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Cookery courses in Italy

Ask the Experts: Sophie Butler offers advice on booking cookery courses in Italy, including locations in Tuscany, Umbria and Puglia



Italian cookery holidays: Numerous operators offer high-quality cooking holidays in Tuscany, Umbria and Puglia Photo: AP

By Sophie Butler

11:05AM BST 26 May 2014

Christine Bower writes

I'd like to book a cooking holiday in Italy for myself and my grown-up daughter in September or early October. We are both fairly good cooks but would like to learn to prepare some local dishes and shop in local markets. We want to keep away from "tourist hotspots" but would like good accommodation.

Sophie Butler, consumer expert, replies

Flavours Holidays (0131 343 2500; flavoursholidays.co.uk) offers week-long holidays in Tuscany, Puglia, Sicily and Umbria with shorter three-night breaks also available in Tuscany. Prices start at £899 for three nights including three cookery lessons, all meals and wine, an afternoon excursion, transfers and a private wine tasting. A seven-night stay typically costs around £1,599. Within these prices there's an allocation of £100 towards flight costs. Courses are scheduled throughout the autumn (finishing in early November). Alternatively, Tuscookany (07039 400235; tuscookany.com) offers three-day and one-week residential cookery courses in three different Tuscan villas. And newly launched this year is Stirred Travel (01347 868659; stirredtravel.com), which offers cookery classes at Villa Casagrande, a 15th-century estate in the foothills of the Dolomites in northern Italy, an hour's drive from Venice. Six-night courses run in September and October at £2,400 per person based on two sharing, including airport transfers, meals, wine, tours and tastings. Recipes are based on local produce with accompanying wines from the region.

Ask the experts

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About Sophie Butler



Sophie Butler offers advice on a variety of issues, from insurance and car hire to holiday money and compensation.

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