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Gourmet Getaways Offer One-of-a-Kind Culinary Tours of Italy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Marlene Iacofano calls herself a culinary travel specialist.

The owner of Gourmet Getaways of Morristown can help people create the one-of-a-kind vacation to one of the world's most popular destinations. Iacofano not only creates and leads small and intimate sightseeing and culinary tours to some of the most beautiful places in Italy, but she will help plan your itinerary if you are traveling without a tour.

Iacofano, who started her own business in 1999, leads private tours with up to 12 people and creates a different experience than those large tours to Italy. "I specialize in Italy because it is a popular destination and I am Italian and I love to cook," she said. "When I create tours 90 percent of the time, they involve a culinary class, a cooking class or wine tasting."

Let Iacofano take you to the home of an amazing chef, purchase the ingredients for a day's worth of food at an Italian market and then return to the chef's home to watch them cook a unique and sumptuous meal for you.

Iacofano, who is in her 13th year of business, said she likes the intimacy that her smaller tours create. "I like to get to know everyone who comes on my trips," Iacofano said. "When you bring a small group to a hotel, you get much better service and attention."

Iacofano said she gets to know all of the hotel managers long before she arrives so she can establish "a great working relationship."

She also prefers four- or five-star hotels and the smaller more local restaurants for her tours. "One of the reasons I do not do the big tours is because I like to bring people to a local restaurant and really, you can do so much more with a small group of people."

Iacofano enjoys taking people to Italian markets for special tours and do cooking demonstrations in the home's of chefs. "We can go to a chef's house and learn all about Italian cuisine," she said. "After all is said and done, we sit down and have a delicious meal."

"People really experience the food and the culture, something not in the ordinary, it is different," she said. She takes her tours wine tasting, olive oil tasting, to cooking classes where they learn to make everything from pizza to fresh mozzarella. Future plans include gelato tasting.

After so many years creating these specialized tours, Iacofano has many contacts and has developed wonderful relationships with people all over Italy including a sommelier at a bar, the manager of a hotel with a chef who will demonstrate how to make pizza.

Iacofano travels to Italy three to four times a year. "I have many clients who want to go to Italy and I just love creating itineraries for people."

Many clients also rave about Gourmet Getaways. "Wow! The Amalfi Coast was simply gorgeous and Rome was terrific," said Laura Lynch. "What a wonderful experience! Traveling through Italy with Gourmet Getways is truly a unique experience."

"Love, Love, Love the 'small group' travel approach," she said. "The smaller group allows for the flexibility in the itinerary if required, the ability to visit extremely unique restaurants that will not accommodate a larger group and there are many friendships born from the 10 days shared with your travel companions.

"Marlene's strength in building relationship throughout the varying regions of Italy truly delivers an experience that you would never find if traveling with large commercial tour companies."

Joe and Phyllis DeChiaro of Morristown used Gourmet Getaways for their first trip to Italy. "As first time travelers to Italy, we were both very excited and a little apprehensive about our vacation," the couple said. They decided to go with Gourmet Getaways for Iacofano's "more personal approach."

"We were delighted with our decision," they said. "Marlene did an excellent job from both the planning of our destinations to the implementation of the hotel bookings, car rentals and tours. Her experience as a travel agent and in particular her knowledge of Italy made the trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

For more information on Gourmet Getaways, visit www.GourmetGetaways.biz or call (973) 644-0906.

For photos or to arrange an interview with Marlene Iacofano, contact Allison Freeman at Allison@AllisonFreemanAssociates.com or (973) 769-6614.