



TUSCAN COOKING SCHOOL

with Chef Craig Richards

VILLA MONTECASTELLO TUSCANY
June 3 - June 10, 2017



Chef Craig Richards

Join Chef Craig Richards, Executive Chef of St Cecilia, in the romantic Tuscan countryside for an unforgettable culinary adventure. This week long journey will immerse you in the joys of Italian cuisine, introduce you to new techniques and ingredients, and inspire your cooking for years to come.

The 1000 year old exclusive estate, Villa Montecastello, a working organic farm and olive orchard, will be the setting for the class. Your week spent in this storybook setting will be complemented by clean farm to table eating, cooking with ingredients just picked from the garden, magical day trips and wonderful wines. At Villa Montecastello, we'll open the doors to local artisans and farmers lives, tour the vineyards of Tuscany and explore ancient local towns and hamlets.

Villa Montecastello has been immaculately renovated to offer its visitors an authentic luxury experience in Tuscany centered around food and wine. Located one hour south of Florence, the Villa is surrounded by olive groves, with vineyards and nature reserves at its base. Villa Montecastello is a full size working organic farm, producing the gold metal award winning Primo Olio extra virgin olive oil, as well as a unique and vast assortment of garden produce and herbs which will be used in your meals and cooking classes throughout the week. The villa is home to an array of farm animals including the local breed of Cinta Senesi pig, donkeys, chicken and guinea fowl.

During this hands on week, Craig will lead you on a cooking journey of a lifetime, inspiring you with his old-world, ingredient driven approach, to cook simple foods met with his signature sophistication that has catapulted him to the top of Atlanta's dining scene. We hope you can come along and let Chef Richards guide you through the simple and flavorful experience of living a week in Tuscany to the fullest!



Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival to Villa Montecastello, light lunch upon arrival. Time to relax and freshen up. Sunset prosecco reception and welcome dinner at Villa Montecastello.

Day 2

Breakfast. Welcome orientation. Morning cooking class followed by lunch. Afternoon free time for swimming, hiking, reading, exploring. Afternoon cooking class. Dinner at Villa Montecastello.

Day 3

Breakfast. Late morning trip to Montalcino for a winery tour and Brunello tasting. Lunch in Montalcino. Afternoon cooking class. Dinner at Villa Montecastello.

Day 4

Breakfast. Morning cooking class followed by lunch. Afternoon free time in Siena. Dinner out at best local restaurant in Siena.

Day 5

Breakfast. Morning cooking class followed by lunch. Afternoon wine class with wine expert Jens Schmidt. Dinner grill night at Villa Montecastello.

Day 6

Breakfast. All day trip to Florence with lunch and dinner out on your own.

Day 7

Breakfast. Morning cooking class followed by lunch. Free time for swimming, hiking, reading, exploring, relaxing and taking it all in. Farewell Dinner pizza party night at Villa Montecastello – make your own pizza in our 1000 year old outdoor oven.

Day 8

Breakfast good byes and departure for airports.



All Inclusive Accommodations & Pricing

Villa Montecastello will be your private Tuscan oasis during this week long retreat. We invite you to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of nature, eat to your heart's content, and to relax by the pool with a glass of Prosecco and soak in the sprawling views of the Tuscan countryside.

The week includes 7 overnight accommodations at Villa Montecastello, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners, all local transportation as described in the itinerary including airport pickup and drop off at Florence airport. Daily breakfast buffet includes locally baked goods and produce, fruit, coffee, tea and juice. Also included are all of the materials for cooking classes, wine tours and tasting. Unlimited bottled water (sparkling and flat) at villa. House wine with lunch and dinners from our expertly curated house selection, plus all wine for tastings and winery tours. **Not included in pricing:** Airfare, all extra beverages, additional transportation outside of itinerary.

Each room is uniquely furnished with the utmost *attention to detail*. All rooms offer luxury hand ironed linens, hand made olive oil soap and shampoo, fresh cut flowers and air conditioning. Villa Montecastello offers 8 room options of varying sizes and pricing, each is filled with beautiful antiques, warmth and charm. The Villa Montecastello has many shared sitting areas both inside and out, a library filled with books about Italy, food and wine, as well as a professional chef's kitchen where your cooking classes will take place.

- Leccino Luxury Suite \$4800 per person for double occupancy, \$4200 per person triple occupancy
The largest apartment offering the most comfort and space with one bedroom with Queen bed, a private living room with pull out sofa bed, fireplace, livingroom area, kitchen and large ensuite bathroom
- Frantoio Suite \$4400 per person for double occupancy, \$4900 per person for single occupancy
Our most romantic room, beautifully appointed with a King size canopy bed and ensuite bathroom with clawfoot tub
- Pendolino Studio \$4000 per person for double occupancy, \$4500 per person for single occupancy
A charming studio with Queen bed, private ensuite bathroom and kitchenette
- Foresteria \$4000 per person for double occupancy, \$4500 per person for single occupancy
A beautiful large bedroom with King bed or two Twin beds and private ensuite bathroom
- Frantoio bedroom \$3700 per person for double occupancy, \$4200 per person for single occupancy
A beautifully appointed room with an extra large bathroom just a few steps outside the room.
- Moraiolo bedrooms #1 & #2 \$3500 per person for double occupancy, \$4000 per person for single occupancy
Cozy and lovely rooms with private bathrooms across the hallway, just a few steps outside the room. Bedroom #1 has the option for a King bed or two Twin beds. Bedroom #2 has a Queen bed.

50% deposit is required to secure your booking, 50% balance is due two weeks before departure. Deposit payment can be made by Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover) or Personal Check made payable to Montecastelli Selections.

Contact Villa Montecastello for availability (973)327.2336 or amie@montecastelli.com