

italian tours & travel by diana

Travel

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Custom Tour (Naples, Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi, Rome, Orvieto, Tuscany, Venice)

Day 1 Cleveland, Naples

Depart Cleveland for overseas flight to Naples, Italy.

Day 2 Naples, Sorrento

Arrive Naples International Airport. Meet with your private driver for transfer to your hotel in Sorrento. Time to settle in and relax and then free time to explore this beautiful resort city on the Amalfi Coast. Overnight in Sorrento. PT/H (2d)

Day 3 Sorrento, Capri

Breakfast at hotel. In the morning you will take the public ferry to the upscale island of Capri. Upon arrival, we recommend you either walk through the white and fragrant alleys of the town or reach the "piazzetta" (Main Square) while having a gelato or an espresso and simply people watch. This is a favorite past time for most Caprese locals as well as tourists. Another suggestion might be to circumnavigate the entire island and visit the most spectacular grottoes characteristic of the island, such as the Blue Grotto, Green Grotto, White Grotto, and reach the famous Faraglioni Rock formations. Provided the seas are calm, you should enter the Blue Grotto. Late afternoon return to Sorrento for overnight. B/H

Day 4 Sorrento, Amalfi Coast

Breakfast at hotel. You have a memorable day ahead of you! Prepare your cameras for some one-of-a-kind snapshots of the Amalfi Coast! Your driver will pick you up in the lobby of your hotel for a journey along the winding coast with stops in the quaint fishing village of Amalfi as well as the upscale resort town of Positano. During the day, you will have time to shop, have an independent lunch, as well as get a taste of the famed local limoncello. We guarantee that you will be mesmerized by the magnificent views today. By late afternoon you will arrive to your hotel in Sorrento for overnight. B/PD/H

Day 5 Sorrento, Pompeii, Roma

Breakfast at hotel. Your private driver will pick you up early morning for transfer to the mysterious archaeological remains of Pompeii. There you will meet your private bilingual and certified guide for a tour of the ancient ruins. Today you will be personally guided through the stone streets of a city built over 2,000 years ago. Upon arrival, you are magically transported into antiquity. In Pompeii, you will view homes in which mosaics and frescoes have been preserved despite the treacherous devastation sustained during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on August 24th in the year 79 AD. Transfer to Naples train station. Train ride to Rome. Upon arrival in Roma, you will take a taxi to your

hotel and settle in for the evening. Perhaps a late night visit to the Trevi Fountain is in order. Overnight in Rome. B/PD/TRTK/G/H

Day 6 Roma Religiosa

Breakfast at hotel then at 10am meet with your private guide for a tour of Religious Rome. The tour will begin with a visit to the Pio-Clementino Museum and will then move on to the visitation of The Vatican, The Sistine Chapel and The Vatican Museums. The journey through the Vatican Museums will proceed through the Gallery of the Candelabra, the Gallery of Tapestries and the Gallery of Maps and from these Galleries, you will enter directly into the Raphael Rooms, where you will observe the extraordinary frescoes executed by Raphael and the Sistine Chapel. The actual visit (2d) to the Basilica, the largest Christian place in the World, will include a viewing of the magnificent Pieta by Michelangelo, Bernini's bronze Baldacchino (canopy), and the throne of St. Peter. At the end of your tour you may visit the underground catacombs which house the remains of the popes. Afternoon at leisure to explore the city independently or rest. Dinner at one of Diana's favorite restaurants in Rome and overnight. B/G/ET/D/H

Day 7 Roma Antica

Breakfast at hotel and then it is time for a tour of Roma Antica (Ancient Rome) with your private driver and private, bilingual, certified guide. Today you will discover Ancient Roma in all its glory. As you plunge into the vivacious traffic of Rome, your senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern day society. You will feel the heart-beat of the city as you pass through the Piazza Venezia where you will admire the huge monument dedicated to the first Italian King Vittorio Emmanuelle II. Today, this has been dedicated to the memory of the unknown soldiers with the eternal flame. You will pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, the site of many chariot races. You will take a stroll through the Roman Forum, rich with antiquity. Through the main square of Rome, crossing the Via Sacra (the Sacred Way), the most important street in ancient Rome where many triumphant processions took place. You will see the ruins of some ancient monuments as well as the Triumphal Arches of Titus and Septimius Severus, the Curia, seat of the Roman Senate, the Basilica Emilia and the Basilica Julia which were both used for business transactions. You will also see The Vesta Temple with the house of the Vestal Virgins, and finally the Temples of Antoninus and Faustina, Vespasian and Saturn. If you choose, you may enter The Coliseum the magnificent Flavian Amphitheatre where you will envision the gladiator duels, wild beast fights and naval battles which were arranged for the entertainment of the Roman people. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. After your guided tour you will have plenty of time to spend in Roma independently. Overnight in Roma. B/H/G

Day 8 Roma, Orvieto

Breakfast at hotel and then entire family will accompany Andrew to Roma Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport terminal 5 for his overseas departure. Remainder of family will journey onto the Medieval city of Orvieto in the beautiful heart of Umbria. Check in at hotel and then indulge in an independent discovery of this stunning Umbrian town. Your visit may include the famous Duomo of Orvieto, a beautiful 12th century structure built in honor of the Christian Holiday Corpus Domini. As well you may visit St. Patrick's Well, an architectural wonder and or the vast underground city of Orvieto. There is also an Etruscan Museum on the main square which is beautiful. Dinner at one of Diana's favorite restaurant's in Orvieto which is located in an ancient cave. B/H/D/PD

Day 9 Orvieto, San Gimignano

Breakfast at hotel and then at 11 am depart for the splendid region of Tuscany. Late afternoon arrival to the medieval city of San Gimignano for overnight. B/PD/H

Day 10 San Gimignano – cooking class

Breakfast at hotel. At midmorning, get ready for a fun and delicious cooking lesson right outside of the town of San Gimignano at a private agriturismo! You will participate in the class as well as enjoy eating the fruits of your labor. This will be an enjoyable day spent with your family. Remainder of day at leisure to independently explore this beautiful and genuine Tuscan town which we like to refer to as an outdoor living room. This tiny and pristine city has remained intact over the centuries and is situated on top of the rolling hillside. It is famous for its numerous medieval bell towers, frescoes and other art treasures. We also recommend tasting one of Italy's best gelato in Piazza Della Cisterna. Two of the more outstanding flavors which they make are pink champagne with grapefruit and the other is wild forest berries with fresh rosemary. Another savory/sweet dessert only made in this area is "panforte". The original recipe was developed at some time between the years 1095-1200. The name "panforte" stands for "strong bread" made of dried fruits, nuts and honey. Used as sustainable nourishment for the soldiers during the crusades, this Tuscan delicacy has survived the centuries. Overnight in San Gimignano. B/CL/H/PD

Day 11 San Gimignano, Siena, Monteriggioni

Breakfast at hotel. By mid-morning your private driver will pick you up for a leisurely drive through the Tuscan country side. Your first stop will be Monteriggioni, a tiny hamlet where about 48 people live. Monteriggioni was built as a military outpost by the Siennese over 500 years ago for protection against the Florentines. It remains as it did so many years ago so it is a truly genuine stop on your journey today. Next, you will visit the beautiful city of Siena. Famous for its dangerous "Palio" which takes place every year, as well as the church of San Domenico, and the very ornate Duomo, Siena is a worthwhile visit. Independent lunch in Siena. Afternoon at leisure to explore the city or simply rest at one of the many trattorias and reminisce about the past few days. Afternoon transfer back with your private driver to San Gimignano for overnight. B/H/PD

Day 12 San Gimignano, Florence, Venice

Morning transfer to Florence with your private driver. Upon arrival, he will bring you to the baggage storage at the train station so that you can store your luggage while you tour the city. Today you will visit the Cradle of the Renaissance. We will arrange a very special walking tour with your own private, bilingual and certified guide. The tour will include a visit to the Galleria Academia to view the beautiful sculptures by Michelangelo, the slaves or prisoners of the rocks and the unforgettable statue of David. The Academia houses some of the most important sculptures of Florence (to avoid the long lines, we will prearrange entrance tickets for you). Then you are on to the famous Duomo of Florence (the fourth largest church in the world), with its grandiose cupola by Brunelleschi, Giotto's bell tower, and the Baptistery with its famous bronze doors. Your guided tour will include the Piazza Signoria, the Ponte Vecchio as well as the Santa Croce. During your free-time, you may choose to rest at a local trattoria or visit the open air markets of the San Lorenzo or the Mercato Del Pulcinello for some genuine Florentine artifacts, leather goods and souvenirs. **We will prearrange entrance tickets to see the David in order to avoid the long lines. In the afternoon train ride to Venice for overnight. Upon arrival a private water taxi will meet you to bring you to your hotel. B/PT/G/ET/TRTK/H/PWT

Day 13 Venice

Breakfast at hotel. Venice, La Serenissima, is a symphony of romance, elegance, mystery and invigoration. Built to accommodate an active maritime trade of exotic spice from the Far East, Venice and her intriguing history are fascinating. Rich in art, architecture and literature, she will take your breath away. The Grand Canal, will lead you to The Piazza San Marco and the incredible Basilica. Saint Mark's Basilica is a wonderful example of Byzantine Venetian architecture. It was at one time the Doge's chapel but it was also the mausoleum for Saint Mark, the patron saint of Venice, whose life is narrated in the golden mosaics on the walls. You should also explore the Palazzo Ducale or Duke's Palace. This impressive structure is a combination of Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance architecture, and was the official residence of the 120 Doges who ruled the "Serenissima Republic" for 1,100 years. If you choose, you may explore the many lavish rooms and admire masterpieces by Tintoretto, Titian, Veronese and Bellini. You should view

the Bridge of Sighs as well as the famous Rialto Bridge, the oldest bridge in Venice dating back to 1172. Finally, we advise to end your afternoon with a relaxing ride in an authentic Venetian Gondola (The Gondole Danieli Service on the Grand Canal in front of Hotel Danieli is very reliable. The cost is 75 euro for 6 people). Overnight in Venice. B/H

Day 14 Venice, Cleveland

Private transfer to Venice International Airport for overseas flights to Cleveland. B/PWT

Your Custom Tour to La Bella Italia Includes the Following:

12 Breakfasts

12 Nights stay in 3 star superior and 4 star hotels

Train Tickets: From Naples to Roma for 4 participants and from Florence to Venice

4 Private Certified Bi Lingual Guides: Pompeii, Roma Antica, Roma Religiosa, Florence

Entrance Tickets: to the Vatican Museums in Roma and to the Galleria Academia in Florence

1 full course Dinner which includes house wine

1 Cooking Lesson 2 private transfers: upon arrival on Day 2 from Napoli to Sorrento and on Day 10 from San Gimignano to Florence

6 private drivers: On Day 4 along the Amalfi Coast, On Day 5 from Sorrento to Pompeii and onto the Napoli train station, On Day 8 to the airport and then onto Orvieto Day 9 from Orvieto to San Gimignano On Day 10 to and from the cooking lesson, On Day 11 to Siena with a stop in Monteriggioni.

2 private water taxis in Venice: Upon arrival on Day 10 from the train station to the hotel and upon departure from the hotel to the airport on Day 14