



The Best of Italy

Rome * Tuscany * Cinque Terre * Venice

September 7—18, 2016

Discover the good life in Italy, visiting the most celebrated areas, where history, culture, nature and cuisine intersect. We'll experience various elements of this incredibly diverse country, combining iconic cities with Tuscan hill towns and the most famous island of the Adriatic as well as seaside villages on the Mediterranean Sea. Art treasures and ancient architecture in Rome and Florence come alive thanks to our expert guides. Nature is welcoming on the coastline.

We've picked out the best of Italy's amazing sites, so this is your chance to treat yourself to the trip of a lifetime.

Air & Land Package:

\$ 4889 pp sharing twin room

\$ 5378 pp in your own room

Deposit: \$500 pp



Destinations

- Rome 3 nights in the Eternal City
- Tuscany 3 nights in a villa
- Cinque Terre 2 nights by the sea
- Venice 2 nights on the island

Tour Inclusions

Roundtrip airfare from San Francisco

Accommodations for 10 nights

Private Tours in Rome, Tuscan Villages, Umbria wine tasting, Florence, Mediterranean Coast, Murano Island

Admissions to historic sites & museums

Breakfast each morning

Private sightseeing by local guides and Tour Escort

Private luxury coach charters

Contact Your Vacation Specialist

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• With Lucille Carter

Wed, Sept 7: Depart from San Francisco

Delta Airlines from San Francisco to Rome, via JFK, overnight flight

Thurs, Sept 8: Arrival in Rome

Gambrinus Hotel

We arrive in the Eternal City of Rome in mid-morning. With private transfers to the hotel. Today is free so you can get acquainted with this ancient city to get the essence of this once powerful civilization. Check-out the charming piazzas where painters peddle their “masterpieces”, pause to sit on the Spanish Steps or sip a cappuccino at a side-walk café.

Friday, Sept 9: Colosseum & Roman Forum Tour

Rome's iconic amphitheater, the Colosseum dates back to A.D.72. Feel the Gladiators' racing pulse and imagine the crowd's cheers as you walk around the upper edges of the ancient structure. See ruins in the Roman Forum where the ancient market place seems to jump to life. Excavations reveal what was once the center of Roman life along the Via Sacra (Sacred Way). Climb Palatine Hill for a panoramic view overlooking the ruins of Rome, considered to be the spot where Rome's first settlers followed Romulus.. Your afternoon is free for more exploration.

Sat, Sept 10: Vatican City Tour

We'll start our journey learning about the most important institution; the Vatican! Our local expert will guide you through the Vatican Museums housed in the papal palaces. You'll view major works of art and frescoes from antiquity to the Renaissance, the most famous of which is Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Then the grandeur of St Peter's Basilica shows off even more art in the huge sanctuary. The balance of the day you are free to throw a coin in Trevi Fountain, linger over a big bowl of pasta or seek peek into one of the many ancient churches.

Sun, Sept 11: Through Umbria to Tuscany

Villa Pitiana

We'll travel north through the gorgeous countryside of Umbria to the walled village of Mulvatignano, well known for its world famous wine. Our next stop is nearby Pienza. A tiny village with a large city square you can stroll from one end to the other in minutes, stopping for a taste of their strong cheese. Romeo and Juliet was filmed here, as was the English Patient. Continuing north we'll spend the next 3 nights in Villa Pitiana, with all the amenities of a hotel and the ambience of a villa.

Mon, Sept 12: Siena

Today is when the essence of Italian country living comes into focus. We'll drive to the most famous medieval village, Siena., the heart of Tuscany to witness what it must have been like to live in the middle ages. The historic center and 17 districts (contrade) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, anchored by the beautiful Piazza del Campo. We'll tour

inside the majestic Siena Cathedral (Duomo). The Gothic architecture with black and white stripes also has a Romanesque style. The interior is a treasure trove of Tuscan art. They'll also be time for shopping .

Tues, Sept 13: Florence

While country living is our priority at this stage, we can't let you miss out of nearby Florence. Our guide will take you through the famous Galleria dell'Accademia, known especially for Michelangelo's statue of David. We've picked out a special restaurant for an included group lunch, then you are free to either explore Florence on your own or return to the villa for the balance of the day.

OPTIONAL: Cooking Class with Dinner in Florence \$99.00 pp

Wed, Sept 14: Travel to Lucca & Cinque Terre

Marina Hotel

Today is an adventure as we head west to the Cinque Terre (The Five Lands) an area along the Mediterranean Sea that is stopped in time. Our private coach will take us first to Lucca for a chance to stroll the cobblestone streets of this gem of a town. Finally we arrive in Monterosso Al Mare, the furthest north of the 5 villages and the only one with a beach.

Thurs, Sept 15: Cinque Terre

Today is a special treat . You have the full day to explore the Cinque Terra on foot or by train. Hike through olive and lemon groves along cliffs above the Med or wander the cobblestone streets of these 5 fishing villages. The colorful boats bob in the harbor and waves splash over the bulkheads. If you get tired of walking, your Train/Trail Pass allows you to hop on the train to the next village.

Fri, Sept 16: Travel to Pisa & Venice

Hotel Santa Chiara

Today is full of discoveries. First we'll stop in Pisa to see the famous Leaning Tower and get that special photo-op. Then you'll relax on the train to the magical island of Venice. Our hotel is an easy walk from the train station, then join our local guide for a walking tour to discover the charming maze of alleys, arching foot bridges and ancient piazzas.

Sat, Sept 17: Murano Island

Today we'll take a private boat to a nearby island to explore the Murano Glass Factory, known worldwide for its colored glass. See mouth-blown glassmaking in progress during a factory tour and maybe do some shopping to bring home a local treasure.

Sun, Sept 18: Flight home

We'll leave this enchanting city in style by taking a private boat to the Venice airport. Board your early flight, arriving home the same day.

KLM Airlines from Venice to San Francisco, via Amsterdam

