

italian tours and

Travel by Diana

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f Italian Tours by Diana

Genuine Italy Tour: October 2018

August 1, 2017

Optional 2 night add on to Venice begins 3 days prior

Day 1 Wednesday October 10, 2018 Depart the USA
Depart the USA and board international flights to Florence, Italy.

Day 2 Thursday October 11, 2018 Florence, San Gimignano
Buongiorno e Benvenuti/Welcome to La Bella Italia! Upon arrival at the Florence Peretola airport, you will meet your group leader, as well as your private driver. Together we will proceed to our charming hotel in the heart of 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 Florence.

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 meet again to share a "Welcome to La Bella Italia" dinner together. San Gimignano for overnight. PT/D/H

San Gimignano



Day 3 Friday October 12, 2018 San Gimignano
Breakfast at hotel. This morning, you will have the option to participate in a Tuscan cooking lesson! Meet your private driver in the hotel lobby this morning around 10:00 am or so for transfer to San Gimignano. Here, you 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. You 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 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. Overnight in San Gimignano. B/H * optional CL/L/PT

Day 4 Saturday October 13, 2018

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). Upon arrival, at 10:00 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. We will 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 will 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. After the tour, we will all enjoy a Tuscan lunch experience together. 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 overnight. B/G/ET/PD/L/H

Day 5 Sunday October 14, 2018

Florence, Montalcino

Breakfast at hotel and check out. At 9:30 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 meal.

Montalcino



After this memorable experience, we will continue on to our hotel in Rome, in the heart of the city. Upon arrival, we will check in, settle and enjoy an independent dinner. Overnight in Rome. B/PD/WT/H

Day 6 Monday October 15, 2018

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 9.00 a.m. for a four hour tour. As we plunge into the vivacious morning traffic of Rome, our senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern day society. We will feel the heartbeat of the city as we pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, the site of many chariot races. We may take a stroll through the Roman Forum, rich with antiquity and proceed 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. We may 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. We will also visit the inside of The Pantheon and The Piazza di Spagna. We will enter The Coliseum, the magnificent Flavian Amphitheatre where we will envision the gladiator duels, wild beast fights and naval battles which were arranged for the entertainment of the Roman people. Entrance tickets to the Coliseum will be prearranged to avoid long lines. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. Our tour will end at 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. After the tour, you are free to enjoy the afternoon at leisure. This is an opportunity to revisit an important Piazza or area of antiquity, do some shopping or simply find a cozy Roman Osteria to relax in and reflect on our amazing journey thus far. At 7:00 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 Tuesday October 16, 2018

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. 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 will be 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. 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 a nearby restaurant with live music, to enjoy another delicious and memorable dinner together. Overnight in Rome. B/G/ET/D/H

Day 8 Wednesday October 17, 2018

Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento

Pompeii



Breakfast at hotel and check out. At 9:00 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 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 lunch together at one of our favorite pizzerias in town. Afterwards, we will continue on our way to our hotel in Sorrento. Check in, relax and enjoy time at leisure. Overnight in Sorrento. B/PD/G/ET/L/H

Day 9 Thursday October 18, 2017

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 at 9:30 a.m. in the hotel lobby and 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 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 to prepare for overseas departure. At 7:00 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/Boat/D/H

Day 10 Friday October 19, 2018

Sorrento, Amalfi Coast (Positano, Amalfi)

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. Today we will leisurely explore the quaint seaside towns of this magnificent coast. We will learn how to make the famous limoncello, the delicious liquor which originated in this area. Upon arrival in Positano, we will surely capture some of the most memorable pictures of the coast line from this glorious spot. We will stop in Amalfi as well to view Amalfi's cathedral which was built in the 9th century and partly reconstructed at a later date in Arabian-Sicilian style. A number of its original ancient features remain, such as the bell tower, the bronze posts on the main door and the Chapel of the Crucifix. There will be time to wander through the winding streets and take in the bustling vitality of this small seaport town. 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. Overnight in Sorrento. B/PD/L/H

Day 11 Saturday October 20, 2018

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 PWT=Private Water Taxi GTO= Gelato WT=Wine Tasting L=Lunch D=Dinner

Your custom Itinerary to Italy Includes the Following:

9 nights in hotels at 3 star superior and 4 star superior hotels

9 breakfasts

all 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

4 dinners with wine

3 lunches with wine

1 wine tasting

1 private boat ride to Capri

1 optional cooking lesson in San Gimignano, with lunch, wine and transportation included

Individual city tax per person

24/7 bilingual group manager

Price per person based upon double occupancy is \$4384.00 + international airfare (max 16 participants)

Single room supplement is \$448.00

Tipping estimate per person is 154.00 euro

*Cooking Class in San Gimignano for those who are interested – cost per person is \$110.00

NB: if we reach 16 participants all travelers will receive a refund of \$142.00

Once the “flow” of the itinerary is perfect for your journey, we are happy to provide a package price, per person, for the land portion only. Due to confidential and exclusive contract with our suppliers, we are unable to accommodate request for price breakdowns. Kindly note that your final quote for the land portion of this journey does not include international airfare, tipping, and meals where not indicated.

Working with Italian Tours by Diana (our process) - What to expect

Step 1: **Your Profile** - We will gather your personal information. We need your name as it appears on your passport, DOB, address, phone number, email address and your travel budget.

Step 2: **Tell Us Your Dreams**...Then we will gather your travel wishes to include activities and destinations desired. Apply this formula - how many separate destinations and hotel changes would you like? This will establish the flow of your itinerary.

Step 3: **The Designing Process** - We will design an itinerary and send it to you for review. We will edit and adjust your itinerary up to two times. Any major revisions after that will be subject to a \$75 fee.

Step 4: **Receive Your Quote** - Once you approve the flow of the itinerary, Diana will price it out for you, doing her best to stay within your budget. The pricing provided will be a package price for the land portion only (per person).

Step 5: **Approval and Deposit** – Kindly keep in mind that the budget process is involved. Minor adjustments to the budget will be free of charge. For more complex adjustments, a \$75 service fee will be applied. Upon approval of budget, a \$1,500 deposit per person is required. This will be applied towards your final cost and will set us in motion to secure your reservations. The deposit can be paid either with a personal check or a credit card (no service charge applied). When all reservations are confirmed, we will send you a list of your hotels.

Step 6: **Final Payment and Terms and Agreement Contract** – Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. *If a credit card is used for your final payment (or unpaid balance) a 2% surcharge will be added.* Kindly keep in mind that your services are prepaid before departure. We also require that all travelers age 14 and over sign our company terms and agreement contract. This must be signed within one week of receiving it. In order to receive your final package, final payment as well as a signed contract must be received by Italian Tours and Travel by Diana.

Step 7: **Peace of Mind** – You are making an investment in your dream vacation and you should protect it. We highly recommend that you purchase **travel insurance**. We have three different plans and will be more than happy to provide a quote for you. Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing travel insurance. **TO BE COVERED FOR ANY PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, IT IS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE INSURANCE WITHIN 15 DAYS OF ANY MONIES BEING SPENT FOR YOUR TRAVEL, INCLUDING AIRFARE.**

Step 8: **Final Package** – Approximately 2-3 weeks before departure, we will meet/Skype with you to review the details of your itinerary. You will receive a final package which contains the following: your final expanded itinerary, a letter containing detailed travel tips and Diana's personal contact information, transportation or entrance tickets needed, packing suggestions, tipping guidelines, language lesson, cell phone tips, etc.

Step 9: **Concierge Service** – While you are abroad, our 24 hour concierge service will be available to you from the time that you depart.

Step 10: **Welcome Back!** - Upon your return from your trip, we kindly ask that you provide a testimonial as well as a photo for our office wall of fame and website. We would love to hear about your special journey!

Mille Grazie e Buon Viaggio!
Diana and Staff