

For immediate release

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GET AWAY FOR A WEEK ‘UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN’

As “Under the Tuscan Sun” lights up theaters this week, an American travel agency is offering the real thing. Now anyone – not just Diane Lane – can leave an anxiety-ridden day job behind to relax in a beautifully restored 17th century villa in the breathtaking Italian countryside of Cortona.

In the movie, Frances Mayes – played by Diane Lane – quits her job as a frazzled lawyer, moves to Cortona and buys a derelict farmhouse, which she then restores. “The only difference,” says Kit Burns, president of Doorways, Ltd., “is that our guests don’t have to deal with restoration. Our farmhouses are completely renovated, so there’s no need to worry about boiling toilets,” one of the many difficulties Mayes encounters in the movie.

Doorways offers fully restored farmhouses for weeklong rentals. “No expense was spared in renovating these ancient villas,” explains Ms Burns. “You can enjoy timeless views from a 21st century infinity pool – if that gets your passion for Italy bubbling.” Doorways rents villas in various sizes, including one that comfortably accommodates up to 16 would-be-Diane Lanes.

Ms Burns also notes that fall is the perfect season to experience Cortona’s medieval charm and the beautiful surrounding region. “The wine harvest starts in October, as does the nearby Perugia chocolate festival, which brings chocolate manufacturers from across Europe. November features the olive harvest and, of course, the olive oil tasting festival.”

In addition, the area’s new wine, or *vini novelli*, is released annually in mid-November, and inexpensive bottles pop up all over the region. Visitors can also tour local vineyards and buy wine by the jug, just as Frances Mayes does.

The Italian countryside around Cortona, which forms such a beautiful backdrop for the film’s romance, is widely known as “the green heart of Italy.” The areas of Umbria and Southeastern Tuscany are home to medieval cities, turreted castles, Roman ruins and exquisite restaurants featuring regional cuisine.

“We can’t promise that our vacationers will fall in love with a sexy Italian as Diane Lane does in the movie, but our villas are every bit as romantic. And the countryside of Cortona is even more gorgeous in real life.”

Journalists and those interesting in vacationing “Under the Tuscan Sun” are encouraged to call Kit Burns at (610) 520-0806 or visit <http://www.villavacations.com>