

ITALY (Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Bologna, Padova, Venice, Montepulciano)

8 Days / 7 Nights

Day 1 (Fri or Sun) Rome

After a meet & greet at the airport, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence

Departing at 7:15am by a deluxe coach, you will arrive in Assisi, where you can explore this tiny town, surrounded by walls built in the middle ages, at your own leisure. Make time to visit the Basilica of St. Francis, where you will see masterpieces by Giotto and Ciambue, and to have lunch (not included). Board the bus for Siena, a medieval town surrounded by ancient walls that is known for the Palio, an annual summertime horse race around the shell-shaped town square, Piazza del Campo. Next, you will continue on to Florence, where you will check in to your hotel before enjoying dinner and a well-earned night of rest.

Day 3 Florence

After breakfast, you will spend the day venturing around beautiful Florence, the “cradle of renaissance, where, with the help of Michelangelo, Italian art reached its pinnacle.

Based on Etruscan-Roman origins, the city flourished in the middle ages as a free “commune” and was further refined by the renaissance. You will be fascinated by its numerous monuments, churches, and buildings, as Santa Maria del Fiore, more commonly referred to as the Duomo. On your visit, you will be amazed by its magnificent dome built by Filippo Brunelleschi. Cross a small piazza to see the campanile tower (partly designed by Giotto) and the baptistery, with its bronze doors that Michelangelo dubbed the “gates of paradise.” In the heart of the city, you will see Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo della Signoria (also known as Palazzo Vecchio), and the basilica of Santa Croce. Lunch in a typical Tuscany restaurant in Santa Croce square. Spend the afternoon strolling the cobblestone streets of Florence on your own or take a short trip to Pisa (optional), one of the four main historical marine republics of Italy; there, you will tour the square of miracles, which houses the Duomo, the leaning tower, and the baptistery. Overnight stay.

Day 4 Florence, Bologna, Padova, Venice

Depart for Bologna after breakfast in Florence. There, you will wander through the city’s 38 kilometers worth of elegant arcades (or porticos), for which Bologna is famous. From Piazza Malpighi, we will walk to Piazza del Nettuno and Piazza Maggiore (Neptune square and Major square) in the heart of the city, where you will find Neptune fountain, King Renzo Palace, Podestà Palace and the basilica of San Petronio, one of the biggest in the world. In the afternoon, continue toward Padova, with its original Sant’Antonio basilica. Later, you will arrive in Venice, world-renowned for its classic gondola boats and its elegant, refined art. Check in to your hotel and enjoy your first venetian dinner and overnight stay.

Day 5 Venice

Hit the water after breakfast as you board a private water bus to enjoy St. Mark's square, interior visit of the splendid cathedral, the Doge palace, a symbol of the glory and authority of Venice as it housed the seat of the government and the court of justice. Nearby you will see the legendary bridge of sight. Spend the afternoon roaming along Venice's canals at your leisure and then return to the hotel for dinner and relaxation.

Day 6 Venice, Montepulciano (Tuscany wine region), Rome After breakfast, depart from Piazzale Roma to Tuscany, known for its romantic churches and castles and its infamous wines. You will proceed to Val Di Chiana with a stop in Montepulciano, a medieval town rich with history and art. Known for its "nobile" wine, which can be purchased in wine houses in town, Montepulciano is also the host of an annual jazz and wine festival every July. Spend the afternoon getting to know Montepulciano at your own pace. Free wine tasting in many shops and free time for shopping. In the evening, check in to your hotel in Rome.

Day 7 Rome

Between 7:45 - 8:00 am, after breakfast depart from the hotel and take the tour of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peters' Basilica and jump the queue! No stress to reach the area: upon arrival, your guide will lead you into the museums where you'll visit one of the most important art collection of the world. Admire the beautiful spiral stairway, the gallery of tapestries and geographical maps, before arriving at the famous Sistine Chapel. The tour includes the visit of St. Peters' Basilica.

Explore the rest of the city at your own leisure until you decide that you can't do any more walking. Return to the hotel to give your feet some rest.

Day 8 Rome

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport.

Tour Includes:

7 Nights Accommodation at the hotels
7 Breakfasts + 1 Lunch + 3 Dinners
All mentioned transfers
All mentioned tours

Touristic Category Hotels

Florence	Mediterraneo (4****)
Venice Mestre	Delfino (4****)
Rome	Holiday Inn Express or Rome Garden (3***)

Superior Category Hotels

Florence	Mediterraneo (4****)
Venice Island	Carlton Grand Canal (4****)
Rome	Bettoja (4****)

ITALY(ROME-NAPLES-POMPEII-SORRENTO- CAPRI- ASSISI-SIENA-FLORENCE--PADUA-VENICE- VERONA - SIRMIONE

(Garda Lake) - COMO LAKE – MILAN)

10 Days / 9 Nights

Thursday **Rome**

Arrival to Rome. Transfer to the Hotel.

Friday **Rome**

The tour begins by coach passing through Piazza della Repubblica with the Fountain of the Nayads and following the ancient Aurelian walls which once surrounded the ancient city. From Piazza del Popolo where you will see an Egyptian obelisk dating back to the time of Ramses II. Finally, on arrival at the Vatican Walls, your guide will then lead you into the Vatican Museums taking the beautiful Spiral staircase and continuing through the Gallery of the Tapestries and the Gallery of the Geographical Maps before arriving in the famous Sistine Chapel with its magnificent fresco of the Last Judgement by Michelangelo, at the end of the tour time free to visit the St. Peter's Basilica. Lunch at local restaurant. Arriving by coach at Piazza Venezia you then continue on foot to the famous Piazza Del Campidoglio designed by Michelangelo from where you will have a fantastic view of the Roman Forum. By coach we will then drive by the Circus Maximus and the Aventino Hill. Stop to admire the beautiful statue of Moses by Michelangelo located in the Church of St. Peter's in Chains from where it will take us 5 minutes to reach the symbol of the eternal city: The Colosseum (visit inside, the entrance fee is included). Due to seasonal opening times the itinerary may be altered without notice.

Saturday **ROME-NAPLES-POMPEII-SORRENTO**

Pick up at the hotel from 6.45am to 7.15am for your departure from ROME to NAPLES by coach with a multilingual tour leader. Upon arrival in Naples our local guide will take you for a walking tour of the historical centre to admire the Piazza del Plebiscito, the Royal Palace, the Gallery of Umberto I, and the San Carlo Opera House. From Naples, continue to POMPEII, and enjoy a short visit to a coral and cameo factory. Lunch in a typical restaurant, followed by a visit of the excavations of this ancient Roman city which was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvio in 79 b.C. and buried under 4 to 6 meters of ash and stones. Proceed to SORRENTO, a charming town of the Sorrentine Peninsula famous for the cultivation of Oranges, Lemons and Olives trees. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Sunday **SORRENTO-CAPRI-ROME**

American buffet breakfast at the hotel, and departure at 08.00am to the island of Capri. You will board the ferry and arrive in MARINA GRANDE. Once on the island you will visit, the BLUE GROTTA (weather permitting), the AUGUSTUS GARDENS and stop at the famous Piazzetta. A Minibus will take you up to ANACAPRI. After lunch in Anacapri, you will return to Marina Grande where you will board the ferry. Once on land you will be transferred to Rome by coach. Overnight at the hotel

Monday **ROME-ASSISI-SIENA-FLORENCE**

Pickup at the hotel from 7.30am to 7.45am and departure by coach to **ASSISI**. You will visit the mystic town of Saint Francis still surrounded by ancient walls. Visit the Basilica of Saint Francis with its early Renaissance masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. At the end of the visit, continue towards **SIENA**, the beautiful medieval city renowned for the Palio horse race. Proceed to **FLORENCE**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Tuesday FLORENCE

American buffet breakfast at the hotel. Guided sightseeing tour of the city, also known to be the cradle of the Renaissance. Visit the beautiful Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry of St. John, and Santa Croce, the 13th century Franciscan Church with Cimabue's famous crucifix. The balance of the day is at leisure for optional sightseeing or shopping. Dinner at a local Restaurant and overnight at the hotel

Wednesday FLORENCE-PADUA-VENICE

American buffet breakfast at the hotel and departure to **VENICE** by coach.

Along the way you will stop in **PADUA**, where you will visit the famous Cathedral of St. Anthony, guarded by Donatello's "Gattamelata".

Continue towards **VENICE**, and upon arrival enjoy a panoramic guided walking tour of this unique city. You will see the St. Mark's square, the Basilica of St. Mark, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the Prisons. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Venice

Thursday VENICE

American buffet breakfast at the hotel. Morning tour by boat. You will cross the lagoon with a view of the islands and reach the island of Murano where you will assist to a demonstration of glass blowing (some time will be allowed for shopping). Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Friday VENICE-VERONA - SIRMIONE (Garda Lake) - COMO LAKE - MILAN

American buffet breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure by motor coach to **VERONA**. Visit of the town of Romeo and Juliet. Continue to **SIRMIONE**. Free time for lunch and tour of the town. In the afternoon, proceed to **LAKE COMO** for a panoramic tour by bus. In the evening arrival in **MILAN**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Saturday MILAN

American buffet breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Airport for the return flight

Tour Includes:

9 Nights Accommodation at the hotels
9 Breakfasts + 2 Lunches + 6 Dinners
All mentioned transfers
All mentioned tours

Hotels

Rome	Beverly Hills (4****)
Sorrento	Vesuvio (4****)
Florence	Rivoli / Adriatico (4****)
Venice	Continental (4****)
Milan	Antares Concorde (4****)