

## The Splendors of Italy

### 9 Day Tour from Rome to Rome

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Turning travel dreams into reality™

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### Vacation overview

Italy, a country filled with history, amazing art, delicious cuisine, remarkable architecture, and splendid beauty—you'll see and feel it all on this affordable tour through Italy. Explore the maze of streets in Venice, and discover hidden treasures and restaurants in their back alleys. Stand in awe as you admire the Leaning Tower of Pisa, a must-see sight in Italy. Did you know the tower was constructed in three stages over the course of 177 years, starting in 1173? Even though it was obvious in 1178 that it leaned, construction continued. You'll see this architectural wonder as well as many other famous Italian sites. Have your camera ready as you explore the historical sites of Rome, including the Colosseum, the amphitheater used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles during the Roman Empire. Sit in a café as you admire one of Italy's most unique squares in Siena. Enjoy wine tasting in Italy's Chianti wine region, and shop for local goods in Tuscany. What do you want from your Italian vacation—amazing architecture, sumptuous food, delicious wine, breathtaking art, historical treasures, or scenic beauty? Whatever it is, this Italy vacation delivers!

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 Arrive in Rome, Italy

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore this ancient capital. This evening, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

### Day 2 Rome

The "Eternal City," Rome is a city steeped in history, vibrantly alive and exciting, and absolutely unique! Included sightseeing with a Local Guide starts in ST. PETER'S SQUARE, followed by a visit to the ROMAN FORUM and the mighty COLOSSEUM. In the evening, a chance to discover Rome by night on an optional excursion. (B)

### Day 3 Rome–Orvieto–Siena

Journey northwest to the charmingly located city of Orvieto in the Umbria region to visit its black basalt and yellow limestone CATHEDRAL, an excellent example of Italian Gothic architecture. By early evening you'll be in Siena with time to visit this jewel of Tuscany. Sit in one of the cafés surrounding the Campo and admire one of Italy's most unique squares, famed the world over for its Palio horse race. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

### Day 4 Siena–San Gimignano–Greve–Montecatini

Drive this morning to San Gimignano, one of Tuscany's greatest attractions. Its medieval squares, town walls, streets, alleyways, and 14 towers make it unique. Next, into the very heart of the Chianti vineyards; watch out for names such as Castellina in Chianti, Badia, Gaiole, and Brolio, where classical Chianti wines are produced. Stop in Greve for some WINE TASTING at the Vicchiomaggio wine estate. Arrive in Montecatini in time to join the outing for an optional Tuscan dinner. (B)

### Day 5 Montecatini–Excursion to Florence

This Renaissance gem and city of the Medicis will keep you enthralled the entire day. Traffic is banned in part of the historic center, so visitors can wander at leisure and admire the city's timeless beauty in relative peace and quiet. Don't miss out on the included walking tour with a Local Guide, which features most of the city highlights. You will see Piazza Santa Croce; beautiful Piazza Signoria; Palazzo Vecchio and its courtyard; Loggia dei Lanzi; and, to top it all, Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanile, and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistry, known as the "Gate of Paradise." (B,D)

### Day 6 Montecatini–Pisa–Venice Area

This morning, drive to Pisa for a visit to its SQUARE OF MIRACLES and the amazing Leaning Tower, 180 feet high and no less than 16 feet out of the perpendicular. Later, head across the wooded Apennine Hills into the farmlands of the Po Valley for two overnights in the Venice area. (B)

### Day 7 Venice Area

Venice is more like a marvelous film set than a real live city, with its criss-crossing canals, gondolas and water buses, arched bridges, palaces, and little quiet piazzas. The included orientation starts with a BOAT RIDE and is followed by time at leisure and a chance to watch Venetian GLASSBLOWERS fashion their delicate objects as they did centuries ago. Don't miss out on the optional gondola trip, gliding along the picturesque canals with a local troubadour to serenade you. (B,D)

## **Day 8 Venice Area–Assisi–Rome**

An interesting drive southward, cutting across the Po Delta, then crossing the Apennines. Stop in Assisi, where St. Francis was born in 1182. Visit the world-famous BASILICA with its beautiful frescoes by Giotto, then head for Rome. (B)

## **Day 9 Rome**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

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## **Vacation Highlights**

Individual headsets

### **Inside visits and special features:**

Shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description including admission charges where applicable.

### **Sightseeing:**

Visits to Orvieto, Siena, San Gimignano, Greve in Chianti with wine tasting, Pisa, Venice, Assisi

### **Scenic Highlights:**

Chianti Valley

### **Guides:**

Local Guides for city sightseeing in Rome and Florence. Professional Tour Director while touring

### **NOTE:**

- December 21 Departure – Christmas lunch in Florence.

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## **Hotels**

ROME Fleming (ST)

SIENA Mercure degli Ulivi (F)

MONTECATINI Settentrionale Esplanade (F)

VENICE AREA Poppi (ST) at Mira or Smart Hotel Holiday (ST) at Mestre

ROME Residenza Parco Tirreno (ST) or NH Villa Carpegna (F) or Pineta Palace (ST)

## **Meals**

Buffet breakfasts; 3 dinners, including a dinner at a local restaurant in Siena

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# Optional Excursions

The following list of optional excursions are **examples only** for this vacation. These optional excursions might or might not be available. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them.

Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our [online currency converter](#) for exchange rate information.

## CITY: Rome



**Farewell Dinner** Why not round off your Italian experience in the company of new found friends and soak up "la dolce vita" of this romantic but pulsing capital. Dinner will be taken in one of the traditional local Roman restaurants and you can really taste typical Italian specialities with a menu offering a wide choice of both starters and main course and including wine or soft drinks plus mineral water and coffee or tea. During the evening there will be music to add to the romantic atmosphere. After dinner a stop will be made at the Spanish Steps for a short visit. This monumental stairway of 138 steps was built around 1724 and the steps climb a steep slope between the Piazza di Spagna at the base and Piazza Trinit224 dei Monti dominated by the Trinita dei Monti church at the top. They are said to be the widest staircase in Europe. After the stop return back to the overnight hotel.

Approximate value: €55 EUR per person



**Treasures of Rome by Night & Dinner** An early evening tour will show you other aspects of Rome, perhaps not seen on the included sightseeing tour. Either before or after dinner you will have an orientation drive to probably include Castel Sant' Angelo, Palace of Justice, Mausoleum of Augustus, Aurelian walls, Villa Borghese, Via Veneto, Piazza Barberini and Via Nazionale. Dinner will be taken at one of the local restaurants and you can sample a delicious 3 course menu with dessert including local wine and mineral water plus coffee or tea. During the evening there will be music to add to the romantic Roman atmosphere.

Approximate value: €58 EUR per person



**Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel** On this fascinating excursion with a local guide you can stroll through the Vatican Museum and marvel at Michaelangelo's famous creation in the Sistine Chapel. The Vatican Museum houses over 2000 rooms and 9 miles of the most extensive collections of art in the world. The Museums are brilliantly decorated and brim over with treasures and history and the local guide will share with you the stories and secrets contained within the Museum's walls. In the Sistine Chapel you can marvel at Michaelangelo's masterpiece, which is perhaps the greatest example of art anywhere and certainly the largest contiguous body by one painter. There are also some lesser masterpieces in the Sistine Chapel which are also worth seeing.

Approximate value: €58 EUR per person

## CITY: Montecatini



**Tuscan Dinner** Enjoy a lovely evening out in the Tuscan countryside in a restaurant which is situated on the land of an ancient farm. The farm was completely renewed and the production of the wine and olive oil are open to visitors with traditional Tuscan hospitality. During the winter season the old wine cellar becomes a warm and welcoming dining room. In spring and autumn, weather permitting, one can dine outside and enjoy the warmth of the first or last sunbeams whilst in the summer the ancient surrounding trees offer a cool shelter and the outside lamps create a magical setting. You can sample a good selection of local Tuscan dishes together with a tasting of locally produced wines plus mineral water, coffee and Italian liquer.

Approximate value: €50 EUR per person

## CITY: Florence



**Uffizi Gallery** Don't miss the chance to visit what is believed to be the earliest museum in Europe. With a local guide you will be taken around the Uffizi Gallery, which is one of the most important art galleries in Italy displaying paintings from every age. The Uffizi Palace was built by Giorgio Vasari at the wishes of Duke Cosimo 1 de Medici as offices of the Medici government. It houses the most significant classical sculptures from the Medici collections and a big selection of Italian and European paintings from 13th to 18th centuries. Admire some classical works of art such as Botticelli's "Birth of Venus",

Leonardo's "The Annunciation" and Michelangelo's "Tondo Doni". At the end of the visit with the local guide you will be free to remain in the museum on your own to look around further. Note that the Uffizi Gallery is closed on Mondays.

Approximate value: €35 EUR per person

## CITY: Venice



**Discover The Venetian Lagoon** Discover the Venetian lagoon on an afternoon excursion lasting approximately 3 hours. After sailing past the island of St. Giorgio, the public gardens, Sant'Elena, the Lido and Murano the boat takes you to the famous island of Burano. This is the most picturesque of Venetian islands of the lagoon and the pretty fishing village has its streets and canals lined by pastel coloured houses. It is also famous for its lace-making industry. There will be time to look around Burano on your own before returning back to St. Mark's Square by boat.

Approximate value: €35 EUR per person



**Gondola Serenade** One of the highlights of a trip to Europe and something not to be missed during your visit to Venice is a gondola serenade. The gondola ride either takes place in the morning or the afternoon and lasts approximately 30 minutes when during this time you can relax whilst cruising not only on the Grand Canal but also down many small canals to see Venice from the water. During the gondola ride a local musician will serenade you with the traditional romantic music of Italy.

Approximate value: €40 EUR per person



**Venetian Night Out & Dinner** As the title suggests, this is a real Venetian night out. Embark on a motorboat for a cruise along the impressive Giudecca Canal with the tour director pointing out the most important palaces, all built by the Venetian gentry between the 12th and 13th centuries. Upon disembarkation an evening stroll through some of the romantic narrow streets of this fascinating city to eventually reach one of the specially chosen local restaurants for your Venetian dinner. After a welcoming aperitif of the house you can sit down and enjoy a typical dinner with a choice of starters and main course followed by a delicious dessert. Included also is red or white wine plus mineral water and tea or coffee. After

dinner you will be given some free time in St. Mark's Square, said to have been called the "drawing room of Europe" by Napoleon and which is one of the few great urban spaces in Europe where human voices prevail over the sounds of motorized traffic. A motorboat will then take you part of the way back to your hotel.

Approximate value: €70 EUR per person

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### **Travel Terms & Conditions**

The purchase of any travel services offered by Cosmos, constitutes a contractual arrangement between you and Cosmos, and represents your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions. Please ensure that you read carefully and understand the Terms & Conditions prior to booking. These Terms & Conditions cover Deposit & Final Payment information, Air-Inclusive Deposits & Final Payment, Revisions & Revision Fees, Air Arrangements, Participation, Travelers Who Need Special Assistance, Young Travelers, Smoking, Price Policy, Visas and Passports, Hotels & Accommodations, Baggage Allowance, Travel Documents, Not Included in the Land Price, Refunds, Service Inquires After the Vacation, Holidays, Safety, Photos & Pictures, Optional Excursions, and Responsibility.

[View full Terms & Conditions](#)

### **Important Notes**

- Vacation departures, itineraries and prices are subject to change.
- A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$250 per person per vacation is required for Cosmos to reserve space for you. View [Terms & Conditions](#) for limited exceptions.
- Charges not included in the land vacation price: airfare to and from the start of your vacation; airline baggage fees including checked and/or excess baggage fees; Federal inspection fees for the Federal U.S. Customs and Immigrations; agricultural tax; other per person taxes imposed by government entities; applicable cruise taxes, fees, fares and port charges; passports; visas and vaccinations; transfers; tips to your Tour or Cruise Director, Local Host, driver, Local Guides, and/or ships' crew; gratuities on ferries, trains, and cruise ships; laundry; telephone; minibar; alcohol, beverages, and food outside of the contracted menu as presented at a hotel or restaurant (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel, ship, or restaurant); additional excursions and activities not listed as 'included' in the itinerary; portorage at airports or train stations; Travel Protection premiums; and all other items of a personal nature.