

# Celebration

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

### 7 -10 Day La Dolce Vita Florence – Chianti – Arezzo – Siena – Tuscany - Venice

#### La Dolce Vita



#### CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-10 DAY ITINERARY

A panorama of history unfolds in Italy, where a wealth of exceptional cuisine and fine wine flourishes in the beloved region known as Tuscany. Experience a once-in-a-lifetime journey through private galleries and grand estates as you traverse an unrivalled art, architecture and culinary trail.

“Italy is a dream that keeps returning for the rest of your life.” Anna Akhmatova

Be granted exclusive access to iconic Renaissance palazzos in Florence, where you will witness Michelangelo masterpieces up close. Along the endless rolling hills of Tuscany, sample the finest Chiantis and Montepulcianos in intimate vineyard tours. Finally, travel to Venice, where, in the workshops lining its elegant lagoon, uncover the artistry behind its noble glassmaking. Journey to Italy and be enchanted by its fabled wonders.

---

[www.celebraionescapes.com](http://www.celebraionescapes.com)

678-500-9548

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 7-14 Day Itinerary: Florence – Chianti – Arezzo – Siena – Tuscany - Venice

### Arrival Day 1 Florence : Florence

Welcome to Florence!

**Arrival into Florence Airport.** After you go through customs, meet your Professional Arrival Guide who will assist you through the airport, and unite you with your private English-speaking Driver, who will transfer you to your hotel in Florence. Enjoy a leisurely transfer from the Airport to your hotel.

Check-in to your hotel and get settled.

**Lunch is on your own today,** It is recommended that you have lunch at the hotel or in a restaurant near the hotel. Sometimes you have to wait on check-in and lunch is a great way to relax while you wait.

**In the afternoon meet your English-speaking Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your afternoon tour of Rome.**

**Enjoy a very special walking tour of Florence taking in the highlights of this amazing city. The guide's flexibility allows for adaptation to your areas of interest.** We can tailor this tour to suit your interests while still keeping in mind those who have visited Florence before. For first-timers, we suggest the following highlights.

#### Piazza della Signoria, Piazza del Duomo, Ponte Vecchio



With its open-air display of Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces, be welcomed to Florence with a visit to the Piazza della Signoria, one of the most beautiful squares in the world and home of the Uffizi Gallery, Neptune's Fountain and the Palazzo Vecchio.

Situated nearby is the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral Square. Admire its graceful Gothic bell-tower, Romanesque baptistery and Lorenzo Ghiberti's gilded bronze doors, "The Gates of Paradise," depicting scenes from the Old Testament. Then, enjoy a picturesque stroll over the Arno River on the storied Ponte Vecchio, Florence's "Old Bridge," acclaimed for its fine selection of jewelry boutiques along with its mesmerizing views of the city.

# Celebration

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Piazza della Signoria, one of the most beautiful squares in the world. The backdrop is the medieval Palazzo Vecchio, the city's seat of government for over 700 years.

Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral square, where from the outside we can admire the graceful Gothic bell-tower and the Romanesque baptistery with its beautiful gilded bronze doors, the "Gates of Paradise" by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Admire Brunelleschi's Dome, the largest dome ever built in masonry.

The Ponte Vecchio, or "old bridge" and its tantalizing jewellery shops. You will also discover lesser-known corners of the city, and quiet back streets of the neighbourhood. The city is so steeped in history, the quality of its artists and craftsmen is so superlative, there are so many delights to discover, you will be left wanting more! (Tour Duration: 4 Hours)



**At the end of the tour, you will be escorted back to your hotel.**

**You are at leisure for the remainder of the day.**

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 2 Florence : FLorence

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your city Art & Architecture Highlights Tour.

Academy of Fine Arts, Santa Croce, San Miniato al Monte



With a private driver at your disposal, travel in luxury to a selection of art and architecture highlights.

Begin at the Galleria dell'Accademia, the first academy of drawing in Florence, and then visit the Basilica of Santa Croce, the largest Franciscan church in the world, built in 1294.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Venture to the apex of Florence at San Miniato al Monte. Surrounded by defensive walls built by Michelangelo, this Romanesque church, with its geometrically patterned exterior, features sweeping views of the city.

Your driver will leave you in Palazzo di Signornia, where you will have the option of lunch, followed by a visit to the famed Gallery of the Uffizi, to view Renaissance masterpieces in a setting that once served as the Administrative Headquarters of the Medicis

Return to your hotel at leisure, free to relax in your hotel or continue self-exploration in the city.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.**

## Day 3 Florence : FLorence

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your city tour.

**Enjoying the 'Complete' Introduction to the Highlights of Florence with your local expert guide and driver..**

The best way to see Florence in a day! We begin with a private car and driver at your disposal for three hours to see the highlights of the city, including The Academy of Fine Arts, with The David and other sculptures by Michelangelo. Visit Santa Croce, the Franciscan church where Michelangelo is buried, along with Galileo, Rossini and Macchiavelli. 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.



# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

At the end of the three hours, our driver will leave us in the Signoria Square. Here, we shall have a short break, perhaps at the fashionable Cafe Rivoire, before a tour of the nearby Gallery of the Uffizi to see the highlights of Renaissance masterpieces in painting in a setting that once served as the offices, or administrative headquarters, for the Medici, when they ruled Tuscany as the Grand- dukes. (total tour duration with guide: 5 hours – duration touring with car/driver service: 3 hours 2 entrances to Uffizi, Santa Croce and Accademia included)

## **Rest of the Day at leisure to enjoy Florence on your own**

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 worlds greatest artistic capitals.



**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## **Day 4 Florence : Florence - Chianti**

### **Breakfast in the hotel**

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour of Chianti.

[Chianti, Villa Bordonni](#)



By private car from Florence, pass through the rolling Italian hills along the Chianti Route for a day celebrating the food and wine of this esteemed region.

Your guide will give you a wonderful introduction to the people, culture, wineries and shops in towns such as Gaiole, Radda, Panzano, and Greve for an unforgettable tour of Chianti life.

# Celebraion

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

In the heart of the Tuscan Hills, where olive groves thrive, discover Villa Bordoni. With an expert chef, learn how to cook specialty dishes, such as the flavorful pappa al pomodoro, at the Villa's farmhouse kitchen. Venture downstairs to the wine cellar where a sommelier will help you choose local Tuscan wines to pair with your meal. Savor your splendid dinner under the stars in the Villa's walled garden.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour. You will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Enjoy a Very Special Introduction to the highlights of one of the most beautiful Regions of Tuscany with your local expert Driver – that of Chianti:** This full day tour will take you from Florence into the hills of Tuscany passing along one of the country's most beautiful and famous routes.

Today, enjoy the Chianti Route and the many beautiful towns and wineries that line this route. There are many towns to explore such as Gaiole in Chianti, Radda in Chianti, Panzano, Greve in Chianti to mention a few. Your expert Driver will not only give you a wonderful introduction to the area, its people, culture, wines, secrets and way of life but he will also give you great advice on which is the best winery to visit, the best places to purchase local specialities, the best trattoria for lunch where you get the best food and wines with picture postcard views...



**In the Afternoon Enjoy a wonderful introduction to some of the most famous Italian Dishes and Tuscan specialities in the heart of Chianti...**

Your driver will take you to the beautiful Villa Bordoni well located in the heart of the Tuscan Hills surrounded by the most amazing vineyards, olive groves with views that just keep getting more beautiful by the minute.

A special welcome awaits you at the Villa Bordoni before its time to take your seat and enjoy a very special introduction to local and Italian Speciality dishes, not to mention many amazing cooking techniques that you will not find written down in any recipe book. Your expert chef will not only demonstrate the production of these fabulous yet simple dishes but also give you the opportunity to participate in the preparation and of course ask as many questions as you wish.

Following our introduction to these dishes while they are cooking we will head down into the Wine Cellar with the Sommelier to carefully choose an excellent wine to complement our dinner.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Its then time to sit down and enjoy the dishes that were earlier prepared, washed down with only the finest Tuscany Wines, as we exchange more ideas on the local dishes, their production, the wines, life in Tuscany and much more before joining our driver for our return back to Florence..



**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.**

## Day 5 Florence : Florence - Tuscany

**Early Breakfast in the hotel (Room Service is a good option for today)**

**5:00AM: After breakfast,** meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour by air of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa.

Tavarnelle Val di Pesa



Soar over the picturesque villages and red-roofed towns of Tuscany in a private balloon ride.

Before dawn, a driver will accompany you to the Balloon Ground in Tavarnelle Val di Pesa, about an hour from Florence in the Chianti region.

At dawn, you will rise up gently from the ground in your private basket as your balloon inflates and takes flight.

During your ride, which lasts between 45 to 90 minutes, depending on weather conditions, revel in the commanding views of the region while learning from your pilot the storied history of the countryside. Upon landing, toast to your success with a glass of champagne.

**Enjoy Tuscany from the Skies – a very special sunrise experience awaits you..**

Enjoy a very special Tuscany experience which begins at sunrise with an early morning departure from your hotel. On arrival at the site, your experience begins assisting the pilot in

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

the balloons' preparation then its onwards and upwards as we head up into the Tuscan Skies to enjoy a very special unique and enchanting experience.

The flight, whose duration is approximately 50 minutes, will take us through the heart of the Chianti Region allowing us to enjoy the famous rolling hills of Chianti, the vineyards, olive groves, farm houses and characteristic hillside towns.

Our Balloon will land in Chianti where, accompanied by our pilot, we will enjoy a pleasant Chianti Picnic Breakfast before returning with our driver to the hotel.



Departure time from the chosen field at 6:00 am sharp in Summer  
Departure time can vary in winter time

Duration of flight approx 50 minutes.

**The remainder of the day is at leisure for your to Rest, enjoy Florence on own, or relax in your hotel/**





# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 6 Florence : Florence - Tuscany

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your **Left Bank & Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens Tour**



Left Bank of Florence, Palazzo Pitti

From the Ponte Vecchio to the south side of the Arno River, stroll through the maze-like streets of Oltrarno in the Left Bank of Florence with your private guide. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look inside private workshops and restoration clinics of this delightful quarter that has been the home of Florence's skilled artisans and their workshops since the 12th century.

Nearby, tour the 15th century Renaissance palace known as the Palazzo Pitti. The Palazzo was home to the Pittis and Medicis, Napoleon and the first King of Italy, before transforming into an art gallery in 1919. Finally, visit the spectacular baroque-style Palatine Gallery, home of over 500 Renaissance paintings including Raphael, Titian and Rubens masterpieces, overlooking the expansive Boboli Gardens.

### **Enjoy a wonderful stroll through the Left Bank Side of Florence with your Local Expert Guide taking in the this amazing 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 where tradition survives.

The workshops, small boutiques and little squares, make this one of the most delightful quarters of the city. Here, some restoration clinics are working on the elaborate frames for the very paintings we shall be seeing.

The Palazzo Pitti, with its extensive gardens behind, is an impressive complex, housing an immense collection of art in several different museums. The palace was originally built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century for the wealthy banker Luca Pitti. The Pitti were determined to outlive the Medici: the windows were to be larger than the doors of the Medici.

Ironically, when the building costs bankrupted Luca Pitti's heirs, the Medici purchased the property and began a lengthy project to enlarge and embellish the palace. In 1550, it became the main residence of the Grand-dukes, successively, of the Austrian rulers, of Napoleon's sister, Elisa and

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

later, of the first King of Italy during that brief period when Florence was capital of the newly formed Kingdom.



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 the 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 Fontainbleau. 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)

**The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy Florence on your own or relax in your hotel.**

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.**

## Day 7 Florence : Florence – Arezzo

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Tour.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



Il Borro or Osteria di Passinano (based on availability of the hosts at the time of your travel. Exact details of which particular experience you will enjoy will be delivered upon booking and confirmation from hosts as to their availability.)



## Il Borro

At the foot of the Pratomagno Mountains in the Tuscan hillside town of Arezzo stands the breathtaking country estate owned by the Ferragamo family, known as Il Borro.

Meticulously restored by the family, this thousand-year-old property features ancient and modern vineyards producing Supertuscan, Sangiovese and Chardonnay along with endless olive and walnut groves in over 1,400 acres of land. At your countryside retreat, pursue an array of outdoor activities, including golf, fishing or a hot-air ballooning excursion. Enjoy an authentic Italian cooking lesson at the Osteria del Borro or a wine tasting from the estate's vineyard with Salvatore Ferragamo himself.

or

**Enjoy a Very Special Introduction to Typically Tuscan Cooking with one of the most famous families in this amazing region followed by a very special Dinner.**

The Antinori Family owns the “Osteria di Passignano” in Badia a Passignano, a small village located only 45 minutes from Florence and about one hour from Siena, in the hills of the Chianti region.

The view from here is breath-taking, from the magnificent Abbey of Passignano, dating back to the year 1049, to the vineyards and olive trees that surround these hills. The Osteria is a classic country stone house, once used as a cellar. Inside, the big oak casks have been replaced by elegant and cleverly restored tables. Some historical items have been preserved such as the beautiful cartwheels hanging on the walls and some pieces of furniture recovered from the nearby Antinori estates.

An English botanic collection of 115 items, photographs from the late 1800s and painting of the surrounding lands are displayed on the walls. An impressive age-old wooden wine press, recovered during the renovation works, now dominates the “wine tasting” area of the hall.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Here we will learn the secrets of the Tuscan cuisine and taste some of the great wines produced in this region. The afternoon starts at 3:30pm with the hands-on cooking class, held in English by the Chef and consisting in the preparation of a typical Tuscan menu as the following example:

Around 6:15pm we take a break and Maurizio, the restaurant sommelier will guide us through the historical cellars of Badia a Passignano, where you will get the chance to see first-hand where the Antinori's world-renowned wines age. An aperitif will follow just before sitting down to enjoy dinner, accompanied by matching wines.

A certificate will be issued to all participants with a recipe booklet.



(Duration: approx. 5,5 hrs/6 hrs )

You will be returned to your hotel where the rest of the day to enjoy Florence on your own or relax in your hotel

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants –** see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 8 Florence : Florence – Siena

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast,** meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.

**The Private Home of Countess Costanza Piccolomini d'Aragona or Top Chef Attilio Di Fabrizio of the beautiful Villa San Michele** (based on availability of the hosts at the time of your travel. Exact details of which particular experience you will enjoy will be delivered upon booking and confirmation from hosts as to their availability.)

The Private Home of Countess Costanza Piccolomini d'Aragona

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



Nestled in the Tuscan countryside between the Chianti and Arbia valleys is the bustling medieval-walled city of Siena, celebrated for its annual Palio di Siena, Italy's premier horse race.

Inside the stone walls of this city, be invited into the private home of the Countess Costanza Piccolomini d'Aragona. The Countess, from one of Italy's oldest and most titled families,

welcomes select visitors into her own house for a private cooking lesson and quintessential Tuscan lunch.

or

**Enjoy a Hands-on Tuscan Cooking lesson with Top Chef Attilio Di Fabrizio of the beautiful Villa San Michele.**

Today we embark on an exploration of the Tuscan culinary tradition at the beautiful Villa San Michele in Fiesole. Their cookery school has become known and respected both locally and internationally and is renowned for the personal attention dedicated to each participant in the lesson, and the peaceful surroundings in which the lesson is held.

Chef Attilio di Fabrizio is among the greats in Italy, having spent time in his home country, France, Britain, Switzerland and America, perfecting his talents in the Kitchen. He became chef at the renowned 'Enoteca Pinchiorri' in Florence before taking over the kitchens of the Villa San Michele.

The menu for your group lesson will be based on the classic Italian dishes of risotto, pasta and soups as they are prepared in Tuscany. Allow your expert chef to lead you through their careful preparation, giving you hands-on practice of how to perfect the techniques.

Your lesson also includes a portfolio of recipes to take home, a cookery school apron and ends with a delicious lunch served with a regional Tuscan wine and hosted by your Chef.

**Availability on request** (Lesson duration 2,5 Hours excluding Lunch Tour Duration 4 Hrs only one way transfer included)

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



You will be returned to your hotel where the rest of the day to enjoy Florence on your own or relax in your hotel.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 9 Florence : Florence – Tuscany

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver and Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour

Montepulciano, Montalcino, Pienza



Be accompanied by your local guide and driver to learn about the history, culture and products of Tuscany.

Perched on a limestone ridge and overlooking a vast landscape of vineyards that produces its signature *Vino Nobile*, stands Montepulciano. Here, sample glasses of its famed red wine blend of Sangiovese and Canaiolo Nero.

Afterwards, approach the hilltop town of Montalcino, offering a spectacular setting for lunch. One of Italy's most prized exports, Montalcino is the home of Brunello wine, a dark, red Sangiovese variety.

Conclude your day in Pienza, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was once the hometown village of the 15th century Pope Pius II. Pienza specializes in the production of a white-soft ewe's milk variety of Pecorino cheese prized for its nutty flavor.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

**Enjoy the Day exploring the Famous Food and Wine Towns of Tuscany – Montepulciano, Pienza and Montalcino – with your local expert Driver** – From Florence, accompanied by your expert Driver head south through the valleys and passing the many beautiful hill towns that have made this area so famous as you head towards the southern area of the Region to your first port of call – Montepulciano.

Famous for its 'Vino Nobile di Montepulciano' – this medieval town is picturesque, quaint, extremely interesting to visit and explore and tasting the famous Wine of Montepulciano is a must. Before arriving at Montepulciano, like the other towns to be visited your local expert Driver will give you a brilliant introduction on the area, the town, what to see, enjoy and explore, its people, history, culture and products allowing you to make the most out of your time.

From Montepulciano you will head to Pienza located high on one of Tuscany's hillsides both the views arriving here and the views from the town itself are unforgettable. The town itself is quite small and easily visited and enjoyed although as your local expert Driver will tell you, it's difficult to tear yourself away from these views and enjoy the town. For cheese lovers you should taste the Pecorino cheese which is a speciality of Pienza.

Montalcino, which is a great wine town, is our final stop before returning North to Florence. This particular town is known for the 'Brunello di Montalcino' – another fine red Tuscan wine. Just as beautiful as the town of Montepulciano, Montalcino also has those picture postcard views to enjoy as well as the beautiful quaint corners of the town itself. (tour duration: 10 hours)



You will be returned to your hotel where the rest of the day to enjoy Florence on your own or relax in your hotel.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 10 Venice : Florence – Bologna - Venice

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast, check out of your hotel.** Meet your English-speaking private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your private transfer to Venice.

# Celebraion

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

### St. Mark's Basilica



Cruise along the Venetian canals and be welcomed to Venice as you travel by motoscafo, a private water taxi for arrival at your hotel.

After relaxing, enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience with a private tour of St. Mark's Basilica. This Byzantine church in Piazza San Marco has been the home of the Patriarch of

Venice for over two centuries. A maestro will play the ancient Basilica pipe organ as you are led into the enormous, darkened cathedral. Be mesmerized as the lights from the chandeliers are slowly illuminated until the room is fully ablaze and the evocative gold and bronze mosaics adorning the walls come alive.

**Private Transfer with Local Expert Driver from Florence to Venice stopping for lunch at leisure in Bologna** – Enjoy one of the most leisurely, picturesque transfers through Northern Tuscany and into Emilia Romagna stopping in one of Italy's most important gastronomic cities for lunch at leisure before continuing north through the Veneto Region to the unique coastal city of Venice. (stopping time for lunch – 2 hours)



**Private Transfer from Piazzale Roma to Venice Hotel** –. Your Transfer Assistant will accompany you by Private Water Taxi to your hotel.

**Important Note:** Water Taxi holds up to 10 pax with 10 pieces of luggage – any excess luggage, waiting time which exceeds 20 minutes or deviations to transfer as originally booked are to be paid directly to the driver upon arrival at your destination.

**The rest of the day at leisure to enjoy Venice on your own or relax in your hotel.**

Rising from the waters of the Venetian lagoons like a mirage, Venice, the city of canals is unlike any other. A romantic maze of alleys, waterways, silent squares, beautiful majestic palaces, Venice rarely fails to engage the imagination. Whether you are seeking to follow in the foot steps of Vivaldi, Titian or Marco Polo or enjoy a private art collection, learn all about the gondolas and

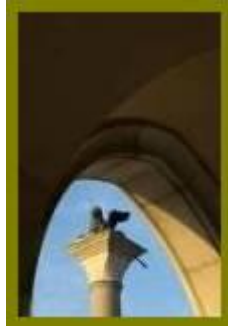


# Celebration

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

masks, climb the Campanile for brilliant birds' eye views or simply explore and enjoy the beautiful shops which line the streets and canals of Venice, there really is something for everyone here.



**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

### Day 11 Venice : Venice & Its 3 Principle Islands

#### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.

#### Grand Canal and Murano Island



Cruise by private boat along the Grand Canal before being welcomed into a Contessa's private palace. Dating back hundreds of years, a peek inside the palace gives travelers an opportunity to see commissioned frescoes, hand-blown glass chandeliers and the extraordinary decor that exemplified the Venetian nobility.

Brilliant aqua and amber shades form a Murano rooster, one of the icons of this distinguished glass-blowing island. Linked by bridges, Murano was settled by glass-blowers in 1291 after it was decreed these artisans must relocate to a remote location due to fire hazards. Witness a private glass-blowing demonstration at a working studio where stunning creations have been made for centuries.

**Enjoy the perfect introduction to one of Europe's most unique cities: Venice with your Private English Speaking Local Expert Guide..**

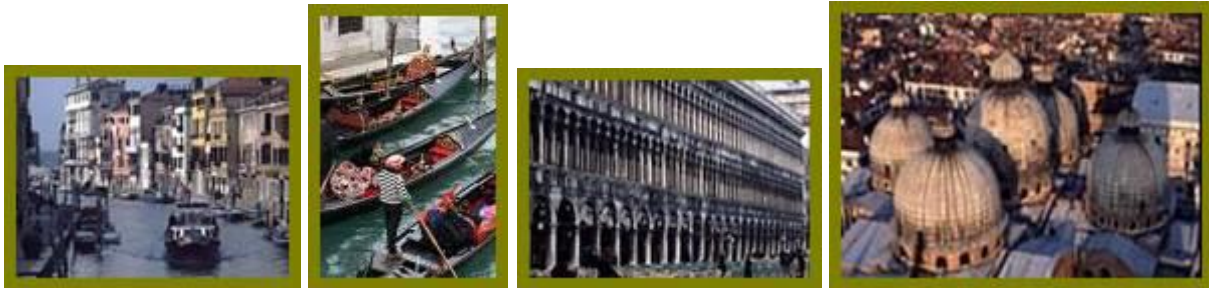
# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Meeting your guide in the hotel lobby enjoy a stroll to the very heart of Venice, the St. Marks Area of Venice. During the short walk to St. Marks Square we will not only experience the atmosphere of Venice and wonders of this unique city but we will start to understand the city, what it offers, how the people live here and how they cope with 30,000 visitors per day.

On arrival in St. Marks Square we will enjoy both the Square including the Basilica and Doges Palace as well as the area surrounding the square.

Following the tour enjoy a wonderful introduction to other parts of Venice by your guide who will also give you some great shopping and lunch suggestions and ideas for enjoying Venice to the full for the remainder of your time here. (Tour Duration with Guide: 3,5 hours 2 entrances to St Mark and to Doges's Palace included).



**In the afternoon we will explore the three principle Islands of Venice as well as enjoying an Exclusive Tour of one of the oldest and most important glass factories on the Island of Murano ...**

From the hotels private landing stage we will head with our guide and private water taxi out to the three principle islands of Venice – Murano, Burano and Torcello. During our transfer to these islands we will enjoy a wonderful introduction to Venice from our guide.

We will enjoy and explore all three of the islands, meeting here the local people and learning much about their way of life, their industries (primarily glass and lace), the effect the islands have on 'mainland Venice' and we will also have the possibility to visit some of the factories and places where the lace and glass are produced to learn more about these age old techniques.

On Murano Island we will enjoy a special behind closed doors visit to the oldest and most important glass factory on the island and an introduction to the age-old tradition of Glass Blowing. Following the tour of the islands return with your guide and water taxi back to your hotel where tour began, or to St. Marks Square where your guide has some wonderful shopping and eating advice...(Tour duration: 4 hours, 2 entrances to Santa Maria Suunta Church included)

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



You will be returned to your hotel where the rest of the day to enjoy Florence on your own or relax in your hotel.

**Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants** – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

## Day 12 Venice : Venice

### Breakfast in the hotel

**After breakfast**, meet your English-speaking private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.

### Helicopter Ride



Be enchanted by the mysterious collection of islands from above in a splendid helicopter tour of the Venice. As you fly above the celebrated landscape, be surrounded by landmarks such as the Piazza San Marco along with the magnificent islands of Burano, Murano and Torcello in a unique and unforgettable ride.

**Be Transported to some of the most Breathtaking Views across Venice and her Islands...with the Best Window Seats in Town**

From a maze of intricate winding canals, and mysterious alleyways, we head out to Venice Lido and the Nicelli Airport just 15 minutes from the centre of Venice and from where we will introduce you to an entirely new vista on the structure of the phenomenal lagoon.... An experience that will leave you feeling on top of the world...literally.

Rise above this unique city, to 1000 feet, with the best window seats guaranteed from your private helicopter. Trace the coast of the Lido until you are hovering just short of Piazza San Marco with an exceptional view across the Grand Canal and the *Giudecca*, before circling the Island of Murano to discover that Venice's intriguing structure continues way beyond the confines of the mainland.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Find out how this floating treasure trove protected itself in bygone times, from your English speaking pilot, who will point out the tiny circular defence islands dotted around Venice.

An extended trip will also pass by Burano Island with its jewel coloured houses before heading back to enjoy a drink on the Airport terrace and private transfer back into the lively bustle of Venetian life.

All flights are timed from the moment of actual take off to ensure that every minute of your trip be spectacular!



3 Seater Helicopter Robinson R44 Clipper II - Max 3 Adults + Pilot

The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy Venice on your own or relax in your hotel.



Dinner at leisure in one of Florence Restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas.

**Day 13 Venice : Venice – USA & Home**

**Breakfast in the hotel**

[www.celebraionescapes.com](http://www.celebraionescapes.com)

**678-500-9548**

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

**After breakfast, check out of your hotel.** Meet your English-speaking private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport for your return trip home.

Enjoy a leisurely way water taxi transfer from your hotel to the airport boat house. From the boat house to the airport you will enjoy a short road transfer.

**Important Note:** Water Taxi holds up to 10 pax with 10 pieces of luggage – any excess luggage, waiting time which exceeds 20 minutes or deviations to transfer as originally booked are to be paid directly to the driver upon arrival at your destination.



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!!!!**

**End of Services.**

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

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**

**Optional Recommended Excursions:** To add to the itinerary for a longer stay or to replace items in the itinerary with another option.

**Private Art Visits in Florence**

[www.celebraionescapes.com](http://www.celebraionescapes.com)

**678-500-9548**

# Celebration

## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

- A private art tour is a unique experience you will never forget. With an entire gallery at your disposal, a private guide will help you appreciate the most important treasures before you. Enjoy the opportunity to arrange exclusive private tours of the Vasarian Corridor, the Accademia Gallery and the Uffizi Gallery.
- Along the Arno River above the Ponte Vecchio, between the Palazzo Vecchio and Palazzo Pitti sits the Vasarian Corridor, a passageway commissioned from Giorgio Vasari by Cosimo I to celebrate his son's marriage. Over 700 paintings of the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as an impressive collection of self-portraits from master painters, grace this unique Florentine gallery that features magnificent views of the city.
- Enjoy an incredible private tour of the Accademia dell'Arte gallery, renowned for its collection of sculptures by Michelangelo, including "The Prisoners," "St. Mathew" and, most importantly, the original statue of "David." Transferred from the Piazza della Signoria in 1873 to a specially designed tribune, marvel at this masterpiece in utter privacy.
- Visit the magnificent Uffizi gallery in a special and exclusive private tour. You and your guide will be alone in the gallery to discover the works that are present here. As one of the most famous museums of paintings and sculpture in the world, its collection of primitive and Renaissance paintings comprises several of the most universally acclaimed masterpieces of all time, including works by Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and Caravaggio.

### Exclusive Wine Experiences at the Bocelli Winery and Varramista Estate

- Journey to the Tuscan countryside for a day trip celebrating Italian history and wine. Dating back thousands of years, the ancient city of Volterra was a powerful center during Etruscan times and its city walls and barren ravines, believed to be mining cuts, still exist. In nearby Volterra stands the winery of the tenor Andrea Bocelli's family, where you will have an opportunity to taste their crisp, white wines. Endless fields of bright sunflowers will greet you at the entrance of the Varramista estate, where nature and passion, culture and quality form a refined blend to provide fine olive oil, wines and other products for sampling and purchase.

### Shopping with Tina Ferragamo

- Explore Florence's finest shops and boutiques with Tini Ferragamo, the wife of the Tuscan winemaker, Salvatore Ferragamo, who is the grandson of the famed Italian fashion designer. By private car, depart the hotel for a morning shopping excursion,

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

before venturing to a 15th century palazzo for a farm-to-table lunch at Cantinetta Antori. Afterwards, receive extraordinary access to the Ferragamo Museum and Store, featuring over 10,000 models from the footwear selection. Conclude your day with signature Bellinis from Harry's Bar.

- Alternatively, experience a day of shopping outside of the city with Mrs. Ferragamo. Venture to Tuscany to the family-owned Il Borro estate in Arezzo, where artisanal shops in the nearby village offer exquisite, one-of-a-kind pieces. Enjoy a wine tasting and tour of Il Borro Winery, then be taken to Montevarchi to visit the only Prada outlet in Italy. Conclude your day by returning to Florence and sharing a drink at the Grand Hotel.

## Mask-Making Course in Venice

- Engage in a magical Venetian experience with a private mask-making course in Venice. Be transported to an antique Venetian mask studio, where you will choose from a selection of Carnevale masks from Venetian daily life, the theatre or modern times, to decorate. Your mask maker will explain the meaning of each one and share different coloring techniques before helping you craft your creation, which you will bring home at the end of the day.

## Guggenheim Collection Private Tour

With unsurpassed views of the Grand Canal, be accompanied by an art expert on an exclusive private visit to Venice's legendary Peggy Guggenheim collection housed in the magnificent Palazzo Venier dei Leoni. A sanctuary of 20th century art, Guggenheim was an early champion of cubist and abstract expressionism at a time when it was not collected in Europe, and notoriously purchased one painting a day on a collecting spree in 1939. Her signature museum features important early works by Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst and Jackson Pollock.

**End of Services.**

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

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**