



## AFTERNOON'S ACTIVITIES

### Italian Language and Culture

We have always believed that social and cultural activities play an important role in language learning. The desire to learn about the society and culture of the country is a strong motivation to improve language skills. Most students find it interesting to compare their own culture with Italian culture and enjoy increasing their knowledge of the country which in turn allows them to better use the language.

For this reason, each Koine' school offers a varied programme of teacher - led social and cultural activities in the afternoon including effective insights into the Italian way of life  
The programme is individually designed for each Koine' location based on the particular environment and characteristics that make each location unique.

The teaching staff run the activities dealing effectively with any language difficulties through the use of video, DVD, etc.

The activities are designed to be attended by students at all levels and, depending on their level, students are able to understand the content to a greater or lesser extent. The activities are a valuable opportunity for exposure to the language and to the topics covered and are also interesting and entertaining in their own right. Many of the themes make interesting topics of conversation between students and with the teacher. The afternoon activities can be lectures, excursions or guided visits.

## LECTURES ON TOPICS OF CULTURAL INTEREST

### Talking about Italy

Information about present-day Italian society and politics

**Italy, regional and national culture :** good points and faults

### Body language, bad language, posing and poetry

The "theatre" of everyday spoken Italian and its lexicon of gestures with particular reference to the language of advertising.

### Listening to the Divine Comedy

Musicality in the founding work of the Italian Literature .

### Italian cinema

Brief overview and guided watching of scenes from famous movies

### Cinema and Literature

Brief overview and guided watching of scenes from famous movies.

### Tuscany and the cinema

Brief overview and guided watching of scenes from famous movies

### Fellini and advertising

Italian society as seen through commercial ads

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### Italy on a Vespa

The Vespa: symbol of Italian creativity and sign of a popular phenomenon. A journey through advertising and cinema with the Vespa in the leading role, set against the background of defining social and cultural events in Italy up until the present day. The lecture makes extensive use of audiovisual material.

## GUIDED TOURS in Lucca

### The city as seen from its walls

A walk while talking about Lucca and its structure, its history and geographical position

### The Romanesque style in Lucca

### Lucca: secret corners and unusual perspectives

### Devils, saints, magic stones and pilgrim crosses

A walk through the city's memories of history, religion and superstition

### The Shape of Water : canals, fountains... gardens.

Through an intriguing walk through the history of the town, a different Lucca reveals itself.

## MUSIC

### A musical journey with songs of singers-songwriters from different Italian cities:

Lucio Dalla from Bologna, Giorgio Gaber from Milan, Francesco De Gregori from Rome, Pino Daniele from Naples ... Live Music with Giulio D'Agnello ( [www.gruppmediterraneo.org](http://www.gruppmediterraneo.org) )

### Music and Society

Songwriter's works reflecting Italian society. Guided listening of selected songs

### Puccini, the man, the artist and ..... la Bohème

Guided listening with audio and video equipment

**Puccini, the man, the artist and ... Tosca.** Using a variety of audio visual resources we discuss the life and work of Lucca's most famous son and his most famous opera.

## FOOD and WINE

**A Taste of Lucca.** A food and wine lovers' walking tour of the town, introducing not only the historic centre within the city walls but also the traditional ingredients and specialities of the area and the individual specialist food and wine shops that still flourish in the town.

### Chatting, Cooking, Tasting

Preparation of typical dishes and dinner. Tuscan cuisine with food of the season

### The pleasures of wine, Part 1.

#### Using the senses: Look, smell, taste - enjoy!

We look at how to use the information on the label to choose wine, then learn how to maximise enjoyment of the wine using three senses. First we enjoy the colour and texture of the wine in the glass. Next we savour the scent in all its complexity. Finally we taste, enjoying and exploring the unique flavour of each wine.

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We will be able to use these techniques to the full during our guided tasting of white wines. How to read a label, how to choose a wine. Organoleptic analysis, the role of the eye, the nose and the mouth in wine tasting.

**Guided comparative tasting of white wines.**

**The pleasures of wine Part 2.**

**Guided tasting of red wines.**

**The essential ingredients:** how grape variety, microclimate, soil and aspect determine a wine. **Perfect partners :** how to match food and wine to increase your enjoyment of both. Typicality of vines, regions and wines. Guided comparative tasting of red wines

## EXCURSIONS

**The Villa in Tuscany during the 16<sup>o</sup> Century.**

Guided excursion with private bus.

**Villages and hamlets: ancient traditions.**

Excursion by train to Castelnuovo Garfagnana. Visit of the historic center, the Castle, the Cathedral. Walking up to the Fortress of Montalfonso

**Traditional towns and villages**

Excursion by bus to Barga.

**The Serchio Valley and the Chestnut wood**

Visit of the Village of Colognora di Pescaglia and its Ethnographic Museum of the Chestnut

**The route of Puccini's sites**

Memories of Puccini in Lucca, Celle, Torre del Lago.

**Excursion to the wine area of Chianti.**

**Visit to a winery with comparative wine tastings . Lunch at a restaurant with typical tuscan menu.**

**Florence and the splendour of Renaissance. Guided excursion**

**Florence : Once over the Ponte Vecchio,** a different Florence reveals itself, quieter and greener or... The tuscan art of landscaping. Visit at Giardino dei Boboli and Giardino Bardini: a garden with a breathtaking View.

**The Cinque terre and the Gulf of the Poets. One day excursion**

**Viareggio, the seaport, the colonial architecture and the “Art Nouveau” style.** The shipyards of the prestigious cruising yachts and the old harbour, the beautiful coastline and the elegant boulevard lined with art nouveau buildings and palm trees. The extensive dimensions of the sandy beach: The fine sand and the gentle slope of the seabed are ideal for bathing.

**The land of wines and olive trees.**


Excursion by private bus to Villa Maionchi: the vineyard, the italian garden, the traditional cellar. Tuscan afternoon snack accompanied by own made quality wines.

**The magic of the citrus.**


Extraordinary shapes, colours and scents of this **INTERNATIONAL GARDEN** famous for over 200 different varieties of citrus fruits from all over the world. A botanic garden where one can admire ancient and modern cultivars from the Medicean epoch till nowadays.

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