

Italia Classica in-depth

Rome, Florence and Venice plus Como, Cinque Terre and Tuscany

DAY: 1 VENICE

Upon arrival, transfer to your spectacular hotel before spending the rest of the day absorbing the breath-taking views of this amazing UNESCO World Heritage Listed city.



DAY: 2 VENICE

B, L

Enjoying a morning walking tour of the main Venetian sites including Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, Piazza San Marco, Saint Mark's Basilica and the Rialto Bridge, followed by lunch. The afternoon and evening is free to explore at leisure. Perhaps stroll the maze of alleyways and iconic canals, experience a gondola ride or visit Murano's renowned glass factories.

DAY: 3 VENICE – VERONA – LAKE COMO

B

Depart Venice for the historic fortified town of Verona, recognised with a UNESCO World Heritage Listing for its preserved architecture over 2000 years and Romeo and Juliet's balcony. Enjoy time for independent exploration before continuing to Lake Como, renowned for its picturesque natural beauty and spectacular mountain scenery. The evening is yours to relax and enjoy your stunning luxury lake-side hotel.

DAY: 4 LAKE COMO

B

Enjoy a morning guided exploration of Lake Como commencing with its 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. Continue to Bellagio, 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 cobbled alleyways. 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 – MILAN – SANTA MARGHERITA

B

Depart Lake Como for bustling Milan for a short orientation guided tour that includes Piazza del Duomo, Milan's Cathedral, the stunning Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery and the streets of Via Montenapoleone and Via della Spiga in Milan's upscale fashion district. Afterwards, enjoy time for an independent lunch before continuing to the idyllic Italian Riviera town of Santa Margherita for a 3-night stay in an amazing luxury seaside hotel.

DAY: 6 SANTA MARGHERITA – CINQUE TERRE – SANTA MARGHERITA

B, L

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

B

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 – TUSCAN RETREAT **B**

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. Enjoy a guided orientation sightseeing tour before continuing to your magnificent Tuscan retreat.

DAY: 9 TUSCAN RETREAT – PIENZA – MONTALCINO – TUSCAN RETREAT **B, L**

Today enjoy an excursion to Pienza and Montalcino travelling through the beautiful Tuscan countryside, recognised with a UNESCO World Heritage Listing for its cultural landscape. Commence with a cheese tasting and tour of a local cheese farm. Continue to Pienza, one of Tuscany's most picturesque villages with time to stroll its charming streets. Finish with a visit to Montalcino, famed for its vineyards that produce Italy's most prestigious Brunello di Montalcino wine. Here, indulge in a lunch and tasting at a renowned winery before returning to your amazing hotel to relax and enjoy this magnificent countryside retreat.



DAY: 10 TUSCAN RETREAT – SIENA – FLORENCE **B**

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. Visit the main sites including Siena Cathedral and the amazing frescoes in the Piccolomini Library, the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia. Afterward, continue to Florence to freshen up and enjoy an evening at leisure.

DAY: 11 FLORENCE **B, D**

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, Giotto's bell tower, the Basilica of San Lorenzo and Accademia Gallery. Afterwards, you have the afternoon to take advantage of Florence's famous shopping including its leather goods, artwork and antiques, before regrouping for a special closing tour dinner.



DAY: 12 FLORENCE TO ROME **B**

Transfer to Florence train station for the fast train to Rome. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the day at your leisure, stroll the cobbled streets and take in the true sounds and sites of this ancient city.

DAY: 13 ROME **B**

Enjoy a half day guided tour of ancient Rome including the Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, and Roman Forum. The afternoon is at your leisure to stroll the ancient streets and discover amazing Piazzas and monuments including the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.

DAY: 14 ROME **B**

Meet your guide for a tour of the Vatican's St Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel. Afterward, enjoy leisure time to stroll the canopies of Villa Borghese gardens or shop on Via del Corso and Via Condotti.

DAY: 15 ROME **B**

After breakfast, stay on in Rome for additional exploration or depart for your ongoing journey.



2024 Departures: 7th May, 11th June, 2nd and 30th July, 10th and 24th September

Tour Cost: From NZ\$14400 per person, share twin
Single Supplement available

Tour Inclusions:

- 14 nights in exquisite 4-star hotels.
- 14 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L), 1 dinner (D).
- Guided sightseeing of Venice, Lake Como, Milan, Cinque Terre, Lucca, Siena and Florence.
- Lunch in Cinque Terre at a stunning seaside restaurant.
- Visit a cheese farm for a tour and tasting near Pienza.
- Lunch and wine tasting at a renowned winery in Montalcino.
- Entrance to Doge's Palace, Saint Mark's Basilica rooftop, Villa Carlotta, Milan Cathedral, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Siena Cathedral and its Piccolomini Library and Accademia Gallery.
- Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites including Venice, Verona, Cinque Terre, the Piazza dei Miracoli Pisa, Siena, Pienza and Florence.
- Guided tour of ancient Rome including entrance to the Colosseum and Roman Forum.
- Guided tour of the Vatican including St Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museum (Sistine Chapel).
- Deluxe VIP transport including boat excursions in Lake Como and Cinque Terre.
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure.
- *Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included and need to be paid directly.*