

## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 ARRIVE IN MILAN - LAKE LUGANO  
Day 2 LAKE COMO - BELLAGIO  
Day 3 VENICE  
Day 4 VENICE  
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Day 6 FLORENCE  
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Day 10 ARRIVEDERCI



### Day 1: ARRIVE IN MILAN - LAKE LUGANO

Tour departs: Milan's Malpensa Airport one hour after the arrival of our selected flight(s). Travel through the beautiful landscapes of northern Italy to Switzerland and the stylish city of Lugano; your hotel is located along the shores of beautiful Lake Lugano. This "Italian" city features a waterfront promenade, stylish boutiques and outdoor cafés that are set along the lake. Enjoy some time at leisure to explore the city on your own; you might visit Cattedrale di San Lorenzo, with its baroque interior, or the fascinating Museo Cantonale d'Arte, featuring works by famed artists such as Renoir and Klee. The best way to see the lake is aboard a cruise, calling on little villages that lie along the shoreline. We invite you to join us tonight for a welcome reception and dinner.

### Day 2: LAKE COMO - BELLAGIO

Lake Como is often considered the most dramatic and alluring of the Italian lakes. The Alps form a breathtaking backdrop against which the expanse of the lake is radiant. Ferry across this majestic lake to the "pearl" of Lake Como, Bellagio; its picturesque setting has made it the locale of some of the area's most beautiful villas, the subject of artists and writers for centuries. Explore at your leisure before traveling to Tremezzo and a visit to Villa Carlotta. An elegant 18th-century summerhouse, it is renowned for its magnificent landscaped gardens and works of sculpture. Return to Lugano, where the evening is free.

### Day 3: VENICE

Travel today to Venice, one of the world's loveliest cities; witness its unique design, along an intricate system of canals, to its amazing history dating back to the Middle Ages. Following lunch, and with the expert eyes of a local guide, enjoy a guided walking tour of the city's highlights. Discover the treasures of Piazza San Marco (St. Mark's Square), the center of Venice. Visit one of the greatest buildings in Europe, dramatic St. Mark's Basilica, which features exquisite mosaics and detailed carvings; it is a blend of Eastern and Western inspirations. You will also visit the sumptuous Doges' Palace, which was the official residence of the rulers of Venice in the Middle Ages; a collection of art treasures includes Paradise by Tintoretto and Age and Youth by Veronese.

### Day 4: VENICE

Visit one of Italy's most respected museums, Galleria dell'Accademia, featuring one of the world's largest collections of Venetian art; artists include Bellini, Titian and Tintoretto. Ranging from the medieval period through the Renaissance, Baroque and beyond, these works chronicle the achievements of the Venetian school. Spend the remainder of the day exploring Venice; possibilities include museums such as the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, which features an extraordinary collection of modern art; housed in an 18th-century palazzo, it is one of Venice's most interesting, and most visited, sites.

### Day 5: FLORENCE

Travel by rail across the plains of the historic Po River to Florence, set in the pastoral Italian countryside. Called the "Birthplace of the Renaissance" for the architecture and art that flourished between the 13th and 16th centuries, Florence is a delight for art lovers. A lecture by an art historian provides a good introduction to landmark sites such as the magnificent bronze doors of the octagonal-shaped Baptistry. The artist Ghiberti took more than 20 years to create two sets of these fascinating bronze doors, declared by the artist Michelangelo to be the "Gates of Paradise."

#### Day 6: FLORENCE

Join us for a visit to one of the world's most acclaimed art museums, the Galleria dell'Accademia, home of Michelangelo's famous statue David. Reservations have also been made at the Uffizi Gallery this morning to view many of the world's wonderful works of art at your leisure. The masterpieces of the Pitti Palace? Michelangelo's marble creations in the Medici Chapels? A stroll across the famous Ponte Vecchio or perhaps just restful contemplation in the beautiful Boboli Gardens? The list of inspiring sights and activities is endless! The remainder of the day is free to spend as you please; most of these sights are located fairly close together and are easy to get to. Florentine arts and crafts are known for their high quality; the many small shops and galleries throughout the city are a delight.

#### Day 7: SIENA - ROME

Journey through the Chianti region, world-famous for its red wine. Quintessential landscapes feature olive groves, vineyards, cypresses, medieval towns and many examples of timeless art and architecture. Journey to medieval Siena, and walk to the Piazza del Campo, a beautiful shell-shaped square that is the site of the Palio, Siena's well-known biannual horse race. Wander through the narrow streets to visit the Duomo, a cathedral that is a black and white marble masterpiece. Travel through the green countryside of Tuscany and Lazio to Rome, known as the "Eternal City." Spend the next three nights at one of Europe's premier hotels, which is centrally located right in the heart of Italy's exciting capital city.

#### Day 8: ROME

The home of the powerful Roman Empire, Rome has influenced art, architecture, literature and government throughout the western world for more than 2,000 years. This morning you'll experience this rich history as a local guide shows you the most important sights. See the Quirinale Palace, Piazza Venezia, Roman Forum, Colosseum and other landmarks; remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore Rome.

#### Day 9: ROME

No trip to Rome would be complete without a visit to the Vatican, a state and city all in one; see a vast collection of treasures in the Vatican Museum. Enter the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's famous ceiling and the Last Judgment. These magnificent frescoes were recently refurbished and can be admired in their original fresh colors. Visit St. Peter's Basilica before spending the afternoon as you please pursuing your special interests in Rome. We invite you to join us this evening for a farewell reception and dinner.

#### Day 10: ARRIVEDERCI

Tour Ends: Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport in Fiumicino 2 1/2 hours prior to the departure of our selected flight(s). Persons departing at other times should secure their own transportation. Taxi is approximately 75 Euros (US \$80).

#### Additional Information :

Transatlantic air is additional.



Price per person Land Only	Dbl \$4,990	Sgl \$6,403	Trl \$4,270
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April 1  
 May 6, 16, 23  
 June 3, 10, 13, 20, 24  
 July 1, 8, 22  
 August 5, 19  
 September 2, 5, 9, 16, 19, 23, 30  
 October 3, 7, 14, 21, 28

Special departures on request with supplement

#### Selected Hotels

LUGANO (Switzerland)	Grand Hotel Eden (Night 1,2)
VENICE	The Westin Europa & Regina (Night 3,4)
FLORENCE	The Westin Excelsior (Night 5,6)
ROME	St. Regis Grand (Night 7,8,9)