

SIMPSON FAMILY
SPECIAL TOUR OF ITALY ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 8, 2018

Day 1: Friday, Sep. 28th ~ Depart late evening (9:50 PM), from Logan International Airport for your overnight flight to Venice, Italy (via Rome) to arrive at 2:35 PM on Sept 29th.

Day 2: Saturday, Sep. 29th ~ Venice

"Benvenuti in Italia!" Upon arrival at Venice's Marco Polo Airport, we will meet our tour escort who will help us transfer to Venice, where we will check into our first-class hotel, the Hotel Casanova. We'll have a special start to our tour with a gondola ride prior to dinner out at a local restaurant. Overnight. (Dinner)

Your accommodations from 9/29 to 09/30:

Casanova Hotel

Calle Frezzaria, 1284

30124 Venice, Italy

+39 041 520 6855

www.hotelcasanova.it

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, safe

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 4.50 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 3: Sunday, Sep. 30th ~ Venice - Montecatini

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we will enjoy a tour of Venice, including a walking tour of Piazza San Marco, a visit to the Doge's Palace and then crossing the Bridge of Sighs, which connects to the Piombi Prisons. We'll have some free time for shopping and browsing (some may want to go to Murano or Burano with the free time) prior to departing for Montecatini where we'll check in to our hotel, the Hotel Nizza & Suisse. Late dinner at the hotel and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Your accommodations from 9/30 to 10/02:

Nizza & Suisse

Viale Giuseppe Verdi, 72

51016 Montecatini Terme, Italy

+39 0572 79691

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, outdoor pool

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 3 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 4: Monday, Oct. 1st ~ Siena - San Gimignano

After breakfast, we'll depart for Siena. We will drive southwest through the heart of Italian wine country, over the rolling hills of Chianti. Once in Siena, our escort will lead us to Piazza del Campo, through the narrow streets, past medieval towers and walls. One of the notable highlights of Siena is San Domenico, which holds the relics of St. Catherine. We will next visit San Gimignano, often described as *"the most famous small*

town in Italy." This charming medieval hilltop town is noted for its many towers and its breathtaking views of the Tuscan landscape. Sample some "vernaccia," the town's famous wine. Return to Montecatini for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 05 Tuesday, Oct. 2nd Florence - Rome

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll make the short ride to Florence and begin with a guided sightseeing tour of the Renaissance City. On our tour, we will walk around the stirring sights of Florence, including Giotto's Bell Tower, Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise, and Brunelleschi's Dome and visit the Academia, home of Michelangelo's famous sculpture "The David." We'll maximize our shopping time with the best shopping areas being the Ponte Vecchio and many of the streets around the sightseeing. Late afternoon, we'll depart for Rome, the "Eternal City," where we will check into our hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/2 to 10/5:

Genova Hotel

Via Cavour, 25,

00184 Roma, Italy

+39 060476951

www.hotel-genova-rome.com/en

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, safe

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 6 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 6 : Wednesday, Oct. 3rd ~ Vatican City

Breakfast is included this morning, and then we'll transfer to Vatican City for a papal audience (pending the Pope's schedule). Following that experience, we will tour the Vatican Museums, a group of the most impressive edifices with hundreds of galleries filled with art treasures. We will see awe-inspiring relics and works of art donated throughout centuries as tributes of faith. Included will be The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms and The Sistine Chapel, which houses Michelangelo's "The Last Judgement." Later on, we will enter St. Peter's Basilica, the largest Church in Christendom. It was built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. Unsurpassed in beauty, a monument to the long history of the Catholic Church, to which pilgrims come from around the world. St. Peter's is the grandest of the world's churches. Marvel at Pieta and Bernini's amazing bronze canopy. Before dinner, we'll have time at leisure, to explore, shop, or sit in one of the outside cafes and watch the world go by. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 7: Thursday, Oct. 4th - Ancient & Modern Rome

Breakfast is at our hotel, followed by day-long city sightseeing tour. In the morning, we will visit the glorious remains of Ancient Rome, birthplace of modern civilization and capital of the Roman Empire and learn how Julius Caesar and many almighty Emperors conquered the world and thrived in the heart of the Roman Forum. We will stop for a tour of the Colosseum and you can discover the grandeur, the glory, and bloody past of this amphitheater. Then we will continue with visits to the Forum, the Palatine Hill, the Emperors' Palace, the Capitol, the Senate and much more. Time for lunch on your own. In the afternoon we will meet up for a tour of "Modern Rome" and we will walk along into the historic center of the city and the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Montecitorio, the Pantheon and Piazza Navona. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening. Return to our hotel for overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 8: Friday, Oct. 5th ~ Rome - Pompeii - Sorrento

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we say goodbye to Rome! We'll first stop for a guided tour of Pompeii, destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and, today, some of the best-preserved ruins of Roman times. Upon arrival in Sorrento, we will visit *La Sorgente*, a picturesque agricultural farm, belonging to the Marciano family, nestled in the Sorrentine hills with a fabulous view of the city of Naples. Sip on homemade wine, snack on crisp, tender Italian bread (*topped with fresh tomato and a drizzle of olive oil*) and sample the best homemade mozzarella one could imagine! Check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/5 to 10/8:

HOTEL MICHELANGELO

Via Corso Italia 275

80067 Sorrento

+39 081 8784844*

www.michelangelohotel.it/

Free Wi-Fi in lobby (there is a charge in the room), hairdryer, a/c, outdoor swimming pool

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 3.00Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 9: Saturday, Oct. 6th ~ Isle of Capri - Sorrento

After breakfast, we will visit the beautiful Isle of Capri! Our excursion begins with a ferry ride across the Bay of Naples to Capri's Marina Grande. The group will board small buses for the short drive up to the actual town of Capri, where we'll enjoy guided sightseeing among the chic shops, hotels, and restaurants lying along winding streets. The main square, Piazza Umberto, has a pretty white church and several open-air cafés. This is an ideal place to spend our free time in the afternoon, or take the funicular back down to Marina Grande and charter a boat to the nearby Blue Grotto.

Return to Sorrento for free time to shop, relax, or explore on our own. Dinner and overnight at our hotel In Sorrento. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 10: Sunday, Oct. 7th ~ Positano - Amalfi Coast

After breakfast, we will take an excursion along one of the most scenic roads in the world -*The Amalfi Drive!* Our first stop will be in the glamorous seaside village of Positano, one of Italy's most elegant resorts and the playground of famous actors, actresses, politicians, and athletes. We will then continue our drive through the ancient marine republic of Amalfi. There will be some free time to visit the beautiful Cathedral of St. Andrew, explore the town or shop. In the afternoon, we will visit Ravello before we return to Sorrento for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 10: Monday, Oct. 8th ~ Naples - Boston

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we'll transfer to the Naples Airport to board our return flight to Boston (via Rome) with meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight. (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE