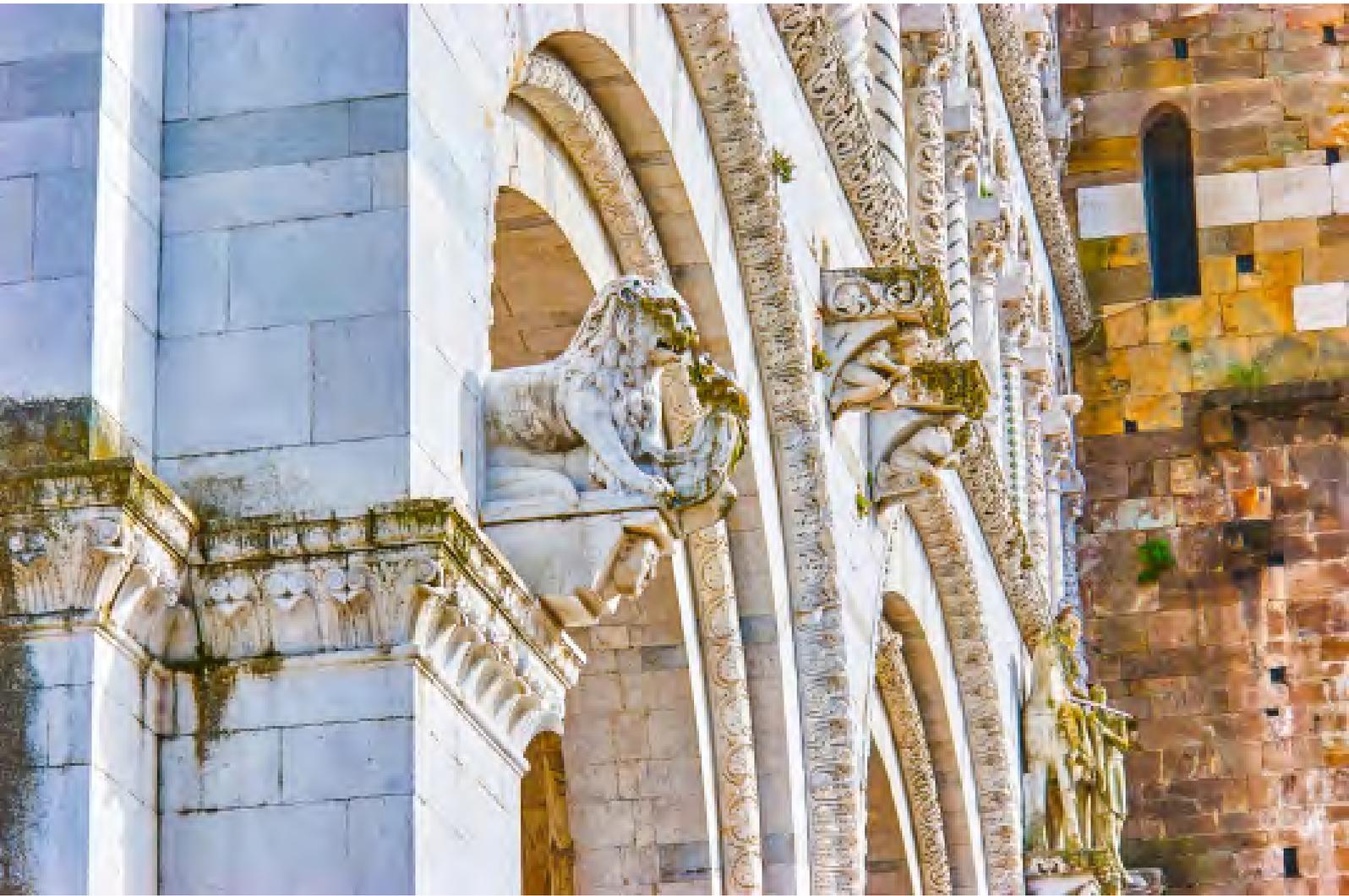


ENCHANTING ITALY UNCOVERED





21 DAYS



TOUR OVERVIEW

Starting in Milan and finishing in Rome, this relaxing tour of northern and central Italy is certainly taking you on a road less travelled.

The tour starts out in a leisurely fashion staying four nights in a charming residence close to Turin. Explore the small hamlets of the picturesque Langhe area, famous for Barolo wines and white truffles.

Capturing some of Europe's highest peaks, our stay in Bolzano will be the base for the next four nights when we take in the rich Tyrolean culture in The Dolomites and Innsbruck.

Travelling south, through Italy's heartland, we visit some of Tuscany's lesser known towns before we enter Umbria, province of lush rolling hills and medieval hilltop towns and the home of high quality pecorino cheese.

The tour winds up in one of Italy's most captivating regions, northern Lazio, where you will take in the ancient culture of the Etruscans and learn about their rich heritage.

4 NIGHT STAYS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The Langhe • Turin • Alba • Alte Langhe
Sirmione • Bolzano • Innsbruck • The Dolomites
Modena • Florence • Brisighella • Lucca
Pienza • Perugia • Gubbio • Torgiano
Panicali • Castiglione del Lago • Assisi
Montefalco • Orvieto • Tarquinia • Pitigliano
Sovana

(B/L/D) Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner included

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL MILAN

Piemonte - Valle D'Aosta Region (4 nights)

Welcome to Italy! In Milan, our private tour coach and tour director will be awaiting you at the airport for transfer to your hotel located in The Langhe area.

After hotel check-in and a light welcome lunch, the remainder of the day is at your leisure to settle in and relax. At night a special welcome dinner is planned at the hotels charming restaurant offering typical regional cuisine and wine.

Bordering France and Switzerland, Piemonte is a region of snow capped mountains, Italy's first capital, FIAT, the stylish Borsalino hats and of course the refreshing Asti Spumante. (L/D)





DAY 2 - ALTE LANGHE - ALBA

Discover the world's most celebrated underground mushroom, the truffle. Venture into the woods to meet a 'trifolao' (truffle hunter) and his hunting dog. Get to know the techniques used in gathering truffles during a hunting demonstration. Then the opportunity to sample this rare delicacy.

Next we travel to Alba to independently explore this culinary mecca renowned for white truffles and chocolates. In the afternoon, we venture deep into the Alte Langhe area and visit a family-owned hazelnut business, a highlight of your trip. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 3 - TURIN

Italy's first capital Turin is situated in the centre of the Piemonte region. Located on the Po River, the city offers wide tree-lined boulevards and fills a role as north-west Italy's major industrial, cultural and administrative hub. It is known as the centre of education, science and the arts. Believe it or not, it also has a reputation as Italy's capital of black magic and the supernatural. Join a local guide who will lead you on an exploration featuring the many treasures of this elegant city.

Get a glimpse of the grand lifestyle of the House of Savoy as we visit the impressive Royal Palace. As you stroll through the exquisite, gilded rooms you are sure to be awed by the opulence. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



DAY 4 - THE LANGHE

The day starts off in a relaxed fashion as we take in the local surroundings of The Langhe area, a hilly region to the south and east of the river Tanaro in the province of Cuneo in Piemonte, northern Italy, the birthplace of the 'slow food' movement. The Langhe is also a land of castles and today we visit one of the most famous with a local guide. This pristine area is also known for its Barolo wines, cheeses, and particularly the white truffles of Alba. Its perfect for lovers of good food. Dinner at the Hotel. (B/D)



DAY 5 - SIRMIONE - LAKE GARDA

Trentino - Alto Adige Region (4 nights)

Today we transfer to the Trentino-Alto Adige region, relatively untouched and situated in the very north of Italy bordering Austria and Switzerland and best known for the beauty of its stunning peaks. Offering an extraordinary variety of landscapes, from dramatic rose-coloured mountaintops to forests and crystal clear lakes, this unspoiled region is breathtaking, little wonder Leonardo da Vinci depicted

The Dolomites behind his Mona Lisa. It is also the region where Gothic art blends with that of the Italian Renaissance. En route to Bolzano, we will enjoy free time for lunch in the historic town of Sirmione, located on Lake Garda, complete with narrow, cobbled streets that wind their way through medieval arches. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 6 - THE DOLOMITES

Unlike other famous Alpine ranges, The Dolomites in northeast Italy are relatively undeveloped. This expansive land of rocks and valleys covers some of the highest peaks whilst the lowland valleys are laced with rivers and dotted with secluded villages, fairy-tale castles, unexpected historic sites, rarely seen animals such as bears, deer, mountain goat, birds of prey and unique plant species.

The Dolomites play host to a mixture of culture and languages and amongst German and Italian, there is still another language to be heard in the area called 'Ladin', an offshoot of Latin, testament of centuries of isolation in mountain strongholds. Sit back and relax and take in the best of this stunning region on a panoramic tour. Today will include a hearty organised lunch instead of dinner so the evening is at your leisure. (B/L)

DAY 7 - BOLZANO

We start the day with a visit of Bolzano including the fascinating Iceman at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology. Once voted Italy's most liveable city, Tyrolean culture dominates Bolzano's language, food, architecture and people and it is hard to remember that you are in Italy and not Austria when walking with our local guide along the city's cobblestone streets. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)





DAY 8 - INNSBRUCK (AUSTRIA)

Today we head for the region of Tyrol (Austria) and visit Innsbruck, the capital of The Alps. We take in the best of the well-preserved historic part on a guided visit and follow the trail of the Habsburgs. The city dates from 1180 and started as a little market settlement. It is a gem of a city, where nature meets culture and tradition meets design. View the Golden Roof of Emperor Maximilian and the Royal Palace. The afternoon is free to enjoy at your leisure. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



DAY 9 - MODENA

Tuscany Region (4 nights)

This morning we transfer south to central Italy and enter the heart of Tuscany, possibly one of the most beautiful regions of the world. Rolling hills, dramatic cypress trees, silver green olive groves and enchanting hill towns greet us, not to mention the richness in art and architecture. A visit here is simply magic and food for the soul. Around lunchtime, en route, we break in Modena for some free time. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled by
And that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST



DAY 10 - A DAY AT YOUR LEISURE

Sleep in a little, have a relaxing breakfast as today is at your leisure.

Perfect for those who wish to explore and venture into nearby Florence. With the lily as its symbol, Florence gave birth to the Renaissance and changed the way we see the world. For centuries, its art has captured the imagination of travellers who walk in the footsteps of native sons Dante, Donatello, Botticelli and Michelangelo, a keystone of the famous 'Grand Tour' in the 17th c. continues to exert the same fascination today. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 11 - BRISIGHELLA

Travelling through the Apennini mountain range, we arrive in Brisighella, once named 'the most beautiful medieval village in Italy'. Well recognised as 'the three hills village', its character is enhanced by three surrounding rocky hills: one with a 14th century castle, La Rocca, another with an 18th century church sanctuary, the Monticino and a third with a clock tower of the 19th century.

This charming thermal town is made up of ancient lanes and streets and remains of the defensive walls and stairways carved into the chalky rocks. We will enjoy the best during a guided visit followed by free time. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 12 - LUCCA

Lucca, a scenic fortress town, was the first town in Tuscany to accept Christianity. Within the city's 16th to 17th c. ramparts, the famous composer Puccini was born. Lucca is rich in history, Roman origins, Medieval and Renaissance power and wealth.

Our local guide will walk us through these areas, from Imperial times to the Lucca of the 1800's, a century that began with the reign of Elisa Bonaparte. We will explore the massive walls and fortifications, the piazzas and palazzos of Lucca's many transformations. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



DAY 13 - PIENZA

Umbria Region (4 nights)

After breakfast we enter the region of Umbria, the lush centre of Italy is ever changing, offering untouched landscapes consisting of hills with a few sparse trees, wide plains dotted with lakes and medieval hilltop towns. It is also the home of truffles - more are found here than anywhere else in Italy - sausage and rich green olive oil.

Enroute we will enjoy some free time in the town of Pienza the 'ideal city' constructed by Pope Pius II, overlooking the cypress-lined hills of the stunning Orcia Valley, located just south of Florence. Admire the towns rich Renaissance splendour and take in the finest buildings and piazzas. The town is also known for its high quality 'pecorino', Italy's sheep milk cheese, an unforgettable culinary experience! Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 14 - PERUGIA - GUBBIO

In the morning we explore Perugia, possibly the best-preserved hilltop town of its size, and enjoy free time to discover its many treasures.

Gubbio is located in a rugged, mountainous corner of northern Umbria, this medieval, walled town is also called the 'City of Silence'. The town is a true gem offering spectacular views of the surrounding green countryside. Accompanied by a local guide, this afternoon we will explore its narrow lanes and learn about its 12th c. Cathedral and Ducal Palace. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 15 - TORGIANO - PANICALE

A visit to this lush part of Italy would not be complete without a tasting of the local olive oil and so we visit the Olive Oil Museum in Torgiano for a guided tour. Today will include an organised lunch in Panicale following with a visit to Castiglione del Lago, a town dotted with olive trees and dominated by a 14th c. fortress. The evening is free and yours to enjoy. (B/L)

DAY 16 - ASSISI

The hill on which the walled town of Assisi sits rises dramatically from the flat plain. Best known for the legacy of St. Francis born here in 1181 and founder of the Franciscan monastic order, the city hosts several million pilgrims each year. Together with a local guide, we explore its ancient centre on foot and take in some of the many churches including the Basilica di San Francesco, with its brilliant cycle of frescoes on the Life of Saint Francis by Giotto.

In the afternoon we will spend time in the Montefalco area and enjoy a tasting of some of the best wines known to this region, in particular the Sagrantino variety. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)





DAY 17 - ORVIETO

Lazio Region (4 nights)

After breakfast we transfer to the region of Lazio, cradle of Christian culture, lakes and legends, thermal spa's and ancient Roman roads. En route a visit is planned to Orvieto, located on an enormous plateau of volcanic rock high above a green valley, this town truly offers natural defences.

The Etruscans were the first to take advantage of this and settled here digging a honeycombed network of more than 1200 wells and storage caves out of the soft stone. Together with a local guide, we will take in the best of the towns sights including its impressive Cathedral, one of the most dazzling in Italy, a triumph of Romanesque-Gothic architecture. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 18 - A DAY AT YOUR LEISURE

This ancient part of Italy is also famous for its thermal spa's and sulphur springs so it is time for some rest and relaxation. Relax today and enjoy the luxurious facilities of our accommodation at the in-house spa and reflect on the journey so far. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

DAY 19 - TARQUINIA

Overlooking the sea, Tarquinia was home to the remains of ancient settlements and was also a major centre in the Middle Ages. From the 7th to the 6th c. BC, Etruscan culture was at its height. The Etruscans were pre-dominantly navigators and traders, competing against the Phoenicians and Greeks for markets in the Mediterranean. Tarquinia's narrow medieval streets open onto quaint squares dominated by palaces and churches, encircled by medieval walls and towers. Together with a local guide we visit the local museum to take in the towns rich heritage and artefacts including pottery, vases, temples and frescoed underground tombs. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



DAY 20 - SOVANA - PITIGLIANO

It is time to visit Sovana and the nearby Archaeological Park where we'll have a fascinating guided tour of the 2700 year old necropolis and the profound experience of walking along ancient roads. Nearby Pitigliano, with its medieval stone houses, is known for its many local specialties including the white wine, olive oil, cured meats and cheeses. Etruscan tombs, which locals use to store the wine, are connected by a network of caves and tunnels. Pitigliano is one of the most unusual towns you can imagine, sitting atop a sheer cliff, lined with holes that were once tombs and now used as cantinas, stables and storehouses.

With a local guide we will discover its impressive medieval centre, 16th century fortress, massive aqueduct and old Jewish ghetto. Enjoy a relaxing dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



DAY 21 - ROME FCO AIRPORT

All good things come to an end and after breakfast and hotel check-out, we will head for Rome Fiumicino International Airport where your tour director will wave goodbye. (B)

If you are not quite ready yet to collect your boarding pass, consider a 3 night package in the city of Rome!



TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS

Meet and greet Milan Malpensa International Airport. Return airport transfers in Europe. 20 nights in charming boutique/heritage hotels including daily buffet breakfast, 3 course dinner (or lunch) with beverages based on typical traditional regional cuisine where indicated.

Private coach travel in Europe, entry fees covering sightseeing and entertainment, hotel service charges, city taxes, most tipping, baggage handling (1 bag pp), services of a full-time professional tour director and local city guides.



DEPARTURE SCHEDULE LAND ONLY - 21 DAYS

2025 touring dates to be confirmed