

italian tours and

*Travel* by Diana

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f Italian Tours by Diana

## Genuine Italy Tour: August/September 2022

Optional 2 night add on to Venice begins 3 days prior

Day 1 Friday August 26, 2022

Depart the USA

Depart the USA and board international flights to Florence, Italy (independently booked).

Day 2 Saturday August 27, 2022 Florence, San Gimignano

Buongiorno e Benvenuti/Welcome to La Bella Italia! Upon arrival at the Florence Peretola airport, you will meet our group leader, as well as our private driver. Together we will proceed to our charming hotel in the heart of Tuscany in San Gimignano.

{If you are coming from Venice today, you will board a high-speed train (2h). Upon arrival at the Florence train station, meet your private driver for transfer to the hotel in San Gimignano.}

### San Gimignano



We will have some time to check-in and settle. 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. Enjoy time at your own pace in San Gimignano. At 7:30 p.m., we will share a "Welcome to La Bella Italia" dinner together. San Gimignano for overnight. PT/D/H

Day 3 Sunday August 28, 2022

San Gimignano, Florence

### Florence



Breakfast at the hotel. At 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, we will meet our private driver for transfer to Florence (45 min). At 10:30 am or so, we will meet with our private, bilingual and certified guide for an unforgettable three hour walking tour of Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance. Begin our tour with a visit to the Galleria Accademia to view the beautiful sculptures by Michelangelo, the slaves or prisoners of the rocks and the unforgettable statue of David. To avoid long lines, we prearrange all entrance tickets for our group members. The Accademia houses some of the most important sculptures of Florence. We will continue 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. Our guided tour will include the Piazza Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio as well. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. In your free time, you may choose to rest at an outdoor café or visit the open-air markets of San Lorenzo or the Mercato Del Porcellino for some genuine Florentine artifacts, leather goods and souvenirs. Return to San Gimignano with our driver in the early evening for dinner together at 7:30 pm. Overnight in San Gimignano.

B/PD/G/ET/D/H

Day 4 Monday August 29, 2022

San Gimignano

## Cooking Lesson



Breakfast at hotel. Meet our private driver in the hotel lobby this morning around 11:00 am. Today we will partake in a fun and memorable cooking lesson just outside of the city walls in our favorite local farmhouse. Not only will you learn how to make authentic Tuscan dishes, you will also get to enjoy them for lunch (wine included). The experience will last from about 11:30 am until 3:30 pm. After the lesson, head back to the town center with your driver. We will have time to explore this beautiful Medieval Tuscan hamlet that we like to refer to as an outdoor living room because it is so laid back. We will treat all of you to our favorite authentic Italian gelato: one of Italy's best is located here on the main piazza! Two of the more outstanding flavors that they make are pink champagne with grapefruit and wild forest berries with fresh rosemary. Also, if you are interested, you should try a savory/sweet dessert only made in this area. The original recipe was developed at some time between the years 1095-1200. This treat is called "panforte" or strong bread that is made of dried fruits, nuts and honey. Used as sustainable nourishment for the soldiers during the crusades, this Tuscan delicacy has survived the centuries. The tiny shops here are sure to delight offering, hand carved wood artifacts, linens, leather goods and many other outstanding boutiques. Dinner will be independent tonight. Overnight in San Gimignano. B/PT/CL/L/PT/Gelato/H

Day 5 Tuesday August 30, 2022

San Gimignano, Montalcino, Roma

## Montalcino



Breakfast at hotel and check out. At 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, we will again meet our private driver and make our way towards Rome. Along the way, we will stop near Montalcino in the beautiful valley where the coveted Queen of Italian Reds is produced, the famous Brunello di Montalcino. Our tasting will include olive oil, Vin Santo and grappa and will include a light snack. This wine tasting experience will be memorable and delicious! After, we will continue on to our hotel in the heart of Rome. Upon arrival, we will check in and settle. The remainder of the night is yours to explore and enjoy an independent dinner. Overnight in Rome.

B/PD/WT/H

Day 6 Wednesday August 31, 2022

Roma Antica

## Rome



Breakfast at the hotel. This morning will be entirely devoted to a tour of Ancient Rome and all its glory. Our private guide and our private driver will meet us in our hotel lobby at 8.30 a.m. for a four hour tour. As we plunge into the vivacious traffic of Rome, our senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern-day society. We will pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, the site of many chariot races. We will 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. Enjoy an in-depth lesson about the construction, history and events that took place here; to save time, we have prearranged entrance tickets for the group. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. Please note no liquids are allowed inside the Coliseum. Feel the heartbeat of the city as you pass through the Piazza Venezia, where we will admire the huge monument dedicated to the first Italian King, Vittorio Emmanuele II. The Italians refer to this monument as the "Wedding Cake," and you will see why. Today, this has been dedicated to the memory of the unknown soldiers with the eternal flame. If you choose, visit the Pantheon and discover its unique history as a Roman pagan temple turned Catholic Church. It is also the final resting place of the famous Renaissance artist Raphael. Following the tour, enjoy free time. You can visit the famous Trevi Fountain. Legend has it that if you toss a coin into the fountain and make a

wish to return to Italy, it will come true. This is an opportunity to revisit an important piazza, like Piazza Navona, do some shopping or simply find a cozy Roman Osteria to relax in and reflect on our amazing journey thus far. At 7:30 p.m. we will meet again in the hotel lobby and make our way to a local family owned restaurant, where we will enjoy a delicious and memorable dinner together. Overnight in Rome.  
B/G/ET/PD/D/H

Day 7 Thursday September 1, 2022

Roma Religiosa

## Vatican



Breakfast at hotel. This morning will be devoted to Religious Roma with a three hour walking tour. At 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, we will meet our private bilingual certified guide and driver for a one-way transfer. Our 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. Entrance tickets to the Vatican Museums are prearranged to avoid long lines. The journey through the Vatican Museums will proceed through the Gallery of the Candelabre, the Gallery of Tapestries and the Gallery of Maps. From these Galleries, we will enter directly into the Raphael Rooms, where we will observe the extraordinary frescoes executed by Raphael and the Sistine Chapel. The actual visit 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. If you wish, you can visit the Underground Catacombs of the Popes at the end of our tour or climb to the top of the Basilica for views over Vatican City. Enjoy the entire afternoon at your own pace. At 7:00 p.m., we will meet again in the hotel lobby and make our way to a nearby restaurant with live music to enjoy another delicious and memorable dinner together. Overnight in Rome.

B/PT/G/ET/D/H

Day 8 Friday September 2, 2022

Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento

## Pompei



Breakfast at hotel and check out. At 8:30 a.m. in the hotel lobby, we will meet our private driver and together make our way to Pompeii. There we will meet our private bilingual certified guide for a two hour tour of the ancient ruins. We will be personally guided through the stone streets of a city built over 2,000 years ago. Upon arrival, we will be magically transported into antiquity. In Pompeii, we 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. After the tour, we will enjoy a pizza lunch. Naples is the home of pizza and locals take immense pride in their local recipes. Afterwards, continue on our way to our hotel in Sorrento. Check in, relax and enjoy time at leisure. Dinner tonight will be independent. Overnight in Sorrento. **B/PD/G/ET/L/WT/H**

Day 9 Saturday September 3, 2022 Sorrento, Capri

## Capri



Breakfast at hotel. Today is a lazy day on the boat and at the beach. Weather permitting, we will meet our captain in the hotel lobby for transfer to the port. We will board a private boat for a leisurely ride to the upscale Island of Capri. We will circumnavigate the entire island and visit the most spectacular grottoes characteristic of the island, such as the Blue Grotto, Green Grotto, White Grotto, and around the famous Faraglioni Rock formations. Provided the seas are calm, we will be able to go into the Blue Grotto (an extra fee of about 15€ per person applies for entrance to the Blue Grotto). A light snack and beverages will be provided on board. By early afternoon we will dock at Capri and you will have time to independently visit the island or hang at the beach. Late afternoon return to our hotel for free time. At 7:30 p.m., we will meet again in the hotel lobby and make our way to a local historical restaurant to enjoy a dinner together as a group. Overnight in Sorrento. **B/BR/D/H**

Day 10 Sunday September 4, 2022 Sorrento, Amalfi Coast drive (Positano)

## Positano



Breakfast at hotel. At 9:30 a.m. in the hotel lobby, we will meet our private driver to enjoy one of the most spectacular drives we will ever experience along the scenic Amalfi Coast. Have your cameras ready! Upon

arrival in Positano, we will surely capture some of the most memorable pictures of the coast line from this glorious spot. Positano is an upscale resort town, well loved by many artists, poets, writers and musicians. Here you will enjoy time at leisure to wander in the boutique shops, relax by the beach, or taste locally made Limoncello. At 1:00 p.m., we will enjoy an amazing lunch together near the beach in Positano. In the late afternoon, we will return to Sorrento with our driver and prepare for overseas flights. Dinner tonight will be independent. Overnight in Sorrento. B/PD/L/H

Day 11 Monday September 5, 2022 Sorrento, Naples, Depart

Breakfast at hotel and check out. This morning we will meet our private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Naples airport where you will board your flights back to the United States. Arrivederci, Bella Italia!!

B/PT

CODES

B=Breakfast H=Hotel G=Guide ET=Entrance Ticket PD=Private Driver PT=Private Transfer

Boat=Boat GTO= Gelato WT=Wine Tasting L=Lunch D=Dinner

Your custom Itinerary to Italy Includes the Following:

9 nights in hotels

9 breakfasts

All daily transportation throughout Italy

Private transfers to and from the airports upon arrival and departure

4 private bilingual certified guides

4 entrance tickets per person, skip the line

5 dinners with wine

3 lunches with wine

1 wine tasting

1 private boat ride to Capri

1 cooking lesson in San Gimignano

Individual city tax per person of 3-7€ per night

24/7 bilingual group manager

10-13 participants: Price per person for the land portion of this journey, based on double occupancy, is \$5636.00 per person + international airfare

14-18 participants: Price per person for the land portion of this journey, based on double occupancy, is \$5178.00 per person + international airfare

Single room supplement is \$584.00 per person

To upgrade to sea view in Sorrento, it is an additional \$258.00 per person

Tipping estimate per person is TBD

Kindly note that your final quote for the land portion of this journey does not include international airfare, tipping, and meals where not indicated.