

4-11 July 2026



Umbria, Italy

Insiders 26



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The Insider's Vision

Welcome to Ormina Insiders 2026, and to the rolling hills and timeless beauty of Umbria, Italy's enchanting green heart. We are delighted to welcome you to Borgo Bastia Creti, your home for the week ahead, where every detail has been thoughtfully considered to create a truly memorable escape.

This special gathering is a celebration of travel, connection, and the art of slowing down. Every element of your stay has been thoughtfully curated, from immersive local experiences and regional cuisine to the comfort and charm of the villa itself. Your time here is designed to balance discovery with relaxation, allowing you to experience Umbria in a way that feels both enriching and effortless.

Over the coming days, we invite you to embrace the rhythm of the region while exploring hilltop towns, sharing long lunches, and enjoying moments of stillness in the countryside. Most importantly, this is a time to connect, unwind, and create lasting memories together.



Ross Ioppolo & Anna Jones

Insiders 2024, Sicily, Italy



Photo above: Insiders Retreat at Mt Etna 2024, Sicily, Italy. **Photo left:** A special farewell dinner at the Sicilian villa



DESTINATION

The Green Heart of Italy

Discovering the hidden soul of Umbria

At the heart of Italy, Umbria unfolds with a quiet, unassuming beauty, inviting you into a world where time slows and life reveals itself quietly. Untouched by the crowds of its more celebrated neighbours, this is a land of authenticity. Where rolling green hills, ancient olive groves and hilltop towns create a landscape as poetic as it is enduring. A reminder of Italy as it once was.

As the morning light stretches across the Umbrian countryside, casting a soft glow over vineyards and stone farmhouses, the day begins gently. In Perugia, history reveals itself in layers. Etruscan arches, medieval streets and elegant piazzas where locals gather as they have for generations. There is a quiet sophistication here, a rhythm that invites you to linger a little longer, to take another turn through its winding streets, to pause for an espresso and simply watch the world go by.

Beyond Umbria's capital city, villages like Spello capture the essence of the regions soul. Flower-filled balconies spill over sun-warmed stone walls, and narrow laneways lead to hidden corners adorned with delicate frescoes. It is in these moments, unplanned and unexpected, that Umbria leaves its deepest impression, offering glimpses into a way of life that feels both timeless and deeply personal.

But to truly understand Umbria is to taste it. This is a land of rich, earthy flavours. Of truffles unearthed from shaded forests, of robust wines poured with quiet pride, and of olive oils so vibrant it seems to capture the very essence of the land. To wander through oak groves in search of truffles is to connect with centuries of tradition, where the bond between land and table remains unbroken.

And then, there is the villa. A place to gather, to slow, to embrace the rhythm of Umbrian life. Enjoy days that unfold in effortless harmony – alfresco lunches beneath the sun, afternoons spent exploring or simply at rest, and evenings that stretch into night with good wine, shared stories and the soft hum of the countryside all around.



Perugia, Umbria

"Umbria is Italy as it once was – quietly beautiful, deeply rooted, and waiting to be discovered."

–Frances Mayes

As dusk settles and the hills fade into silhouette, Umbria reveals its quiet magic. Welcome to Umbria, Italy's hidden heart, where the truest luxury is found in living well, and every moment invites you to do the same.

Discovering *Florence*

Florence is not simply a city to visit — it is a masterpiece to wander through.

Set in the heart of Tuscany, Florence will serve as the meeting place for the beginning of your villa journey; an inspiring introduction to Italy's art, history and timeless beauty.

To help guests experience the city in different ways, we are pleased to offer two complimentary walking tour options on 3 and 4 July.

Choose between a classic walking tour of Florence, designed for those wanting a deeper cultural and historical experience, or a family-friendly walking tour tailored for families to explore the city in a fun and engaging way.

Friday, 3 July 2026

Florence Walking Tour Complimentary

Key Information

- **Meet at 9:15AM for a 9:30AM departure**
- **Meeting location:** In front of the main entrance of Palazzo Pitti, Piazza de' Pitti, Florence
- **If you are not at the meeting location on time the tour will depart without you**

Florence was not built by kings or emperors, but by ambitious merchants, bankers and powerful families whose wealth transformed a medieval city into one of Europe's most influential centres. During the Renaissance, Florence became a hub of innovation where artists, architects and thinkers challenged convention, forever changing the course of art, science and politics. At the heart of this story stands the magnificent Duomo, whose vast dome, engineered by Filippo Brunelleschi in the 15th century, remains one of the greatest architectural achievements of its age and a lasting symbol of Florence's ambition.

This guided walking tour uncovers the people, events and ideas that shaped Florence. Explore the city's historic streets and piazzas while discovering landmarks including the Duomo, Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio. Learn how the powerful Medici family rose to prominence, how Brunelleschi solved the seemingly impossible challenge of constructing the cathedral's dome without traditional scaffolding, and how Florence's artists, merchants and visionaries helped usher in a new era. Along the way, gain a deeper understanding of the remarkable history that continues to define Florence today.

Saturday, 4 July 2026

Florence Family Walking Tour

Complimentary

Key Information

- **Meet at 8:45AM for a 9:00AM departure**
- **Meeting location:** Piazza della Signoria, next to the equestrian statue of Cosimo I de' Medici
- **If you are not at the meeting location on time the tour will depart without you**

Embark on a guided walking tour through the heart of Florence, discovering the fascinating stories, legends and artistic treasures that shaped one of Europe's most important cities! Known as the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence was once home to famous artists and inventors including Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, whose ideas changed the world. As you wander through the city's cobbled streets, your guide will share tales of powerful families, medieval rivalries and the incredible engineering behind Florence's iconic cathedral dome - still one of the largest ever built.

Along the way, admire famous landmarks including the charming Ponte Vecchio, a centuries-old bridge lined with tiny shops suspended above the Arno River. Children will enjoy spotting hidden details in statues and buildings, hearing stories about secret passageways once used by the Medici family, and of course, discovering why Florence is also famous for some of Italy's best gelato.

Your Week Ahead

Set within the gentle embrace of the Umbrian countryside, your stay at Borgo Bastia Creti unfolds as a carefully curated balance of discovery, relaxation, and time well spent.



Day	Overview
Saturday, 4 July 2026	Florence Family Walking Tour (<i>Optional</i>) Pickup from Florence & arrive to Villa
Sunday, 5 July 2026	Villa Day
Monday, 6 July 2026	Day trip to Perugia & Spello
Tuesday, 7 July 2026	Villa Day: Cooking class
Wednesday, 8 July 2026	Day trip to Tuscany region
Thursday, 9 July 2026	Truffle hunting experience with tastings
Friday, 10 July 2026	Villa Day
Saturday, 11 July 2026	Depart Villa

Each day has been thoughtfully designed to immerse you in the rhythm of the region, combining handpicked excursions to nearby hilltop towns, unhurried moments at the villa, and shared dining experiences that celebrate the flavours of Umbria at its finest. For more details on key timings, activities, and inclusions, please refer to the following pages.

Experiences like Tennis Lessons, Bike Rentals and Spa treatments are available upon request at an additional charge. **You must book at least 48 hours in advance to ensure availability.**

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN ENJOY AT YOUR VILLA



Pool



Sauna



Bike rental



Tennis court



Walking Trails



Spa Treatments



Saturday, 4 July 2026

Florence & Villa Arrival Day (D)

KEY INFORMATION

- **Pickup at 1:45 pm for transfer to your Villa.** Please contact Ross & Anna if any issues arise.
- **Pickup location:** Viale Giovanni Amendola at the corner of Lungarno del Tempio, near FH55 Grand Hotel Mediterraneo. A designated bus stop is located here for guest pick-up and drop-off. Your Tour Director will be waiting at the meeting point with an Ormina Tours sign. *Please note that vehicle access within Florence's historic centre is restricted. Guests staying within the centre may wish to arrange a taxi to the pickup point through their hotel concierge or reception.*
- **Guests doing the complimentary walking tours of Florence on the 3rd or 4th of July need to see pages 6-7**

Meet the group and your driver for your transfer from Florence to the villa in Umbria. On arrival at Borgo Bastia Creti, your private retreat for the week, you will be greeted into the heart of the estate with a welcome drink. Your luggage will be delivered to your room while you are invited to enjoy a short tour of the property.

Continue exploring the grounds at your own pace before gathering with your fellow travellers for a welcome cocktail and *aperitivo* for an overview of the week ahead.

As evening comes around, take your seat beneath the open Umbrian sky for our first shared dinner. Prepared by your private chef, the menu celebrates local flavours and seasonal ingredients, thoughtfully served in a relaxed yet elegant setting. With glasses raised and the countryside quieting around you, the week in Umbria begins.





Sunday, 5 July 2026

Villa Day (B, L, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 8:30AM – 10:00AM - Breakfast

Start the day at your own pace as you settle into life at Borgo Bastia Creti, a beautifully restored 14th-century hamlet nestled among the rolling hills on the border of Umbria and Tuscany. As the villa awakens, breakfast is served at leisure.

Once a small rural settlement, the borgo has been thoughtfully revived by the Wirth family, renowned hoteliers and custodians of some of Italy's most celebrated hospitality traditions. Surrounded by an unspoiled valley and commanding panoramic views in every direction, the estate offers a glimpse into a quieter side of Italy, where history, nature and rural life remain deeply connected.

In the morning, the estate becomes an adventure as younger guests set off on games through the borgo's gardens, olive groves and hidden corners.

Enjoy the remainder of the morning at your own pace. Wander along the property's walking trails, take in the sweeping countryside views, or enjoy some friendly competition with a game of bocce or table tennis. Lunch is served by your private chef, providing another opportunity to relax and connect with fellow guests.

In the afternoon, gather for a relaxed tasting of the villa's wines, enjoying a selection of local varietals.

A relaxed dinner of wood-fired pizza is served, bringing everyone together. Be sure to leave room for a delicious gelato before the evening continues with cocktails and a light-hearted quiz night.

Monday, 6 July 2026

Discover Perugia & Spello (B, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 7:30AM – 9:00AM – Breakfast
- **9:00AM - Depart for day trip**

With breakfast served at leisure, prepare to venture beyond the villa and discover two of Umbria's most fascinating towns.

Meet the group for your departure to Perugia, the historic capital of Umbria. Perched high above the Tiber Valley, the city traces its origins to the Etruscans, the sophisticated civilisation that dominated much of central Italy before the rise of Rome. Their legacy remains visible throughout the city, where ancient gateways, medieval streets and Renaissance palaces reveal over two thousand years of history. During your guided walk, uncover the stories of a city that grew into a centre of trade, learning and artistic patronage, while exploring its grand piazzas, hidden passageways and atmospheric lanes.

Following the tour, enjoy free time to continue exploring Perugia at your own pace and perhaps pause for an independent lunch. Your Tour Director will be happy to recommend some local favourites.

Later, continue to Spello, a beautifully preserved hilltop town built upon Roman foundations. Encircled by ancient walls and known for its flower-filled streets, Spello offers a glimpse into a slower pace of Italian life. Wander its narrow lanes, discover hidden churches and quiet piazzas, and admire sweeping views across the Umbrian countryside as you explore at leisure.

As the afternoon draws to a close, return to Borgo Bastia Creti. This evening, gather once more with your fellow guests to enjoy an informal buffet dinner at the villa.

"Umbria enchants — timeless, soulful and quietly unforgettable."





Tuesday, 7 July 2026

Villa Day (B, L, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 8:30AM – 10:00AM – Breakfast

The day begins once again at the gentle pace of the Umbrian countryside, as breakfast is enjoyed at leisure and the villa is bathed in soft morning light.

For younger guests, the estate becomes a world of movement and adventure, as they take part in an organised lively outdoor challenge across the villa grounds.

Meanwhile, guests can take advantage of the many activities at the villa including the swimming pool, tennis courts, or perhaps enjoy walking amongst the estates trails. before gathering for a relaxed lunch, shared in the comfort of the villa.

Later, children are once again immersed in a dedicated programme of activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity, offering them their own sense of exploration within the estate.

In the late afternoon, the focus turns to one of Italy's most treasured traditions: cooking. Under the guidance of your private chef, the kitchen becomes a place of storytelling and hands-on discovery, as fresh, seasonal ingredients are transformed into dishes that reflect the essence of Umbrian cuisine.

Afterwards, enjoy the meal you have prepared together, an alfresco celebration of flavour and connection. As plates are passed, and wine is poured, the villa hums with the easy rhythm of connection into the night.







Wednesday, 8 July 2026

A Taste of Tuscany (B, L, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 7:30AM – 9:00AM – Breakfast
- **9:30AM – Depart for day trip**
- Please note that today your room will be refreshed with clean towels ready for your return in the afternoon

Enjoy your breakfast in the morning, before gathering to depart for a day into neighbouring Tuscany. Meet the group ready for your departure.

Your journey begins in Cortona, one of Tuscany's oldest hilltop towns. Long before the Renaissance transformed Florence and Siena, Cortona was an important Etruscan settlement, part of the sophisticated civilisation that flourished across central Italy centuries before the rise of Rome. Its strategic position high above the Valdichiana Valley made it a place of both prosperity and defence, and traces of its ancient past can still be found in the town's walls, gateways and winding streets. During your guided exploration, uncover the stories behind Cortona's rich history while wandering through its medieval lanes, elegant

"Silvia Baracchi, a Michelin star holder since 2002, along with her team of chefs, farmers, and local producers, brings the best of Tuscan cuisine to your table with top-quality organic ingredients from local sources."

– Il Falconiere

piazas and panoramic viewpoints overlooking the Tuscan countryside. Afterwards, enjoy time at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Meet back with your Tour Director and fellow guests before continuing through the rolling landscapes of Tuscany. For lunch, experience the flavours of the region at Il Falconiere. Once the estate of a noble Tuscan family and today surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, the property reflects the agricultural traditions that have shaped this landscape for centuries. Here, enjoy a memorable meal showcasing seasonal ingredients, local wines and the culinary heritage that has made Tuscany one of Italy's most celebrated gastronomic regions.

As evening falls, return to Borgo Bastia Creti, where a relaxed buffet dinner awaits at the villa.

Thursday, 9 July 2026

Truffles & Vineyards (B, L, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 7:30AM – 9:00AM – Breakfast
- 9:30AM – Depart for day trip

The morning begins at the villa with breakfast enjoyed against the backdrop of the Umbrian hills. Meet the group ready for your departure.

Today you will make your way to the surrounding woodlands, where Umbria reveals one of its most treasured traditions. Guided by local experts and their trained dogs, set out on a truffle hunting experience through oak forests and shaded trails, learning to read the land in its smallest details. It is an ancient practice, one rooted in patience, instinct, and deep respect for nature – an intimate connection between people and place that has endured for generations.



Your experience continues with a special truffle and wine tasting lunch, where local vintages are poured alongside seasonal dishes inspired by the surrounding land.

In the late afternoon, you return to Borgo Bastia Creti for a relaxing evening or perhaps enjoy time unwinding by the pool.

Join your fellow guests for aperitifs in the evening, ready for something more theatrical. Dinner is served beneath the open sky, followed by a fun experience that draws everyone into its unfolding story. In Umbria, even the most familiar settings can reveal something unexpected after dark.





Friday, 10 July 2026

Villa Day (B, L, D)

KEY INFORMATION

- 8:30AM – 10:00AM – Breakfast

The final full day in Umbria begins as all the best days do here, with breakfast enjoyed at leisure.

For younger guests, the villa once again becomes a place of intrigue, as a final adventure unfolds across the grounds.

As lunch arrives, gather for a relaxed meal, before the afternoon is left entirely at leisure. You may choose to linger by the pool, enjoy the sauna, wander the grounds or simply retreat into the stillness of the villa.

As evening comes around, gather with everyone for a special closing dinner. Share stories of your time, the memories made, and your next destinations, around the table and raise a glass to new friendships made.



"The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been, and the memories we've made along the way."



Saturday, 11 July 2026

Departure (B)

KEY INFORMATION

- 7:00AM – 8:30AM – Breakfast

All guests must leave the villa by 10:00AM sharp.

For any pre-arranged departure transfers, please refer to the information below. For additional post-villa services please refer to the information provided to you directly.



Departure Transfer Times

PICKUP 1: 7:30AM

Drop-Off 1: Florence Airport

Drop-Off 2: Florence City Centre

- > HOYACK Family
- > JONES Janette
- > TOSCANO Emma
- > WILLIAMS Sandra
- > HAMM Tammy
- > WESTPHAL Family

PICKUP 2: 8:00AM

Drop-Off 1: Perugia Rental Car

- > IOPPOLO Family
- > HESFORD Gracie

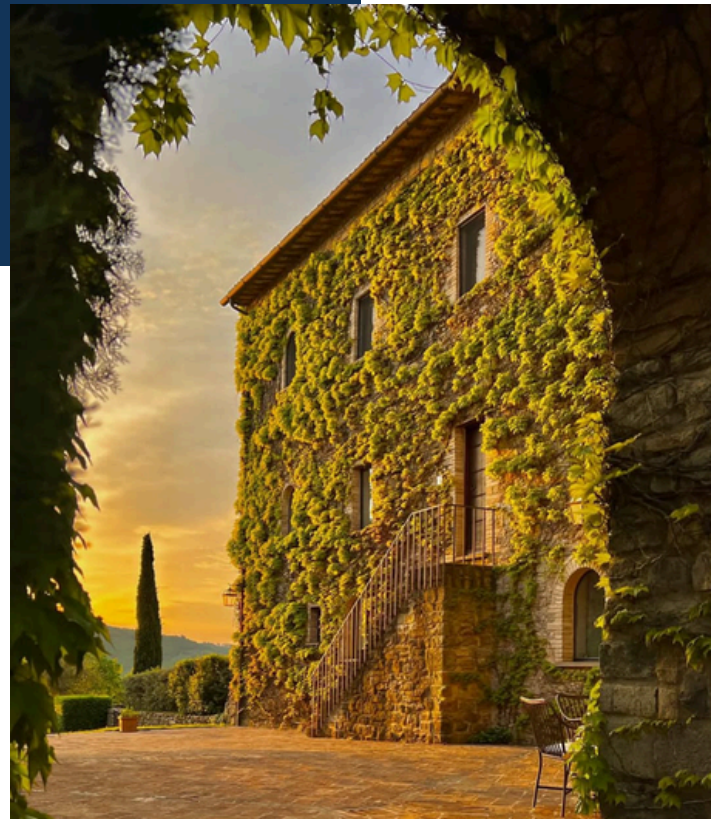
PICKUP 3: 10:00AM

Drop-Off 1: Perugia Train

Station for train to Rome and pickup to drop at Rome hotel (see your personal documents)

- > GLADWIN-GROVE Family
- > NISSEN Ray & Mary
- > BILMAN Jeneane & Jeff

A Village *Reimagined*



LIFE AT BORGO BASTIA CRETÍ

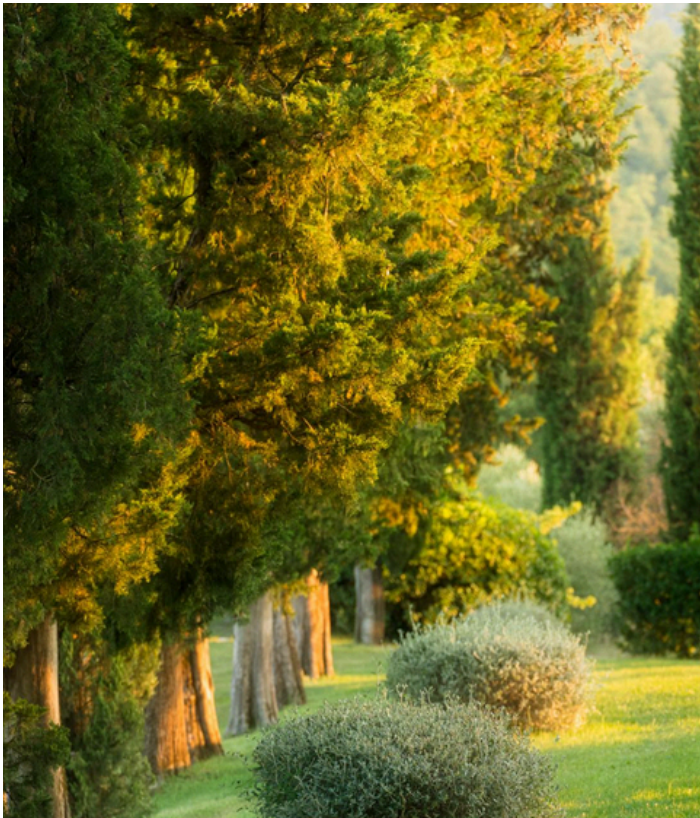
Nestled among the hills of northern Umbria, Borgo Bastia Creti is far more than a luxury villa... it is a restored 14th-century hamlet set within a landscape shaped by centuries of history. Positioned near the border of Umbria and Tuscany, this region has long been a crossroads of cultures, trade routes and artistic influences. From the ancient Etruscans and Romans to the noble families who later governed the surrounding countryside, generations have left their mark upon this remarkable corner of Italy.

Today, the borgo has been thoughtfully restored by the Wirth family, renowned hoteliers whose commitment to hospitality is reflected in every detail. Rather than transforming the hamlet into something new, the restoration has preserved its original character. Stone buildings, rustic pathways and traditional architectural features remain at its heart, offering guests the rare opportunity to experience a place that retains a genuine connection to its past.



Surrounded by olive groves, forests and open countryside, Borgo Bastia Creti commands sweeping views across an unspoiled valley. The landscape remains much as it has for centuries, dotted with medieval villages, ancient farmsteads and winding roads that connect Umbria's cultural treasures with those of neighbouring Tuscany. It is a setting that encourages exploration, whether discovering nearby towns, walking the estate's trails, or simply pausing to absorb the tranquillity of the countryside.

Life at the borgo unfolds at a gentler pace. Days are spent enjoying the rhythms of rural Italy, from long breakfasts overlooking the hills to wine tastings that showcase the region's agricultural traditions. Meals celebrate the flavours of Umbria, a region often regarded as one of Italy's best-kept culinary secrets, where truffles, olive oil, wines and seasonal produce remain central to local life.



More than a retreat, this is a living expression of the region, where the landscape, the culture and the rhythm of daily life come together in perfect harmony.

Over seven nights, Borgo Bastia Creti becomes more than a place to stay... it becomes a place to belong. A retreat where the beauty of Umbria is not only seen, but felt in every detail, every flavour, every new memory made.

"True luxury lies not in what you see, but in how deeply you experience it — in slow moments, shared meals, and journeys that awaken the soul. That is la dolce vita."



Your Home in Umbria



Your room location and guide to the villa grounds for the week ahead.

La Limonaia

First Floor Room 1 Mary Nissen
Raymond (Ray) Nissen

I Cipressi

Ground Floor Room Tammy Hamm
Sandra (Sandy) Williams
First Floor Room 1 Danielle Gladwin-Grove
David Moxon
First Floor Room 2 Audrey Gladwin-Grove
Michael (Mikey) Gladwin-Grove

Gli Ulivi

First Floor Room 1 Jenna Westphal
First Floor Room 2 Connor Westphal
Annika (Annie) Westphal

Le Ginestre

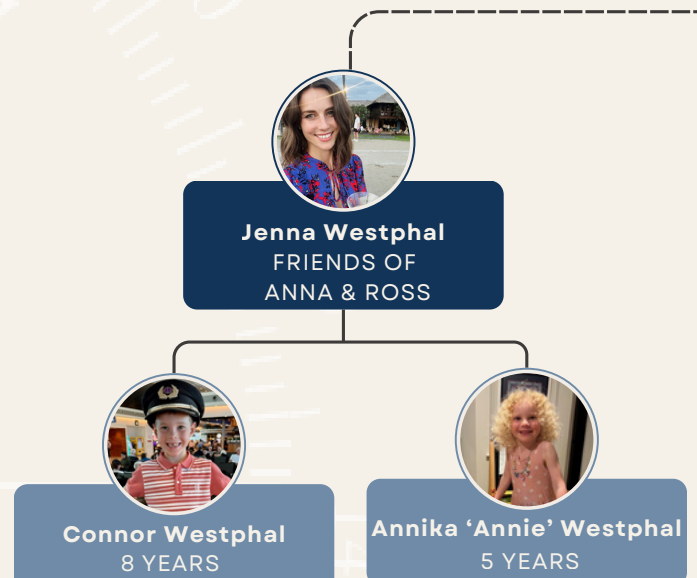
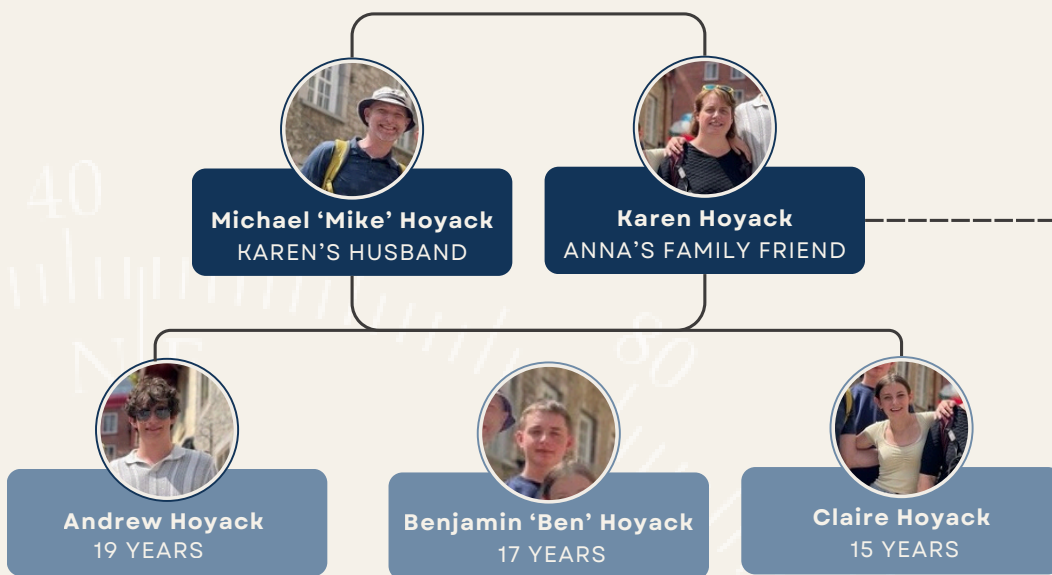
Ground Floor Room Janet (Jan) Jones
Emma Toscano
First Floor Room 1 Anna Jones
Rosario (Ross) Ioppolo
Eliana Ioppolo
First Floor Room 2 Grace (Gracie) Hesford
Second Floor Room Jeffrey (Jeff) Bilman
Jeneane Bilman

Il Cottage

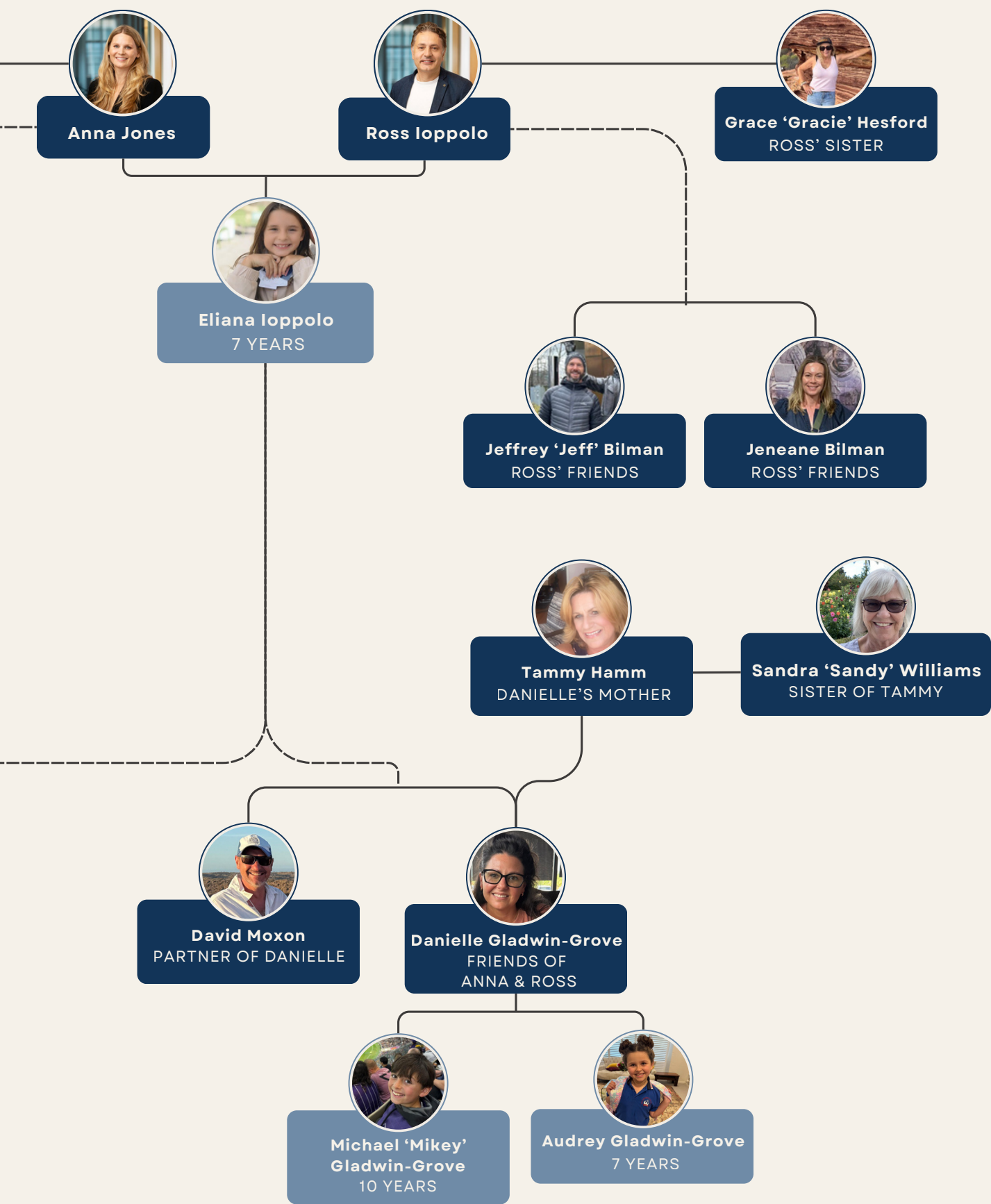
Ground Floor Room 1 Karen Hoyack
Michael (Mike) Hoyack
Ground Floor Room 2 Claire Hoyack
First Floor Room Benjamin (Ben) Hoyack
Andrew Hoyack



Borgo Bastia Creti Map



Insiders Relationship Tree



Welcome Your Hosts



Sara Trionetti

Tour Director

Meet Sara Trionetti, your local Tour Director and guide throughout beautiful Umbria. Her engaging storytelling and genuine love will shape an immersive journey through what many consider the true heart of Italy.

Born and raised in Umbria, Sara holds a degree in Art History and has dedicated her career to sharing the stories, traditions and hidden treasures of her homeland with travellers from around the world. Passionate about art, history, nature and authentic Italian culture, she brings warmth, insight and local knowledge to every experience.

With Sara as your guide, you will discover Umbria beyond the guidebooks, from medieval hilltop villages and timeless landscapes to local traditions, artisan culture and fascinating historical stories.

Passionate about education, literature and cultural exploration, Camilla brings an adaptable, active and nurturing approach that helps children feel engaged, supported and at ease while travelling.

Camilla has been working with both Italian and international families since 2021, caring for children from infancy through to teenage years. Alongside her professional childcare experience, Camilla has also worked in children's summer camps, coordinating activities, arts and crafts, and group experiences for younger children.



Originally from a small village near Siena, Arianna brings a calm, caring and engaging presence to every interaction.

Arianna has been caring for children of all ages since the age of 16 and has developed a natural ability to connect with young travellers through creativity, patience and fun. Whether playing games, cooking together or sharing stories, Arianna loves creating a welcoming environment where children feel comfortable, curious and inspired. Her genuine warmth and enthusiasm make her a wonderful companion.



Camilla TOP & **Arianna** BOTTOM
Children's Babysitters



Contacts

Refer to the WhatsApp group

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Ross Ioppolo +61 408 199 755



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