

# Grand Italian Highlights

## Day: 1 Venice

Upon arrival, be transferred to your spectacular hotel before spending the rest of the day absorbing the breathtaking views of this amazing UNESCO World Heritage Listed city.

## Day: 2 Venice

Breakfast

After breakfast, meet your private guide for a morning walking tour of the main Venetian sites including Piazza San Marco, Doge's Palace, Ponte dei Sospiri, Rialto Bridge and Saint Mark's Basilica. The afternoon and evening is at your leisure to experience an authentic gondola ride, browse the intriguing stores or embark on an optional excursion to the iconic lagoon island of Murano to visit a renowned Murano glass factory producing quality glassware, vases and chandeliers.



## Day: 3 Venice – Verona – Lake Garda – Lake Como

Breakfast & Lunch

Depart Venice for a visit to Verona, famous for Romeo and Juliet's balcony, before continuing to the shores of Lake Garda (Sirmione) for a relaxing lunch served with magnificent views. Afterwards, continue to Italy's Lake District, renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty including spectacular mountain scenery.

## Day: 4 Lake Como

Breakfast

Enjoy a morning guided exploration of Lake Como commencing in Bellagio. Bellagio is often described as the most beautiful village in Italy for its spectacular mid-lake location, promenade planted with oleanders and lime trees, hotels decorated with shades of peach and cream and the towns stepped, cobbled alleyways. Afterward, ferry to Tremezzo for a guided tour of Lake Como's most famous residence, Villa Carlotta. The 17th century villa features luxurious interiors and an exquisite 17-acre garden decorated with sculptures, stairs, fountains and over 500 species of plants. The rest of the day is at your leisure to perhaps visit the village of Varenna or Bellagio's Villa Melzi D'Eril.

## Day: 5 Lake Como

Breakfast & Lunch

Depart Lake Como for bustling Milan with leisure time to visit Piazza del Duomo, Milan's Cathedral, the stunning Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery and wander the streets of Via Montenapoleone and Via della Spiga in Milan's upscale fashion district. Afterwards, continue into scenic Piedmont for lunch at a renowned winery before arriving in the idyllic Italian Riviera town of Santa Margherita.

## Day: 6 Santa Margherita – Cinque Terre – Santa Margherita

Breakfast & Lunch

Experience the picturesque Cinque Terre by boat, train and on foot with our local guide. These stunning villages with their colourful houses, narrow streets and miniature squares, cling to the rugged Riviera coastline and are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The day includes an organised lunch in Vernazza with a wonderful seaside view.

## Day: 7 Santa Margherita

Breakfast

Today you have the entire day to enjoy at your leisure. Return to Cinque Terre to walk between the towns; venture along the Riviera to Portofino, renowned for its picturesque harbour and boutique shops; hike in Portofino National Park; or simply relax in beautiful Santa Margherita.

## Day: 8 Santa Margherita – Pisa – Lucca - Florence

Breakfast

Depart for a quick visit of Pisa's Piazza del Duomo and Leaning Tower before continuing to the enchanting town of Lucca, famous for its historic centre and medieval towers. Afterward, continue to Florence to freshen up at your stunning hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day: 9 Florence**

Breakfast &amp; Dinner

Delight in a guided walking tour of Florence, a paradise for art lovers and a tribute to the Renaissance. Visit the main sites including the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Piazza Signoria, the Baptistery (incl. the Gates of Paradise), Giotto's bell tower, the Basilica of San Lorenzo and the Accademia Gallery. Afterwards, the day is at your leisure to take advantage of Florence's tremendous shopping including its leather goods, artwork and antiques, before regrouping for an organised dinner.

**Day: 10 Florence**

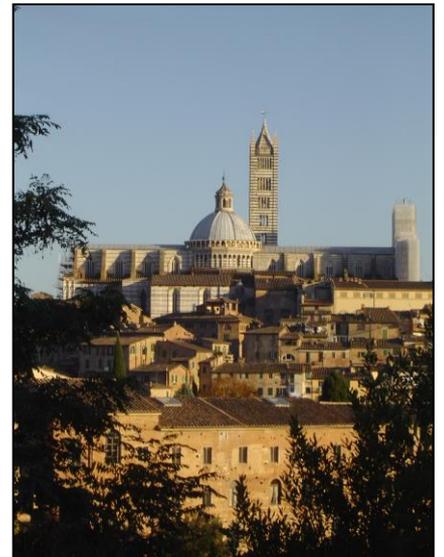
Breakfast

Today is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Continue exploring beautiful sites such as the Pitti Palace or indulge in an optional guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery which hosts some of the most important works of Italian and Florentine artists.

**Day: 11 Florence – Siena – Tuscan retreat**

Breakfast

Depart for Siena for a guided tour of the old town, famous for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the Palio, a famous horse race held twice a year. Discover the main sites including the Duomo, the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia. Continue to your magnificent Tuscan retreat where you may relax or partake in an optional cooking class. In the evening, enjoy an organised dinner.

**Day: 12 Tuscan retreat – Montalcino – Pienza - Tuscan retreat**

Breakfast &amp; Lunch

Today, enjoy an excursion to Montalcino and Pienza. Visit the town of Montalcino, perched high on a hill and famed for its surrounding vineyards that produce one of Italy's most prestigious wines, Brunello di Montalcino. Enjoy lunch and tasting at a renowned winery. Afterward, continue to Pienza, one of Tuscany's most picturesque villages and a UNESCO declared World Heritage Listed Site for its cultural landscape. Stroll the charming village streets and enjoy cheese tasting before returning to your Tuscan retreat.

**Day: 13 Tuscan retreat – Assisi – Rome**

Breakfast

Depart for Assisi, best known as the birthplace of St. Francis, Italy's patron saint, and its location amid Umbria's rolling hills. Visit the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi in the Franciscan monastery, containing the tomb of the Saint plus 13th-century frescoes and paintings. Afterward, continue to Rome and transfer to your hotel to freshen up before strolling the streets of the UNESCO World Heritage Listed historic centre.

**Day: 14 Rome**

Breakfast

Meet your guide for a sightseeing tour that includes the magnificent Colosseum, the Vatican's St Peter's Basilica and entrance into the Vatican Museum to marvel at the amazing frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. The evening is free for explore Rome's magnificent streets and piazzas. Visit the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain or perhaps shop on Via Del Corso or glamorous Via Dei Condotti.

**Day: 15 Rome – Pompeii – Sorrento**

Breakfast &amp; Lunch

Depart for Sorrento, stopping on the way for a guided tour of Pompeii to view the excavated ruins of a Roman city buried in ash in AD 79 and lost before its rediscovery in 1748. Afterward, enjoy an authentic lunch on a delightful farmstead. Continue to the beautiful Campanian seaside town of Sorrento to check into your hotel and enjoy a magnificent evening at your leisure.

**Day: 16 Sorrento – Capri – Sorrento**

Breakfast

Spend an unforgettable day on the island of Capri. Embark on the hydrofoil and receive a guided orientation around the Island with leisure time to explore. Options include stepping aboard a motorboat to visit the Blue Grotto or take the gondola from Anacapri up Mount Solaro.

**Day: 17 Sorrento – Ravello – Amalfi - Positano**

Breakfast &amp; Lunch

Visit the popular town of Ravello with entrance to the famous Villa Cimbrone. Afterward, enjoy lunch with a breathtaking view of the Mediterranean and the dramatic Amalfi coastline before continuing to Amalfi to visit a terraced lemon grove bearing the region's famous Sfusato Amalfitano trees. Taste lemon treats including the famous limoncello before enjoying the scenic drive along the winding coastline to Positano.

**Day: 18 Positano**

Breakfast

Enjoy the entire day to explore the famous cliffside village of Positano, with its steep narrow streets lined with boutiques and cafes and amazing beaches including the Marina Grande.

**Day: 19 Positano – Caserta - Rome**

Breakfast

Return to Rome with a stop in Caserta with its remarkable Royal Palace, built in the 18th century with over 1200 rooms all decorated in unique styles. Enjoy the sites, scents and sounds of the stunning parklands and gardens. Arrive late afternoon to the airport or Rome centre.

**2020 Departures:** 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May, 17 June, 15 July, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Tour Cost:** From NZ\$15900 per person, twin share  
Single supplement available

**Tour Inclusions:**

- 18 nights in exquisite 4 and 5 star hotels.
- 18 breakfasts (B), 6 lunches (L), 1 dinner (D).
- Guided sightseeing of Venice, Lake Como, Cinque Terre, Florence, Accademia Gallery, Siena, Assisi, Rome, Pompeii, Capri and Amalfi.
- Lunches at renowned wineries in Piedmont and Montalcino, stunning water-view restaurants in the Cinque Terre, Lake Garda, and Ravello and a charming local farmstead near Pompeii.
- Wine tasting in Montalcino and cheese tasting in Pienza.
- Entrance to Doge's Palace, Saint Mark's Basilica rooftop, Villa Carlotta, Accademia Gallery, Siena Cathedral, Piccolomini Library, the Colosseum, Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica, Pompeii and Villa Cimbrone.
- Visit 14 UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites including Venice, Verona, Cinque Terre, the Piazza del Duomo Pisa, Lucca, Florence, San Gimignano, Siena, Pienza, the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, Rome, Pompeii, Amalfi Coast and Caserta's Royal Palace.
- Deluxe VIP transport and boat excursions in Lake Como, Cinque Terre and Capri.
- Visit a lemon grove and taste the local specialities including Limoncello.
- Airport transfers on first and last day.

