

## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 ARRIVE ROME - SORRENTO

Day 2 AMALFI COAST

Day 3 POMPEII - ROME

Day 4 ROME

Day 5 ROME

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### Day 1: ARRIVE ROME - SORRENTO

Tour departs: Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Fiumicino one hour after the arrival of our selected flight(s). Travel through the fertile Campania countryside, around the Bay of Naples, and past Mount Vesuvius to the lively southern Italian resort town of Sorrento. Your hotel is ideally located in a tranquil garden setting above the sea. The afternoon is free to rest in your garden-view room or relax by the pool. Enjoy a welcome reception followed by dinner.

### Day 2: AMALFI COAST

The drive along the Amalfi Coast is one of the most spectacular drives in the world, with breathtaking scenery around every bend. Fantastic rock formations drop vertically into the sea; sub-tropical vegetation on the hillsides, together with colorful Mediterranean flora, create enchanting landscapes. Seaside villages of Positano and Amalfi are a delight to see, as is Ravello, which offers panoramic views of the coast. Return to Sorrento in the early evening to explore the piazzas and small alleys of this fascinating old town.

### Day 3: POMPEII - ROME

Pompeii was a prosperous city of 30,000 inhabitants until it was completely buried by volcanic ash from the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD; excavations began in the 18th century and are still in progress today. Walk through Pompeii to discover the way of life in ancient Italy – visit the temple, the forum and a home adorned with frescoes. Arrive late afternoon in Rome, where you'll spend the next three nights; your hotel is centrally located on the fashionable Via Veneto, one of Rome's most prestigious addresses.

### Day 4: ROME

Experience Vatican City, a state and a city all in one! Visit the Vatican Museum and see Michelangelo's masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel. Also visit St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square; in and around the square are Swiss guards, young Roman Catholic citizens of Switzerland wearing Renaissance-style uniforms in the bright colors of the Medici Popes. You can linger at the Vatican or you can return to your hotel; the afternoon and evening are free. You may wish to shop the fashionable boutiques along the Via Condotti or relax at a sidewalk café.

### Day 5: ROME

City sightseeing includes the Roman Forum and a visit to the Colosseum, plus the ruins of the Imperial Palace and Circus Maximus. The afternoon is at leisure, allowing you to explore at your own pace. Dine tonight at a local trattoria in Rome, one of Italy's many culinary pleasures!

### Day 6: ORVIETO - TORGIANO

Arrive in Orvieto, set high on a hill volcanic in origin, blanketed in vineyards. Visit the Duomo, one of Italy's greatest cathedrals; the façade is a visual treat, a blend of sculpture and mosaic splashed with a palette of colors and magnificent bronze doors. Inside, view inspiring frescoes created by renowned artists. Following a traditional trattoria lunch near the Piazza del Duomo, continue through Umbria, a wine-growing region. Arrive in Torgiano, a small village in the Tiber Valley, where you will experience Italian country life for the next two nights. Your accommodation is a 17th-century patrician home featuring wooden beams, terracotta floors, and a wine museum of the Lungarotti family.

### Day 7: ASSISI

Take a short drive to Assisi, a well-preserved medieval hillside town "spread" across the slopes of a mountain. Assisi was the home of St. Francis, who left a position of wealth and turned to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience, founding the order whose followers became known as Franciscans. They built St. Francis Basilica, which today houses some of Italy's great 13th-and 14th-century frescoes. Return to Torgiano for the evening.

**Day 8: TUSCANY - SAN GIMIGNANO - PISA**

Tuscany is an enchanting region, where for centuries the beauty of nature has blended with the ingenuities of humans; the hilltop town of San Gimignano is one of its gems. Medieval towers, built in the 12th century by the nobility, are visible from afar. Stroll along the quaint streets and visit Piazza della Cisterna, one of Italy's finest town squares. Travel through the lush Tuscan countryside to the ancient Roman city of Pisa for a brief visit before arriving at your hotel.

**Day 9: CINQUE TERRE - FLORENCE**

Cinque Terre was accessible only by sea for hundreds of years. Five picture-book fishing villages are found between the Mediterranean's blue waters and the rugged coastal mountains. Visit this unique region, which has remained untouched for centuries; the small population, numbering about 7,000, lives by fishing and agriculture (vineyards, citrus fruit, olives); they remain strongly attached to their old world traditions. Journey on to the Renaissance city of Florence, where great art and architecture whisper the history of the ages.

**Day 10: FLORENCE**

In no other city did the arts flourish as they did here between the 13th and 16th centuries. Attend an in-depth briefing given by an art history lecturer who is from a local university, followed by a visit to Galleria dell'Accademia, the home of Michelangelo's David. Spend the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure exploring Florence.

**Day 11: FLORENCE**

The entire day is free to pursue your special interests in Florence. Your hotel is ideally located within a few blocks of some of the world's greatest treasures – Pitti Palace, the famous bronze doors of the Baptistry, and the Uffizi Gallery. For three centuries, Florence was the cradle of an inspired, intellectual and artistic population. Home to Dante, Giotto, Machiavelli, Botticelli, da Vinci, Raphael, Brunelleschi and other important figures of the Renaissance, it is a mecca for art lovers. Special reservations have been made for you to visit the Uffizi Gallery.

Price per person Land Only	Dbl	Sgl	Trl
March 16, 23, 28	\$4,995	\$5,840	\$4,566
April 6, 13, 20, 25, 27	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
May 2, 7, 16, 21, 30	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
June 1, 8, 20, 22	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
July 6, 13, 20, 27	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
September 5, 10, 17, 24	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
October 3, 5, 12, 19, 26	\$5,680	\$6,616	\$5,225
November 2, 14	\$4,995	\$5,840	\$4,566
Special departures on request with supplement			

**Day 12: VENICE**

Travel by rail this morning to Venice, an unusual city built on 118 small islands and traversed by some 100 canals. Transfer by canal boat to your hotel, which is located near St. Mark's Square; after lunch, embark on a walking tour. Visit St. Mark's Basilica, built more than 900 years ago, as well as the sumptuous Doges' Palace, which was the official residence of the elected officials of the former Venetian Republic.

**Day 13: VENICE**

The entire day is free to do as you please, perhaps people-watching from a café in St. Mark's Square or walking along the narrow streets and lanes where you will see Murano glassware, lace and jewelry – just a few of the items that are made in and around Venice. We invite you to join us this evening for a reception and farewell dinner.

**Day 14: ARRIVEDERCI**

Tour ends: Venice's Marco Polo Airport 2 1/2 hours prior to the departure of our selected flight(s). Transfer by motor launch from the hotel to the airport. Persons departing other times should secure their own transportation to the airport. A water taxi from the hotel is approximately US \$85.

**Additional Information :**

Transatlantic air is additional.



Selected Hotels	
SORRENTO	Grand Hôtel Excelsior Vittoria (Night 1,2)
ROME	The Westin Excelsior (Night 3,4,5*)
TORGIANO	Hotel Le Tre Vaselle (Night 6,7)
VIAREGGIO	Principe di Piemonte (Night 8)
FLORENCE	Hotel Brunelleschi (Night 9,10,11)
VENICE	The Westin Europa & Regina (Night 12,13)

\*Tour of May 18 will stay at the St. Regis Grand.