

# **Highlights of Italy**

# Only land service

Rome - Florence - Venice

DURATION: 11 days

DEPARTURES: All year every day

Day 1 – Arrival and Transfer

Arrive in Rome and transfer to your Hotel in Rome

Day 2 – Rome Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for your Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill private tour. Get ready to enter into the legend! Jump into Roman history and discover with an expert guide the "Anfiteatro Flavio", the Colosseum: the largest amphitheater not only in the Eternal City, but in the world, get the most complete tour of the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. Access the Palatine hill with no line and discover the hill where Rome was founded at the beginning. Then reach the Colosseum and be amazed by this monument that is the symbol of Rome in the world. The Amphitheater created to entertain ancient Roman citizens with bloody shows of gladiators, animals and cruel games, is now one of the most fascinating landmarks of the City. Then, walk on the original path of ancient Rome along the Via Sacra and see the Temples of Vesta, Antonino and Faustina, the ancient Basilica Julia and Aemilia and dream about the glorious past of the Roman Empire. Unforgettable!

Day 3

Take a tour of the **Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel**, jumping the lines! No stress to reach the area: upon arrival, your guide will lead you into the museums, through our preferred entrance; hence you'll visit one of the most important art collections of the world. Admire the Gallery of Tapestries and the Geographical Maps before arriving at the famous Sistine Chapel and the unforgettable Basilica! After the Sistine Chapel you will be taken, through an exclusive access to St. Peter's Basilica, skipping long lines.

#### Day 4 – **Transfer to Florence**

Enjoy a private transfer from the hotel to the train station in Rome. Arrive in Florence and a private transfer from Florence train station to the hotel. After check-in, the remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore Florence.

Day 5 – Two Options: Chianti FD Tour

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After breakfast, pick up from your hotel and depart for Chianti's area, land of one of the best worldwide wines, the Chianti Classico. Here, along the "Chiantigiana" the famous wine route, hills of vineyards and olive trees are perfect guests of the journey as the tiny hilltop towns those add in Chianti to their name-such as Greve in Chianti, famous for had being the oldest market of the area and for had giving birth to Giovanni Da Verrazzano, the explorer famous for the discovery of USA. For lunch we stop at an organic farmhouse, famous for handmade products, where is possible to taste the balsamic vinegar, a unique thing in Chianti area. After that crossing beautiful little villages and unforgettable landscapes we stop for a visit to a typical farmhouse for wine tasting of Chianti's best products. Depart for hotel around 4:00 PM.

# Or Pisa and San Gimignano Tour

After breakfast, pick up from your hotel and depart for Pisa, where you can discover the beauty of its well-known monuments in the Miracle Square, as the Leaning Tower, Cathedral, Baptistery and Cemetery. Depart from Pisa for a tasting lunch of Truffles in a real truffle factory, where is possible to understand better why this incredible product of the Earth is called the "White Gold" and taste a wonderful lunch of local food based on truffle ingredients. Depart for San Gimignano. Driving throughout the delightful Tuscan's hills you reach the town famous for its original towers, followed by a nice walk in the historical center and free time. Depart for hotel around 4:00 PM.

# Day 6 - Florence Highlits Half day private tour

This is a tour where you can enjoy your free time walking along the characteristic streets and dedicate a day to the "Lands of Renaissance" discovering the historical center of the marvelous Florence and its hills where you can visit the Etruscan town of Fiesole and De Medici Villas. Starting from Michelangelo's square for the best view of the town, we lead you till the historical path to enjoy a nice walk, admiring "Ponte Vecchio" bridge and the streets of the old center, possible a visit of the religious center composed by the Giotto's bell tower, the Baptistery and its famous Gate of Paradise, the Cathedral and its majestic Cupola of Brunelleschi. Depart for Fiesole where there is one of the most important Etruscan sights, really impossible to miss to understand better our history and Tuscan roots.

### Day 7 – Transfer to Venice

Enjoy a private transfer from the hotel to the train station in Florence. Depart for Venice by train. Enjoy a private transfer from Venice train station to the hotel by water taxi.

#### Day 8 - Classical 2 hour walking tour, S. Marco, Ducal Palace, Basilica

Piazza San Marco – Origins, history and description of the main monuments: Basilica San Marco, Palazzo Ducale, Bell tower, Clock Tower and Procuratie. Santa Maria Formosa – History and anecdotes related to this wonderful and characteristic square. Campo St. Giovanni e Paolo – The "Pantheon" of Venice, the great School of Charity, the Captains of fortune. Marco Polo's House and Malibran Theatre – Anecdotes and past and recent history cross each other in this

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beautiful corner of Venice. Return to San Marco through the Mercerie, vital connection between Rialto and San Marco and the main street for the city shopping.

# In the evening private 30 minute gondola serenade after 1900 hours or a regular small group tour Gondola serenade with dinner

With this excursion you can see Venice from a different perspective, and take part of its magical atmosphere. Gondolas accompanied with local musicians float along the fascinating Gran Canal: the glittering images of the sumptuous palaces in the water will remain forever in your memories. After this tour you will enjoy a dinner of three courses at the restaurant "Al Giglio" (one soft drink and coffee per adult is included, wine is not included). Note - No explanations during the ride (only gondola, music and dinner - please note that musicians are not in each gondola)

# Day 9 - Regular small group tour Murano and Burano

After sailing past the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, the Public Gardens, the tip of Sant'Elena and the lido famous beach resort, the boat arrives at Murano, known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry. Here you have 40 minutes for a visit to one of the factories, and discover the magic of the glass. The second stop will be at the picturesque island of Burano, famous not only for its lace, but also for the fisherman's houses painted in bright colors. The stop will last about 30 minutes. After a short sail, you will reach Torcello, the earliest centre of civilization in the lagoon. Only the Cathedral with its magnificent mosaics and the church of Santa Fosca remains as the testimony of its former glory. This stop lasts about 30 minutes. Then the boat will make its way back to St. Mark's Square. Notes -No explanation during the ride.

#### Day 10 – **Transfer to Rome**

Private transfer from the hotel to Venice train station. Train transfer to Rome. Private transfer from Rome train station to Rome Hotel.

### Day 11 – **Transfer to airport**

Private transfer to Rome airport.

#### For more information contact:

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