

# *Celebraion* · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 14 Day Italian Fantasy – Luxury Journey With Dream Destinations & Celebrity Events



**CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS DATES —  
7-10 DAY ITINERARY**



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## 14 Day Italy Itinerary: Rome – Florence – Tuscany – Rome



### Day 1 Arrival Italy: US - Rome

**Upon arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport**, enjoy a comfortable and efficient luxury VIP meet and greet service. Beginning from the aircraft, escorting you right to your waiting driver for a transfer to your hotel (TBD).

- You will be met at the aircraft with a name sign, at this point you will be escorted through immigration.
- Your assistant will be on hand to collect all your baggage off the carousel and escort you curbside to meet your English-speaking Driver for a transfer to hotel The First.
- This service includes full assistance in case of flight delays, cancellation or passenger delay and special needs. (Assistant at disposal for 1 hour)
- Please note that portorage service is not included however if you wish
- you may request this locally and pay for it directly to the porters.
- Transfer to the hotel The First by private English- speaking Driver

**Upon arrival at the hotel**, The First Hotel, where you have a Jacuzzi Suite with Terrace reserved for 4 nights. Breakfast, services and taxes included. You will be met by the Concierge who will welcome you to Rome with a private and immediate VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

**After check-in**, you are at leisure to settle into your suite and relax a bit.

**9:00am:** You have spa appointments for the remainder of the morning (pre-arranged based on your preferences you selected in the Celebration Escapes' Creative Planning Session.) You will be able to relax and rejuvenate from your long flight and refresh, as the spa is at your disposal for the morning.

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**Lunch is on your own today at the hotel.**

**This afternoon**, you are at leisure to relax in your suite, acquaint yourself with the hotel, or do a little exploring on your own.

**5.00 pm** – Meet your English-speaking Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel. This evening you will enjoy exploring the beautiful Campo Marzio Area on foot - the perfect welcome and introduction to Rome's highlights and atmosphere.



**This evening**, we experience all the sights that this very special area has to offer... The Spanish steps, Fountain of the Barcaccia, Building of the Propaganda Fide, the Trevi Fountain, Virgo Water Aqueduct. We will walk on the Via del Corso (longest road of Rome), reaching the political center of Italy with the Palazzo Montecitorio, House of the

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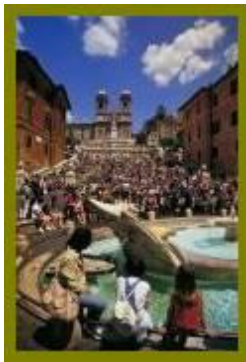
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Deputies, Palazzo Chigi (office of the Prime Minister), the famous Obelisk used inside the Pantheon and the best preserved Roman temple.

We end our tour in Navona Square where we admire the baroque Fountain of the Four Rivers of Gianlorenzo Bernini. This is an excellent area then to stop for a meal at one of the many open air bars/restaurants and pizzerias. (Tour duration: 3 hours)



**8.00 pm – Dinner Reservation Tre Scalini restaurant –** (payment direct to the restaurant at time of service.)

This is a great restaurant in superb location on the Piazza Navona which is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. A warm welcome always awaits you as does a great selection of National and local Roman dishes.

The menu is varied, as is the wine list, and you are just as welcome here whether choosing the Ristorante Tre Scalini for a leisurely aperitif as you are should you wish to enjoy a special meal. The atmosphere is smart.

**Reservation required:** Outside seating available.



- **Average Price without Wines:** Euro 50,00. Cards accepted except American Express
- **Closing Day:** They are open from 5 March to 10 November each year
- **Air Conditioning:** Yes
- **Specialities:** A variety of typical Roman dishes and typical Italian dishes.

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**Please note** that your table will be held for 15 minutes. If you are not able to arrive in time please notify the restaurant. If not able to attend dinner at the restaurant reserved please phone them directly to cancel the reservation as soon as possible. Some restaurants may charge a NO SHOW fee.

**After dinner**, you will return to your hotel on your own. You may want to enjoy a leisurely walk in the evening atmosphere or have the restaurant call a taxi for you to return immediately to your hotel.

## Day 2 Italy: Rome



**Breakfast at Hotel** – at leisure.

**9.00am:** Meet your English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of the hotel, to begin a very special introduction to the amazing highlights of Imperial Rome.



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This mix of driving and walking tours, is a great way to see and enjoy the highlights of Imperial Rome. On this tour we will visit the valley of the Roman Forum. We see the inside of the Senate and the inside of the Basilica of Constantine.

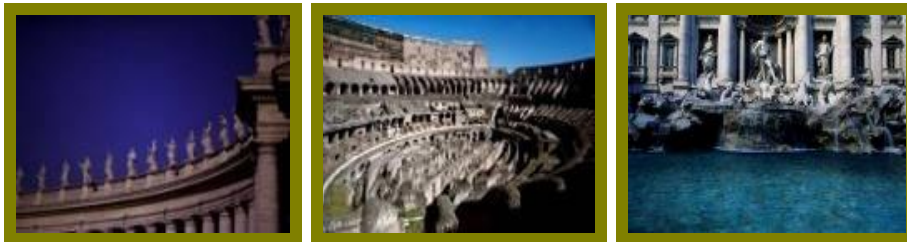


From the outside we will see the other ruins (temples, basilicas, Reggia, etc.). We will walk the Via Sacra to the Arch of Tito and enjoy the Colosseum both externally and from the inside.

We'll walk to the palatine hill to visit the ruins of the imperial palaces and its small museum.

We then head to the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains to see the Holy Chains of St. Peter and the Moses carved by Michelangelo! Not to mention the Vittoriano (otherwise known as the Wedding Cake). The tour ends with a panoramic drive past Circus Maximus, Aventino Hill and the Palatino Hill. (Tour duration: 4 hours)

- Entrances to Colosseum included.



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**After the morning tour, you will enjoy lunch on your own.**

Your guide will offer recommendations for dining in the area. (typically on full day tours, you would invite your driver and guide to dine with you, at your expense.

However, they do not expect this and are perfectly happy to have lunch on their own and meet you after lunch to continue your

touring.)

**After lunch**, meet your Guide and driver and continue on with your day's tours. This afternoon you will enjoy a very special introduction to the Vatican City and its amazing history, highlights and hidden gems with our local expert guide. This visit is a VIP exclusive private tour and you will be able to see the Vatican as many people never get to experience.



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**Our Vatican experience** will take us on the most amazing journey through the Vatican Museums, our entrances into which have been prearranged, and into the most beautiful and famous chapels in the world, the Sistine Chapel.

- Entrances to Vatican Museum included.
- This tour must be booked in advance and is very limited on availability





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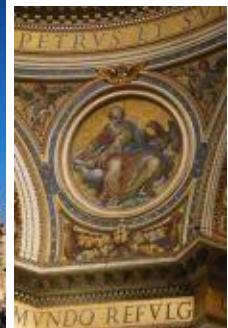
As we stroll through these amazing buildings we will not only learn about the beginning, the construction, the way of life of the locals here and the amazing power that this tiny state holds but also about the effect it has on and the relationship with neighbouring Italy.

From the Sistine Chapel, along with our local expert guide we will continue our 'voyage through the Vatican' by entering the ever majestic Basilica of St. Peters and discovering the secrets of one of the world's most beautiful Basilica's before heading out into the Piazza to discover one of the Vatican city's most magical places.... (tour duration: 4 Hours) –

\*Taxis to/from Vatican not included

**NOTE: entrances to Vatican are ON REQUEST and can be confirmed only one month prior to tour.**

(tour duration: 4 Hours)



### Important things to know about visiting the Vatican: Bags, backpacks, umbrellas

- The cloakroom staff will accept from the visitors their bags and personal belongings (ir-respective of the form, material or dimension of the object), with the exception of clothing items, hats, portable umbrellas.
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom suitcases, backpacks and containers with dimensions larger than cm 40 x 35 x 15.

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- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom bags and bag packs which are cumbersome, except those small-sized, that carried on shoulder, don't jut out by 15 cm from the body's shape in its highest point.
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom any umbrella with a spike tip, umbrellas of medium and large size, walking sticks (except those required by disabled visitors to facilitate their movement), tripods for cameras and video cameras, signage of any kind (except signs used by official guides for their identification).
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom knives, scissors, any tools that could be harmful to other persons or damage works of art in the Museums.
- It is not possible to deposit in the cloakroom, firearms of any kind or other dangerous objects. It is strictly forbidden to enter the Museums with any kind of weapon.
- Access to the Museums by armed visitors is not permitted. No exception to this rule is made for visitors holding a firearm permit, or if the weapon forms part of a uniform (police, military or others).

**After your tour**, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Rome Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations on dining in Rome.

### Day 3 Italy: Rome – Tivoli



**Breakfast at Hotel** – at leisure.

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**9.30am:** Meet your English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of the hotel, to begin a wonderful introduction to the beautiful town of Tivoli and the amazing gardens of the Villas Adriana and D'Este.

Our tour begins by taking us out of Rome in a North East direction to the village of Tivoli which is located around 45 minutes driving time from Rome.

Tivoli is famous for the quarries of Travertine Stone (which is the stone always used in Rome as for the Colosseum and St. Peters Square), it's also been known as a popular summer resort since the days of the Roman Republic. The main attractions of Tivoli were its clean air and beautiful situation on the slopes of the Tiburtini hills, its healthy sulphur springs and the waterfalls which Emperor Augustus insisted cured his insomnia.



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Tivoli is also famous for the Renaissance Villa D'Este built by a cardinal to be his residence. The villa, which occupies the site of an old Benedictine convent, has interesting decorations on the walls but the main attraction is the park with the many fountains. (Note: There are many steps to go down hill and there is no elevator to come back up). From the panoramic terrace we can admire the view of the valley of Rome.

A few miles from the inhabited center of Tivoli there is the huge territory of the Villa of the Emperor Hadrian. Here, we visit all the different buildings designed for the Emperor or by the Emperor himself, thermal baths, monumental squares, fountains and statues just for the recreation of the powerful Hadrian. (Tour duration: 5 hours)

- Entrances to Villa Adriana and villa d'Este included.

**Lunch is on your own today.** Your guide will recommend options for dining in Tivoli.



**2:30pm:** You will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day, until early evening.



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**5.00 pm** – Meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel, for an escort and guide to meet your Celebrity Roman Chef in Via Fabio Massimo 107 and experience the gastronomic delights of Rome as you explore a local food market and cook up some of the best-loved local dishes.

We start our VIP Exclusive Workshop & Dinner with A Celebrity Chef, evening with a walk through one of the best food markets in Rome, this will be our inspiration for what should be not only a unique look into some of the most well-known local recipes, but also the passion that goes into authentic Roman cuisine.

Enjoy a quick coffee in one of the local bars before we head to the kitchen to learn the tricks to whipping up the perfect Italian meal. Your private chef will guide you in the preparation of a 4 or 5 course meal. All that is left to do is enjoy your handiwork.

**Dinner with the Chef:** We are sure that you will have a sociable, informative and above all fun and tasty experience!

The exact menu for the day will depend on the freshest seasonal ingredients but expect a typical selection such as:

- *Fried zucchini flowers*
- *Pasta with Mozzarella and eggplant*
- *“Saltimbocca alla Romana”*
- *Tiramisù dessert*

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**After your Dinner with the Celebrity Chef**, your guide will escort you back to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

### Day 4 Italy: Rome - The Roman Castles

**Breakfast at Hotel** – at leisure.

**9.30 am** – Meet your English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your Hotel to begin your tour to escape Rome and enjoy exploring the area known as the “Roman Castles”.



The Roman Castles are the villages spread around the volcanic section south of the capital. Usually we make a stop in Frascati and also Castelgandolfo, famous all over the world because it is the summer residence of the Pope.

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This area is also well known for its excellent wines. Of all the local bottled wines, Frascati is probably the best known but Castelli Romani, Marino, Colli Albani and Velletri are very similar in style.

Enjoy the areas of Frascati and Castelgandolfo but also stop at some of the beautiful smaller towns of the area, meet the local people and learn all about their way of life, culture and much more as you explore this very unique area. (Tour duration: 4 hours)



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**You will be returned to your hotel after the tour**, where you will be at leisure to relax in the hotel, enjoy the spa, or explore a little of Rome on your own.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Rome Restaurants** – See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Rome.

### Day 5 Italy: Rome – Orvieto Tuscany - Florence

**Breakfast at Hotel** – at leisure.



**10:00am:** Check out of your hotel and meet your English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of the hotel, to begin a leisurely transfer north to the beautiful Historical City of Florence in the heart of Tuscany stopping en-route to enjoy the majestic hilltop town of Orvieto.



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This leisurely transfer with our local expert Driver will take us on a pleasant journey north through the heart of Lazio and Tuscany to the beautiful town of Orvieto which is perched on a 300 metres plateau overlooking the vineyard spotted plain below – many visitors flock to Orvieto to admire the beautiful Duomo here, which is said to be one of Italy's greatest cathedrals – we think you will be blown away by its breathtaking façade.

**Lunch in Orvieto on your own.** Your Guide will recommend dining options in the area.

Following a couple of hours to enjoy admiring the Duomo and the other highlights of Orvieto we will continue our journey north to the heart of Florence (total transfer duration – 7 Hours : time n Orvieto 3 Hours)



**Upon arrival in Florence,** you will be delivered to your hotel for check-in.

**Upon arrival at the Hotel Villa Medici,** you will be met by the concierge for a VIP welcome and check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation. You have a double Deluxe Penthouse room reserved for 7 nights. Breakfast, services and taxes included.

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**After check-in**, you will be at leisure to relax in the hotel.

**Florence is a vast and beautiful monument to the Renaissance, the artistic and cultural reawakening of the 15th century.** Writers such as Dante, Petrarch and Machiavelli contributed to its proud literary heritage, but it was the paintings and sculptures of artists such as Botticelli, Michelangelo and Donatello that turned the city into one of the world's greatest artistic capitals.



### Day 6 Italy: Florence



#### **Breakfast in the Hotel.**

**9.00am:** Meet your English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in Hotel Villa Medici and enjoy the 'Complete' Introduction to the Highlights of Florence.

The best way to see Florence in a day! Part of this tour is with a private car and driver at your disposal for three hours to see the highlights of the city.

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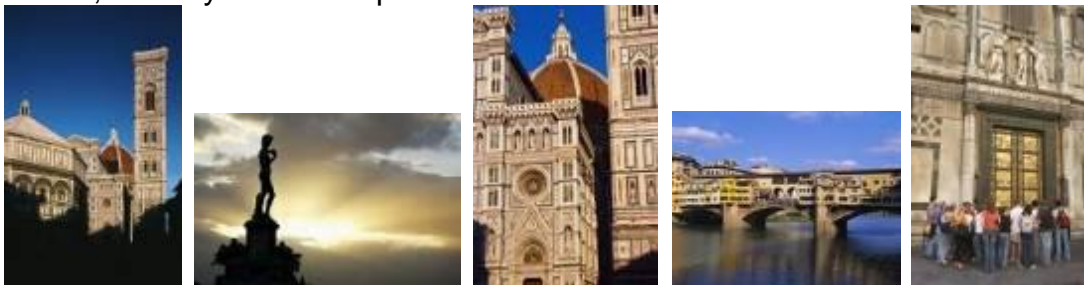
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We stop at the Academy of Fine Arts, to see the David and other sculptures by Michelangelo.

We also visit Santa Croce, the Franciscan church where Michelangelo is buried, along with Galileo, Rossini and Machiavelli. Here are also splendid works of Giotto, Donatello and Brunelleschi.

Also, enjoy the splendid views from the hills above town as we stop up at San Miniato al Monte, a lovely Romanesque church.



At the end of the three hours, our driver will leave us near the Signoria Square.

**Here, we shall have a short break**, perhaps at the fashionable Cafe Rivoire, before continuing with a tour of the city which we have specially customized with this added touch – Visit some fascinating workshops where it is possible to watch the masters creating beautiful handmade pieces. Semi-previous inlaid stone, Florentine colored paper, leather craftsman, gold and bronze workers, painters of miniatures, frame-makers, all of these creations made using the same tools and techniques of the past.

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The artisans of Florence have given the city a very unique reputation and character which is still upheld to this day.

(Total tour duration with guide: 6 hours – duration touring with car/driver service: 3 hours)

- Entrances to Accademia, Santa Croce Church included.

**After the tour**, you will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure until dinner.

**8.00 pm – Dinner Reservation at Boccadama restaurant.** (Payment paid direct to the restaurant at time of service).

Nice place in a great location, with plenty of indoor seating. Tony and his staff offer good food and wine and tonight they have organized a menu with wine pairings and some wine tastings to make this an enjoyable and lively evening. (Wine lectures are also available).

Their menus are varied and are often changed to offer local, seasonal specialities. Cosy atmosphere, perfect for families.



**Reservation:** Required for dinner (it's possible to eat on the terrace during the summer)

- **Recommended for families:** Yes
- **Average price:** Euro 35,00 without beverage (all cards accepted)
- **Closed:** Open 7/7 (Lunch 11.00 am – 3.00 pm and Dinner 6.30 pm - 10:30 pm)
- **Specialities:** Traditional dishes of the region, wild boar and cheeses.

**Please note** that your table will be held for 15 minutes. If you are not able to arrive in time please notify the restaurant. If not able to attend dinner at the restaurant reserved. Please phone them directly to cancel the reservation as soon as possible. Some restaurants may charge a NO SHOW fee.

**After Dinner**, you will return to your hotel on your own.

**Day 7 Italy: Florence**

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## **Breakfast in the Hotel.**

**8.45am:** Meet your English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to a very special place this morning. Today you will enjoy a very special introduction to Tuscan Cooking, not to mention the amazing Art and Culture that Florence has to offer.

In Florence, Celebrity Chef Stefania will teach you what she knows best, because she does it every day, with love, passion, but mostly with knowledge. She grows vegetables and herbs, and she loves to cook using fresh seasonal products from her garden.

**9:00am:** Chef Stefania will meet you to the Mercato Centrale (the historical Florence food market) to buy the ingredients for the lesson, an occasion to learn a lot about Italian food traditions and curiosities.

**10:00am:** You will transfer to Chef Stefania's home for a VIP Exclusive Cooking Class. She will guide you through some simple steps to make a great "five courses meal". The following is just an example:

- *Schiacciata*
- *Fresh homemade ravioli with ricotta and pesto*
- *Spezzatino con patate (beef stew tuscan style)*
- *Chicken with black olives*
- *Chocolate and red wine cake*

This is not just a cooking lesson, but much more. While you cook she will tell you the history of the most traditional recipes. She will instruct you on how to substitute and where to find them.

Together you will discuss how to set the table and the menu for each event.

Once you get to Chef's house, you will be refreshed with some wine or soft drinks, she will serve.

*And something else...*

Before sitting down to enjoy lunch, an aperitif will be served. The lunch will be accompanied by red wine and, at the end of the lesson you will receive the recipes and an apron. (Duration: approx. 5 hrs)

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**After the Cooking Class and lunch**, you will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day until dinner.

**8.00 pm – Dinner Reservation at Osteria di Giovanni restaurant. (Payment direct to the restaurant at time of service)**



This charming restaurant is a popular meeting place that offers excellent food and wine in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. It is only 10 minutes away from Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio and has the famous shopping of via Tornabuoni and via della Vigna Nuova just around the corner. Casual, but elegant, atmosphere.

- **Reservations:** Required (no outside seating)
- **Average price without beverages:** Euro 40,00 (credit cards accepted)
- **Closing day:** Open every day for dinner, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Thursdays for lunch.

- **Specialities:** Ribollita, bistecca alla fiorentina on charcoal grill, daily fresh fishdishes.
- **Recommended for families:** Yes

**Please note** that your table will be held for 15 minutes. If you are not able to arrive in time please notify the restaurant. If not able to attend dinner at the restaurant reserved. Please phone them directly to cancel the reservation as soon as possible. Some restaurants may charge a NO SHOW fee.

**Day 8 Italy: Florence – Chianti (Montenereggioni)**

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## Breakfast in the Hotel.

**9.00 m:** Meet your English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your VIP Exclusive celebrity event today. You will enjoy a unique experience visiting Fattoria Montereccioni Estaste in Montereccioni with the owners themselves, the Bindi Sergardi family, followed by a special lunch in their unique villa, Il Colli.



This very special experience begins with a visit to the vineyards and wine cellars where this noble family produces their own Chianti wines and extra-virgin olive oil.

This magnificent estate is located in the middle of the Chianti hills and when the weather is good, from the top of the estate you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Siena.

During our visit, Nicolò will introduce us to the fascinating process of caring for and harvesting the grapes and producing the family's wines as well sharing wonderful stories about the family themselves.

Following the visit of Fattoria Montereccioni we will head to the exquisite colonial house, Il Colli of the Bindi Sergardi family, for a very typical Tuscan lunch together with Nicolò's wife and his daughter Alessandra who knows all there is to know about wine and oils. For a truly exclusive, fun and original first hand glimpse into the people, their lives and lifestyle behind some of Italy's most prized gastronomic delights; this tour is an absolute must. (Tour duration: 4.5 hours).



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**After your time in Chianti**, you will be returned to your hotel in Florence, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day until dinner.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence.

## Day 9 Italy: Florence –

### Breakfast in the Hotel.

**9.30a:** Meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel and enjoy a wonderful stroll through the Left Bank Side of Florence, taking in this charming area as well as, the Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens.



Our walk takes us over the Ponte Vecchio to the south side of the Arno River, through the streets of a lesser-known part of Florence. Here, traditions survive. The workshops, small boutiques and little squares, make this one of the most delightful quarters of the city.



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The Palazzo Pitti, with its extensive gardens behind, is an impressive complex, housing an immense collection of art in several different museums. In 1550, it became the main residence of the Grand-dukes, successively, of the Austrian rulers, of Napoleon's sister, Elisa and later, of the first King of Italy during that brief period when Florence was capital of the newly formed Kingdom.



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The apartments, with their rich decoration, reflect the taste of the various periods. For the Medici, it was an impressive stage for a family that had quickly risen from mere merchants to Grand-dukes, with an aspiration to become Kings of Tuscany.

The Medici's residence, with its opulent interiors, superlative collections of masterpieces and gardens full of marvels, will be inspiration for the French kings at Versailles and Fontainebleau. Our visit to the Palatine Gallery takes us through lavish settings with masterpieces of Renaissance painters: such as Raphael, Titian, Rubens. There are beautiful furnishings and delightful views out over the gardens directly behind the palace. (Tour duration-4 hours)

- Entrances to Palatine Gallery and Boboli Gardens included.

**After your morning tour**, you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day until dinner.

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**8.00pm: Dinner Reservation at Enoteca Pinchiorri restaurant. (Payment to be made direct to the restaurant at time of service)**

Boasting one of the best wine cellars in Europe, it is located on the ground floor of 15th century Palazzo Ciofi Jacometti. Cuisine is a mixture of traditional Tuscan, Italian with modern concept. This is one of the most expensive restaurants in Italy, but often described as one of its finest.



- **Reservation:** It's also possible to eat outside. They ask for credit card as guarantee
- of the table booking.
- **Dress Code :** Smart Casual
- **Average price:** Euro 100.00 without beverage (All cards accepted, except Diners)
- **Closed:** On Sunday and Monday, Christmas and August until 22nd.
- **Air conditioning:** Yes
- **Recommended for families:** No
- **Specialities:** All dishes are special
- **Cancellation policy:** After noon the day before dinner or no show 200 Euros per person will be charged as cancellation fee.

**Please note** that your table will be held for 15 minutes. If you are not able to arrive in time please notify the restaurant. If not able to attend dinner at the restaurant reserved please phone them directly to cancel the reservation as soon as possible. Some restaurants may charge a NO SHOW fee.

**Day 10 Italy:** Florence – Lucca – Pisa

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**Breakfast in the Hotel.**



**9.30 am** – Meet your English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your Hotel and enjoy a very special day visiting two of Northern Italy's most beautiful towns - Pisa and Lucca.

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This tour will take us west of Florence to visit and enjoy and understand 2 of Tuscany's most beautiful towns that are very near to each other in distance yet very, very different. The first stop today is Lucca – easily one of Tuscany's most beautiful and interesting towns.



Surrounded by a medieval wall which you may want to walk or cycle around to get a great view of the entire historical city, Lucca has a very attractive historical center. It is full of beautiful palaces with the wrought iron railings on the balconies, tiny nooks and crannies, small stores where many artisans can be found and attractive corners well worth discovering.

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**After time exploring Lucca,** you will enjoy lunch here as the restaurants in Lucca are particularly good and varied .

**After lunch,** you will head towards the Sea and the town of Pisa.



While known by many people for the famous Leaning Tower you may be surprised to learn and enjoy, following a great introduction by your Local Expert Driver. The Field of Miracles where the Duomo and Baptistry are also located, just a stone's throw away from the Leaning Tower.

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Just as for Lucca, prior to arrival in Pisa your Local Expert Driver will tell you all about Pisa, its amazing history, its beautiful monuments and buildings as well as its people. From Pisa, return directly to Florence (Tour duration: 8 hours).

- Entrances to the leaning tower included.

After your tour you will be returned to Florence and delivered to your hotel.

You will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.



**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence.

## Day 11 Italy: Florence – Lucca - Pisa

**Breakfast in the Hotel.**

**Today you are at leisure** to relax in the hotel, enjoy the spa, or do some more exploring on your own.

**Lunch and dinner are on your own today.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence.

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## Day 12 Italy: Florence – Hill Towns of Florence



### Breakfast in the Hotel.

**9.30am:** Meet your English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your Hotel and enjoy the Hill Towns of Florence. Explore the hills above Florence and discover lovely landscape within a short distance of the city center.



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Fiesole boasts Etruscan walls, remains of a temple and a Roman bath. There is also an impressive Roman theatre, still in use today.



It is possible to see the level of civilization from the Etruscan, through the Roman to the Dark Ages. The views to the olive-clad hills north are stunning. Inside the little museum are some exceptional treasures, including beautiful ceramics. Learn more about the intriguing Etruscans that inhabited Fiesole, before the arrival of the Romans.



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The lovely grounds of Villa Gamberaia can be found outside the village of Settignano. This garden is truly one of the most magical places in the world, where, in an astonishingly small space, yet without the sense of overcrowding, the typical elements of the old Italian garden come together.



Enjoy the different corners and views across the valley while learning about the Renaissance garden, the Tuscan villa and the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

Our drive takes us also to the San Miniato, a rare example of the Romanesque style of a thousand years ago. This Romanesque jewel boasts a lovely façade, beautiful inlaid floors, mosaic apse, as well as an interesting collection of frescoes.



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Most afternoons, it is possible to hear the Gregorian chant of the Olivetan monks. From here there is a spectacular view of the city. (Tour duration: 4 hours)

- Entrances to Villa Gamberaia Gardens, Archaeological area and Museum of Fiesole included.



**You can choose to have lunch** in one of the towns before you return to Florence or you can return to the city and enjoy lunch at leisure on your own today.

**You will be delivered to your hotel**, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence.

## Day 13 Italy: Florence – Tuscany (Siena & San Gimignano) – Rome



**Breakfast in the Hotel.**

**9:30am:** Check out of your hotel and Meet your English-speaking Driver/Guide in the lobby of your hotel and enjoy a private Transfer from Florence to Rome. You will stop

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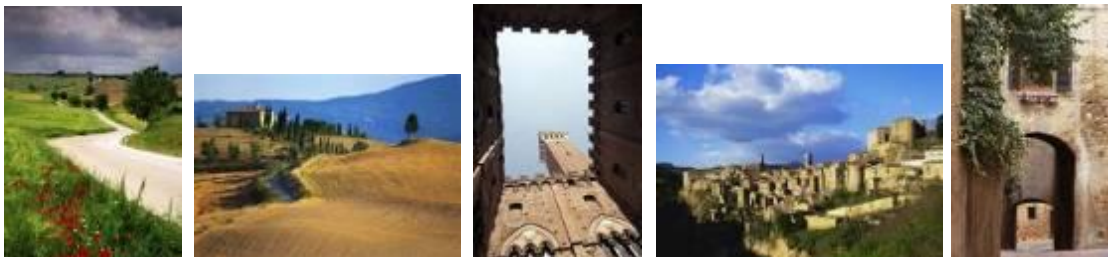
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en-route to enjoy the beautiful Tuscan Towns of Siena and San Gimignano – this is not only a very scenic drive but also of great interest.



As you head south through the Tuscan Countryside your Local Expert Driver will not only give you a wonderful introduction to the Region of Tuscany, its people and culture but also introduce you to two of Tuscany's most attractive, interesting and typical towns – Siena and San Gimignano.



**On arrival in Siena you will enjoy a wonderful introduction to the Highlights of this typically Tuscan Town.**

Siena is a Medieval town completely surrounded by fourteenth century walls. The tour starts with a visit of the old town financial area: Palaces built by rich merchants and bankers, including the headquarters of the oldest bank in Europe. From here we cross the main square “Il Campo”, where the Palio horserace still takes place after many centuries, this is Italy's loveliest piazza which occupies the site of the old Roman Forum, and for much of Siena's early history was the city's principal marketplace.

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From the Piazza we head to the highest point of the town to visit the Duomo which is one of Italy's greatest cathedrals (1136 – 1382). The cathedral is a spectacular mixture of sculpture, paintings and Pisan influenced Romanesque – Gothic architecture. Inside the Cathedral you can enjoy masterpieces by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, Donatello, Michelangelo and Bernini.

**Lunch on your own in Siena.** Your guide will offer recommendations for dining in Siena.

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After the tour enjoy one hour in San Gimignano during your transfer south towards Rome. (Tour duration with guide: 4 hours)

- Entrances to the Duomo included.



**Upon arrival in Rome**, you will be delivered to your hotel for check-in at The First Hotel, where you have a Jacuzzi Suite with Terrace reserved for 1 night. Breakfast, services and taxes included.

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**Upon arrival at the hotel**, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

**After check-in**, you are at leisure to relax in the hotel for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Rome Restaurants** – See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Rome.

## Day 14 Italy: Rome – US & Home



**Breakfast in the Hotel.**

**Early Morning Departure:** Please meet your English speaking driver in the Hotel Lobby to enjoy a leisurely transfer to the Airport.

**Please note** that portage service is not included however if you wish you may request this locally and pay for it directly to the porters.

**On arrival at Rome Airport Fiumicino** enjoy a comfortable and efficient luxury VIP meet and greet service allowing you to fast track through check in and security and be escorted directly to the airline business lounge.

You will be met upon arrival at the curbside, where your assistant will handle your luggage and escort you directly to a priority check in desk (if you are able to pre-check in online, then just the baggage drop is necessary on arrival and will save additional time).

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Should you require assistance with tax refunds your assistant will be able to facilitate this process for you after baggage check in.

You will then be escorted through security with priority access, and taken to the airline business lounge and then at the correct time, escorted to the actual boarding gate. This service includes full assistance in case of flight delays, cancellation or passenger delay and special needs. (Assistant at disposal for 1 hour 30 min.)

**You will board** your flight bound for the US and onward to Home.

**End of Services.**

**Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548**

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**

**The Italian National Trust** is a non-profit organization preserving Italy's spectacular heritage. Help us help them! We include Euro 1 to your holiday to assist in maintaining some of these extraordinary places for the next generation.



## **Buon Viaggio!**

We hope these indications of the **average maximum and minimum temperatures** over the time you will be in Italy are useful. Remember Italy is home to high mountain ranges and beautiful warm coastline, as a rule temperatures rise at least a few degrees the further South you go. **June:** 12° to 24 ° C / 39.2 ° to 75.2 °F

## **TIPPING INFORMATION**

Gratuities in Italy, while extremely welcome and appreciated, are not as much 'expected' as they are in other countries and are totally optional.

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If you are happy with the service you have enjoyed and would like to show your gratitude to the people who made it a very special experience for you here below you can find the amounts we recommend for Tour Guides, Drivers and other special services:

- Tour Guide Half Day Euro 30.00
- Tour Guide Full Day Euro 50.00
- Transfer (Driver) Euro 25.00
- Driver Half Day Euro 30.00
- Driver Full Day Euro 50.00

Hotel staff, such as porters, should be tipped about 50 cents per bag for taking your bags to/from your room.

The above amounts are to be considered per service and not per person.

Fiscal laws in Italy are extremely tough on this matter and this is the reason why these amounts cannot be included in the service costs.

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## ROME HOTEL:

The First Hotel, where you have a Jacuzzi Suite with Terrace reserved for 4 nights. Breakfast, services and taxes included.

A careful restoration has turned this 19th century nobleman's palace into an elegant and refined hotel; the noble lines - that look of aristocratic home - have been preserved, and the hotel is absolutely welcoming and comfortable. The central feature of this art hotel is for sure being aesthetically luxurious while at the same time giving you the safe sensation of feeling completely at home.

The First Luxury Art Hotel Roma is the ideal place for those looking for a romantic, welcoming, and elegant ambiance close to the main sites in Rome. Superb accommodations, impeccable and friendly service and elegant cuisine are the key elements that make The First Hotel an exclusive and intimate destination.

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## Room Description

### Jacuzzi Suite

The Jacuzzi Suites are between 37-48 sq m/ 398-517 sq ft in size. Each one offers a terrace and private Jacuzzi overlooking the rooftops of Rome. The suite includes a seating area with sofa and armchairs wrapped in rich blue velvet, walk-in closet, a king-size bed with duvet and a headboard library made of lacquered wood, contemporary design details and artworks, and luxurious Emperador marble bathroom with Afyon marble sink. Also available in the room are an iPod and iPhone dock, minibar, and combination safe that can contain a laptop.

### Facts

- The Hotel has a total of 29 rooms
- The Hotel is Non-Smoking
- All bedrooms are air-conditioned
- The Hotel has a restaurant
- Check-in from 2 pm, check-out within 12 noon

### Amenities

- Complimentary late check-out until 2.00 pm, upon availability.
- Welcome amenities: a bottle of prosecco in suite for bookings in Junior Suite, The
- Art Suite, The First Suite and The Jacuzzi Suite category.

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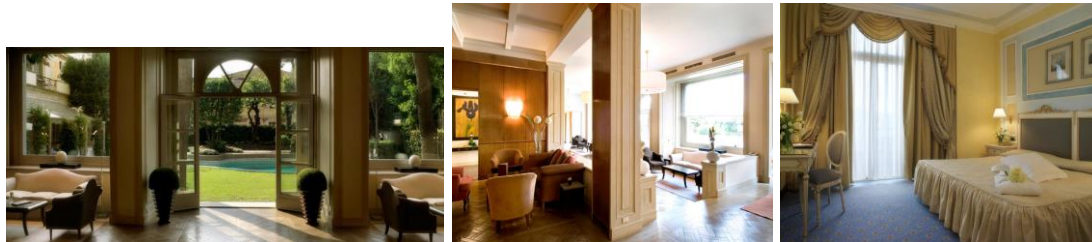
## FLORENCE HOTEL:

(Hotel Villa Medici Via Il Prato, 42 – 50123 Florence +39 0552381331) Any eventual city tax to be paid directly.

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An elegant 18th-century villa, hidden from prying eyes by a high wall and luxuriant gardens in the heart of Florence, an abode that has long been a spectator and a patron of Italian culture. In the garden the warm sun sparkles and dances on the pool and the large windows reflect the villa's exquisitely appointed salons.



A treasure tucked away in the centre of Florence which extends the warmest of Tuscan welcomes. An ideal starting point for guests who want to discover every corner of the ancient Medici city.

And who will delight in the warm atmosphere and the attentions of the staff who ensure that all our guests, even the youngest, leave with memories that will linger forever. And for business guests every stay in the Villa Medici is an impeccable professional experience.

## **Rooms**

Classically elegant and cutting-edge modern, our 100 rooms and suites become your home away from home in Florence. The Royal Suite with its majestic salon, which is a heritage masterpiece, is a magical ambience and transforms any convivial occasion into a memorable celebration.

The six Penthouse rooms on the top floor have private terraces and stunning views of Florence. And then there is the prestigious Penthouse Suite with its heritage décor and private terrace with Jacuzzi: an intimate sanctuary from which to count each and every one of the stars in the shimmering Florentine firmament.

## ***Restaurant and bar***

The Grand Hotel Villa Medici's two restaurants are an incomparable blend of the finest gastronomic traditions and culinary inspiration. The Lorenzo de' Medici is perfect for fine dining evenings, and the cosy atmosphere in the Conservatory is an ideal choice for intimate lunches. And for a martini before dinner, or a nightcap to toast yet another magnificent day, there is no better choice than the Jockey Bar.

## **Amenities 2014**

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- Free use of facilities at SINA Fitness Club (sauna, steam bath and Gym)
- Free use of outdoor swimming-pool from June to September.
- 10% discount at Lorenzo de' Medici Restaurant (beverages excluded)

**End of Services.**

**Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548**

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**