



## CUSTOMIZED PROGRAM



CENTER FOR  
GLOBAL EDUCATION  
AND EXPERIENCE



CASTELLO SONNINO  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

### ***Religion and the Arts in Italy***

Illiff School of Theology

9 Days/8 Nights: Montespertoli, Florence, Siena, San Gimignano

January 11-19, 2027

#### **Travel Day: Flight to Florence**

- Typically overnight flight to Italy - depart Denver in the afternoon

#### **Day 1: Arrival (Monday, Jan 11)**

- Travel to Florence
- Settle into lodgings at Castello Sonnino and nearby town of Montespertoli
- Lunch boxes available on arrival
- Welcome and Orientation
- Dinner at the Enoteca (wine bar & café) at Castello Sonnino

#### **Day 2: Montespertoli (Tuesday, Jan 12)**

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Lecture with Professor Debora Spini introducing the connection between art and spirituality
- Lunch at the Enoteca (wine bar & café) at Castello Sonnino
- Walking tour of the Castello Sonnino to learn about the working farm, its history and significance to the region. Visit the Sonnino Archives, a fascinating glimpse into Italian history.
- Sonnino wine experience - tour of the cellar and the vineyards, followed by wine tasting with Leone de Renzis Sonnino
- Dinner in town, on meal stipend



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**Day 3: Florence: Illegitimate Art and the Accademia (Wednesday, Jan 13)**

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Travel to Florence with the public bus
- Guided walking tour on Graffiti and Illegitimate art in Florence - we will first visit Piazza Santa Maria Novella, Piazza della Signoria e Piazza Pitti, then we will explore more hidden areas of the town where contemporary artists leave their traces
- Lunch with stipend
- Guided tour of the Accademia Gallery (activate the [FirenzeCard museum pass](#)—good for 72 hours)
- Return to Montespertoli with public bus
- Group reflection
- Dinner in town, on meal stipend

**Day 4: Florence: Uffizi and Palazzo Medici Riccardi (Thursday, Jan 14)**

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Travel to Florence with the public bus
- Guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery
- Lunch in Florence, on meal stipend
- Group entrance to Palazzo Medici Riccardi - no tour guide
- Free time to explore another museum on FirenzeCard
- Dinner in town, on meal stipend
- Return to Montespertoli with the public bus (last public bus at 7:45)

**Day 5: Florence: Cappelle Medicee (Friday, Jan 15)**

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Travel to Florence with the public bus
- Group entrance to Cappelle Medicee - no tour guide
- Lunch at Mercato di Sant’Ambrogio, on meal stipend
- Visit the Convent of San Marco to view the frescoes by Beato Angelico, a monk and artist working in the first half of the 15th century
- Visit the Basilica of San Miniato to hear the daily vespers
- Dinner in Florence, on meal stipend
- Return to Montespertoli with private bus

**Day 6: Free Choice Day (Saturday, Jan 16)**

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Free time - participants can go into Florence, take a trip to Pisa, rest in Montespertoli, etc...
- Lunch on meal stipend
- Free time
- Reflection
- Attend mass in Montespertoli
- Dinner in town, on meal stipend

**Day 7: Siena and San Gimignano** (Sunday, Jan 17)

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Meet at main gate to board the bus to Siena
- Walking tour: Meet with local guide who will guide the students through the discovery of the medieval town of Siena and its famous Duomo and Basilica of San Domenico, which is home to relics of Catherine of Siena
- Group lunch: Enjoy a typical Sienese meal
- Travel to San Gimignano
- Visit the San Gimignano Cathedral (Collegiata di Santa Maria Assunta) and the Museum of Sacred Art
- Return to Montespertoli
- Dinner at the Enoteca (wine bar & café) at Castello Sonnino

**Day 8: Montespertoli** (Monday, Jan 18)

- Breakfast in town, on meal stipend
- Cooking class: learn how to make pasta from local professional chefs
- Group Lunch at the Enoteca: dine on the food made in during the cooking class
- Group reflection and program evaluation
- Group Farewell Dinner at Castello Sonnino Enoteca & Café

**Day 9: Journey home** (Tuesday, Jan 19)

- Breakfast on stipend
- Transfer to airport and return home

NOTE: Italy is an amazing country with a rich history and hospitable culture; we look forward to guiding you on a fascinating journey. In our experience in Italy, changes sometimes occur in an itinerary, often with little notice, such as: the order of activities, the time of events, or the activities themselves. A spirit of flexibility and patience will go a long way toward making your educational program in Italy successful and enjoyable.