

Language Course with Art & History (Siena - Tuscany)

Our language programs offer not only time in the classroom, but also make use of several practical applications such as Italian history and art appreciation. These sessions, in part, are also conducted in Italian to increase your language skills. You learn the Italian language in an enjoyable way as you study and tour the local history, art and architecture of Tuscany.

The Art and History (Tuscany) Language program in Siena offers 15 hours of language classes with 6 nights of accommodation.

What's Included Summary

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- 15 hours of language classes
- Course Materials
- Visits to Art and History Museums
- Guided excursions + City tours
- Entry fees as needed for program itinerary
- Welcome and Farwell Dinners
- Daily Breakfast
- Transportation and Airport Transfers

- **Additional Options:** 2 night Hotel Package - Florence or Rome

Prices

1 Person	€ 2,160
2 Persons	€ 1,600 pp
3 - 8 Persons	€ 1,300 pp

Prices are per person, double occupancy in categories of 2 or more persons.

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ITINERARY DETAILS**DAY 1: Arrival - Orientation**

Arrive to Siena to check in to your hotel accommodations. Time will be given to acquaint yourself to your accommodations and the medieval city. An afternoon orientation and meet & greet will be conducted at the hotel. Later in the evening a welcome dinner with one or more of your instructors. **(D)**

DAY 2: Language Class - “Facciatone” - Guided City Tour

Morning breakfast and then your cultural week begins with the first of your morning language classes. This class will last for 3 hours and it will be a first approach to the Italian language. In the afternoon a guided walking tour in the historical center. During the tour you will visit Siena's Duomo, offering its own art and architecture, plus climb to the top of the “Facciatone”, the unfinished nave of the cathedral. From this position you can admire the amazing view of the city and its preserved medieval architecture. The new nave for the Duomo was planned to be the facade for a *new*, larger Cathedral. Construction began in 1339 with the aim of achieving greater acclaim than the great Duomo of Florence. Unfortunately works were soon suspended due to the “black plague”, lack of funds and serious mistakes in structural design. After your time at the Duomo, the afternoon is yours; later you can return to your accommodations and the evening is available for your dinner and free time. **(B)**

DAY 3: Language Class - Duomo Cript + S.Maria della Scala Museum

Morning breakfast and then start the day with the morning language class (3 hours). In the afternoon more time to practice and memorize the new words as you will visit the Cathedral Crypt. Discovered in 1999 during a renovation, the Crypt was a stunning discovery. It is composed of a room with 180 square meters of XIII century frescoes. Hidden and forgotten for seven centuries, today we can admire its ancient splendor. The brilliant colors are intact and original subjects of the crypt are an important testimony to the artistic medieval art life of Siena. After this you will visit the Santa Maria della Scala Museum. During the medieval age it was the hospital of Siena, offering aid to the many religious pilgrims who visited the city during this time and to the poor or orphaned children. Now it is considered one of the most important Museums in Siena. Later return to your accommodations and take the evening at your leisure. **(B)**

DAY 4: Florence excursion - Language instruction

Morning breakfast and then your day will be spent in Florence where your excursion will be matched with 3 hours Italian instruction during the visit. In Florence you will visit the home for Renaissance art, the Uffizzi Gallery Museum, plus the Galleria Accademia, to view the original statue of David. A group lunch will be taken in between the museum visits; then after a full day in Florence you will return to Siena for the evening to relax and enjoy the satisfaction of completing your day in Tuscany's most culturally rich cities. **(B, L)**

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DAY 5: Language Class - Cultural Application

Morning breakfast and then start the day with a guided tour to a Contrada Museum. Siena is composed of 17 Contrada (or neighborhoods), whose territorial boundaries and economic structure have been in existence since the middle ages. The Contrada are proudly represented each July 2 and August 16 as they participate in the famous horse race, il Palio. The history of the Palio dates back to the 13th century and each Contrada has its own museum to display its own history of the event through the winning artistic banners, paintings and historical artifacts. Later after lunch in the afternoon, a 3 hour language class. The evening is yours to relax and dinner at your leisure **(B)**.

DAY 6: Language Class - Palazzo Pubblico Visit Tour

Morning breakfast and then your final morning language class (3 hours). Then in the afternoon, you will visit the Palazzo Pubblico of Siena next to the Mangia Tower to admire some of the most famous works of the artists of the Siena School, such as Simone Martini and Ambrogio Lorenzetti. Featured are the *Maesta'*, *Guidoriccio*, and *Buono e Cattivo Governo*. In the evening a relaxing walk in the city followed by an *aperitivo* in the beautiful Piazza del Campo, the heart of Siena. Afterwards, a final dinner at a favorite restaurant completing your week of culture and language experience in Tuscany. **(B, W, D)**

DAY 7: Departure

Morning breakfast and then take the departure transfer to Florence (included in your package or at an additional cost a transfer can be arranged to other Italian cities). **(B)**

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, W=Wine

Base price includes accommodations for 6 nights, transfer from Florence to the hotel in Siena (transfer from other cities can also be accommodated with additional cost), transportation needed for itinerary activities, plus meals and cultural activities as indicated.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

Introduction: The Opera Tour is one of our Special Event tours. It is NOT, however, on every occasion an Escorted Group Tour. The tour is organized in such a way to accommodate as few as two persons or a small group. The tour is a combination of services and products designed for customers that wish to enjoy the freedom of an un-escorted trip with the assurance that all the details of the itinerary have been arranged ahead of their arrival. The support for the tour comes from the personnel in Italy who we know personally and have worked with for many years. Hotel personnel, the transportation drivers and official tour guides whom we “employ” for their services all agree with our expectation to provide our clients with a high level of customer service and attention.

Payments: A 40% deposit is required in order to confirm your reservation. Payments can be made by credit card (VISA, M/C, AMEX) or by bank transfer. The balance payment will be due 60 days prior to the Start Date for your selected tour. With credit card payments, the balance payment will automatically be charged to the credit card provided, unless the reservation is otherwise cancelled or notice is given to use an alternate form of payment.

Cancellations: Due to the nature of Special Events and the ticketing and reservation process, Tickets purchased for any opera performance, cannot be refunded for any reason. Refunds for hotel accommodations or other travel options supplied for any cancelled Special Event package will be subject to the refund schedule found below.

Performance Cancellations: Cancellations by La Scala or the Verona Arena Foundation of their respective performances are refundable. Verona Opera performances cancelled due to weather conditions are subject to the terms of the Verona Foundation, which essentially state Tickets can only be refunded if the performance does not complete the 1st act.

IF YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COMPANY IN WRITING OF YOUR INTENT TO CANCEL. If you cancel a reservation and the written cancellation is received within 30 days from the date you made the reservation, then all fees paid will be refunded, with exception to the provisions for Tickets stated above and otherwise net of credit card service charges.

After the first 30 days of your reservation period, deposits and payments for accommodations will follow the refund schedule below. If you cancel after the first 30-day period and someone takes your place, then administrative cancellation fees may apply, in addition to Ticket costs, which will be deducted from your deposit or payments.

After the 30 day initial reservation period, but
Prior to 90 days before Start Date: Refund, less 25% of total cost, net of Tickets;
Prior to 60 days before Start Date: Refund, less 50% of total cost, net of Tickets;
Prior to 45 days before Start Date: Refund, less 75% of total cost, net of Tickets;
Less than 45 days before Start Date: No refunds.

No refunds are made for unused portions of any reservation, including but not limited to missed meals, missed guided tours, Tickets (includes airline tickets), or non-use of hotel room.

Passports & Visas: All customers must possess a valid passport and/or any visas or special travel documents that can be used as a proof of citizenship. The Company accepts no liability for clients improperly documented.

Travel Insurance Protection: To cover costs associated with your reservation, the Company encourages you to consider purchasing a travel insurance policy. The Company does not supply or support any one company in this regard but can make suggestions as to the companies that provide this service.

General Conditions: Confirmation and payment of any reservation constitutes acceptance of the financial agreements between the Company and the Customer and the provisions of this agreement are in effect. The Company is acting as a tour operator responsible for arranging reservations for the services as outlined in the website paliotours.com. All suppliers providing transportation, guided tours, and lodging for the Company are not employees of the Company. The Company assumes no responsibility or liability for any claims, damages, expenses or other financial loss, whether to person or property, arising from, but not limited to, injury, accident, death, delay, alteration or inconvenience, by whatever cause, including airline scheduling, default, strike, terrorism, war, hostility, civil disturbance, quarantine, or resulting directly or indirectly from any other acts of nature. Under no circumstances is the Company to be construed as a Common Carrier under contract for safe carriage of the passenger or his/her baggage and personal belongings.

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