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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

9 - 13 Day Italian Discovery Florence, Tuscany & Rome



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

Arrival Day:

Upon arrival, you will be met by your private English-speaking Liaison Representative who will meet you at customs. They will assist you through the customs and immigration process and escort you through the airport to the Arrival Hall where you will meet your private English Speaking Driver. He will assist you with your luggage and transfer you via Private Minivan Transfer with from Fiumicino airport to Florence hotel – the most leisurely way to transfer...

Lunch at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

This afternoon, enjoy a very special walking tour of Florence taking in the highlights of this amazing city with your local expert guide. 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

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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 seeped 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)



We have specially customised your tour today with this added touch – Visit some fascinating workshops where it is possible to watch the masters creating beautiful handmade pieces.

Semi-precious inlaid stone, Florentine coloured 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. The artisans of Florence have given the city a very unique reputation and character which is still upheld to this day.

Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 1 Florence: **Florence City**

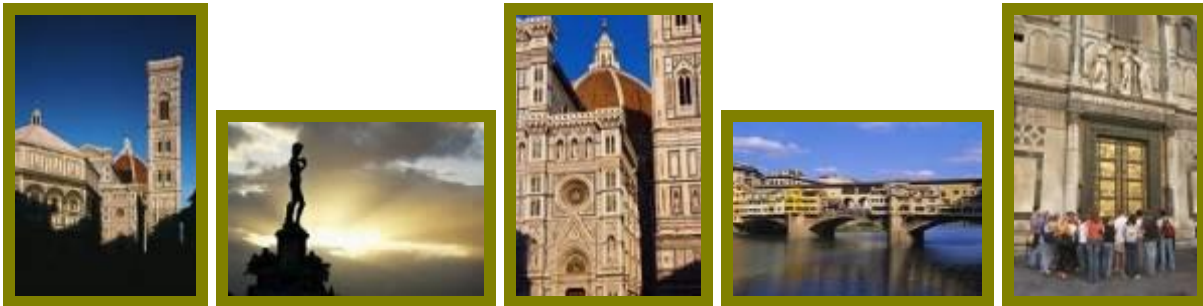
Breakfast in the Hotel

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After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel when you will enjoy the 'Complete' Introduction to the Highlights of Florence.

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.



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)

Remainder of the afternoon free for shopping and independent exploring.

Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – See Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 2 Florence: **Tuscany & Florence**

At 5 am, 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 the balloons' preparation then its onwards and upwards as we head up into the

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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
Duration of flight approx 50 minutes

Lunch at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 3 Florence: [Florence & Tuscany](#)

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

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This morning, enjoy the Hill towns of – Explore the hills above Florence and discover lovely landscape within short distance of the city center.

Drive out of the city and into the hills north of Fiesole and Settignano. Fiesole boasts Etruscan walls, a temple and bath as well as an impressive theatre, still in use today. It is possible to see the juxtaposition of 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.

Nearby, at Settignano are the lovely grounds of Villa Gamberaia, one of the most charming of gardens. Enjoy the different corners and views across the valley while learning about the Renaissance garden, the Tuscan villa and the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

Proceed then to the hill just above Florence, to the south, from which there is spectacular view of the city. Visit San Miniato, a rare example of the Romanesque style. This hilltop jewel boasts a lovely façade, beautiful inlaid floors, mosaic apse, as well as an interesting collection of frescoes. Most afternoons, it is possible to hear the Gregorian chant of the Olivetan monks.

From here it is even possible to stroll down the hill to the medieval walls and gate of the San Niccolo quarter, a charming neighbourhood across the Arno from the city centre.
(tour duration: 4 hours)



Lunch at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure for you to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

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Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 4 Florence: **Tuscany & Florence**

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.



Today enjoy a wonderful day exploring the Tuscan Region and typically Tuscan Towns of Siena and San Gimignano – and the perfect introduction to Tuscan Cooking with your master Lella in the heart of the historical centre of Siena...

– Enjoy a wonderful day exploring the Tuscan Region and typically Tuscan Towns of Siena and San Gimignano – Your drive will take you through the heart of Tuscany, passing along the famous Chianti region, by many foreigners defined as "the most beautiful countryside in the world". During the trip your expert Driver introduces you to one of Italy's most beautiful regions, its people, culture, wines and way of life.

Once you are in Siena at around 10.30am enjoy a private cooking class with Lella Cesari Ciampoli After your class you will enjoy the delights of your efforts for lunch with your host.

Lella Cesari Ciampoli's Cookery School was the first to be founded in Siena and quickly gained recognition as one of Italy's top 100 cookery schools. Lella has been teaching for many years, and is a member, among others, of the AICI (Association of Italian Cookery Teachers) and of the International Association of Cooking Professionals of Washington DC. Lella is well known as a passionate researcher into traditional Tuscan and medieval cuisine and has worked with the major Italian culinary publications, as well as publishing

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her own cook book in Japan, entitled 'The Pleasures of Italian Cooking'. She is currently working on a cook book in English.



Following time in Siena continue North West to the town of towers, San Gimignano. During the transfer from Siena to San Gimignano your local expert Driver will give you some great tips on how to get the most out of your time here. From San Gimignano the return journey to Florence will take you a different route to give you some more special glimpses of this beautiful area. (tour duration: 8 hours)

Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 5 Florence: **Tuscany & Florence**

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

Today enjoy the Day exploring the Famous Food and Wine Towns of Tuscany – Montepulciano, Pienza and Montalcino. From Florence, 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.

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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)



Dinner at leisure in one of Florence's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 6 Florence: **Florence – Rome**

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for a private Minivan transfer from Florence hotel to Rome - the most leisurely way to transfer...

This afternoon, enjoy exploring the beautiful Campo Marzio Area on foot with your local expert guide- The perfect welcome and introduction to Rome, its highlights and atmosphere...

Today 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.

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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 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)



Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 7 Rome: **Rome**

Breakfast in the Hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

This morning, we will enjoy a very special introduction to the Vatican City and its amazing history, highlights and hidden gems.

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.

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

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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: 3 Hours)

Important: entrances to Vatican are ON REQUEST and can be confirmed only two months prior to tour.



Lunch at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 8 Rome: Rome

Breakfast in the Hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

This morning, enjoy a very special introduction to the amazing highlights of Imperial Rome.

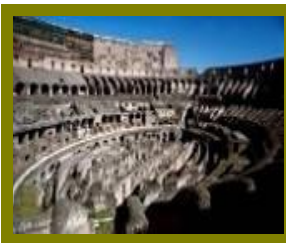
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On this tour we will visit the valley of the Roman Forum. We see the inside of the Senate and the inside of the Basilica of Constantine. From the outside we will see the other ruins (temples, basilicas, Reggia, etc.,).

We will walk the Via Sacra to the Arch of Tito and enjoy the Colosseum both externally and from the inside and also the pantheon. 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)



Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 9: Rome Rome

Breakfast in the Hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

Today you will enjoy a great excursion to south, visiting two town facing on the sea of the Amalfi coast: Positano and Sorrento....

One of the most famous vacation spots on the coast, Positano is situated in a splendid gorge which gradually widens out as it moves towards the sea.

One of the most characteristic features of Positano is the architecture of the houses: cubes, painted white, pink, red, orange, almost all with a small porch in front, some with

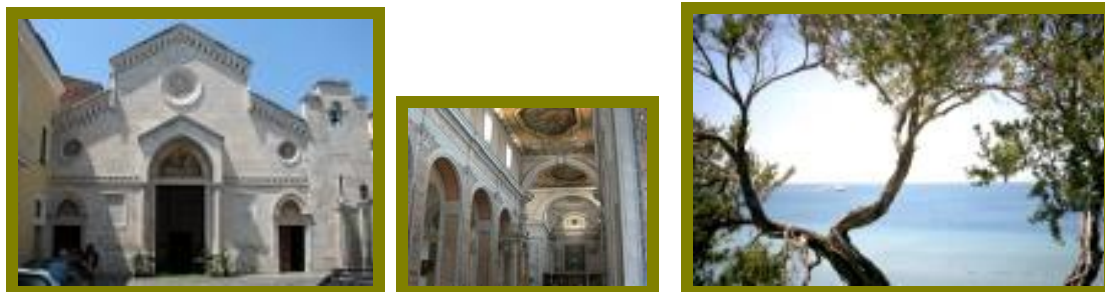
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a spherical dome. The entire built up area is surrounded by green palm and citrus groves, which makes it particularly delightful.



The Town of Sorrento began its career back at the beginning of the 19th century when Naples began to grow too piquant for English tastes. Sorrento's secret is a certain perfect cosiness, comfortable like old shoes or a favourite cardigan. It certainly helps that Sorrento is a lovely, civilized old town. Not many resorts can trace their ancestry back to the Etruscans or claim a native son like the poet Torquato Tasso. (tour duration 10 h)



Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 10: Rome **Rome**

Breakfast in the Hotel

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After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

This morning, 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 day today 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.

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.

Return to your hotel for a few hours to rest and enjoy your hotel.



Late afternoon, you will hop on an Authentic Vintage Vespa and be transported together with your personal driver on to the real life set of your own 'Roman Holiday'. Make sure you watch this classic movie starring Gregory Peck and the beautiful Audrey Hepburn before you leave for your own Roman Holiday because today we're going to visit the piazzas, sights and streets that this Hollywood blockbuster made so famous.. and we're going to do it exactly as Audrey Hepburn did...

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On the back of a Vintage Vespa! Bring Rome to life after dark with your expert driver will take you along the best routes to discover the squares and the fountains of Rome, bringing to life the history and the secrets of this ancient city.

Whizz past the Colosseum, Trinità dei Monti, Piazza del Popolo, Piazza Navona, all beautifully illuminated as the sun goes down. We'll make our way to Trastevere, a lively district, great to soak up some of the Roman nightlife. The Tour is carried out with the maximum attention to your safety and your driver will keep a respectable speed of up to 30 Km/h. (Tour Duration 4 Hours).

Cost includes: 4 hour Vespa rental with expert driver.

Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.



Day 11: Rome Rome

Breakfast in the Hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

This morning, enjoy a visit at the Borghese Gallery. Built by the nephew of Pope Paolo V. Borghese not to be a residence but to host one of the richest collections of the world (Bernini, Caravaggio, Raffaello, Botticelli, Canova, etc.,).

The hedonistic cardinal was also an extravagant patron of the arts and he commissioned sculptures from the young Bernini which now rank among his most famous works.. both the park and the Villa and inside museum, really are well worth visiting.

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The Gallery is located just a few minutes walking from the Via Veneto. The visit of the villa/museum lasts approx. 2 hours followed by a pleasant walk in the beautiful Borghese Gardens. (tour duration: 3 hours)



Afternoon at leisure to enjoy Rome on your own....

Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Day 12: Rome Rome

Breakfast in the Hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the hotel for your morning tour.

This morning it's time to pamper yourself and prepare to end your journey in Italy.

What better way to do that than a spa day. You can choose from ultimate relaxation treatments in your hotel, champagne lunch, followed by mani -pedis.

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon in your hotel enjoying some limoncello or other delights from Italy or enjoying an afternoon at a local café with savouring delightful wines and culinary pleasures, perfect with afternoon aperitifs.

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy Rome on your own....

Dinner at leisure in one of Rome's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

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Tonight, enjoy a festive theatre, symphony, opera or concert performance to celebrate your last evening in Rome. After the show you can return to your hotel or enjoy a leisurely evening walk or take pleasure in cocktails at a local establishment. (Customized to your preferences)

Day 13: Rome Rome – US Home

Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby for your transfer from your hotel in Rome to Fiumicino Airport, where you will meet your international flight for the US and forward to home.

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

- 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

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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, 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

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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

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