

WHAT'S COOKING IN TUSCANY?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Kit Burns
Doorways, Ltd.
900 County Line Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
610-520-0806, fax 610-520-0807
800-261-4460

There is something new cooking in Tuscany. Now a couple can vacation in a Tuscan farmhouse in their own charming apartment. Guests who book by April 30, 2002, will receive a free cooking class followed by wine and the dinner you have prepared included in the price (starting at \$504/person/week). This is hands-on Tuscan cooking for all ages. Fresh herbs, olive oil and wine are all available at the estate. The estate can sleep up to 20 people, but the cooking class can be given for four to twenty people. It is given in English but you will learn some Italian words, too! To top it off, in November, truffle hunting (with specially-trained dogs) will be offered. If you are lucky enough to unearth some of these treasures, you will be able to buy them at half of the normal price and they can also be included in the cooking class or you can parade into one of the well-loved restaurants in Siena where the chef will prepare you a dish fit for a king!

The warm and welcoming owners have kept the flavor of old Tuscany in the original stone archways and vaulted and beamed ceilings and terracotta floors, but the apartments are beautifully modernized with air conditioning and satellite TV. Each apartment is unique and each has a kitchen of its own. All bedrooms have bathrooms, some of which have a Jacuzzi. The estate, located 7 miles south of Siena, has farmhouses, a castle and more than 1750 acres of rolling hills covered with fields of sunflowers, wheat and vineyards. On a clear day, you can see the towers of Siena. With your own entrance and area for dining *al fresco*, you are ready to live as the Italians do. Buy *panini* baked fresh each day at the local bakery; visit the open air market in nearby Monteroni d'Arbia to sample the fresh *pecorino*; and pick up your chianti at one of the nearby wineries. When you return home, you will relax in your heated swimming pool. Kids can play Ping Pong or bicycle and teens can easily walk into the nearby village.

Before you leave home, you're given a reading and movie list, and a "welcome packet." Armed with a detailed map of Tuscany, careful directions to find your home-away-from-home, a restaurant guide and local travel and parking tips, you're ready to explore what interests you at your own pace. Day trips are easy to nearby Florence, Siena, Arezzo, Montepulciano, Montalcino (famous for the Brunello wines), Pienza, Cortona and all the other delightful hill towns of Tuscany. You are even given information about exploring Tuscany by horse or on bicycle, picnicking near a natural hot spring where you can dip in the hot waters, then plunge into the refreshing stream and then receive a hot shower and massage. Or, do you prefer sitting by the pool watching the sun go down?

The country cooking classes are offered by Doorways, Ltd., 900 County Line Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, a firm that specializes in villa and apartment rental vacations in Italy, France and Spain. For more information check out their website at www.villavacations.com or phone 800-261-4460.