

## Magnificent Italy



**Day 01 Depart home city for Venice, Italy**

**D**

**Day 02 Venice - Padua**

Arrival in **Venice**. Meet your Tour Manager, with a deluxe motor coach. Enjoy a short drive to the medieval walled city of **Padua**, town of **St. Anthony**. Remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner tonight at your hotel.

**Day 03 Padua - Venice**

**B/D**

Visit the Basilica of St. Anthony including the high altar with splendid bronze art works by Donatello. Afterwards, continue to the magical and truly romantic **Venice** "Pearl of the Adriatic." Afternoon tour of Venice via private water taxi on the Grand Canal, the great water road, filled with gondolas, motorboats and peppermint stick moorings. Enjoy the interior of St. Mark's Basilica famous for its Byzantine and Gothic design, mosaics, marble and precious sculptures; **St. Marks Square** with its strolling musicians and minstrels. View the 15<sup>th</sup> century Clock Tower, **Doges Palace**, and the **Bridge of Sighs**. End your tour with a visit to a Venetian glassblowing factory and admire the masters at work. Remainder of the day free to discover **Venice** on your own, perhaps a Gondola ride or a stop for a Campari at the fashionable **Florian Café**.

**Day 04 Florence**

**B/D**

Early morning departure for **Florence**, "Cradle of the Renaissance." Upon arrival enjoy a city tour starting with the Duomo, Bell Tower and "Doors of Paradise" by Ghiberti, Piazza della Signora, Cellini's "Neptune Fountain". Remainder of day to enjoy Renaissance Florence "as you please."

**Day 05 Florence**

**B/D**

Another glorious day in Florence with a morning tour of the famous **Academy of Fine Arts** to view **Michelangelo's** original "David" and other sculptures by the great Renaissance masters. Later visit **Santa Croce Square** with its magnificent Franciscan Church. Afternoon at leisure to explore this great city on your own. This area of Florence, in the Santa Croce Square, is famous for its **gold and leather marts**. Art lovers may enjoy a visit to the **Uffizi Gallery** including works by Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. Overnight Florence.

**Day 06 Assisi**

**B/D**

Morning departure for **Assisi**, enchanting town of **St. Francis**, spread over the hills of Mt. Subasio with its colorful houses and narrow streets. Visit the upper and lower **Basilica de San Francesco** with **Giotto's** frescos including twenty-eight episodes from the "life of **St. Francis**." Visit the **Basilica of St. Clare**, housing her incorrupt body and also the cross of **San Damiano**. Continue to the lower level of **Assisi** to visit **Santa Maria degli Angeli Basilica**, housing the famous **Porziuncola** (little church St. Francis built), the thornless bush, and the cave where St. Francis retired for prayer. Relax this evening as you walk the quiet, peaceful streets of this medieval town. Dinner and overnight Assisi.

**Day 07 Amalfi Coast - Bay of Naples - Sorrento**

**B/D**

Morning departure along the "Highway of the Sun." On route, you will view the 13th century **Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino** high up on a hill. The adventure continues along the **Amalfi Coast** famous for sun, songs and **pizza**. Enjoy a panoramic view from the cliffs above, featuring one of the **most romantic** bays in the world. This area is known for the craftsmanship and intricacy of the **Cameo** and the precious **Capodimonte figurines**. Continue along the Amalfi Coast on route to **Sorrento**, one of the loveliest Italian Resorts, above the **Bay of Naples**, with a view of towering **Mount Vesuvius**. Dinner and overnight Sorrento.

**Day 08 Sorrento - Capri - Anacapri**

**B/D**

Morning excursion to the "Isle of Capri" - Pearl of the Gulf of Naples. Enjoy a tour, including Capri and Anacapri. Remainder of the day at leisure to soak in the magnificent beauty of this famous island. Perhaps let a hydrofoil whisk you away to the romantic **Blue Grotto**, take time to enjoy the quaint shops or just enjoy a **café latte** and watch the "beautiful people" go by. You will be mesmerized by its beauty. Dinner and overnight Sorrento.

**Day 09 Sorrento - Pompeii**

**B/D**

Morning excursion to the excavation sites of the city of **Pompeii**, a city buried in 79 AD under the ashes of erupting **Mt. Vesuvius**. Dinner in Sorrento.

**Day 10 Sorrento - Rome**

**B/D**

Leisurely morning departure for "The Eternal City" of **Rome** considered by many the "cradle of Western Civilization and the heart of Catholicism." Before entering the city, visit the magnificent **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls** (time permitting) and **St. Peter in Chains** where you can see **Michelangelo's Moses**. Upon arrival into Rome, enjoy a panorama city tour prior to check-in at your Rome hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 11 Rome**

**B/D**

Morning tour featuring Christian **Rome** and major Basilicas. On your tour you will see Piazza della Repubblica, Esquilino Hill, **Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore**, Piazza Vittorio, **Basilica of St. John Lateran** (the **Holy Stairs**), Imperial Walls, Ancient Roman **Baths of Caracalla**, and the Appian Way. If requested, arrangements can be made to visit the **Catacombs**. Afternoon enjoy Baroque Rome - **Trevi Fountain**, Piazza Venezia, Piazza Navonna.

**Day 12 Rome**

**B/D**

Morning transfer to **Vatican City** for a **Papal Audience**. Afterwards enjoy a guided tour of the **Vatican Museum**, **Sistine Chapel** (seat of the Conclave for the election of the Popes) with frescos by **Michelangelo**, followed by a tour of **St. Peter's Basilica**, the **Pieta** by Michelangelo and the **Glory** by Bernini. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner and overnight Rome.

**Day 13 Rome**

**B/D**

Free day in **Rome** to explore this magnificent city on your own. Possibly take this opportunity to do a little shopping on the **Via Veneto**, or a great photo opportunity on the **Spanish Steps**. And remember to toss a coin in the **Trevi Fountain** to assure your return to Rome. Enjoy your **Festive Farewell Dinner** tonight at a wonderful local restaurant with wine and music.

**Day 14 Depart for home**

**B**

Early morning departure for the **Rome Airport** for our return flight home with fond memories of Bella Italia. **Arrivederci Roma!!**