



The Splendors of Italy



September 20 - September 28, 2015
Starting from \$1,710.00 per person/double occupancy

Vacation Overview Italy—a country without compare. 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, one of Italy’s most famous must-see wonders. Have your camera ready as you explore Rome’s historical sites, 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 the Chianti wine region, and shop for local goods in Tuscany. Whatever you want from your Italian vacation—amazing architecture, sumptuous food and wine, art and historical treasures, or scenic beauty—this trip has it all.

Your 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. (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 a local wine producer. Arrive in Montecatini in time to join the outing for an optional Tuscan dinner. (B)



Your Itinerary Continues

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Day 5 Montecatini–Excursion to Florence This Renaissance gem and city of the Medicis will keep you enthralled the entire day. 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 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)

VACATION HIGHLIGHTS

Headsets throughout the day

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

Hotels: ROME Fleming (F)/ SIENA Mercure degli Ulivi (F)/ MONTECATINI Plaza e Locanda Maggiore (F) or Bellavista Palace (F)

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

ROME Residenza Parco Tirreno (F) or NH Villa Carpegna (F) or Fleming (F)

Meals: Buffet breakfasts; 3 dinners

*Flyers printed in 2014 for 2015 is subject to change

For more information and reservations, please contact:



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