



## TAILOR MADE JOURNEY

### Highlights of Rome Florence Venice

#### INCLUDED WITH EVERY LUXURY TAILOR MADE JOURNEY

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

#### YOUR JOURNEY



#### DAY 1 ○ Rome - Arrival in Rome with a Stunning Introductory Tour

The city of Rome will take you on a journey into the past, celebrating the ever-changing landscape of the Eternal City, from Roman ruins to Renaissance designs. Your private transfer will meet you at Fiumicino Airport when you arrive in Rome and accompany you to the heart of the beautiful city center, where you can relax in the comfort of your luxurious stay. The streets of Rome are full of locals and visitors wandering the cobbled streets and gazing at the windows of boutique shops displaying elaborate clothing, shoes, and beachfront exhibits.

As you step out of nearby restaurants, where tables and chairs sit under shady umbrellas, the smell of espresso will disappear under the aromas of melted pecorino cheese. Eager to introduce you to Rome's stunning beauties, your guide will welcome you at the hotel, taking in the incredible features of the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. The Pantheon, the oldest complete building in Rome, rises above the city with a 142-foot-high concrete dome.

The foundations of the building date back to the 2nd century AD, with a porch of 16 massive granite columns with Corinthian capitals. Once you enter the building, your guide will provide cultural, historical and architectural details regarding the harmonious ambiance of the old Roman temple and Christian church. You will also have the opportunity to see tombs containing the remains of famous Romans, such as Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of the United Italy.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 2 ○ Rome – Explore the Ancient History and Cuisine of Rome

When your guide meets you in the hotel lobby, he will reveal the secrets of Rome's ancient wonders after breakfast. First you will go to see the Colosseum, where you will find the icon of Rome, rising 187 feet high above the surrounding plaza. In its dilapidated state, the amphitheater retains a sense of charisma stemming from its size, sensational history and fragments of original reliefs painted on stucco. Your guide will take you into the structure where you can easily imagine the roar of the 50,000 spectators. You can also look into the hypogeum and view the two-story labyrinth that once hidden under the stage, covering rooms where exotic animals and gladiator training grounds were kept.

Your tour of Ancient Rome will continue as you wander through the Roman Forum along the walkways once filled with senators, merchants, and religious citizens. You

will visit one of the many temples in the heart of the capital's old religious and civic center. The smell of old, dry stone will come from the preserved columns.

In the evening, you will meet a chef for a special introduction to Roman cuisine as you try to prepare a delicious multi-course meal. The kitchen will be filled with aromas of pecorino cheese, guanciale and pepper as you learn to choose from traditional pastas such as cacio e pepe and cake alla gricia. Your lesson will begin with a quick outline on how to make the most commonly used noodles for a mouthwatering and hearty meal in Roman cuisine.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 3 ○ **Rome – Discover the Remarkable Artistry of the Vatican City**

The extraordinary architecture of St. Peter's Basilica represents the grandeur and prestige of the Vatican and will captivate you spiritually and aesthetically during your private tour. Your guide will accompany you to the famous square, where you will begin your exploration of history and art filling the galleries below and around Vatican City. Here you will witness the dome of Saint Peter's Basilica, which was designed by Michelangelo and is 448 feet high. Inside, there are hints of incense and myrrh, spices mixed in the air between the bronze throne around the apse and the papal tombs. Michelangelo's famous Pietà stands to the right of the nave and depicts a young Mary embracing Jesus after he was crucified. It was carved from a single, immaculate slab of marble.

The galleries inside the Vatican Museum feature an array of ancient wonders from across the Mediterranean, from papal coaches to Etruscan artifacts and from Egyptian hieroglyphs to Renaissance paintings. The incarnation of artistic splendor and religious devotion in the Vatican comes from the last gallery in the museum: the Sistine Chapel. You will be mesmerized by the Genesis depictions visible through Michelangelo's eyes and the luminous colors spread across the ceiling. In the heart of the ceiling you will find the famous painting depicting the creation of Adam and Eve.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 4 ○ **Tuscany – Visit Charming Assisi en route to Tuscany's Rolling Hills**

In the morning, the cafes surrounding Piazza Navona's dazzling fountains will open their doors, turning the scents of fresh pastries filled with orange cream and rich espresso into the air. Your private transfer will meet you in the hotel lobby and take you outside of Rome, where you will reach the charming city of Assisi. Rocca Maggiore's castle crowns the cityscape along the mountain's upper ridges and glows with subtle pink hues.

The fragrance of olives will flow through the lanes and wind up and down the hillside to the gates of the impressive Basilica di San Francesco, close to the city's base. The structure was built on the saint's tomb in the early 13th century and remains an important pilgrimage site for Italy and the world. You can explore two levels, an old and a new church, where you can find works by famous artists such as Giotto and Cimabue. You will continue the charm of Tuscany at your preferred pace, enjoying the iconic, rolling green hills and cypress trees that shape the precious landscape.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 5 ○ **Tuscany – Enjoy the Flavors of Tuscany with a Wine and Food Tour**

Sunlight will surpass Tuscany's emerald hills in the morning, revealing the grandeur of the lesson and the enchanting ambience of medieval towns crowning the scattered hills. Your morning will begin in the town of Sorano, a capsule protected by Etruscan civilization and refined with Renaissance architecture. The open air museum rises from the surrounding trees as if carved from the natural stone of the protruding cliffs with olive groves and wheat fields in the famous landscape. Seven are all located below the majestic 14th century Kalma Orsini fortress.

You'll notice depictions of bears adorning the entrance arch, opening to the castle and reflecting the emblems of the nobility from the region. You will follow your guide through the quirky village to establish dairy ideas on the farm and culinary traditions of the locals using the product. You will have a taste of the famous Prosciutto Toscano in Sorano. It should be made from local spice mix to taste its delicious taste and exquisite aroma.

You will continue to Montalcino, specifically Brunello di Montalcino, a medieval hill town famous for its sensationalism. Narrow winding streets lead to bustling squares and picturesque views of the vineyards that span the valley. Unique buildings and preserved city walls approximate the charismatic charm as you begin your wine tasting tour in a local cellar. Your guide will provide explanations about winemaking, microclimates, and grape types used to understand the variety of wines celebrated in the area. Your tour will conclude with a taste of a Brunello di Montalcino aged in oak

barrels. You will find aromas of dried thyme, aged balsamic, figs, espresso and leather, sweet tobacco and cherry on your palate.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 6 ○ **Florence – Delight in the City of Siena and Beauty of Florence**

The city of Siena stands on the classical hills of Tuscany and once fought for supremacy over the region's current capital, even surpassing Florence with artistic and architectural grandeur. In the morning, your private transfer will escort you to the city for a half-day tour along the cobbled lanes hidden within the preserved medieval walls that protect this city center. The aroma of sweet gelato will spread from the various ice creams scattered across the streets while blending with the scent of fresh cappuccino.

You will take you from Piazza del Campo to the incredible Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta and take a remarkable tour of the city's highlights. Gothic architecture alternates with dark and light marble strips, with a large rose window providing exceptional light to the interior. The nave contains 56 mosaic floor panels crafted between the 14th and 16th centuries. These depict regional folklore and biblical stories set beneath the stained glass, frescoes, and ornaments glowing with gold and silver.

Upon arrival in the magnificent city of Florence, you will settle in your luxurious accommodation in the heart of the city center before enjoying an architectural entrance tour that will focus on illuminating the splendor of the famous Duomo. The dome of Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral remains the world's largest unfortified brick dome, standing 376 feet high. The interior has a familiar spice aroma as you walk along the long nave to stand under the octagonal railing that glows with 88 reliefs.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 7 ○ **Florence – Traverse Renaissance Art, Culture, and History in Florence**

The captivating aromas of freshly fried bomboloni will drift out of the pasticcerie in the morning. You will meet your guide in the hotel lobby before stepping into the city for a full day's tour of the wonderful art for which the city is known. You will begin with the fascinating Uffizi Gallery. The grand museum was originally built as the magistrate's office in the 16th century but now encompasses nearly 140,000 square feet and displays works of art from the 13th to the 18th centuries. You will follow your guide for an insightful introduction into the famous and overlooked works of Tuscany, which include finding the famous Portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Urbino by Piero della Francesca. The works became unique in their humanistic representation of the couple.

You will continue your discovery of Florence's artistic majesty at the Accademia Gallery, which is home to the spectacular statue of Michelangelo's David. As you walk down the hall, which leads to the structure that is synonymous with Florence, you will also find a collection of unfinished sculptures by the master artist, which resemble men that are stuck halfway through their emergence from the marble slabs that encase them. The carvings were meant to decorate a papal tomb in Rome. Standing beneath the statue of David, it reveals its magnitude at 17 feet tall. Its detail with the muscles makes it look as if David could step into life from the platform at any moment.

Accommodation  
Meals:

## DAY 8 ○ **Venice – Transfer to Venice for an In-Depth Tour of the Republic**

Before meeting your private transfer at Venezia Santa Lucia Station, you will travel by high-speed train from Florence to Venice in the morning and enjoy first-class luxury. Travel along the Grand Canal and through the narrow, winding lanes of the atmospheric city sprouting from its lagoon to reach your magnificent accommodation. The turmoil from the Rialto Market will calm down as you enter the luxurious architecture that reflects the prestige of the old Republic, while vendors collect the remaining seafood and produce for the day.

Your guide will embark on a magnificent tour of St Mark's Basilica and the Palace of the Dukes, revealing the beauty, secrets, and history of Venice. Inside the Doge's Palace, you'll enter the Sala del Consiglio dei Dieci, or Ten Council, a secret court responsible for the secret police of the republic. Elegant wooden panels are being replaced by striking depictions of Lightning Throwing Jupiter against Vices drawn by master artist Veronese.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 9 ○ **Venice – Cruise the Venetian Lagoon for Insight into Famous Islands**

In the morning, rows of gondolas will walk in cold water at Bacino Orseolo, near the domes of St. Mark's Basilica. After breakfast, your guide will meet you at your hotel and take you on a classic Venetian Lagoon tour, visiting the famous islands of Murano,

Burano and Torcello. Once you arrive on the island of Murano, you will notice that the setting is more like a smaller Venice. The island stood out in the 13th century when the Doge drove all of its glassblowing craftsmen from Venice for fear of fire.

The Basilica of St. Mary and St. Donatus decorates the central square, while gilded Byzantine mosaics from the 7th century adorn the floor. You'll meet an artisanal glass blower for a demonstration of how to create gorgeous artworks from small vases to large fixtures. As the craftsman uses a combination of heat, air and molding techniques to shape the molten glass to his will, the heat from the furnace will fill the room and highlight a skill once admired all over the world for the unique Venetian style.

Accommodation  
Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 10 ○ **Venice – Depart for Home**

When the morning returns to Venice in the morning, the shops will open their doors and reveal elaborate and elegant showcases that capture the culture of the city in the lagoon. Carnival's traditional masks can glow in the light, and cafes will set up tables and chairs along the water's edge to allow customers to watch the gondolas flowing by. Vendors at Rialto Market are on the farm island of St. They will come back representing their fresh produce brought from Erasmo. After breakfast, your private transfer would meet you in your hotel lobby to escort you to Marco Polo Airport where you will board your plane.

Meals: Breakfast

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