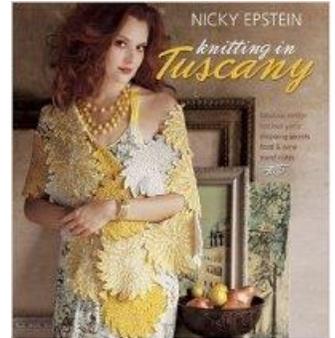




**Join NICKY EPSTEIN
on her 2017 Knitting Adventure to
TUSCANY & VENICE, ITALY!**

October 18-27, 2017

Knit & Travel with Nicky to
**Florence, Chianti, Siena, San Gimignano &
Venice!**



Nicky will be teaching classes and you will work on a project designed by her, especially for the tour!

Workshop yarn will be provided

PLEASE NOTE: If you have been on a Traveling Together tour with Nicky Epstein in the past three years, you will have first consideration in signing up for this tour.

We will need to receive your registration form and deposit **no later than August 05, 2016**

All other registration forms will then be accepted in the order in which we receive them.

Ciao Bella, Have we got a trip for you!

Barbara Spohn and I have put together a magical Knitting Adventure to Tuscany and Venice in October 2017--Florence, Chianti, Sienna, San Gimignano, Venice and points between.

This Italian extravaganza will take us to some of the most beautiful places in Italy, and we'll be knitting all the way, with classes, yarn shops, bonding, and I'll be designing projects for you to knit that are exclusive to this trip, along with other surprises.

We'll wine, dine, sightsee, shop, and bring fun to new heights. And this trip is the perfect combination of activity and relaxation, in that we will only be staying at one hotel in Florence and one hotel in Venice, and not have to worry about packing and unpacking every two or three days. And oh, what beautiful hotels Barbara has chosen with amazing central locations, within walking distances of the best restaurants, sights, shops and gelato.

I am so excited, not only because I'm half Italian, but because we'll get to visit places like the incredible Chianti Cashmere Farm with lunch at the Casa Chianti Classico grower's consortium and lots more. And you are welcome to bring your "significant other" along on the trip. On our recent French Knitting Adventure, we had five men along who bonded and had a great time.

But hurry...spaces are limited and I know reservations will go quickly as they did on our last trip, and I don't want you miss out on this one.

Along with your Frommers and Fodors guide books, don't forget my "Knitting In Tuscany" book with Tuscany inspired designs along with invaluable information and recommendations for restaurants, yarn shops and others, sightseeing, etc., all personally checked out by Mr. H. and myself.

Join us for knitting abbondanza!

Ciao, Nicoletta DeFazio Quinones Epstein

Your tour itinerary:

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

For those of you living in North America, you will need to arrange your flight to depart today, in order to arrive in **FLORENCE, ITALY** on October 19th.

If you would like to arrive Florence prior to October 19,
please see the Additional Information section at the end of this itinerary.

Thu, Oct 19

Once you arrive at the **FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FLR)** you will make your way to the **HOTEL CERRETANI FIRENZE MGALLERY BY SOFITEL**, our home for the next 5 nights.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! Our hotel is in the heart of the historic center. Just step out of the hotel lobby, look to your left, and you can see the Duomo!

Meet Nicky and your travel companions at this evening's ****WELCOME DINNER** at **TERRAZZA BRUNELLESCHI RESTAURANT**, located on the top floor of the Grand Baglioni Hotel with a panoramic view of Florence, including Brunelleschi's dome on Santa Maria del Fiore and Giotto's Belltower. The perfect way to begin your time in Tuscany!

Fri, Oct 20

Florence (Firenze in Italian) is the capital city of the Italian region of Tuscany and of the province of Florence. Often considered the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence has been the birthplace or chosen home of many notable historical figures such as Dante, Botticelli, Machiavelli, Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, Donatello, Galileo Galilei, Catherine de' Medici, Guccio Gucci, Salvatore Ferragamo, Roberto Cavalli, Florence Nightingale, and Emilio Pucci.

OUR MORNING WALKING TOUR OF FLORENCE starts with a visit to one of the city's eternal masterpieces: Michelangelo's David in the Academy of Fine Arts.

From there we move on to the city's religious center, where some of Florence's most impressive works of art are to be found: the Baptistery, Giotto's bell tower, and the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (the Duomo) with its famous dome by Brunelleschi. Next is the picturesque Signoria Square, to see statues by Cellini, Giambologna and Ammannati before we proceed to the famous Ponte Vecchio. We'll visit Santa Croce Basilica, containing the tombs of illustrious Florentine citizens such as Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei and Machiavelli, as well as works by Giotto and Donatello.

After time for lunch, we will visit the local yarn shops before meeting back at the hotel for your first workshop with Nicky.

NICKY EPSTEIN is an artist. Her brushes, palette and canvas are her needles, yarn and a boundless imagination that has never adhered to the proposition that "everything has been done in knitting". She is a prolific designer that goes from high fashion to whimsical fun with great ease, and an innovative thinker that embellishes traditional knitting techniques and creates new, revolutionary ones.

Her beautiful innovative creations, love of knitting, and her passion for sharing her experience and expertise with others, through classes and workshops around the globe has gained her worldwide recognition with thousands of adoring knitters and crocheters. She has authored numerous best-selling and award winning books, in both fashion and resource genres, that are "must haves" in knitter's libraries. To name a few: *Knitting On The Edge*, *Knitting Over The Edge*, *Knitting Beyond The Edge*, *Nicky Epstein's Knitted Flowers*, *Knitting On Top Of The World*, *Knitting In Tuscany*, *Knitting A Kiss In Every Stitch*, *Knitting Block by Block*, *The Essential Edgings Collection*, *Knitting In Circles* (voted "Favorite Knitting Book of 2012") and the current charming *Knits For Dolls and Crochet For Dolls*, and her innovative book "Knitting Reimagined". She is the only knitwear designer that Mattel has given permission to do three Barbie Doll knit and crochet books. Her 29th book "Enchanted Knits For 18' Dolls" was released in September 2015, and her "Knit A Square...Create A Cuddly Creature" will be released in September 2016. Her versatile designs have been frequently featured in all the major knitting publications (her designs graced the covers of the 25th and 30th anniversary editions of Vogue Knitting Magazine), as well as on television, fashion shows and in museums.

She has also expanded her artistic talent by creating lines of designer buttons, clasps, scarves and patterns, and her own knitting bag for Lantern Moon.

Nicky lives in New York City, but travels extensively around the world sharing her love of knitting with countless fans, between creating a never-ending number of new and unique books. Her knitting travel tours and classes are always filled to capacity.

Sat, Oct 21

With map and travel guide in hand, you will have the rest of the day to **EXPLORE FLORENCE**. Florence is known for their leather and jewelry, with tiny shops and street vendors throughout the city. If you are interested in visiting the Uffizi Gallery or the Costume Gallery at Pitti Palace this afternoon, you will want to make advance reservations. Be sure to refer to your travel guide regarding any other specific museums or attractions that you won't want to miss.

Sun, Oct 22

A day filled with knitting, cashmere yarns, goats, food and wine!!

CHIANTI CASHMERE began way back in 1972, when Nora Kravis, the creator and founder, left Long Island (NY) for Italy and never looked back. With a Fine Arts degree in her pocket, braids down to there, and a passion for all things four-legged, Nora studied Veterinary Medicine at the Università di Pisa and made a tumbled-down Tuscan farmhouse her home long before it was the place to be or the thing to do.

Nora's first two goats tied to a tree have become a group of genetically superior **CASHMERE GOATS**, with wide-spread origins and exotic names (Eugenia, Darlin', Festa, Satana, Chatterbox, Mr Magoo, Pied Piper, Calico Kid, Ruby, London Fog, James Bond, and Cappuccino), who produce the raw material for a unique line of exclusive, hand-woven Italian Cashmere accessories, home textiles and our own **SUSTAINABLE CASHMERE YARN** for the knitter who knows and wants quality yarn.

This morning we will visit Nora at her goat farm and then it's off to the nearby **CASA CHIANTI CLASSICO**. The House of Chianti Classico has been converted from an old Franciscan monastery. In addition to visiting their state of the art wine museum, it will be the perfect place for another workshop session with Nicky. Our main meal of the day will be a **TRADITIONAL ITALIAN MEAL THAT WILL INCLUDE THE LOCAL CHIANTI CLASSICO WINE**.

Mon, Oct 23

This morning we travel south through the Tuscan olive groves and vineyards to the city of **SIENA**, one of Italy's best preserved medieval towns. Sitting atop three hills, the city is drawn together by winding alleyways and steep steps that meet at the center of activity, the Piazza del Campo. Ringed with cafes, restaurants and gelaterias, this red-brick town square is considered to be the best plaza in Italy. Once we arrive, you will be free to wander the surrounding pedestrian streets that are filled with one of a kind boutiques and shops.

Located just above the Piazza del Campo is the Duomo di Siena. The exterior and interiors of this gothic building are quite unique. Decorated in white and greenish-black marble in alternating stripes, it is filled with treasures by Pisano, Donatello and Michelangelo as well as frescoes by Pinturicchio.

We'll make an afternoon stop midway between Siena and Florence in the hill town of **SAN GIMIGNANO**. The town's claim to fame is its series of striking towers. In medieval times, rich people fortified their homes by building towers, which provided a handy refuge when ruffians and rival city-states would sack the town. Of the original 76 towers only 14 have survived. Today the town is famous for its medieval atmosphere, Tuscan ceramics and their Vernaccia white wine.

Tue, Oct 24

This morning we depart Florence and drive to Venice, one of Italy's top destinations. Although it is one of the more expensive destinations we travel to, it is a once in a lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

The city of **VENICE ITALY** is stunning and completely unique. Founded more than 1,500 years ago on 117 different islands, Venice is linked by a series of over 150 canals, 400 bridges and many ancient pavements. All buildings in Venice are supported on slender oak and pine posts which are driven deep into the ground to create a solid foundation.

As the soil is waterlogged, with no free oxygen, the piles remain strong and do not decay. The island's small, traffic-free streets along the winding canals make for great walking. The Grand Canal is like Main Street, cutting through the center of the city. You'll find many magnificent churches and palaces, lively squares, and interesting shops.

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

Midway between the Rialto Bridge on the Grand Canal and the famous St. Mark's Square is the **HOTEL BONVECCHIATI**. Known for its refined elegance, the hotel has been welcoming guests to the heart of Venice since 1790. After our drive from Florence this morning, we will board our private water taxis to arrive in time to enjoy the afternoon exploring Europe's best preserved big city.

Wed, Oct 25

This morning we will have a **WALKING TOUR OF VENICE** that will introduce you to the history of this amazing city, which was for centuries-long one of the main sea powers in the Mediterranean. We are going to visit St Mark's Square and **TOUR ST MARK'S BASILICA**. St. Mark's Basilica is probably best known for its mosaics. The floor, walls, and ceiling are covered with them (there are more than 40,000 square feet of mosaics inside), and they're spectacular. Great inspiration for any textile project! Then we will leave the crowd behind us to discover the intricate layout of alleyways, bridges, canals and tucked away little squares.

The afternoon will be yours to explore, shop and visit the local yarn shop!

Thu, Oct 26

You will have all day to **ENJOY EVERYTHING THAT THIS EXCITING CITY HAS TO OFFER!** Our hotel is a 5 minute walk in one direction to the famous Rialto Bridge and the same distance to St. Mark's Square in the opposite direction. Enjoy a gondola ride or sit in one of the famous outdoor cafés in Piazza San Marco to do some people watching and listen to music. The many shops feature lace, jewelry, looking glasses, Venetian masks and Murano glassware. There are optional tours that take you to the islands of Murano with its glass factories and Burano, famous for its lace making.

FAREWELL DINNER will be at our hotel this evening, a time to enjoy each other's company one last time before returning home.

Fri, Oct 27

There will be small **GROUP TRANSFERS** this morning by private water taxis to the **MARCO POLO AIRPORT (VCE)**. You will be grouped with others that have similar departure times and we will do our best to make your transfer as convenient as possible.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

All hotels
All breakfasts and 3 dinners, as noted in the above itinerary
All workshops
Yarn for Nicky's workshop
All group tours & activities, as noted in the above itinerary
All group ground transportation within Italy
Hosted by NICKY EPSTEIN
Escorted by a Professional Tour Leader

Tour Price

\$4199 per person, double occupancy
\$1380 single supplement
(Airfare is not included in the cost of the tour)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you would like to arrive in Florence one day early, Traveling Together has rooms available at the cost of \$201 per person for a double room and \$363 for a single, which includes breakfast and tax. Information for getting yourself from the airport to the hotel will be provided.

Please note: These cities and towns are best experienced by walking. In order to fully enjoy this trip you will need to be able to walk distances of up to 5 city blocks at any one time, and at a moderate pace. In addition to uphill climbs on some of the streets (many being cobblestones) you may also need to climb several flights of stairs. Please be sure to read over our Terms and Conditions and then if you have any questions about your ability to join the tour, please give our office a call and we will be happy to discuss this with you, in more detail.

Once you have booked your trip, you will be notified when it is time to make your air arrangements.

If at that time you would like assistance with your air travel, please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com

Please note: This email address and phone number is for making air arrangements, only.

We require that all travelers departing the U.S. be in possession of a **CURRENT PASSPORT** **that does not expire until at least 6 months from the date of your scheduled return to the U.S.**

TO REGISTER:

Go to www.TravelingTogether.net and click on Sign Up Forms
Please print and read the current Tour Terms & Conditions and
then print and mail in the completed current Tour Registration Form along with your deposit.

**If Traveling Together is bookmarked in your favorites, please refresh the links for any updates.

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