



Ultimate Italy

12 DAYS

The ultimate Italian experience. Sail to the sun-drenched island of Capri. Be invited to sweeping sea views and savour dishes made from fresh, seasonal ingredients. Iconic cities like Florence and Venice, with a choice of experiences. This is Italy, exclusively for you.



Renaissance art illuminated by expert historians. Exquisite cuisine. Time honoured traditions and stunning landscapes. Welcome to Italy.

DAY 1

Buongiorno Rome

Upon arrival for your Italy luxury tour, your private transfer is waiting to whisk you away to your hotel. Settle into your elegant hotel in the heart of the Eternal City. Meet your Travel Concierge who will take you on a short stroll of the city. Wind your way along cobblestone streets, lured by the classic architecture and aromas of Roman cuisine. Sample the flavours of Rome this evening, savouring delicious traditional fare paired with Italian wine as you dine at a gourmet restaurant in Piazza della Rotonda beneath the gaze of the Pantheon. **D**

NH Collection Roma Palazzo Cinquecento.

DAY 2

Rome and the Vatican

Bask in the splendour of Rome exploring the mighty Vatican. With the guidance of a Local Expert, uncover the religious history of the Papal State perusing the rooms filled with ancient artwork and tapestries. Admire the soaring frescos of the Sistine Chapel while listening to the stories behind the famous work of the masters. Hear the narrative of Michelangelo's Pieta in the vast St. Peter's Basilica, one of the world's biggest churches. Cross the Tiber River to see the magnificent Roman Forum, dwarfed by the ruins in this site of courts, meetings, and the iconic Colosseum. Spend time this evening strolling to the Spanish Steps or Trevi Fountain. **B**

DAY 3

Pompeii and the Isle of Capri / Sorrento

Be transported to 79 A.D. as you roam the ruins of Pompeii with a Local Expert. Inspect remnants of ancient shops, baths and villas frozen in time by the volcanic eruption. Leave the past behind on a short cruise to the sun-drenched Isle of Capri. On this treasure trove of culture, myth and tradition, admire the views stretching into blue water en route to your luxurious hotel. As day-trippers return to the mainland, Capri becomes an exclusive oasis for you to appreciate. Venture up to one of its many overlooks, wander past its boutiques or take it all in from a pavement café, chilled aperitivo in hand. Take time this afternoon to relax by the pool, enjoy a spa treatment or perhaps experience the fragrances of the unique floral perfumes made on the island. **B, D**

Quisisana Hotel, Capri / Sorrento Palace (Seaview Executive Rooms).

DAY 4

Explore the Isle of Dreams

On select departures, Days 3 and 4 may overnight in Sorrento and spend the full day on Capri. Morning sunlight dances upon the shimmering waters of Capri on your private cruise to the White Grotto, a stark white cave set into impressive cliffs. Admire its contrast against the bright blue sea before setting off for Capri town. Cool off with a

refreshing lemon granita before joining a local historian on a trip to the gardens of Caesar Augustus to view the legendary Faraglioni Rocks. Breathe in the sea air as you take in many terraces jutting out of the water adorned with tumbling flowers before lunch at the Michelin-starred Le Monzù where you'll savour Mediterranean flavours. **B, L**

DAY 5

Assisi and Perugia

Say "Arrivederci" to Capri, heading north along the Highway of the Sun you will pass through beautiful hills with ancient medieval hilltop towns and alongside fruit-bearing trees to Assisi. In this history-rich town and UNESCO World Heritage Site you have your pick of how to soak up the town's riches. Join a local historian for a guided visit of the imposing Basilica of St. Francis whose art and frescos rival those in museums. Giotto's Life of Saint Francis stand in all their glory in the Upper Basilica. Alternatively, treat your palate by sampling Umbrian specialties such as fresh truffle infused cured meats and local olive oils. Continue to the regional capital of Perugia where you'll wind your way through the maze of medieval streets to your centrally-located, five-star hotel. **B**

Brufani, Perugia.

Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) Dinner (D)

DAY 6

San Gimignano and Tuscany

At this morning's MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, fourth-generation weaver Marta shares the art of the ancient Umbrian tradition of loom-weaving inside a medieval church lovingly restored by her family. Watch in awe as she demonstrates the working of her 17th-century loom. Continue past Lake Trasimeno and into Tuscany, past Francis Mayes' Etruscan town of Cortona. Delight in a private wine tasting tour with the owners of Guardastelle Estate, one of the smallest wineries of San Gimignano and producer of the fresh Vernaccia wine before enjoying lunch surrounded by rolling hills and vineyards. Visit San Gimignano and enjoy sensational gelato with World Champion Gelato maestro, Sergio. B, L

Hotel Montebello Splendid, Florence.

DAY 7

Renaissance Florence

Personalise your morning in Florence with an art or gourmet exploration. Immerse yourself in Renaissance Florence joining an art historian at the Accademia Museum to marvel at Michelangelo's David. Gaze at the impressive trio of the Duomo, Bell Tower and Baptistery before stepping into the Piazza della Signoria, rich in political history. Or, taste your way through Florence visiting the lively Mercato Centrale with a local foodie to sample seasonal gourmet highlights. Enjoy time at leisure to soak up the atmosphere of this city, rich in history and art. The richness of Tuscany continues to delight on a fascinating foraging trip for the region's aromatic truffles guided by

an expert truffle dog. Conclude your day with a decadent meal featuring the famous Fiorentina (mouth-watering grilled Tuscan steak) in an elegant villa. B, D

DAY 8

Tuscan Cuisine and Pisa

Enjoy another Relaxed Start before exploring a former hunting lodge built in the 1200s by the Medici family. Set in dramatic Tuscan countryside, view the olive trees, vineyards and rolling hills that have made this region of Italy so famous. Do as the locals do, learning from a professional Italian chef how to roll pasta by hand and discover the secrets of a tiramisù. Learn to use local, seasonal products to create delicious Italian dishes and complete your cooking experience by savouring the fruits of your labour with a lovely lunch. This afternoon, travel to Pisa and meet your Local Expert to view the splendid Duomo, baptistery and the famous, gravity-defying Leaning Tower of Pisa. The spectacular Field of Miracles cannot fail to impress. B, L

DAY 9

Exploring the Cinque Terre

Surround yourself in coastal beauty journeying northwest to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Cinque Terre. Join your Local Expert in the fishing village of Manarola, perhaps the most picturesque of the "five lands." Take in the colourful houses perched upon rugged cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean. Take to the water on a cruise past dramatic cliffs and scenic towns. Arriving in the town of Monterosso, stroll through the medieval quarter and view the beach in the company of Neptune whose statue overlooks

this stretch of warm sand. In the town centre, a quaint piazza welcomes with seafood restaurants for a leisurely lunch. This evening, relax with a dip in the pool followed by a decadent dinner in your hotel overlooking the coast. B, D

Grand Hotel Bristol Resort & Spa, Rapallo.

DAY 10

Venice and the Doge's Palace

Traverse the Apennine Mountain range past rolling, gentle hills of moss and emerald green before arriving in Venice. Seek out the city's charm on a private water taxi along the famous Grand Canal lined with historical Venetian palaces and multi-hued homes and shops. You're treated to the most glamorous of arrivals as you dock at your waterfront hotel. Then sit back in a classic gondola for a serenade through the romantic canals. Luxuriate in its charms before an after-hours visit to the magnificent Doge's Palace. Formerly the Doge's residence and the seat of Venetian government, the Palace is the symbol of Venice and a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. As the crowds disappear, discover the history, art and culture of the Venetian Republic through the eyes of your local art historian on an after-hours tour. B

Radisson Collection Hotel, Palazzo Nani Venice.

DAY 11

The Magic of Venice

Experience the magic and wonder of Venice visiting a craftsman's workshop for an inside look at the age-old skill of glassblowing. Join a Local Expert meandering down hidden alleys and discovering your favourite pasticceria or cicchetti bar



while learning the alluring history behind La Serenissima. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure shopping for your favourite Italian brands, watching Venetian life go by on the canals or exploring a local food market. Tonight, gather with your travelling companions over dinner at your celebratory evening at a traditional Venetian restaurant, and share your favourite memories of your trip through this mesmerising country. B, D

DAY 12

Arrivederci Venice

Your Italian voyage ends in style, cruise through the Venetian lagoon with a private boat ride to Venice's Marco Polo Airport. B



Journey Summary

Trip Overview

12 Days
2 Countries
12 Destinations

Dining

19 meals including lunch at the Michelin-starred restaurant Le Monzù in Capri and a hands-on Tuscan cooking class.

Activity Level

Dynamic
Cumulative daily walking of 4+ miles.

Accommodation

All accommodation are included, and enjoy 9 Relaxed Start Mornings after 9 a.m.

Concierge Services, Included On Every Journey

Travel Concierge

Full-Service Porterage

Small Group Tours, 18 Guests On Average

Personalise Your Day, With Included Choices

Unique & Exclusive Experiences

Day 6

Meet Marta, a fourth-generation Umbrian weaver and recipient of a TreadRight Foundation grant at Laboratorio Giuditta Brozzetti.

Day 6

Explore Guardastelle Estate with a wine expert, visit the cellars and enjoy a wine tasting with your lunch of Tuscan specialties.

Day 10

Discover the art, culture and history of the Venetian Republic as a guardian opens the Doge's Palace for a private, after-hours tour.

Availability, Dates and Prices

For all enquiries, contact your Travel Agent or visit luxurygold.com

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