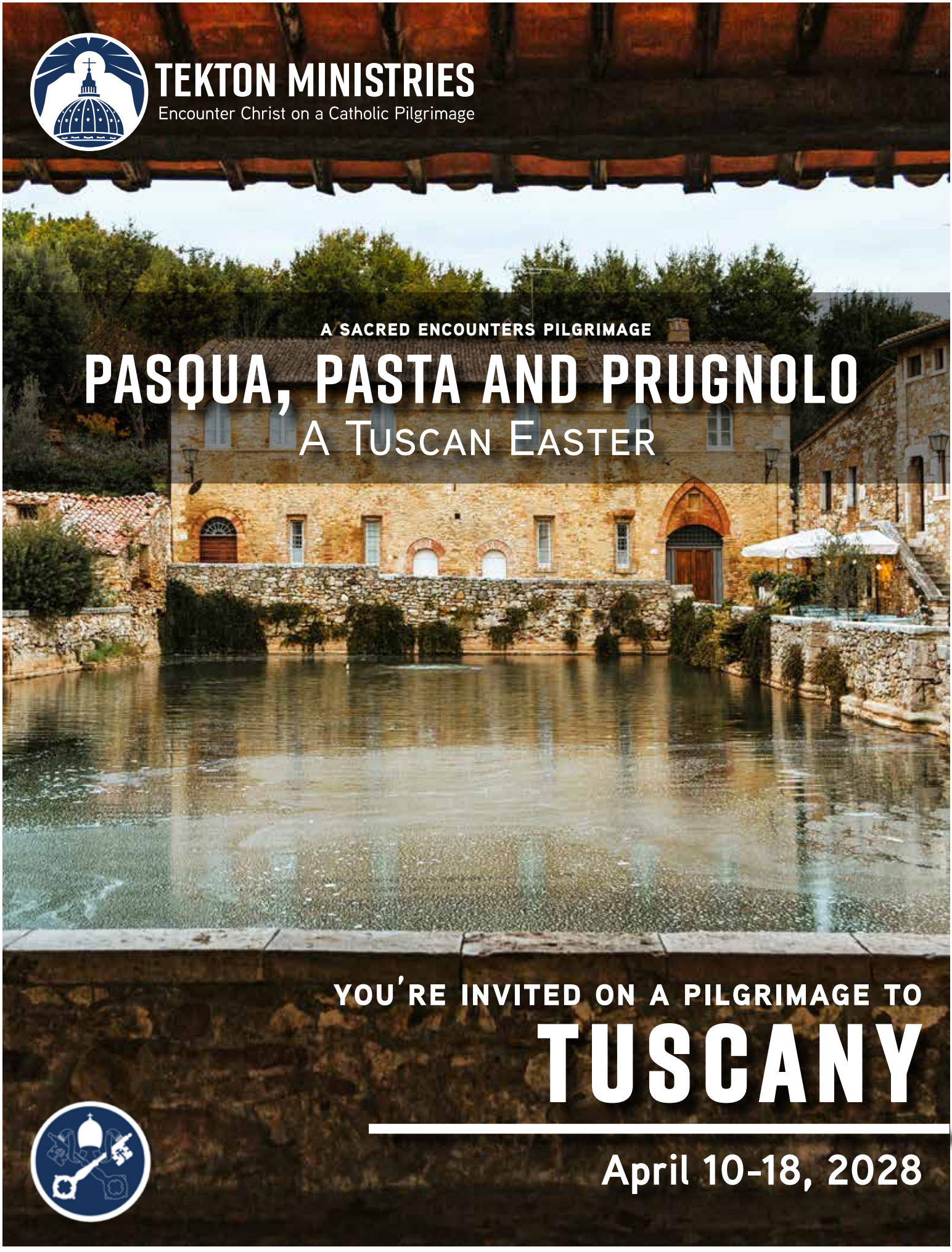


TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

A SACRED ENCOUNTERS PILGRIMAGE

PASQUA, PASTA AND PRUGNOLO

A Tuscan Easter

YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO

TUSCANY

April 10-18, 2028

A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

How can people of faith shine a light upon a world foraging for answers in darkness? Through the centuries, an answer from the Catholic Church lies in Beauty. By raising up, nourishing and unleashing the creative genius of some of the greatest artists, writers, and musicians the world has ever seen, today we have these millennial treasures to enchant, uplift and inspire.

Such is the vision of Sacred Encounters: The Journey of the Monuments Men, 2027, offered by Tekton Ministries, a leader in developing Catholic pilgrimages all over the world for more than 30 years. This 'Pilgrimage of Sojourn of the Soul' will not just touch your heart, but also illuminate how God shares the Divine love through the beauty, landscape, customs and cultures of historic European lands. By exploring the rich palette of sacred sites and stories, cathedrals and art, and the heroic preservation of our cultural heritage, pilgrims will leave with a deeper faith, profound sense of gratitude, and a transforming resolve to bring these treasures into your homes, churches and community.

- **Day 1 | Monday April 10 | Depart USA**
  In flight to Florence (or sightseeing in the area for early arrivals.)
- **Day 2 | Tuesday April 11 | A Tuscan Welcome**
  Pilgrims are met at the Florence airport or local train station and shuttled to the villa. Our week of Tuscan treasures kicks off with a wine and cheese orientation. Pilgrims are then free to explore a nearby village, relax at the villa, or curl up with a good book on a sunny patio. We close our day with Mass and a special dinner of regional foods and wines.



Church of Santa Croce

- **Day 3 | Wednesday April 12 | Encounters With Beauty**
  Today pilgrims can participate in two traditional Spy Wednesday activities of making visits to churches and viewing Lenten art. Mystical Montepulciano offers a serene setting for exploring the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption and the Jesuit Church of the Gesu. Renaissance Beauty brings pilgrims to twin sacred treasures in Florence: San Marco Convent and Church of Santa Croce. Both outings include stops at a pasticceria and for an afternoon glass of wine. Dinner of exceptional Tuscan cooking will be back at the villa.



Chianti Region in Tuscany

- **Day 4 | Thursday April 13 | Il pane e il vino**
  Our Holy Thursday outings provide a unique entry into the Paschal Triduum and invite pilgrims to reflect on the significance of the day. The Great Tuscan Breadcrumb Trail introduces pilgrims to baking traditions in the Chianti region, while Sangiovese with the Saints offers a serene setting in a medieval church for prayer, followed by a wine tasting. In the afternoon we will gather for a traditional Seder Meal, and then attend Mass at the stunning Arezzo Cathedral. Pilgrims can stay after Mass to pray in the cathedral, walk around the stunning medieval and Renaissance hilltop district, or return to the villa for a nightcap.

Oh Lord our God, you are great indeed.... You make 'wine to gladden their hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread to sustain the human heart'. (Psalm 104)



Siena Cathedral

- **Day 5 | Friday April 14 | Sacred Silence**
  Pilgrims are invited to enter the solemnity of Good Friday with several rituals and experiences. Soothing Soaks and Steeples offers a subdued sojourn to Bagno Vignoni to immerse in the healing waters of its thermal baths, and in the quiet of the medieval church of San Giovanni Battista. Sacred Siena Stroll connects pilgrims to

the sacred silence of the day with visits to the stunning Duomo and the gothic Basilicas of San Domenico and San Francesco. After a traditional Good Friday meal featuring fish, we will travel to Grassina to encounter its revered Holy Week tradition that dates back to the 17th century. What began as an act of devout gratitude for freedom from war and the Black Death evolved to a spectacular reenactment of the Passion of Christ, complete with over 600 costumed figures and stirring music from various classical composers.



Thermal Baths in Bagno Vignoni

- **Day 6 | Saturday April 15 | Active Hope**

  Holy Saturday in Tuscany is a day of preparation and anticipation for the Paschal joy of Easter. Pilgrims can join in this animated activity with an ebike Esplorare to nearby villages, making stops at bakeries and culinary venues; or they can experience the colorful Corteo delle Quattro Contrade (Procession of the Four Contrade) in Figline Valdarno, which includes the traditional opening of the Chocolate Easter Egg. Our main meal is simple but tasty dishes commonly served on this day. Afterwards, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil (Veglia Pasquale) at the Collegiate Church in Castiglion Fiorentino, which features its midnight ritual of the "Volata," where the statue of Risen Christ is rushed to the high altar amid trumpet blasts and much festivity.

- **Day 7 | Sunday April 16 | An Explosion of Joy**

  Our celebration of Easter begins with high Mass in the spectacular Florence Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Immediately following outside the church we will witness the 500-year old exploding oxcart tradition - Scoppio del Carro. Rooted in the First Crusade, its purpose is to celebrate Easter, distribute the holy fire, and portend a prosperous year and good harvest for the city. Returning to the villa, we will partake in the traditional Tuscan Easter Sunday lunch of blessed hard-boiled eggs, chicken liver crostini, roasted lamb, fresh gnudi, and regional wines. Later in the evening we will gather for a nightcap and indulge in favored sweets like the glossy Quaresimali, Schiacciata di Pasqua and the anise cookie Ciambelline.



Florence Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore



- **Day 8 | Monday April 17 | La Pasquetta**

  La Pasquetta (Easter Monday) in Tuscany combines spiritual reflection with the joyful, ancient tradition of the gita fuori porta (trip outside the city gates). It mirrors the journey of the disciples to Emmaus, marking Christ's resurrection and the arrival of spring amid Tuscany's awakening vineyards and cypress hills. On our last full day pilgrims can enjoy relaxing at the villa, exploring on ebike or by foot, or taking a private tour. We will close our time together with a feast of Beef Florentine and regional wines, followed by a Sacred Encounter feature, Sips and Stories, to share our blessings of the week and raise a glass to our Tuscan Easter.

- **Day 9 | Tuesday April 18 | Reflections and Return**

  Vans are available to shuttle pilgrims to a local train station for their return flights back to the US or continuation of their Tuscan Easter adventure.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



TUSCAN EASTER PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

Please note all the pricing below is currently estimated

REGISTER ONLINE AT TektonMinistries.org

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON

$3,995.00

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **$165.00**
(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

ESTIMATED OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add $850

Final Payment Due **January 2028**

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- 7 nights' accommodation at a privately arranged villa, including taxes and service charges
- Knowledgeable, inspiring, guides for tours and evening talks
- Deluxe motor coach transportation to all venues
- Entrance fees to museums and other venues listed on itinerary
- Daily breakfast and main meal (including wine or beer at the main meal)
- Hosted evening 'sips and stories' per the itinerary

Rates do not include: *airfare, airport transport, taxi, some tips, optional side trips and travel insurance*

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a non-refundable deposit of $300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of $100.00 per person. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 33 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, $300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, $1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, $2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. U.S. citizens may also be required to apply for ETIAS (start date TBD) to enter Europe. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for European countries. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Group air travel is not provided. However, Tekton Ministries will assist in booking your published airfares.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage**.**

Travel Insurance: Basic travel insurance is required for this pilgrimage and not included in the pilgrimage price. We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: International airfare, gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than $50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed $15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a $35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

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