

Italian Cooking Vacations

By Julie Elefante

Italian food isn't just pizza and pasta, and nothing can illustrate that point better than actually being in Italy and learning from professional native chefs how to prepare the various cuisines Italy offers. Cuisine types differ from traditional to nouveau and from coastal to country, and regions all over Italy's map are home to opportunities where vacationers can learn these different cooking styles. While not in class, vacationers are welcome to tour the surrounding areas on their own or in organized tours that hosts often offer.

La Locanda

La Locanda is a Tuscan bed and breakfast owned and operated by the Innocenti family. Classes offer hands-on instruction on preparing southern Tuscan cuisine. The [vacations](#) can last either four or seven days, and the classes hold between 4 and 10 people. Dates are based on availability. As of 2009, depending on which package you choose, prices range from \$1,100 to \$2,000 and include local transportation, accommodations, most meals and class materials.

Tuscan Way---La Locanda del Prete
2829 Bird Ave., Suite 5, PMB 242
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
Information: (800) 766-2390
lalocandadelprete.com/aboutus.htm

Casa Ombuto and Torre del Tartufo

Casa Ombuto and Torre del Tartufo are two villas run by the same company that offer Tuscan cooking vacations. Casa Ombuto also offers seven-day courses that instruct participants on various cuisines, including Italian, Moroccan, French Provencale and Mediterranean, with a different-themed dinner each night. As of 2009, the three-day course costs \$1,650, and the seven-day courses start at \$2,750. Both packages include accommodations, all meals and class materials, and are available only from April through October.

Casa Ombuto
Larniano 21
52014 Poppi (AR)
Italy

OR

Torre del Tartufo
Loc Il Podere 56
52010 Chiaveretto (AR)
Italy
Information: (888) 722-6901, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. EST
italiancookerycourse.com/