



alumni UBC

Siena & Florence with UBC Associate Professor Michael Treschow

THE INNOVATIVE AND THE MEDIEVAL

October 14 - 23, 2017

OVERVIEW

Autumn in Tuscany in magic.

The new wine is in the barrels, the vineyards have turned to muted yellows and soft reds, the olives are ready for harvest. The light is soft over the rolling hills. We think this is the best time to explore Tuscany's hilltop villages, spectacular countryside, and most beautiful urban centres.

We spend six nights in a comfortable restored convent hotel in the heart of Siena - it's a special luxury to be here when the day trippers have left - and three nights in a historic monastery inn in Florence. Days are spent visiting the abbeys, Renaissance towns, and loveliest piazzas, tasting wine at the estates, and lingering in village markets. Evenings are enjoyed over stimulating conversation in traditional trattorias.

Study leader Michael Treschow adds a special context and understanding to our Tuscan sojourn with stimulating presentations on the medieval and the Renaissance and the art and literature that flowered in those times. If you delight in a slow travel and rich experiences, in exquisite landscapes, and great architecture, join us in Tuscany this fall.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

WorldwideQuest
Alumni Expeditions

Why alumni UBC Travel Club?

Siena



- Fully escorted by our study leader, Dr. Treshow, who is delighted to share his expertise and passion for medieval Italy.
- 4 seminars led by Dr. Treshow to help you delve into the secrets of Tuscany's ancient past; from politics to Dante and everything in between.
- Exclusive Italian dining experiences, including lunch at the estate of a Brunello di Montalcino wine producer
- Accommodation to entice ambience; a convent hotel will be our base for stepping back in time in Siena.



STUDY LEADER

Dr. Michael Treschow is an Associate Professor at UBC Okanagan's Department of Critical Studies, which he headed from 2007 to 2009. Michael received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, where he attended the Centre for Medieval Studies. He also received the Mediaeval Studies Licentiate from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in 1990.

DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday, Oct. 14: Arrive Florence, Drive to Siena

Please plan to arrive in Florence by 2:00PM today. A specific meeting time and place at the Florence Airport. Then, set off by coach south to Siena for a six-night stay in a lovely convent hotel. Enjoy an orientation walk to the scallop-shaped Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful urban spaces in the world within the most extensive spread of medieval townscape anywhere. Linger over our welcome dinner this evening.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 15: Siena

Michael Treschow's morning seminar will introduce Siena as the home of St. Catherine, an outspoken and politically active Dominican, one of the first women to be named a Doctor of the Church. Then set off to visit the Basilica of San Domenico; the Cappella di Santa Caterina is decorated with frescoes depicting her life. Visit the former home of St. Catherine where she, her parents and 24 siblings lived; the rooms were converted into small chapels in the 15th century. Visit the Duomo, a dazzling cathedral built with white and green marble, and housing spectacular medieval and Renaissance works of art.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, Oct. 16: Excursion to Abbey Saint Antimo, Montalcino, Pienza

Drive south through the super-scenic rolling countryside of the Crete Senesi. The starkly beautiful landscape is dotted with isolated stone farmhouses and cypress trees. Visit Pienza, a planned city built in the 1460s in accordance with Renaissance principles at the behest of Pope Pius II. Enjoy lunch on the estate of a Brunello di Montalcino wine producer then explore the medieval streets of the walled town, dominated by its 14th century fortress. In an isolated, peaceful valley nearby, visit the lovely Romanesque Abbey of Sant' Antimo.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Tuesday, Oct. 17: Siena

Michael's morning seminar will discuss the Gothic style in Siena's art and architecture. The 14th century Palazzo Buonsignori houses the Pinacoteca Nazionale with its extraordinary collection of Gothic masterpieces. Magnificent works by Duccio, Simone Martini and Pietro Lorenzetti will be the focus of our visit this morning. Siena's Palazzo Pubblico is one of the finest examples of Gothic secular architecture. Inside, admire rooms richly frescoed by Siennese artists.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, Oct. 18: Excursion to Volterra & San Gimignano

A wonderful drive through the Tuscan hills to Volterra, almost wholly embraced by its medieval walls. Explore the winding cobblestone streets of the well-preserved centre; visit the 12th century Cathedral with its handsome coffered ceiling,

the Baptistry, and the Roman Theatre dating from the first century B.C. Stop for a light lunch and wine and olive oil tasting in the countryside. This afternoon, when the day trippers have departed, discover the extraordinary medieval streetscape of San Gimignano with its fourteen 13th century hundred-foot stone towers.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 19: Siena

Michael's morning seminar will discuss the social and political history of Siena and Florence, highlighting the Black Death and factional strife, with the added question as how Florence rose to ascendancy during the Renaissance. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore your favourite part of the city. Share your discoveries over dinner this evening.

Overnight: Albergo Alma Domus

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday, Oct. 20: Drive to Florence

Set off north into the Chianti hills to visit Brolio Castle in the hands of the Ricasoli family since 1141 and the medieval village of Radda in Chianti situated on a hill covered with woods and extensive vineyards. Light lunch and wine tasting at the Querceto estate, producers of Chianti Classico with over 50 hectares of vineyards.

Overnight: Hotel Loggiato Dei Serviti or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner"

Saturday, Oct. 21: Florence

Michael's morning seminar will discuss Dante and his most famous work the Divine Comedy. We'll look at some of the Florentine characters that he places in Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. Our guided walk follows Dante's path through the city, exploring the places that inspired *The Divine Comedy*. Starting at the Baptistery where Dante himself was baptized, we'll delve deep into the heart of medieval Florence to visit Dante's home and the church where he met Beatrice, his muse.

Overnight: Hotel Loggiato Dei Serviti or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 22: Florence

Our guided walk this morning will focus on the city's Renaissance period, winding our way through the narrow alleys of the compact city centre and visiting a number of 15th century churches and palaces. The afternoon is free for independent exploration before our celebratory dinner this evening.

Overnight: Hotel Loggiato Dei Serviti or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, Oct. 23: Depart Florence

This morning we transfer to the airport for homeward bound flights or to the train station for optional extensions to Rome or Venice. Please enquire about itineraries for extensions.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



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TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): C\$4295

Taxes and Gratuities (per person): C\$200

Single Supplement: C\$995

If you are travelling on your own and would like to share accommodation, we would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to do so, the single cost applies.

Group Size:

16 - 20 participants

What's Included:

- Arrival and departure transfers at destination for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotels listed or similar
- Breakfast daily
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary including wine
- Transportation by private air conditioned coach
- Bottled water on the coach
- All activities and entrance fees
- Services of specialized English speaking guides
- Gratuities for escort, local guides, drivers, hotel and group meals (as indicated above)
- Taxes (as indicated above)
- Presentations by Michael Treschow
- Fully escorted by Worldwide Quest representative

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "included features" above

Payment Details:

A deposit of C\$500 per person is required to reserve your space on this tour. A payment of C\$1000 is due six months prior to departure. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

How to Book

Please contact Amanda
at the Worldwide
Quest Office.

1-800-387-1483

WHAT TO EXPECT

ADDITIONAL INFO

Joining Instructions

This tour begins with a group meeting at the Florence Airport at 2PM on October 14th. When you make flight arrangements or any pre-trip night booking with Worldwide Quest, your transfer from the airport to our group hotel on arrival is included. If you are making your own flight or pre-trip hotel arrangements, this transfer can be provided at additional cost. The tour concludes with a single complimentary transfer from the hotel to the airport on October 23rd. Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements

Level of Activity: Moderate

A good level of fitness is important for this trip. You must be comfortable walking on uneven terrain and irregular paving and climbing stairs. You should be comfortable walking for up to two hours at a stretch, unassisted.

Accommodation

The Albergo Alma Domus is owned by the church and is still home to several Dominican nuns. Set in a historic building dating from the 1300s, this traditional convent hotel with arches and columns is a 10-minute walk from the medieval square of Piazza del Campo. As with all historic buildings, guest rooms vary in size and décor. All rooms have private bathrooms. Free Wi-Fi. Amazing views over the city centre.

The Hotel Loggiato Dei Serviti is a Renaissance period residence facing Brunelleschi's Spedale degli Innocenti, a 10-minute walk from the Cathedral. Elegant rooms have private bathrooms and period furniture. Free WiFi.

Transportation

We will be in a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle driven by a professional driver.

Weather

Mid-October is a lovely time to be in Tuscany. We expect clear, sunny skies with temperatures around 22°C during the day, dropping to lows of 12°C at night.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 3 months beyond your scheduled return home. Visas are not currently required for Canadian passport holders.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Travel with *alumni* UBC

It's your travel experience.

Indulge your curiosity as we take you to unique places you've always dreamed about.

UBC experts and knowledgeable local hosts provide context. That allows you to develop a deep connection to the people you meet and the cultures, cuisines and landscapes you're exploring.

- Best value in educational travel
- Meaningful local experiences
- Thoughtful itineraries

See our complete list of tours at:
WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC



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