

**Italy Luxury Itinerary – Two Weeks**  
**From the Canals of Venice to the Ancient Streets of Pompeii**



**Day 1**

**ROMANTIC WATERWAYS OF VENICE**

A romantic “promenade” by gondola that will take you along the canals of Venice. Enjoy the cruise through the city’s most secluded waterways passing under small bridges, under the worldwide famous Bridge of Sighs and appreciate the real peculiarity of this floating city. You’ll have the most romantic views of the city.

**Day 2**

**TOUR OF THE ISLAND**

After sailing past the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, a 16th century Benedictine church designed by Andrea Palladio and built between 1566 and 1610, the public Gardens, the tip of Sant’Elena and the Lido (the famous beach resort), you’ll arrive at Murano known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry. There you can visit one of its factories. The second stop is the picturesque island of Burano, an archipelago of four islands linked by bridges, famous not only for its lace but also for its fishermen’s houses painted in bright colors. Then, after a short sail, you will reach the quiet and sparsely populated island of Torcello where the cathedral with its magnificent mosaics and the church of Santa Fosca stand there to testify its glorious past. Includes the service of a specialized official tour guide.



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## Day 3

### **VENICE TO FLORENCE**

Private transfer from Venice hotel to Venice rail. First class rail from Venice to Florence (approx. 2 ½ hours with no changes). Private transfer from Florence rail to Florence hotel.

## Day 4

### **SKIP THE LINE: BEST OF FLORENCE WALKING TOUR, INCLUDING THE ACCADEMIA & DUOMO**

Most half day walking tours of the main sights of Florence do not include a Skip the Line visit inside the famous Duomo, but we do! No visit to Italy is complete without a Gelato. We have handpicked a Gelateria known for its delicious ice cream. This is a great introductory tour to Florence, to help you get oriented and better organize the remainder of your stay. Discover Florence's historic center on this 3 hour walking tour including the Ponte Vecchio, the imposing Duomo, elegant Uffizi Square, the renowned leather market, and the Accademia Gallery with Michelangelo's David. Stroll along the timeless streets lined with chief architecture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, admire the city in its continued glory and discover its hidden gems, all in a single morning!

From the Ponte Vecchio Bridge you will be introduced to the fascinating history of Florence. Visit the heart of the Renaissance Civic and Political Center, famous for its ancient statues, glorious fountains, the famed Uffizi Gallery and the Medieval Palazzo Vecchio. Our path continues as we head toward the Religious Center, stopping at the Church of Orsanmichele, where you will admire ingenious statues by famed artists such as Donatello, Ghiberti and Verrocchio. Rub the nose of the legendary boar, "il Porcellino," to ensure a return to Florence and visit Piazza della Repubblica, once the Ancient Forum, now a popular meeting place for famous writers, artists and locals. Gaze at the Baptistry Doors by Ghiberti, coined the "Gates of Paradise" by Michelangelo. Enter the Duomo, the astounding Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, from where Brunelleschi's magnificent dome dominates the skyline of Florence and never ceases to impress. We'll pause to enjoy a delicious homemade Italian gelato before concluding with Skip the Line entrance to the Accademia Gallery where you will marvel at Michelangelo's statues of the Slaves and his magnificent 17 foot marble masterpiece, the David.

**Sites Visited:** Ponte Vecchio, Piazza degli Uffizi, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, "il Porcellino", Orsanmichele Church, Mercato Nuovo, Piazza della Repubblica, Baptistry Doors, Duomo, Accademia Gallery and Michelangelo's David.



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## **Day 5**

### **CINQUE TERRE TOUR**

The tour of the Cinque Terre visits Riomaggiore, Manarola, Vernazza and Corniglia. Enjoy a full day tour visiting the beautiful Cinque Terre , the “ Five lands “ , a rugged portion of coast on the Italian Riviera punctuated by picturesque small fishing villages. Travelling by small vehicles, we’ll start our day visiting the enchanting hamlet Corniglia (only small vehicles can get here), that clings to an impressive hundred meters high cliff and that we reach by following a panoramic road. On the way up to Corniglia we’ll stop at panoramic viewpoints for spectacular views of the coast. A walk through this delightful hamlet will be followed by an aperitif, wine accompanied by bruschettas at a local wine bar. We then continue our day visiting picturesque Vernazza. With its large open harbor, castle and church, it conjures up all the magic of the Cinque Terre. Here you’ll enjoy free time to walk around and to have an optional lunch. After 2 hours in Vernazza, we’ll take the shared boat ride to reach Riomaggiore and to enjoy the view of the dramatic coastline from the water. In Riomaggiore, the most southern village of the Cinque terre , with its tower houses built on a cliff , you will meet again your driver-tour escort. And after a walk through the village in his company you’ll reach Manarola, one of the oldest towns in the cinque terre, by coastal train . After having visited the village of Manarola , we’ll make our way back to Florence , where we will arrive at about 730pm.

## **Day 6**

### **FLORENCE TO SIENA**

Self-transfer from Florence hotel to Florence rail. First class rail from Florence to Siena (approx. 1 ½ hours with no changes). Private transfer from Siena rail to Siena hotel.

## **Day 7**

### **BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO WINE TOUR**

Brunello, presently considered the best wine in the world, has its ancestral roots in the passion of the inhabitants of Montalcino and in the ancient winemaking tradition, handed down from one generation to the next. The town of Montalcino, sanctuary of this wine produced from Sangiovese grapes, stands on a charming hill that will let you relish its natural wholesomeness. The town, its century-old fortress, and the best wineries reviewed on specialized magazines are the main destination of our outing. Great skill in the cellar, which includes a long maturation in casks made from valuable wood, make Brunello, holder of the title of “Italian ambassador in the world of our winemaking reality”, the most highly regarded wine in the world. You will have the opportunity to taste prestigious wines in the best wineries on the territory and to discover Montalcino and the wonderful surrounding area.



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## **Day 8**

### **SIENA**

Self-transfer from hotel to Siena downtown car rental. Pick up rental car and tour on your own.

## **Day 9**

### **SIENA TO ROME**

Self-transfer from Siena hotel to Siena rail. First class rail from Siena to Rome (approx. 3 hours with 1 change). Private transfer from Rome rail to Rome hotel.

## **Day 10**

### **PRIVATE VATICAN TOUR**

Includes: Private guide at disposal 4 hours; round trip transfers; entrance tickets to the Vatican museum.

## **Day 11**

### **IMPERIAL ROME ELITE WALKING TOUR**

We are proud to introduce this new Elite Walking Tour with a full visit of the Ancient area of the Eternal city. Our Elite Walking Tour will meet the needs of the most demanding clients including the full visit of the three world famous symbols of Ancient Rome: Coliseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum.

Tour starts at the Arch of Constantine, the largest and one of the best preserved triumphal arches in Rome. From here our guide will take you inside the Coliseum (skip the line entrance tickets), the most famous monument in the world and a main symbol of Rome. Our guide will explain the cruel events that took place there and answer all your questions. After exiting the Coliseum, you will visit its surrounding monuments like and the Palatine Hill with the Roman Forum Archeological Area (skip the line entrance tickets) undoubtedly the most important and attractive one in the world, thanks to unique historical, monumental, archaeological values, as well as for its sublime beauty. Just the views from the Palatine over the Forums or the Circus Maximus would be worth a trip to Italy. You will discover also the House of the Vestals, the various Temples, the Senate House, the Capitol Palace the Sacred Way and the Triumph Arches. The tour ends inside the Roman Forum.



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## **Day 12**

### **ROME TO SORRENTO**

Private transfer from Rome hotel to Rome rail. First class rail from Rome to Naples (approx. 1 hour with no changes). Private transfer from Naples rail to Sorrento hotel.

## **Day 13**

### **FULL DAY TOUR OF POMPEII & VESUVIUS**

Pompeii holds an intense fascination for visitors today. Following the eruption of the Volcano Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 AD, Pompeii lay buried and forgotten for hundreds of years. The town is high on the list of Wonders of the World and the excavations which began in the 18th Century are still being carried out today. Our guide will take you slowly through some of the ancient streets of Pompeii where you can see Baths, Forums and Villas built by the prosperous Romans in the year 80 BC. Marvel at the fabulously preserved Frescoes which adorned the walls and floors of the Villas. Even if your interests do not lie in the history, this is an archaeological site at which you cannot fail to be impressed. You will visit some of the places on the following itinerary: Amphitheatre - Palestra - Casa dei Fuggiaschi - Casa del Menandro - Teatro Grande e Piccolo - Palestra dei Gladiatori - Terme Stabiesi - Lupanare – Il Faro - Casa dei Vetti - Casa del Fauno - Casa del Poeta Tragico - Villa dei Misteri.

At the end of the visit we will move to Mount Vesuvius dominating the Bay of Naples. It is the only active volcano on the mainland of Europe. The slopes were once covered with vineyards and woods and provided an innocent looking backdrop for the bustling town below. The coach will take you to within 1,000 meters of the top of Vesuvius and from here you can walk to the very top and admire the splendid panoramic views across the bay. From the blackened crater rises a single plume of smoke, a reminder that the volcano is only sleeping for now . . .



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## **Day 14**

### **FULL DAY TOUR OF CAPRI & ANACAPRI**

No holiday in Sorrento would be complete without a trip to the evocative Island of Capri. Sail across the bay of Naples for the start of an unforgettable day. For so small an island, Capri has had much said, sung and written about it.

First you will visit the fabulous villa of Dr. Axel Munthe, a Swedish doctor whose best-selling book "Story of San Michele" tells of his time on Capri. His villa was built with the remains of Roman ruins and there is a beautiful shady garden with terrace affording splendid views of the island. You then go down to Capri town which is very chic with shops, hotels and restaurants lying along winding streets. The main square Piazza Umberto has a pretty white church and several open-air cafes where you can sit and watch the world drift by. Leading off the square are medieval looking alleyways and arcades full of shops selling the handcrafts of the island such as clothing, jewelry made from coral and gold, shoes and ceramics. Admire the colorful gardens of Augustus overlooking the famed Faraglioni Rocks and Marina Piccola where Gracie Fields once lived. There is free time for you to go off and admire the elegant boutiques, stroll along the cobbled streets or simply relax on the beach. There is so much to see and do on this tiny island of paradise you will be sorry to leave.

## **Day 15**

### **SORRENTO TO NAPLES**

Private transfer from Sorrento hotel to Naples airport, from which you'll return home.