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TRAVEL NEWS

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Perillo Tours Offers Culinary, Cultural Tours of Italy

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Perillo Tours plans to launch a series of culinary and cultural tours of Italy selected in cooperation with Slow Food Italia. In April, Perillo will introduce two itineraries to four regions in Italy – Piedmont and Italian Riviera, and Tuscany and Umbria. These tours, in line with Slow Food's commitment to protecting traditional and sustainable quality foods, will focus on the local food and beverage products of each of the regions. Pricing for its two tour itineraries ranges from \$4,290 to \$4,590 per person, double. Twelve departures are planned between June 17 and Oct. 21. Alternatively, individual trips can be booked through ItalyVacations.com for travel at any time of year.

The itineraries, which are for 12 days to Piedmont and Italian Riviera, and 13 days to Tuscany and Umbria, explore the regions' rich enogastronomical traditions, gorgeous landscapes and historical heritage. As these tours are created with respect to the Slow Food Italia approach, guests will have the unique opportunity to sample several Slow Food Presidia products – high-quality, traditional foods and beverages consistent with Slow Food's concept of sustainable agriculture ("good, clean, fair") that are at risk of "extinction," and other local delicacies from recommended producers. Guests will also be eating at restaurants which have been included in the Osterie D'Italia Slow Food Guide, and have a chance to visit Slow Food Earth Markets, which is where small-scale producers and farmers can sell their products directly to consumers.

During the tours, participants will not only discover food and wines but also art, history, culture and natural landscapes of the regions, from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence to the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, the Duomo Cathedral in Turin where the Holy Shroud is kept, and UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Cinque Terre, the Gulf of Poets, and San Gimignano.

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Group tours, which are kept to a smaller size, range from 10 to 25 people, comfortably ensconced in deluxe, state-of-the-art luxury motor coaches. Single supplements are available. Perillo Tours also offers its guests the option to extend their stay by arriving early or departing late. The tours have been crafted to balance abundant activity with plenty of free time.

The prices include all costs aside from gratuity for the guides and airline flights: Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy; all accommodations in first-class historical residences and charming hotels; a daily buffet breakfast, several lunches and dinners at "Osterie d'Italia" typical Slow Food Italia restaurants; meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines; a Slow Food Italia welcome at the hotel; several tastings of Slow Food wines and Presidia products, as well as tastings of regional foods and wines; one cooking lesson dedicated to the region's cuisine followed by dinner; one Slow Food Italia gift; one Slow Food – Terra Madre presentation kit; entrance fees to all churches and museums; professional tour directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides; baggage handling for the full duration of the tour; and hotel taxes, service charges and all tips for hotel and restaurant personnel.

Founded in Northern Italy in 1989, Slow Food Italia is part of an international movement to promote "good, clean, and fair food for all." Slow Food Italia is committed to protecting traditional and sustainable quality foods, defending the biodiversity of cultivated and wild varieties as well as cultivation and processing methods. Through maintaining the diversity of regional food and agricultural traditions, the wisdom of local communities can be maintained to protect the ecosystems that surround them and offer sustainable products for the future. Slow Food Italia is a national association funded by grassroots membership and sponsors. For more information, visit www.slowfood.it.

For 66 years and three generations, the Perillo family has perfected the art of traveling to Italy, making Perillo Tours America's leading tour operator to Italy. From the major cities to the hill towns off the beaten path, Perillo's itineraries are crafted with a balance of sightseeing, free time and activities that offer a glimpse of Italy's rich traditions. Perillo Tours also recently launched www.ItalyVacations.com – a site which arranges fully customized trips to Italy for individual travelers. For more information, call 800-431-1515 or visit www.perillotours.com.

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