



GRAND TOUR OF ITALY ITINERARY

MAY 9-20, 2017

DAY 1/MAY 9 - PLEASE REFER TO YOUR DEPARTURE INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR FLIGHT SCHEDULE.

DAY 2/MAY 10 - FLORENCE~MONTECATINI: Upon arrival at the Airport, we will meet our tour escort who will help us transfer. We will enjoy a scenic morning drive to Montecatini, where we will check into our hotel for 4 **nights**. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure. This evening, we will gather for a "Welcome Dinner" and orientation at our hotel. Overnight.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE ENCLOSED HOTEL SHEET FOR DETAILS ON ALL OF THE HOTELS.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL LUNCHESS ARE ON OUR OWN.**

DAY 3/MAY 11 - FLORENCE: After **breakfast** at our hotel, we'll enjoy a full-day guided sightseeing tour of Florence, including a walking tour of the historic city center and a visit to the famous Academia Museum, site of Michelangelo's "David." Return to our hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

DAY 4/MAY 12 - VENICE: After **breakfast**, we will take a full-day excursion to Venice. Our tour of this canal city includes 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. The remainder of the afternoon is free for shopping and browsing. We will have a **light dinner** this evening. Overnight.

DAY 5/MAY 13 - SIENA~SAN GIMIGNANO: After **breakfast**, we'll depart for Siena 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. Return to the hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

DAY 6/MAY 14 - MONTECATINI~ASSISI~ROME: After **breakfast**, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. We will head for Rome, with a stop in Assisi to view St. Francis' Cathedral; we'll have some free time to browse the city. Upon arrival in Rome, "The Eternal City," we will check into our hotel for **3 nights**. There will be time to rest, relax, shop, and freshen-up prior to **dinner** and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 7/MAY 15 - 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 see the Colosseum-from the outside 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. Back to our hotel, where **dinner** is included this evening.

DAY 8/MAY 16 -VATICAN CITY: **Breakfast** is included this morning, and then we'll transfer to Vatican City, first touring 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 is included at our hotel.

DAY 9/MAY 17 - ROME~POMPEII~NAPLES~SORRENTO: After **breakfast**, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. 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. Next on our agenda is a guided panoramic sightseeing tour of the famous port city of Naples. Upon arrival in Sorrento, we will check into our hotel for the **remainder of the trip. Dinner** and overnight.

DAY 10/MAY 18 - 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. We'll enjoy guided sightseeing in the town of Capri, with its chic shops, hotels, and restaurants lying along winding streets. The main square, Piazza Umberto, has a pretty white church and several open-air cafés where we can sit and watch the world go by. Afternoon return to Sorrento, by ferry, for some free time to shop or explore on our own. **Dinner** and overnight at our hotel in Sorrento.

DAY 11/MAY 19-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 above Positano, one of Italy's most famous and elegant resorts. 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 browse-and-shop. We'll stop for lunch (*on our own*) and in the afternoon, we will visit Ravello. Return to Sorrento for **dinner** and overnight.

DAY 12/MAY 20 - DEPARTURE DAY: After **breakfast**, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred.

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