, one of Orvieto's best-known contemporary artists. Vicolo di Maurizio 7; Phone: 39-0763-341-887 or 393-849; www.orvietohtotelduomo.com; 18 rooms. Rates: ♦♦

Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini

Located in Orvieto's medieval quarter, the four-star family-run Piccolomini offers easy access to the Santa Maria cathedral and the shopping area of Piazza della Repubblica. This restored 16th-century building overlooks the Piazza Ranieri and guest rooms are elegantly simple with missionary-style wood furnishings. Rooms on the ground floor feature vaulted ceilings while most of those on the upper floor offer views. Piazza Ranieri 36; Phone: 39-0763-341-743 or 391-014; www.hotelpiccolomini.it; 29 rooms and 3 suites. Rates: ♦♦

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.