



# In the Footsteps of the Medici

## Power, Art & the Rise of the Renaissance

October 23 - 30, 2026

*Buongiorno!*



David Brancaccio here inviting you to join me on a remarkable journey through one of the most stunning regions in the world—Tuscany—where power, wealth, and beauty helped shaped the course of Western history. Together, we'll step into the world of the Medici, the formidable banking family whose influence helped transform Florence into the heart of the Renaissance. Their patronage brought forth the genius of Michelangelo, Leonardo, and Botticelli, while their financial empire fueled a

golden age of art, technology, architecture, and humanist thought. It's a story we will explore far beyond Florence. In Siena, we'll trace the legacy of Europe's financial evolution at Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the world's oldest bank still in operation. We'll roam the rolling vineyards of Chianti, the medieval streets of Siena, and the lyrical hills surrounding Lucca. Along the way, we'll savor bold wines, rustic cuisine, breathtaking landscapes, and timeless art. And did I mention the authentic Italian cuisine we'll get to savor together? Over unforgettable eight days and seven wonderful nights, we'll uncover how the legacy of power and creativity still pulses through Tuscany's palaces, piazzas, and countryside—and why the region continues to captivate the world.

I look forward to sharing it all with you in Tuscany this fall!



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.  
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA  
T. 206.842.9775  
[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



Enjoy seven nights at the elegant Villa Olmi (4 star-superior)

### What's Included in Your tailor-made, *Marketplace* Tuscan Adventure

- Travel alongside David Brancaccio of *Marketplace*
- Guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions director
- Seven nights at the historic Villa Olmi Fienze (4-star superior)
- Daily breakfasts + seven multi-course meals + two evenings of hors d'oeuvres
- Guided tours of Italy's most treasured museums
- Fascinating talks, lectures and local storytelling
- An entertaining cooking demonstration
- A spa outing: Soak in the warm thermal waters of Montecatini
- Outings to Lucca, Siena with time to explore enchanting Tuscan hill towns
- Special docent-led talks on Medici and Renaissance artists
- A private opera recital celebrating the life of Maestro Puccini
- Daily excursions by private comfy mini coach
- Visits to acclaimed wineries and family-run olive mills
- A community of curious, like-minded public radio friends and travelers

### Trip Facts

8 Days / 7 Nights in a villa in Tuscany (Villa Olmi 4-star superior)

Trip begins: October 23, 2026 in Tuscany

Trip ends: October 30, 2026 in Tuscany

\$7,745 per person based on double occupancy

\$1,995 single occupancy supplement



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*Spend an educational, fascinating week with Michelangelo, Rafael and the Medici's*

## Medici: Wealth, Power, Religion and Beauty



Founded in 1397 by Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici, the Medici Bank grew to become the most powerful and respected financial institution in 15th-century Europe. With branches in major cities such as Florence, Rome, Venice, London, Bruges, Lyon, and Geneva, it revolutionized banking through innovations like double-entry bookkeeping and the use of bills of exchange. But the Medici influence went far beyond banking. Their immense wealth allowed them to become leading patrons of the arts, funding masterpieces by Michelangelo, Botticelli, and other Renaissance legends. Their political reach was just as impressive and the family

helped place relatives on papal thrones and European thrones alike. Discover how the Medici shaped the Renaissance — and history — through finance, art, and power.



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### FACT

The Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, which was founded in 1472 and is considered the world's oldest bank.

## Your *Marketplace* Journey Begins ...

### Day 1: Friday, October 23 - Welcome to Tuscany

Arrive at the Villa Olmi, located just outside historic Florence. Enjoy views of vineyards, olive groves, and distant church towers create a quintessential Tuscan welcome. After settling into your room and taking time to unwind, gather for a festive **welcome dinner** with *Marketplace* host **David Brancaccio**. Savor classic Florentine flavors, and regional wines, as the sun sets over the countryside. Airport transfers included if arriving today.

*Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze, 4-star superior (D)*

### Day 2: Saturday, October 24 - Florence – Medici Power and Renaissance Wealth

Today's journey takes you to Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Begin with a guided visit to Palazzo Medici Riccardi, the Medici family's first palace, and the San Lorenzo Church and Medici Chapels, where Michelangelo's masterpieces celebrate their legacy. Learn how Florence's banking elite, led by the Medici, funded the city's cultural explosion. After a leisurely lunch near the Duomo, visit Santa Maria Novella, a hub of merchant and banking history. Return to our villa in the early evening for a relaxed dinner. *Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*



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*Immerse yourself in the beauty of Tuscany*

#### **Day 3: Sunday, October 25 - Wines and Villages of Chianti**

Head into the heart of **Chianti Classico** for a day immersed in wine and history. Visit a family-run wine estate with deep roots in the region's feudal and financial past. Enjoy a tour of the vineyards, a tasting of Chianti and Super Tuscan wines, and a rustic farm-to-table lunch.

Explore picturesque villages like **Castellina** or **Radda in Chianti**, rich with medieval character and artisan shops. Return to the villa for an evening talk. Wine and hors d'oeuvres served this evening. *Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*

#### **Day 4: Monday, October 26 - Lucca's Legacy: Puccini, Politics, and Tuscan Flavors**

Start the day with a tribute to **Giacomo Puccini**, Lucca's most famous son. Visit the **Puccini Museum**, set in his birthplace, to see original manuscripts, costumes, and his piano. Then tour the **Teatro del Giglio** and enjoy a curated Puccini music experience.

In the afternoon, head into the surrounding hills for an **olive oil tasting and lunch** at a nearby estate. *Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*

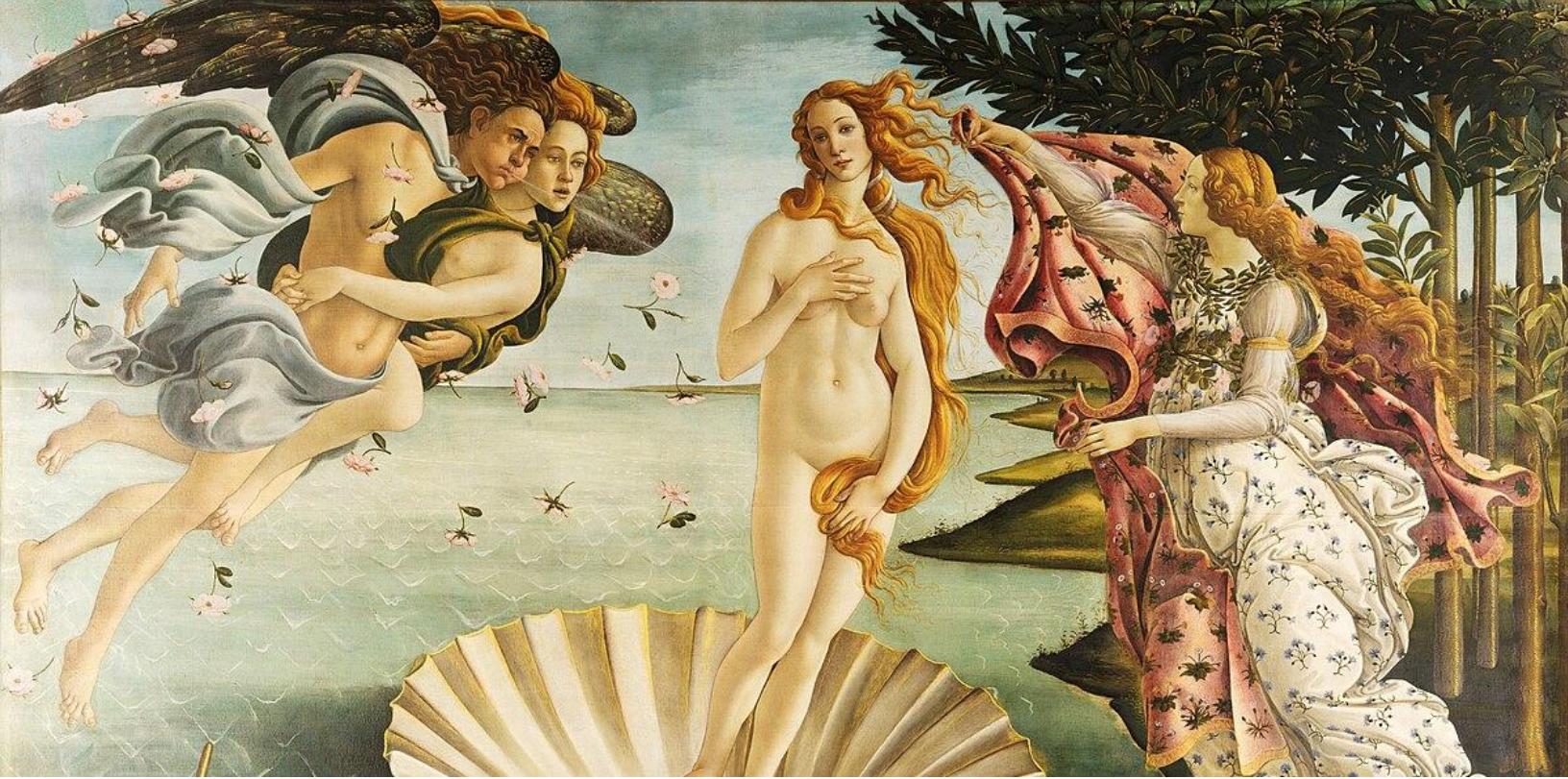
#### **Day 5: Tuesday, October 27 - Siena – Rival City and the World's Oldest Bank**

Travel to **Siena**, Florence's historic rival and home of **Monte dei Paschi di Siena**, the world's oldest bank still in operation. A guided walking tour explores the **Piazza del Campo**, **Siena Cathedral**, and banking institutions that shaped European finance. Learn how Sienese bankers, merchants, and guilds competed with their Florentine counterparts. After a beautiful lunch in a quiet courtyard restaurant, enjoy free time for shopping or gelato in Siena's narrow medieval lanes. Return to Florence in the early evening. *Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*



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*Enjoy a private tour of the Uffizi*

#### **Day 6: Wednesday, October 28 - Florence - Uffizi Treasures and Medici Gardens**

Your day in Florence begins at the iconic **Uffizi Gallery**, where masterpieces by Botticelli, da Vinci, and Michelangelo, many commissioned by the Medici, reveal the dynasty's artistic legacy. After lunch, cross the **Ponte Vecchio** to the **Oltrarno**, exploring **Pitti Palace**, the Medici's grand residence, and the **Boboli Gardens**, a stunning example of Renaissance landscape design. Return to our villa for dinner with Tuscan wine pairings, music, and musings on the day.

*Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*

#### **Day 7: Thursday, October 29 - Wine Roads and the Nature of Montecarlo**

Today unwind at one of Tuscany's renowned spas. Feeling adventurous? Join your guide and host and head out to explore nearby hill towns, including San Gimignano, famous for its medieval towers, charming piazzas, and world-class gelato. This evening, return to your villa for an engaging lecture that brings Tuscany's rich culture and history to life. Then, gather for a mouthwatering Tuscan feast, featuring seasonal dishes and regional wines for the perfect end to a memorable day. *Sleep in the Villa Olmi Firenze*

#### **Day 8: Friday, October 30: Journey Concludes**

After breakfast, private transfers to Florence Airport are included. Depart with rich memories of Tuscany's artistry, history, and the enduring legacy of artists and people who shaped history. Note: If you have time, you may consider heading south to historic Rome, east to Bologna, or north to Venice and/or Milan. (B)



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*Eat, Sip, Savor: A Culinary Journey Through Tuscany*

## **Savor the Flavors of Tuscany**

Throughout your week in Tuscany, you'll enjoy a delicious journey through the region's rich culinary traditions. Wake up to fresh-baked breads, seasonal fruit, and rich Italian coffee each morning. Midday meals feature rustic favorites like handmade pastas, wood-fired pizzas, and crisp local salads – often enjoyed al fresco with sweeping vineyard views. In the evenings, gather for multi-course dinners showcasing regional specialties such as wild boar ragu, truffle-infused risotto, and perfectly grilled meats, all paired with exceptional Tuscan wines. You'll also experience authentic farm-to-table dining, visits to family-run wineries, and a cooking demonstration where you'll learn to prepare traditional dishes using fresh, local ingredients. Every meal is a celebration of Tuscany's flavors, designed to delight your senses and bring people together.

**Questions & Reservations**  
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## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

**Reservations and Deposits:** A \$1000 per person deposit is required to confirm your space on this journey. Deposits can be made via credit card or by calling the Earthbound office at 206.842.9775. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or until 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

**Not Included:** International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

**Physical Requirements:** It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

**Travel Insurance:** Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

**Events and Hosted Journeys:** If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Terms & Conditions:** [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

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