



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel

ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel

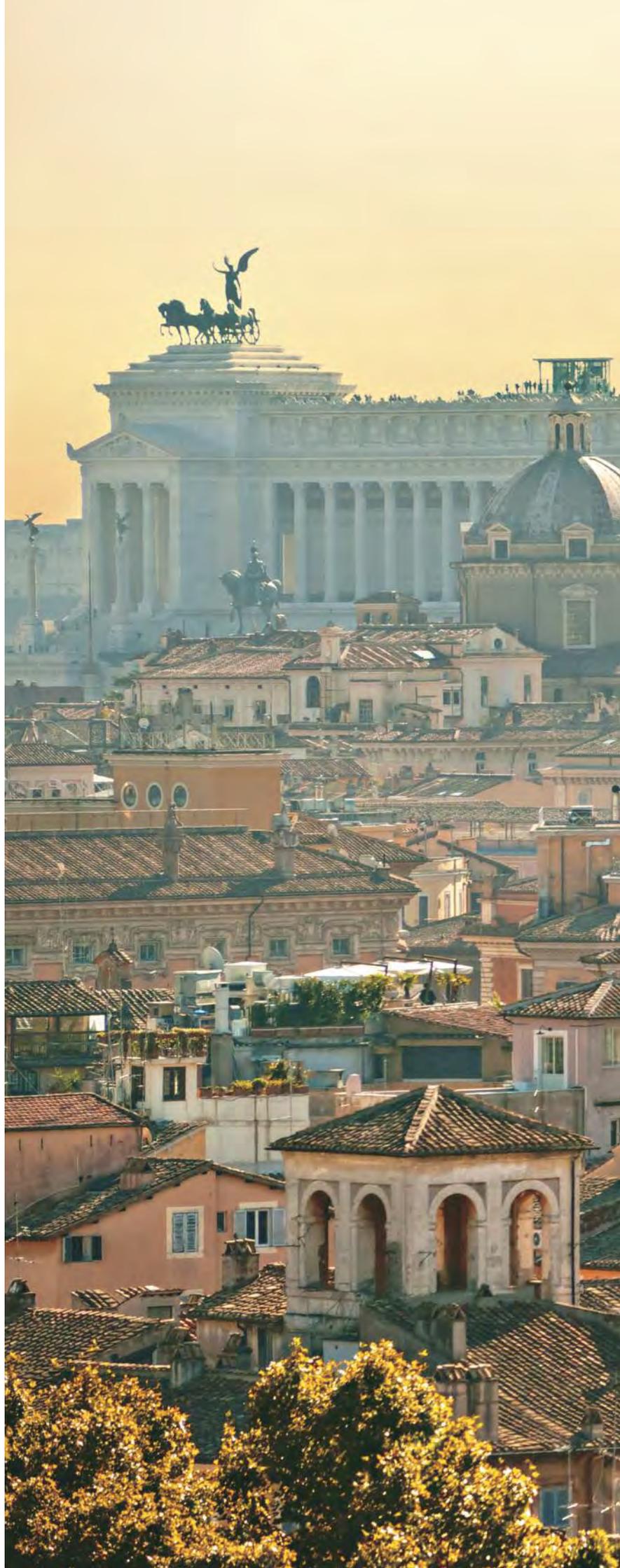
OUR CONCEPT

GIVING YOUR CLIENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LINK THEIR VACATION TO THEIR PASSIONS.

We design vacations and tours of Italy tailored exactly to your customer's specifications. We offer a wide selection of Italy travel packages from traditional to unusual and even unique. Our customized tours are ideal for both the first-time visitor and the Italophile, with each tour personally crafted to meet their needs and budget. For any request, just send us an email. We will work with you to plan the perfect itinerary and then we will take care of all the reservations involved in a tour. We will ensure an offer within 48 hours and we will make any changes needed to have the perfect package for your customers. From your request to the departure we will be in constant contact with you to solve any issues and always give you a prompt answer. While your clients are travelling we are always available to swiftly solve any problem that may arise and to ensure the smooth running of the tour.



How to reach us
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Office hours
Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:30pm
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OUR SERVICES



HOTELS

A wide range of selected hotels all over Italy to suit any request.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by bus, ferry, train, plane for any size of group.

SIGHTSEEINGS & EXCURSIONS

From classic to special-interests tours with multilanguage licensed tour guides.

RESTAURANTS

A wide choice of restaurants and menus for any kind of meal, from a fast lunch to a gala dinner.

TAILORMADE HOLIDAYS

Ad hoc tours all over Italy to suit all your clients' needs and plan the perfect itinerary.

VIP SERVICES

Exclusive de-luxe services.

TICKET RESERVATIONS

Museums, concerts, theatres, operas, sport and special events.

ASSISTANCE

24 hour help line service.

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ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

**GROUP TOUR
PROPOSALS**



ART CITY & CLASSICAL TOURS

BEST OF ITALY

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach; after check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome drink; welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Rome

It is said of Rome that it is not so much a city with museums as a city within a museum. Guided tour of the city begins with Rome's ancient past. Visit the Roman Forum, Rome's emblem, the magnificent Coli-

seum, and the Pantheon, an almost perfectly preserved Roman temple. In the afternoon discover Rome's renaissance and Baroque heritage, taking in the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the elaborate Trevi Fountain. Return to the hotel. (B)

Day 3) Rome

In the morning visit the Vatican City, the heart of the Catholic faith. Enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, the exquisitely frescoed Sistine Chapel and Basilica of St. Peter, the world's largest church. Free afternoon for shopping and additional cultural visits. Dinner is at a local





Trattoria in Trastevere, one of the most famous districts of the city. (B, D)

Day 4) San Gimignano - Siena

Departure for San Gimignano, a little town situated in the Tuscan hills. It is famous worldwide for its medieval towers and panoramic views of the Chianti area. Visit a wine cellar and enjoy a wine tasting. After San Gimignano continue on to Siena, well known for its "Palio" horse race, which takes place twice a year. Enjoy a city tour before transfer to the hotel in Montecatini. (B, WT, D)

Day 5) Florence

In Florence admire the artistic treasures of the world's oldest gallery on a guided tour of the Uffizi. Commissioned by the distinguished Medici family, the gallery contains a vast collection of priceless renaissance pieces including works by Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. The rest of the day is at leisure in Florence. (B, D)

Day 6) Pisa - Venice

Departure for Pisa. Time to admire the famous "Piazza dei Miracoli" and the leaning tower before continuing on to Venice. Enjoy a guided tour of the monumental heart of the city taking in the Rialto Bridge

which spans the snaking Grand Canal and then head to St. Mark's Square. View the towering Campanile and visit the Basilica of St. Mark. (B, D)

Day 7) Murano - Burano - Torcello

Experience several of the different facets of Venice. Embark on a boat journey to some of the Venetian Lagoon's remarkable islands. First stop in Murano, home of the world-famous blown glass, where there is the opportunity to visit the small family-run workshops and witness art in creation. Burano, next stop, is famous for the beauty and complexity of the lacework that their craftsmen have created for centuries. Burano is also known for the brightly and vividly painted houses that line this tiny island's streets. The final island on tour is the delightfully peaceful Torcello, a silent haven of repose in the otherwise active Venetian Lagoon. Once the original Venetian colony, it is now virtually deserted. Here find Venice's oldest cathedral and the throne that Attila the Hun used when he conquered the city-state over one thousand years ago. Rest of the day at leisure. Return to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis 2HB/1BB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis HB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Mestre - basis HB
- Wine tasting in Chianti area
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Uffizi Gallery - Florence
 - Ferry boat to visit Murano, Burano & Torcello
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



ITALIAN CAROUSEL

13 days | 12 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel in Rome by private coach; after check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Rome

Guided tour of the city begins with Rome's ancient past. Visit the Roman Forum, Rome's emblem, the magnificent Coliseum, and the Pantheon an almost perfectly preserved Roman temple. In the

afternoon discover Rome's renaissance and Baroque heritage, taking in the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the elaborate Trevi Fountain. Return to the hotel. (B)

Day 3) Rome

In the morning visit the Vatican City, the heart of the Catholic faith. Enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, the exquisitely frescoed Sistine Chapel and Basilica of St. Peter, the world's largest church. Free afternoon for shopping. Dinner is at a local Trattoria in Trastevere. (B, D)





Day 4) Orvieto - Florence

Departure for Florence, stopping en route at Orvieto. Perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking rows of vine covered plains, the city boasts one of Italy's most spectacular cathedrals. Visit it before continuing on to Florence. In the afternoon, the guide meets the group for an introductory tour of the city. After the guided tour check in at the hotel. (B)

Day 5) Florence

Admire the artistic treasures of the world's oldest gallery on a guided tour of the Uffizi. Commissioned by the distinguished Medici family, the gallery contains a vast collection of priceless renaissance pieces including works by Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. Rest of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 6) San Gimignano - Siena

Departure for San Gimignano, a little town situated in the Tuscan hills. It is famous worldwide for its medieval towers and panoramic views of the Chianti area. Also visit a wine cellar and enjoy a wine tasting. After San Gimignano continue on to Siena, well known for its "Palio" horse race, which takes place twice a year. Free time before return to Florence. (B)

Day 7) Pisa - Venice

Departure for Pisa. Time to admire the famous "Piazza dei Miracoli" and the leaning tower before continuing on to Venice. Enjoy a guided tour of the monumental heart of the city taking in the Rialto Bridge which spans the snaking Grand Canal and then head to St. Mark's Square. Here view the towering Campanile and visit the Basilica of St. Mark. (B, D)

Day 8) Murano - Burano - Torcello

Experience several of the different facets of Venice. Embark on a boat journey to some of the Venetian Lagoon's remarkable islands. First stop in Murano, home of the world-famous blown glass, where there will be the opportunity to visit the small family-run workshops and witness art in creation. Burano, next stop, is famous for the beauty and complexity of the lacework that their craftsmen have created for centuries. Burano is also known for the brightly and vividly painted houses. The final island on tour is the delightfully peaceful Torcello, a silent haven of repose in the otherwise active Venetian Lagoon. Rest of the day at leisure. (B, D)

Day 9) Ravenna

Departure for Ravenna. Upon arrival walking tour of the city to discover the symbolic world of the Byzantine civilization through the beautiful mosaics of Ravenna. Remarkably well preserved, their sheer opulence overwhelms all who visit them. After the visit, departure for Assisi. Dinner and overnight in Assisi. (B, D)

Day 10) Assisi

Morning guided walking tour of Assisi, hometown of St. Francis, including the famous Basilica dedicated to him. In the early afternoon departure for Sorrento, the pearl of Southern Italy. (B, D)

Day 11) Amalfi Coast

Leaving Sorrento, the road climbs and twists through orchards and gardens, where grapes and lemons grow side by side, with the clear blue sea below. Travel along the winding road on its descent into Positano, greeted by thrilling land and

seascapes at every twist and turn. At Amalfi make a stop, where it is a pleasure to stroll in the quaint yet noble square with its striking stairway up to the cathedral. Continue on to Ravello, largely pedestrianised with an atmosphere that enchanted great composers such as Wagner and Verdi. Return to Sorrento. (B)

Day 12) Pompeii - Naples

Departure for Pompeii, the wealthy Roman town which was buried in AD 79 by a massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Guided tour of the Excavations. Proceed to Naples to taste the true Neapolitan pizza. In the afternoon guided tour of the city, to discover the beauties of the city: Castel Dell'Ovo, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino, etc. Time at leisure before return

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LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis 1BB/2HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Florence - basis BB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Mestre - basis HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Sorrento - basis 1BB/2HB
- Wine tasting in Chianti area
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Uffizi Gallery - Florence
 - Pompeii Excavations - Pompeii
 - Funicular in Orvieto
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- Tour of Venetian Lagoon by private boat
- VAT



GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

19 days | 18 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Meet at Milan airport and transfer to the hotel. Later, enjoy an orientation tour including the gothic Duomo, the 19th century Galleria and "La Scala" Opera house. Dinner in an elegant restaurant in Milan. Overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Lake Maggiore

Travel to the Italian Lakes today. First stop in Stresa, and see the idyllic Borromean Islands. Time to relax or take a boat trip before a short ferry ride across Lake Maggiore to Laveno. Enter Switzerland briefly on a visit to Lugano. Later, back in Italy enjoy a scenic drive around Lake Como to Como town. Overnight and dinner in Como. (B, D)

Day 3) Lake Como

Morning at leisure in Como. Afternoon departure for Lake Garda. Accommodation, dinner at the hotel. Overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Sirmione - Verona

Experience the beauty of Lake Garda on an included excursion along its shores to Sirmione. Here can admire the imposing Scaliger castle before continuing on to romantic Verona, for a guided tour of the city, home of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. See the Roman arena and Juliet's balcony. Then free time for shopping or relaxing. Proceed to Venice. Dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)



Day 5) Venice

Morning guided tour of the city on foot. Among other famous places, see St. Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the old Prison. Lunch at leisure. Free time in the afternoon, with option of joining excursion by motorboat to the Islands of the Lagoon, Murano, Burano and Torcello, or for shopping. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Assisi

Travel to Assisi. Free time to discover the mystical town of Saint Francis. Accommodation at the hotel. Dinner at leisure. (B)

Day 7) Pompeii

Depart for Sorrento. On the way, stop in Pompeii for a guided visit of the highlights of this Roman city both destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Accommodation and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Capri

Enjoy a tour of the fabled isle of Capri. Views of the Faraglioni Rocks and Marina Piccola plus the famous "Piazzetta". At leisure, explore the elegant boutiques, take a trip to see the Blue Grotto or ascend to Anacapri. Return to Sorrento and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 9) Full day Amalfi Coast

Depart for a full day excursion to the Amalfi coast; lunch in local restaurant; limoncello tasting; free time before return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 10) Naples

Depart for Rome. On the way, stop in Naples for a guided visit to admire the most important monuments of this colourful city, such as the Castel dell'Ovo, Castel Nuovo, Galleria Umberto, San Carlo theatre and the Cathedral. Taste some true Italian pizza for lunch. Some free time to stroll along the famous streets of Spaccanapoli before proceeding to Rome. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)]

Day 11) Rome

Guided visit of the Vatican and its breathtaking museum including the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square and St. Peter's Basilica. The remainder of the day is to enjoy at leisure. An

optional tour to Tivoli (Villa Adriana and Villa D'Este) is suggested. Dinner at leisure. (B)

Day 12) Rome

Guided tour to discover ancient Rome: Coliseum, Roman Forum, Trajan's Column and the astounding "Wedding Cake" monument to Victor Emmanuel in Piazza Venezia. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon guided tour includes monumental Rome: Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon and Piazza Navona. Dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 13) San Gimignano - Siena

Departure for Montecatini. Stop en route in San Gimignano - famous for its towers - and Siena to visit Piazza del Campo famous for the Palio horse race which is held twice a year. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 14) Florence

Departure for a full day excursion to Florence. Half day guided tour to admire the Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, cross the Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge) and visit the local markets. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure for additional cultural visits or shopping in the famous Leather Market. Return to Montecatini late in the afternoon. Dinner at leisure. (B, L)

Day 15) Lucca - Pisa

Depart for a full day excursion. Visit Lucca, the only town in Italy entirely surrounded by walls. Stroll along its streets and enjoy a coffee in the Market Square. Continue to Pisa to admire the famous Piazza dei Miracoli and take a picture with the leaning tower. Proceed to Santa Margherita Ligure. Accommodation and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 16) Cinque Terre

Departure from Santa Margherita Ligure to Riomaggiore by train. From there walk along the via dell'Amore (Lover's Walk) from Riomaggiore to Monterosso. Short visit of Vernazza. Return to Santa Margherita Ligure by train. Dinner at leisure. (B)

Day 17) Portofino - San Fruttuoso

Full day excursion to explore the Gulf of Tigullio by boat. First visit Portofino, a simple fishing village, with narrow coloured

houses, crossed by many roads that lead to the well-known square of polished pebbles famous in the whole world. After lunch continue to San Fruttuoso, famous 13th century abbey, which dominates the beach with its irregular arches and three-mullioned windows. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 18) Genoa

Departure for Milan. On the road stop in Genoa to enjoy an overview of the heart of the city: Via Roma, Palazzo Ducale, Piazza De Ferrari and Via XX Settembre. Visit the old seaport "Porto Antico", the historical centre, with its Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Spinola di Pellicceria and the "caruggi" typical little streets. Proceed to Milan. Farewell dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 19) Departure

Extend your stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night - 4* hotel in Milan - basis HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Lake Como area - basis HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Lake Garda area - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Mestre - basis HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Assisi - basis BB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Sorrento - basis HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis 1BB/2HB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis 1BB/1HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Santa Margherita Ligure - basis 1BB/2HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Milan - basis HB
- Lunches: Naples (1), Florence (1), Amalfi Coast area (1)
- Limoncello tasting
- Wine tasting in Chianti area
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Borromean Islands - Lake Maggiore
 - Ferry ride across Lake Maggiore to Laveno - Lake Maggiore
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Vaporetto - Venice
 - Pompeii Excavations - Pompeii
 - Ferry ride to/from Capri
 - Cinque Terre Card
 - Ferry to Portofino and San Fruttuoso
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- Minibuses in Capri
- VAT



SOUTHERN SUNSHINE

12 days | 11 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel in Rome by private coach; after check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Rome

Full day guided tour of the city. Visit ancient Rome: the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Circus Maximus. Continue the visit with the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. Some free time

for shopping. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Montecassino - Pompeii

Departure for Pompeii. En route stop to visit Montecassino Abbey. Guided visit of Pompeii's excavations. Continue on to Sorrento. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Capri

Spend day in Capri. Upon arrival transfer to Capri town by funicular. Continue on to Anacapri. Some free time to enjoy the beautiful island. Return to Sorrento in the evening. Dinner in a typical restaurant in the centre of Sorrento. (B, D)



Day 5) Reggio Calabria

Departure for Reggio Calabria (approx 3 hours). Visit of the national museum in Reggio, home of the Bronze Statues of Riace. Lunch at leisure. Continue on to Messina and travel on from there to Taormina. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Taormina

Travel to Mount Etna to enjoy some beautiful views. Visit of the Taormina's Greek theatre in the afternoon. Rest of the day at leisure. Taste some traditional sicilian dishes in a local restaurant in the evening. (B, D)

Day 7) Syracuse

Departure for Syracuse, a city with a glorious past that was a worthy rival of Athens, Carthage and Rome for domination of the island. It is today one of the most interesting cities in Sicily, the cradle of theatre and a fantastic monument to Baroque style. Visit of the Archaeological Park and Ortigia Island. After lunch proceed to Agrigento. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Agrigento - Selinunte

Morning visit of the famous Valley of the Temples. In the afternoon continue on to Selinunte to visit the archaeological area and its acropolis. Then continue on to Erice located on an impressive hill, famous for the scientific cultural centre "Ettore Maiorana". In particular visit the historical centre: the "Matrice" with its marvellous bell tower, the "Balio", the Norman and the Venus Castles. Continue on to Palermo for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 9) Palermo - Monreale

Start guided tour of Palermo: Palazzo dei Normanni, the Cathedral, Palatine Chapel, San Giovanni monastery. After lunch continue to Monreale, to visit its famous cathedral. Free time. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 10) Palermo

Day at leisure in Palermo. Suggestion: visit the famous Vucciria market or shop in the elegant streets of Palermo. In the evening transfer to the harbour to take the ferry to Naples. Overnight on board. (B)

Day 11) Naples

Early arrival in Naples. In the morning walking tour of the old city, with its characteristic alleys, squares, shops and some of the most beautiful churches. Also stop at some of the most characteristic shops and markets with tastes of local sweets and the popular coffee. Taste some delicious pizza for lunch. Enjoy some free time before continuing to Rome. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 12) Departure

Extend your stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B, D)

For more information about this package, to request a quotation or a tailor-made programme, please contact us: travel@arsigroup.it

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2+1 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Sorrento - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Taormina - basis HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Agrigento - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Palermo - basis HB
- Overnight Cruise Palermo - Naples
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Pompeii Excavations - Pompeii
 - National museum - Reggio Calabria
 - Greek Theatre - Taormina
 - Valley of the Temples - Agrigento
 - Archaeological Park - Siracuse
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Boat Villa San Giovanni - Messina
- Ferry ride to/from Capri
- Funicular in Capri
- VAT





ITALIAN PASSION

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Rome airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. After dinner, discover Rome by night. Pass by Castel St. Angelo, St. Peter's Basilica, and Piazza Venezia. Enjoy a "gelato" in Piazza Navona before returning to the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Rome

Depart on a guided tour, an introduction to this fascinating city, which combines buildings from the pre-Christian era to the present day. Have the opportunity to view the Roman Forum, the religious, political and commercial

centre of Ancient Rome and the Colosseum. After lunch a visit of the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi fountain will complete tour. Dinner in a typical Trattoria Romana with folk music. (B, D)

Day 3) Rome

This morning visit the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. Later on, enjoy views of the Eternal City from a boat cruise along the Tiber. Enjoy lunch on board. Spend the rest of the day strolling along the streets of the centre or shopping. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)





leave the coastline to drive up the gradient of the Dragon Hill to picturesque Ravello - largely pedestrianised and with an atmosphere that enchanted some of the world's greatest composers, including Wagner and Verdi. Return to Sorrento in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Capri

In the morning transfer by ferry to the idyllic island of Capri. The island's rugged coastline and the luxuriance of its vegetation combine to create an alluring scene, which has captured many hearts over the centuries. Take the cable car to Anacapri and then continue by bus to La Piazzetta in the centre of the island. Late in the afternoon re-board the ferry for return to Sorrento. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Sorrento - basis HB
- Dinner in a typical restaurant in Trastevere
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Pompeii Excavations - Pompeii
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Ferry ride to/from Capri
- Funicular in Capri
- VAT

Day 4) Montecassino - Naples

Drive south to Naples. Stop en route to visit to the monastery of Monte Cassino. Founded in 529 by St. Benedict, it was here that the Saint drew up the rules of the Benedictine Order. Before getting to Naples stop in a buffalo mozzarella cheese factory to have a lesson about its production and taste it. Discover the Bay of Naples and the beauties of the city: Castel Dell'Ovo, The Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Gallery of Umberto. Check in at the hotel. Tonight taste a true Italian Pizza. (B, D)

Day 5) Pompeii - Sorrento

Pompeii, the wealthy Roman town, was buried in 79AD by a massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Upon arrival in Pompeii guided tour of the excavations to discover the day to day affairs of the town while walking through its ancient streets. Continue on to Sorrento in the

early afternoon, time to explore the town renowned for its beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea, its mild climate and fine shopping. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Amalfi Coast

Travel along one of the world's most beautiful routes - the Amalfi coast. Leaving Sorrento, the road climbs and twists through orchards and gardens, where grapes, lemons and figs grow side by side, with the clear blue sea below. We travel along the winding road on its descent into Positano, greeted by thrilling land and seascapes at every twist and turn. The whitewashed Positano houses, with their balconies of trailing bougainvillea, are jammed together in a cliffside cascade of colour. At Amalfi make lunch stop, where it is a pleasure to stroll in the quaint yet noble square with its striking stairway up to the cathedral. In the afternoon



HEART OF TUSCANY

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Florence/Bologna airport, meet with tour manager. Transfer by private luxury coach to the hotel. This evening join fellow travellers in the hotel restaurant for Welcome Dinner. (D)

Day 2) Florence

Full day dedicated to exploring Florence. Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the elegant palaces and fashionable shops, the charming narrow medieval streets and the impressive Cathedral Square with Brunelleschi's imposing dome will all be the focus of a pleasant slowly paced tour ending at the Accademia.

Admire Michelangelo's sculptures, such as his fascinating unfinished statues and the original David. Afternoon at leisure for additional cultural visits or for shopping in the famous Leather Market. (B, D)

Day 3) Pisa - Lucca

Departure for full day excursion to Pisa and Lucca. Admire the famous Piazza dei Miracoli and take a picture with the leaning tower. Continue on to Lucca, the only town in Italy entirely surrounded by walls. Stroll along its streets and enjoy a coffee in the Market Square. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. (B, D)





Day 4) Garfagnana - Marble quarries

Head to Marlia, just north of Lucca, to visit the Villa Reale park which belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte's sister and then to the King of Italy. The park is considered the most elegantly designed Italian style garden/park in this region. The Garfagnana is an environmentally intact valley north of Lucca, full of nature, history and gorgeous villages. Along the west side of the valley, cross the beautiful Apuane Alps to reach the Carrara Marble District. Visit a quarry and the town of Carrara. Michelangelo worked with the marble from these quarries. (B, D)

Day 5) Siena - Chianti Region

Departure for a full day excursion to Siena and the Chianti region. Guided tour of the city. Time for a coffee in the Piazza del Campo famous for the Palio horse race, held twice a year. Drive on through the Chianti area, one of the most sugges-

tive areas of Tuscany. Known all over the world for its wine and its countryside of unequalled beauty, the Chianti area alternates woods with vines and olive trees, romanesque churches, farmhouses, villas and castles of rare beauty. Drive through some of the most enchanting towns and taste some local wine. (B, WT, D)

Day 6) San Gimignano - Monteriggioni Volterra

Departure to Volterra for a short visit of this Etruscan, Roman and medieval town. Go on to San Gimignano which dominates the Elsa Valley with its famous towers. Free time for lunch and shopping. In the afternoon stop in Monteriggioni; breathe in the magical atmosphere of this tiny medieval village before returning to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Departure

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- Nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis HB
- Wine tasting in Chianti
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Accademia Gallery - Florence
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



ENCHANTING LAKE DISTRICT

10 days | 9 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Venice airport and transfer to the hotel on Lake Garda for the next three nights. Lake Garda, located between the magnificent Alps and the Po Valley, resembles a fjord and its excellent location makes it perfect for exploring the surrounding area. Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Lake Garda

Beloved by many celebrated writers and artists, most notably Goethe, Malcesine is one of the most famous towns located on the eastern shores of Garda, also known as the Riviera of Olives. With its spectac-

ular views of the castle and its picturesque harbour, Malcesine will not fail to enchant. Continue on to Riva to stroll along its narrow streets and enjoy a pleasant lunch along the lakeshore. Return to the hotel for a relaxing evening. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Verona

In the morning, travel to Verona and have the opportunity to visit Juliet's balcony as immortalised in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. As testimony to its Roman past, the imposing Arena immediately captures the eye. Made from local stone the amphithe-





atre is still used today during the opera season, quite a contrast to the gladiatorial contests that took place here during the Roman period. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Lake Garda - Lake Como

Visit Sirmione, with its Scaligeri Castle, which still retains the drawbridge machinery and embattlements quay used to defend the whole southern end of the peninsula. From here travel to the medieval walled city of Bergamo, before arriving in Cernobbio. Check in at the hotel, for the next two nights. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 5) Lake Como

In the morning visit one of Lake Como's most famous villas, the Villa Carlotta, which houses numerous Canova masterpieces and whose beautiful gardens include over 500 different species of plant and flower. Then take a ferry across the waters to the splendid lakeside town of Bellagio, famous for the attractive Villa Melzi. Its magnificent grounds consist not only of a beautiful water garden but also a Moorish Temple which is visible from across the lake. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Lake Como

A day to relax or enjoy a boat ride on Lake Como. Alternatively, a visit to the town of Como, which gave its name to the lake. The town founded by the Romans on a

Celtic site in 196 BC is worth a visit before transferring to the hotel on Lake Maggiore. Arrive this evening at the hotel in Stresa, stay for the next three nights. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Stresa - Locarno

Board the ferry in Stresa for the journey on the tranquil waters to Locarno. Here free time to stroll around and sample Swiss café life before embarking on the Centovalli Train, which provides magnificent panoramic views of the gorges, waterfalls, vineyards, and bridges between Locarno and Domodossola. Following this awe-inspiring excursion join coach for the short trip back to Stresa. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Lake Maggiore

Explore one of the largest and possibly the most stunning of the Italian lakes, while travelling by boat to the Borromean Islands. Of the four islands, Isola Bella and Isola dei Pescatori are the most famous, as the former is home to the spectacular 17th century Palazzo Borromeo and the latter, as the name - Fisherman's Island - suggests, still exudes part of its fishing village atmosphere. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 9) Milan

Departure for Milan for an orientation tour including the gothic Duomo, the 19th century Galleria and "La Scala" Opera house.

Free time for shopping. Tonight dinner in an elegant restaurant in Milan. (B, D)

Day 10) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - Lake Garda 4* hotel - basis HB
- 2 nights - Lake Como 4* hotel - basis HB
- 3 nights - Lake Maggiore 4* hotel - basis HB
- 1 night - Milan 4* hotel - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Borromean Islands - Lake Maggiore
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Ferry rides in Lake Como and Lake Maggiore
- VAT



GLORIOUS LAKES AND MOUNTAINS

9 days | 8 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Verona/Venice airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome drink. Welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Lake Garda - Sirmione

Lake Garda provides the perfect opportunity to explore the surrounding area. With its Scaligeri Castle, which still retains the drawbridge machinery and embattlements used to defend the whole southern

peninsula, and the Grotte di Catullo, Italy's largest Roman Villa, Sirmione is a charming historic town and a pleasure to discover through its meandering cobbled streets. Return to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Verona

In the morning travel to Verona, the town immortalised by Shakespeare in Romeo and Juliet. Guided visit to discover the highlights of the city, among them Juliet's balcony and the famous Roman Arena. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)





Day 4) Riva - Trento - Rodengo

First stop is Riva, undoubtedly one of Lake Garda's best-loved resorts, which dates back to Roman times. Continue on to Trento the capital of the Trentino region, a medieval town encircled by mountains. Go on to Rodengo, a town known for its castle and 13th century frescoes. Dinner and overnight in the Dolomites area. (B, D)

Day 5) Dolomites

Departure for a tour around the peaks of the Dolomites. The first stop is the attractive town of Brunico, overlooked by the medieval castle. Then continue through the Passo Gardena area, enjoying panoramic views of the Dolomites, until reaching the town of Ortisei. Return to the hotel to enjoy a typical Tyrolean dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Lake Como

Leave for Lake Como. Upon arrival, time to relax or to enjoy a boat ride on Lake Como. Alternatively, visit the town of Como, which gave its name to the lake. The town was founded by the Romans in 196 BC on a Celtic site. Transfer to the hotel on Lake Maggiore. Arrive this evening at the hotel in

Stresa, stay for the next three nights. (B, D)

Day 7) Lake Maggiore

Departure from Stresa for the Borromean Islands. Of the four islands, Isola Bella and Isola dei Pescatori are the most famous, as the former is home to the spectacular 17th century Palazzo Borromeo and the latter, as the name Fisherman's Island suggests, still exudes part of its fishing village atmosphere. Return to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Stresa - Locarno

Board the ferry in Stresa (seasonal operations permitting) for the journey on the tranquil waters of the lake to Locarno. Here free time to stroll around and sample Swiss café life before embarking on the Centovalli Train, which provides magnificent panoramic views of the gorges, waterfalls, vineyards, and bridges between Locarno and Domodossola. Following this awe-inspiring excursion take the short trip back to Stresa by coach. (B, D)

Day 9) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Lake Garda - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Dolomites - basis HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Lake Maggiore - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Borromean Islands - Lake Maggiore
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
 - Ferry rides on Lake Como and Lake Maggiore
 - VAT



UNDISCOVERED ITALY: LAKE D'ISEO AND FRANCIACORTA REGION

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Milan airport meet Tour Leader who will assist you in your transfer to your hotel in Lake Iseo.

Day 2) Lake Iseo & Bergamo

Full day excursion Bergamo and Lake Iseo. Land of details for unexpected discoveries. Interesting suggestions and pleasant surprises. Water, land and sky beget a new landscape. Walking guided city tour of Bergamo to visit the High Old Town, the Cathedral, the Ancient Walls, the Baptistery, the Colleoni Chapel and the central

square. Following your exploration of the stunning Bergamo you will travel by coach along the shores of Lake Iseo.

Day 3) Free day on Lake Iseo

Day 4) Franciacorta region

Full day to Franciacorta region with a guided visit and tasting in one of the most renowned Franciacorta sparkling wine cellars. Passing small villages, old abbeys and ancient castles of the area.

Day 5) Free day on Lake Iseo





Day 6) Milan & Lake Como

Full day tour to Milan and Lake Como. Including half-day guided tour in Milan visiting the main city highlights such as the Victor Emanuel Gallery, the Duomo (outside visit), the Sforzesco Castle, La Scala Opera House (outside visit). Followed by a visit to Como town on the shores of Lake Como. With a walk in the town centre and

along the lake. Free time in Como before returning to Lake Iseo.

Day 7) Free day on Lake Iseo

Day 8) Departure

Extend your stay in Italy or transfer to Milan airport.

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
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OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights – 4* hotel in Lake Iseo – basis BB
- Full day excursion to Lake Iseo & Bergamo
- Full day excursion to Franciacorta region
- Full day excursion to Milano & Lake Como
- Wine tasting in Franciacorta wine region
- Multilanguage tour leader throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



CINQUE TERRE INTERLUDE

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Milan airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach; after check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Genoa

In the morning enjoy an overview tour of the heart of Genoa: Via Roma, Palazzo Ducale, Piazza De Ferrari and Via XX Settembre. Visit the old seaport "Porto Antico," the historical centre, with its

Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Spinola di Pellicceria and the "caruggi" typical little streets. The remainder of the day and evening are free to explore. Don't miss a visit of the Aquarium. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Gulf of Tigullio

Drive along the Ligurian seacoast with its landscape bristling with palm and olive trees, parasol pines, and vineyards. Stop in Santa Margherita Ligure. Time for a coffee before taking the boat to explore the Gulf of Tigullio. First visit Portofino, a simple





the sea and three small islands: Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto. On the other side, facing the sea in a setting of steps, coloured buildings, mystery and charm are the three jewels Lerici, Fiascherino and Tellaro. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Versilia

Discover the Versilia area in Tuscany, well known for its lovely beaches extending for 20 kilometres at the foot of the imposing Apuan Alps, world-famous because of their marble quarries. Enjoy Viareggio, Forte dei Marmi, and Pietrasanta. A short distance away, visit some small villages, rich in history facing the Versilian coast: each of these picturesque villages, separated by fields, woods or mountains, has its own history, its own peculiar natural and cultural-artistic features, and each deserves a visit in every season of the year. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

fishing village, with narrow coloured houses, crossed by many roads that lead to the well-known square of polished pebbles famous the world over. After lunch continue to San Fruttoso, famous 13th century abbey, which dominates the beach with its irregular arches and three-mulioned windows. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Sestri Levante - Chiavari

Visit Sestri Levante, flanked by the Bay of Fables (Baia delle Favole) on one side and the Bay of Silence (Baia del Silenzio) on the other and divided by a rocky promontory called "the Island." The Baia delle Favole, with its port, is the most lively and animated part of the town, with the seafront, bathing establishments, ice-cream shops and hotels. On the other hand, in the Baia del Silenzio, the atmosphere is cosy and romantic, still tied to the customs of fishing that has always represented an important economical resource

for Sestri. Taste some of the region's best gelato, pastries and 'born-in-Liguria' focaccia. Enjoy wine and oil tasting and experience Italian beach culture. Discover Chiavari with its arcades. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 5) Cinque Terre

Departure by train to visit the famous five villages that offer a glimpse into another time. Discover Corniglia and Vernazza on steep hills among olive and chestnut groves. Lie back on the small beach of Monterosso and taste some delicious pasta al pesto and local wine. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Poets' Gulf

Drive along the coast to reach the Poets' Gulf, a landscape of high scenic and cultural value. Portovenere is a picturesque village established during the Roman period on a rocky peninsula surrounded by

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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Genoa - basis HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in La Spezia - basis HB
- Wine tasting in Monterosso
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- 1 day pass to in the Cinque Terre area
- VAT



LE MARCHE, A REGION OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Bologna airport, you will be met by your tour leader. Transfer by private coach to your hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Pesaro. (D)

Day 2) Urbino & Pesaro

Depart for a full day excursion to Pesaro and Urbino. Start with a guided visit of Urbino, dominating a panoramic view of green hills and majestic mountains, famous in the world for its precious masterpieces. Capital of the Duchy of the great Montefeltro family, birthplace of

Raphael and historic university town, Urbino reached the peak of its glory in the 15th century. At that time Duke Federico gathered the greatest artists and writers of the time at his court. After the visit, lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon the excursion takes back to Pesaro, birthplace of the world famous composer Gioacchino Rossini. This city boasts of medieval and renaissance monuments, a modern quarter which extends out towards the sea. Time at leisure for shopping. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)





Day 3) Free day in Pesaro

Day 4) San Leo & San Marino

Full day excursion to visit San Leo and San Marino. San Leo, ancient fortress situated on a rocky mountain overlooking the Marecchia Valley. Over the centuries many important representatives of art and culture, from Dante to St. Francis, passed through the gates of this fortress. Lunch at leisure. Continue on to San Marino Republic, the oldest republic in the world, where it is possible to have a stroll around the narrow streets and have some good shopping. Return to your hotel late afternoon. Dinner and Overnight at hotel

Day 5) Free day in Pesaro

Day 6) Gradara & visit to vineyard with wine tasting

Today depart for an half day guided tour of Gradara, the famous city where the tragic love story of Paolo and Francesca, narrated by Dante Alighieri, supposed to have taken place. Lunch at a typical local trattoria. After lunch continue your excursion for a visit with wine tasting to one of the vineyards and cellars of the region, to taste some local wines such as the Bianchetto del Metauro Valley and Sauvignon Blanc. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, WT, D)

Day 7) Free day in Pesaro

Day 8) Departure

Extend your stay in Italy or transfer to Bologna airport.

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights – 4* hotel in Pesaro – basis HB (drink not included)
- Lunches: Urbino (1), Gradara (1)
- Full day excursion to Urbino & Pesaro
- Full day excursion to San Leo & San Marino
- Full day excursion to Gradara and a local vineyard
- Visit at vineyard with wine tasting
- Multilanguage tour leader throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



THE ADRIATIC COAST

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Bologna airport, you will be met by your Tour Manager. Transfer by private coach to your hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Riccione.

Day 2) Ravenna

Depart for a full day excursion to Ravenna, the cradle of the Byzantine civilization in Italy. We start with a panoramic city tour and then discover the city of the mosaics, remarkably well preserved, their opulence overwhelms whoever visits them. We visit Galla Placidia Mausoleum,

San Vitale Church and Sant'Apollinare Nuovo basilica. Time at leisure for lunch and shopping. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3) Free day at leisure

Day 4) San Leo & San Marino

Full day excursion to visit San Leo and San Marino. San Leo, ancient fortress situated on a rocky mountain overlooking the Marecchia Valley. Over the centuries many important representatives of art and culture, from Dante to St. Francis, passed





through the gates of this fortress. Lunch at leisure. Continue on to San Marino Republic, the oldest republic in the world, where it is possible to have a stroll around the narrow streets and have some good shopping. Return to your hotel late afternoon. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Day 5) Free day at leisure

Day 6) Bologna & visit to the Ice-Cream Museum with ice-cream tasting

After breakfast we depart to Bologna, home of the European oldest university. Once in Bologna, we shall meet our local guide for a half day walking city tour including its magnificent Piazza Maggiore, the heart of city's life since Roman times;

the two towers built in 12th century as a status symbol of the most important Bolognese families; the Neptune fountain, a masterpiece of the Flemish sculptor Jean Boulogne. Time at leisure to walk around the streets of its old centre and explore the famous Porticoes, a ribbon of more than of columns which goes along the town. Then we proceed onto the Ice-cream Museum and factory where an ice cream tasting will take place after the guided visit to the museum. Return to the hotel in the evening. (B, ICT)

Day 7) Free day at leisure

Day 8) Departure

Transfer to Bologna Apt Airport for your flight departure

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MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights – 3*sup hotel in Riccione – basis HB (drink not included)
- Full day excursion to Ravenna
- Full day excursion to San Leo and San Marino;
- Full day excursion to Bologna, including the visit to the Ice-cream Museum with tasting
- Multilanguage tour leader throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



TREASURES OF UMBRIA

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. After freshening up, depart for a panoramic tour of Rome including the Coliseum, Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia, with a stop at Trevi Fountain. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Orvieto - Todi

Departure for the Umbria region, called the green heart of Italy. First stop is Orvieto, situated on top of a rock, from which

splendid views of the beautiful hilly landscape below can be enjoyed. Guided visit of the city, including the Cathedral, a masterpiece of Italian Gothic architecture. Some free time to stroll along the narrow streets. On to Todi, often voted the best place to live in Italy. Enjoy its medieval ambience while discovering its monuments. Continue on to Perugia, home base for the next 6 nights. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Assisi - Spello - Bevagna

Guided tour of Assisi, including the Basilica of St. Francis. Later on departure for





Spello, a charming small town where the city walls are among the best preserved in Italy. Continue on to Bevagna, a town which has preserved its medieval appearance; moreover, the city streets are a fair reflection of the original Roman layout. Time to discover the town. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Gubbio

Another town to explore: Gubbio. It was once an important town that emanated a true expression of Umbrian civilization. It is built on the side of Mount Ingino, where at the top of the mountain, a monumental basilica preserves the incorrupt body of St. Ubaldo, patron saint of the town. It is famous for the Race of the Ceri (candles) held every year on May 15th and for its blue pottery. Return to Perugia for a free afternoon. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5) Perugia

In the morning, it's time to visit Perugia (home of the Umbrian Jazz Festival every July). Clung onto the side of a hill, it is one of the most beautiful Italian towns. Its Etruscan walls, medieval churches, 16th century and baroque palaces still bear witness to its past splendour. Visit the Pe-

rugina Chocolate Museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. In the late afternoon take a short detour to Deruta, the ancient city of ceramics. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 6) Spoleto

Spend the day in Spoleto today. Every year in summer it hosts the "Festival of the Two Worlds" a very important classical music event. Not to be missed: in the town centre, the Cathedral, the church of St. Eufemia and the Arch of Druso. Outside the walls: the Bridge of the Towers, which can be crossed on foot and the early Christian basilica of S. Salvatore. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 7) Lake Trasimeno

Explore Lake Trasimeno, one of the largest lakes in Italy. Visit some of the towns surrounding the lake, such as Magione, Castiglione del Lago and Passignano. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant to taste some of the true Umbrian food. Return to the hotel for overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night - 4* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- 6 nights - 4* hotel in Perugia - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Funicular in Orvieto
- Visit of the Chocolate Museum in Perugia



THE ULYSSE'S RIVIERA

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Rome, you will be met by your Tour Manager. Transfer by private coach to your hotel in Fiumicino. Relax, unpack and join your fellow travellers in the hotel's restaurant for your Welcome Dinner.

Day 2) Fossanova Abbey & Sermoneta

Breakfast at your hotel and depart for excursion to the most famous best preserved medieval town in Southern Latium region. While being there overlooking a beautiful plain with its castle, we feel to be surrounded by its magical atmosphere. Then we proceed on with a visit to the Fossanova Abbey. Founded by the Benedictine order

in the IX century a.C. through the centuries it became an important point of cultural, religious and political exchanges and becoming a focus for popes, kings and emperors. Return to the hotel by private coach; dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Free day at leisure on the seaside

Day 4) Full day in Rome : AM Ancient Rome ; PM St Peter and Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel

This morning after breakfast travel to Rome for full day excursion to Ancient Rome. Meet your local guide for a walking





tour including: the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Capitol, Piazza Venezia and Trevi Fountain. Free time for lunch and shopping. In the afternoon, visit to Vatican Museums and St Peter's Basilica. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 5) Reggia di Caserta

This morning after breakfast travel to Caserta, to visit the magnificent Realm of Caserta also called Royal Palace of Caserta. Ancient Royal residence of the Borbon dynasty and proclaimed as Humanity World Unesco Patrimony. It is surrounded by a wide park, divided in two areas : the English-style and the Italian-style gardens. Planned by architect Vanvitelli, it was conceived to compete with the Versailles realm in which it represents a lot of similarities. Your local guide will introduce you to this marvellous world. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 6) Free day at leisure on the seaside

Day 7) Naples & Pompeii

Naples overlooks the bay taking its name from this enchantous city whose historical centre is inscribed by UNESCO to the Humanity World Patrimony. A universe of surprises between ancient buildings, monuments, churches, parks and the sea. Then we go ahead visiting the Pompeii excavations on foot of Volcano Vesuvio with a local guide through the ancient city. You will see what has been discovered in the 1700 years since Pompeii was covered by ashes during the eruption of Vesuvio. You can imagine the everyday life of the Imperial age and felt the panic of the people during last minutes before the destruction.

Day 8) Departure

Breakfast at your hotel and transfer to the Airport for return flight. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights – 4* hotel in Sperlonga – basis HB (drink not included)
- Full day excursion to Rome
- Full day excursion to Sermoneta & Fossanova Abbey
- Full day excursion to the Reggia di Caserta
- Full day excursion to Naples & Pompeii
- Admissions as follows:
 - Reggia di Caserta
 - Vatican Museums / Sistine Chapel with pre-booking
 - Pompei
- Multilanguage tour leader throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



GLORIOUS APULIA AND MATERA

10 days | 9 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Bari airport - transfer to Martina Franca. Welcome Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Caves of Castellana Alberobello

Departure to visit the famous Caves of Castellana. Lunch at Alberobello followed by a walking tour of the characteristic Trulli area. At night visit the historical centre of Martina Franca. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 3) Lecce - Otranto Zinzulusa Grotto

Departure for Lecce "The Pearl of the Baroque". Visit of the city. After lunch, ex-

cursion to the beautiful Otranto, with its famous cathedral. Visit to the Zinzulusa Grotto. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

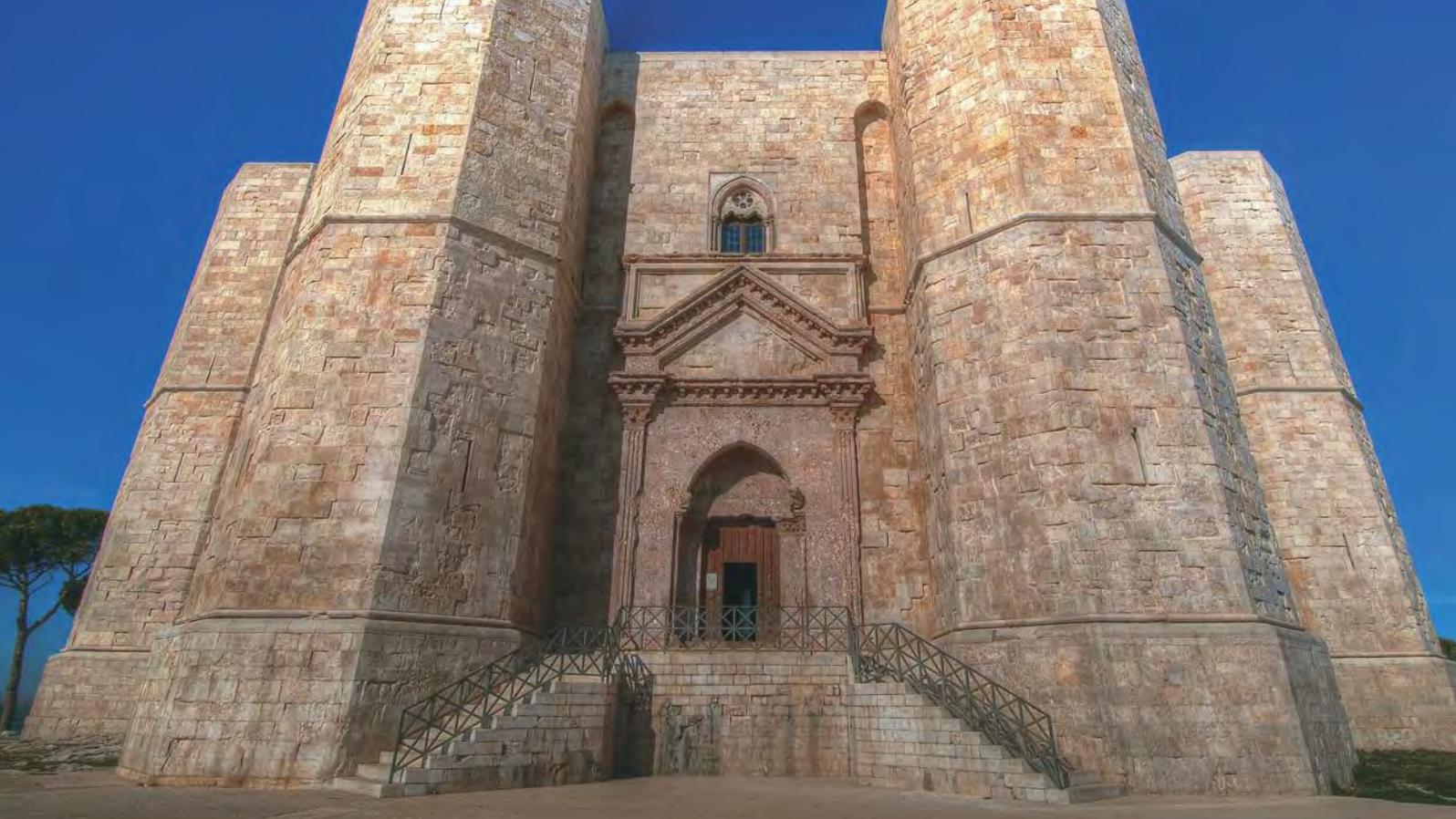
Day 4) Cisternino - Ostuni - Egnazia

Time to visit the "white cities" of Cisternino and Ostuni. Continue on to Egnazia, an interesting archaeological site: first Messapic and later Roman, with its museum, boundaries, necropolises and traces of the Via Traiana. Return to Martina Franca. Dinner in a local "pizzeria". (B, D)

Day 5) San Giovanni Rotondo Monte S. Angelo

Departure for San Giovanni Rotondo to





visit the sanctuary and the home of Padre Pio. Then visit of Monte S. Angelo one of the most ancient Christian shrines, dedicated to the Archangel Michael. Return to Martina Franca for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Bari - Castel Del Monte - Trani

Departure for Bari to visit the Swabian Castle and the Cathedrals of St. Nicolas and St. Sabino. Continue on to Castel Del Monte, the castle masterpiece of King Frederick of Aragon. Lunch in a typical restaurant. Afternoon visit of Trani. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 7) Taranto - Grottaglie

In the morning visit of Taranto, "The City of the Two Seas". Visit the archaeological museum. After lunch visit of Grottaglie, famous for its handcrafted ceramics. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 8) Matera (Basilicata region)

Visit Matera, "la Città dei Sassi". The city is the most extraordinary and intact example of a troglodyte settlement in the Mediterranean region. The oldest sassi (ancient homes carved right into the rock), are about 7000 years old. Afternoon at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 9) Crispiano - Manduria

In the morning excursion to the region of Crispiano, called "The Territory of the 100 Farms". In the afternoon visit to Manduria, famous for its fortified walls. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 10) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights - 4* hotel in Martina Franca - basis 2BB/7HB
- 2 lunches in a local restaurant
- 2 dinners in a local restaurant
- Admission charges & tickets as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



SICILIAN CAROUSEL

9 days | 8 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Palermo airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel in Palermo. This evening taste some delicious Sicilian food along with some famous sicilian cakes. (D)

Day 2) Monreale - Palermo

Departure for a visit of Monreale Cathedral and Benedictine Cloister. Also visit the principle historical monuments of Palermo: the Cathedral, St. John of Hermits, Norman Palace, Palatine Chapel with a panoramic tour of the city: Quattro Canti, Pretoria Square. Possibility of excursion to Mondello and/or Mount

Pellegrino. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Calatafimi - Segesta Erice - Trapani

Departure for Segesta. Tour the old town, the mighty Doric temple held by 36 columns, and the Greek theatre. Then go to the medieval city of Erice, which stands upon an impressive hill, famous for the scientific cultural centre "Ettore Maiorana". In particular visit the historical centre: the "Matrice" with its marvellous bell tower, the "Balio", the Norman Castle and the Venus Castle. A panoramic tour of Trapani will follow. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)





Day 4) Trapani - Marsala Selinunte - Agrigento

Depart for Marsala through the "Salt Way", visit the charming scenery of the largest lagoon in Sicily, with the possibility of visiting the museum of "Salt Activity", plunged between the windmills, the Phoenician-Punic isle of Mozia with its archaeological finds and the "Whitaker" museum. Continue on to Selinunte and visit one of the largest archaeological parks in Europe: the Acropolis with its marvellous temples, evidence of the Greek and Phoenician-Punic civilization. Agrigento is next and a charming night tour of the illuminated "Valle dei Templi" (Valley of the Temples). Check-in at the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 5) Agrigento - Ragusa

Visit the Valley of Temples: including the temples of Concordia, Juno, Castor, and Pollux. Depart to Ragusa with a stop at Cosimo. In the afternoon take a walk through the baroque buildings and charming narrow streets of the historical centre of Ibla di Ragusa. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Modica - Noto - Syracuse

Departure for Modica, where the beauti-

ful, well-preserved baroque churches from its splendid past can be seen. Continue on to Noto, capital of the Sicilian Baroque, where the most amazing monuments stand in the three squares of the main street of the town. Transfer to Syracuse to visit the baroque island of Ortigia. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Syracuse - Taormina

Visit the glorious vestiges of Syracuse's past: the Roman Amphitheatre, the Greek Theatre and the Ear of Dionysus. Depart for Taormina, visit the Greek Theatre, and walk along the narrow and colourful streets for some shopping opportunities. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Taormina - Mount Etna

In the morning excursion to Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. Reach 1800 m for a breathtaking view of the incredible surrounding landscape. Return to Taormina for a free afternoon. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 9) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Palermo - basis HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Agrigento - basis HB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Syracuse - basis HB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Taormina - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Valley of the Temples - Agrigento
 - Archaeological Park - Syracuse
 - Greek Theatre - Taormina
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



SICILY SUN, SEA AND FIRE

15 days | 14 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Palermo airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Segesta - Erice

Departure for Segesta to visit the 5th century BC Doric temple and the Greek Theatre. Lunch on your own in Erice and visit the medieval town. Proceed to Trapani, stopping for wine tasting and a visit of the Salt Museum with its mines and ancient windmills. Continue to Marsala for overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Mothia - Selinunte

Departure by boat to Mothia Island, the

most important Phoenician colony in Sicily. Then continue to Cusa quarry. Lunch on your own in Selinunte. Visit the Acropolis and proceed to Agrigento. Dinner at the hotel and visit by coach of the illuminated Valley of Temples. Overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Agrigento - Piazza Armerina Caltagirone

Visit the Archaeological Museum and the famous Valley of the Temples. Then proceed to Piazza Armerina and visit the famed Villa Romana del Casale with its 3,500 square metres of mosaics. Continue to Caltagirone, the Baroque town well known for its ceramics. Overnight at



the hotel in San Michele di Ganzaria, a typical agricultural village. (B, D)

Day 5) Pantalica - Palazzolo Acreide Syracuse

Leave for Pantalica. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes to walk through beautiful mountains where an ancient civilization lived during the Bronze Age. Proceed to Palazzolo Acreide, the ancient Greek colony of Akrai and visit the Theatre. Proceed to Syracuse to visit the Archaeological Museum. Overnight in Syracuse. (B, D)

Day 6) Syracuse - Noto - Modica

Tour Syracuse including the most famous Greek theatre of Sicily, the legendary Dionysus' Ear, the Roman amphitheatre and the Latomie. Visit the island of Ortigia, historical centre of Syracuse, and treasure of the Baroque style. After lunch departure for Noto, another famous baroque town. Stop in Modica, also known for its baroque architecture. Continue on to Ragusa. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Catania - Mt. Etna

Departure for Catania. Enjoy an orientation tour of the city, and then proceed to Mt. Etna, climbing 1,800 metres up to the highest and most active volcano in Europe. Possibility of an optional excursion by cable car to 3,000 metres. Lunch on your own, then descend and continue on to the Taormina area. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Messina - R. Calabria Taormina

Depart for Reggio di Calabria by hydrofoil. Visit of the museum with the famous "Bronzi di Riace". Return to Taormina. Free time for lunch on your own. Visit of the Greek Theatre. Leisure time. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 9) Vulcano - Lipari

Leave for Milazzo. Departure by hydrofoil to reach Vulcano, one of the Aeolian Islands. Continue on to Lipari to visit the village. Return to Vulcano after lunch. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 10) Stromboli

Enjoy an excursion to Stromboli with its volcano and the "Sciara". Free time to enjoy the village and lunch on your own. Return to Vulcano. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 11) Vulcano - Tindari Santo Stefano Camastra

Morning and lunch at leisure. Embark for Milazzo, then proceed to Tindari for a view of the sand-tongues and old town ruins; stop in St. Stefano Camastra, famous for its ceramics. Overnight in Tusa. (B, D)

Day 12) Castelbuono - Cefalù Solunto

Depart for Castelbuono, a small village in the sicilian inland, visit the cathedral and the castle built by the Ventimiglia family.

Proceed to Cefalù and visit the cathedral. Lunch on your own. Continue on to the archaeological park of Solunto. Proceed to Palermo. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 13) Palermo

In the morning visit of the Archaeological Museum and enjoy a nice walk in the historical centre of the town, visiting the Martorana Church, S. Cataldo, Praetoria Square and the Quattro Canti. Free time for lunch on your own. In the afternoon, visit the Catacombs and Mondello. Overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 14) Palermo

In the morning visit of the Palatine Chapel, the Cathedral, St. John of Hermits and Monreale, with its exquisite cathedral and cloister. Lunch on your own. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 15) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 14 nights - 3* hotel as per itinerary - basis HB
- Wine tasting as per itinerary
- Admission Charges & tickets as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
- Ferry ride to/from Aeolian Islands
- VAT





HIGHLIGHTS OF SARDINIA

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Alghero airport. Meet your local tour leader and coach for transfer to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 2) Alghero

Breakfast at the hotel. Half-day morning guided city tour of Alghero including the "ciutat vella" (old city) and its territory, a huge open air where it is possible to wander around its narrow and oldest streets of the walled town that still preserves its simple and intimate look. Alghero is the city of the towers built on the coast to protect the town from the foreign invasions. Lunch and

afternoon at leisure for shopping. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Half-day excursion to and Stintino

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for a morning excursion to La Pelosa beach and Stintino. Return to Alghero for free time and shopping. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Full-day excursion to Costa Smeralda

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Costa Smeralda for a full-day excursion including : Baia Sardinia, Porto Rotondo, Porto





Cervo, Baia Sardinia. Free time for lunch and shopping. Return to hotel. Dinner at leisure or at hotel and overnight stay. (B)

Day 5) Free day at leisure

Day 6) Full-day excursion to Nuraghe area

Breakfast at hotel. Departure for full-day excursion to Marghine area, between the two villages of Bosa and Macomer, is a sort of open air museum and its landscape is rather various and offers the possibility

to discover the highest concentration of pre-nuragic and nuragic monuments such as the necropolis of **Santu Antine e alla necropoli di Sant'Andrea Priu**. Some free time for lunch and in the afternoon in Bosa. Return to the hotel. Dinner at leisure or at the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 7) Free day at leisure

Day 8) Departure

Transfer by private coach to Alghero airport for your flight back.

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MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights – 3* hotel in Lake Iseo – basis HB (drink not included)
- Half day morning city tour of Alghero
- Half day excursion to La Pelosa and Stintino
- Full day excursion to Nuraghe area
- Full day excursion to Costa Smeralda
- Multilanguage tour leader throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

CULTURAL TOURS



ON THE CLASSICAL MUSIC ROUTE

12 days | 11 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Milan airport, transfer to the hotel, welcome drink and overnight stay.

Day 2) Milan

In the morning tour of Milan, including a visit to Casa VERDI, the rest home for retired and needy musicians founded by Giuseppe Verdi. It is here that he is buried, alongside his wife Giuseppina. Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing and shopping in Milan's elegant shopping arcades. (B)

Day 3) Cremona

Departure for Parma, stopping en route for a short tour of Cremona, most famous

as the centre of violin-making since the workshops were established there in the 16th century by Amati and Stradivarius. Upon arrival in Parma, check-in at the hotel and dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Parma

In the morning tour of the Province of Parma, known for its beautiful castles. Visit the fortress of Rocca Meli Lupi di Soragna, which was built in 1385 by the Marchesi Bonifacio and Antonio Lupi. The castle in fact underwent considerable rebuilding especially in the 16th century, but it was only in the next century that it became a magnificent princely residence,



with the appearance that it still has today. Subsequent modifications were made by Angelo Rasori from Parma and by Antonio Tomba from Piacenza, respectively in the 1700s and 1800s. The fortress, enriched over time with countless works of art and invaluable evidence of the past, has always remained the property of the Meli Lupi family.

Continue on to Fonanellato to visit the fairytale Rocca di Sanvitale, which is adorned with frescoes by Parmigianino and others. Lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight in Parma. (B, L, D)

Day 5) Parma

Morning tour of the Villa Verdi in S. Agata, just north of Busseto, the house built by VERDI after he had achieved international fame whence he would retreat with his wife Giuseppina to seek the solitude he needed to compose. Following the tour, lunch in a restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L)

Day 6) Bologna

Departure for Bologna. Upon arrival visit to the Piazza Maggiore and the Basilica of S. Petronio where Charles V was crowned Holy Roman Emperor. Continue to the Conservatorio G.B. Martini where ROSSINI studied. The conservatory houses original manuscripts by Mozart, Monteverdi and Rossini. End the tour with a backstage visit of the Teatro Comunale. Accommodation and dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Lucca

Departure for Lucca, a beautiful medieval town. Visit PUCCINI's birthplace in the Via di Poggio, as well as the Basilica San Paolino, where the young PUCCINI played the organ. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Pisa

In the morning departure for Pisa, most famous, of course, for the Leaning Tower. Visit the Field of Miracles, which comprises the Cathedral, Baptistery and Campanile. Proceed to Viareggio, on the Tuscan coast. Visit the medieval centre and stop for a drink at the art nouveau Café Margherita, favoured by Giacomo Puccini. Continue on to Torre del Lago for a tour of the villa where Puccini spent much of his later years and where he is buried in the chapel alongside his wife and son, Tonio. Dinner in a restaurant located in Torre del Lago. Return transfer to the hotel in Lucca. (B, D)

Day 9) Florence

Departure for Florence, the centre of the Italian renaissance. Visit the Piazza del Duomo with its magnificent ensemble of buildings: the Cathedral with Brunelleschi's remarkable dome, Giotto's slender campanile and the Romanesque Baptistery. Continue the visit through Piazza della Signoria to the Franciscan church of Santa Croce decorated with frescoes by Giotto and works of art by Donatello, della Robbia and Brunelleschi. Overnight in Florence. (B)

Day 10) Rome

Departure for Rome. Upon arrival check-in to the hotel, followed by free time. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 11) Rome

Full day sightseeing tour of Rome, including Baroque Rome with the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon. In the afternoon proceed to the famous Caracalla Baths and Roman Forum. For the farewell dinner, a special evening will be arranged: dinner with "Melodys & Tenors Opera". overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 12) Departure

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L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Milan - basis BB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Parma - basis 1BB/2HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Bologna - basis 1HB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Lucca - basis 1BB/1HB
- 1 night - 4* hotel in Florence - basis 1BB
- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- Lunches: Parma area (2)
- Dinners in typical restaurant: Lucca (1)
- Special dinners: Rome (1)
- 1 welcome drink in Milan
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Casa Verdi - Milan
 - Rocca di Soragna - Parma
 - Rocca Sanvitale - Fontanellato
 - Villa Verdi - S. Agata
 - Teatro Comunale - Bologna
 - Coliseum and Roman Forum - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- VAT





FROM BYZANTIUM TO THE RENAISSANCE

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Verona or Milan airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel in Mantua. Evening stroll around Mantua. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Mantua

Stroll by Alberti's centrally-planned church of San Sebastiano (exterior) and the houses that court-artists Mantegna and Giulio Romani built for themselves, Palazzo del Te, the Gonzaga summer residence and the most important monument of Italian Mannerism, designed by Giulio Romano. In the afternoon visit Alberti's highly influential

Early renaissance church of Sant'Andrea, the romaneseque rotonda of S. Lorenzo and Giuliano Romano's High renaissance cathedral. (B)

Day 3) Parma - Sabbioneta

Parma is a beautiful city with much to offer. The vast Farnese Palace (Palazzo della Pilotta) houses an art gallery (Correggio, Parmigianino, and Holbein) and an important renaissance theatre (first proscenium arch). The splendid romaneseque cathedral and octagonal baptistery contain illusionistic frescoes of tumultuous heavenly hosts by Correggio. Sabbioneta is an ideal renaissance city on



an almost miniature scale, built for Vespasiano Gonzaga in the 1580s; visit the ducal palace, theatre and one of the world's first picture galleries. Overnight in Mantua. (B)

Day 4) Mantua

Visit the Reggia dei Gonzaga (Palazzo Ducale), a vast rambling palace, the aggregate of 300 years of extravagant patronage by the Gonzaga dynasty (Mantegna's frescoes in the Camera degli Sposi, Pisanello frescoes, Rubens altarpiece). Also see the delightful baroque theatre by Bibiena. Afternoon free to further explore this highly attractive lakeside city. (B)

Day 5) Ferrara

Ferrara was the centre of the city-state ruled by the Este dynasty, whose court

was one of the most lavish and cultured in renaissance Italy: pass the Castello Estense, a moated 15th century stronghold and visit the mediaeval cathedral. Palazzo Diamanti houses the art gallery. Within Ercole d'Este's grand urban extension (first town planning of the modern world) is the Palazzo Schifanoia, an Este retreat with elaborate allegorical frescoes, the Casa Romei and Palazzina di Marfisa. Overnight in Ravenna. (B)

Day 6) Ravenna

The last capital of the western Roman Empire and subsequently capital of Ostrogothic and Byzantine Italy, Ravenna possesses the world's most glorious concentration of Early Christian and Byzantine mosaics: the Mausoleum of Galla Placida, lined with 5th century

mosaics, the splendid centrally-planned church of S. Vitale with 6th century mosaics of the Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora, the basilica of S. Apollinare Nuovo with the Procession of Martyrs mosaic along the length of the nave. Free time. (B)

Day 7) Urbino

Drive into the hills to Urbino, the beautiful little city of the Montefeltro dynasty. See the Palazzo Ducale, a masterpiece of architecture and architectural sculpture, which grew over 30 years into the perfect renaissance secular environment. There is an excellent art collection in the palace (by artists such as Piero, Raphael, and Titian). In the afternoon see the exquisite international gothic frescoes in the Oratory of St John and Raphael's House. Overnight in Ravenna. (B)

Day 8) Departure

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D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Mantua - basis 3 BB/1 HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Ravenna - basis BB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Palazzo del Te - Mantua
 - Palazzo della Pilotta - Parma
 - Reggia dei Gonzaga - Mantua
 - Theatre - Bibiena
 - Palazzo Ducale - Urbino
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT





VIA EMILIA CITY STATES

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Verona or Milan airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel in Parma. Evening stroll around Parma. Welcome Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Parma

Parma is a delightful town of great importance especially for its High renaissance School of painting. The cathedral and baptistry are outstanding for their romanesque architecture and sculpture by Correggio, Parma's finest painter. See his astonishingly vital and illusionistic frescoes in the S. Giovanni cathedral and the exquisite Camera di S. Paolo. There is a good art collection and a

rare renaissance theatre in the Ducal Palace. Free time. (B)

Day 3) Modena - Carpi - Castelfranco

Modena was made capital of the Este dukedom in the 16th century. The romanesque cathedral in Modena is one of the finest in the region, and has marvelous 12th century sculptures by Wiligelmo. Galleria Estense is particularly good for its 16th and 17th art. In the little town of Carpi is a 14th to 17th century brick-built castle and the renaissance church of S. Nocolo. At Castelfranco Emilia is an important painting by Guido Reni. Overnight in Parma. (B)





Day 4) Bologna

One of the most attractive of the larger cities in Italy, with renaissance arcades flanking the traffic-free street – at the mediaeval heart of the city are massive civic buildings and the vast gothic church of S. Petronio, with sculpture by Jacopo della Quercia. By special arrangement it will be possible to see Carracci and other Bolognese frescoes in former palaces. The Pinacoteca Nazionale is one of Italy's finest picture galleries (Raphael, Carracci family, Guido Reni). Other churches to visit are the early mediaeval churches of S. Stefano and S. Domenico, with the tomb of St. Dominic. Overnight in Parma. (B)

Day 5) Fontanellato - Sabbioneta

Fontanellato is a little town with an enchanting moated castle containing wonderful frescoes by Parmigianino. Sabbioneta is an ideal renaissance city

built almost on a miniature scale: a magical assembly of ducal palace and theatre one of the fundamental components of a renaissance ducal town. Free time. Overnight in Parma. (B)

Day 6) Cremona - Fidenza

Once a major Lombard city state, Cremona has one of the finest squares in Italy with a romanesque cathedral, Italy's tallest medieval campanile, a baptistery and gothic civic buildings. Other items of interest are the terracotta renaissance houses and a Perugino altarpiece in the church of S. Agostino. Fidenza has a beautiful romanesque cathedral, with excellent sculptures. Overnight in Parma. (B)

Day 7) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights - 4* hotel in Parma - basis 5 BB/1 HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Ducal Palace - Parma
 - Galleria Estense - Modena
 - Pinacoteca Nazionale - Bologna
 - Rocca Sanvitale - Fontanellato
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



MEDIEVAL MARCHE

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival transfer to the hotel in the Loreto area for dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Ancona - Loreto

Visit of Ancona, capital of the Marche region and "gateway to the Orient". Explore the Merchants' Lodge, the church of Santa Maria della Piazza, Trajan's Arch and the cathedral. Continue on to Loreto, one of the world's most important shrines to the cult of the Virgin Mary. Visit the Holy House that legend says was transported across the Adriatic Sea from Israel in the 13th century. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Ascoli

Before getting to Ascoli taste some local wine in a wine cellar in the countryside. Start our city tour from the Piazza del Popolo, a harmonious 16th century square dominated by the mighty Palazzo dei Capitani del Popolo. Then visit the medieval church of San Francesco. Along the Via Pretoriana admire some of the houses and buildings from the 15th and 16th centuries. Some free time before returning to the hotel. Dinner in hotel. (B, WT, D)

Day 4) Monte Maggiore - Pesaro

Departure for Monte Maggiore, a medieval village. Time to explore the town. Proceed





to Pesaro, birthplace of Gioacchino Rossini. Pesaro boasts a number of medieval and renaissance monuments and a modern quarter which extends out towards the sea. It is just a short trip to the Imperiale, a Castle-cum-villa submerged in a pine forest in the San Bartolo hills. Overnight in the Pesaro/Urbino area. Dinner in the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5) Urbino

Dominating a panorama of green hills and majestic mountains, the city is famous throughout the world for the inestimable masterpieces housed in the National Gallery within the Ducal Palace. Capital of the duchy of the great Montefeltro family, birthplace of Raffaello and historic university town, Urbino was at the peak of its glory in the 15th century. At that time Duke Federico gathered the greatest artists and writers of the time to his court.

After exploring the city, olive oil tasting in the medieval village of Cartoceto, where the "solid oil" was invented. Overnight in the Pesaro/Urbino area. Dinner in the hotel. (B, OT, D)

Day 6) Gradara - San Leo San Marino

Visit the magnificent castle of Gradara, where the tragic love story of Paolo and Francesca narrated by Dante Alighieri is supposed to have taken place. Continue on to the fortress of San Leo, situated on an insurmountable mass of rock overlooking the Marecchia Valley. Over the centuries many illustrious characters, from Dante to Saint Francis, passed through the gates of the impregnable fortress. Time to relax and enjoy some tax-free shopping in San Marino, the oldest republic of the world. Overnight in the Pesaro/Urbino area. Dinner in the hotel. (B, D)

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in 3* hotel in Loreto - basis HB
- 3 nights in 3* hotel in Pesaro - basis HB
- 1 wine tasting
- 1 olive oil tasting
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Villa Imperiale - San Bartolo
 - Ducal Palace - Urbino
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS

CITY BREAKS



CAPUT MUNDI

3 days | 2 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Rome, meet Tour Manager. Transfer by private coach to the hotel in Rome. Tonight enjoy a tour of Rome by night. See Via Veneto, centre of "La dolce vita", and move on to Piazza Barberini, to view Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Triton Fountain. Next up is Piazza Venezia and the gigantic Vittoriano. Via dei Fori Imperiali starts us on our way to the Coliseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the Temple of Hercules, the Theatre of Marcellus, the Capitol, Tiber Island, the Roman Synagogue, Castel Sant'Angelo, and finally St. Peter's Square. Overnight stay.

Day 2) Christian - Ancient Rome

In the morning guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, the largest of all Catholic churches, with its amazing grand and elaborate interior, and the Vatican Museums. Admire the Sistine Chapel, with Michelangelo's masterpiece ceiling and Last Judgement. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon guided tour of ancient Rome including: the Coliseum (exterior), the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill, Piazza Venezia, the Capitol, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, and finally Piazza Navona. Overnight stay. (B)

Day 3) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Rome - basis BB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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- L** = Lunch;
- D** = Dinner;
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- OT** = Olive Oil Tasting;
- MT** = Mozzarella Tasting;
- LT** = Limoncello Tasting;
- CT** = Cheese Tasting;
- KL** = Cooking Lesson;
- A** = Aperitif;
- H/D** = Half Day



RENAISSANCE CRADLE

3 days | 2 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Florence/Pisa airport, meet with tour manager. Transfer by private luxury coach to the hotel. Welcome Dinner in a typical restaurant. Overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Florence

Full day dedicated to exploring Florence. Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the elegant palaces and fashionable shops, the charming narrow medieval streets and the impressive Cathedral Square with

Brunelleschi's imposing dome will all be the focus of a pleasant slowly paced tour ending at the Accademia. Admire Michelangelo's sculptures, such as his fascinating unfinished statues and the original David. Afternoon at leisure for additional cultural visits or for shopping in the famous Leather Market. (B)

Day 3) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Florence - basis BB
- Dinner in local restaurant
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Accademia - Florence
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day



VENETIAN ROMANCE

3 days | 2 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Venice airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome drink.

Day 2) Venice

In the morning guided walking tour of the city. Among other famous places, see St.

Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doge's Palace (exterior), the Bridge of Sighs and the old Prisons. Afternoon at leisure: option of joining excursion by motorboat to the Islands of the Lagoon, Murano, Burano and Torcello, or for shopping. (B)

Day 3) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Venice - basis BB
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Ferry boat to visit Murano, Burano & Torcello
- VAT

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day



ART AND FASHION MASTERPIECES

3 days | 2 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Milan airport and transfer to the hotel. Check in followed by free time for shopping in Milan's fashion district. Dinner in a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2) Milan

Milan was capital of the Roman Empire for a short time and throughout the middle Ages

and renaissance was one of the most powerful city-states in Europe. This short visit includes the imposing Castello Sforzesco and the spectacular gothic cathedral of white marble. Overnight stay. (B)

Day 3) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Milan - basis BB
- 1 dinner in local restaurant
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day



LIMONCELLO PASSION

4 days | 3 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Naples airport and transfer to the hotel in Sorrento. This beautiful town is a favourite holiday destination all year round. Even in Roman times, Sorrento was popular for its pleasant climate and charming atmosphere. It is perched on a cliff overlooking the magnificent Bay of Naples and Mount Vesuvius in the distance.

Day 2) Amalfi Coast

Today, take a memorable drive along one of the world's most beautiful routes - the Amalfi coast. Leaving Sorrento, the road climbs and twists through orchards and gardens, where grapes, lemons and figs grow side by side, with the clear blue sea below. Travel along the winding road on its descent into Positano, greeted by thrilling land-and-seascapes at every twist and turn. The whitewashed Positano houses, with their balconies of trailing bougainvillea, are jammed together in a cliffside cascade of colour. Stop for lunch in Amalfi, where it is a pleasure to stroll in

the quaint yet noble square with its striking stairway up to the cathedral. In the afternoon leave the coastline to drive up the Dragon Hill to picturesque Ravello - largely pedestrianised and with an atmosphere that enchanted some of the world's greatest composers, including Wagner and Verdi. Return to Sorrento in the late afternoon. (B)

Day 3) Naples

Drive to Naples. Stop en route in a buffalo mozzarella cheese factory to have a lesson about its production and to taste it. Discover the Bay of Naples and the beauties of the city: Castel Dell'Ovo, The Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino, and the Gallery of Umberto. Some free time to stroll along the famous streets of Spaccanapoli before tasting a true Italian Pizza. Return to the hotel. (B)

Day 4) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Sorrento - basis BB
- Buffalo mozzarella cheese tasting
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel

ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS

**VILLAS & GARDENS
TOURS**



ITALIAN HEAVENLY GARDENS

14 days | 13 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival into Rome with remainder of the day at leisure. Welcome dinner in hotel tonight. Overnight in Rome. (D)

Day 2) Rome

In the morning visit St Peter's Basilica, built over what is thought to be the tomb of the crucified saint and containing a great display of art including Michelangelo's Pietà. Visit the Vatican Museums, a series of ornate palaces and galleries that display the vast treasures of the Vatican. See works by Giotto, Fra Angelico, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Giovanni Bellini, Titian and Caravaggio. Visit Michelangelo's masterpiece, the Sistine Chapel. Explore the Vatican Gardens that lie behind St Peter's Basilica. These gardens are among the most famous green spaces in the world, a complex, fascinating geometry of an Italian garden arranged in a labyrinth design. (B)

Day 3) Ninfa

In the morning travel south of Rome to the Giardini di Ninfa. These beautiful gardens ramble over ancient walls and

towers, rejoicing in the damp, lush conditions. Overnight in Rome. (B)

Day 4) Tivoli

Travel outside Rome to Villa Adriana below Tivoli. Hadrian's Villa is one of the greatest monuments of antiquity, a whole city built by Hadrian when he became Emperor in 117AD. This extensive complex of architectural ruins was the source of inspiration for architects of the renaissance. Excavations among these ruins have revealed much of the 2nd century layout. Continue on to Villa d'Este in Tivoli, renowned for its spectacular use of water. See the organ fountain and the "Walk of the Hundred Fountains", that were modelled on the hydraulic theories of Nero/Alexander in circa 100AD. The garden is well maintained and the whole water system has recently been restored. Overnight in Rome. (B)

Day 5) Viterbo - Bomarzo

Departure for Viterbo and Bomarzo's Sacro Bosco, a unique and grotesque collection of mythical, literary and heraldic figures in Vicino Orsini's 16th century park. Visit to Villa Lante at



Bagnaia, just outside Viterbo. This magnificent renaissance garden dates back to the 1560s and remains a landmark in the history of Italian gardens. The garden is arranged on four levels along a main axis, emphasised by fountains with perfect symmetry. It is

divided into two parts. Between the two water flows and settles in a water parterre. Note the wealth of detail, yet an overall sense of tranquillity. Entry into the two loggias is included. A short stop at Castello Ruspoli to see some of the oldest surviving classic parterres in Italy, see their original early 17th century geometric layout; twelve patterns with potted lemons marking the corners. Originally a Benedictine monastery and then a fortified castle, Ruspoli was transformed into a domestic villa for the Orsini family in 1574. Overnight in Viterbo. (B)

Day 6) Siena - San Gimignano

Departure for Siena. Take a walking tour of the walled mediaeval city. Aristocratic mansions, narrow streets, medieval gates, walls and towers, make Siena a showplace of the Italian Gothic. Wander the narrow streets starting from the Piazza del Campo, the heart of Siena and dominated by Palazzo Pubblico, one of the most elegant examples of Italian civil architecture in the Gothic style. Proceed to San Gimignano for a gentle walking tour of this gem of the middle ages with thirteen of its seventy-two noble towers still preserved. See palaces enhanced by renaissance frescoes, the painters encouraged by wealthy patrons. Late afternoon arrival in Florence, birthplace of the renaissance. In the time of the renaissance, under Medici rule, this city became the world's greatest repository of art treasures. Dinner served in hotel in Florence. (B, D)

Day 7) Lucca

Departure for Lucca, once capital of Tuscany. Take a walking tour to see the perfectly preserved town with three sets of city walls still largely intact. Visit Villa Garzoni, the best of a chain of villas studding the hills of Lucca, with cascades, parterres and terraces. Overnight in Florence. (B)

Day 8) Florence

In the morning visit to Palazzo Pitti, built in the mid-15th century, once the residence

of the powerful Medici family. Guided tour of Boboli Gardens, remarkable for its formal design and collection of Roman, renaissance and Baroque sculptures that date from 1590. The garden is built into the slope of the Arno Valley.

In the afternoon travel through the Arno Valley to the cypress studded hills of Settignano and one of Tuscany's hidden treasures. Villa Gamberaia is a masterpiece overlooking the city of Florence. The ochre-yellow rendered villa nestles among groves of olives and grapes. This remains one of the loveliest classic renaissance gardens in Italy. Overnight in Florence. (B)

Day 9) Venice

Travel on to Venice. For a thousand years the city was one of the most enduring mercantile sea powers on the face of the earth. Today its brilliance and influence have long since faded, yet Venice remains achingly beautiful and in danger of sinking.

Near Venice visit the significant baroque Giardino Barbarigo. Transfer to the hotel in Mestre. (B)

Day 10) Venice

In the morning walking tour of Venice to learn about its rich history. Stroll through St Mark's Square to visit St Mark's Basilica, the Bridge of Sighs and more. The remainder of the day is free to explore this romantic city. (B)

Day 11) Verona

Travel to Verona, to visit Giardino Giusti on the hillside above the River Adige. This garden remains faithful to its 16th century outline, with re-modelled parterres. Overnight in Verona. (B)

Day 12) Stresa

Travel on to Stresa on the western shore of Lake Maggiore. En route visit Villa Carlotta, elegant 18th century villa with its own landing on Lake Como. See lush gardens, sparkling waters, panoramic views and snow capped mountains. Overnight in Stresa. (B)

Day 13) Stresa

In the morning visit Villa Cicogna on Lake Como with beautifully restored interiors, magnificent terraced gardens, arcaded courtyards and spectacular water staircase. Farewell Dinner tonight at the hotel. Overnight in Stresa. (B, D)

Day 14) Milan

Wake this morning to a veil of mist over Lake Maggiore. In the morning visit Isola Bella, the most famous of the three Borromean Islands and just 15 minutes from the hotel by ferry. It is visible from the hotel; the palace and gardens seem to float on the surface of the lake like a great ship. Ten terraces are ornamented with statues and marble balustrades and a profusion of hanging gardens. Built in the 17th century, Isola Bella is one of the most dramatic baroque gardens in Europe. Extend stay in Italy or transfer

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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

- INCLUSIONS**
- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis 3BB/1HB
 - 1 night - 3* hotel in Viterbo - basis BB
 - 3 nights - 3* hotel in Florence - basis BB
 - 2 nights - 3* hotel in Venice Mestre - basis BB
 - 1 night - 3* hotel in Verona - basis BB
 - 2 nights - 3* hotel in Stresa - basis 1BB/1HB
 - Entrance Fees as per itinerary
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
 - Vaporetto Tronchetto - Venice (roundtrip)
 - Public boat for transfer to Isola Bella and return
 - VAT



LAKE DISTRICT GREEN WONDERS

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Lake Como. Dinner and overnight in hotel in the Como area. (D)

Day 2) Villa Serbelloni Villa Melzi, Bellagio

Visit Villa Serbelloni and Villa Melzi. Villa Serbelloni, has a gorgeous park with characteristic terraces and wonderful trees. The Villa Serbelloni story started with Pliny and ends with the Rockefeller Foundation, it is still used today for cultural purposes. The wide Park of Villa Melzi is a mixture of English garden and Italian terraces, with statues, exotic plants, charming temples, and small lakes. Rest of the day at leisure in Bellagio. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Tremezzo / Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo / Villa Balbianello, Lenno / Villa Bagatti, Grandola

Go to visit Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo. This beautiful building was given by Princess Marianne von Prussian as a wedding present to her daughter Carlotta when she married Prince George von Sachsen-Meiningen. The garden is today composed of many terraces in a 19th century Italian

style. Continue on to Villa Balbianello in Lenno. Angelo Maria Durini reconstructed it in 1787, from the ruins of a French convent. In the afternoon visit Villa Bagatti and its admirable gardens. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Free day on Lake Como (B, D)

Day 5) Villa Pizzo, Moltrasio / Villa dell'Olmo, Como / Villa D'Este, Cernobbio

Start with the gardens of Villa Pizzo, overlooking Lake Como. Then admire Villa dell'Olmo that takes its name from an elm tree, planted by Pliny the Younger. End the day with a visit to Villa d'Este in Cernobbio. Stop here for a cup of tea and enjoy the magic atmosphere of the Villa and the wonderful views. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Borromean Islands

Departure for Stresa on Lake Maggiore. Boat trip to two of the Borromean islands: Isola Bella and Isola Madre. The Isola Bella is the most famous island and is almost entirely occupied by the Borromeo Palace and its garden. Visit the Palace and continue on into the garden. Isola



Madre is the biggest of the three islands; the main attraction is the botanical garden, which occupies almost its entire surface. The garden is composed of five terraces with many rare examples of plants, such as camellia, Chinese magnolia, Mexican yucca, and Louisiana and



Canadian cypresses. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 7) Villa Taranto, Pallanza Villa Cicogna, Bisuschio

Travel towards Pallanza, stopping to visit Villa Taranto. This Villa was built at the beginning of the 19th century, in an elegant Norman style, and was given as a gift to the Italian government by Mac Eachern. The park has an extension of almost 20 hectares, and it is a delicate

mixture of English and Italian style. In the afternoon visit the Villa Cicogna in Bisuschio, a former hunting ground that was transformed into a fabulous Villa in the 16th century. Around it admire the gorgeous garden, with statues, fountains and grottos. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in 4* hotel in Lake Como area - basis HB
- 3 nights in 4* hotel in Lake Maggiore area - basis HB
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Boat trip to the Borromean Islands on Lake Maggiore
- VA



ON THE TRACKS OF PALLADIO

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Venice, Verona or Milan airport. Transfer to the hotel in the Vicenza/Padua area for a 7 nights stay. Dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Vicenza

Guided sightseeing tour of the city. Here, Palladio, the century's greatest architect lived and trained after leaving his native Padua. Tour of the city with a local guide, visiting Palladio's Olympic Theatre and walking along the Corsa Palladio to the famous 15th century Basilica in the Piazza dei Signori. In the afternoon take an excursion to discover the Ville Venete, such as the Villa Capra "La Rotonda", the most famous of Palladio's architectural works, and the Villa Valmerana dei Nani, with frescoes by Tiepolo. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Padua

Departure for an excursion to the city of Padua. Visit of the Church of St. Antony which attracts many pilgrims, the Palazzo della Regione, the largest civic building of the Italian Middle Ages, and the Scrovegni Chapel. Padua was one of the richest cities of the Roman Empire; the remains

of the amphitheatre and the arches of several bridges still testify to those times. Free time to stroll along the narrow streets and enjoy the local market. Return to the hotel in the early evening for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Venice

Departure for Venice for a sightseeing tour of this unique city. Transfer to and from St. Mark's Square by private boat. Venice's history is revealed through its churches and houses, some reminiscent of the initial simplicity of its origins, others reflecting the magical encounters of the city with other cultures. A local guide will provide an insight to the city and a glimpse into the past, visiting: Saint Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace, Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge. Free time in the afternoon to explore or enjoy a gondola ride before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon for dinner. (B, D)

Day 5) Verona

Departure for a sightseeing tour of Verona. Visit of the remains of the Roman Amphitheatre (Arena), Stone Bridge, Gavi



Arch and the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona gates, the basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. The Scaligeri Tombs, Castel Vecchio and of course, Juliet's balcony, are also worth visiting. In the afternoon free time for shopping. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)



Day 6) Marostica - Bassano Del Grappa

Full day exploring the Veneto region. Departure for the beautiful town of Marostica, famous for its human size chess board. Continue towards the foothills of the Dolomite Mountains. Bassano del Grappa is located at the foot of Monte Grappa, where the river Brenta enters the Po Plain. Walk across the Alpine Bridge, built by Andrea Palladio in the 16th century. Before returning to the hotel there is a chance to visit one of the most beautiful of Palladio's villas, the Villa Barbaro at Maser, famous for its frescoes and paintings by the great Italian renaissance painter, Paolo Veronese. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Brenta Canal

Travel along the famous Brenta Canal between Padua and Venice. From the 16th century the canal was used by the rich to travel from their villas to Venice or Padua. Sail from Padua and retrace this journey with stops at some of the most important villas, such as the Villa Pisani in Stra, and the Widmann, Sceriman, Malcontenta and Foscari Villas at Mira. We arrive in Venice's St. Mark's Square in the evening and have dinner in a typical Venetian restaurant before returning to Vicenza later. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights - 3* hotel in Vicenza - basis 6 HB/1 BB
- 1 dinner in a local restaurant in Venice
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- River Cruise along the Brenta Canal
- Transfers by private boat to/from Venice
- VAT



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TOURS**



HERITAGE FROM THE ANCIENT PAST

12 days | 11 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Rome

Start our tour of the city. Visit the Coliseum, Via dei Fori Imperiali, admiring the ruins of the emperor's forums, Trajan's column, Piazza Venezia, the Capitoline Hill and the Senate Palace. In the afternoon visit the breathtaking St. Peter's Basilica, the most famous church in Christendom. (B)

Day 3) Ostia Antica

Morning dedicated to the visit of the excavations of Ostia Antica. The ruins give a clear idea of life in classical times. Entering from the Porta Romana, follow the Decumanus Maximus, the main thoroughfare that crosses the city from north-east to south-west, before arriving at the "Terme di Nettuno". At the end of the street, the Museo Ostiense displays ancient sculptures and mosaics found among the ruins. Return to Rome. (B)

Day 4) Sorrento - Herculaneum Mount Vesuvius

In the morning depart for Sorrento. En route stop in Pompeii to visit the excavations. Then continue on to Herculaneum, the ancient Herakleia that was also buried by the Mount Vesuvius eruption in AD 79. Visit of excavations. Tonight taste a true Italian pizza in Sorrento. (B, D)

Day 5) Amalfi Coast - Paestum

In the morning drive along the Amalfi Coast, stopping in Amalfi for coffee before continuing on to Paestum, once a Greek settlement and known as the city of Poseidon. Visit three of the best-preserved Greek doric temples: Hera, Neptune and Ceres. Then visit a buffalo farm and learn how the famous buffalo mozzarella is made and get to taste it. Return to Sorrento for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Naples - Ferry to Sicily

Late morning departure for Naples. Visit of the city including the Archaeological Museum before boarding your overnight ferry to Palermo. (B)



Day 7) Palermo

Arrival in Palermo in the early morning. Enjoy a city tour and continue on to Monreale to visit the famous cathedral. Tonight taste some delicious Sicilian food. (B,D)



B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis 2 BB/1 HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Sorrento - basis 1BB/1HB
- 1 night on ferry boat to Sicily - basis BB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Palermo - basis BB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Agrigento - basis BB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Piazza Armerina - basis BB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Syracuse - basis BB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Giardini Naxos - basis BB
- Dinner in local restaurants: Sorrento (1), Palermo (1)
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- Buffalo Mozzarella Tasting
- VAT

Day 8) Segesta - Selinunte

Departure for Segesta for a visit to the Doric Temple built in the 5th century B.C. Travel on to Selinunte for a visit of the beautiful Acropolis and outstanding temples. Proceed to Agrigento for overnight stay. (B)

Day 9) Agrigento - Piazza Armerina

Enjoy the incomparable scenery of the Valley of the Greek temples, the biggest open-air museum of Greek art. Proceed to Piazza Armerina to visit the Roman Villa del Casale with its outstanding and

well-preserved mosaics and to the archaeological area of Morgantina, an ancient Greek city. Overnight in Piazza Armerina. (B)

Day 10) Syracuse

Departure for Syracuse. Visit the most important Greek city of ancient times. Enjoy the Archaeological Museum, the Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the legendary Ear of Dionysus. Discover the narrow streets of the Isle of Ortigia. Overnight in Syracuse. (B)

Day 11) Taormina

Departure for Taormina, stopping en route to visit Catania. Enjoy the famous street market, where everything can be found from vegetables to trendy clothes, with a stop at the characteristic fish market. Proceed to Taormina, visit the Greek theatre on arrival. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in the streets of Taormina. Overnight in Giardini Naxos. (B)

Day 12) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



ON THE TRACKS OF THE ETRUSCANS

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome airport, meet tour escort. Time permitting stop in Cerveteri en route to Tarquinia. Visit the famous necropolis and continue on to the hotel in Tarquinia. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Tarquinia

Enjoy a guided tour of the historical centre: Palazzo Vitelleschi, the Church of San Francesco, Palazzo Comunale and Palazzo dei Priori. Visit the Etruscan Museum. In the afternoon continue on to the Etruscan Necropolis. Only 3 kms away from the city centre the immense necropolis stretches over 1,850,000 acres of land. Its numerous tombs carved in limestone are rich in pictorial decoration that illustrate the evolution in Etruscan painting. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Civitella Cesi

Barbarano Romano - Blera

Departure for San Giovenale and visit the area where the Etruscan population lived in the 7th century BC. Continue on to

Civitella Cesi, which seems to be a return to a primitive world suspended between centuries. You cannot miss Blera, set in an uncontaminated landscape, full of ancient remains. Then stop in Barbarano Romano with its natural park full of different species of animals, such as foxes, badgers and hawks. Also visit the Necropolis of S. Giuliano. In the evening return to Tarquinia for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Bolsena Lake

Montefiascone - Viterbo

Departure for a day on Lake Bolsena, the largest volcanic lake in Italy. Around the lake, virgin landscapes have survived dominated by reeds, willows and aquatic plants. Visit by boat to the island of Bisentina, with his numerous churches and blue waters. Wander in the centre of Bolsena and stop in a local trattoria to taste some local fresh fish. Continue on to the hilltop town of Montefiascone, famous for its wine Est! Est! Est!. Taste some local wine and visit the famous Cathedral of St. Margherita which sup-



ports the third largest dome in Italy. Continue on to Viterbo. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D, WT)

Day 5) Viterbo

Start with a guided visit of the city, still protected by a remarkable medieval wall.



The medieval quarters of San Pellegrino and Pianoscarano are among the most characteristic and well-preserved examples of architecture from that period. Most notable are the elegant fountains in Peperino marble and the aristocratic palaces, named after the noble families who once owned them (Mazzatosta, Gatti, Poscia, Chigi). Visit of the Papal Palace that hosted the Papal Court when it moved away from Rome during turbulent times. Some free time for shopping. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Bomarzo - Bagnaia

Departure to visit the Parco dei Mostri ("Monster Park") in Bomarzo. The park or "Villa of Marvels" as it was then called, was created in 1552 and is the only one of its kind in the world. Continue to Bagnaia to visit the Garden of Villa Lante, Italy's

most perfect renaissance garden. Relax in the park. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Caprarola - Civita Castellana

Departure for Caprarola to visit the Palazzo Farnese. The pentagon-shaped building is an admirable example of late renaissance architecture, collaboration between Antonio da Sangallo and Vignola. Continue on to Civita Castellana, famous for its artistic pottery production. A visit to the Museo della Ceramica (ceramics museum) in the Palazzo Petroni-Andosilla is a must. Spend some time on the shores of Lake Vico. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Tarquinia - basis HB
- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Viterbo - basis HB
- Lunch on Lake Bolsena
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation per itinerary by luxury coach
- Wine tasting in Montefiascone
- Boat trip to the Bisentina island / Lake Bolsena
- VAT



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

PILGRIMAGES



CHRISTIAN ITALY

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Rome, meet Tour Manager and transfer by private coach to the hotel in Rome. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Rome: Papal Audience, St. Mary Majors, St. John in Lateran, Catacombs, St Paul's

Transfer to St. Peter's Basilica for the Papal Audience (the audience is usually held on Wednesdays). Afterwards visit two of the most important Basilicas in Rome: St. Mary Majors and St. John in Lateran. Then proceeding along the Ancient Appian Way, pass by the Chapel of "Domine quo Vadis" before arriving at the Catacombs. Finish up tour with a visit of the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Rome: Ancient Rome Tour (walking tour)

In the morning meet local guide for a walking tour of Ancient Rome. Starting from Piazza Venezia, continue on foot to

the famous Piazza del Campidoglio designed by Michelangelo from where have a fantastic view of the Roman Forum. Visit of the Palatine Hill, the Coliseum and St Peter in Chains. Afternoon at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Rome: St Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museums

Departure for the Vatican City. Visit of the St Peter's Basilica, the largest of all Catholic churches, and the Vatican Museums. Admire the Sistine Chapel, with Michelangelo's masterpiece ceiling and Last Judgement. Afternoon at leisure. Meet local Tour Manager to return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 5) Orvieto - Assisi

Departure for Assisi, stopping in Orvieto along the way. Take the panoramic funicular to the centre to visit the famous gothic cathedral and St. Patrick's Well. Completed in 1537, the well is 62 metres deep and has two double-spiralled stairwells, planned for an easier transporta-



tion of water. After lunch proceed to Assisi. Stop in Santa Maria degli Angeli to visit its Basilica where St. Francis spent most of his life, with the Portiuncola Chapel, which was restored by St. Francis. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel. (B, D)



Day 6) Assisi

Attend Mass before departing for a guided tour of Assisi. Visit the places most associated with the saint such as the Basilica of St. Francis with its early renaissance masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. Spend time strolling along the cobble-stoned streets of this beautiful old town where time seems to have stood still. Dinner and overnight stay in Assisi. (B, D)

Day 7) Loreto (or full day at leisure in Assisi)

Departure for Loreto. Upon arrival visit

of the Santa Casa (Holy House) said to be the house in which the Virgin Mary lived in Nazareth (Mass here). According to the tradition the brick house was borne by angels from Galilee first to Fiume and then to Loreto in 1294. It is now enclosed within the walls of the Santuario Della Santa Casa, a 15th century church. Have some free time in Assisi before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
- Mass daily & Papal Audience tickets
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Catacombs - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Funicular in Orvieto
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



CATHEDRALS, ABBEYS AND MONASTERIES - 8 DAYS

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive in Rome, meet Tour Manager and transfer by private coach to the hotel in Rome. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Rome: St Peter Basilica and Vatican Museums, St. John in Lateran, St Mary Majors

Departure for the Vatican City. Visit St Peter's Basilica, the largest of all Catholic churches, and the Vatican Museums. Admire the Sistine Chapel, with Michelangelo's masterpiece ceiling and Last Judgement. In the afternoon visit two of Rome's main Basilicas: St. John in Lateran and St. Mary Majors. Rest of the day at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Rome: Ancient Rome Catacombs

In the morning meet local guide for a walking tour of Ancient Rome. Starting from Pi-

azza Venezia, continue on foot to the famous Piazza del Campidoglio designed by Michelangelo from where fantastic views of the Roman Forum can be enjoyed. Visit of the Palatine Hill and the Coliseum. Continue on to St Peter in Chains. In the afternoon drive along the Ancient Appian Way, pass by the Chapel of "Domine quo Vadis" before arriving at the Catacombs. Finish up tour with a visit of the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Montecassino - Pietrelcina

In the morning departure from the Eternal City heading south. Stop en route in Montecassino (Mass here) to visit the famous Monastery founded by St. Benedict. Continue to Pietrelcina, the birthplace of Padre Pio. Then on to San Giovanni Rotondo for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)



Day 5) San Giovanni Rotondo

Visit the sites associated with the life of Padre Pio, including his tomb and the hospital he was instrumental in building. In the afternoon visit the ancient fortified town of Monte Sant'Angelo with the Sanctuary of San Michele, which was erected



over a grotto where the Archangel Michael is said to have appeared in the year 490 AD. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Loreto

In the morning departure for Assisi. En route stop in Loreto (Mass here). Visit of the Santa Casa (Holy House) said to be the house in which the Virgin Mary lived in Nazareth. Continue on for Assisi. Dinner and overnight stay in hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Assisi

Attend Mass before departing on a guided

tour of Assisi. Visit the places most associated with the saint such as the Basilica of St. Francis with its early renaissance masterpieces. Visit the church of St. Claire, and the Town Hall Square with its People's Palace and Roman temple dedicated to Minerva. Spend time strolling along the cobble-stoned streets of this beautiful old town where time seems to have stood still. Dinner and overnight stay in Assisi. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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D = Dinner;
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OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in S. G. Rotondo - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
- Mass daily & Papal Audience tickets
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Catacombs - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



ITALIAN SHRINES

11 days | 10 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Venice airport, meet Tour Manager. Transfer by private coach to Padua, city of St Anthony, patron saint of lost things. Mass at the Basilica built in his honour. Associated with many miracles, St Anthony was renowned for the passionate intensity of his preaching. Free time before transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Venice

Departure from Padua for the magnificent city of Venice. Guided tour of all the sights: the Grand Canal, St Mark's Square and Basilica built to house the saint's remains, the Palace of the Doges, the Bridge of Sighs, and the prison where Casanova was held for a time. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Siena - Orvieto

In the morning departure for Siena, one of Italy's loveliest medieval cities. Here stroll around the Piazza Del Campo, one

of Italy's finest squares and visit the Cathedral and the Basilica of St. Francis, containing the miraculous consecrated hosts that have remained intact since 1730. Continue on to Orvieto to see the Cathedral, located in the town's main square and view the holy corporal containing the blood from the Eucharistic Miracle of Orvieto in 1263 that occasioned the proclamation of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Leave Orvieto and drive through the Umbria region to the pilgrimage centre of Assisi. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Assisi

Have a guided tour of Assisi. Visit the places most associated with the saint such as the Basilica of Saint Francis with its early renaissance masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. Visit the church of St. Claire, the Town Hall Square with its People's Palace and the Roman temple dedicated to Minerva. Spend time strolling along the cobble-stoned streets of this



beautiful old town where time seems to have stood still. In the afternoon visit of St Mary of the Angels Basilica, where St Francis spent most of his life. Here visit the Porziuncola Chapel, the rose bush and the cave where the saint retired for prayer. Dinner and overnight stay in Assisi. (B, D)

Day 5) Cascia

Leave early and head for Cascia to see the Eucharistic Miracle and the Sanctuary of Saint Rita, saint of the impossible. In the Basilica see such relics as the crucifix from which she received the stigmata. View the blood stained pages of the breviary that cradled the miraculous host, leaving a perfect outline of Christ's face, then return to Assisi for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Loreto - Lancia

Departure from Assisi for the great Marian shrine of Loreto to visit the Holy House of Nazareth and the beautiful Madonna of Loreto. According to tradition the house was transported by angels to this hill in central Italy in 1294, and it was the house in which Mary first prayed the Magnificat, in which Jesus grew to manhood, and in which the Holy Family lived. On to Lancia where Mass will be celebrated. Later this evening arrive in San Giovanni Rotondo. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) San Giovanni Rotondo Monte Sant' Angelo

After Mass at the tomb of Padre Pio, tour the sanctuary; see the old church and the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918. See the confessional where Padre Pio spent innumerable hours with a multitude of pilgrims, directing them on

their journey toward God. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Gargano Peninsula and a visit to the Grotto of Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant'Angelo. Six different popes, St Francis and at least four other saints have knelt in prayer at this grotto, seeking the protection of St Michael. A panoramic view of the ocean and the surrounding countryside awaits you at this most celebrated shrine of early Christianity, a shrine consecrated by St Michael himself in 490. Return to San Giovanni Rotondo for devotions, reflection, and a restful night. (B, D)

Day 8) Montecassino - Rome

Leave San Giovanni Rotondo for Monte Cassino. Visit the beautiful hilltop Abbey founded by St. Benedict in 529. Then continue on to Rome, headquarters of the Catholic Faith and the Great City on Seven Hills. Dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 9) Rome

In the morning transfer to Vatican City to attend the weekly Papal Audience and Blessing. After the audience visit the Vatican Museums including the Sistine Chapel, followed by a visit of St. Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon visit two of Rome's main Basilicas: St. John in Lateran and St. Mary Majors. Some time at leisure before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 10) Rome: Ancient Rome Catacombs

In the morning meet local guide for a walking tour of Ancient Rome. Starting from Piazza Venezia, continue on foot to the famous Piazza del Campidoglio designed by Michelangelo from where fantastic views of the Roman Forum can be enjoyed. Visit of the Palatine Hill and the Coliseum. Continue on to St Peter in Chains. In the afternoon drive along the Ancient Appian Way, passing by the Chapel of "Domine quo Vadis" before arriving at the Catacombs. Finish up tour with a visit to the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. (B, D)

Day 11) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
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MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Mestre - basis HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in S. G. Rotondo - basis HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis HB
- Mass daily & Papal Audience tickets
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Catacombs - Rome
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Funicular in Orvieto
- Vaporetto in Venice
- VAT





VIA FRANCIGENA PILGRIMAGE ROUTE

THE VIA FRANCIGENA IS THE HISTORICAL ROUTE USED BY THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS ON THEIR WAY TO ROME FROM CANTERBURY.

10 days | 9 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive in Milan, meet Tour Manager. Transfer by private coach to your hotel. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Vercelli

Day trip to Vercelli, famous for the production of rice and for its painting school. The highlight of the town is certainly the Basilica di Sant'Andrea, the first Italian church to be influenced by the French gothic style. Walk through the centre and see the dome and the church of San Cristoforo. Afternoon at leisure before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Pavia

Morning trip to the famous Certosa di Pavia, which was founded as a mausoleum by Gian Galeazzo Visconti. The

Arthurian monastery has a wonderful renaissance facade, an altarpiece by Perugino, an enormous cloister, and frescoes by Bergognone. In the afternoon have the chance to stroll at leisure through the streets of Pavia. Free time before transfer to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Parma

Transfer to Parma, the "capital" of the "prosciutto crudo di Parma". Enjoy a quick brunch with many of the city's specialities in a welcoming and comfortable gastronomy shop. The afternoon is dedicated to artworks of the High Renaissance school of paintings by Correggio. Do not miss the baptistery and the cathedral, as well as the Palazzo Farnese with its important renaissance theatre. Transfer to Montecatini for dinner and overnight stay in hotel. (B, D)



Day 5) Lucca

Visit Lucca today. Four kms of walls embrace this charming 16th century city, with its unusual churches, palazzos and the ancient Roman amphitheatre. The cathedral of Lucca, St Martino, has a

wonderful facade decorated with Romanesque sculptures and colonnades. Inside see a splendid painting by Ghirlandaio. Also worth a visit is the Church of St Michele in Foro, known for its splendid facade. Dinner in hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Siena - San Gimignano Chianti area

Transfer to Siena. Have a walk through this wonderful town, once an independent republic and birthplace of St. Catherine. Start from the lovely Piazza del Campo, visit the cathedral and enjoy the atmosphere of the busy cobble-stoned streets. Next stop, St. Gimignano. Afternoon drive through the Chianti valleys that stretch between Florence and Siena. This is a territory of vineyards and hill towns, best known for its excellent DOCG wines. A wine tasting is a must! Overnight in Siena. (B, D)

Day 7) Viterbo - Montefiascone Rome

Transfer to Viterbo with lunch in Montefiascone, a small town not far from Lake

Bolsena, known for the vineyards where the delicious white wine Est-Est-Est is produced. This name is the short form for the Latin Vinum est bonum and was first used by a servant of Johann Fugger, to describe how delicious this wine was. The master drank so much of it that he found his death in this place! Viterbo was once an important Etruscan centre and later residence of the popes. Walk through the San Pellegrino quarter that has still kept its medieval aspect. Transfer to Rome. (B, D)

Day 8) Rome

Visit the Coliseum, the well-preserved Roman amphitheatre built in 80 AD. Walking along the Via dei Fori Imperiali, admire the ruins of the Emperors' forums. Arriving in Piazza Venezia walk up the Capitoline Hill, to arrive at the magnificent Square designed by Michelangelo and finally rest on the stairs of the Senate Palace. In the afternoon visit of the breathtaking St Peter's Basilica. Have the chance to enter the Vatican Museums, containing the wonderful Sistine Chapel. Free time before Return to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 9) Rome

Visit of Rome includes an unforgettable morning walk from Piazza Navona by Palazzo Madama and the church of S. Luigi dei Francesi, in which three magnificent paintings by Caravaggio can be admired. Not far from here find the Pantheon. On the way to the Trevi Fountain, one cannot miss the church of Sant'Ignazio di Loyola. In the afternoon stroll through the shopping streets around Piazza di Spagna and walk up the Spanish Steps to reach the church of Trinità dei Monti. Free time before returning to the hotel. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 10) Departure

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LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
On Request

- INCLUSIONS**
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Pavia - basis HB
 - 2 nights - 3* hotel in Montecatini - basis HB
 - 1 night - 3* hotel in Siena - basis HB
 - 3 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis HB
 - Mass daily & Papal Audience tickets
 - Wine tasting
 - Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Catacombs - Rome
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
 - VAT





Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS

**COOKING, GASTRONOMY
& WINE TOURS**



LIMONCELLO FLAVOUR

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Naples airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Taste some true Italian Pizza for dinner tonight. (D)

Day 2) Naples - Sorrento

Discover the beauties of Naples: Castel dell'Ovo, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Gallery of Umberto. Stroll along the streets of the famous Spaccanapoli district. After lunch visit a buffalo mozzarella cheese factory to see how it is made and enjoy a taste. Continue on to Sorrento for overnight stay. (B, MT)

Day 3) Pompeii - Cooking lesson

In the morning departure for Pompeii, the wealthy Roman town which was buried in 79 AD by a massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. A local guide will bring the day-to-day affairs of the town to life while walking along the ancient streets. Return to Sorrento for first cooking lesson. Learn

how to cook a complete Italian meal. Enjoy dinner at the school with the chef. (B, KL, D)

Day 4) Amalfi - Ravello - Scala Vietri sul Mare - Limoncello and wine tasting

Another memorable day takes us along one of the world's most beautiful routes - the Amalfi Coast. First stop in Amalfi with time to visit its famous Cathedral. Walk to the Valley of Mills, where paper was produced. Then learn how limoncello is made and taste it. Continue on to picturesque Ravello - largely pedestrianised and with an atmosphere that enchanted some of the world's greatest composers, including Wagner and Verdi. Time for lunch and wine tasting at a local winery. Stop in Scala, one of the oldest towns on the Amalfi Coast, before arriving in Vietri sul Mare, famous for its ceramics. Time to wander among the ceramics shop be-



fore returning to Sorrento in the late afternoon. (B, LT, WT)

Day 5) Sorrento - Cooking lesson

Free morning in Sorrento to relax and shop along the main street, Corso Italia. In the afternoon it is time for a pizza les-

son. Learn some of the secrets in pizza-making and taste the pizza made along with a Caponada salad and the famous Babà dessert. (B, KL, D)

Day 6) Capri

In the morning transfer by local bus and ferry to the idyllic island of Capri. The island's rugged coastline and the luxuriance of its vegetation combine to create an alluring scene which has captured many hearts over the centuries. Take the cable car to Anacapri and then continue by bus to La Piazzetta at the centre of the island.

Late in the afternoon re-board the ferry for return trip to Sorrento. Dinner in a local restaurant with live folk music. (B, D)

Day 7) Positano - Emerald Cave Sorrento - Cooking lesson

Departure for Positano. Leaving Sorrento, the road climbs and twists through orchards and gardens, where grapes, lemons and figs grow side by side, with the clear blue sea below. Travel along the winding road on its descent into Positano, greeted by thrilling land-and-seascapes at every twist and turn. The whitewashed

Positano houses, with their balconies of trailing bougainvillea, are jammed together in a cliffside cascade of colour. Time to relax and get to the small beach. Continue on to the Emerald Cave for a visit. Return to Sorrento for last cooking class. Learn how to make homemade pasta and some traditional cakes from the area. Dinner at the school. (B, KL, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

RSI works with several wineries and cooking schools in different regions of Italy.



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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night - 3* hotel in Naples - basis BB
- 6 nights - 3* hotel in Sorrento area - basis BB
- 2 dinners in local restaurants
- 3 dinners at the cookery school
- 3 cooking classes
- Buffalo mozzarella cheese factory visit and tasting
- 1 limoncello tasting
- 1 wine tasting
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Round trip Hydrofoil Sorrento - Capri
- Transportation in Capri
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- VAT



GOURMET ROME

6 days | 5 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive in Rome, meet Tour Manager and transfer to the hotel. After dinner discover Rome by night; drive by St. Peter's Basilica, Castel Sant'Angelo, Piazza Venezia and stop to throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain before returning to the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Ancient Rome - Cooking class

Departure on discovery of Ancient Rome. Visit the Coliseum, the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill. In the late afternoon have a pizza-making lesson. Learn how to make pizza and taste it together with some other Italian specialities while listening to some live folk songs and lyrical classics. (B, KL, D)

Day 3) Tivoli - Castelli Romani

Wine tasting

Departure for a full day excursion to Tivoli and the Castelli Romani. Guided tour of

Villa D'Este, famous for its water systems, the architecture of its gardens, the pavilions, and the fountains. Continue on to Frascati to visit a vineyard and taste some local wines along with local olive oil and cheeses. Stop in Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of the Pope, before returning to Rome. Dinner at the hotel. (B, WT, D)

Day 4) Cooking Lesson Gastro-cultural city tour

In the morning learn how to cook a true Roman meal. After hands-on lesson, enjoy lunch with the chef. In the afternoon walking tour in the centre to discover the best places in Rome to buy ice cream, taste local wines and cakes, while learning about the history and art of the high-lights of Rome: Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and Piazza del Popolo. (B, KL, L)



Day 5) Rome

In the morning visit the Vatican City, the heart of the Catholic faith. Enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica, the world's largest church. Then



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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights - 3* hotel in Rome - basis 3BB/2HB
- 1 dinner at cooking school
- 1 farewell dinner in Trastevere
- 2 cooking classes
- 1 wine tasting
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Coliseum & Roman Forum - Rome
 - Villa D'Este - Tivoli
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Tiber cruise ticket
- VAT

board boat for a cruise on the River Tiber. Enjoy free afternoon for shopping or additional cultural visits. Farewell dinner in a typical trattoria in one of the most famous Roman districts, Trastevere. (B, D)

Day 6) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



BRUNELLO AND CHOCOLATE TOUR

11 days | 10 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Florence or Rome airport. Meet with tour escort and transfer to the hotel in the Chianti area. Welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Lucca - Road of Wine in the Lucchesi Hills

Departure for Lucca, home of Giacomo Puccini. Guided visit of the historical centre, rich with churches, museums, and palazzos, and circled by its majestic renaissance walls. Some time at leisure to relax in the famous Theatre Square or to shop in the beautiful shops of the city. In the afternoon explore the area around the Lucchesi Hills rimmed by olive trees and hundred-year-old vineyards. Stop at a farm to learn more about local wines and enjoy a tasting. Return to the hotel. (B, WT)

Day 3) Siena - San Gimignano Wine tasting

Departure for Siena. Guided visit of the main highlights of the city, including one of the Museums of the Contrade (each horse in the famous Palio horse race comes from a different Contrada or neighbourhood). Tasting of some delicious local cakes such as Panforte in one of the most famous pastry shops of the city. Some time at leisure before departing for San Gimignano. Visit of the famous city of towers, followed by a wine tasting along with a visit of the cellars at a farm near the town. (B, WT)

Day 4) Florence - Fiesole

Departure for Florence. Upon arrival take a fascinating walk through the historical centre of the city. The tour includes the Franciscan church of Santa Croce, known



as the "Pantheon of the Italian Glories" where many illustrious Italians, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Machiavelli, are buried. The visit also includes the religious centre (the Baptistry, the Duomo and Giotto's Bell-tower), as well as the political centre (Piazza della Signo-



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A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights - 3* hotel in Chianti area basis 6BB/1HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Perugia - basis BB
- 1 welcome drink
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners in local restaurants
- 6 wine tastings
- 1 cooking class
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

ria) of the city. Some time at leisure in the centre before continuing on to Fiesole to visit a farm producing wine, olive oil and saffron. Sitting between the hills of Saint Francis and Saint Apollinaire, Fiesole is one of the most famous sites around Florence. Time at leisure in the small town. Dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 5) Chianti Area

Entirely dedicated to exploring the Chianti area following the Chiantigena (the road leading from Siena to Florence crossing the Chianti area). Stop in Castellina in Chianti and in Radda to visit the small Museum of Chianti. Continue on to the charming town of Greve. Lunch and wine tasting in a local castle. Free time to discover the enchanting town and to enjoy the amazing landscape before returning to the hotel. (B, WT, L)

**Day 6) Montepulciano - Pienza
 Wine and cheese tasting**

In the morning departure for Montepulciano. Perched on top of a 605m hill, it is one of the most characteristic and intact medieval towns in the area. Visit a local winery and enjoy tasting the *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*. On to Pienza, the perfect renaissance town, famous for its Pecorino Cheese. Visit a cheese factory to learn about pecorino production and taste it. Time at leisure before returning to the hotel. (B, WT, CT)

Day 7) Cooking class in the Chianti Area

Morning at leisure. Afternoon cooking class followed by dinner with chefs. Les-

sons can be organised in various different cooking schools in the Chianti and Montepulciano areas. (B, KL)

Day 8) Montalcino - Wine tasting

Departure for Montalcino, famous for its Brunello, one of the world's best red wines. But Montalcino is also a magnificent art city which, from its hilltop location, dominates the 3,000 hectares of vineyards (1,500 for Brunello alone) that have brought it fame and wealth. Time to visit the fortress and browse through the shops. Visit of a winery including wine tasting. On to Umbria, our base for the next 3 nights. (Groups can be accommodated either in hotels or farmhouses). (B, WT)

**Day 9) Montefalco - Bevagna
 Wine tasting**

In the morning it is time to discover Montefalco, another hilltop town offering splendid views over Umbria. Visit of a winery to taste the famous Sagrantino, newly classified DOGC wine, and to an ancient olive press. On to Bevagna, a characteristic medieval town. Dinner in a local restaurant. (B, WT, D)

**Day 10) Perugia - Torgiano
 Chocolate and wine tasting**

In the morning travel to the beautiful medieval town of Perugia, famous for its chocolate and Summer Jazz Festival. Visit the Perugina chocolate factory producing the famous Baci chocolate. Possibility to organize a cooking class in a renovated old monastery. On to Torgiano home of the interesting Lungarotti wine and oil

Museum, in the monumental 17th century Graziani Baglioni palace. Wine tasting in the Osteria next to the museum. Farewell dinner with some local dishes. (B, WT, D)

Day 11) Departure

Transfer to departure airport. If the group leaves from Rome in the afternoon a stop in Orvieto or Todi for an interesting city tour can be scheduled. (B)

The choice of the winery and the cooking class depends on the budget and the size of the group.

Note: Please note that it is possible to include visits to local markets depending on the tour schedule, since most markets are held once a week.



TRUFFLES AND BAROLO TOUR

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Milan or Turin airport. transfer to the hotel or farm house in the Langhe region. After a “welcome drink” time to settle in room and relax. Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Asti - wine tasting

Visit the “Braida” winery. Taste their excellent products among which the “mythical” Bracco dell’Uccellone, father of the great Barbera which is aged in barrels. Walking tour of Asti will follow. Discover its noble palaces, medieval towers, churches and cloisters. In the afternoon visit of a Tapestry Manufacturer, housed in an ancient abbey near Asti. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. Dinner in a local restaurant. (B, WT, D)

Day 3) Gancia area - spumante tasting

Departure for Canelli, historical centre of the production of Moscato and spumante wines. To reach the small town wind

through beautiful hills covered with “golden” vineyards. Visit to the historical centre of the town and to S. Antonio, a hamlet which lies at the foot of Gancia Castle. Wine tasting at Contratto winery, along with a visit of the ancient cellar, dug into the hill. This is where the famous brut is produced. Afterwards stop in Nizza Monferrato to visit the Bersano Museum dedicated to local rural tradition and culture. Free for dinner tonight. (B, WT)

Day 4) Barolo wine land

Visit La Morra, a small village which is one of the capitals of Barolo. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Langhe hills. After a walk through the vineyards surrounding the village, which produce the famous Cru of Barolo, meet one of the local wine-makers to learn more about Barolo. Tonight in a warm and welcoming restaurant enjoy a dinner based on the local dishes of the Piedmontese cuisine. (B, D)



Day 5) Barbaresco wine

First stop Guarene, a panoramic “terrace” over the valley of the river Tanaro, famous for its baroque castle built in the 18th century by the Roero family. At the Foundation Re-Rebaudengo admire one of the most interesting galleries of contemporary art



in Italy. Later on visit the Albino Rocca cellar and taste its Barbaresco wine. After the visit have a short walk through the narrow streets of the village of Barbaresco, stopping at the bizarre Enoteca Regionale, housed in a deconsecrated ancient church. Finish day tour with a delicious tasting of some Piedmontese cheeses. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel. (B, WT, CT, D)

Day 6) Cherasco - Arneis wine tasting

Start with a visit of Cherasco built around the mid 13th century as a fort. A tasting of the famous local Chocolate is a must. Later on visit the "Cascina Chicco" known for its white wine: Arneis. Taste the wine along with salami and ham produced on the farm. After the tasting visit of the baroque Castle of Govone, one of the

Royal Family's residences. Return to the hotel for a relaxing afternoon. Dinner in a local restaurant. (B, WT, D)

Day 7) Alba

Visit Alba, one of the most fascinating "art towns" of the region and worldwide capital of truffles and Nutella cream. Strolling along the streets admire interesting 18-19th century neo-classical buildings elegantly complimented by the medieval urban structure. Time to shop in the local market and grab the last chance to bring home some local wines and specialities. In the evening taste some Piedmontese specialities during farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights - 3* hotel in Langhe area - 5BB/2HB
- 1 welcome drink
- 4 dinners in local restaurants
- 4 wine tastings
- 1 cheese tasting
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



MARSALA AND CANNOLI TOUR

9 days | 8 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Palermo airport. Meet with tour escort and transfer to the hotel. After dinner at the hotel, panoramic tour of Palermo by night. Return to the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Erice - Marsala Wines Cooking class

Depart for Erice, a magnificent medieval city nestled in a picturesque setting. Start visit at the Antique Convent Pastry Shop, one of the most renowned Sicilian bakeries, to taste some of the finest Ercian pastries and some typical almond desserts filled with candied lemon. Afterwards, a guided walk through the narrow streets of the ancient town. Next, transfer to Marsala, a city famous for the production of its namesake wine. In the afternoon, attend first cooking class. Before class, accompany the chef to the market to select ingredients and shop for

groceries. The chef will demonstrate and explain the preparation of several typical Trapanese recipes, and guests will be guided through the preparation of the very dishes that they will have the pleasure of savouring later during dinner. At the conclusion of the lesson, and before the meal, a visit to the Cantine Pellegrino for a tasting of Marsala wines. (B, KL, WT, D)

Day 3) Agrigento - Piazza Armerina Caltagirone

Departure for Agrigento for a guided visit of the extraordinary Valle dei Templi, a masterpiece that stands testament to Greek art in Sicily. Afterwards, continue on to Piazza Armerina for a guided visit of the Villa Romana del Casale, built during the imperial age and famous for its precious mosaics, which constitute some of the best preserved in the entire Mediterranean basin. Next, transfer to nearby

Caltagirone, the Sicilian capital for ceramic artistry. Stopover at the wine cellars of the Antica Tenuta del Nanfro for a guided visit and tasting of typical vintages from the area: Nero d'Avola and the Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Dinner at the hotel. (B, WT, D)



Day 4) Ragusa - Modica - Syracuse

Departure for Ragusa for a guided visit of the city, located in an area which has been awarded a UNESCO heritage title for its wealth of Sicilian Baroque architecture. The town is divided into two parts, old and new. The Old Town, called Ragusa IBLA looks like a Christmas crib. Transfer to Modica, the ancient capital of Contea, a city full of fascinating architectural, artistic and scenic attractions, unique among those pertaining to the splendid Sicilian baroque period. Take a guided stroll through the area and stop at the Bonajuto Antique Pastry Shop, where the Ruta family is famous for their chocolate. On to Syracuse for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 5) Syracuse - Taormina

Wine tasting

In the morning guided visit of this splendid city, which along with Athens and Alexandria in Egypt was one of the largest political and cultural centres in the ancient Greek world. Guided tour of the archaeological park, followed by a visit to the historic city centre on the island of Ortigia. Departure for Taormina, stopping en route to visit the Murgo Estate for a true "discovery of the wines of Etna". Tour of the San Michele del Barone Emanuele Scam-

macca del Murgo Estate, where the area's traditional wines and esteemed champagne, V.S.Q. Metodo Classico, are produced. Wine tasting. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in hotel in Taormina. (B, D)

Day 6) Etna - Taormina

In the morning excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. Climb as far as the 1,900m mark to the Sapienza refuge and, depending on volcano conditions, choose whether to continue by landrover all the way up to 2,500m to the site of the last great eruption. Lunch at the Trinitá farmhouse, located at the foot of the volcano, where guests may sample typical dishes rediscovered in their original style. Return to Taormina and enjoy free time for visits, strolls and shopping in this incredible city. Dinner on your own. (B, L)

Day 7) Parco delle Madonie - Polizzi Generosa - Cooking class

Departure for Parco delle Madonie, passing through central Sicily from Catania towards Palermo. Arrival in Polizzi Generosa a small, medieval town, with an extraordinary wealth of artwork from the Norman period. In a typical "madonita"

restaurant a cooking class will take place. There, an expert will demonstrate and instruct guests on the preparation of several dishes that will ultimately comprise lunch. Visit the park's museum and enjoy a taste of the local dessert, known as "Sfoglio". Continue on to Palermo for dinner. (B, KL, L, D)

Day 8) Palermo Monreale

In the morning guided visit of the city and the Cathedral of Monreale. In the afternoon take a stroll through the "mercato della Vucciria", one of the oldest and most frequented fresh-produce markets in the city. Rest of the day at leisure. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 9) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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PRICES
On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Palermo - basis 2BB/2HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Caltagirone - basis HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Syracuse - basis HB
- 2 nights - 3* hotel in Taormina - basis BB
- 2 dinners in local restaurants
- 2 cooking lessons including meal
- 2 wine tastings
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT





Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

SUSTAINABLE FOOD & WINE
AND CULTURAL TOURS
SELECTED IN COOPERATION
WITH SLOW FOOD ITALIA



Slow Food®





PIEDMONT

LA MORRA, CASTAGNOLE LANZE, CARMAGNOLA, BARBARESCO, CHERASCO, MURAZZANO, ASTI, MONGIARDINO LIGURE, TURIN, POLLENZO, GATTINARA, VERCELLI, THE MONFERRATO AREA, ACQUI TERME, ALBA, GRINZANE CAVOUR, CUNEO.

9 days | 8 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the rich enogastronomical traditions and historical heritage of the Piedmont region, an unforgettable experience involving all the senses. Pleasurable days spent among rolling hills covered with vineyards, elegant palaces dating back to the former Italian Kingdom, ancient cellars, tiny streets and traditional fresh produce markets, imposing castles and antique shops, savouring some of the best foods and excellent wines that Italy has to offer.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the wines of the Barolo vineyards;
- the Carmagnola Grey Rabbit;
- the wines of the Barbaresco hills;

- the sheep milk cheeses of the Langhe;
- the Montebòre cheese;
- the wines of the Pollenzo Wine Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Montebòre cheese dates as far back as the 15th century. Its shape is reminiscent of a tiny wedding cake, with tiers of decreasing size, one atop the other. Legend has it that the shape was modeled on an ancient tower in the town of Montebòre. It has a strong milky and buttery flavour with lingering notes of chestnut and herbs.

The Barolo wine, called the "king of wines" but also the "wine of kings", it is one of the world's best wines, made from the best Nebbiolo grapes only. A robust red, full-bodied and very dry. The aroma is similar to strawberries, tar, roses, violets and truffles. It is "hard" when young and it needs to be aged at least 3 years to become "mellow". It becomes better with additional aging and is



often left to age for between 10 and 20 years.

The Murazzano Robiola cheese is a fresh cheese produced from ewes' milk or a mixture of ewe' and cows' milk. The ripening is from 4 to 10 days. There is no rind but only a yellowish patina in matured cheese. The dough is white or ivory-white. The texture is soft. The odour is fine and delicate. The taste is mainly sweet but it becomes more intense in aged products.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of



art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- the wonderful hills surrounded by the Barolo vineyards in **La Morra**
- **Asti**, rich in medieval palaces and merchants houses, many with monumental towers;
- **Turin**, the former capital of Italy, with the Mole Antonelliana, the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept and the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre;
- **Grinzane Cavour**, thus named in honour of Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, one of the leading figures of the Risorgimento (the Italian unification), and its imposing castle;
- **Vercelli**, home to numerous relics of the Roman period, and with two noteworthy towers, the Torre dell'Angelo and the Torre di Città;
- the wonderful landscapes of **the Monferrato area**, one of the most important wine districts of Italy;
- **Acqui Terme**, with the ancient baths dating back to the Roman time.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Turin or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Piedmont. During

the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) La Morra, Castagnole Lanze, Carmagnola

Departure for the wonderful Barolo vineyards; first stop at the La Morra scenic viewpoint, where you can admire the hills and vineyards. Visit to the Montezemolo wine cellars and taste their extraordinary wines accompanied by some of the typical local produce of Langa.

Departure for Castagnole Lanze, and a visit of Giorgio Rivetti's estate, La Spinetta, for a tasting of his exclusive labels accompanied by local products. Transfer to Carmagnola and a visit to the Agripiemonte farm where the Grey Rabbit is raised. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Barbaresco, Cherasco, Murazzano

Departure for Barbaresco to visit the cellars of the Barbaresco producers, which boast several top class historical vineyards and a range of quality wines. Introduction and tasting of a selection of wines.

Departure for Cherasco to visit the historical centre, free time to wander around the little streets with the traditional workshops which produce the delightful 'Baci di Cherasco' (dark chocolates with hazelnuts). Transfer to Murazzano to visit the Raflazz dairy farm for a tasting of the Langhe sheep milk's cheeses. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Asti, Mongiardino Ligure

Departure for Asti; see the city, visit the Barbero nougat museum and plant, with a tasting of the chocolate sweets and nougats, then move on to visit some of the traditional workshops with their top quality local products such as the hazelnut pies made by Daniela and Giordanino's Polentina and Astigianini traditional cakes. Departure for Mongiardino Ligure and a break at the country farmhouse Vallenostra to taste the Montebòre cheese and join in a cooking class dedicated to the Piedmontese agricultural tradition, followed by dinner. Presentation of the initiative: adopt a sheep. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Pollenzo

Departure for Turin, tour the city and see some of the most important historical and religious buildings – including the Mole Antonelliana and the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept – and stroll along the Dora river.

Free time to wander around and enjoy the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre, with the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties, such as the delicious Turin "Grissini" of the Guala bakery or the fresh homemade pastas at Pasticceria Defilippis.

Back to Pollenzo, stroll through the centre, then a visit to the Slow Food Wine Bank for a wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Gattinara, Vercelli, the Monferrato Area, Acqui Terme

Departure for the lands of Nebbiolo, the lovely hills facing Monte Rosa. Here, visit the Regional Winery of Gattinara and the Terre del Nebbiolo. Enjoy a tour, a talk on the enogastronomic traditions of the region and sample the wines, accompanied by some local dishes and produce.

Leave for Vercelli and stop to visit the historical centre and some of the locals who produce typical sweets and cakes of the region. Departure for the Monferrato hills, stop at the Regional Winery of Acqui Terme to visit the ancient cellars with their collection of traditional tools and instruments. Introduction to the enogastronomic traditions of the region and a tasting of wines such as the

Brachetto, Dolcetto and Barbera, accompanied by the local produce. Free time to visit the magnificent centre of Acqui Terme. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Alba, Grinzane Cavour

Departure for Alba for a visit of this enchanting little town. Lunch will follow, with some typical local dishes, in the Osteria dell'Arco. Departure for Grinzane Cavour to visit the Piedmont Regional Winery, situated inside the Grinzane Cavour Castle, and taste some wines from Langa and Roero, in addition to some grappa and other local liqueurs. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Cuneo

Departure for Cuneo to visit the city and its

old historical centre where you will stumble upon the producers of some rather unique Cuneesi al Rum (chocolate sweets made with rum), Arione meringues, the de La Granda meat and other Slow Food Presidia products and the famous ice creams of the Gelateria del Corso.

Enjoy lunch at the Bottega dei vini delle Langhe (the Langhe region wine shop), including local produce and typical local dishes. On the way back to Pollenzo stop at Monforte d'Alba for a visit of the Azienda Vinicola Ugo Chiola ancient wine cellars and a tasting of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights in 4* charming hotel in Pollenzo
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 3 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 12 guided tastings of Piedmontese foods and wines
- 1 Cooking lesson dedicated to the Piedmontese agricultural cuisine
- 1 visit to the Slow Food Earth Market

including a lesson about the local produce

- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





PIEDMONT & VENETO

LA MORRA, CASTAGNOLE LANZE, CARMAGNOLA, BARBARESCO, CHERASCO, MURAZZANO, ASTI, MONGIARDINO LIGURE, TURIN, POLLENZO, ALBA, VERONA, TORRI DEL QUARSETOLO, PADUA, VENICE, SANT'ERASMO ISLAND.

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the rich enogastronomical traditions and historical heritage of the Piedmont and Veneto regions, from the legacy of the former Regno d'Italia (Italian Kingdom) to Venice, the amazing city built on the waters of the Venetian Lagoon, once a powerful state in itself.

Participants will spend pleasurable days among rolling hills covered with vineyards, imposing castles and antique shops, old cellars, majestic Roman amphitheatres and tiny ancient streets, grand canals and elegant palaces, savouring some of the best foods and excellent wines that Italy has to offer.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the wines of the Barolo vineyards;
- the Carmagnola Grey Rabbit;
- the wines of the Barbaresco hills;
- the sheep milk cheeses of the Langhe;
- the Montebòre cheese;
- the wines of the Pollenzo Wine Bank;
- the fresh produce sold at Alba Slow Food Earth Market;
- the Vialone Nano Grumo rice;
- the Violet artichoke of St. Erasmo Island;
- the wines of the Verona vineyards.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Montebòre cheese dates as far back as the 15th century. Its shape is reminiscent of a tiny wedding cake, with tiers of decreasing size, one atop the other. Legend has it that the shape was modeled on an ancient tower in the town of Montebòre. It has a strong milky and buttery flavour with lingering notes of chestnut and herbs.

The Barolo wine, called the "king of wines" but also the "wine of kings", it is



one of the world's best wines, made from the best Nebbiolo grapes only. A robust red, full-bodied and very dry. The aroma is similar to strawberries, tar, roses, violets and truffles. It is "hard" when young and it needs to be aged at least 3 years to become "mellow". It becomes better with additional aging and is often left to age for between 10 and 20 years.

The Vialone Nano Grumo rice was introduced to the area by Benedictine nuns and has been grown there since the 16th century. The nuns also organized the reclamation of local marshland and the building of canals, many of which are still

in use. This rice variety has tiny kernels, and its exceptional quality can be attributed to the area's soil and water. It swells up considerably when cooked, and is very good at absorbing flavours.

The Sant'Erasmo violet artichoke is tender, meaty, elongated and thorny with purple bracts. Growers transport their crop to the Rialto and Tronchetto markets using boats called caorline. Eaten raw, the castrare (the first buds) are a real delicacy. They can also be dipped in batter and fried, or cooked in butter and served cold with lemon, often accompanied by schie, tiny lagoon shrimp.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Agriturismo-Caseificio Vallenostra;
- Osteria dell'Arco;
- Al Pompiere;
- Osteria Il Cancellotto;
- Osteria Al Portego.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the Polentina and Astigianini traditional pastries and cakes of Asti;
- the typical Grissini Torinesi (bread sticks);
- the ice creams and pralines of the traditional pastry shops of Verona.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- the wonderful hills surrounded by the **Barolo vineyards** in La Morra;
- **Asti**, rich in medieval palaces and merchants houses, many with monumental towers;
- **Turin**, the former capital of Italy, with the Mole Antonelliana, the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept and the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre;
- **Verona**, with the imposing Roman amphitheatre (the Arena), the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo, the Scaligeri graves, and of course Juliet's famous balcony;
- **Padua**, home of St. Anthony's church, the medieval Regional Palace and the wonderful Scrovegni chapel;
- **Venice**, with its amazing canals full of traditional gondolas, St. Mark Square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Rialto Bridge.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Turin or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Piedmont. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) La Morra, Castagnole Lanze, Carmagnola

Departure for the wonderful Barolo vineyards; first stop at the La Morra scenic viewpoint, where you can admire the hills and vineyards. Visit to the Montezemolo wine cellars and taste their extraordinary wines accompanied by some of the typical local produce of Langa.

Departure for Castagnole Lanze, and a visit of Giorgio Rivetti's estate, La Spinetta, for a tasting of his exclusive labels accompanied by local products. Transfer to Carmagnola and a visit to the Agripiemonte farm where the Grey Rabbit is raised. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Barbaresco, Cherasco Murazzano

Departure for Barbaresco to visit the cellars of the Barbaresco producers, which boast several top class historical vineyards and a range of quality wines. Introduction and tasting of a selection of wines. Departure for Cherasco to visit the historical centre, free time to wander around the little streets with the traditional workshops which produce the delightful 'Baci di Cherasco' (dark chocolates with hazelnuts). Transfer to Murazzano to visit the Raflazz dairy farm for a tasting of the Langhe sheep milk's cheeses. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Asti, Mongiardino Ligure

Departure for Asti; see the city, visit the Barbero nougat museum and plant, with a tasting of the chocolate sweets and nougats, then move on to visit some of the traditional workshops with their top quality local products such as the hazelnut pies made by Daniela and Giordanino's Polentina and Astigianini traditional cakes. Departure for Mongiardino Ligure and a break at the country farmhouse Vallenostra to taste the Montebòre cheese and join in a cooking class dedicated to the Piedmontese agricultural tradition, followed by dinner. Presentation of the initiative: adopt a sheep. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Turin, Pollenzo

Departure for Turin, tour the city and see some of the most important historical and religious buildings – including the Mole Antonelliana and the the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept – and stroll along the Dora river. Free time to wander around and enjoy the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre, with the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties, such as the delicious Turin "Grissini" of the Guala bakery or the fresh homemade pastas at Pasticceria Defilippis.

Day 6) Alba

Morning departure for Alba where the Slow Food Earth Market takes place every Saturday morning and where you will be

given an introductory hands-on lesson on biological fruit and vegetables and to the area's many local products. Lunch will follow, with some typical local dishes, in the Osteria dell'Arco in the heart of Alba. Departure for Verona.

Day 7) Verona

Departure for Verona. Visit the Arena amphitheatre, the Ponte di Pietra stone bridge, the Arco di Gavie arch, the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona city gates, and the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. Also see the Scaligeri graves, Castel Vecchio and Juliet's famous balcony. In San Zeno, visit the Pasticceria Zeno Gelati e Cioccolato for an ice cream (with some unique flavours like the Valpolicella Marasche or the cream of Recioto wine) and their chocolate pralines which are made using Slow Food Presidia produce. Visit Piazza delle Erbe and the fruit and vegetables stalls there. For lunch, taste the traditional

Veronese dishes at the Trattoria Al Pompiere. Free time to wander around the centre and tour dei Goti (traditional hosterias offering bread and lard with other typical snacks, accompanied by a glass of wine). Back to Montecchia di Crosara to see the Cà Rugate cellars and have a guided wine tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Torri del Quaresetolo, Padua

Departure for Padua for a tour of the city. On the way there, stop off at Torri del Quaresetolo to visit Umberto Rossato's rice fields where the Vialone Nano Grumo rice is produced.

When we arrive in Padua, there will be a tour to include St Anthony's church, the regional Palace, the oldest medieval building in Italy and the Scrovegni chapel. Stop at the market held in the Piazza delle Erbe e della Frutta where there will be a talk on the season's fresh produce. Lunch will be held at the typical Osteria Il

Cancelletto. Free time to stroll around the centre of town. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 9) Venice, Sant'Erasmo Island

Departure for Venice. Tour the city and visit: St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace and Rialto Bridge. Stroll through the little streets and alleyways among the little local shops and tour of the Ombre (a glass of wine accompanied by local molluscs, fried fish, cod and other typical fare) in some of the old eateries with a break for a light lunch at the Osteria Al Portego near Rialto Bridge. Transfer to the island of Sant'Erasmo, Venice's great vegetable garden, to visit the farm of Carlo and Claudio Finotello who grow vegetables and the violet artichoke of Sant'Erasmo for a brief presentation about the artichokes. Return to the hotel.

Day 10) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 6 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines:
- 12 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Piedmont and Veneto regions:

- 1 Cooking lesson dedicated to the Piedmontese agricultural cuisine
- 1 visit to the Slow Food Earth Market including a lesson about the local produce
- 1 lesson on the fruits and vegetables in season at the Padua fresh produce market
- Water bus in Venice
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury mo-

torcoaches

- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





PIEDMONT & ITALIAN RIVIERA

LA MORRA, CASTAGNOLE LANZE, CARMAGNOLA, BARBARESCO, CHERASCO, MURAZZANO, TURIN, POLLENZO, ALBA, GRINZANE CAVOUR, GATTINARA, VERCELLI, THE MONFERRATO AREA, ACQUI TERME, ASTI, MONGIARDINO LIGURE, THE CINQUE TERRE, MONTEROSSO A MARE, MANAROLA, RIOMAGGIORE, RAPALLO, THE GULF OF POETS, PORTOVENERE, LERICI, PORTOFINO, CAMOGLI, CHIAVARI.

11 days | 10 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the rich enogastronomical traditions, gorgeous landscapes and historical heritage of Piedmont, the Cinque Terre and the Gulf of Poets, an unforgettable experience involving all the senses.

Pleasurable days spent among rolling hills covered with vineyards, elegant palaces dating back to the former Italian Kingdom, ancient wine cellars, tiny, picturesque towns perched on the cliffs facing the emerald sea, imposing castles and antique shops, fishermen's villages and charming, elegant Riviera towns, savouring some of the best foods and excellent wines that Italy has to offer.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia

products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the wines of the Barolo vineyards;
- the Carmagnola Grey Rabbit;
- the wines of the Barbaresco hills;
- the sheep milk cheeses of the Langhe
- the Montebòre cheese;
- the wines of the Pollenzo Wine Bank;
- the wines of the Cinque Terre vineyards
- the anchovies of Monterosso a Mare;
- the wines of the Sestri Levante vineyards.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Montebòre cheese dates as far back as the 15th century. Its shape is reminiscent of a tiny wedding cake, with tiers of decreasing size, one atop the other. Legend has it that the shape was modeled on



an ancient tower in the town of Montebòre. It has a strong milky and buttery flavour with lingering notes of chestnut and herbs.

The Barolo wine, called the "king of wines" but also the "wine of kings", it is one of the world's best wines, made from the best Nebbiolo grapes only. A robust red, full-bodied and very dry. The aroma is similar to strawberries, tar, roses, violets and truffles. It is "hard" when young and it needs to be aged at least 3 years to become "mellow". It becomes better with additional aging and is often left to age for between 10 and 20 years.



The Murazzano Robiola cheese is a fresh cheese produced from ewes' milk or a mixture of ewe' and cows' milk. The ripening is from 4 to 10 days. There is no rind but only a yellowish patina in matured cheese. The dough is white or ivory-white. The texture is soft. The odour is fine and delicate. The taste is mainly sweet but it becomes more intense in aged products.

The Monterosso a Mare anchovies are characterized by the shining grey colour and by their red meat. The best way to taste them is to stuff them. The recipe is delicious, basic and tasty at the same time. The anchovy fishing is made with the "Lampara", a fishing boat outfitted with a lamp that makes the plankton all-bright, in order to attract fish. The anchovies are often served as main course; when preserved, the anchovies are usually packaged in glass containers under salt or olive oil.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA"

SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh,

local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Osteria dell'Arco;
- Agriturismo-Caseificio Vallenostira;
- Ristorante U Giancu;
- Antica Osteria del Carugio;
- La Cucina di Nonna Nina.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the wines of the Piedmont Regional Enoteca winery;
- the wines of the Regional Enoteca of Gattinara and the Terre del Nebbiolo winery;
- the wines of the Regional Enoteca of Acqui Terme winery;
- the Polentina and Astigianini traditional pastries and cakes of Asti;
- the typical grissini Torinesi (bread sticks);
- the Baci di Cherasco and other typical Piedmontese chocolate sweets.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches

and natural landscapes of the region:

- the wonderful hills surrounded by **the Barolo vineyards** in La Morra;
- **Asti**, rich in medieval palaces and merchants houses, many with monumental towers;
- **Turin**, the former capital of Italy, with the Mole Antonelliana, the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept and the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre;
- **Grinzane Cavour**, thus named in honour of Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, one of the leading figures of the Risorgimento (the Italian unification), and its imposing castle;
- **Vercelli**, home to numerous relics of the Roman period, and with two noteworthy towers, the Torre dell'Angelo and the Torre di Città;
- **the wonderful landscapes** of the Monferrato area, one of the most important wine districts of Italy;
- **Acqui Terme**, with the ancient baths dating back to the Roman time;
- **the Cinque Terre**, one of the most beautiful natural settings worldwide and a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- **the Gulf of Poets and Portovenere**, with its charming Genoese-style buildings, yet another Italian UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- **Portofino**, the elegant little Riviera town considered to be among the most beautiful Mediterranean ports

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Turin or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Piedmont. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) La Morra, Castagnole Lanze, Carmagnola

Departure for the wonderful Barolo vineyards; first stop at the La Morra scenic viewpoint, where you can admire the hills and vineyards. Visit to the Montezemolo wine cellars and taste their extraordinary wines accompanied by some of the typical local produce of Langa. Departure for Castagnole Lanze, and a visit of Giorgio Rivetti's estate, La Spinetta, for a tasting of his exclusive labels accompanied by local products. Transfer to Carmagnola and a visit to the Agripiemonte farm where the Grey Rabbit is raised. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Barbaresco, Cherasco, Murazzano

Departure for Barbaresco to visit the cellars of the Barbaresco Producers, which boast several top class historical vineyards and a range of quality wines. Introduction and tasting of a selection of wines. Departure for Cherasco to visit the historical centre, free time to wander around the little streets with the traditional workshops which produce the delightful 'Baci di Cherasco' (dark chocolates with hazelnuts). Transfer to Murazzano to visit the Raflazz dairy farm for a tasting of the Langhe sheep milk's cheeses. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Turin, Pollenzo

Departure for Turin, tour the city and see some of the most important historical and religious buildings – including the Mole Antonelliana and the the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept – and

stroll along the Dora river. Free time to wander around and enjoy the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre, with the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties, such as the delicious Turin "Grissini" of the Guala bakery or the fresh homemade pastas at Pasticceria Defilippis. Back to Pollenzo, stroll through the centre, then a visit to the Slow Food Wine Bank for a wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Alba, Grinzane Cavour

Departure for Alba for a visit of this enchanting little town. Lunch will follow, with some typical local dishes, in the Osteria dell'Arco. Departure for Grinzane Cavour to visit the Piedmont Regional Winery, situated inside the Grinzane Cavour Castle, and taste some wines from Langa and Roero, in addition to some grappa and other local liqueurs. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Gattinara, Vercelli, the Monferrato Area, Acqui Terme

Departure for the lands of Nebbiolo, the lovely hills facing Monte Rosa. Here, visit the Regional Winery of Gattinara and the Terre del Nebbiolo. Enjoy a tour, a talk on the enogastronomic traditions of the region and sample the wines, accompanied by some local dishes and produce.

Leave for Vercelli and stop to visit the historical centre and some of the locals who produce typical sweets and cakes of the region. Departure for the Monferrato hills, stop at the Regional Winery of Acqui Terme to visit the ancient cellars with their collection of traditional tools and instruments. Introduction to the enogastronomic traditions of the region and a tasting of wines such as the Brachetto, Dolcetto and Barbera, accompanied by the local produce. Free time to visit the magnificent centre of Acqui Terme. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Asti, Mongiardino Ligure

Departure for Asti; see the city, visit the Barbero nougat museum and plant, with

a tasting of the chocolate sweets and nougats, then move on to visit some of the traditional workshops with their top quality local products such as the hazelnut pies made by Daniela and Giordanino's Polentina and Astigianini traditional cakes. Departure for Mongiardino Ligure and a break at the country farmhouse Valenostra to taste the Montebòre cheese and join in a cooking class dedicated to the Piedmontese agricultural tradition, followed by dinner. Presentation of the initiative: adopt a sheep. Transfer to the hotel in the Riviera.

Day 8) The Cinque Terre National Park, Monterosso, Manarola, Riomaggiore, Rapallo

Departure for Monterosso, for an amazing tour near cliffs sheer on the sea and wonderful landscapes that will lead participants to Riomaggiore. Arrival at Monterosso and a stroll through the enchanting centre of the tiny sea hamlet. Break at the Enoteca Internazionale winery for a tasting of the delicious Monterosso anchovies accompanied by local wines. Departure for Riomaggiore. The Holm oaks, Strawberry trees, Briar and Myrtle are left back, while olive groves and vineyards take their place on the terraces. Once in Riomaggiore, visit of the Cantine Cinque Terre winery for a wine tasting. Departure for Manarola. Visit the centre with its traditional pink houses. On the way back, stop in Rapallo, a wonderful little town, for a traditional dinner at the Ristorante U Giancu. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) The Gulf of Poets Portovenere, Lerici

Departure for Portovenere. Take a stroll in the fascinating centre, with its multi-coloured houses and medieval streets. Free time to visit the town and to explore the tiny traditional shops or to enjoy an ice cream at Bar Lamia. Lunch at the Antica Osteria del Carugio, a seafaring-styled restaurant that is more than 100 years old, with a menu of the traditional regional

cuisine prepared by Signora Maria. Departure for Lerici, along the scenic route bordering the sea; visit the colorful and lively centre and time free to wander round the craftsmen's workshops and the stalls selling fresh fish. Return to the hotel.

Day 10) Portofino, Camogli, Chiavari

Departure for Portofino; stroll at leisure near the elegant port and along the tiny streets. Departure for Camogli where, at the enchanting Trattoria La Cucina di Nonna Nina, the owners Paolo and Rosalia will serve a lunch with a menu that changes according to the season. After-

noon departure for Chiavari to visit the Enoteca Bisson winery with a tasting of the wines of the Sestri Levante hills vineyards. Return to the hotel.

Day 11) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 10 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 6 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 14 guided tastings of Piedmontese and Ligurian foods and wines
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy

- Travel in state-of the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





VENETO

VICENZA, CASTEGNERO, TORRI DEL QUARSETOLO, PADUA, VENICE, SANT'ERASMO ISLAND, VERONA, DOLOMITI BELLUNESI, MAROSTICA, BASSANO DEL GRAPPA, THE CANAL OF THE BRENTA RIVER, STRA, MIRA.

8 days | 7 nights

TOUR FEATURES

The tour will cover the heartland of the former Venetian Republic, a region that has one of the country's richest historical, natural, artistic, cultural, and culinary heritages. Veneto offers a wealth of sights and flavours to be treasured for a lifetime: gondolas that glide along canals, imposing Roman amphitheatres, majestic mountain ranges, ancient cathedrals but also lots of characteristic shops, delicious foods and excellent wines.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Berici Hills;
- the Vialone Nano Grumo rice;
- the Violet artichoke of St. Erasmo Island;
- the wines of the Montecchia di Crosara vineyards;
- the grappa and other spirits of Bassano del Grappa.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Vialone Nano Grumo rice was introduced to the area by Benedictine nuns and has been grown there since the 16th century. The nuns also organized the reclamation of local marshland and the building of canals, many of which are still in use. This rice variety has tiny kernels, and its exceptional quality can be attributed to the area's soil and water. It swells up considerably when cooked, and is very good at absorbing flavours.



The Sant'Erasmo violet artichoke is tender, meaty, elongated and thorny with purple bracts. Growers transport their crop to the Rialto and Tronchetto markets using boats called caorline. Eaten raw, the castrare (the first buds) are a real delicacy. They can also be dipped in batter and fried, or cooked in butter and served cold with lemon, often accompanied by schie, tiny lagoon shrimp.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious,



authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the “Osterie d’Italia” guide, small “trattorie” that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Antica Osteria al Bersagliere;
- Osteria Il Cannelletto;
- Osteria Al Portego;
- Al Pompiere;
- Da Conte;
- Trattoria del Borgo.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the traditional cheeses, cold cuts and local delicacies of Vicenza;
- the ice creams and pralines of the traditional pastry shops of Verona;
- the over 200 types of cheese and other specialities of the Marostica grocery;

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Vicenza**, with the Teatro Olimpico, the 14th century Basilica in Piazza dei Sig-

nori and the Corso Palladio, the famous architect that built the famous Villas and other buildings;

- **Padua**, home of St. Anthony’s church, the medieval Regional Palace and Giotto’s wonderful Scrovegni chapel;
- **Venice**, with its amazing canals full of traditional gondolas, St. Mark square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Rialto Bridge;
- **Verona**, with the imposing Roman amphitheatre (the Arena), the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo, the Scaligeri graves, and of course Juliet’s famous balcony;
- the wonderful landscapes of the towering **Dolomiti Bellunesi**;
- **Marostica**, the city of Chess, with its beautiful old town centre;
- **Bassano del Grappa**, with the Alpine bridge built by Palladio in the 16th century;
- **the Canal of the Brenta river** and the notable Pisani, Widmann, Sceriman, Malcontenta and Foscari old Venetian villas.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Venice, Verona or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Veneto. To follow, a traditional dinner in

hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Vicenza, Castegnero

Departure for Vicenza. Morning stroll around the city where Palladio lived and worked. After a visit to the Teatro Olimpico, the 14th century Basilica and a walk along the Corso Palladio, stop at Il Ceppo, a characteristic little shop filled with cheeses, cold cuts and local specialities. Lunch will consist of tasting and sampling the traditional local dishes at the Antica Osteria al Bersagliere, in the heart of the old town centre. Afternoon transfer to Castegnero, to visit the Frantoio Olive Barbarana oil mill and sample some extra-virgin olive oil. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Torri del Quaresetolo, Padua

Departure for Padua for a tour of the city. On the way there, stop off at Torri del Quaresetolo to visit Umberto Rossato’s rice fields where the Vialone Nano Grumo rice is produced. When we arrive in Padua, there will be a tour to include St Anthony’s church, the regional Palace, the oldest medieval building in Italy and the Scrovegni chapel. Stop at the market held in the Piazza delle Erbe e della Frutta where there will be a talk on the season’s fresh produce. Lunch will be held at the typical Osteria Il Cannelletto. Free time to stroll around the centre of town. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 4) Venice, Sant'Erasmus Island

Departure for Venice. Tour the city and visit: St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace and Rialto Bridge. Stroll through the little streets and alleyways among the little local shops and tour of the Ombre (a glass of wine accompanied by local molluscs, fried fish, cod and other typical fare) in some of the old eateries with a break for a light lunch at the Osteria Al Portego near Rialto Bridge. Transfer to the island of Sant'Erasmus, Venice's great vegetable garden, to visit the farm of Carlo and Claudio Finotello who grow vegetables and the purple artichoke of Sant'Erasmus for a brief presentation about the artichokes. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Verona

Departure for Verona. Visit the Arena amphitheatre, the Ponte di Pietra stone bridge, the Arco di Gavie arch, the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona city gates, and the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. Also see the Scaligeri graves, Castel Vecchio and Juliet's famous balcony. In San Zeno, visit the Pas-

sticciera Zeno Gelati e Cioccolato for an ice cream (with some unique flavours like the Valpolicella Marasche or the cream of Recioto wine) and their chocolate pralines which are made using Slow Food Presidia produce. Visit Piazza delle Erbe and the fruit and vegetables stalls there. For lunch, taste the traditional Veronese dishes at the Trattoria Al Pompiere. Free time to wander around the centre and tour dei Goti (traditional hosteries offering bread and lard with other typical snacks, accompanied by a glass of wine). Back to Montecchia di Crosara to see the Cà Rugate cellars and have a guided wine tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Dolomiti Bellunesi, Marostica, Bassano Del Grappa

Departure for the delightful city of Marostica, the city of Chess, walk around the old town centre and stop at the "La Casa Del Parmigiano" grocery that sells over 200 different types of cheese, olive oils, wines and top quality cold cuts. Continue through the foothills of the Belluno Dolomites to arrive at Bassano del Grappa, at the base of Mount Grappa, where the River Brenta

flows into the Po. Stroll across the Alpine bridge built by Palladio in the 16th century. Lunch will be served at the Trattoria del Borgo, which will consist of a simple menu made up of the local seasonal produce. This will be followed by a very interesting tour of the Grappa Museum in the historical Grapperia Poli where it will be possible to taste some grappa and other spirits. Free time. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) The Brenta canal, Stra, Mira, Venezia

Departure for a trip down the Brenta Canal from Padua to Venice, used by the rich and wealthy since the 16th century as a means of getting to their villas in Venice or Padua. The journey starts in Padua and finishes in Malcontenta, stopping along the way to visit some of the most notable old Venetian villas such as the Villa Pisani in Stra, and the Widmann villas in Mira. Dinner will be hosted at the Trattoria Da Conte and dedicated to local Venetian cuisine. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Departure

Free morning. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights in 4* charming hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 8 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 6 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Veneto region:
- 1 visit to the Padua Market including a lesson about the local produce
- 1 tour by boat on the Brenta Canal

- Water bus in Venice
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





VENETO & EMILIA ROMAGNA

VICENZA, CASTEGNERO, TORRI DEL QUARSETOLO, PADUA, VERONA, VENICE, SANT'ERASMO ISLAND, BOLOGNA, FERRARA, THE VALLEYS OF COMACCHIO IN THE DELTA OF THE RIVER PO PARK, MODENA, MARANELLO, DOZZA, FORLIMPOPOLI.

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

Discover the heartland of the former Venetian Republic, then move to visit the main places of interest of Emilia-Romagna, regions that have very rich historical, natural, artistic, cultural, and culinary heritages.

Veneto offers a wealth of sights to be treasured for a lifetime: gondolas that glide along canals, imposing Roman amphitheatres, majestic mountain ranges, ancient cathedrals and more; Emilia-Romagna is a treasure-trove of delightful towns of great artistic importance, cathedrals and ancient castles, renaissance arcades and galleries with masterpieces of art.

Both regions also offer lots of delicious foods and excellent wines, such as the Purple artichoke, the Prosciutto Crudo ham, the Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, the Culatello di Zibello, the traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena and many others.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Berici Hills;
- the Vialone Nano Grumo rice;
- the Violet artichoke of St. Erasmo Island;
- the wines of the Verona vineyards;
- the Prosciutto di Parma ham;
- the Parmigiano Reggiano cheese;
- the Modena traditional balsamic vinegar;
- the Comacchio's Marinated Eel.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Vialone Nano Grumo rice was introduced to the area by Benedictine nuns and has been grown there since the 16th century. This rice variety has tiny kernels, and its exceptional quality can be attrib-



uted to the area's soil and water. It swells up considerably when cooked, and is very good at absorbing flavours.

The Sant'Erasmo violet artichoke is tender, meaty, elongated and thorny with purple bracts. Eaten raw, the castrare (the first buds) are a real delicacy. They can also be dipped in batter and fried, or cooked in butter and served cold with lemon, often accompanied by schie, tiny lagoon shrimp.

The Modena traditional balsamic vinegar is hand-made from boiled grape must and then aged for a long period in wooden

kegs. It has a long history and it is used in various ways in cooking. It must not be confused with other balsamic vinegars without the word «traditional» in their name.

The Comacchio Marinated Eel. The preparation consists of four stages: cutting, spitting, cooking, and packing. Cutting consists of beheading the eel and dividing it into pieces. Spitting consists of piercing whole eels or the so-called Morelli (segments) with an iron spit. Cooking is the most important time of the process: controlling fire and spit influences the whole result. Packing includes weighing and pickling the cooked eel with vinegar and salt.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Antica Osteria al Bersagliere;
- Osteria Il Cannelletto;
- Osteria Al Portego;
- Al Pompiere.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the traditional cheeses, cold cuts and local delicacies of Vicenza;
- the ice creams and pralines of the traditional pastry shops of Verona;
- the Coppia Ferrarese hand-made bread of the old bakeries of Ferrara;
- the dishes of Casa Artusi international cooking school;
- the wines of the Enoteca Regionale dell'Emilia Romagna winery.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- **Vicenza**, with the Teatro Olimpico, the 14th century Basilica in Piazza dei Signori and the Corso Palladio, the famous architect that built the famous Villas and other buildings;
- **Padua**, home of St. Anthony's church, the medieval Regional Palace and the wonderful Scrovegni chapel;
- **Verona**, with the imposing Roman amphitheatre (the Arena), the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo, the Scaligeri graves, and of course Juliet's famous balcony;
- **Venice**, with its canals full of traditional Gondolas, St. Mark square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Rialto Bridge;
- **Bologna**, the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, the Piazza Maggiore and the Archiginnasio, the oldest university in Europe;
- **Ferrara**, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, former seat of the Este Dukedom, with the Castle, the Duomo cathedral and the Diamanti Palace;
- **Modena**, with the Piazza Grande and the Duomo, and Maranello, home of the Ferrari Museum and Galleria.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Venice, Verona or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Veneto. To follow, a traditional dinner in hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Vicenza, Castegnero

Departure for Vicenza. Morning stroll around the city where Palladio lived and

worked. After a visit to the Teatro Olimpico, the 14th century Basilica and a walk along the Corso Palladio, stop at Il Ceppo, a characteristic little shop filled with cheeses, cold cuts and local specialities. Lunch will consist of tasting and sampling the traditional local dishes at the Antica Osteria al Bersagliere, in the heart of the old town centre. Afternoon transfer to Castegnero, to visit the Frantoio Olive Barbarana oil mill and sample some extra-virgin olive oil. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Torri del Quaresetolo, Padua

Departure for Padua for a tour of the city. On the way there, stop off at Torri del Quaresetolo to visit Umberto Rossato's rice fields where the Vialone Nano Grumo rice is produced. When we arrive in Padua, there will be a tour to include St Anthony's church, the regional Palace, the oldest medieval building in Italy and the Scrovegni chapel. Stop at the market held in the Piazza delle Erbe e della Frutta where there will be a talk on the season's fresh produce. Lunch will be held at the typical Osteria Il Cannelletto. Free time to stroll around the centre of town. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 4) Verona

Departure for Verona. Visit the Arena amphitheatre, the Ponte di Pietra stone bridge, the Arco di Gavie arch, the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona city gates, and the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. Also see the Scaligeri graves, Castel Vecchio and Juliet's famous balcony. In San Zeno, visit the Pasticceria Zeno Gelati e Cioccolato for an ice cream (with some unique flavours like the Valpolicella Marasche or the cream of Recioto wine) and their chocolate pralines which are made using Slow Food Presidia produce. Visit Piazza delle Erbe and the fruit and vegetables stalls there. For lunch, taste the traditional Veronese dishes at the Trattoria Al Pompiere. Free time to wander around the centre and tour dei Goti (traditional hosterias offering bread and lard with other typical

snacks, accompanied by a glass of wine). Back to Montecchia di Crosara to see the Cà Rugate cellars and have a guided wine tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Venice, Sant'Erasmus Island

Departure for Venice. Tour the city and visit: St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace and Rialto Bridge. Stroll through the little streets and alleyways among the little local shops and tour of the Ombre (a glass of wine accompanied by local molluscs, fried fish, cod and other typical fare) in some of the old eateries with a break for a light lunch at the Osteria Al Portego near Rialto Bridge. Transfer to the island of Sant'Erasmus, Venice's great vegetable garden, to visit the farm of Carlo and Claudio Finotello who grow vegetables and the purple artichoke of Sant'Erasmus for a brief presentation about the artichokes. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Bologna

Departure for Bologna. Visit the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, stopping off at the Piazza Maggiore, the Archiginnasio and guided visit of the Mercato del Quadrilatero market, the ancient square where vegetables, fruit and ancient shops selling cheeses and cold cuts such as the Mortadella Bolog-

nese can be found. Free time. In the afternoon move to the typical Cantina Ben-tivoglio winery in the heart of the town, where a cooking lesson will be dedicated to traditional Bolognese dishes (including the famous tortellino) followed by dinner comprising all the local produce and tasting of a selection of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Ferrara, the valleys of Comacchio in the Delta of the river Po Park

Departure for Ferrara, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, that offers quaint views of the elegant palaces of the Duke of Este. Stroll through the centre and visit the Castle, the Duomo Cathedral and the Diamanti Palace. Free time. A short trip to visit to the oldest bakery, the Panificio Perdonati, to try the Coppia Ferrarese, a hand-made oil-based bread which boasts ancient origins. Transfer to the Manifattura Marinati marinating factory in the Comacchio Valley, located within the river Po Delta Park for a visit and a talk on the techniques used for catching and preparing the Comacchio's Marinated Eel. This will be followed by a cooking class of typical Ferrara dishes (tortelli filled with pumpkin and other stuffed pastas) and then dinner based on the dishes that have been prepared. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Modena, Maranello

Departure for Modena, stroll through the old town centre stopping at the Piazza Grande and the Duomo. Free time to wander around and try out the products in the local shops. Transfer to Maranello to visit the Museum and the Galleria Ferrari. On the way back to the hotel, stop off at Castelvetro di Modena for a visit of the Opera 02 vinegar factory to sample the various ageing balsamic vinegars. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Dozza, Forlimpopoli

Departure for Dozza, visit the historical town centre and the Castle where the Emilia Romagna Regional Winery is located. There will be a tasting and a talk on some of the excellent wines and grapes in Emilia Romagna given by some expert sommeliers. Departure for Forlimpopoli to visit La Rocca and the Casa Artusi International Centre of Cuisine where there will be a tasting and a talk on the Emilia Romagna cuisine. A cooking class will be dedicated exclusively to the Romagnola Piadina and then there will be a traditional dinner hosted by the Casa Artusi restaurant. Return to the hotel.

Day 10) Departure

Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 8 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 8 guided tastings of foods and wines
- 1 visit to the Casa Artusi International Centre of Cuisine and an introduction to Emilia Romagna cuisine

- 1 lesson on the fruits and vegetables in season at the Padua market
- 1 visit to the Market in Bologna, including a lesson about the local produce at the market
- 3 cooking lessons dedicated to specific local cuisines and/or recipes
- entrance fee:
 - Ferrari Gallery, Maranello
- Water bus in Venice
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-

coaches

- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





EMILIA ROMAGNA

PARMA, THE PARMENSE HILLS, LANGHIRANO, FERRARA, THE VALLEYS OF COMACCHIO IN THE DELTA OF THE RIVER PO PARK, REGGIO EMILIA, POLESINE PARMENSE, MODENA, MARANELLO, DOZZA, FORLIMPOPOLI, BOLOGNA, RAVENNA, CERVIA.

9 days | 8 nights

TOUR FEATURES

The Emilia Romagna region takes its name from the Aemilian Way, the road that was built by the Romans to connect Rome to northern Italy; during the Middle Ages trade, culture and religion flourished thanks to the region's monasteries and the University of Bologna - the oldest in Europe; in the renaissance, it became the seat for refined seigniories such as the House of Este of Ferrara. Emilia Romagna is a treasure-trove of delightful towns of great artistic importance, cathedrals and ancient castles, renaissance arcades and galleries with masterpieces by Raphael and Guido Reni; it is also famous for many delicacies such as the "Prosciutto Crudo" ham, the Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, the Culatello di Zibello, the Balsamic Vinegar of Modena and many other traditional delicacies.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the Parmigiano Reggiano cheese;
- the Culatello di Zibello cold cut;
- the Comacchio's Marinated Eel;
- the Modena traditional balsamic vinegar;
- the sweet salt of the Saline di Cervia saltworks.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Zibello Culatello is one of Italy's noblest cured meats, due to its long and delicate processing and the use of one of the most prized cuts of pork: the boned "nut"



of the thigh. The Presidium brings together a handful of producers who are still making Culatello using strictly traditional methods, aging it for at least 18 months without refrigeration in natural environments like ancient cellars along the Po River near Parma.

The Modena traditional balsamic vinegar is hand-made from boiled grape must and then aged for a long period in wooden kegs. It has a long history and it is used in various ways in cooking. It must not be confused with other balsamic vinegars without the word «traditional» in their name.



The Comacchio Marinated Eel. The preparation consists of four stages: cutting, spitting, cooking, and packing. Cutting consists of beheading the eel and dividing it into pieces. Spitting consists of piercing whole eels or the so-called Morelli (segments) with an iron spit. Cooking is the most important time of the process: controlling fire and spit influences the whole result. Packing includes weighing and pickling the cooked eel with vinegar and salt.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the Coppia Ferrarese hand-made bread of Ferrara;
- the dishes of Casa Artusi international cooking school;
- the famous cold cuts of Langhirano;
- the traditional Erbazzone (savory vegetable pie) of Reggio Emilia;
- the wines of the Enoteca Regionale dell'Emilia Romagna winery.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natu-

ral landscapes of the region:

- **Parma**, with the vast Farnese Palace that houses an art gallery, the renaissance theatre, the splendid Romanesque cathedral and the octagonal baptistery;
- **Ferrara**, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, former seat of the Este Dukedom, with the Castle, the Duomo cathedral and the Diamanti Palace;
- the **Delta of the river Po Park**, among the typical "Casoni" (fishing houses), the ponds crowded with herons and other aquatic birds and the old fishing boats;
- **Reggio Emilia**, the old city centre that has an hexagonal form, the wonderful palaces from the 16th-17th centuries and St. Prospero Basilica;
- **Modena**, with the Piazza Grande and the Duomo, and Maranello, home of the Ferrari Museum and Galleria;
- **Dozza and Forlimpopoli**, with their historical town centres and the ancient castles;
- **Bologna**, the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, the Piazza Maggiore and the Archiginnasio, the oldest university in Europe;
- **Ravenna**, The last capital of the western Roman Empire, with the world's most glorious concentration of Early Christian and Byzantine mosaics;
- **Cervia**, with the ancient saltworks, the Salt Museum and the Cathedral.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at the airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel in Bologna. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Emilia-Romagna. To follow, a traditional dinner in hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Parma, the Parmense hills, Langhirano

Departure for Parma. Stroll around the old centre of the city where there will be a guided tour of its main historical and religious buildings. Free time to visit the traditional workshops and try the local delicacies, with a visit to the del Gallo coffee roasting plant to taste one of the best coffees in town. In the afternoon, head for the Parmense hills to visit the Torrechiara Castle. Departure for Langhirano to visit the old town centre and stop at the La Perla cold-cuts factory where a tasting will be followed by a light dinner. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Ferrara, the valleys of Comacchio in the Delta of the river Po Park

Departure for Ferrara, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, that offers quaint views of the elegant palaces of the Duke of Este. Stroll through the centre

and visit the Castle, the Duomo Cathedral and the Diamanti Palace. Free time. A short trip to visit to the oldest bakery, the Panificio Perdonati, to try the Coppia Ferrarese, a hand-made oil-based bread which boasts ancient origins. Transfer to the Manifattura Marinati marinating factory in the Comacchio Valley, located within the river Po Delta Park for a visit and a talk on the techniques used for catching and preparing the Comacchio's Marinated Eel. This will be followed by a cooking class of typical Ferrara dishes (tortelli filled with pumpkin and other stuffed pastas) and then dinner based on the dishes that have been prepared. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Reggio Emilia, Polesine Parmense

Departure for Reggio Emilia, visit the city with its ancient buildings and monuments. Stop at one of the oldest bakeries in the city - Il Forno del Gattaglio - which is found in the busy Gattaglio area. Here, sample the traditional fare such as Gnocco al forno, Ragnetti and Erbazzone. Transfer to Polesine Parmense, in the so-called "lands of Verdi", in honour of the famous Italian composer, to visit the Antica Corte Pallavicina. Visit the ancient cellars where the Pallavicino Marquises aged the famous Culatello di Zibello cold cuts before sending them to one of the most important noble families of ancient times: the Sforza of Milan. Guided tasting of the Culatello and other typical products

accompanied by Fortana wine, followed by dinner. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Modena, Maranello

Departure for Modena, stroll through the old town centre stopping at the Piazza Grande and the Duomo. Free time to wander around and try out the products in the local shops. Transfer to Maranello to visit the Museum and the Galleria Ferrari. On the way back to the hotel, stop off at Castelvetro di Modena for a visit of the Opera 02 vinegar factory to sample the various ageing balsamic vinegars. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Dozza, Forlimpopoli

Departure for Dozza, visit the historical town centre and the Castle where the Emilia Romagna Regional Winery is located. There will be a tasting and a talk on some of the excellent wines and grapes in Emilia Romagna given by some expert sommeliers. Departure for Forlimpopoli to visit La Rocca and the Casa Artusi International Centre of Cuisine where there will be a tasting and a talk on the Emilia Romagna cuisine. A cooking class will be dedicated exclusively to the Romagna Piadina and then there will be a traditional dinner hosted by the Casa Artusi restaurant. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Bologna

Departure for Bologna. Visit the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, stopping off at the Piazza Maggiore, the

Archiginnasio and guided visit of the Mercato del Quadrilatero market, the ancient square where vegetables, fruit and ancient shops selling cheeses and cold cuts such as the Mortadella Bolognese can be found. Free time. In the afternoon move to the typical Cantina Bentivoglio winery in the heart of the town, where a cooking lesson will be dedicated to traditional Bolognese dishes (including the famous tortellino) followed by dinner comprising all the local produce and tasting of a selection of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Ravenna, Cervia

Departure for Ravenna and day dedicated to the magical city and the discovery of its amazing mosaics. A guided tour of the main historical and ecclesiastical buildings. Some free time to wander around the ancient town centre. Afternoon transfer to Cervia to visit the ancient Roman salt mines, the historical site where the "sweet" salt is produced. The unique characteristics of this salt allow it to be eaten even with chocolate! Today around 30 or so men still gather the salt by hand. Visit the Salina di Cervia, the river Po Delta regional park, and sample the sweet salt, then visit the Salt Museum of the Civiltà Salinara located in a wing of the characteristic 16th century Salt Warehouse. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Departure

Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights in 4* charming hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 4 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 8 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Emilia-Romagna region

- 1 visit to the Casa Artusi International Centre of Cuisine and an introduction to Emilia Romagna cuisine
- 1 visit to the Slow Food Earth Market including a lesson about the local produce
- 3 cooking lessons dedicated to specific local cuisines and/or recipes
- entrance fee to the Ferrari Gallery in Maranello
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy

- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges



TUSCANY

LUCCA, CAPANNORI, SORANA, CARMIGNANO, PISA, BOLGHERI, CASTAGNETO CARDUCCI, FLORENCE, SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI, TREGOLE DI CASTELLINA, RADDA IN CHIANTI, GREVE IN CHIANTI, MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA, MONTEVARCHI, MONTALCINO.

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to explore a region of sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, charming old cities, masterpieces of art and gourmandise: visit the magnificent Florence, the “Cradle of the renaissance”, Pisa with its amazing Leaning Tower, medieval Lucca, Siena, famous for the Palio horse race, the Chianti area, Montepulciano and Montalcino, known all over the world for their prestigious wines, San Gimignano with its tall towers; learn to shop for fresh produce and then prepare traditional local dishes, visit wineries and cellars, sample excellent wines, rare cold cuts, Pecorino cheese and olive oil, shop for delicacies in the many food shops.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of “extinction” - and other local delicacies from recommended

quality producers, such as:

- the Garfagnana Biroldo (blood sausage);
- the Orbetello Bottarga (fish eggs);
- the Sorana beans;
- the Carmignano dried figs;
- the Certaldo onion;
- the ice creams at ancient ice cream parlour in Florence;
- the Pienza Pecorino cheese;
- the typical products of the Mercatale di Montevarchi market town.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Garfagnana Biroldo is an old-fashioned blood sausage made from boiled and deboned pig’s head and blood, seasoned with wild fennel, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, star anise and sometimes garlic. Garfagnana Biroldo is soft and balanced on the palate, the blood and spices not dominating the lean head meat but offering delicate, lingering aromas.

The Orbetello Bottarga. The art of pre-



paring fish was probably introduced by the Spanish, who smoked eels and dressed fish as early as the 16th century. Bottarga (from the Arabic botarikh, meaning “salted fish roe”) has always been produced here, from the roe of the gray mullet. Amber in color and very tender, it is excellent sliced thinly with a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil and lemon.

The Carmignano dried figs. The figs are split open and laid out on cane mats, steamed with sulfur and then dried directly in the sun for four or five days. After resting for a month in a cool, dry place (during which time a sugary coating

forms on the skin), the figs are layered in figure-eight-shapes. Aniseeds are placed between each pair of figs. The figs are eaten either as an accompaniment to Prato mortadella or as a dessert with Vin Santo wine.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Osteria i Diavoletti;
- Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino;
- Osteria dell'Acquacheta.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the Nobile di Montepulciano and other wines of the Montepulciano vineyards;
- the Brunello and other wines of the Montalcino vineyards;
- the wines of the Bolgheri vineyards;
- the aromatic herbs of the Chianti area.

POINTS OF INTEREST: ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Lucca**, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Italy, with its wonderful churches, museums and noble palaces, the birthplace of the composer Puccini;
- **Pisa**, with the wonderful Piazza dei Miracoli square and the amazing leaning tower;
- **Florence**, the cradle of the Italian renaissance, with the masterpieces of

the Uffizi Gallery, the Santa Croce church, the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, the Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio bridge;

- **Siena**, where the famous Palio race is run in the ancient Piazza del Palio square;
- **San Gimignano**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its wonderful medieval towers;
- **the Chianti area**, with its wonderful hills and vineyards, where some of the best Italian wines are produced;
- **Montepulciano**, one of the most characteristic and intact medieval cities in Italy;
- **Pienza**, the perfect example of a renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese;
- **Montalcino**, a beautiful art city which is famous for its Brunello, one of the best red wines of the world.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Florence, Pisa, Bologna or Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Tuscany. To follow, a traditional dinner in hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Lucca, Capannori, Sorana, Carmignano

Departure for Lucca. A guided tour of the beautiful town centre, with its wonderful churches and palaces, including a visit to Puccini's birthplace. Free time to stroll around the little streets and buy some of the local crafts and goods. Transfer to Capannori, where lunch will be served in the Osteria "I Diavoletti" where you will sample the Biroldo della Garfagnana and the Orbetello Bottarga, accompanied by local wines. Transfer towards the Pescaia river, passing through the wonderful hills with olives trees and century old vine-

yards of the Pistoia area. Stop to sample Sorana beans and the pecorino cheese produced by the Enrico Gaggini farm.

On the way back, stop at Carmignano to learn about the local wines and the delicious dried figs, with a tasting at the Rigoccioli farm that produces fruit, vegetables, jams and preserves, wines and olive oil. Visit the Carmignano Grape & Wine Museum and discover the excellence of Montalbano wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Pisa, Bolgheri, Castagneto Carducci

Departure for Pisa. A stroll through the centre and a visit to the Piazza dei Miracoli and the famous Leaning Tower. A visit to the De Bondt chocolate store where tea, ginger and even chilli-flavoured chocolates are on offer. Transfer to Bolgheri: some of the world's best wines are made here. Visit the Le Macchiole cellars, spanning over 22 hectares of vines and cultivating some rather innovative varieties, for a guided wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Florence

Departure for Florence. Walk through the centre and visit the Santa Croce church, the "Pantheon of Italian Glories" where illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, and the Piazza della Signoria square. Break at one of the oldest ice cream parlours, "Perché no!", that offers dozens different flavours and a precise selection of raw materials (including pistachios from Bronte, saffron and cardamom). There will be a short talk on how the ice cream is made with some small samples. Free afternoon to stroll along the elegant streets, visit the Uffizi Gallery or shop at the leather market, then traditional dinner at Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino. Transfer to the hotel in the Chianti hills.

Day 5) Siena, San Gimignano

Departure for Siena. Guided tour of the

city, including the Museum of the Contrade (each horse in the famous "Palio", runs for a different "Contrada"). Sample some delicious traditional desserts like the Panforte at one of the best pastry shops. Free time before departing for San Gimignano. On the way to San Gimignano, lunch with some of the local produce such as the Certaldo onion, the saffron from San Gimignano and the organic extra-virgin olive oil at the family-run farmhouse Il Castagnolino. Visit and hear about the techniques used in producing olive oil. In the afternoon visit the famous towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum: multimedia exhibits, street scenes and a recreation of the city as it was back in 1300. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Castellina in Chianti, Tregole di Castellina, Radda in Chianti, Greve in Chianti

Entire day given over to discovering the Chianti hills along the Via Chiantigena (an ancient road connecting Siena with Florence crossing over the hills of Chianti). Stop off at Castellina in Chianti and Tregole di Castellina in Chianti for a talk on aromatic herbs harvested and dried following the ancient techniques of Duccio Fontani. Head off for Radda and visit to

the Porciatti grocery in the old town centre where local salami and other delicacies including Slow Food products can be purchased. Set off for the wonderful city of Greve, to visit the historical town centre and then head for the Podere Le Fornaci where there will be some sampling of organic cheeses (including baby goats cheese and fresh ricotta). Back to the hotel.

Day 7) Montepulciano, Pienza

Departure for Montepulciano, one of the most characteristic medieval cities in Italy, which offers amazing views over the surrounding hillsides. Visit the Contucci winery for a tasting, then explore the wonderful town centre and have lunch at the old Osteria dell'Acquacheta, with its rustic atmosphere. Here, sample some of Tuscany's best recipes. In the afternoon, head for Pienza, a perfect renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino dairy farm, learn about the cheese-making process and sample the fare. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 8) Montevarchi

Departure for Montevarchi, for centuries the "Mercatale" (market town) for this

part of the region and one of the most important towns in Tuscany.

A meeting place for traders, "dealers" in animals and cereals, farmers and small producers, a place to sell their goods: free range chickens, vegetables, rabbits, artichokes, oil and chestnuts. The morning will be dedicated to buying the local produce with the assistance of a guide. In the afternoon there will be a cookery class dedicated to typical Tuscan recipes, followed by dinner together with the chef. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Montalcino

Departure for Montalcino, a beautiful art city which, from upon high dominates 3,000 hectares of vineyards, famous for one of the best red wines in the world: the Brunello.

A visit to the La Fortezza winery, in the tower of the ancient fortress, that sells wine but also some exceptional honey, a local speciality. Free time. A visit to the Fattoria dei Barbi cellars for wine tasting and a guided tour. Return to the hotel.

Day 10) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

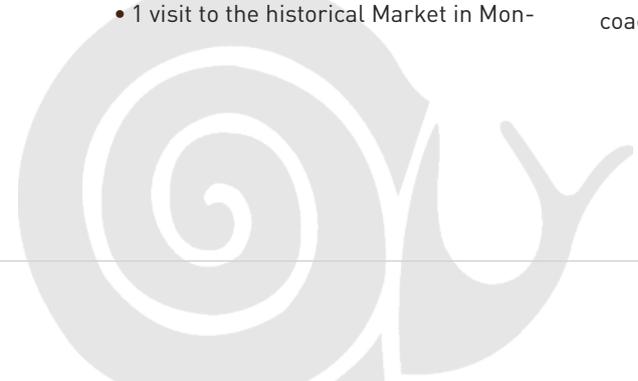
INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights in 4* charming hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 5 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 10 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Tuscany region
- 1 visit to the historical Market in Mon-

tevarchi including a lesson about the local produce

- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to Tuscany cuisine
- Entrance fees to:
 - Museo della Vite, Carmignano
 - church of Santa Croce, Florence
 - Contrade Museum, Siena
 - 1300 Museum, San Gimignano
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches

- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





TUSCANY & UMBRIA

LUCCA, CAPANNORI, SORANA, CARMIGNANO, PISA, BOLGHERI, CASTAGNETO CARDUCCI, FLORENCE, SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI, TREGOLE DI CASTELLINA, RADDA IN CHIANTI, GREVE IN CHIANTI, MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA, MONTALCINO, MONTEVARCHI, PERUGIA, CITTÀ DI CASTELLO, ORVIETO, TODI, ASSISI, BEVAGNA, MONTEFALCO.

13 days | 12 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to explore Tuscany, a region of sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, charming old cities, masterpieces of art and gourmandise, and Umbria, the so-called "Green Heart of Italy", a region not only with a lush nature but also full of ancient towns with cobblestone streets, stunning cathedrals and old fortresses, a land also rich of tasty foods and good wines. Visit medieval Lucca, magnificent Florence, Pisa with its amazing Leaning Tower, Siena, famous for the Palio horse race, San Gimignano with its tall towers, the Chianti area, Montepulciano and Montalcino, known all over the world for their prestigious wines, Perugia with its Etruscan walls, 16th century palaces and chocolate factories, Orvieto - whose cathedral is a gothic masterpiece - and Todi, follow the tracks of St. Francis in As-

sis. Learn to shop for fresh produce and then prepare traditional local dishes, visit wineries and cellars, sample excellent wines, rare cold cuts, Pecorino cheese and olive oil, shop for delicacies in the many food shops.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the Garfagnana Biroldo (blood sausage);
- the Orbetello Bottarga (fish eggs);
- the Sorana beans;
- the Carmignano dried figs;
- the Certaldo onion;



- the ice creams at ancient ice cream parlour in Florence;
- the typical local products of the Mercatale di Montevarchi market town
- the Mazzafegato sausage;
- the baby Pecorino cheese;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Montefalco area.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Garfagnana Biroldo is an old-fashioned blood sausage made from boiled and deboned pig's head and blood, seasoned with wild fennel, nutmeg, cloves,



cinnamon, star anise and sometimes garlic. Garfagnana Biroldo is soft and balanced on the palate, the blood and spices not dominating the lean head meat but offering delicate, lingering aromas.

The Orbetello Bottarga. The art of preserving fish was probably introduced by the Spanish, who smoked eels and dressed fish as early as the 16th century. Bottarga (from the Arabic botarikh, meaning "salted fish roe") has always been produced here, from the roe of the gray mullet. Amber in color and very tender, it is excellent sliced thinly with a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil and lemon.

The Carmignano dried figs. The figs are split open and laid out on cane mats, steamed with sulfur and then dried directly in the sun for four or five days. After resting for a month in a cool, dry place (during which time a sugary coating forms on the skin), the figs are layered in figure-eight-shapes. Aniseeds are placed between each pair of figs. The figs are eaten either as an accompaniment to Prato mortadella or as a dessert with Vin Santo wine.

The Mazzafegato sausage is made from the leftovers of a pig after preparing other cured meats. The meat is coarsely minced and cured with salt, pepper, garlic, lemon and/or orange peel and fennel

flowers. It was born out of the necessity to make full use of the entire slaughtered pig, but thanks to the ability of skilled butchers, who have made a virtue out of it, a product was born that is appreciated by connoisseurs.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Osteria i Diavoletti;
- Osteria dell'Acquacheta;
- Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino;
- Osteria La Lumera.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the Nobile di Montepulciano and other wines of the Montepulciano vineyards;
- the Brunello and other wines of the Montalcino vineyards;
- the wines of the Bolgheri vineyards;
- the aromatic herbs of the Chianti area;
- the famous Sagrantino wine;
- the wines and local fare of the Palazzo

del Gusto, Enoteca Regionale dell'Umbria winery;

- the Baci and other chocolate pralines at the Perugina Chocolate Museum;
- the salami and other cold cut specialities of Orvieto;
- the typical traditional cakes and pastries of Perugia.

POINTS OF INTEREST: ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- **Lucca**, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Italy, with its wonderful churches, museums and noble palaces, the birthplace of the composer Puccini;
- **Pisa**, with the wonderful Piazza dei Miracoli square and the amazing leaning tower;
- **Florence**, the cradle of the Italian renaissance, with the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery, the Santa Croce church, the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, the Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio bridge;
- **Siena**, where the famous Palio race is run in the ancient Piazza del Palio square;
- **San Gimignano**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its wonderful

- medieval towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum;
- **Perugia**, perched on a hill, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful ancient towns in Italy;
 - **Orvieto**, situated on top of a rock offering the most splendid of views, with the wonderful the gothic cathedral;
 - **Todi**, yet another splendid medieval little town full of ancient buildings and tiny streets;
 - **Assisi**, a spiritual place home of the Basilica of St. Francis.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Florence or Rome airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Tuscany. To follow, a traditional dinner in hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Lucca, Capannori, Sorana, Carmignano

Departure for Lucca. A guided tour of the beautiful town centre, with its wonderful churches and palaces, including a visit to Puccini's birthplace. Free time to stroll around the little streets and buy some of the local crafts and goods. Transfer to Capannori, where lunch will be served in the Osteria "I Diavoletti" where you will sample the Biroldo della Garfagnana and the Orbetello Bottarga, accompanied by local wines. Transfer towards the Pescia river, passing through the wonderful hills with olives trees and century old vineyards of the Pistoia area. Stop to sample Sorana beans and the pecorino cheese produced by the Enrico Gaggini farm. On the way back, stop at Carmignano to learn about the local wines and the delicious dried figs, with a tasting at the Rigoccioli farm that produces fruit, vegetables, jams and preserves, wines and olive oil. Visit the Carmignano Grape &

Wine Museum and discover the excellence of Montalbano wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Pisa, Bolgheri, Castagneto Carducci

Departure for Pisa. A stroll through the centre and a visit to the Piazza dei Miracoli and the famous Leaning Tower. A visit to the De Bondt chocolate store where tea, ginger and even chilli-flavoured chocolates are on offer. Transfer to Bolgheri: some of the world's best wines are made here. Visit the Le Macchiole cellars, spanning over 22 hectares of vines and cultivating some rather innovative varieties, for a guided wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Florence

Departure for Florence. Walk through the centre and visit the Santa Croce church, the "Pantheon of Italian Glories" where illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, and the Piazza della Signoria square. Break at one of the oldest ice cream parlours, "Perché no!", that offers dozens different flavours and a precise selection of raw materials (including pistachios from Bronte, saffron and cardamom). There will be a short talk on how the ice cream is made with some small samples. Free afternoon to stroll along the elegant streets, visit the Uffizi Gallery or shop at the leather market, then traditional dinner at Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino. Transfer to the hotel in the Chianti hills.

Day 5) Siena, San Gimignano

Departure for Siena. Guided tour of the city, including the Museum of the Contrade (each horse in the famous "Palio", runs for a different "Contrada"). Sample some delicious traditional desserts like the Panforte at one of the best pastry shops. Free time before departing for San Gimignano. On the way to San Gimignano, lunch with some of the local

produce such as the Certaldo onion, the saffron from San Gimignano and the organic extra-virgin olive oil at the family-run farmhouse Il Castagnolino. Visit and hear about the techniques used in producing olive oil. In the afternoon visit the famous towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum: multi-media exhibits, street scenes and a recreation of the city as it was back in 1300. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Castellina in Chianti, Tregole di Castellina, Radda in Chianti, Greve in Chianti

Entire day given over to discovering the Chianti hills along the Via Chiantigena (an ancient road connecting Siena with Florence crossing over the hills of Chianti). Stop off at Castellina in Chianti and Tregole di Castellina in Chianti for a talk on aromatic herbs harvested and dried following the ancient techniques of Duccio Fontani. Head off for Radda and visit to the Porciatti grocery in the old town centre where local salami and other delicacies including Slow Food products can be purchased. Set off for the wonderful city of Greve, to visit the historical town centre and then head for the Podere Le Fornaci where there will be some sampling of organic cheeses (including baby goats cheese and fresh ricotta). Back to the hotel.

Day 7) Montepulciano, Pienza

Departure for Montepulciano, one of the most characteristic medieval cities in Italy, which offers amazing views over the surrounding hillsides. Visit the Contucci winery for a tasting, then explore the wonderful town centre and have lunch at the old Osteria dell'Acquacheta, with its rustic atmosphere. Here, sample some of Tuscany's best recipes. In the afternoon, head for Pienza, a perfect renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino dairy farm, learn about the cheese-making process and sample the fare. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 8) Montalcino

Departure for Montalcino, a beautiful art city which, from upon high dominates 3,000 hectares of vineyards, famous for one of the best red wines in the world: the Brunello. A visit to the La Fortezza winery, in the tower of the ancient fortress, that sells wine but also some exceptional honey, a local speciality. Free time. A visit to the Fattoria dei Barbi cellars for wine tasting and a guided tour. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Montevarchi, Perugia

Departure for Montevarchi, for centuries the "Mercatale" (market town) for this part of the region and one of the most important towns in Tuscany. A meeting place for traders, "dealers" in animals and cereals, farmers and small producers, a place to sell their goods: free range chickens, vegetables, rabbits, artichokes, oil and chestnuts. The morning will be dedicated to buying the local produce with the assistance of a guide. In the afternoon there will be a cookery class dedicated to typical Tuscan recipes, followed by dinner together with the chef. Overnight in Perugia.

Day 10) Perugia, Città di Castello

Departure for Perugia, undoubtedly one

of the most beautiful towns in Italy. A visit to the Perugia chocolate museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. Stop off at the historical Sandri pastry shop and the Bottega delle Erbe Aromatiche with over 6,000 different herbs. Afternoon departure for Città di Castello, in the Tiber valley; a tour of the city and the Fratelli Giulietti Salumificio where you may sample the local cold cuts including the Mazzafegati. Visit to the Girasole, a classic grocery shop specialising in salami, cheese and local cakes. Back to Perugia and dinner with the dishes of the traditional Umbrian cuisine at the Osteria La Lumera. Return to the hotel.

Day 11) Orvieto, Todi

Departure for Orvieto, situated on top of a rock. Tour of the city, including the gothic cathedral and a visit to the Palazzo del Gusto winery for a guided tour and a tasting of Umbrian wines accompanied by some local fare. Before heading off, enjoy a short visit to the Adriano pastry shop to try the best of Orvieto's typical cakes, including chocolates made with chillies and saffron. An afternoon visit to Todi, a splendid medieval town, to wander around and discover the old craftshops,

including the Fraolini butchery that produces traditional salamis and roast pork with oven-baked breads. A visit to the Montecristo dairy farm in Pian di Porto to sample the baby Pecorino cheeses made with fresh milk. Return to the hotel.

Day 12) Assisi, Bevagna, Montefalco

Departure for Assisi; guided tour including the Basilica of St Francis and a quick stop off at the Fratelli Sensi bakery which offers home produced Umbrian specialities. Continue on to Bevagna, a medieval town that has held on to its history. Free time. On to Montefalco, another splendid town offering spectacular views over the hills. Visit the city and taste the famous Sagrantino wine. Move to the ancient olive groves belonging to the Romanelli family to discover the different plant varieties and the techniques used in the production of the extra-virgin olive oil, along with a tasting. A break at the Azienda Rosati, to buy the locally produced cold cuts including Capocollo, dried sausages and salami, as well as traditional cakes. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 13) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Rome airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 6 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 10 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Tuscany and Umbria regions

- 1 visit to the historical Market in Montevarchi including a lesson about the local produce
- Entrance fees to:
 - Museo della Vite, Carmignano
 - church of Santa Croce, Florence
 - Contrade Museum, Siena
 - 1300 Museum, San Gimignano
 - Chocolate Museum, Perugia
 - Duomo Cathedral, Orvieto
- Funicolare (cable car), Orvieto

- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





UMBRIA

ORVIETO, TODI, ASSISI, BEVAGNA, MONTEFALCO, PERUGIA, CITTÀ DI CASTELLO, SPOLETO, SOLOMEO, LAKE TRASIMENO, CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO, UMBERTIDE, GUBBIO

8 days | 7 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover Umbria, the so-called “Green Heart of Italy”, a region not only with a lush nature but also full of ancient towns with cobblestone streets, stunning cathedrals and old fortresses, a place rich of tasty foods and good wines; starting point of the tour is Orvieto - whose cathedral is a gothic masterpiece - and Todi, then it follows the tracks of St. Francis in Assisi, moves to Perugia with its Etruscan walls, 16th century palaces and chocolate factories, Spoleto, where the “Festival of the Two Worlds” is held, touches the shores of the Trasimeno Lake, and much more.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia

products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of “extinction” - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the baby Pecorino cheese;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Montefalco area;
- the Mazzafegato sausage;
- the natural yeast breads of the villages near Spoleto;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Spoleto area;
- the fresh produce of the Umbertide Slow Food Earth Market.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Lake Trasimeno Bean is tiny, about the size of a grain of rice. Soft, buttery and flavourful, the dried beans are eaten



boiled and seasoned with a little extra-virgin olive oil. The fresh beans (cornetti) are sautéed with tomatoes and garlic. Cultivated on the terraces around Lake Trasimeno, they were popular until the 1950s, but have nearly disappeared since then.

The Mazzafegato sausage is made from the leftovers of a pig after preparing other cured meats. The meat is coarsely minced and cured with salt, pepper, garlic, lemon and/or orange peel and fennel flowers. It was born out of the necessity to make full use of the entire slaughtered pig, but thanks to the ability of skilled



butchers, who have made a virtue out of it, a product was born that is appreciated by connoisseurs.

The Sagrantino di Montefalco wine is named after the grape from which it is made. Cultivated for centuries in Umbria, Sagrantino vine is considered autochthonous, although there are various theories as to its origin. Some believe it to have come from Spain, others say it was imported by the first Franciscan friars, and others claim that it was brought into Italy by the Saracens. The Sagrantino needs to be aged at least 30 months, of which at least 12 months in wooden casks.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Trattoria l'Acquario;
- Osteria La Lumera;
- Trattoria Nonna Gelsa.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce mar-

kets and more, such as:

- the famous Sagrantino wine;
- the wines and local fare of the Palazzo del Gusto, Enoteca Regionale dell'Umbria winery;
- the Baci and other chocolate pralines at the Perugia Chocolate Museum;
- the salami and other cold cut specialties of Orvieto;
- the typical traditional cakes and pastries of Perugia.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Orvieto**, situated on top of a rock offering the most splendid of views, with the wonderful the gothic cathedral;
- **Todi**, yet another splendid medieval little town full of ancient buildings and tiny streets;
- **Assisi**, a spiritual place home of the Basilica of St. Francis;
- **Perugia**, perched on a hill, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful ancient towns in Italy;
- **Spoleto**, a veritable jewel, full of ancient churches and buildings, where the famous Festival dei Due Mondi is held every year;
- **Gubbio**, the medieval little town built on

the side of Mount Ingino, with the monumental basilica that preserves the incorrupt body of St. Ubaldo, patron saint of the town;

- **Lake Trasimeno**, one of Italy's largest lakes and the characteristic towns and villages around it, such as Magione, Castiglione del Lago and Passignano.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome drink and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities and the products of Umbria. To follow, a traditional dinner in hotel with some excellent regional produce, including Slow Food Presidia.

Day 2) Orvieto, Todi

Departure for Orvieto, situated on top of a rock. Tour of the city, including the gothic cathedral and a visit to the Palazzo del Gusto winery for a guided tour and a tasting of Umbrian wines accompanied by some local fare. Before heading off, enjoy a short visit to the Adriano pastry shop to try the best of Orvieto's typical cakes, including chocolates made with chillies and saffron. An afternoon visit to Todi, a splendid medieval town, to wander around and discover the old craftshops, including the Fraolini butchery that

produces traditional salamis and roast pork with oven-baked breads. A visit to the Montecristo dairy farm in Pian di Porto to sample the baby Pecorino cheeses made with fresh milk. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Assisi, Bevagna, Montefalco

Departure for Assisi; guided tour including the Basilica of St Francis and a quick stop off at the Fratelli Sensi bakery which offers home produced Umbrian specialities. Continue on to Bevagna, a medieval town that has held on to its history. Free time. On to Montefalco, another splendid town offering spectacular views over the hills. Visit the city and taste the famous Sagrantino wine. Move to the ancient olive groves belonging to the Romanelli family to discover the different plant varieties and the techniques used in the production of the extra-virgin olive oil, along with a tasting. A break at the Azienda Rosati, to buy the locally produced cold cuts including Capocollo, dried sausages and salami, as well as traditional cakes. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 4) Perugia, Città di Castello

Departure for Perugia, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. A visit to the Perugina chocolate museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. Stop off at

the historical Sandri pastry shop and the Bottega delle Erbe Aromatiche with over 6,000 different herbs. Afternoon departure for Città di Castello, in the Tiber valley; a tour of the city and the Fratelli Giuliotti Salumificio where you may sample the local cold cuts including the Mazzafegati. Visit to the Girasole, a classic grocery shop specialising in salami, cheese and local cakes. Back to Perugia and dinner with the dishes of the traditional Umbran cuisine at the Osteria La Lumera. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Spoleto

Departure for Spoleto and a tour of the city. Stop just outside the city for a treat at two tiny villages in the Umbrian hills. The first stop is at the Leonardi bakery which specialises in natural yeast breads; visit and sample the fare. The second is the Castello di Poretta; visit and sample the extra-virgin olive oil. In the afternoon, transfer to Foligno and walk through the old town centre stopping at the Central Bar for a top quality ice cream with some amazing and original flavours such as the Sagrantino wine one. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Solomeo, Lake Trasimeno, Castiglione del Lago

Departure for Solomeo, situated on the slopes of a hill between Perugia and Lake

Trasimeno. A visit to the old hamlet which has preserved its original medieval layout to this day, thanks to a careful and intelligent restoration project. A visit to Bruno Cucinelli's old craftshop selling hand-made top quality cashmere products. Departure for Lake Trasimeno to visit some of the characteristic towns around the lake such as Magione, Castiglione del Lago and Passignano. Dinner will be hosted in the traditional Trattoria l'Acquario in Castiglione del Lago where traditional dishes, including the Fagiolina del Lago will be served. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Umbertide, Gubbio

Departure for Umbertide, a wonderful old city where there will be a guided tour of the Slow Food Earth Market and a lesson on the season's vegetables, fruit and local produce, followed by lunch at the Trattoria Nonna Gelsa, located in the countryside near Umbertide. Transfer to Gubbio, yet another important small city that defines the ancient Umbrian civilization. Gubbio is famous for the Corsa dei Ceri which takes place annually on the 15 May. Back to the hotel where there will be a tasting of a selection of local wines.

Day 8) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Rome airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights in 4* charming hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 5 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 6 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Umbria region
- 1 visit to the Slow Food Earth Market including a lesson about the local produce
- Entrance fees to:

- the Chocolate Museum, Perugia
- Duomo Cathedral, Orvieto
- Funicolare (cable car), Orvieto
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





LAZIO

ROME, CERVETERI, BRACCIANO, ANGUILLARA, BOLSENA, CASTIGLIONE IN TEVERINA, VITERBO, THE CASTELLI ROMANI AREA, FRASCATI, CASTEL GANDOLFO, GENZANO, THE CIOCIARIA AREA, CASTRO DEI VOLSCI, PICINISCO, CASAMARI, ISOLA DEL LIRI, CASALVIERI, FOSSANOVA, PRIVERNO, FIUGGI.

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

The beauty of the Lazio region is often obscured by the fame of Rome but the region has a lot to offer besides the Eternal City: a wealth of art, history, culinary traditions and culture that this tour will help to disclose. Thus, Rome will be the only the starting point before moving on to discover the heritage the enigmatic Etruscans, a dominant power in ancient Italy for 300 years, the medieval quarters in Viterbo, the Castelli Romani area, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, the verdant Ciociaria, where old rural traditions are kept alive and ancient abbeys infuse visitors with calm and peace. A tour to discover off-the-beaten-track places but also a time spent learning to prepare a true Roman meal, tasting local wines and lots of genuine, rare foods.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia

products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the Caciofiore Romano cheese;
- the fresh cheeses of Tuscia;
- the Susianella cold cut;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of Colli Etruschi;
- the Marzolino cheese;
- the wines and typical cakes of Ciociaria;
- the wines of the Castiglione Teverina vineyards;

HIGHLIGHTS

The Caciofiore Romano cheese. In Roman times the use of wild thistles in cheesemaking was quite common; a few cheesemakers are now reviving this tradition in the Roman countryside, where artichokes and thistles flourish, with the use of rennet derived from cultivated thistle flowers, making cheeses that recapture ancient flavours.



The Susianella, a traditional cured meat, dates back to Etruscan times. Made from pork heart, liver, pancreas, belly, jowl and other offcuts, the meat is ground and seasoned with salt, pepper, chili, wild fennel and other spices. The pork casing is tied by hand, and the Susianella is then aged for a period from 20 days to six months.

The Tuscia Lakes Eel. Every year from September to October large elongated fish traps called "Altavelli" are placed in the Bolsena and Bracciano lakes to catch the eels. The eels are then sliced and fried in olive oil, then marinated for

about a month in white wine vinegar with garlic, sage, rosemary and a touch of chili pepper.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Enoteca Regionale del Lazio Palatium;
- Ristorante Zarazà;
- Locanda Ditirambo;
- Trattoria La Mula.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the white pizza bread of the Castelli Romani;
- the hand-made pastas of the of the Castelli Romani;
- the Pupazza (pastry doll) and Pangiallo (yellow bread) of the Comunità degli Osti di Frascati;
- the traditional cakes of Frascati.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing monuments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;
- **Cerveteri**, with the Etruscan Necropolis and museum full of wonderful Etruscan

artefacts;

- **Bracciano**, with its ancient town centre and the Odescalchi Castle with splendid views over the lake;
- **Viterbo**, with the enchanting medieval centre and the Papal Palace, once seat of the Popes;
- **the Castelli Romani area**, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, Genzano and Frascati with the splendid Villa Aldobrandini;
- **Castro dei Volsci**, the old preserved hamlet with its stone houses built into the hills, stone walls and tiny streets;
- **Casamari**, with its fascinating ancient abbey, a perfect example of Cistercian style and architecture;
- **Fossanova**, the finest example of a Cistercian abbey, and of the Burgundian Early Gothic style, in Italy;
- **Fiuggi**, the town whose thermal baths were famous since the times of ancient Rome.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then move to the Enoteca Regionale Palatium winery for welcome dinner of traditional local fare and Slow Food Presidia products from Lazio and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities. Return to the hotel.

Day 2) Rome

In the morning a guided tour of the Mercato Rionale (fresh produce market) and a lesson on choosing the season's vegetables and fruit; after the tour, cooking lesson on the Roman traditional recipes at the Scuola dell'Associazione Cuoche per Caso ("Accidental Cooks Association") using the produce bought at the market, followed by lunch. In the afternoon sightseeing tour of Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a short stop at the Trevi Fountain. The

afternoon will be free to visit the city. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Cerveteri, Bracciano, Anguillara

Departure for Cerveteri and guided tour of the ancient Etruscan Necropolis. Transfer to Anguillara, on Bracciano Lake, to visit Acquaranda, a member of the Association of the historical Cheeses and laboratory dedicated to Caciofiore Romano. Return to the hotel, free time to relax and traditional dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 4) Bolsena, Castiglione in Teverina

Departure for Lake Bolsena, stopping off at the town of Bolsena to visit the historical centre and its unique craft shops. From here admire spectacular views of the volcanic lake below; free time. Departure for Castiglione in Teverina, a beautiful ancient town set among the Volsini mountains. Visit the Wine Museum and its laboratory dedicated to local wines. Move to the Trebotti wine cellars to taste the wines made with the vines cultivated on this ancient land. Take a guided tour of the farm and enjoy a sampling of honey, extra-virgin olive oil and Susianella cold cut, then take a lesson in traditional cookery. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Blera, Viterbo

Departure for Blera. Visit of the Colli Etruschi historical olive oil mill with talk on the production techniques used to make the rare Tuscia olive oil and a tasting of olive oil and other local products, including the Bracciano Lake Eel. Transfer to Viterbo. Visit the magical town centre which is steeped in history. Accompanied by a guide, walk through the narrow streets to discover the little shops selling hand-made pottery and jewellery from Tuscia and the typical fare such as the bread and cakes produced by the Artigiapan historical bakery. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Castel Gandolfo, the Albano Lake, Genzano, Frascati

Departure for the Castelli Romani area and first stop in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, on the shores of the Albano Lake; visit of the historical centre and free time to stroll along the lake shore. Transfer to Genzano and visit of the historical Sergio Bocchini's bakery to attend a demonstration of bread-making and sample the Pizza Bianca (white pizza bread). A visit to La Casareccia hand-made pasta shop will follow, with a brief talk about pasta kinds and a tasting. Continue on to Frascati and visit of the wonderful Villa Aldobrandini, then guided tour of the city centre and stop at the Osteria San Gaetano della Comunità degli Osti di Frascati, for a tasting of some traditional delicacies such as the Pupazza, Pangiallo, Ciambelline al vino (biscuits for dipping in wine), together with Cannellino wine. The tour then continues on to San Pietro square, Piazza del Mercato square with a stop at the Purificato pastry shop, Palazzo Vescovile (an ancient pontifical prison) and Ceralli old bakery for a tasting of biscuits, before arriving to a scenic

viewpoint from which Rome can be seen. Traditional agropastoral dinner at Zarazà with local dishes and wines from Lazio. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) The Ciociaria Area, Castro dei Volsci, Picinisco

Departure for Castro dei Volsci, a small town in the Ciociaria region, visit the old preserved hamlet characterised by the stone houses built into the hills, stone walls and tiny streets. Cookery lesson dedicated to the traditions of Ciociaria followed by lunch in the Locanda del Ditirambo restaurant. Departure for Picinisco and visit to Loreto Pacitti's cheese factory for a tasting of the Marzolina Cheese. On the way back to Fuggi stop in Ferentino for a visit of this ancient little town and dinner with Ciociaria's traditional dishes at La Mula. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Casamari, Isola del Liri, Casalvieri

Departure for the fascinating Casamari Abbey. This is an important historical, cultural and spiritual focal point in Lazio

that still houses the Casamari monks today. Departure for Isola del Liri, whose Castle was at one stage completely surrounded by the waters of the river Liri. A short visit to the old town centre and some free time to stroll around the streets and visit the little craft shops there. Departure for Casalvieri. Visit this little village and in the afternoon enjoy a tasting of wines from Ciociaria and some typical cakes and desserts in the Osteria del Tempo Perso winery. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Fossanova, Priverno, Fuggi

Departure to visit the Abbey of Fossanova. On the return trip stopover in Priverno to visit the old town centre, see its little shops and laboratories and sample the local fare at the Antica Osteria Fanti. In the afternoon return to Fuggi to visit the city. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of a selection of wines.

Day 10) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Rome airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights 4* hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 5 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 13 guided tastings of foods and wines

from the Lazio region

- 3 cooking lessons dedicated to specific local cuisines and/or themes
- Entrance fees to:
 - the Wine Museum of Castiglione Teverina
 - the Etruscan Necropolis in Cerveteri
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches

- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





LAZIO & UMBRIA

ROME, TIVOLI, SAN POLO DEI CAVALIERI, BRACCIANO, CAPRAROLA, VITERBO, ORVIETO, TODI, ASSISI, BEVAGNA, MONTEFALCO, PERUGIA, CITTÀ DI CASTELLO, SPOLETO, LAKE TRASIMENO, CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO, UMBERTIDE, GUBBIO.

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the beauty of the Lazio region, often obscured by the fame of Rome, rich of art, history, culinary traditions and culture, and Umbria, the so-called "Green Heart of Italy", a region not only with a lush nature but also full of ancient towns with cobblestone streets, stunning cathedrals and old fortresses, a place rich of tasty foods and good wines. Thus, Rome will be the only the starting point before moving on to the magnificent Roman villa of Emperor Adriano in Tivoli, the wonderful Odescalchi Castle in Bracciano, Caprarola with the wonderful pentagon-shaped Farnese Palace and the medieval quarters in Viterbo, Orvieto - whose cathedral is a gothic masterpiece - and Todi, then Assisi, home of St. Francis, Perugia with its Etruscan walls, 16th century palaces and

chocolate factories, enchanting Spoleto, up to the shores of the Trasimeno Lake. A tour to discover off-the-beaten-track places but also a time spent learning to prepare a true Umbrian meal, tasting local wines and lots of genuine, rare foods.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of Colli Etruschi;
- the baby Pecorino cheese;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Montefalco area;



- the Mazzafegato sausage;
- the natural yeast breads of the villages near Spoleto;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Spoleto area;
- the fresh produce of the Umbertide Slow Food Earth Market.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Lake Trasimeno Bean is tiny, about the size of a grain of rice. Soft, buttery and flavourful, the dried beans are eaten boiled and seasoned with a little extra-virgin olive oil. The fresh beans (cornetti) are



sautéed with tomatoes and garlic. Cultivated on the terraces around Lake Trasimeno, they were popular until the 1950s, but have nearly disappeared since then.

The Mazzafegato sausage is made from the leftovers of a pig after preparing other cured meats. The meat is coarsely minced and cured with salt, pepper, garlic, lemon and/or orange peel and fennel flowers. It was born out of the necessity to make full use of the entire slaughtered pig, but thanks to the ability of skilled butchers, who have made a virtue out of it, a product was born that is appreciated by connoisseurs.

The Sagrantino di Montefalco wine is named after the grape from which it is made. Cultivated for centuries in Umbria, Sagrantino vine is considered autochthonous, although there are various theories as to its origin. Some believe it to have come from Spain, others say it was imported by the first Franciscan friars, and others claim that it was brought into Italy by the Saracens. The Sagrantino needs to be aged at least 30 months, of which at least 12 months in wooden casks.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines

eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Enoteca Regionale del Lazio Palatium;
- Trattoria Vino e Camino;
- Osteria La Lumera;
- Trattoria l'Acquario.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the wines of the Tuscia vineyards
- The famous Sagrantino wine;
- the wines and local fare of the Palazzo del Gusto, Enoteca Regionale dell'Umbria winery;
- the salami and other cold cut specialties of Orvieto;
- the Baci and other chocolate pralines at the Perugia Chocolate Museum;
- the typical traditional cakes and pastries of Perugia.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing monuments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;
- **Tivoli**, with the magnificent Roman villa of Emperor Adriano and the wonderful gardens;
- **Bracciano**, with its ancient town centre and the Odescalchi Castle with splendid views over the lake;
- **Viterbo**, with the enchanting medieval centre and the Papal Palace, once seat of the Popes;
- **Orvieto**, situated on top of a rock offering the most splendid of views, with the wonderful the gothic cathedral;
- **Todi**, yet another splendid medieval little town full of ancient buildings and tiny streets;
- **Assisi**, a spiritual place home of the Basilica of St. Francis;
- **Perugia**, perched on a hill, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful ancient towns in Italy;
- **Spoletto**, a veritable jewel, full of ancient churches and buildings, where the famous Festival dei Due Mondi is held every year.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival, Rome

Arrive at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. After settling in, departure for a sightseeing tour of Rome, including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a brief stop at the Trevi Fountain. Move to the Enoteca Regionale Palatium winery for welcome dinner of traditional local fare and Slow Food Presidia products from Lazio and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities. Return to the hotel.

Day 2) Tivoli, San Polo dei Cavalieri

Depart for Tivoli, visit the historical centre of the town and the magnificent Roman villa of Emperor Adriano. In the afternoon stop at the Castello dei Cavalieri farm near the medieval hamlet of San Polo dei Cavalieri, visit the farm and enjoy a tasting of the extra-virgin olive oil from Sabina. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Lake Bracciano, Caprarola, Viterbo

Departure for Bracciano to visit its amazing ancient town centre and the Odescalchi Castle with splendid views over the lake. Lunch will be at Vino e Camino, a simple and enticing trattoria serving a menu of local dishes. Move on to Caprarola, visit the splendid town centre and stop at the Tuscia DOC centre to discover the local ceramics and crafts. Leave for Viterbo. Visit the enchanting old town, stopping at Artigiapan, a historical bakery which produces typical local goodies. Tasting of a selection of local wines at the Tredici Gradi winery. Transfer to the hotel in Umbria.

Day 4) Orvieto, Todi

Departure for Orvieto, situated on top of a rock. Tour of the city, including the gothic cathedral and a visit to the

Palazzo del Gusto winery for a guided tour and a tasting of Umbrian wines accompanied by some local fare. Before heading off, enjoy a short visit to the Adriano pastry shop to try the best of Orvieto's typical cakes, including chocolates made with chillies and saffron. An afternoon visit to Todi, a splendid medieval town, to wander around and discover the old craftshops, including the Fraolini butchery that produces traditional salamis and roast pork with oven-baked breads. A visit to the Montecristo dairy farm in Pian di Porto to sample the baby Pecorino cheeses made with fresh milk. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Assisi, Bevagna, Montefalco

Departure for Assisi; guided tour including the Basilica of St Francis and a quick stop off at the Fratelli Sensi bakery which offers home produced Umbrian specialities. Continue on to Bevagna, a medieval town that has held on to its history. Free time. On to Montefalco, another splendid town offering spectacular views over the hills. Visit the city and taste the famous Sagrantino wine. Move to the ancient olive groves belonging to the Romanelli family to discover the different plant varieties and the techniques used in the production of the extra-virgin olive oil, along with a tasting. A break at the Azienda Rosati, to buy the locally produced cold cuts including Capocollo, dried sausages and salami, as well as traditional cakes. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Perugia, Città di Castello

Departure for Perugia, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. A visit to the Perugina chocolate museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. Stop off at the historical Sandri pastry shop and the Bottega delle Erbe Aromatiche with over 6,000 different herbs.

Afternoon departure for Città di Castello, in the Tiber valley; a tour of the city and the Fratelli Giulietti Salumificio

where you may sample the local cold cuts including the Mazzafegati. Visit to the Girasole, a classic grocery shop specialising in salami, cheese and local cakes. Back to Perugia and dinner with the dishes of the traditional Umbrian cuisine at the Osteria La Lumera. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Spoleto

Departure for Spoleto and a tour of the city. Stop just outside the city for a treat at two tiny villages in the Umbrian hills. The first stop is at the Leonardini bakery which specialises in natural yeast breads; visit and sample the fare. The second is the Castello di Poretta; visit and sample the extra-virgin olive oil. In the afternoon, transfer to Foligno and walk through the old town centre stopping at the Central Bar for a top quality ice cream with some amazing and original flavours such as the Sagrantino wine one. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Solomeo, Lake Trasimeno, Castiglione del Lago

Departure for Solomeo, situated on the slopes of a hill between Perugia and Lake Trasimeno. A visit to the old hamlet which has preserved its original medieval layout to this day, thanks to a careful and intelligent restoration project. A visit to Bruno Cucinelli's old craftshop selling hand-made top quality cashmere products. Departure for Lake Trasimeno to visit some of the characteristic towns around the lake such as Magione, Castiglione del Lago and Passignano. Dinner will be hosted in the traditional Trattoria l'Acquario in Castiglione del Lago where traditional dishes, including the Fagiolina del Lago will be served. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Umbertide, Gubbio

Departure for Umbertide, a wonderful old city where there will be a guided tour of the Slow Food Earth Market and

a lesson on the season's vegetables, fruit and local produce, followed by lunch at the Trattoria Nonna Gelsa, located in the countryside near Umbertide.

Transfer to Gubbio, yet another

important small city that defines the ancient Umbrian civilization. Gubbio is famous for the Corsa dei Ceri which takes place annually on the 15th May. Back to the hotel where there will be a tasting of a selection of local wines.

Day 10) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Rome airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 6 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 9 guided tastings of foods and wines

from the Lazio and Umbria regions

- 1 visit to the Slow Food Earth Market including a lesson about the season's local produce
- Entrance fees to:
 - Odescalchi Museum, Bracciano
 - Chocolate Museum, Perugia
 - Duomo Cathedral, Orvieto
- Funicolare (cable car), Orvieto
- Arrival and departure airport transfers

in Italy

- Travel in state-of the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





LAZIO & CAMPANIA

ROME, CERVETERI, BRACCIANO, ANGUILLARA, BOLSENA, CASTIGLIONE IN TEVERINA, VITERBO, THE CASTELLI ROMANI AREA, FRASCATI, CASTEL GANDOLFO, GENZANO, THE CIOCIARIA AREA, CASTRO DEI VOLSCI, PICINISCO, CASAMARI, FOSSANOVA, PRIVERNO, FIUGGI, NAPLES, SORRENTO, POMPEII, AMALFI, RAVELLO, SCALA, VIETRI SUL MARE.

12 days | 11 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the beauty of the Lazio and Campania regions, both very rich in art, history, culinary traditions, architecture and archeological sites. Start with the wonders of Rome then move on to discover the heritage the enigmatic Etruscans, a dominant power in ancient Italy for 300 years, the wonderful Odescalchi Castle in Bracciano, the medieval quarters in Viterbo, the Castelli Romani area, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, the verdant Ciociaria, where old rural traditions are kept alive and ancient abbeys infuse visitors with calm and peace. Transfer to Naples, with its castles and noble palaces, to Sorrento, the lively seaside resort home to the famous Limoncello, along the celebrated Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where a series of mountainside towns

that seem to tumble into the sea. Both regions have a rich and varied gastronomy that find its roots in the local fresh produce and there is a real wealth of genuine, tasty foods, and excellent wines to be discovered here.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the Caciofiore Romano cheese;
- the fresh cheeses of Tuscany;
- the Susianella cold cut;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of Colli Etruschi
- the Marzolino cheese;
- the local fare of the Ciociaria;



- the wines of the Castiglione Teverina vineyards;
- the original Limoncello of Amalfi;
- the cakes and other specialities of Amalfi.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Caciofiore Romano cheese. In Roman times the use of wild thistles in cheesemaking was quite common; a few cheesemakers are now reviving this tradition in the Roman countryside, where artichokes and thistles flourish, with the use of rennet derived from cultivated this-



tle flowers, making cheeses that recapture ancient flavours.

The Susianella, a traditional cured meat, dates back to Etruscan times. Made from pork heart, liver, pancreas, belly, jowl and other offcuts, the meat is ground and seasoned with salt, pepper, chili, wild fennel and other spices. The pork casing is tied by hand, and the Susianella is then aged for a period from 20 days to six months.

The Tuscia Lakes Eel. Every year from September to October large elongated fish traps called "Altavelli" are placed in the Bolsena and Bracciano lakes to catch the eels. The eels are then sliced and fried in olive oil, then marinated for about a month in white wine vinegar with garlic, sage, rosemary and a touch of chili pepper.

The San Marzano Tomato, a delicate variety that is difficult to grow and process, develops an extraordinary fragrance when ripening, reminiscent of freshly cut grass and spices. This tomato is closely linked to Neapolitan pizza, and is also an ingredient in traditional Neapolitan ragù, a meat sauce that must simmer for at least five or six hours.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines

eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Enoteca Regionale del Lazio Palatium;
- Agriturismo Tenuta due Laghi;
- Ristorante Zarazà;
- Locanda Ditirambo;
- Trattoria La Mula;
- Antica Pizzeria Capasso;
- Trattoria da Emilia al Borgo dei Pescatori.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the white pizza bread of the Castelli Romani;
- the hand-made pastas of the of the Castelli Romani;
- the Pupazza ("pastry doll") and Pangiallo (yellow bread) of the Comunità degli Osti di Frascati;
- the traditional cakes of Frascati.

POINTS OF INTEREST: ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monu-

ments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing monuments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;
- **Cerveteri**, with the Etruscan Necropolis and museum full of wonderful Etruscan artefacts;
- **Bracciano**, with its ancient town centre and the Odiscalchi Castle with splendid views over the lake;
- **Viterbo**, with the enchanting medieval centre and the Papal Palace, once seat of the Popes;
- the Castelli Romani area, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope' summer residence, Genzano and **Frascati** with the splendid Villa Aldobrandini;
- **Naples**, with the Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, the city where the pizza was born;
- **Pompeii**, the opulent Roman city which was buried beneath the rubble from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD;
- **the Amalfi Coast**, one of the most beautiful places in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its characteristic little towns full of white houses and coloured flowers.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then move to the Enoteca Regionale Palatium winery for welcome dinner of traditional local fare and Slow Food Presidia products from Lazio and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities. Return to the hotel.

Day 2) Rome

In the morning a guided tour of the Mercato Rionale (fresh produce market) and a lesson on choosing the season's vegetables and fruit; after the tour cooking lesson on the Roman traditional recipes at the Scuola dell'Associazione Cuoche per Caso ("Accidental Cooks Association") using the produce bought at the market, followed by lunch. In the afternoon sightseeing tour of Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a short stop at the Trevi Fountain. The afternoon will be free to visit the city. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Cerveteri, Bracciano, Anguillara

Departure for Cerveteri and guided tour of the ancient Etruscan Necropolis. Transfer to Anguillara, on Bracciano Lake, to visit Acquaranda, a member of the Association of the historical Cheeses and laboratory dedicated to Caciofiore Romano. Return to the hotel, free time to relax and traditional dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 4) Bolsena, Castiglione in Teverina

Departure for Lake Bolsena, stopping off at the town of Bolsena to visit the historical centre and its unique craft shops. From here admire spectacular views of the volcanic lake below; free time. Departure for Castiglione in Teverina, a beautiful ancient town set

among the Volsini mountains. Visit the Wine Museum and its laboratory dedicated to local wines. Move to the Trebotti wine cellars to taste the wines made with the vines cultivated on this ancient land. Take a guided tour of the farm and enjoy a sampling of honey, extra-virgin olive oil and Susianella cold cut, then take a lesson in traditional cookery. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Blera, Viterbo

Departure for Blera. Visit of the Colli Etruschi historical olive oil mill with talk on the production techniques used to make the rare Tuscia olive oil and a tasting of olive oil and other local products, including the Bracciano Lake Eel. Transfer to Viterbo. Visit the magical town centre which is steeped in history. Accompanied by a guide, walk through the narrow streets to discover the little shops selling hand-made pottery and jewellery from Tuscia and the typical fare such as the bread and cakes produced by the Artigiapan historical bakery. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Castel Gandolfo, the Albano Lake, Genzano, Frascati

Departure for the Castelli Romani area and first stop in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, on the shores of the Albano Lake; visit of the historical centre and free time to stroll along the lake shore. Transfer to Genzano and visit of the historical Sergio Bocchini's bakery to attend a demonstration of bread-making and sample the Pizza Bianca (white pizza bread). A visit to La Casareccia hand-made pasta shop will follow, with a brief talk about pasta kinds and a tasting. Continue on to Frascati and visit of the wonderful Villa Aldobrandini, then guided tour of the city centre and stop at the Osteria San Gaetano della Comunità degli Osti di Frascati, for a tasting of some traditional delicacies such as the Pupazza, Pangiallo, Ciambelline al vino (biscuits for dipping in

wine), together with Cannellino wine. The tour then continues on to San Pietro square, Piazza del Mercato square with a stop at the Purificato pastry shop, Palazzo Vescovile (an ancient pontifical prison) and Ceralli old bakery for a tasting of biscuits, before arriving to a scenic viewpoint from which Rome can be seen. Traditional agropastoral dinner at Zarazà with local dishes and wines from Lazio. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) The Ciociaria Area, Castro dei Volsci, Picinisco

Departure for Castro dei Volsci, a small town in the Ciociaria region, visit the old preserved hamlet characterised by the stone houses built into the hills, stone walls and tiny streets. Cookery lesson dedicated to the traditions of Ciociaria followed by lunch in the Locanda del Ditirambo restaurant. Departure for Picinisco and visit to Loreto Pacitti's cheese factory for a tasting of the Marzolina Cheese. On the way back to Fiuggi stop in Ferentino for a visit of this ancient little town and dinner with Ciociaria's traditional dishes at La Mula. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Fossanova, Priverno, Fiuggi

Departure to visit the Abbey of Fossanova. On the return trip stopover in Priverno to visit the old town centre, see its little shops and laboratories and sample the local fare at the Antica Osteria Fanti. In the afternoon return to Fiuggi to visit the city. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of a selection of wines.

Day 9) Naples, Sorrento

Departure for a guided tour of lively Naples and its main attractions: Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, followed by a walk through the famous Spaccanapoli part of town. Lunch with a real Italian Pizza at the Antica Pizzeria Capasso and then move back to Sorrento; free time to visit the town followed by

dinner hosted in the traditional Trattoria Da Emilia in the Borgo dei Pescatori. Return to the hotel.

Day 10) Pompeii

Departure for Pompei, the opulent Roman city which was buried beneath the rubble from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD; during the tour a local guide will illustrate the habits and curiosities of the daily life of the ancient inhabitants. Back to Sorrento where there will be a tasting of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 11) The Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Ravello, Scala, Vietri sul Mare

Departure for what will undoubtedly be a memorable day spent in one of the most beautiful places in the world. First stop in Amalfi: visit the famous Cathedral and the Treadmills' Valley, where paper was made in ancient times. Then visit the Valle dei Mulini distillery to taste some Limoncello and discover the secrets involved in its preparation. Free time for lunch followed by a visit to the Andrea Pansa pastry shop for a tasting of the local specialities. From here move on to

the magical town of Ravello where some of the worlds most famous composers like Verdi and Wagner composed their works. Continue on to Scala, one of the oldest towns along the Amalfi Coast, before arriving at the picturesque Vietri sul Mare, world renowned for its pottery and ceramics. Free time to visit the pottery craftshops before heading back to the hotel.

Day 12) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 11 nights 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 8 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 12 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Lazio and Campania regions
- 3 cooking lessons dedicated to specific local cuisines and/or themes
- Entrance fees to
 - the Wine Museum of Castiglione Tev-erina
 - the Etruscan Necropolis in Cerveteri
 - the Pompeii archaeological site
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





LAZIO, CAMPANIA & SICILY

ROME, THE CASTELLI ROMANI AREA, CASTEL GANDOLFO, GENZANO, FRASCATI, NAPLES, ERICE, TRAPANI, MARSALA, AGRIGENTO, LICATA, PIAZZA ARMERINA, RAGUSA, MODICA, SYRACUSE, MOUNT ETNA, TAORMINA, PALERMO, MONREALE

10 days | 9 nights

TOUR FEATURES

The Lazio region, often obscured by the fame of Rome, is itself rich of art, history, culinary traditions and culture, and Sicily, the biggest island in the Mediterranean, is a melting pot of cultures, where Greek and Asian influences can be found in the architecture, in the ancient ruins from different civilizations and in the unique cuisine. The tour starts with the wonders of Rome then moves on to discover the Castelli Romani area, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence; a stop in Naples, with its castles and noble palaces, before moving to discover Sicily's archaeological wonders, such as the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, marvelous baroque towns like Ragusa Ibla, beautiful landscapes and rich, ancient traditions.

Two very different regions from almost every point of view, differences that add to

the huge variety of excellent vintages, typical dishes and traditional delicacies that can be sampled during the tour.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Trapani area;
- the lemons of Syracuse;
- the wines and champagnes of the Mount Etna vineyards.

HIGHLIGHTS

The San Marzano Tomato, a delicate variety



that is difficult to grow and process, develops an extraordinary fragrance when ripening, reminiscent of freshly cut grass and spices. This tomato is closely linked to Neapolitan pizza, and is also an ingredient in traditional Neapolitan ragù, a meat sauce that must simmer for at least five or six hours.

The Interdonato lemon is an heirloom variety developed in the late 19th century, when Giovanni Interdonato crossed a citron with the local Ariddaru lemon variety. Medium-large in size, with a delicate, only slightly acidic flavour, the lemon has



a finely textured skin and is sometimes called "frutto fino" (fine fruit). At the end of World War Two, these lemons were primarily sold in England, where they were a favorite accompaniment for tea.

The Salina Caper. The caper bush is an integral part of the landscape on the island of Salina. Until the advent of tourism, capers were the cornerstone of the island's economy. The capers are picked individually by hand and placed in wooden barrels in layers alternated with coarse salt. They are ready to eat after about a month and can be stored for up to three years. Salina capers are known for their firmness, fragrance and uniformity.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Enoteca Regionale del Lazio Palatium;
- Ristorante Zarazà;
- Antica Pizzeria Capasso;
- Il Gallo e l'Innamorata;
- Trattoria Caico;
- Trattoria Cucina e Vino;
- Trattoria Vite e Vitello;

- Antica Focacceria San Francesco.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the white pizza bread of the Castelli Romani;
- the hand-made pastas of the of the Castelli Romani;
- the Pupazza ("pastry doll") and Pangiallo (yellow bread) of the Comunità degli Osti di Frascati;
- the traditional cakes of Frascati;
- the fresh produce of the Vucciria traditional market in Palermo;
- the Cannoli and other traditional old monastery's pastries of Erice;
- the delightful Trapani Cassata cake.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing monuments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Span-

ish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;

- **the Castelli Romani area**, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, Genzano and Frascati with the splendid Villa Aldobrandini;
- **Naples**, with the Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, the city where the pizza was born;
- **Erice**, a magnificent medieval city in a spectacular setting;
- **Agrigento**, with the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily;
- **Piazza Armerina**, with the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics;
- **Ragusa Ibla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture;
- **Syracuse**, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, with the archaeological park and the ancient heart of the old city – Ortigia Island;
- **Taormina**, the small town home of the oldest cinema festival in the world, with its elegant streets and wonderful views on the emerald sea;
- **Palermo**, the majestic Sicilian regional capital, with its ancient theatres and public buildings, the Monreale Cathedral, the characteristic streets and the Vucciria market.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Rome airport. Meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then move to the Enoteca Regionale Palatium winery for welcome dinner of traditional local fare and Slow Food Presidia products from Lazio and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities. Return to the hotel.

Day 2) Rome

In the morning a guided tour of the Mercato Rionale (fresh produce market) and a lesson on choosing the season's vegetables and fruit; after the tour cooking lesson on the Roman traditional recipes at the Scuola dell'Associazione Cuoche per Caso ("Accidental Cooks Association") using the produce bought at the market, followed by lunch. In the afternoon sightseeing tour of Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a short stop at the Trevi Fountain. The afternoon will be free to visit the city. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Castel Gandolfo, the Albano Lake, Genzano, Frascati

Departure for the Castelli Romani area and first stop in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, on the shores of the Albano Lake; visit of the historical centre and free time to stroll along the lake shore. Transfer to Genzano and visit of the historical Sergio Bocchini's bakery to attend a demonstration of bread-making and sample the Pizza Bianca (white pizza bread). A visit to La Casareccia hand-made pasta shop will follow, with a brief talk about pasta kinds and a tasting. Continue on to Frascati and visit of the wonderful Villa Aldobrandini, then guided tour of the city centre and stop at the Osteria San Gaetano della Comunità degli Osti di Frascati, for a tasting of some traditional delicacies such as the Pupazza, Pangiallo,

Ciambelline al vino (biscuits for dipping in wine), together with Cannellino wine. The tour then continues on to San Pietro square, Piazza del Mercato square with a stop at the Purificato pastry shop, Palazzo Vescovile (an ancient pontifical prison) and Ceralli old bakery for a tasting of biscuits, before arriving to a scenic viewpoint from which Rome can be seen. Traditional agropastoral dinner at Zarazà with local dishes and wines from Lazio. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Naples

Departure for Naples and a guided tour of the lively city and its main attractions: Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, followed by a walk through the famous Spaccanapoli part of town. Lunch with a real Italian Pizza at the Antica Pizzeria Capasso and then board the overnight ferry for Palermo.

Day 5) Erice, Trapani, Marsala

Departure for Erice, a magnificent medieval city in a spectacular setting. Walk through the streets of the centre of the town and visit two old pastry shops that offer delights prepared according to the traditional recipes from the Antico Convento (old monastery): almond pastries filled with candied lemon, Cannoli, Zibibbo wine and the famous "Brutti ma buoni" ("ugly but tasty") biscuits. On the drive to Trapani, stop at Fontanasalsa, an old oil mill, to taste their extra-virgin olive oil. On arrival in Trapani visit the city's oldest pastry shop, La Rinascente, where some of their typical delights such as the Savoia and the Cassata can be sampled. Tour of the city. Departure for Marsala, the city renowned for its production of the wine of the same name. Stroll through the centre and sample some of the traditional local recipes and the Marsala wine during dinner at the Osteria Il Gallo e L'Innamorata. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Agrigento, Licata, Piazza Armerina

Departure for Agrigento for a guided tour of the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily. Move on to San Leone for a lunch with the traditional local dishes and wines in the Trattoria Caico, then set off for Licata, a small town on the seafront, to take a stroll. Continue on to the Piazza Armerina for a guided tour of the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 7) Ragusa, Modica, Syracuse

Departure for Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture. The city is divided into two parts: the old city (called Ibla) and the new city. Having admired the wonderful architecture of Ibla, lunch with the typical dishes from the land and the sea accompanied by local wines at the Trattoria Cucina e Vino. Departure for Modica, the ancient capital of the county which once again is full of amazing examples of architecture in the old Sicilian baroque style. Guided tour of the city and a visit to an old pastry shop, the Antica Pasticceria Bonajuto, where the Ruta family is famous for its chocolate. Departure for Syracuse and dinner with traditional dishes and local wines at the Trattoria Vite e Vitello in the historical town centre of Ortigia. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Syracuse, Mount Etna, Taormina

Guided tour of the city, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, visit the archaeological park and walk around the heart of the old city – Ortigia. Transfer just outside town for a visit to a farm which specialises in the production of lemons from the Syracuse region, and a tasting. Departure for Taormina, stopping on route to visit the Azienda del San Michele of the Baron Emanuele Scammacca del Murgo, where

the prestigious wines and champagnes, V.S.Q. and Metodo Classico are produced, a real find in terms of wines from Etna. There will be a tasting accompanied by local produce. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 9) Palermo, Monreale

In the morning head for the famous old Vucciria Market, in the ancient heart of this thriving city, for a talk on the products that can be seen on the market stalls,

including the fresh fruit and vegetables that are in season. Lunch will include a sampling of the "U sfinunciuni", a typical local bread, at the Antica Focacceria San Francesco. Afternoon guided tour of the city. A visit to the Bottega dei Sapori and the Saperi della Legalità shop that sell the produce cultivated on land confiscated from the Mafia. Free time to stroll around and stop at the Scimone pastry shop, one of the oldest in the city,

that sells the famous Cannoli, Babà and lots more. Transfer to Monreale to visit the magnificent cathedral, then back to Palermo for a dinner consisting of the main traditional local recipes at the Trattoria Primavera. Return to the hotel for a wine tasting.

Day 10) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Palermo airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 1 overnight ferry boat from Naples to Palermo, double occupancy cabin
- 10 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 8 guided tastings of foods and wines

from the Lazio and Sicily regions

- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to the traditional recipes of Rome
- 1 visit to the Vucciria Market including a lesson on the fruit and vegetables of the season
- Entrance fees to:
 - Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park, Agrigento
 - Villa Romana del Casale Archaeological Park, Piazza Armerina
 - Archaeological Park, Syracuse

- Monreale Cathedral
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





CAMPANIA

NAPLES, SORRENTO, POMPEII, AMALFI, RAVELLO, SCALA, VIETRI SUL MARE, SANT'ANTONIO ABATE, MASSA LUBRENSE, CAPRI, POSITANO, CETARA. RAGUSA, MODICA, SYRACUSE, MOUNT ETNA, TAORMINA, PALERMO, MONREALE

8 days | 7 nights

TOUR FEATURES

Campania is a land rich in culture, music, history, architecture and archaeological sites. The tour will bring participants to Naples, with its castles and noble palaces, but also the city where the pizza in its modern aspect and taste was conceived, to Pompeii, the ancient Roman town buried in 79 AD by a massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Continue to Sorrento, the lively seaside resort home to the famous Limoncello, along the celebrated Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where a series of mountainside towns that seem to tumble into the sea, and to the idyllic island of Capri and to the wonderful Positano. Campania is also a land with a rich gastronomy that finds its roots in the local fresh produce; the Romans knew the region as Campania felix, which translates into English as "fertile countryside", and there is a real wealth of

genuine, tasty food to be discovered here.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the original Limoncello of Amalfi;
- the cakes and other specialities of Amalfi
- the San Marzano tomato;
- the typical preserves and jams of the "Two Gulfs" area.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Cetara anchovy extract (colatura) is an amber-colored liquid made from anchovies freshly fished in the Gulf of Salerno between March



and early July. The anchovies are cleaned by hand and salted, then layered in wooden containers, called "Terzigni". After four or five months, the liquid that drips out from a small hole in the base of the container is collected and used as a condiment, particularly well suited to spaghetti or linguine.

The San Marzano Tomato, a delicate variety that is difficult to grow and process, develops an extraordinary fragrance when ripening, reminiscent of freshly cut grass and spices. This tomato is closely linked to Neapolitan pizza, and is also an ingredient in traditional Neapolitan ragù, a meat sauce that must simmer for at least five or six hours.



TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Antica Pizzeria Capasso;
- Trattoria da Emilia al Borgo dei Pescatori;
- Ristorante Il Convento.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the various vegetables preserved in oil;
- the traditional Colatura di alici (anchovies sauce).

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Naples**, with the Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto;
- **Pompeii**, the opulent Roman city which

was buried beneath the rubble from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD;

- **the Amalfi Coast**, one of the most beautiful places in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its amazing seaviews;
- **Sorrento**, the magnificent town where wonderful views of the bay hide behind every corner;
- **Amalfi**, with the wonderful cathedral and the characteristic narrow streets full of shops;
- **Ravello**, the magical town where some of the worlds most famous composers like Verdi and Wagner composed their works;
- **Vietri sul Mare**, the picturesque town world renowned for its pottery and ceramics;
- **Capri**, the idyllic island with the crumbling coastline, turquoise waters, lush vegetation and the jet-set favourite "Piazzetta", the elegant main square;
- **Positano**, with its characteristic white washed houses and balconies draped with bougainvillea and the magnificent Grotta dello Smeraldo (Emerald Grotto).

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Naples or Rome airport, meet tour guide and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, meet tour escort and then move to the Enoteca Regionale Palatium winery for wel-

come dinner of traditional local fare and Slow Food Presidia products from Campania and an introduction to the Slow Food philosophy and activities. Return to the hotel.

Day 2) Naples, Sorrento

Departure for a guided tour of lively Naples and its main attractions: Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, followed by a walk through the famous Spaccanapoli part of town. Lunch with a real Italian Pizza at the Antica Pizzeria Capasso and then move back to Sorrento; free time to visit the town followed by dinner hosted in the traditional Trattoria Da Emilia in the Borgo dei Pescatori. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Pompeii

Departure for Pompei, the opulent Roman city which was buried beneath the rubble from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD; during the tour a local guide will illustrate the habits and curiosities of the daily life of the ancient inhabitants. Back to Sorrento where there will be a tasting of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) The Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Ravello, Scala, Vietri sul Mare

Departure for what will undoubtedly be a memorable day spent in one of the most beautiful places in the world. First stop in Amalfi: visit the famous Cathedral and the

Treadmills' Valley, where paper was made in ancient times. Then visit the Valle dei Mulini distillery to taste some Limoncello and discover the secrets involved in its preparation. Free time for lunch followed by a visit to the Andrea Pansa pastry shop for a tasting of the local specialities. From here move on to the magical town of Ravello where some of the worlds most famous composers like Verdi and Wagner composed their works. Continue on to Scala, one of the oldest towns along the Amalfi Coast, before arriving at the picturesque Vietri sul Mare, world renowned for its pottery and ceramics. Free time to visit the pottery craftshops before heading back to the hotel.

Day 5) Sant'Antonio Abate, Massa Lubrense

Departure for Sant'Antonio Abate; visit to the Terra, Amore e Fantasia farm, for a guided tasting of the San Marzano tomato and other local fresh produce, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the Fattoria Terranova, situated between the two gulfs, for a lesson dedi-

cated to fruit and vegetables, picking them and transforming them in the kitchen with special attention given to preserves and jams. Tasting. Return to the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 6) Capri

Take the ferry across to the idyllic island of Capri, where the crumbling coastline, turquoise waters and lush vegetation have caused many thousands of people over the centuries to fall in love with the island. Climb to Capri in the famous funivia (cable car) and then travel by bus to the little square, the Piazzetta, in the centre of the island. Late afternoon ferry back to Sorrento. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Positano, Grotta dello Smeraldo, Cetara

Departure for Positano; leaving Sorrento the road first winds its way up through some wonderful gardens and fruit groves where grapes, lemons and figs grow abundantly side by side looking out over the crystal waters of the sea below. Then the road winds around the cliffs and the

incredible views of the sea can be admired while descending into Positano. Arrive in Positano, with its wonderful white washed houses and balconies draped with bougainvillea that fall in a cascade of colour against the mountain rock: time to relax, wander around the shops and stroll down to the beach. Free time for lunch. On the return journey stop at the magnificent Grotta dello Smeraldo (Emerald Grotto) and then at Cetara, one of the tiniest fishing villages along the coast, where one of Campania's best producers of the traditional Colatura di alici can be found. Visit the village and enjoy some free time to stroll around the tiny streets and visit the shops such as Nettuno and I Sapori Cetranesi that offer local produce like the colatura and vegetables preserved in oil. Traditional dinner with a talk on the cuisine of the Amalfi Coast will be hosted at Il Convento restaurant which is located in the cloister of an ancient convent. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights 4* hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 5 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 5 guided tastings of foods and wines

from the Campania region

- Entrance fees to:
 - the Pompeii archaeological site
 - the Emerald Grotto
 - Ferry boat Sorrento - Capri
 - Funivia (cable car) in Capri
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration

of the tour

- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





APULIA

GROTTE DI CASTELLANA, ALBEROBELLO, MARTINA FRANCA, CISTERNINO, OSTUNI, BARI, CASTEL DEL MONTE, ANDRIA, TRANI, TARANTO, LECCE, NARDÒ, PORTO SELVAGGIO, GALATINA, MAGLIE, OTRANTO, CASTRO MARINA, GALLIPOLI, LEVERANO.

9 days | 8 nights

TOUR FEATURES

Experience a multitude of emotions in a region of overwhelming beauty, blessed by nature and full of history; enjoy the pleasant countryside and imposing castles, including the Castel del Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noble palaces and ancient cathedrals, olive groves, old stone “Trulli” and white baroque buildings, stunning caves and historic Masserie farmhouses. Apulia is also a land of flavours and fragrances where bakers, dairymen and farmers turn land fruits into products that owe their rich flavours and fragrances to their simplicity, and a place with a world-famous winemaking tradition as well.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of “extinction” - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Murgia olive groves;
- the traditional cheeses of the Murgia cheese-makers;
- the Capocollo cold cut of Martina Franca
- the cheeses and preserves of the Salento;
- the great wines of the Salento vineyards;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Salento olive groves.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Caciocavallo Podolico cheese is made with the milk of the Podolica cow, a breed which yields very little milk and only in certain months. The production of Caciocavallo requires great skill and ability, but the results are excellent, particularly when the cheese is aged, usually from a few months to three years, and sometimes even up to eight or ten years.

The Martina Franca Capocollo, the name used in the south of Italy to refer to cured



pig neck, is one of Apulia’s most highly regarded cold cuts. The local climate is not very suitable for curing, so a process developed whereby the meat is salted, soaked in herbed wine and then lightly smoked. The procedure preserves the pork and also gives it an extremely rich flavour.

The Altamura Traditional Bread. The superb Altamura bread is baked in huge sombrero-shaped loaves made from remilled durum wheat semolina from the Alta Murgia in the province of Bari, mixed with a natural sourdough starter, warm water and sea salt.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE “OSTERIE D’ITALIA” SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the “Osterie d’Italia” guide, small “trattorie” that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Trattoria L’Aratro;
- La Torre;
- Antichi Sapori;
- Trattoria Gesù Cristo;
- Alle Due Corti;
- La Piazza;
- Le Puritate.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the wines of the Primitivo Wine Museum;
- the typical Taralli (savory biscuits) of the Trulli bakeries;
- the Pucce Leccesi (bread with vegetables) of Lecce;
- the sweets of the Confetteria Mucci Almond Sweets Museum;

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- the amazing stalactites, stalagmites, huge caverns and hidden pools of water of **the Grotte di Castellana** caves;
- **Alberobello**, with the Trulli traditional rural homes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- **Ostuni**, called “the white village”, with its wonderful old centre;
- **Bari**, with its splendid Swabian Castle and the Cathedrals of San Nicola and San Sabino;
- **Castel del Monte**, with the imposing castle Rocca di Federico II D’Aragona,

another UNESCO World Heritage Site;

- **Trani**, with the 13th-century fort and the Cathedral, dedicated to St. Nicholas the Pilgrim;
- **Taranto**, with its nice historical centre and its archaeological museum;
- **Lecce**, the splendid ancient town called “the Baroque Pearl”;
- **Porto Selvaggio natural reserve**, with the Masseria Brusca, a beautiful old 16th century building;
- **Otranto**, the old little city with its Aragonese castle and the famous Cathedral;
- **Castro Marina**, with the wonderful Grotta di Zinzulusa cave, open to the sea;
- **Gallipoli**, with the 13th century castle and the Baroque cathedral of Sant’Agata;
- **Leverano**, with the ancient Conti Zecca wine cellars and the 320 hectares of vineyards spread across the south of Puglia, where the great wines of Salento are produced.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Bari airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Apulia. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) The Murgia: Grotte di Castellana, Alberobello, Martina Franca

Departure to visit the wonderful Grotte di Castellana situated at a depth of 70 metres, along more than 1 mile of pathways. Continue on to Alberobello. Lunch here will be dedicated to the Murgia cuisine and the local produce and wines in the L’Aratro, located amongst the famous “Trulli” buildings of Rione Monti. After lunch there will be a walk

around the Trulli to visit the little shops and laboratories selling homemade cheeses and Taralli. Transfer to Martina Franca and an evening stroll around its beautiful historical town centre, stopping at the Partenope pastry shop in the Corso Italia to try their renowned delights. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) The Murgia: Cisternino, Ostuni

Departure for an ancient and characteristic Murgia Masseria (traditional ancient farm) – l’Antica Masseria Caroli – for a guided tasting of their extra-virgin olive oil. Departure for Cisternino, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Here visit the old town centre and stop at the little shops selling Capocollo before having lunch at the Taverna della Torre where the delights of Capocollo and some other dishes and wines from the Puglia region will be served.

Departure for the white village of Ostuni, visit the old centre. On the drive back through the beautiful countryside make a stop at the splendid Masseria Ferri to try some of their cheeses, including Caciocavallo, Cacio ricotta and Canestrato. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Bari, Castel Del Monte, Andria, Trani

Departure for Bari to visit the old city with its splendid Swabian Castle and the Cathedrals of San Nicola and San Sabino. Take a quick stroll through the centre and taste the pizza, the breads and the famous Focacce breads at the Veneto and the Marazia traditional bakeries. Departure for the Castel Del Monte to visit the ancient castle Rocca di Federico II D’Aragona, the location of the famous movie “The Name of the Rose”. Transfer to Andria for lunch in a traditional trattoria, the Antichi Sapori. After lunch, free time to take a stroll through the centre and visit the enogastronomic gallery that offers quality local fare from all the best local producers. Also visit the Museo della Confetteria Mucci (Almond sweet Museum). Departure for Trani to visit the

old centre and take a stroll along the seafront. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Taranto, Lecce

Departure for Taranto, the “City of the Two Seas” – the Mare Grande and the smaller Mare Piccolo, visit the historical centre and the archaeological museum. Lunch will be hosted at the Trattoria Gesù Cristo, where the menu will include the black Taranto mussels and other local dishes accompanied by local wines. After lunch, visit the Primitivo Wine Museum in Manduria where there will be a lesson on Primitivo wines followed by a tasting. Continue on to Lecce where a dinner dedicated to traditional Lecce cuisine will be hosted at the Alle Due Corti trattoria, in the heart of the old town centre behind Piazza Sant’Oronzo. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 6) Lecce and the Salento area:

Nardò, Porto Selvaggio, Galatina

Departure for Lecce for a guided walking tour of the ancient town, called the Baroque Pearl, with a quick visit to try the breads, pizzas and the famous Pucce Leccesi (a traditional bread with olives, tomatoes and other vegetables). Free time.

In the afternoon head for Nardò to visit the magnificent old town centre, then move on to the natural reserve of Porto Selvaggio to visit the Masseria Brusca, a beautiful old 16th century building. Here, sample the typical local cheeses and preserves such as the Cotognata, made from a particular type of tart apple.

On the return trip stop in Galatina to take a walk through its elegant old town centre. Return to Lecce where there will be a tasting of a selection of local wines. Return to the hotel.

Day 7) Maglie, Otranto, Castro Marina

Departure for Melendugno for a tour and tasting of the extra-virgin olive oil at the Tenuta Bianco oil mill. Continue on to Maglie to visit the town and the ancient Pastificio Cavalieri, producing stoneground pastas since 1918. Follow this with a visit to the Maglio pastry shop that has been making chocolate for over 130 years. Departure for Otranto to visit the old city and its famous cathedral. Free time to stroll around the town. After lunch will visit the Grotta di Zinzulusa in Castro Marina. On the road back, stop at Poggiardo, an example of a typical village in the region of

Salento, where dinner will be hosted at the La Piazza trattoria in the heart of the old town centre. The menu will be dedicated to the seasonal products and the typical cuisine of Salento. Return to the hotel.

Day 8) Gallipoli, Leverano

Departure for Gallipoli to visit this splendid and characteristic historical town centre. A visit to an oil mill, Frantoio Ipogeo, and lunch at the Le Puritate restaurant in the old hamlet of the town centre where the menu will be dedicated to traditional fare of the area. Free time to wander around the streets and sample some of the typical produce in the shops and stalls. Departure for Leverano and the ancient Conti Zecca estate: visit the wine cellars and taste some of the top quality red, white and rose wines that come from the 320 hectares of vineyards spread across the south of Puglia, where great wines of Salento come from, such as the Tenuta Cantalupi, Tenuta Donna Marzia, Tenuta Saraceno and Tenuta Santo Stefano labels. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Departure

Morning free. Departure for the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights 4* hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 8 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines

- 10 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Apulia region
- Entrance fees to:
 - Grotte di Castellana caves
 - Svebian Castle, Bari
 - Archaeological Museum, Taranto
 - Primitivo Wine Museum, Manduria
 - Frantoio Ipogeo oil mill, Gallipoli
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy

- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motor-coaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





SICILY

PALERMO, ERICE, TRAPANI, MARSALA, AGRIGENTO, LICATA, PIAZZA ARMERINA, RAGUSA, MODICA, SYRACUSE, TAORMINA, THE MADONIE PARK, POLIZZI GENEROSA, MONREALE.

8 days | 7 nights

TOUR FEATURES

Discover Sicily, the biggest island in the Mediterranean, a melting pot of cultures, where Greek and Asian influences can be found in the architecture, in the ancient ruins from different civilizations and in the unique cuisine; a land where the earth spills fire from ancient volcanoes and the sun warms the emerald waters of the Mediterranean sea. A region of archaeological wonders, marvelous baroque towns and rich, ancient traditions, Sicily is not only a place of extraordinary monuments, enchantingly beautiful scenery and beautiful towns, it is also a land that offers an incredible variety of excellent vintages, ancient cellars and vineyards, typical dishes and traditional foods rediscovered in their original style.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia

products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Trapani area;
- the lemons of Syracuse;
- the wines and champagnes of the Mount Etna vineyards;
- the Manna and the traditional pastries of the Madonie Park area;
- the Polizzi Badda bean;
- the Madonie Provola cheese.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Manna is a natural sweetener obtained from a resinous substance extracted from the bark of ash trees in the Madonie Mountains. When exposed to the sun, it solidifies into manna. The collection technique is very ancient, and has survived only in this small corner of the



Mediterranean. The purest is the Manna Eletta, which runs down in "stalactites" without touching the bark.

The Polizzi Badda bean has been grown in the vegetables garden of Polizzi Generosa in the Madonie Mountains for two centuries. Round and medium-small, the bean's name, Badda, comes from the local dialect and refers to its ball-like shape. The bean is ivory-coloured with markings that can be either pinkish-orange or dark purple.

The Madonie Provola cheese is produced



in one of Italy's most biodiverse areas, the Madonie Mountains. A typical stretched-curd cow's milk cheese, it is shaped like a rounded wine flask and has a smooth, thin, straw-yellow rind. Many cheese-makers still make artisanal Madonie Provola using raw cow's milk with a small amount of sheep's milk.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Il Gallo e l'Innamorata;
- Trattoria Vite e Vitello;
- Trattoria Primavera;
- Trattoria Caico;
- Trattoria Cucina e Vino;
- Trattoria Itria;
- Antica Focacceria San Francesco.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the fresh produce of the Vucciria traditional market in Palermo;

- the Cannoli and other traditional old monastery's pastries of Erice;
- the delightful Trapani Cassata cake
- the famous Modica chocolate.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the region:

- **Erice**, a magnificent medieval town in a spectacular setting;
- **Agrigento**, with the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily;
- **Piazza Armerina**, with the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics;
- **Ragusa Ibla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture;
- **Modica**, the ancient capital of the county, also full of amazing examples of architecture in the old Sicilian baroque style, but maybe even more famous for its chocolate;
- **Syracuse**, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, with the archaeological park and the ancient heart of the old city – Ortigia Island;
- **Taormina**, the small town home of the oldest cinema festival in the world, with

its elegant streets and wonderful views on the emerald sea;

- **Polizzi Generosa**, a small medieval town with an extraordinary collection of Norman artefacts;
- **the Madonie Park**, a nature reserve but also an area with dozens of old little villages, castles, ancient churches and the Madonito Environmental Museum;
- **Palermo**, the majestic Sicilian regional capital, with its ancient theatres and public buildings, the Monreale Cathedral, the characteristic streets and the Vucciria market.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive at Palermo airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Sicily. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) Erice, Trapani, Marsala

Departure for Erice, a magnificent medieval town in a spectacular setting. Walk through the streets of the centre of the town and visit two old pastry shops that offer delights prepared according to the traditional recipes from the Antico Con-

vento (old monastery): almond pastries filled with candied lemon, Cannoli, Zibibbo wine and the famous “Brutti ma buoni” (“ugly but tasty”) biscuits. On the drive to Trapani, stop at Fontanasalsa, an old oil mill, to taste their extra-virgin olive oil. On arrival in Trapani visit the city’s oldest pastry shop, La Rinascente, where some of their typical delights such as the Savoia and the Cassata can be sampled. Tour of the city. Departure for Marsala, the city renowned for its production of the wine of the same name. Stroll through the centre and sample some of the traditional local recipes and the Marsala wine during dinner at the Osteria Il Gallo e L’Innamorata. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Agrigento, Licata, Piazza Armerina

Departure for Agrigento for a guided tour of the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily. Move on to San Leone for a lunch with the traditional local dishes and wines in the Trattoria Caico, then set off for Licata, a small town on the seafront, to take a stroll. Continue on to the Piazza Armerina for a guided tour of the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 4) Ragusa, Modica, Syracuse

Departure for Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture. The city is divided into two parts: the old city (called Ibla) and the new city. Having admired the

wonderful architecture of Ibla, lunch with the typical dishes from the land and the sea accompanied by local wines at the Trattoria Cucina e Vino. Departure for Modica, the ancient capital of the county which once again is full of amazing examples of architecture in the old Sicilian baroque style. Guided tour of the city and a visit to an old pastry shop, the Antica Pasticceria Bonajuto, where the Ruta family is famous for its chocolate. Departure for Syracuse and dinner with traditional dishes and local wines at the Trattoria Vite e Vitello in the historical town centre of Ortigia. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Syracuse, Mount Etna, Taormina

Guided tour of the city, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, visit the archaeological park and walk around the heart of the old city – Ortigia. Transfer just outside town for a visit to a farm which specialises in the production of lemons from the Syracuse region, and a tasting. Departure for Taormina, stopping on route to visit the Azienda del San Michele of the Baron Emanuele Scamacca del Murgo, where the prestigious wines and champagnes, V.S.Q. and Metodo Classico are produced, a real find in terms of wines from Etna. There will be a tasting accompanied by local produce. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 6) Madonie Park, Polizzi Generosa

Departure for Polizzi Generosa, a small medieval town with an extraordinary collec-

tion of Norman artefacts, located in the Madonie Park. Lunch based on the local Madonie cuisine will follow – including the Fagiolo Badda and the Provola cheese – at the Trattoria Itria. Visit to the Madonita Environmental Museum and enjoy samples of local pastries – lo “Sfoglio” – at the Vinci pastry store. A visit to the La Manna Farm to hear the extraordinary story of how the ancient pastries and desserts were made, accompanied by some samplings. Transfer to the hotel in Palermo.

Day 7) Palermo, Monreale

In the morning head for the famous old Vucciria Market, in the ancient heart of this thriving city, for a talk on the products that can be seen on the market stalls, including the fresh fruit and vegetables that are in season. Lunch will include a sampling of the “U sfinunciuni”, a typical local bread, at the Antica Focacceria San Francesco. Afternoon guided tour of the city. A visit to the Bottega dei Sapori and the Saperi della Legalità shop that sell the produce cultivated on land confiscated from the Mafia. Free time to stroll around and stop at the Scimone pastry shop, one of the oldest in the city, that sells the famous Cannoli, Babà and lots more. Transfer to Monreale to visit the magnificent cathedral, then back to Palermo for a dinner consisting of the main traditional local recipes at the Trattoria Primavera. Return to the hotel for a wine tasting.

Day 8) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Palermo airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights 4* hotels and historical residences
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 8 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 5 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Sicily region

- 1 visit to the Vucciria Market including a lesson on the fruit and vegetables of the season
- Entrance fees to:
 - Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park, Agrigento
 - Villa Romana del Casale Archaeological Park, Piazza Armerina
 - Archaeological Park, Syracuse
 - Ambientalista Madonita Museum
 - Monreale Cathedral

- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges



NORTHERN & CENTRAL ITALY

LA MORRA, CARMAGNOLA, BARBARESCO, CHERASCO, MURAZZANO, TURIN, POLLENZO, GRINZANE CAVOUR, VERONA, TORRI DEL QUARSETOLO, PADUA, VENICE, SANT'ERASMO ISLAND, FERRARA, THE VALLEYS OF COMACCHIO IN THE DELTA OF THE RIVER PO PARK, BOLOGNA, MARANELLO, FLORENCE, SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI, TREGOLE DI CASTELLINA, RADDA IN CHIANTI, GREVE IN CHIANTI, MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA, PERUGIA, CITTÀ DI CASTELLO, ORVIETO, TODI, ROME.

18 days | 17 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A tour to discover the rich enogastronomical traditions and historical heritage of the northern and central Italian regions, from Piedmont and Veneto to Emilia Romagna, Tuscany and Umbria, with a final stop in Rome. A trip through history from the legacy of the former Regno d'Italia (Italian Kingdom) to Venice, the amazing city built on the waters of the Venetian Lagoon; from Emilia Romagna's treasure-trove of delightful towns of great artistic importance, to Tuscany, a region of sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, and cities such as Florence, the "Cradle of the renaissance", Siena and San Gimignano, both masterpieces of medieval architecture; from Umbria, a region not only with a lush nature but also full of ancient towns with cobblestone streets, stunning cathedrals and old fortresses, to the majesty of Rome, the Eternal City, a veri-

table open-air museum. While visiting all these interesting places, participants will also taste original dishes of the various regional cuisines, learn to shop for fresh produce and then prepare traditional local dishes, visit wineries, old cellars, and farms, thus savouring some of the best foods and world-famous, excellent wines that Italy has to offer, such as Barolo and Brunello, delicious cold cuts such as Prosciutto di Parma and Culatello di Zibello, savoury cheeses such as Montémore, Parmigiano Reggiano and Pecorino, extra-virgin olive oil, traditional cakes and much more.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and



other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the wines of the Barolo vineyards;
- the Carmagnola Grey Rabbit;
- the wines of the Barbaresco hills;
- the sheep milk cheeses of the Langhe;
- the wines of the Pollenzo Wine Bank;
- the wines of the Verona vineyards;
- the Vialone Nano Grumo rice;
- the Violet artichoke of St. Erasmo Islander;
- the Comacchio's Marinated Eel;
- the ice creams at ancient ice cream parlour in Florence;
- the Certaldo onion;
- the baby Pecorino cheese.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Langhe Sheep Tuma cheese. In 1950, there were over 45,000 native Langhe breed sheep, but today there are fewer than 2,500. This Presidium was founded to save the breed and the traditional cheese made for centuries in the local area, called tuma d'fé in local dialect. The small round cheeses, made with raw milk, are consumed fresh after 10-15 days but traditionally were also preserved in glass jars to be eaten through the winter.

The Grappa Mountain Morlacco cheese. Cheesemakers who had emigrated from the Balkans once produced a soft, low-fat, uncooked-curd cow's milk cheese, named after their native region, Morlakia. Today, Grappa Morlacco cheese is once again produced in mountain dairies using skimmed milk from the evening milking mixed with whole milk from the morning. After 15 days the cheese is ready to eat, but it can also age for up to three months.

The Sant'Erasmo violet artichoke is tender, meaty, elongated and thorny with purple bracts. Growers transport their crop to the Rialto and Tronchetto markets using boats called caorline. Eaten raw, the castrare (the first buds) are a real delicacy. They can also be dipped in batter and fried, or cooked in butter and served cold with lemon, often accompanied by schie, tiny lagoon shrimp.

The Bologna Mortadella cold cut is made using only pork from heavy Italian pigs with a minimum of preservatives. It is flavoured with salt, black peppercorns, ground white pepper, mace, coriander and crushed garlic before being cooked in ovens. When sliced, the meat is pale brown, not reddish-pink like the industrial version, with much more complex aromas and flavours.

The Certaldo Onion. Cited in Boccaccio's Decameron, this onion is a symbol of its hometown. Two varieties exist. The Statina is round in shape and purplish in colour with sweet, succulent flesh; it is best eaten

fresh in the summer months. The bright red, pungent Vernina is slightly squashed, and harvested from the end of August through the winter months. Both varieties are excellent for soups.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Al Pompiere;
- Osteria Il Cancellotto;
- Osteria Al Portego;
- Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino;
- Osteria dell'Acquacheta;
- Osteria La Lumera.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the typical Grissini Torinesi (bread sticks);
- the ice creams and pralines of the traditional pastry shops of Verona;
- the Coppia Ferrarese hand-made bread of the old bakeries of Ferrara;
- the aromatic herbs of the Chianti area;
- the Nobile di Montepulciano and other wines of the Montepulciano vineyards;
- the Pienza Pecorino cheese;
- the Baci and other chocolate pralines at the Perugia Chocolate Museum;
- the typical traditional cakes and pastries of Perugia;
- the wines and local fare of the Palazzo del Gusto, Enoteca Regionale dell'Umbria winery;
- the salami and other cold cut specialties of Orvieto.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not only discover delightful food and wines but also

the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- the wonderful hills surrounded by the Barolo vineyards in **La Morra**;
- **Turin**, former capital of Italy, with the Mole Antonelliana, the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept and the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre;
- **Verona**, with the imposing Roman amphitheatre (the Arena), the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo, the Scaligeri graves, and of course Juliet's famous balcony;
- **Padua**, home of St. Anthony's church, the medieval Regional Palace and the wonderful Scrovegni chapel;
- **Venice**, with its canals full of traditional gondolas, St. Mark square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Rialto Bridge;
- **Bologna**, the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, the Piazza Maggiore and the Archiginnasio, the oldest university in Europe;
- **Ferrara**, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, former seat of the Este Dukedom, with the Castle, the Duomo cathedral and the Diamanti Palace;
- **Maranello**, home of the Ferrari Museum and Galleria;
- **Florence**, the cradle of the Italian renaissance, with the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery, the Santa Croce church, the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, the Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio bridge;
- **Siena**, where the famous Palio race is run in the ancient Piazza del Palio square;
- **San Gimignano**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its wonderful medieval towers;
- **Perugia**, perched on a hill, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful ancient towns in Italy;
- **Orvieto**, situated on top of a rock offering the most splendid of views, with the wonderful the gothic cathedral;
- **Todi**, yet another splendid medieval little town full of ancient buildings and tiny streets;
- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing mon-

uments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Turin or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Piedmont. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association.

Day 2) La Morra, Castagnole Lanze, Carmagnola

Departure for the wonderful Barolo vineyards; first stop at the La Morra scenic viewpoint, where you can admire the hills and vineyards. Visit to the Montezemolo wine cellars and taste their extraordinary wines accompanied by some of the typical local produce of Langa. Departure for Castagnole Lanze, and a visit of Giorgio Rivetti's estate, La Spinetta, for a tasting of his exclusive labels accompanied by local products. Transfer to Carmagnola and a visit to the Agripiemonte farm where the Grey Rabbit is raised. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Barbaresco, Cherasco, Murazzano

Departure for Barbaresco to visit the cellars of the Barbaresco producers, which boast several top class historical vineyards and a range of quality wines. Introduction and tasting of a selection of wines. Departure for Cherasco to visit the historical centre, free time to wander around the little streets with the traditional workshops which produce the delightful 'Baci di Cherasco' (dark chocolates with hazelnuts). Transfer to Murazzano to visit the

Raflazz dairy farm for a tasting of the Langhe sheep milk's cheeses. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Turin, Pollenzo

Departure for Turin, tour the city and see some of the most important historical and religious buildings – including the Mole Antonelliana and the the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept – and stroll along the Dora river. Free time to wander around and enjoy the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre, with the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties, such as the delicious Turin "Grissini" of the Guala bakery or the fresh homemade pastas at Pasticceria Defilippis. Back to Pollenzo, stroll through the centre, then a visit to the Slow Food Wine Bank for a wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Verona

Departure for Verona. Visit the Arena amphitheatre, the Ponte di Pietra stone bridge, the Arco di Gavie arch, the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona city gates, and the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. Also see the Scaligeri graves, Castel Vecchio and Juliet's famous balcony. In San Zeno, visit the Pasticceria Zeno Gelati e Cioccolato for an ice cream (with some unique flavours like the Valpolicella Marasche or the cream of Recioto wine) and their chocolate pralines which are made using Slow Food Presidia produce. Visit Piazza delle Erbe and the fruit and vegetables stalls there. For lunch, taste the traditional Veronese dishes at the Trattoria Al Pompiere. Free time to wander around the centre and tour dei Goti (traditional hosteries offering bread and lard with other typical snacks, accompanied by a glass of wine). Back to Montecchia di Crosara to see the Cà Rugate cellars and have a guided wine tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Torri del Quarsetolo, Padua

Departure for Padua for a tour of the city. On the way there, stop off at Torri del

Quarsetolo to visit Umberto Rossato's rice fields where the Vialone Nano Grumo rice is produced. When we arrive in Padua, there will be a tour to include St Anthony's church, the regional Palace, the oldest medieval building in Italy and the Scrovegni chapel. Stop at the market held in the Piazza delle Erbe e della Frutta where there will be a talk on the season's fresh produce. Lunch will be held at the typical Osteria Il Cancellotto. Free time to stroll around the centre of town. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 7) Venice, Sant'Erasmo Island

Departure for Venice. Tour the city and visit: St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace and Rialto Bridge. Stroll through the little streets and alleyways among the little local shops and tour of the Ombre (a glass of wine accompanied by local molluscs, fried fish, cod and other typical fare) in some of the old eateries with a break for a light lunch at the Osteria Al Portego near Rialto Bridge. Transfer to the island of Sant'Erasmo, Venice's great vegetable garden, to visit the farm of Carlo and Claudio Finotello who grow vegetables and the purple artichoke of Sant'Erasmo for a brief presentation about the artichokes. Depart for Ferrara.

Day 8) Ferrara, the valleys of Comacchio in the Delta of the river Po Park

Departure for Ferrara, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, that offers quaint views of the elegant palaces of the Duke of Este. Stroll through the centre and visit the Castle, the Duomo Cathedral and the Diamanti Palace. Free time. A short trip to visit to the oldest bakery, the Panificio Perdonati, to try the Coppia Ferrarese, a hand-made oil-based bread which boasts ancient origins. Transfer to the Manifattura Marinati marinating factory in the Comacchio Valley, located within the river Po Delta Park for a visit



and a talk on the techniques used for catching and preparing the Comacchio's Marinated Eel. This will be followed by a cooking class of typical Ferrara dishes (tortelli filled with pumpkin and other stuffed pastas) and then dinner based on the dishes that have been prepared. Return to the hotel.

Day 9) Bologna, Maranello

Departure for Bologna. Visit the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, stopping off at the Piazza Maggiore, the Archiginnasio and guided visit of the Mercato del Quadrilatero market, the ancient square where vegetables, fruit and ancient shops selling cheeses and cold cuts such as the Mortadella Bolognese can be found. Transfer to Maranello to visit the Museum and the Galleria Ferrari. On the way back, stop off at Castelvetro di Modena for a visit of the Opera 02 vinegar factory to sample the various ageing balsamic vinegars. Transfer to the hotel near Florence.

Day 10) Florence

Departure for Florence. Walk through the centre and visit the Santa Croce church, the "Pantheon of Italian Glories" where illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the Baptistery, the

Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, and the Piazza della Signoria square. Break at one of the oldest ice cream parlours, "Perché no!", that offers dozens different flavours and a precise selection of raw materials (including pistachios from Bronte, saffron and cardamom). There will be a short talk on how the ice cream is made with some small samples. Free afternoon to stroll along the elegant streets, visit the Uffizi Gallery or shop at the leather market, then traditional dinner at Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino. Transfer to the hotel in the Chianti hills.

Day 11) Siena, San Gimignano

Departure for Siena. Guided tour of the city, including the Museum of the Contrade (each horse in the famous "Palio", runs for a different "Contrada"). Sample some delicious traditional desserts like the Panforte at one of the best pastry shops. Free time before departing for San Gimignano. On the way to San Gimignano, lunch with some of the local produce such as the Certaldo onion, the saffron from San Gimignano and the organic extra-virgin olive oil at the family-run farmhouse Il Castagnolino. Visit and hear about the techniques used in producing olive oil. In the afternoon visit the famous towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum: multimedia exhibits, street scenes and a recre-

ation of the city as it was back in 1300. Return to the hotel.

Day 12) Castellina in Chianti, Tregole di Castellina, Radda in Chianti, Greve in Chianti

Entire day given over to discovering the Chianti hills along the Via Chiantigena (an ancient road connecting Siena with Florence crossing over the hills of Chianti). Stop off at Castellina in Chianti and Tregole di Castellina in Chianti for a talk on aromatic herbs harvested and dried following the ancient techniques of Duccio Fontani. Head off for Radda and visit to the Porciatti grocery in the old town centre where local salami and other delicacies including Slow Food products can be purchased. Set off for the wonderful city of Greve, to visit the historical town centre and then head for the Podere Le Fornaci where there will be some sampling of organic cheeses (including baby goats cheese and fresh ricotta). Return to the hotel.

Day 13) Montepulciano, Pienza

Departure for Montepulciano, one of the most characteristic medieval cities in Italy, which offers amazing views over the surrounding hillsides. Visit the Contucci winery for a tasting, then explore the wonderful town centre and have lunch at

the old Osteria dell'Acquacheta, with its rustic atmosphere. Here, sample some of Tuscany's best recipes. In the afternoon, head for Pienza, a perfect renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino dairy farm, learn about the cheese-making process and sample the fare. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines. Transfer to Perugia.

Day 14) Perugia, Città di Castello

Departure for Perugia, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. A visit to the Perugina chocolate museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. Stop off at the historical Sandri pastry shop and the Bottega delle Erbe Aromatiche with over 6,000 different herbs. Afternoon departure for Città di Castello, in the Tiber valley; a tour of the city and the Fratelli Giulietti Salumificio where you may sample the local cold cuts including the Mazzafegati. Visit to the Girasole, a classic

grocery shop specialising in salami, cheese and local cakes. Back to Perugia and dinner with the dishes of the traditional Umbran cuisine at the Osteria La Lumera. Return to the hotel.

Day 15) Orvieto, Todi

Departure for Orvieto, situated on top of a rock. Tour of the city, including the gothic cathedral and a visit to the Palazzo del Gusto winery for a guided tour and a tasting of Umbrian wines accompanied by some local fare. Before heading off, enjoy a short visit to the Adriano pastry shop to try the best of Orvieto's typical cakes, including chocolates made with chillies and saffron. An afternoon visit to Todi, a splendid medieval town, to wander around and discover the old craftshops, including the Fraolini butchery that produces traditional salamis and roast pork with oven-baked breads. A visit to the Montecristo dairy farm in Pian di Porto to sample the baby Pecorino cheeses made

with fresh milk. Depart for Rome.

Day 16) Rome

In the morning a guided tour of the Mercato Rionale (fresh produce market) and a lesson on choosing the season's vegetables and fruit; after the tour cooking lesson on the Roman traditional recipes at the Scuola dell'Associazione Cuoche per Caso ("Accidental Cooks Association") using the produce bought at the market, followed by lunch. In the afternoon sightseeing tour of Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a short stop at the Trevi Fountain. The afternoon will be free to visit the city. Return to the hotel.

Day 17) Rome

Free day to explore Rome.

Day 18) Departure

Morning free. Transfer to the airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 17 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 9 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 15 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Northern & Central Italy
- 1 lesson on the fruits and vegetables in season at the Padua market

- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to the Ferrarese cuisine
- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to the Roman cuisine
- Entrance fees to:
 - Ferrari Museum and Gallery, Maranello
 - Church of Santa Croce, Florence
 - Museum of the Contrade, Siena
 - San Gimignano 1300 Museum
 - Chocolate Museum, Perugia
- Funicolare (cable car) in Orvieto
- Water bus in Venice

- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of-the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges





GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

LA MORRA, CARMAGNOLA, BARBARESCO, CHERASCO, MURAZZANO, TURIN, POLLENZO, GRINZANE CAVOUR, VERONA, TORRI DEL QUARSETOLO, PADUA, VENICE, SANT'ERASMO ISLAND, FERRARA, THE VALLEYS OF COMACCHIO IN THE DELTA OF THE RIVER PO PARK, BOLOGNA, MARANELLO, FLORENCE, SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI, TREGOLE DI CASTELLINA, RADDA IN CHIANTI, GREVE IN CHIANTI, MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA, PERUGIA, CITTÀ DI CASTELLO, ORVIETO, TODI, ROME, THE CASTELLI ROMANI AREA, FRASCATI, CASTEL GANDOLFO, GENZANO, NAPLES, ERICE, TRAPANI, MARSALA, AGRIGENTO, LICATA, PIAZZA ARMERINA, RAGUSA, SYRACUSE, MOUNT ETNA, TAORMINA, PALERMO, MONREALE.

25 days | 24 nights

TOUR FEATURES

A complete tour to discover the many wonders of Italy through the rich nature, historical heritage and enogastronomical traditions of several regions: Piedmont, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio and Sicily, with a stop in Naples, in the Campania region.

The leisure trip of a lifetime discovering the wealth of towns of great historical importance, pristine natural landscapes, masterpieces of art and archaeological wonders that makes Italy the ultimate travel destination, from the Piedmontese vineyards to elegant Turin, from romantic Verona to amazing Venice, from ancient Ferrara to cultured Bologna, from wonderful Florence to medieval San Gimignano,

from old Perugia to the majesty of Rome, from lively Naples to splendid Erice, from the Valley of the Temples to baroque Ragusa Ibla, from elegant Syracuse to fashionable Taormina, to name only a few. Very different regions from almost every point of view, differences that add to the huge variety of excellent vintages, typical dishes and regional delicacies that can be sampled during the tour, such as Barolo, Brunello and wines of the Mount Etna area, delicious cold cuts such as Prosciutto di Parma and Culatello di Zibello, savoury cheeses such as Toma delle Langhe and Parmigiano Reggiano, extra-virgin olive oils, hand-made pasta, Cannoli and traditional pastries, and much more. Participants will also taste original dishes



of the various regional cuisines, visit traditional markets learning how to shop for fresh produce and then prepare traditional local dishes, visit wineries, old cellars, farms and pastry shops.

SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA AND OTHER RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Participants will have the unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from recommended quality producers, such as:

- the wines of the Barolo vineyards



- the Carmagnola Grey Rabbit;
- the wines of the Barbaresco hills;
- the sheep milk cheeses of the Langhe;
- the wines of the Pollenzo Wine Bank;
- the wines of the Verona vineyards;
- the Vialone Nano Grumo rice;
- the Violet artichoke of St. Erasmo Island;
- the Comacchio's Marinated Eel;
- the ice creams at ancient ice cream parlour in Florence;
- the Certaldo onion;
- the baby Pecorino cheese;
- the extra-virgin olive oil of the Trapani area;
- the lemons of Syracuse;
- the excellent wines and champagnes of the Mount Etna vineyards.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Barolo wine, called the "king of wines" but also the "wine of kings", it is one of the world's best wines, made from the best Nebbiolo grapes only. A robust red, full-bodied and very dry. The aroma is similar to strawberries, tar, roses, violets and truffles. It is "hard" when young and it needs to be aged at least 3 years to become "mellow". It becomes better with additional aging and is often left to age for between 10 and 20 years.

The Murazzano Robiola cheese is a fresh cheese produced from ewes' milk or a mixture of ewe' and cows' milk. The

ripening is from 4 to 10 days. There is no rind but only a yellowish patina in matured cheese. The dough is white or ivory-white. The texture is soft. The odour is fine and delicate. The taste is mainly sweet but it becomes more intense in aged products.

The Grappa Mountain Morlacco cheese. Cheesemakers who had emigrated from the Balkans once produced a soft, low-fat, uncooked-curd cow's milk cheese, named after their native region, Morlakia. Today, Grappa Morlacco cheese is once again produced in mountain dairies using skimmed milk from the evening milking mixed with whole milk from the morning. After 15 days the cheese is ready to eat, but it can also age for up to three months.

The Bologna Mortadella cold cut is made using only pork from heavy Italian pigs with a minimum of preservatives. It is flavoured with salt, black peppercorns, ground white pepper, mace, coriander and crushed garlic before being cooked in ovens. When sliced, the meat is pale brown, not reddish-pink like the industrial version, with much more complex aromas and flavours.

The Certaldo Onion. Cited in Boccaccio's Decameron, this onion is a symbol of its hometown. Two varieties exist. The

Statina is round in shape and purplish in color with sweet, succulent flesh; it is best eaten fresh in the summer months. The bright red, pungent Vernina is slightly squashed, and harvested from the end of August through the winter months. Both varieties are excellent for soups.

The Salina Caper. The caper bush is an integral part of the landscape on the island of Salina. Until the advent of tourism, capers were the cornerstone of the island's economy. The capers are picked individually by hand and placed in wooden barrels in layers alternated with coarse salt. They are ready to eat after about a month and can be stored for up to three years. Salina capers are known for their firmness, fragrance and uniformity.

TYPICAL RESTAURANTS FROM THE "OSTERIE D'ITALIA" SLOW FOOD GUIDE

Tour participants will taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisines eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the "Osterie d'Italia" guide, small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes:

- Al Pompiere;
- Osteria Il Cannelletto;
- Osteria Al Portego;
- Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino;
- Osteria dell'Acquacheta;

- Osteria La Lumera;
- Ristorante Zarazà;
- Antica Pizzeria Capasso;
- Il Gallo e l'Innamorata;
- Trattoria Caico;
- Trattoria Cucina e Vino;
- Trattoria Vite e Vitello;
- Antica Focacceria San Francesco.

WINERIES AND MORE

Tour participants will also have the opportunity to sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, farms, fresh produce markets and more, such as:

- the typical Grissini Torinesi (bread sticks)
- the ice creams and pralines of the traditional pastry shops of Verona;
- the Coppia Ferrarese hand-made bread of the old bakeries of Ferrara;
- the aromatic herbs of the Chianti area;
- the Nobile di Montepulciano and other wines of the Montepulciano vineyards;
- the Pienza Pecorino cheese;
- the Baci and other chocolate pralines at the Perugia Chocolate Museum;
- the typical traditional cakes and pastries of Perugia;
- the wines and local fare of the Palazzo del Gusto, Enoteca Regionale dell'Umbria winery;
- the salami and other cold cut specialities of Orvieto;
- the white pizza bread of the Castelli Romani;
- the traditional cakes of Frascati;
- the hand-made pastas of the of the Castelli Romani;
- the Pupazza ("pastry doll") and Pangiallo (yellow bread) of the Comunità degli Osti di Frascati;
- the fresh produce of the Mercato della Vucciria traditional market in Palermo;
- the Cannoli and other traditional old monastery's pastries of Erice;
- the delightful Trapani Cassata cake.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

ART, HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURE

During the tour the participants will not

only discover delightful food and wines but also the most interesting monuments, works of art, churches and natural landscapes of the regions:

- the wonderful hills surrounded by **the Barolo vineyards** in La Morra;
- **Turin**, former capital of Italy, with the Mole Antonelliana, the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept and the elegant buildings along the arcades in the centre;
- **Verona**, with the imposing Roman amphitheatre (the Arena), the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo, the Scaligeri graves, and of course Juliet's famous balcony;
- **Padua**, home of St. Anthony's church, the medieval Regional Palace and the wonderful Scrovegni chapel;
- **Venice**, with its canals full of traditional Gondolas, St. Mark square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Rialto Bridge;
- **Bologna**, the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades, the Piazza Maggiore and the Archiginnasio, the oldest university in Europe;
- **Ferrara**, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, former seat of the Este Dukedom, with the Castle, the Duomo cathedral and the Diamanti Palace;
- **Maranello**, home of the Ferrari Museum and Galleria;
- **Florence**, the cradle of the Italian renaissance, with the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery, the Santa Croce church, the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, the Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio bridge;
- **Siena**, where the famous Palio race is run in the ancient Piazza del Palio square;
- **San Gimignano**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its wonderful medieval towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum;
- **Perugia**, perched on a hill, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful ancient towns in Italy;
- **Orvieto**, situated on top of a rock offering the most splendid of views, with the

wonderful the gothic cathedral;

- **Todi**, yet another splendid medieval little town full of ancient buildings and tiny streets;
- **Rome**, with its wealth of amazing monuments dating back to the Roman Empire, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Circus Maximus, and the masterpieces of art such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Peter Basilica, Piazza Navona square, to name a few;
- **the Castelli Romani area**, with Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, Genzano and Frascati with the splendid Villa Aldobrandini;
- **Naples**, with the Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino and the Galleria Umberto, the city where the pizza was born;
- **Erice**, a magnificent medieval city in a spectacular setting;
- **Agrigento**, with the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily;
- **Piazza Armerina**, with the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics;
- **Ragusa Ibla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture;
- **Syracuse**, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, with the archaeological park and the ancient heart of the old city – Ortigia Island;
- **Taormina**, the small town home of the oldest cinema festival in the world, with its elegant streets and wonderful views on the emerald sea;
- **Palermo**, the majestic Sicilian regional capital, with its ancient theatres and public buildings, the Monreale Cathedral, the characteristic streets and the Vucciria market.

ITINERARY

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Turin or Milan airport, meet tour escort and transfer to the hotel. Time

to settle in, then enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant which will be dedicated to the Slow Food Presidia of Piedmont. During the evening, introduction to the tour and to the Slow Food philosophy and the activities carried out by the association. Overnight stay.

Day 2) La Morra, Castagnole Lanze, Carmagnola

Departure for the wonderful Barolo vineyards; first stop at the La Morra scenic viewpoint, where you can admire the hills and vineyards. Visit to the Montezemolo wine cellars and taste their extraordinary wines accompanied by some of the typical local produce of Langa.

Departure for Castagnole Lanze, and a visit of Giorgio Rivetti's estate, La Spinetta, for a tasting of his exclusive labels accompanied by local products. Transfer to Carmagnola and a visit to the Agripiemonte farm where the Grey Rabbit is raised. Return to the hotel.

Day 3) Barbaresco, Cherasco, Murazzano

Departure for Barbaresco to visit the cellars of the Barbaresco producers, which boast several top class historical vineyards and a range of quality wines. Introduction and tasting of a selection of wines. Departure for Cherasco to visit the historical centre, free time to wander around the little streets with the traditional workshops which produce the delightful 'Baci di Cherasco' (dark chocolates with hazelnuts). Transfer to Murazzano to visit the Raflazz dairy farm for a tasting of the Langhe sheep milk's cheeses. Return to the hotel.

Day 4) Turin, Pollenzo

Departure for Turin, tour the city and see some of the most important historical and religious buildings – including the Mole Antonelliana and the Duomo cathedral where the Holy Shroud is kept – and stroll along the Dora river. Free time to wander around and enjoy the elegant buildings

along the arcades in the centre, with the opportunity to sample some of the local specialties, such as the delicious Turin "Grissini" of the Guala bakery or the fresh homemade pastas at Pasticceria Defilippis. Back to Pollenzo, stroll through the centre, then a visit to the Slow Food Wine Bank for a wine tasting. Return to the hotel.

Day 5) Verona

Departure for Verona. Visit the Arena amphitheatre, the Ponte di Pietra stone bridge, the Arco di Gavi arch, the monumental Porta Borsari and Porta Leona city gates, and the Basilicas of San Zeno and San Fermo. Also see the Scaligeri graves, Castel Vecchio and Juliet's famous balcony. In San Zeno, visit the Pasticceria Zeno Gelati e Cioccolato for an ice cream (with some unique flavours like the Valpolicella Marasche or the cream of Recioto wine) and their chocolate pralines which are made using Slow Food Presidia produce. Visit Piazza delle Erbe and the fruit and vegetables stalls there. For lunch, taste the traditional Veronese dishes at the Trattoria Al Pompiere. Free time to wander around the centre and tour dei Goti (traditional hosteries offering bread and lard with other typical snacks, accompanied by a glass of wine). Back to Montecchia di Crosara to see the Cà Rugate cellars and have a guided wine tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Day 6) Torri del Quaresetolo, Padua

Departure for Padua for a tour of the city. On the way there, stop off at Torri del Quaresetolo to visit Umberto Rossato's rice fields where the Vialone Nano Grumo rice is produced. When we arrive in Padua, there will be a tour to include St Anthony's church, the regional Palace, the oldest medieval building in Italy and the Scrovegni chapel. Stop at the market held in the Piazza delle Erbe e della Frutta where there will be a talk on the season's fresh produce.

Lunch will be held at the typical Osteria Il

Cancelletto. Free time to stroll around the centre of town. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines.

Day 7) Venice, Sant'Erasmo Island

Departure for Venice. Tour the city and visit: St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doges Palace and Rialto Bridge. Stroll through the little streets and alleyways among the little local shops and tour of the Ombre (a glass of wine accompanied by local molluscs, fried fish, cod and other typical fare) in some of the old eateries with a break for a light lunch at the Osteria Al Portego near Rialto Bridge. Transfer to the island of Sant'Erasmo, Venice's great vegetable garden, to visit the farm of Carlo and Claudio Finotello who grow vegetables and the violet artichoke of Sant'Erasmo for a brief presentation about the artichokes. Depart for Ferrara.

Day 8) Ferrara, the valleys of Comacchio in the Delta of the river Po Park

Departure for Ferrara, one of Italy's most beautiful historical towns, that offers quaint views of the elegant palaces of the Duke of Este. Stroll through the centre and visit the Castle, the Duomo Cathedral and the Diamanti Palace. Free time. A short trip to visit to the oldest bakery, the Panificio Perdonati, to try the Coppia Ferrarese, a hand-made oil-based bread which boasts ancient origins. Transfer to the Manifattura Marinati marinating factory in the Comacchio Valley, located within the river Po Delta Park for a visit and a talk on the techniques used for catching and preparing the Comacchio's Marinated Eel. This will be followed by a cooking class of typical Ferrara dishes (tortelli filled with pumpkin and other stuffed pastas) and then dinner based on the dishes that have been prepared. Depart for Bologna.

Day 9) Bologna, Maranello

Departure for Bologna. Visit the city of 100 towers with its 34kms of arcades,



stopping off at the Piazza Maggiore, the Archiginnasio and guided visit of the Mercato del Quadrilatero market, the ancient square where vegetables, fruit and ancient shops selling cheeses and cold cuts such as the Mortadella Bolognese can be found. Transfer to Maranello to visit the Museum and the Galleria Ferrari. On the way back, stop off at Castelvetro di Modena for a visit of the Opera 02 vinegar factory to sample the various ageing balsamic vinegars. Transfer to the hotel near Florence.

Day 10) Florence

Departure for Florence. Walk through the centre and visit the Santa Croce church, the "Pantheon of Italian Glories" where illustrious Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli are buried. The visit also takes in the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's bell tower, and the Piazza della Signoria square. Break at one of the oldest ice cream parlours, "Perché no!", that offers dozens different flavours and a precise selection of raw materials (including pistachios from Bronte, saffron and cardamom). There will be a short talk on how the ice cream is made with some small samples. Free afternoon to stroll along the elegant streets, visit the Uffizi Gallery or shop at

the leather market, then traditional dinner at Osteria Tripperia Il Magazzino. Transfer to the hotel in the Chianti hills.

Day 11) Siena, San Gimignano

Departure for Siena. Guided tour of the city, including the Museum of the Contrade (each horse in the famous "Palio", runs for a different "Contrada"). Sample some delicious traditional desserts like the Panforte at one of the best pastry shops. Free time before departing for San Gimignano. On the way to San Gimignano, lunch with some of the local produce such as the Certaldo onion, the saffron from San Gimignano and the organic extra-virgin olive oil at the family-run farmhouse Il Castagnolino. Visit and hear about the techniques used in producing olive oil. In the afternoon visit the famous towers and the San Gimignano 1300 Museum: multimedia exhibits, street scenes and a recreation of the city as it was back in 1300. Return to the hotel.

Day 12) Castellina in Chianti, Tregole di Castellina, Radda in Chianti, Greve in Chianti

Entire day given over to discovering the Chianti hills along the Via Chiantigena (an ancient road connecting Siena with Florence crossing over the hills of Chianti).

Stop off at Castellina in Chianti and Tregole di Castellina in Chianti for a talk on aromatic herbs harvested and dried following the ancient techniques of Duccio Fontani. Head off for Radda and visit to the Porciatti grocery in the old town centre where local salami and other delicacies including Slow Food products can be purchased. Set off for the wonderful city of Greve, to visit the historical town centre and then head for the Podere Le Fornaci where there will be some sampling of organic cheeses (including baby goats cheese and fresh ricotta). Return to the hotel.

Day 13) Montepulciano, Pienza

Departure for Montepulciano, one of the most characteristic medieval cities in Italy, which offers amazing views over the surrounding hillsides. Visit the Contucci winery for a tasting, then explore the wonderful town centre and have lunch at the old Osteria dell'Acquacheta, with its rustic atmosphere. Here, sample some of Tuscany's best recipes. In the afternoon, head for Pienza, a perfect renaissance city, famous for its Pecorino cheese. Visit a Pecorino dairy farm, learn about the cheese-making process and sample the fare. Return to the hotel where there will be a tasting of local wines. Transfer to Perugia.

Day 14) Perugia, Città di Castello

Departure for Perugia, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. A visit to the Perugina chocolate museum, famous for its Baci chocolates. Stop off at the historical Sandri pastry shop and the Bottega delle Erbe Aromatiche with over 6,000 different herbs. Afternoon departure for Città di Castello, in the Tiber valley; a tour of the city and the Fratelli Giulietti Salumificio where you may sample the local cold cuts including the Mazzafegati. Visit to the Girasole, a classic grocery shop specialising in salami, cheese and local cakes. Back to Perugia and dinner with the dishes of the traditional Umbrian cuisine at the Osteria La Lumera. Return to the hotel.

Day 15) Orvieto, Todi

Departure for Orvieto, situated on top of a rock. Tour of the city, including the gothic cathedral and a visit to the Palazzo del Gusto winery for a guided tour and a tasting of Umbrian wines accompanied by some local fare. Before heading off, enjoy a short visit to the Adriano pastry shop to try the best of Orvieto's typical cakes, including chocolates made with chillies and saffron. An afternoon visit to Todi, a splendid medieval town, to wander around and discover the old craftshops, including the Fraolini butchery that produces traditional salamis and roast pork with oven-baked breads. A visit to the Montecristo dairy farm in Pian di Porto to sample the baby Pecorino cheeses made with fresh milk. Return to the hotel.

Day 16) Rome

In the morning a guided tour of the Mercato Rionale (fresh produce market) and a lesson on choosing the season's vegetables and fruit; after the tour cooking lesson on the Roman traditional recipes at the Scuola dell'Associazione Cuoche per Caso ("Accidental Cooks Association") using the produce bought a

the market, followed by lunch. In the afternoon sightseeing tour of Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus and Piazza Venezia with a short stop at the Trevi Fountain. The afternoon will be free to visit the city. Return to the hotel.

Day 17) Rome

Free day to explore Rome.

Day 18) Castel Gandolfo, the Albano Lake, Genzano, Frascati

Departure for the Castelli Romani area and first stop in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, on the shores of the Albano Lake; visit of the historical centre and free time to stroll along the lake shore. Transfer to Genzano and visit of the historical Sergio Bocchini's bakery to attend a demonstration of bread-making and sample the Pizza Bianca (white pizza bread). A visit to La Casareccia hand-made pasta shop will follow, with a brief talk about pasta kinds and a tasting. Continue on to Frascati and visit of the wonderful Villa Aldobrandini, then guided tour of the city centre and stop at the Osteria San Gaetano della Comunità degli Osti di Frascati, for a tasting of some traditional delicacies such as the Pupazza, Pangiallo, Ciambelline al vino (biscuits for dipping in wine), together with Cannellino wine. The tour then continues on to San Pietro square, Piazza del Mercato square with a stop at the Purificato pastry shop, Palazzo Vescovile (an ancient pontifical prison) and Ceralli old bakery for a tasting of biscuits, before arriving to a scenic viewpoint from which Rome can be seen. Traditional agropastoral dinner at Zarazà with local dishes and wines from Lazio. Return to the hotel.

Day 19) Naples

Departure for a guided tour of lively Naples and its main attractions: Dell'Ovo Castle, the Royal Palace, the Maschio An-

gioino and the Galleria Umberto, followed by a walk through the famous Spaccanapoli part of town. Lunch with a real Italian Pizza at the Antica Pizzeria Casasso and then board the overnight ferry for Palermo.

Day 20) Erice, Trapani, Marsala

Departure for Erice, a magnificent medieval city in a spectacular setting. Walk through the streets of the centre of the town and visit two old pastry shops that offer delights prepared according to the traditional recipes from the Antico Convento (old monastery): almond pastries filled with candied lemon, Cannoli, Zibibbo wine and the famous "Brutti ma buoni" ("ugly but tasty") biscuits. On the drive to Trapani, stop at Fontanasalsa, an old oil mill, to taste their extra-virgin olive oil. On arrival in Trapani visit the city's oldest pastry shop, La Rinascenza, where some of their typical delights such as the Savoia and the Cassata can be sampled. Tour of the city. Departure for Marsala, the city renowned for its production of the wine of the same name. Stroll through the centre and sample some of the traditional local recipes and the Marsala wine during dinner at the Osteria Il Gallo e L'Innamorata. Return to the hotel.

Day 21) Agrigento, Licata, Piazza Armerina

Departure for Agrigento for a guided tour of the amazing Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily. Move on to San Leone for a lunch with the traditional local dishes and wines in the Trattoria Caico, then set off for Licata, a small town on the seafront, to take a stroll. Continue on to the Piazza Armerina for a guided tour of the Villa Romana del Casale with its precious mosaics. Departure for Syracuse and overnight stay.

Day 22) Ragusa, Modica, Syracuse

Departure for Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture. The city is di-

vided into two parts: the old city (called Ibla) and the new city. Having admired the wonderful architecture of Ibla, lunch with the typical dishes from the land and the sea accompanied by local wines at the Trattoria Cucina e Vino. Departure for Modica, the ancient capital of the county which once again is full of amazing examples of architecture in the old Sicilian baroque style. Guided tour of the city and a visit to an old pastry shop, the Antica Pasticceria Bonajuto, where the Ruta family is famous for its chocolate. Departure for Syracuse and dinner with traditional dishes and local wines at the Trattoria Vite e Vitello in the historical town centre of Ortigia. Return to the hotel.

Day 23) Syracuse, Mount Etna, Taormina

Guided tour of the city, one of the most

important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, visit the archaeological park and walk around the heart of the old city – Ortigia. Transfer just outside town for a visit to a farm which specialises in the production of lemons from the Syracuse region, and a tasting. Departure for Taormina, stopping on route to visit the Azienda del San Michele of the Baron Emanuele Scammacca del Murgo, where the prestigious wines and champagnes, V.S.Q. and Metodo Classico are produced, a real find in terms of wines from Etna. There will be a tasting accompanied by local produce. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 24) Palermo, Monreale

In the morning head for the famous old Vucciria Market, in the ancient heart of this thriving city, for a talk on the products that can be seen on the market stalls, in-

cluding the fresh fruit and vegetables that are in season. Lunch will include a sampling of the “U sfinunciuni”, a typical local bread, at the Antica Focacceria San Francesco. Afternoon guided tour of the city. A visit to the Bottega dei Sapori and the Saperi della Legalità shop that sell the produce cultivated on land confiscated from the Mafia. Free time to stroll around and stop at the Scimone pastry shop, one of the oldest in the city, that sells the famous Cannoli, Babà and lots more. Transfer to Monreale to visit the magnificent cathedral, then back to Palermo for a dinner consisting of the main traditional local recipes at the Trattoria Primavera. Return to the hotel for a wine tasting.

Day 25) Departure

Morning free. Departure for Palermo airport.

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 23 nights in 4* charming hotels
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- 1 overnight ferry boat from Naples to Palermo, double occupancy cabin
- 18 meals based on traditional regional dishes, including a selection of regional wines
- 25 guided tastings of foods and wines from the Grand Tour of Italy
- 1 lesson on the fruits and vegetables in season at the Padua market
- 1 visit to the Vucciria Market including

a lesson on the fruit and vegetables of the season

- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to the Ferrarese cuisine
- 1 cooking lesson dedicated to the Roman cuisine
- Entrance fees to:
 - Ferrari Museum and Gallery, Maranello
 - Church of Santa Croce, Florence
 - Museum of the Contrade, Siena
 - San Gimignano 1300 Museum
 - Chocolate Museum, Perugia
 - Duomo Cathedral, Orvieto
 - Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park, Agrigento

- Villa Romana del Casale Archaeological Park, Piazza Armerina
- Archaeological Park, Syracuse
- Monreale Cathedral
- Water bus in Venice
- Funicolare (cable car), Orvieto
- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Italy
- Travel in state-of the-art, luxury motorcoaches
- Baggage Handling for the full duration of the tour
- Professional Tour Directors, enogastronomic experts and licensed local guides
- Taxes and Hotel Service Charges



ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

**SHOPPING AND
WELLNESS TOURS**



ROMAN FLAIR

5 days | 4 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival in Rome, meet Tour Manager. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome. Travel along the Via Veneto, cradle of la dolce vita, to Piazza Barberini, to view Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Triton Fountain. Next up is Piazza Venezia and the gigantic Vittoriano monument. Via dei Fori Imperiali leads on to the Coliseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the Temple of Hercules, the Theatre of Marcellus, the Capitol, Tiber Island, the Roman Synagogue, Castel Sant'Angelo, and finally St. Peter's Square. Transfer by private coach to hotel in Fiuggi for check in and dinner. (D)

Day 2) Rome

Spend a full day in Rome. In the morning enjoy a guided walking tour of Ancient Rome including: the Coliseum (exterior), the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill, Piazza Venezia, the Capitol, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, and finally Piazza Navona. In the afternoon, free time for shopping. Like the city, shopping in Rome

is varied. For the most part though, Rome's shops seem to cater to a more egalitarian crowd than the other major cities. The city's most exclusive and high-end boutiques reside within a stone's throw of the famous Spanish Steps. The Via del Corso is a focal point of any shopping tour to Italy and contains a number of chic boutiques and well-known chain stores, thus catering for every taste and pocket. Back to Fiuggi for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Fiuggi

Relax and free time for shopping in Fiuggi. Fiuggi is an internationally famous thermal spa resort and holiday centre. Its oligomineral waters are known all over the world and are very effective in curing kidney stones. Fiuggi's spa complex consists of two hydrothermal establishments: the Fonte Bonifacio VIII and the Fonte Anticolana. The medieval town of Fiuggi was probably built around the year one thousand. Inside the town walls, which have now practically disappeared,



there is a succession of alleys, little squares, steep flights of steps and houses built one on top of the other. Today Fiuggi is a classic Italian hill town, beginning with its layout as two separate towns. Blanketing its slopes at 2,500 feet above



sea level is the medieval old town, called Fiuggi Città. At its feet is the 20th century spa town, called Fiuggi Fonte. Like all Italian spa towns, Fiuggi has loads of great shopping, and plenty of good restaurants serving hearty local food. Fiuggi is located in the province of Frosinone in southern Latium in a geographical area known as Ciociaria. The landscape, the historical and artistic heritage of Ciociaria, its folklore and customs, as well as the hospitality of its people make the province one of the most unique and special in Italy. Dinner at your hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Valmontone Outlet

Spend the full day shopping at the Valmontone Outlet Fashion District; over 150 stores with the best brands, offering prices reduced from 30% to 70% all year round. The widest, top quality range of the best brands in fashion, sportswear, accessories, home furnishings and cosmetics are available. Dinner and overnight in Fiuggi. (B, D)

Day 5) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Fiuggi - basis HB
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



ART AND ELEGANCE

5 days | 4 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Florence or Pisa airport, meet tour manager and transfer by private luxury coach to your hotel in Montecatini. Check in and Dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Florence

Full day dedicated to exploring Florence: Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the elegant palaces and fashionable shops, the charming narrow medieval streets and the impressive Cathedral Square with Brunelleschi's imposing dome will all be the focus of your pleasant slowly paced tour ending at the Accademia. Admire Michelangelo's sculptures, such as his fascinating unfinished statues and the original David. Afternoon at leisure for additional cultural visits or for shopping in the famous Leather Market. Back to Montecatini for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Montecatini

Full day at disposal to relax in Montecatini. The thermal springs, around which the spa resorts have been built, are the treasure of

Montecatini. The thermal baths of Montecatini have been visited since the 14th century but they achieved their highest international fame towards the end of the 19th century. Besides the sophisticated thermal equipment, divided into different establishments, the place boasts an elegant and refined look: the numerous liberty-style buildings, the broad parks, the wooded avenues bring to mind some of the famous thermal resorts from the other side of the Alps. Numerous high-level events, congress structures and additional features such as the golf course and hippodrome, besides the perfect position with respect to some of the most important art centres of Europe; make of Montecatini not only an excellent thermal resort, but also a very interesting holiday destination. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) The Mall Outlet

Spend a full day at The Mall Outlet. Walking through the Mall Outlet, you will find all of the most important brands can be found: Valentino, Fendi, Salvatore Ferragamo, Giorgio Armani. Shopping-lovers will find top



quality clothes and accessories at excellent prices. Back to Montecatini for dinner. (B, D)

Day 5) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport.



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KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Accademia - Florence
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



FASHION DREAMLAND

4 days | 3 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Milan International Airport and transfer to the hotel. Check in and dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Milan

Enjoy the atmosphere of Italy's fashion capital. In the morning guided tour including the glamorous Galleria Vittorio Emanuele shopping gallery and the medieval Sforza Castle. Next tour the breathtaking Duomo, one of the world's largest, most striking gothic cathedrals. Also visit La Scala, one of the world's best known opera houses. In the afternoon free time for shopping. Milan is without doubt one of the main centres for shopping in Italy and the numerous city districts provide for almost every consumer wish and whim - whether one is looking for high fashion, antiques, furniture or home accessories, shopping in Milan can provide it at a price to suit every budget. Fashion definitely trumps budget while shopping in Milan - so much that you would think the city gave away

free money at its gates. There is enough variety in the many boutiques that you can easily take home a few reminders of your Italian vacation for a reasonable price. As one of the fashion capitals of the world it is only to be expected that its piazzas offer a wide assortment of leading designers: Armani, Gucci, Prada, Valentino and Versace all have stores in the city. (B)

Day 3) Serravalle Outlet

Spend a full day at Serravalle Designer Outlet, the largest factory Outlet Centre in Europe, with 180 stores, representing an unequalled portfolio of prestigious brands. In Serravalle Designer Outlet it's not just about shopping, enjoy a unique experience in exclusive boutiques, opening onto small paved squares and winding lanes. Architecturally surprising and surrounded by green hills, the outlet recreates the atmosphere of a picturesque old Ligurian town. The Serravalle Designer Outlet is in a fantastic location, just half an hour from Milan. Return to Milan for dinner. (B, D)



Day 4) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Milan - basis 1BB/2HB
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

SPORT TOURS



DAYS OF PEACE AND THUNDER

5 days | 4 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Milan airport. Transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2) Milan

Departure for a city tour of Milan with the possibility of visiting the Alfa Romeo museum. In the afternoon opportunity either to organise a go-cart race or to shop in the most fashionable streets of Milan. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Lake Maggiore

Spend the day on Lake Maggiore. Visit Stresa and the Borromean Islands: Bella, Madre & Pescatori by private motor boat. The islands Bella and Madre are famous for the beautiful Baroque style Borromeo

Palace and the Botanical gardens full of exotic plants and flowers. Pescatori is the quietest and best-preserved of the Islands. Dinner in a characteristic restaurant set in the hills above Varese. Return to the hotel for overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Monza

Full day dedicated to the Formula One race in Monza, tickets for all sectors can be arranged. A programme to include the starting grid line up on the Saturday before the race can also be organised. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 5) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Milan area - basis 2BB/2HB
- 2 dinners at local restaurants
- Standing tickets for the Monza Race (numbered tribune tickets available on request)
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Ferry on Lake Maggiore
- VAT

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H/D = Half Day



MEDITERRANEAN BREEZE

8 days | 7 nights

Ischia: Situated in the Western part of the Bay of Naples, Ischia is the largest of the Neapolitan islands and one of the most attractive places around Naples, which is 17,5 miles away. It is of volcanic origin and its present structure is the result of a complex geologic evolution started in the Pliocene era. The first eruption, of Mount Corvo, occurred in 2200 BC, while the most recent one took place in 1301-1302 and caused the making of Molina Point, called Arso or Cremato.

Capri: Enjoying the privilege of a very mild climate, marvellous natural beauty and excellent tourist facilities, Capri boasts a very active tourist industry, the main business of the island along with agriculture, fishery and handicraft. The island has large vineyards, olive-groves, and orchards and vegetables, citrus fruits and fresh fish, have always characterized the Capri cuisine. The 1905-1906 geological excavations discovered amygdaloidal Flintstone arms and fossil remains of Palaeolithic fauna that demonstrated that the island has been

inhabited since the Palaeolithic age.

The Amalfi Coast: it is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and it is renowned for its rugged terrain, scenic beauty, picturesque towns and diversity; every town has its own character and interesting sites. Amalfi is characterised by small fishermen's dwellings and white washed villas dug into the cliff. Here it is possible to enjoy a multitude of attractions, among which the enchanting small marina and colourful centre full of lively restaurants and shops. Best known for its dominant coastal views, Ravello is about 15 minutes drive upwards and inland from Amalfi. Positano has an amazing structure; its buildings clinging in tiers to the rock face, the small houses, all huddled on top of each other. It is known all over the world for its breathtaking scenery, nice shops and romantic atmosphere.

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Naples airport meet assistant and transfer to the hotel in Naples. Discover the Bay of Naples and the beauties



of the city: Castel Dell'Ovo, The Royal Palace, the Maschio Angioino, and the Gallery of Umberto. Dinner in a typical pizzeria. (D)

Day 2) Boarding

Today transfer to the port and depart on board our sailing boat. Overnight on



boat for the next five nights. (B, L, D)

Days 2 - 7)

Sail between Capri, Ischia and the Amalfi Coast with stops planned according to weather/wind conditions. (B, L, D)

Day 7) Naples

Sail back to the port of Naples and transfer to the hotel. Free time for relaxing and shopping. Overnight at the hotel. (B)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Naples – basis BB
- 5 nights accommodation on board
- Full board on board (from lunch on day 2 to breakfast on day 7)
- English speaking assistant throughout
- English speaking skipper on board
- Transportation per itinerary by sailing boat (Final cleaning and Linen included)
- VAT

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LT = Limoncello Tasting;

CT = Cheese Tasting;

KL = Cooking Lesson;

A = Aperitif;

H/D = Half Day



GREENS OF ROME AND AROUND

6 days | 5 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive in Rome, meet Tour Manager. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome. See Via Veneto, cradle of la dolce vita, and move on to Piazza Barberini, to view Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Triton Fountain. Next up is Piazza Venezia and the gigantic Vittoriano monument. Via dei Fori Imperiali leads on to the Coliseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the Temple of Hercules, the Theatre of Marcellus, the Capitol, Tiber Island, the Roman Synagogue, Castel Sant'Angelo, and finally St. Peter's Square. Transfer by private coach to the hotel in Fiumicino. Check in and dinner. (D)

Day 2) Fiumicino Golf Club

High up, at 621m above sea level, amid verdant hills and placid woods, is Fiumicino Golf Club, one of the most amenable and relaxing greens of the Italian peninsula. It is a splendid eighteen-hole course set within a large natural park elevated above the Ciociaria countryside. It has a high profile: 18 hole, par 70 for 5888 yardage. Moreover, the facilities include a practice area, putting green, and club house, pro

shop, bar, restaurant, swimming pool and tennis courts. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Rome

Guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, the largest of all Catholic churches, with its amazing grand and elaborate interior, and the Vatican Museums. Admire the Sistine Chapel, with Michelangelo's masterpiece ceiling and Last Judgement. Rest of the day free to stroll along the streets of the centre or shop. Back to Fiumicino and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4) Country Club Castel Gandolfo

Architect: R. Trent-Jones Snr. - 18 holes: 5,855m: par 72.

This golf club offers the stunning combination of a unique setting and an exceptional course. This Trent Jones' masterpiece is cradled in the bowl of an extinct volcano, with the clubhouse (a 17th century Bishop's residence) perched on the rim of the caldera above - simply amazing!

In the afternoon depart for a half day excursion around the Castelli Romani, the hill towns outside Rome, which are interesting



for their ancient history and for their production of some very well-regarded wines. Back to Fiumicino and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5) Acquasanta Golf Ancient Rome Tour

Architect: Cpt. A. Flach. - 18 holes: 5,835m: par 71.



A very private member's club with a wonderful atmosphere both on the course and in the excellent clubhouse. Set amongst rolling hills and tall pines, although quite hilly in many areas it often feels almost links-like, as you play through the bumps and hollows and back and forth over the

every present brook. Visiting times are limited at this very exclusive Club.

In the afternoon proceed to Rome's historical centre for a guided walking tour of Ancient Rome including the Coliseum (exterior), the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill, Piazza Venezia, the Capitol, Trevi

Fountain, the Pantheon, and finally Piazza Navona. Back to Fiuggi and dinner at your hotel. (B, D)

Day 6) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights - 4* hotel in Fiuggi - basis HB
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Vatican Museums - Rome
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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- CT** = Cheese Tasting;
- KL** = Cooking Lesson;
- A** = Aperitif;
- H/D** = Half Day



GOLFING IN TUSCANY AND UMBRIA

8 days | 7 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Florence, Pisa or Rome airport. Meet with tour escort and transfer to the hotel in Montecatini, Italy's most famous thermal spa. Welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) Versilia Golf Club

Play golf today at Versilia near Pietrasanta on the Tuscan coast. The Golf Course, inaugurated in 1990, was designed by Marco Croze and is an 18 hole course, set in a splendid landscape, featuring sand bunkers and water obstacles. In the afternoon visit Pisa and proceed to Montecatini for dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Option: Non-golfers can visit the charming walled renaissance city of Lucca with lunch at a historic villa.

Day 3) Florence

Departure to Florence. Upon arrival fascinating walk through the historical centre of the city. The tour includes the Franciscan church of Santa Croce, known as the "Pantheon of the Italian Glories" where many illustrious Italians, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Machi-

avelli, are buried. The visit also includes the religious centre (the Baptistery, the Duomo and Giotto's Bell-tower), as well as the political centre (Piazza della Signoria) of the city. Free time for shopping. Dinner in Montecatini. (B, D)

Day 4) Montecatini Golf Club

Play at Montecatini Golf Club. Immersed in the Tuscan countryside, the Montecatini Golf Club is an 18 hole golf course of natural beauty that has been built in the hilly countryside. The player is faced with many natural hazards such as lakes, streams, forests, and ditches which form part of the natural contours of the land. The course also features many dog legs and the greens are very fast and undulating, putting the best golfers' skills to the test. This afternoon relax in Montecatini, try a thermal treatment or enjoy some window shopping around the town. Dinner at your hotel. (B, D)

Day 5) Golf Ugolino

Play golf today in the Chianti wine region south of Florence at Ugolino. It was 1889 when the English colony of Florence



founded the Florence Golf Club, the first Italian golf association. It was founded in the Cascine area, and then transferred to the Osmannoro area after the First World War. Between the 1920s and '30s the idea of creating a new golf course took shape; in 1933 the Ugolino was designed on the Chiantigiana road to the plans of English architects, Blandford and Gannon. A nat-



ural course, it is challenging because of the difference in levels, the handicaps, and the small and well defended green. It has been named among the 50 most beautiful golf courses in the world by the American writer Chris Santella. In the afternoon departure for Assisi. Check in and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Option: Non-golfers can visit vineyards and have a cooking lesson.

Day 6) Lamborghini Golf Club

The nine hole course of the Lamborghini Golf Club, which was designed by Ferruccio Lamborghini, stretches over a beautiful, hilly landscape close to Lake Trasimeno. Recent changes in its design make the course much more challenging

to today's golfers, inviting experts and enthusiasts alike to its greens. Apart from the standard 9 holes, there is a large driving range with lighted putting and pitching greens where the Club's Golf School operates. The entire golf course is dominated by a modern and comfortable clubhouse. There is a Pro Shop with a large variety of golfing accessories and a bar. In the afternoon return to Assisi. Free time to discover the hometown of St. Francis. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Perugia Golf Club

Perugia Golf Club is situated only 3 miles from the centre of the historic city of Perugia. The course is gently undulating parkland - Par 72 - SSS 70 - 6,272 yards

in length, redesigned by the Architect Davide Mezzacane and increased to 18 holes in the early nineties. The holes are not exceptionally long, but the rich vegetation and mature trees lining many fairways call for precision, particularly with the drive, and on the fast, undulating greens. In the afternoon visit Perugia. Its Etruscan walls, medieval churches, 16th century and baroque palaces still testify to its past splendour. Back to Assisi for dinner. (B, D)

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
- Golf - green fees
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

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- MT** = Mozzarella Tasting;
- LT** = Limoncello Tasting;
- CT** = Cheese Tasting;
- KL** = Cooking Lesson;
- A** = Aperitif;
- H/D** = Half Day



LAKE DISTRICT GOLF HEAVENS

LAKE MAGGIORE, LAKE COMO AND COMO

5 days | 4 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrive in Milan airport, meet with tour escort and transfer to the hotel on Lake Maggiore. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Castelconturbia Golf Club

Play golf at Castelconturbia Golf Club. 27 holes: 6,230m: Par 72 - Architect: R. Trent Jones Snr. (1987). There are three excellent loops of nine holes around the wondrous burnt sienna Clubhouse that looks out over the surrounding forest. The course is reasonably flat, the greens are not, so landing approach in the correct quarter of the green is a distinct challenge (unless your name is T. Woods or H. Potter). A beautiful place to play golf; not to be missed. Return to your hotel and free time to relax. (B)

Day 3) Borromean Islands

Boat trip to the Borromean Islands: Isola Bella, Isola del Pescatore and Isola Madre. The Isola Bella is the most famous island and is almost entirely occupied by

the Borromeo Palace and its gardens. Visit of the Palace; walk from the Gobelin room to the garden. Stop for lunch at a restaurant on Isola del Pescatore followed by afternoon visit to Isola Madre, the largest of the three islands. The main attraction here is the botanical garden, which occupies almost all the surface. The garden is composed of five terraces with many rare examples of plants, such as camellia, Chinese magnolia, Mexican yucca, Louisiana and Canadian cypresses. Return to the hotel. (B, L)

Day 4) Golf dei Laghi

In the morning play golf at the Dei Laghi Golf Club. Return to Stresa. Afternoon departure for Como, the town founded on a Celtic site by the Romans in 196 BC, which gave its name to the lake. Return to your hotel on Lake Maggiore. (B)

Day 5) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)





PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 4* hotel on Lake Maggiore - basis BB
- 1 welcome dinner
- 1 lunch on Isola del Pescatore - Lake Maggiore
- Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Borromean Islands - Lake Maggiore
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Ferry on Lake Maggiore
- VAT
- VAT

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

ITALY

LEISURE
GROUPS

**FESTIVALS AND
SPECIAL EVENTS**



SENSATIONAL VENICE CARNIVAL

5 days | 4 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Venice airport and transfer to the hotel in Lido di Jesolo, Marghera or Mestre, dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2) Venice

Transfer to Venice Island. The whole day is dedicated to the most suggestive Carnival in the world. Do not forget to carry a camera, find a good spot on the banks of the Grand Canal and view the magic feast! Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3) Venice

Transfer to Venice Island for a special walking tour taking approximately 5-6 hours along different canals. Visit the "Squero" and discover the art of making and painting gondolas. After that move on to St Mark's Square, pausing in various attractive squares along the way. Stop in "Baccaro" near Rialto for a typical Venetian aperitif, a glass of wine with an assortment of Venetian appetisers. The tour ends in St Mark's Square where there will be some free time before going back to

the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4) Murano - Burano - Torcello

Experience several of the different facets of Venice. Embark on a boat journey to some of the Venetian Lagoon's remarkable islands. First stop in Murano, home of the world-famous blown glass, and have the opportunity to visit the small family-run workshops and witness art in creation. Burano, next stop, is famous for the beauty and complexity of the lacework that their craftsmen have created for centuries. Burano is also known for the brightly and vividly painted houses that line this tiny island's streets. The final island on tour is the delightfully peaceful Torcello, a silent haven of repose in the otherwise active Venetian Lagoon. Once the original Venetian colony, it is now virtually deserted. See Venice's oldest cathedral and the throne that Attila the Hun used when he conquered the city-state over one thousand years ago. Rest of the day at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)



Day 5) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)



- B** = Breakfast;
- L** = Lunch;
- D** = Dinner;
- WT** = Wine Tasting;
- OT** = Olive Oil Tasting;
- MT** = Mozzarella Tasting;
- LT** = Limoncello Tasting;
- CT** = Cheese Tasting;
- KL** = Cooking Lesson;
- A** = Aperitif;
- H/D** = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights - 3* hotel in Jesolo - basis HB
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach and private boat as per itinerary
- VAT

Please note: groups can be accommodated in Mestre or Venice Island. Rates on request.



PUCCINI OPERA FESTIVAL

6 days | 5 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival in Milan airport and transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2) Milan

Enjoy a full day in Milan where Puccini studied in the Conservatory. In the morning guided city tour including the impressive Duomo, Castello Sforzesco, Royal Palace, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and La Scala Theatre, where the original version of "Madame Butterfly" had its premiere on 17 February 1904. La Scala Opera House was built in 1778 on the site of a church called Santa Maria della Scala, in reference to the powerful "Della Scala" family whose daughter married the duke of Milan, Bernabò Visconti. La Scala is probably the most important Opera House in the world; the high level of performances is maintained thanks to the Milanese who are very knowledgeable and 'boo' if the performance is not top-notch. In the afternoon free time for shopping. (B)

Day 3) Viareggio

Departure to visit Viareggio. When Puccini was forced to abandon the peace and tranquillity of his home at Torre del Lago in 1921 because a noisy peat factory had opened next to his house, he chose to move to Viareggio. He began work on Villa Puccini on the north side of town in 1919, and moved in two years later. A great lover of mechanical gadgetry, Puccini installed Italy's first automatic water sprinkler in his garden. It was here in this simple but elegant villa, near the pine wood on Via Buonarrotti that Puccini composed most of Turandot and it was from here that he began his final journey to Brussels in November of 1924. Today the villa is in private hands and is not open to the public. Puccini's favourite café in Viareggio was the Café Margherita, a well-known haunt of the city's intellectual and artistic community, prominently located on the passeggiata (the boardwalk along the seafront). Proceed to Montecatini. Check in and dinner at your hotel. (B, D)



Day 4) Lucca - Torre del Lago

Departure for a half day guided tour of Lucca which has a great musical tradition. In the afternoon visit some places



associated with Puccini's life. When Puccini discovered Torre del Lago, he was bewitched by its charm and described it with the words: ". Supreme joy... paradise... Eden... 120 inhabitants, 12 houses. A quiet village, with luxuriant, extraordinary sunsets." A century later, Torre del Lago is still an earthly paradise: sunny beaches, fresh pine woods, quiet lakeshores. In the evening optional concert followed by dinner with musicians. (B, D)

Day 5) Florence

Departure for Florence for a half day guided tour of the city. Ponte Vecchio, Pi-

azza della Signoria, the elegant palaces and fashionable shops, the charming narrow medieval streets and the impressive Cathedral Square with Brunelleschi's imposing dome will all be the focus of a pleasant slowly paced tour ending at the Accademia. Admire Michelangelo's sculptures, including his fascinating unfinished statues and the original David. Rest of the day at leisure for private sightseeing or shopping. Back to Montecatini for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport.

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights - 4* hotel in Milan - basis 1BB/1HB
- 3 nights - 4* hotel in Montecatini - basis 1BB/2HB
- 1 dinner with musicians
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



TUSCANY AND THE AMAZING PALIO RACE

9 days | 8 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Arrival at Florence or Rome airport. transfer to the hotel in the Siena area. Welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2) "Tratta" - The Chianti Area

Transfer to the centre of Siena to experience the Tratta. This is the procedure through which the horses are assigned to the ten Contrade (neighbourhoods) which participate in the Palio.

On the morning of the third day before the race, the horses are presented by their owners in the Entrone (the Town Hall courtyard), and they are examined by a group of veterinarians, delegated by the municipality to evaluate their morphology and physical conditions. The horses are put into trial groups and are tested in three laps around the Piazza to evaluate their suitability to the track. At the end of the test runs, the captains gather together in the presence of the Mayor to decide on the most suitable horses.

After this, the draw takes place on a plat-

form prepared outside the Municipality Town Hall: in this way each horse is assigned to a Contrada. In the afternoon drive to the Chianti area for a wine tasting along with a cellar visit. Return to Siena for dinner at the hotel. (B, WT, D)

Day 3) San Gimignano The horse trials

Departure for San Gimignano by luxury coach, for a guided visit of the tower town. In the evening witness one of the six trials. For each trial, the horse is accompanied to the Town Hall courtyard from the Contrada stables by a dense crowd of the people from that Contrada, who usually sing traditional songs. Return to the hotel. (B)

Day 4) Siena - Last Trial

Morning guided tour of the historical centre of Siena with a specialised guide who will explain the traditions and reveal many secrets of this splendid city, including a unique visit to one of the Contrada's



museums. Afternoon at leisure. Attend the last Trial, the Prova Generale and enjoy a dinner with the 'contradaiooli' who celebrate the long awaited event with wine and singing the Contrada's songs.



An unforgettable experience and a sure way to enter into the spirit of the Palio. (B)

Day 5) Siena - Palio

Morning at leisure. Participate in the last trial, called the "provaccia" (the bad trial) for the lack of enthusiasm shown by the jockeys who spare the horses for the demanding evening race. In the afternoon experience the ceremony of the Blessing of the Horses. People from each Contrada gather together in the church. Afterwards, the costumed representatives of the Contrade and the municipality figures cross the historic town centre, stopping at the Monte dei Paschi bank headquarters, at the "Casino dei Nobili", in front of the Palazzo Chigi Saracini and at Piazza del Duomo to perform the flag games. Later on, it is time to take a place in one of the windows overlooking Piazza del Campo or in the square itself to watch the race. A guide will explain all the race procedures and rules. After the excitement of the race, take part in the joy of the winning Contrada in a restaurant located in the Piazza del Campo for a traditional Tuscan dinner. (B, D)

Day 6) Florence

In the morning departure for Florence for a guided visit of the city. Afternoon at

leisure for further sightseeing or shopping. Aperitif in a local winery before returning to Siena for dinner and overnight stay. (B, A, D)

Day 7) Arezzo - Cortona

Departure for Arezzo for a guided visit of the city including the churches of San Francesco, with frescos by Piero della Francesca, San Domenico with the Cimabue Crucifix, Pieve di Santa Maria, and Piazza Grande. In the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of Cortona, a wonderful Etruscan town, with a visit to an Etruscan museum. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 8) Pisa - Lucca

In the morning guided tour of Pisa and the Piazza dei Miracoli, Leaning Tower, Duomo, and Battistero. In the afternoon a guided tour of Lucca to visit San Michele, the Duomo, the city walls and Roman Amphitheatre. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 9) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

The Palio is held twice a year on July 2nd and August 16th

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MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights in 3* hotel in Siena - basis 3BB/5HB
- 1 dinner in restaurant
- 1 dinner in the Contrada
- 1 Wine tasting
- 1 Aperitif
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT



Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel



ITALY
LEISURE
GROUPS

ECO TOURS



GREEN AND GOLDEN VAL D'ORCIA

THE VAL D'ORCIA STRETCHES FROM THE HILLS SOUTH OF SIENA TO MONTE AMIATA, AND IS MADE UP OF GENTLE, CAREFULLY-CULTIVATED HILLS OCCASIONALLY BROKEN BY GULLIES OR PATCHES OF EROSION.

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with your Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Montepulciano - Pienza (15km, 490m gradient) Medium difficulty walk.

This walk is interesting for its varied landscape: from Montepulciano to Monticchiello walk through countryside with olive groves, vineyards, walnut and fig trees and through typical Mediterranean woods, with holm oaks, heather and broom. From Monticchiello to Pienza walk on the balcony of the Val d'Orcia, a valley among beautiful rolling hills, framed by wheat fields, and occasional

dark green pinnacles of cypress. Upon arrival, time to explore Pienza famous for its pecorino cheese. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 3) Florence

Full day excursion to Florence. Guided walking tour in the morning. Discover the historical city through its religious and political landmarks: from the Square of Santa Maria Novella to the church of Santa Croce, right in the city's heart: the Cathedral Square (the Baptistery, Giotto's Bell Tower, Santa Maria del Fiore), the Piazza Signoria (the Neptune Fountain and the other statues in front of the Palazzo Vecchio, the Loggia dei Lanzi, etc.) and the Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge) with its characteristic jewellers shops. Afternoon at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)



Day 4) Sant'Antimo - Montalcino (9-10km, 300m gradient) Easy walk.

On arrival by bus in Sant'Antimo visit the beautiful Romanesque abbey. Then start



walk. From the vineyards and olive groves around the Abbey walk towards the holm oak wood that covers the hills between the Abbey and Montalcino. From the meadows on the top of the hill, enjoy outstanding views of the Val d'Orcia and the extinct volcano of Monte Amiata (1700m, located south of Sant'Antimo). Overnight in the medieval hilltop town of Montalcino, famous for its fortress, Brunello red wine and honey. Wine tasting before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 5) Siena

Depart for Siena, the city of the famous Palio horse race. Siena is one of the best-preserved medieval Italian cities. The renaissance did not leave many signs here and the town still looks much as it was in the Middle Ages. The unique atmosphere in the walled part of the city will be felt walking in the narrow streets and squares. Churches and museums are nu-

merous and the historic but lively university town will bring the visitor back to the past. Half day guided tour of the city on foot. Afternoon at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 6) Buonconvento - Abazia Di Monte Oliveto Maggiore (13km, 350m gradient) Easy walk.

Walk from Buonconvento, a medieval town, to the monastery of Monte Oliveto Maggiore. Start by walking through the Pieve a Salti estate, a large farm that cultivates mainly alfalfa, corn, and sunflowers. Then after the "Podere Olimena" walk through fields and a small mixed wood before reaching the spectacular Crete Senesi. Views of the Monastery and Cloisters. Return to the hotel. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 7) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
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MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights - 4* hotel in Chianciano Terme - basis HB
- 1 Wine and specialty foods tasting
- 3 packed lunches
- 1 Farewell dinner in a local restaurant
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- VAT

Please note: groups can be accommodated in farm houses or country relais hotels. Rates on request.



THROUGH THE GREEN HEART OF ITALY HIKING TOUR

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Assisi Saint Francis' Hermitage Trail (Walking Time: approx. 5hrs, some steep uphill plus town walking on cobbled stones and asphalt)

After breakfast start our hike to the "Eremo delle Carceri" with beautiful views over the Spoleto Plains. Continue on to the Rifugio Stazzi (3,464'), entering the Subasio Regional Park. Walk back to Assisi. Some time at leisure in the town before going back to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Bevagna - Montefalco (Walking Time: 3hrs hiking, same route uphill)

Start our walk to Bevagna from Montefalco. Admire the panorama across the patchwork landscape of the Umbrian valley. Continue along a flat tree-lined path beside a stream, passing an ancient mill, vineyards and olive groves to the serene and handsome medieval town of Montefalco. Free time in Montefalco to explore the town and taste some wine in a local winery. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 4) Trevi (Walking time: approx. 5hrs hiking, uphill route)

Transfer to Trevi, a short visit of the beautiful medieval town of Trevi, before starting to hike uphill to Costa San Paolo and "Borgo San Benedetto", a



village transformed into an Artistic Community. Olive oil tasting and delicious lunch. In the afternoon transfer back to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)



Day 5) Perugia - Chocolate Factory

Transfer to the Etruscan town of Perugia for a guided tour of the beautiful city. Some time at leisure to stroll in the narrow streets of the city. In the afternoon visit of a chocolate factory. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (It is possible to modify the program to include rafting on the Nera River. Rates upon request.) (B, D)

Day 6) Spello (Walking time: approx. 4hrs hiking)

Transfer to the beautiful small town of Spello. Enjoy the surroundings of

Spello; the hermitage of Santa Maria in Giacobbe, the waterfalls of the Menotre river and the Benedictine abbey of Sassovivo. Return by bus to Spello for some time at leisure before going back to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

- INCLUSIONS**
- 6 nights - 3* hotel in Assisi - basis HB
 - 1 wine and specialty foods tasting
 - 2 lunches along with oil tasting
 - Visit at the Chocolate Factory
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation as per itinerary by luxury coach
 - Entrance Fees as per itinerary
 - VAT

Please note: groups can be accommodated in farm houses or country relais hotels. Rates on request.



ON THE TREK OF GIANTS HIKING TOUR

7 days | 6 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2) Vesuvius - The Valley of the Giants - Naples (Hiking distance 4.5km, 264m gradient)

In the morning shuttle up Mount Vesuvius for a spectacular hike around the summit and through the Valley of the Giants. After hike it is time to discover Naples and enjoy its beautiful gulf. Guided city tour followed by dinner to taste the true Italian pizza. Return to the hotel for overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 3) Pompeii - Sorrento

Drive to Pompeii. Rediscovered in the 16th century, Pompeii remained nearly perfectly preserved since it was buried under 6 metres of ash and stone in 79AD. After a guided tour of the excavations continue on to Sorrento. Time to discover historic Sorrento with its square white houses and luxuriant gardens. Transfer to one of Sorrento's famous inlaid wood factories for a guided tour and to see firsthand how these beautiful works of art are produced. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 4) Capri - Hike to Mount Solaro (Hiking distance 7-11.5km, 50-290m gradient)

Board the ferry to Capri. Upon arrival hike the mountain that forms the backbone of the island, stopping for lunch and a swim



before our final climb to Mount Solaro the highest point on the island. The views are spectacular and include Vesuvius, Capri and Anacapri. Afternoon at leisure to



relax on the island. Return to Sorrento. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5) Hike along the “Path of the Gods” (Hiking distance 7km, 195m gradient)

Journey is along one of the most famous walkways in the world, the “Sentiero degli Dei”, or Pathway of the Gods listed as one of the “10 Most Spectacular Walks in The World”, so-named for its godlike views of the dreamy coastline below and the misty islands far in the distance. After a brief shuttle to the hamlet of Nocelle, begin hike along the path. Stop in the small town of Bomerano for a light lunch together, and then shuttle back to Positano for some shopping or a swim. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 6) Ravello to Amalfi: Walk of the Mills (Hiking distance 7km, 88m gradient)

Drive to Ravello, one of the most popular towns on the Amalfi coast. The sunny climate of this coast has appealed for centuries to writers, artists, and dreamers. Boccaccio, D. H. Lawrence, and German composer Richard Wagner are among the famous people who have called this place home. Hike from Ravello to Scala and on to Amalfi. Upon arrival in Amalfi visit a limoncello factory, to see how the delicious liqueur is made before tasting it. Return to Sorrento for farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 7) Departure

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LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES
 On Request

- INCLUSIONS**
- 6 nights - 3* hotel in Sorrento - 4HB/2BB
 - 2 dinners in local restaurants
 - 3 packed lunches
 - Limoncello tasting
 - Admission Charges & tickets:
 - Pompeii Excavations - Pompeii
 - Multilanguage tour escort throughout
 - Licensed official guides as per itinerary
 - Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
 - Round trip Hydrofoil to Capri/ Funicular in Capri
 - VAT



WILD SARDINIA HIKING TOUR

9 days | 8 nights

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Rome airport, transfer to Civitavecchia to board your overnight ferry to Cagliari.

Day 2) Nora - Grottos of Zuddas S. Antioco

Departure for the Punic-Roman city of Nora. On a promontory overlooked by a 16th century tower that stood guard against Saracen invaders, the visitor can admire the important remains of the town; this was a commercial port founded by the Phoenicians with a double harbour, one side sheltered from the west wind and the other from the Mistral. Further along the southern coast visit the beautiful caves of "Is Zuddas" the oldest grottos in Europe: some stalactites, stalagmites and columns can be observed. The floor is made up of one large flow that looks like a river bed. Continue to S. Antioco to visit the church of Tratalias. In the after-

noon visit of S. Antioco. The town, rich in history, is one of the oldest centres in Sardinia; founded by the Phoenicians, it then became an important Carthaginian and Roman town allowing control of the sea to the south of Sardinia. The whole west side of S. Antioco, including the modern urban area, is built on an immense necropolis, and it is no rare thing to find people living in converted old tombs. In the evening return to Cagliari. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B, D)

Day 3) Oristano - Bosa - Alghero

Departure for Alghero, passing Oristano. The chief town of the youngest province in Sardinia is a centre with an economy prevalently based on farming. Situated in the fertile valley at the mouth of the river Tirso, it was the glorious capital of the medieval Province of Arborea which held out relentlessly against the Aragon invaders. Thanks to its position between the fertile

plain and the nearby lagoons full of fish, Oristano, like all the neighbouring centres, offers a vast range of gastronomical delights. One of the local products is the famous Vernaccia, a dry dessert wine with high alcohol content. In the afternoon con-





tinue on to Bosa to visit the little city. In the evening arrive in Alghero, check-in to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay. (B,D)

Day 4) Emerald Coast

Departure for Olbia passing Castelsardo and the beautiful Costa Paradiso. Arrive in Santa Teresa di Gallura with a short stop. Proceed to the Costa Smeralda. In the afternoon visit of the Coast with the most beautiful beaches and arrival in the evening at the hotel in Olbia. Check-in, dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 5) Hike to Tiscali Village (hiking distance: 12km / Duration: approx. 4hrs) Average difficulty

Transfer to the Cala Ganone area to start hike. Discover the village of Tiscali, an ancient Nuragic village, whose origins are still mysterious, constructed inside an immense doline of karstic origin on the top of Mount Tiscali. After the hike transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 6) Hike to Cala Luna (hiking distance 10km / Duration: approx. 4hrs) - Average difficulty

A route where the white of the limestone reigns over the tracks and mountain. Ar-

rive at one of the most beautiful beaches of the Mediterranean. After the hike some free time on the beach before returning to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 7) Hike to Gorroppu Canyon (hiking distance 15km / Duration: approx. 4hrs) - Average difficulty

Immerse yourself in the surprising silence of wild nature to discover the impressive vertical walls of the so-called "Grand Canyon of Europe", a deep crack carved throughout the course of millennia by the water of the Flumineddu River between the Orgosolo and Urzulei mountains. The walls are up to 450 metres high and the bottom of the gorge is covered with great smooth white rocks. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 8) Arbatax

Departure for Arbatax. Some time at leisure before boarding ferry to Civitavecchia in the afternoon. (B)

Day 9) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport. (B)

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CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- Overnight Cruise Civitavecchia - Cagliari
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Cagliari - basis HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Alghero - basis HB
- 1 night - 3* hotel in Olbia - basis HB
- 3 nights - 3* hotel in Cala Gonone - basis HB
- Overnight Cruise Arbatax - Civitavecchia
- 3 packed lunches during the hikes
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Licensed official guides as per itinerary
- Transportation by luxury coach as per itinerary
- Admission Charges & tickets:
- Tiscali villages
- VAT



GREEN HILLS OF LANGHE AND MONFERRATO CYCLING TOUR

8 days | 7 nights

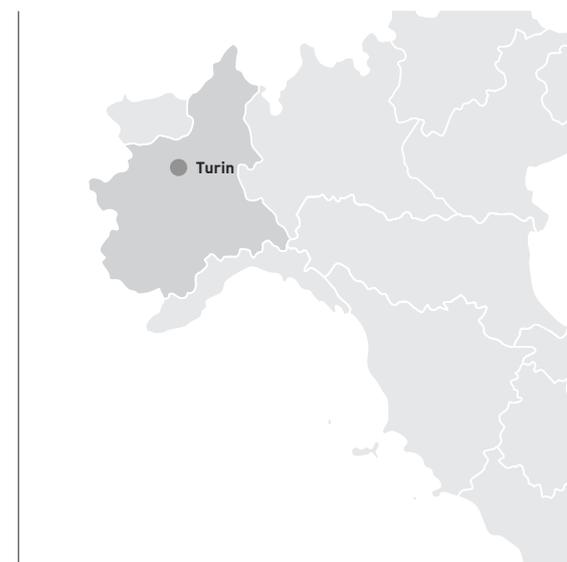
Hills, vineyards and the pleasures of the table.

Start from the beautiful city of Turin, which is both regal and enigmatic at the same time. After a short transfer, cycle through the interesting area of the Po Fluvial Park (the most important Italian river) and later along the wonderful "Panoramica del Monferrato" up to Casale, one of the most interesting art cities of the Piedmont region. Stop to taste the exquisite local cuisine. Over the next two days cycle up and down the charming hills of the Monferrato. Make a stop in the historical town of Asti, then in Moncalvo, an old village in a wonderful position, in Guarene with its castle and then in the Roero, primitive countryside moulded by erosions. Afterwards reach the medieval Alba, the town well known for its "fiera del tartufo" (world-famous

October fair when the exquisite local produce, especially truffles, is celebrated) and for its great wines. Alba is the capital of the fascinating "Langhe", territory: remember the gentle hills, the rows of vines, the solitary sandstone cottages and the fragrance of the sea that will have the mouth watering while still cycling through the hills. Go on along the panoramic road Benevello-Murazzano and reach the pretty Benevagienna with its Roman archaeological site. Last but not least travel to the historic Cherasco and above all to Bra to surrender, finally, to the pleasures of the table.

Day 1)

Arrival at Turin airport and transfer to the hotel. Check in. In the afternoon, guided tour in the city centre by bike. Dinner (D)



Day 2)

Turin - Crescentino by train - panoramic road of Monferrato - Casale - approx 45 km



Day 3)

Casale Monferrato - Moncalvo - Asti - approx 55 km

Day 4)

Asti - Guarene - Alba - approx 55 km

Day 5)

Alba - Barbaresco - panoramic road
Benevello- Bossolasco - approx 55km

Day 6)

Bossolasco - Murazzano - Bene Vagienna
- Cherasco - approx 60 km

Day 7)

Cherasco- Pollenzo - Bra - return to Turin
by train - approx 45 km

Day 8) Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to
departure airport.

Suggested periods: from March 15th to
October 15th

Tour level: very spectacular routes up
and downhill, ascents are not so high and
are well-distributed throughout the day.

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights - 3* star hotel/farmhouse - basis 6BB/1HB
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Bike rental
- Transfer from/to Turin airport by coach
- Train tickets as per itinerary
- Baggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Insurance 24h/24
- Road book, maps, tourist information in English
- VAT



HEAVENLY RIVER PO DELTA CYCLING TOUR

8 days | 7 nights

The itinerary starts from Ferrara. Water is hugely important in the history of this town, not only for the presence of the river, but also for the network of canals in the surrounding countryside. From the extraordinary ramparts surrounding the town, used by cyclists as a cycle track, it is possible to appreciate the famous “addizione erculea”, a splendid example of renaissance city planning. In the following days discover the peculiar habitat of the delta of the river Po, among the typical “casoni” (fishing houses), the ponds crowded with herons and other aquatic birds, the old fishing boats, before, the charming sight of the lagoon. After two nights spent in a magical atmosphere in restored old Italian “villas”, during the last two days cycle near the open sea through the extraordinary pine woods around Ravenna, the final destination where a visit to the world-famous

Byzantine mosaics is recommended.

Day 1) Arrival

Upon arrival at Bologna/Venice airport, meet Tour Director and transfer to the hotel by private coach. After check-in, time to relax before meeting up with Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner in hotel. (D)

Day 2)

Ferrara - Taglio di Po - approx 64 km

Day 3)

Taglio di Po - Chioggia - approx 52 km

Day 4)

Chioggia - Porto Levante - approx 47 km

Day 5)

Porto Levante - Goro - approx 55 km



Day 6)

Porto Levante - pomposa - Comacchio - Lido di Spina - approx 46 km



Day 7)

Lido di Spina - Ravenna - approx 45 km

Day 8)

Departure

Extend stay in Italy or transfer to departure airport.

Suggested periods: from March to October

Tour level: Easy, always flat; some dirt roads generally in good condition.

B = Breakfast;
L = Lunch;
D = Dinner;
WT = Wine Tasting;
OT = Olive Oil Tasting;
MT = Mozzarella Tasting;
LT = Limoncello Tasting;
CT = Cheese Tasting;
KL = Cooking Lesson;
A = Aperitif;
H/D = Half Day

PRICES

On Request

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights - 3* star hotel/farmhouse - basis 6BB/1HB
- Multilanguage tour escort throughout
- Bike rent
- Transfer from/to Bologna airport by coach
- Baggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Insurance 24h/24
- Road book, maps, tourist information in English
- VAT

ITALY MAP





Tourinvest

Europe & Mediterranean Travel

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