

COUNTRY HERITAGE TOURS

QUILT TOURS

ESSENTIAL ITALY

ROME | FLORENCE | VENICE | PADUA | PISA

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY



The Vatican, Rome

tapestry
SMALL GROUP
TOUR



OCTOBER 5 – 15, 2024

HAND-SELECTED HOTELS

ROME: Le Méridien Visconti Rome
FLORENCE: Hotel De La Ville (or similar)
VENICE: Hilton Molino Stucky Venice

9 NIGHTS

Hotel accommodations, including
baggage handling

13 MEALS

American breakfast **B** daily, 4 dinners **D**

AIRFARE & TRANSFERS

Round-trip international airfare from
Chicago (ORD); Group transfer upon
arrival and for departure

TOP-RATED HIGHLIGHTS

- Kick-off Welcome Dinner
- Italian Cooking Demonstration
- Expert Local City Guides
- Roman Forum
- Spanish Steps
- Trevi Fountain
- St. Peter's Basilica
- Vatican Gardens Tour
- Vatican Museum Guided Tour
- Sistine Chapel
- Tuscan Wine Estate and Cellar & Vineyard Tour
- Siena Cathedral
- Florence Guided Walking Tour
- Accademia Gallery + David Sculpture
- Museo del Tessuto
- Pisa Day Trip
- St. Antonio Basilica
- Murano Island
- Glass-Blowing Demonstration
- Venice Guided Walking Tour and Gondola Ride
- Italian Farewell Dinner

ESSENTIAL ITALY DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

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DAY 1 OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Discover Italy's enchanting cities, indulge in local cuisine, and immerse yourself in art, history, and culture on this journey through Italy's essential cities.

DAY 2 ROME ARRIVAL – TOUR BEGINS

Welcome to Rome! Upon arrival, meet your Tour Manager and fellow travelers then settle into your comfortable accommodations and prepare for an unforgettable adventure. Later, after a well-deserved rest, we'll gather as a group for a special welcome Aperitivo and an **entertaining Italian cooking demo** for tastes of this country's delicious and famous cuisine. 🍷

DAY 3 ROME

Discover Rome's captivating sights on a **guided walking tour**, including the **Roman Forum**, **Trevi Fountain**, and **St. Peter's Basilica**. Spend the rest of your day immersing yourself in the Eternal City's magic. Perhaps visit a local café for a cappuccino or explore the charming cobblestone streets, uncovering hidden gems. 📍



Colosseum, Rome

DAY 4 ROME – VATICAN CITY – ROME

Escape the city bustle and explore the lush **Vatican Gardens**, then **tour the Vatican Museums**, including the awe-inspiring **Sistine Chapel**. Learn about the history and artistic treasures within these hallowed halls. Celebrate your last night in Rome with a **beachside group dinner**, sharing stories and laughter with newfound friends. 🍷

DAY 5 ROME – SIENA – FLORENCE

Journey to **UNESCO-listed Siena**, to experience the lively Palio horse race community. Admire the stunning **Siena Cathedral** and its intricate architecture before heading to enchanting **Florence**, the city of arts. Settle into your Florentine accommodations and enjoy the city's romantic ambiance before tucking in for the night. 📍

DAY 6 FLORENCE

Uncover Florence's artistic treasures on a **walking tour**, then marvel at Michelangelo's masterpieces at the **Accademia Gallery**, including **Michelangelo's David**. Enjoy **free time** to further explore this captivating city – perhaps visit the local markets or take a leisurely stroll along the Arno River. 📍

DAY 7 FLORENCE – PISA – FLORENCE

Visit the **Museo del Tessuto**, then venture to **Pisa's Piazza Dei Miracoli**, **Duomo**, and iconic **Leaning Tower**. Capture memorable photos of these historic landmarks, and immerse yourself in Pisa's rich

culture. Return to Florence for a delightful **Tuscan dinner**, indulging in the region's renowned cuisine. 🍷



Venice, Italy

DAY 8 FLORENCE – PADUA – FLORENCE

Explore the historic charm of **Padua**, including the **Prato della Valle** and the stunning **Saint Antonio Basilica**. Immerse yourself in the city's rich history before arriving in magical **Venice**. Stroll the city's sidewalks and bridges, and take in the beauty of **St. Mark's Basilica** as the sun sets. 📍

DAY 9 FLORENCE – MURANO ISLAND – VENICE

Embark on a **private boat trip to Murano Island**, experiencing the renowned **Murano glass-making** firsthand during a demonstration. Discover the colorful houses and perhaps pick up some local lace souvenirs. Spend the rest of the **day at leisure in mesmerizing Venice**, exploring its labyrinthine streets and canals. 📍

DAY 10 VENICE

Join a local guide on a **walking tour through St. Mark's Square**, visiting iconic landmarks like **Doge's Palace** and the **Rialto Bridge**. Experience a quintessential **Venetian gondola ride**, gliding through the city's enchanting waterways. Later, gather for a **festive farewell dinner**, reminiscing about your unforgettable Italian journey. 🍷

DAY 11 VENICE – TOUR ENDS

After a leisurely breakfast, exchange contact information with new found friends before transferring to Venice Marco Polo International Airport to begin your journey home. Cherish the memories of your incredible Italian adventure and the lifelong friendships formed along the way. 📍



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