

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Travelling in Style

TREASURES OF ITALY





KEY

1 Central Hotels + Nights

1 Scenic Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

○ Optional Place Visited

||||| Trip Option

Ship Cruise

Train Train

Person Join/Leave Options

Plane Included Flights

Building UNESCO Heritage Site

Day 1 | Welcome to the Eternal City of Rome



Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel. Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director and getting to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

Day 2 | Vatican City and Rome with a Local



The day is devoted to the Eternal City. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth visit to the Vatican Museums, full of priceless art treasures collected by the Popes. Insight has arranged special priority entry to gain behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture, normally off-limits to visitors.

Visit the Sistine Chapel, where Popes are elected, to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, to wonder at another of his works, the emotive 'Pietà,' and stand beneath the dome completed after his death.

Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus. Come up close and personal with the beautifully preserved Arch of Constantine, walking on the ancient pavement. Discover the history, the construction and the legends of the iconic Colosseum as you stroll around the exterior of this amazing structure.

Later, perhaps continue your exploration of Rome to see the Pantheon, toss a coin in Trevi Fountain and enjoy free time around Piazza Navona?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Piazas & Fountains - With our Local Expert, let's take a "passeggiata" (stroll) to enjoy the backstreets and secrets of pedestrian Rome. Be amazed at sights such as the fascinating Pantheon and the beauty of 17th-Century fountains and beautiful Piazas. Come and enjoy the Rome of the Romans.

Adult: 44.00 EUR

Roman Dinner Party - Enjoy an evening of delicious Roman cuisine with drinks and a great Italian ambiance.

Adult: 71.00 EUR

Day 3 | Ancient Pompeii and on to Sorrento



Journey to the ill-fated town of Pompeii, frozen in time when it was engulfed by an eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. Walk with a Local Expert through cobbled streets to learn about Roman life in the first century before enjoying a refreshing lemon granita. Then continue to your hotel in the charming town of Sorrento. The afternoon is yours to explore as you wish, or perhaps join an Optional Experience to the artist's paradise of Positano.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Amalfi Coast Drive & Positano Visit - Drive along the clear blue waters and picturesque resorts of the Amalfi Coast, arguably the most glamorous and scenic stretch of coast in Europe. Minibuses wind their way down serpentine roads to the exclusive artists' paradise of Positano, clinging to the cliff face, as if about to cascade into the turquoise waters below. Spend time exploring the elegant shops, watching the artists at work, or enjoying an 'aperitivo' in a beach side cafe.

Adult: 66.00 EUR

** This optional experience involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

Sorrento Evening - A chance to enjoy a delicious dinner of local specialties. We arrive at one of the area's unique local restaurants for an incredible dining experience featuring some of the famous dishes of this region!

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Day 4 | The Isle of Dreams



Enjoy a morning in the town of Sorrento before heading off to the port to board your jetfoil to the Isle of Capri. Enjoy a scenic drive by open-top taxi past orange and lemon groves to your hotel, then appreciate the glorious vistas over the rugged coastline and sparkling sea.

Visit Capri town, with its whitewashed houses, winding alleyways and small cafes. A Local Expert escorts you to the lush Gardens of Augustus for views of the Faraglioni rocks. As the glow of twilight descends and the day-trippers have returned to their mainland hotels, the island is yours to saunter along scenic paths, gather with the locals in the piazzetta or relax with a glass of wine at an al-fresco restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Regina Cristina, Capri.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Tour of Capri - Experience the spectacular cliffs and famous turquoise waters of Capri during a relaxing cruise to the most beautiful part of the island, the southern side. You descend to the port by funicular with your local expert and board your private boat to view the beautiful grottoes and unique coastline!

Adult: 52.00 EUR

** This optional experience is weather dependent and may be replaced by a minibus tour of the Island with a visit to Anacapri and the Villa San Michele.*

Day 5 | The Autostrada del Sole to Florence



Descend to the port by private open-top taxis and take the jetfoil across the bay to Naples. Follow the Autostrada del Sole north passing Rome and continuing through the region of Umbria. Journey through idyllic Tuscan landscapes to Florence, centre of art and culture, and the heart of the Italian Renaissance.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: NH Firenze, Florence.

Day 6 | Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance



Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer. Continue to the multi-coloured marble cathedral to admire Giotto's bell tower and Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria and explore the area around Santa Croce Basilica. After a demonstration of leatherwork, there's free time to shop or explore Florence on your own. In the evening, why not sample fine Florentine cuisine of tasty starters and typical Tuscan dishes accompanied by Chianti wine?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: NH Firenze, Florence.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

San Gimignano Excursion - A wonderful excursion with our Local Expert to Tuscany's most famous hill-top town! Visit San Gimignano, considered a medieval Manhattan, due to its towers which dominate the skyline. Soak up the unique atmosphere of this ancient gem which has remained intact since the 14th century and today is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Adult: 40.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, we'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, we'll enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines.

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Tuscan Dinner & Cooking Demonstration - Florence and Tuscany are renowned for their rich gastronomic heritage. Tonight we'll travel into the hills near Florence to the northernmost part of the Chianti, where a local chef will introduce you to the dishes that make Tuscan cuisine famous throughout the world. This wonderful cooking demonstration, with superb food and wine, will provide warm and genuine Tuscan hospitality.

Adult: 76.00 EUR

Day 7 | Cinque Terre and Portofino to Santa Margherita



The famous Italian Riviera and the Cinque Terre are a highlight of your journey as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Italy's most beautiful landscapes. With a Local Expert, appreciate the views as you approach one of the picturesque fishing villages by boat. Spend some time exploring the old medieval quarter or the popular sandy beach. Our journey continues to the elegant seaside village of Portofino, epitome of la dolce vita. Admire the colourful houses, browse the boutiques or stay a while in the cafe bars on the piazzetta, watching the yachts moored in the harbour.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

Day 8 | Lake Maggiore



In the morning, journey north to the beautiful Italian Lake District, a favourite retreat of the rich and famous where alpine scenery combines with lush subtropical vegetation. Relax and enjoy an afternoon at leisure at this popular resort and beautiful lake or perhaps take a cruise out to the lovely Borromean Islands? For your dining pleasure, you are invited to choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Isola Bella - The premier attraction of Lake Maggiore is the Borromean Islands. We'll take a private boat over to Isola Bella, the largest and most famous island, renowned for its incredible palace and stunning Botanical Gardens. Our Local Expert will take us on a guided tour of this privately-owned palace, with free time to admire the gardens. A must!

Adult: 54.00 EUR

** This optional is only able to be operated between mid-March and the end of October.*

Day 9 | To Venice With Wine Along the Way



Follow the southern fringes of the Alps to Franciacorta wine region, which gained DOCG status - the highest level of Italian wine classification, in 1995. Here, winemaking traditions run deep. Taste the delicious vintages produced with a master vintner at a family-owned estate. Continue to the unique city of Venice and step back in time to the 16th century.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hilton Molino Stucky, Venice

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Magical Venice - Venice can be Europe's most romantic city in the evening, offering dramatic landscapes with buildings that dazzle as the sun sets and the lights go on. Sit back and take it all in as private water taxis take you to the centre of it all, Piazza San Marco, where we have seats reserved outside a famous Venetian cafe, in front of a live orchestra and in view of those illuminated St Mark's sights. Our private water taxis will also take us the length of the Grand Canal, under the Rialto Bridge, seeing Venice at its most magical.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

Day 10 | Venice and the Magic of La Serenissima



Visit St. Mark's Square where the city's former wealth and power is evidenced by the riches of St. Mark's Basilica and admire the Doge's Palace with its adjoining Bridge of Sighs. Take your seat on a gondola and be serenaded through the myriad of beautiful canals, passing water-lapped doorways and Rococo palaces. The rest of the afternoon is yours to discover Venice at leisure. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. Cruise the Venetian lagoon to Burano and sit down to a sumptuous Celebration Dinner with wine, sampling the local specialities.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hilton Molino Stucky, Venice

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Hidden Venice - To only experience Venice's big set pieces - St Mark's Square; the Rialto; the Grand Canal - is to miss out on a hidden world full of surprises! Join a Local Expert for a fascinating walk through some of the lesser known quarters of Venice. The back lanes and 'campi', small squares, where tourists seldom tread are full of history and great places to sample local life.

Adult: 37.00 EUR

Day 11 | Arrivederci Venice



Your departure transfer arrives at Venice Marco Polo Airport.

Meals: Breakfast