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*Editorial Advisory*

**Villa Rental Rates in France and Italy Fall for 2002 Summer Season**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bryn Mawr, PA, April 8, 2002 – Weekly rentals for large villas in France and Italy have been discounted by as much as 50% due to unprecedented vacancy rates following the September 11, 2001, attacks. These estates sleep 10 people or more, and many are located in rural settings, away from centers of tourism. This year may represent a rare opportunity for large families to take their dream trips or for groups of friends to enjoy a leisurely vacation at an estate that's usually priced beyond their means. Following are some representative rates:

**Domaine Amen**, which sleeps 14 in a small French village near Arles, Nimes and Avignon, is available this season for \$6401 to \$7468 (June through September). The owner renovated his home, which was built as a convent 200 years ago, to accommodate guests. Last year the property rented for \$XXXX to \$XXXX in the high season.

**Villa la Chiusa**, near Lucca, Italy, accommodates 12 people for \$5720 per week, including a welcoming dinner on Saturday night and air conditioning, down from \$XXXX in 2001. The villa dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and features an Italianate garden and above-ground pool.

**Villa Loredana**, near San Casciano in the Chianti Hills south of Florence, is available for rates ranging from \$2788 to \$4880 in the high season (July and August). The property rented for \$XXXX to \$XXXX last season. The stone house was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and sleeps 12 people. Surrounding the villa are seven acres of fenced land, a garden and a large in-ground swimming pool.

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**Villa Dei Leoni**, an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century villa set in a region of olive groves and vineyards near Lucca, sleeps up to 14 people and is available for \$4456 to \$7800 this year, down from \$XXXX to \$XXXX last year. The rate varies by the number of guests and includes one dinner prepared by the owners.

Reductions in rentals for many smaller properties (sleeping four or more) have been similarly reduced throughout France and Italy. In recent years many owners have added air conditioning and other amenities common in North America.

For more information, contact:

Doorways

The Italian Tourist Bureau

The French Tourist Office

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