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Located south of Siena, in the province of Grosseto, towers Arcidosso – a charming village that evokes the quintessential and exquisite spirit of medieval times. Conveniently located in the highest point of town, you'll find Casa Innocenti where the views of the majestic countryside are always splendid and a cappuccino or pizza is a mere short walk away.



The Tuscan Light slowly, but forcefully, melts into the landscape at dusk only to experience Renaissance at dawn rising like warm milk to a pillar of strength that is midday. This ebb and flow is lived daily with full immersion, as it has been since those ancient beginnings... Etruscans, advanced and clever, building the rudiments of civilization that remain, in certain simple yet fundamental ways, at the apex of the nicer aspects of civilization today – peaceful moments of beauty, the Way of the Senses and the Dolce Vita "Sweet Life" that we know in Toscana...

*"Come taste & experience with us!"*

*A presto – ciao,*

*Isabel Innocenti*



*Tuscan Way*  
LA DOLCE VITA IN TOSCANA

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# *Casa Innocenti*

*La Cucina Povera  
in Southern Tuscany  
hosted by:  
Carlo Innocenti*

*T u s c a n y , I t a l y*



*Tuscan Way*  
LA DOLCE VITA IN TOSCANA



## *La Dolce Vita in Toscana*

Tuscan Way offers you a unique and rare opportunity to live and experience life, as it really is, in Southern Tuscany. *La Via dei Sensi* – The way of the senses. At Tuscan Way, we specialize in cooking course holidays and offer a variety of custom tours where travelers can choose the type of holiday they desire. Regardless of what you choose to do, our aim is to provide a very personal, pleasurable and memorable experience that will leave you feeling invigorated and refreshed. We accomplish this by working only with small groups. We introduce our guests to the locals, letting them witness firsthand the culture, tradition and land. In essence, our philosophy is to provide you with the most authentic and enriching vacation experience possible...

Far from the tourist masses, you will be living in Casa Innocenti – a 12th century home fantastically situated next to a castle atop the picturesque medieval village of Arcidosso. You will also have the chance to go on a daily guided cultural excursion to visit the little towns of the area which have preserved their cultural heritage and history, such as Pienza, Montalcino and Montepulciano. Tuscany, of course, is famous in Italy, as well as worldwide, for its cuisine and wine. Being a special guest in this unique home, you will learn how to prepare dishes typical of Southern Tuscany and how to enjoy, recognize and appreciate its famous wines. Your Chef and personal host will be the charismatic owner of the home, my father, Carlo Innocenti. Because of his entrepreneurial endeavors and creativity, Carlo is quite a celebrity in Arcidosso and the surrounding area.



*“My daughter Isabel  
and I personally  
invite you to visit  
Southern Tuscany  
and to stay  
with us  
in our home  
Casa Innocenti.  
We are certain  
this will be  
a treasured  
and memorable  
experience  
for years to come.”*

- CARLO INNOCENTI



## *Experience Tuscany Like a True Tuscan*

To visit Tuscany or Italy like you have never done before, it is necessary to become immersed in the culture (the land, its cultivation and harvest). This is integral to Italian tradition in general and Tuscany's in particular. Ingredients borne from the land are a beacon for the Tuscan psyche. Food, where it came from and how it is prepared, is at once an elaborate art form, philosophy and common topic of conversation in Tuscany. It would be very normal to hear a group of teenagers from Tuscany talking together for 30 minutes about what they had for supper the night before... every detail, including everything from the origin of the olive oil and the climatic conditions affecting the savor of this year's tomatoes and basil to the preparation of the table and sauce and finally the dessert that followed...

We invite you to experience the largely undiscovered, charming village of Arcidosso and its neighboring towns. Many Italians consider the province of Grosseto to be one of the most splendid Italian regions because of its ancient villages and stunning landscapes. Best of all, it has always been a bit off the beaten path and has not been exploited by tourism. As our guest, we'll take you to visit seaside villages, the Brunello wine region of Montalcino and the area of Scansano. These are far away from places like downtown Rome and Florence, which, while beautiful, are heavily visited by tourists. Join me in the next few pages as I tell you about the cultural Tuscan experience we offer at Tuscan Way and the secrets of our enchanting home... Casa Innocenti!

*“Discover Arcidosso*

*where you'll*

*live and cook*

*with us in our*

*enchanting home,*

*on top of the hill.*

*Come taste*

*and experience*

*life as a true Tuscan.*

*Join us for an intimate vacation*

*like no other at*

*Casa Innocenti.”*

- ISABEL INNOCENTI



*“From the beautiful  
Tuscan countryside  
to the charm that is Arcidosso,  
the intimacy,  
the personal attention  
and staying  
in your beautiful home,  
Casa Innocenti,  
instead of a hotel  
made our trip unique.*

*The itinerary was flexible  
and everything  
was just wonderful.”*

**- BRYAN SMITH  
PITTSBURGH, PA**



## *Casa Innocenti Arcidosso, Province of Grosseto*

**Accommodations:** *A regal 5 story 20 room private residence on the highest point of the hilltop village*

Casa Innocenti and Arcidosso evoke the quintessential and exquisite spirit of medieval times. The charming 12th century village of Arcidosso is unlike any other village. All of the village houses are attached to each other and emanate out from the dominating castle at the top of the hill in the very center of town. Casa Innocenti is the highest house in the village and is located right next to the castle. It is truly remarkable to look out your window and see an entire piazza, a village and a castle, as well as the country-side and mountains. The views are splendid. And a cappuccino or pizza is a mere 3 minute walk away. The original foundations of the house date from the year 1100 A.D. and the walls are over 1 meter thick, which allows them to preserve heat during the winter months and coolness during the summer. There are 5 floors and 20 rooms starting on the bottom with La Cantina, the elaborate wine cellar, wine tasting area and one of several dining areas. The first floor, has a living room, dining room, kitchen, patio and garden. The second, third and fourth floors are complete with bedrooms, bathrooms, private kitchens, a library and much more.

The history of the house could literally be a novel in and of itself, with each century capturing generations of families, their fortunes and misfortunes. And the origins date all the way back to the 12th century A.D. and to the Aldobrandeschi family, who built the castle on the top of the hill.

At Casa Innocenti, most of the accommodations are located on the top floor of the home. From here you will have the best views of the entire town. All of the furnishings in each of the rooms are authentic and were intended for a home and not for an apartment or a rental. The ancient terra cotta floors and wooden beams make up the rooms' structures. And because, as a young man, Carlo Innocenti was an artisan and ran a wrought-iron factory, you'll find many of Carlo's wrought-iron masterpieces abound: chandeliers, railings, etc.

The top floor of Casa Innocenti is very private and intimate. It has a living room with a decorative stone fireplace and an open, completely equipped kitchenette. All of the rooms have private bathrooms and showers; and all of the furnishings are Italian antiques, artifacts and paintings.

At Casa Innocenti, all of the rooms are charming and have their own

private bathrooms. The house also has accommodations on the second floor. With a comfortable sitting area, this master suite is the largest room in house.

Each of our estate rooms can accommodate up to 2 people, and many of the rooms are perfectly suited for families or small groups of close friends. For your convenience, the accommodations provide all the comforts a 12th century Tuscan home can offer.

All of the rooms at Casa Innocenti have spectacular views. From here you can see the fantastic narrow cobblestone "donkeycart" streets, the piazza down the street and the famous castle. And because you are literally at the highest point in the town, you will see all of the rooftops of the village, the surrounding countryside filled with Tuscan pines and the breathtaking mountains.





*"I left my heart  
on a hill in Toscana ...  
  
Believe me  
when I tell you,  
on behalf of all of us,  
that we have never  
had a more wonderful trip  
in our lives.  
  
We have all traveled  
a great deal to many places  
but Arcidosso,  
by far is the best!  
  
We never wanted to leave."*

**- GAYLE DEJULIO  
ATLANTA, GA**

## *La Cucina Povera Toscana*

Tuscan cuisine, known as "La Cucina Povera Toscana" is a peasant culture tradition where all of the ingredients used in recipes are grown locally in family farms & pastures and then prepared fresh. Food production in Tuscany is at once art, religion, serious business and common talk. This culinary tradition has earned world acclaim. It is incredibly varied, pure, bursting with flavor and accompanied by stellar wines. Tuscan cooking makes full use of the region's fantastic bounty. From the pure Chianina breed Florentine steaks to red mullet and mussels of the sea to superb olive oils and hearty cheeses to even an unending array of pastas, truffles, porcini mushrooms, divine cakes and desserts; the genuine dishes created are as much a joy to prepare as they are to eat.

At Casa Innocenti, our cooking courses and wine tastings focus on the much acclaimed "La Cucina Povera." Why? La Cucina Povera was the peasant's cuisine where centuries of creativity and limited international food supplies led Southern Tuscans to explore every imaginable ingredient and recipe combination that was readily available to them locally. Carlo had the idea of developing the cooking school because he always wanted to cook very simply, the way his mother and grandmother taught him. It is simple food, full of flavor. Natural, fresh local ingredients are staples of every Tuscan dish. The olive oil is made from the region's own olive trees. Carlo does not teach you how to make sophisticated dishes or nouvelle cuisine. The taste is natural, good, long and renders the gusto of the palate. You will learn to make dishes that were always prepared by the farmers of the village.



## *Culinary, Wine Tasting and Other Excursions*

At Tuscan Way, our tours will take you to discover quaint medieval villages including Santa Fiora, Castel del Piano and Monte Giovi. You will also have the opportunity to explore the more famous towns like Montepulciano and Montalcino, known for their grape vineyards which produce the celebrated Vino Nobile and Brunello wine.

Other excursions include Pienza, a model of renaissance architecture, Saturnia, an ancient Etruscan town, Sovana and Pitigliano, with their ancient ghettos and Etruscan tombs and the lovely seaside village of Castiglione della Pescaia.

If you have something other than the cooking course holidays and Casa Innocenti in mind, Tuscan Way also offers custom "theme" tours including: cycling and walking tours or curative/therapeutic programs at the hot springs and sulfuric mud baths at the "Terme di Saturnia". You can also plan wine and olive making agri-tours to visit holiday farmhouses as well as Vendemmia (grape harvest). One of our popular tours is our wine tasting tour, which will take you to the Chianti hills, the Brunello region of Montalcino and the Scansano region which produces the locally known Morellino wine. My father and I will coordinate these tour and package options with the finest properties to experience the most personable and knowledgeable guides available. Whether you're interested in the Tuscan cuisine, wine tasting or the serene countryside, please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions or even if you would just like to chat. I'm never too busy for that!

*"Dear Isabel,*

*I just wanted to drop you a few lines  
to let you know how wonderful a time  
we had vacationing the Tuscan Way.*

*Not only was Arcidosso a most  
charming and enchanted town,  
and not only did we enjoy our exquisite  
meals, but I just cant say enough about  
our wonderful hosts Carlo, Pascale  
and Romeo. This has certainly been  
my most memorable and enjoyable  
vacation in Italy, and I will treasure  
the memory as well as the friendship  
we found with the Innocenti family."*

**- MICHAEL MESSINA  
HOLBROOK, NY**

