

Discover Italy



Itinerary April 5-14



Day 0

Travel day from the United States

Day 1

Arrive in Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Aeroporto - Rome, hotel check-in, dinner* in hotel. NIGHT IN ROME

Day 2

Explore Rome - Breakfast* at hotel. Bus tour, pizza school lunch - where you will learn from a local Italian family how to make your own homemade Italian style pizza for lunch*. Walking tour (Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain etc.) Dinner (OYO). NIGHT IN ROME

Day 3

Explore Rome - After breakfast* at hotel, step back in time with a tour of Ancient Rome, the Colosseum underground and Roman Forum. You'll skip the lines and pass undisturbed through the gates of the world's most famous sporting structure, the incomparable Roman Colosseum. You'll discover the events that happened here and the structure's legacy in the history of ancient Rome, gaining a new understanding and appreciation of this complex society.

Transfer to Chianciano Terme (Lunch* en-route)

We will check-in late afternoon for your 3-night stay in Chianciano Terme, considered among the finest health resorts in Europe. This town is situated approximately 550 meters above sea level, offers great climate and every advantage for tourists due to its exceptional geographical position. It is surrounded by hills with woods of oak, beechwood, ilex and chestnut. Dinner* at hotel, NIGHT IN CHIANCIANO TERME

Day 4

Olive Oil Tasting & Tuscan Cooking Class + Cortona "Under the Tuscan sun" and Lake Trasimeno - Breakfast* at hotel. This morning visit an oil mill, experience the true flavors of Tuscany as you partake in your very own Cooking Class (lunch*). Prepare a

hand made pasta meal like "grandma" would in a warm and down-to-Earth atmosphere with local ingredients accompanied by an Italian Chef. Take good care in your creations as this will be your meal for lunch. In the afternoon, we will take you to Cortona, one of the oldest hill towns in Tuscany, where you will recognize the scenery from the movie Under the Tuscan Sun.

Dinner (OYO). NIGHT IN CHIANCIANO TERME

Day 5

Umbria/Assisi. The Basilica of St Francis - Breakfast* at hotel. Through the rolling countryside of Tuscany into Umbria, you arrive at the mystical town of Assisi on the slopes of Mount Subasio. See the sights of St. Francis' birthplace, including the medieval ramparts and the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, built on the site where St. Francis died. Assisi is the home of one of the Catholicism's most beloved saints and the birthplace of the Franciscans. The town is dominated by the impressive expanse of the incredible Basilica di San Francesco, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000 and one of the key sites for Christian pilgrimage in Europe. Take in the incredible gothic interior of the Upper Church and the impressive portico before marveling at the simply spectacular nave, whose floors are covered with patterned marble and whose walls and ceilings reflect the brightness of the countryside beyond, shimmering blue and serene green, passionate red and soothing gold. From the incredible art to the unbeatable legacy, this is a church that is not to be missed. Lunch* in a local trattoria. Transfer back to Chianciano Terme. Dinner (OYO). NIGHT IN CHIANCIANO TERME

Day 6

Tuscany - After breakfast* at hotel, we load the coach and say goodbye to Chianciano Terme. Today, we travel through the provinces of Tuscany toward its northern side. This morning will be dedicated to Val d'Orcia Unesco area with visits to Renaissance villages of Pienza for a Pecorino Cheese Tasting and Montepulciano, the location of the Twilight saga. Lunch* in an Osteria

After lunch, the tour continues with a 1.5-hour ride to the remarkable, medieval, Siena whose historic city center is a World Heritage Site. This area is riddled with winding cobblestone lanes and fringed with a number of impressive structures like the Torre del Mangia that juts dramatically within the city's skyline. You will experience one of Europe's greatest medieval squares: Piazza del Campo, where the red brick Palazzo Pubblico is striking and impressive, covered with flags and vivid banners during the twice annual horse race known as the Palio.

After departing Siena, we will transfer to the garden-town of Montecatini Terme in about 1.5-hour for your 3-night stay. With its wonderful parks, suggestive old village, trendy coffee bars and wine-bars, its palaces that still recall our ancient history and bygone memories offer a holiday characterized by health, culture and relaxation. Dinner* in hotel. NIGHT IN MONTECATINI TERME

Day 7

Florence and Lucca (by night) - After breakfast* at hotel, Florence awaits! Florence is the capital of Tuscany and the center of the most important art movement in the Western world, the home to the Medici and Machiavelli, Leonardo and Michelangelo. Florence enjoys a unique artistic heritage. Experience the delights during your sightseeing tour on foot with your knowledgeable guide. Admire the Baptistry, renowned for its carved bronze-gold doors, the marble Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's impressive bell tower, Ponte Vecchio (the oldest bridge of Europe) and the Piazza Signoria where you will see the famous statue of David by Michelangelo. Lunch* in a local ristorante.

Enjoy free time to explore or to shop for high quality Italian leather goods and 18-carat gold jewelry and then transfer to the Lucca.

Lucca Tour by night - After dinner*, you will enjoy a walking tour of the historical city of Lucca, surrounded by the most impressive renaissance walls of Europe. Lucca was the capital of the Roman empire during the Triumvirate, with the still inhabited Roman amphitheater and see the birthplace of the opera composer Giacomo Puccini. Transfer to the hotel. NIGHT IN MONTECATINI TERME

Day 8

Chianti Wineries Tour with a typical Tuscan Lunch and Wine Tasting in a Renaissance Castle/San Gimignano - Breakfast* at hotel. Today, we transport you through the Tuscan countryside until you reach arresting Chianti area. In this garden of Tuscany, we will visit the vineyards and wineries of a Renaissance castle and we will enjoy a wine tasting followed by an authentic Tuscan lunch* experience made with locally sourced fresh produce. In the afternoon, we drive through the Chianti vineyards to the medieval village of San Gimignano and its famous skyline dominated by 13 towers, almost unchanged since the Middle Ages. You will wander through the streets of this medieval town rich of works of art, shops and restaurants. Before returning to the hotel, we will be back to the origins of the art genius LEONARDO DA VINCI's birthplace. Dinner (OYO). NIGHT IN MONTECATINI TERME

Day 9

Arrivederci, Italia! - Breakfast* at hotel.

Depart Italy from Venice airport

This morning you will be transferred from your hotel to the Aeroporto di Firenze-Peretola in 40 minutes for your return flight home.

