



Journey to Italy - 2017

Specially prepared for Carla Wainwright

Day 1 Taranto - Rome

Train from Taranto to Rome.

Upon arrival transfer on own to your hotel. The hotel is in walking distance to the train station.

The rest of the day will be at your own leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel Columbia Termini – Standard rooms with breakfast

Day 2 Rome

Early this morning your group is in for a real treat as you enter the Sistine Chapel one hour before the general public.

Stand on the altar of the Sistine Chapel and admire the little details of Michelangelo's masterpiece – without being pushed or shoved! See the best of the Vatican City in under four hours. With a guided tour of the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican Museums (including the Raphael Rooms) and St. Peter's Basilica, you'll cover all the bases.

Engage with the art and architecture of the Vatican. The guides are passionate art historians and by entering the Vatican this early, you'll get the most from your once-in-a-lifetime visit.

The afternoon is at your own leisure and you can enjoy some of the sites, like the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain on your own. Alternatively we can also arrange a private guide to take you on a walking tour.

Accommodation: Hotel Columbia Termini – Standard rooms with breakfast

Day 3 Rome

The morning will be at your own leisure.

This afternoon you will meet your guide at the Colosseum for a VIP Colosseum underground tour as well as the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill.

Go where few tourists have gone before with this VIP tour, taking you to closed areas of the Colosseum so you can truly experience the magic of Ancient Rome.

Visit the Colosseum underground, walk on the arena floor and admire the views from the third tier. Plus general access areas of the Colosseum, Roman Forum & Palatine Hill.

For most of your tour you'll travel in groups of 12 people or fewer, with access to VIP areas limited to two groups at once – so you'll share this space with 24 people max.

Accommodation: Hotel Columbia Termini – Standard rooms with breakfast



Day 4

Rome - Tuscany

After a leisurely breakfast, you will check out of your hotel and make your way to the Termini Station where you will board your high speed train to Florence at around noon.

Upon arrival, you will be met by your driver and taken by private van to a beautiful country inn – the Le Boscarecce, where Susanna, the owner, will warmly welcome you.

The rest of the day will be at your own leisure to enjoy the peace and quiet. Alternatively we can also arrange for a short afternoon tour or rent bicycles.

Accommodation: Le Boscarecce – Standard rooms with breakfast & dinner

Day 5

Tuscany

This morning you will meet with your guide for a private “Best of Florence” walking tour.

From the Ponte Vecchio to the Duomo, Florence’s most famous sights are famous for good reason – don’t miss a single one! On this Florence walking tour you’ll discover all of the city’s top sights, travelling in small groups of only 15 people or fewer. With skip the line access at Michelangelo’s David and Florence Duomo, we make the most of every second we have together, while our expert guides bring the city to life with stories and details from Florence’s long and dramatic past.

SAVE TIME WAITING IN LINE TO SEE DAVID

Feel like a VIP with skip the line access into the Accademia, Florence, avoiding general access entrance lines that can last for hours.

Once inside, your expert guide will reveal the fascinating history of Michelangelo’s David, whose beauty and size have to be seen to be believed. You’ll also see his unfinished Slaves. Emerging from crude blocks of marble, they give an incredible insight into how Michelangelo worked and how difficult it must have been to achieve that butter-like softness in his sculptures.

VISIT THE INCREDIBLE FLORENCE DUOMO

Another sure highlight will be Florence’s famous cathedral, the Duomo. As you admire the sparkling mosaics and exquisite frescoes, you’ll discover how the architect, Brunelleschi, had to re-learn knowledge lost for more than a millennium to build the cathedral’s world-famous dome. We’ll explore Florence Duomo inside and out, admiring the painted interior of the dome and the stunning marble work on the cathedral floor.

Before leaving the picturesque Piazza del Duomo, you’ll stop at the Baptistery. During a close look at the world-renowned golden Gates of Paradise, your guide will tell you stories of cutthroat competition that created the sparkling masterpiece. Don’t forget to ask any questions you have.

ENJOY A FLORENCE WALKING TOUR OF THE BEST PIAZZAS, OUTDOOR ART & PONTE VECCHIO BRIDGE

But your exploration isn’t over yet. At Piazza della Signoria, you’ll admire Florence’s other world-famous sight, the towering Palazzo Vecchio, visiting the original site for Michelangelo’s ‘David’, where an exact replica stands.



Hear the stories behind the statues at Orsanmichele Church, rub the Porcellino pig's nose for good luck, and feel swept up by history at the Piazza della Repubblica, the ancient Roman forum that later became the city's Jewish ghetto. Top it all off with a stroll on the Ponte Vecchio, the most picturesque bridge in all of Florence – perhaps all of Italy.

The afternoon will be at your own leisure to stroll around Florence or your drive can take you back to the Le Boscarecce for a cooking class with Susanna or some relaxing time by the pool.

Accommodation: Le Boscarecce – Standard rooms with breakfast & dinner

Day 6

Tuscany

Enjoy a wonderful private excursion to visit some of the loveliest Tuscan towns! Your first stop today after a scenic one hour drive through the countryside is San Gimignano. A small medieval town in Tuscany, San Gimignano has a splendid skyline made up of 13 towers.

This 11th century town rises 334 meters above the Elsa Valley along the ancient "Via Francigena" on which traders and pilgrims going to Rome traveled. San Gimignano prospered considerably during this period thanks to this route and all the inns that were built along its way to accommodate these travelers. With prosperity, many patrons in San Gimignano were able to hire the best craftsmen and artists to magnificently decorate the churches and monasteries here. Dante Alighieri came to San Gimignano on May 8, 1300 as the Ambassador of the Guelph League in Tuscany. Today, San Gimignano's important cultural and natural heritage have been recognized by UNESCO.

As in all of Italy, the Black Plague of 1348 greatly reduced the population of San Gimignano and led the city into a grave economic depression and caused the town to submit to Florence's rule in 1353. Later in the centuries though, San Gimignano rediscovered its cultural importance and beauty together with its agriculture and eventually overcame its decline becoming the beautifully restored town it is today. In spite of its rather small size there is plenty to admire in San Gimignano.

Besides its 13 remaining towers (there were once about 40!), you can also see the "Duomo" or Collegiate Church and its magnificent frescoes, the "Palazzo del Popolo", the "Palazzo Nuovo del Podestà" which is now the town hall. Other interesting places to see are church dedicated to Saint Augustine with its famous fresco cycle of this Saint's life painted by Benozzo Gozzoli, the Museum of Holy Relics, and the infamous Museum of Torture and its macabre displays of early torture instruments.

You will love just wandering up and down the main street in San Gimignano and going in and out of the numerous specialty shops. The ceramics are beautiful here but there are also places for buying leather goods and linens. For food and wine lovers there are many shops that sell delicious local products including San Gimignano's "Vernaccia" white wine. You will be able to taste this wine in several of the wine stores in the town.

Next stop on the way from San Gimignano to Siena is Monteriggioni. This is one of the best known and classic walled towns in Tuscany. Also on the Via Francigena, this village was built on a hill by the Senese between 1213 and 1219 to overlook the ancient Roman road, the Via Cassia. This was a perfect position allowing for surveillance of the valleys below in the direction of the city of Florence, which was the historic enemy of Siena. We'll be making a lunch stop here at a typical trattoria where we'll enjoy some mouth-watering Tuscan food before we go on our way Siena.

No trip to Tuscany is complete without a day trip to Siena, the birthplace of the beloved Italian Saint Catherine. This beautiful city made of brown Siena-colored bricks (so that's how they named the color!), its jumble of narrow streets and delightful squares, the medieval towers that make such a spectacular skyline, its spectacular cathedral, the tall and trim Torre del Mangia, all together create an enticing atmosphere almost like stepping back in time.



Siena is built on three hills and is home to one of the most authentic and important Gothic cathedrals south of the Alps. Despite the city's architectural masterpieces, it is the unusual shell-shaped Piazza del Campo that receives the most consideration having been seen in numerous films and photographs. This brick covered square is used twice a year for the famous "Palio" horserace, an event that involves the entire population and is considered one of the most important events in the life of the Senese people.

This reckless bareback race is run on July 2nd and August 16th, has Roman origins but has first been officially recorded in 1283. A kind of happy frenzy rules over Siena during the time leading up to the Palio and visitors can get the chance to observe the locals during the many ceremonies that are involved in the "Palio" race. Almost anything will be done to win this extremely competitive race and bring home the "Palio" a silk banner that will proudly displayed in the "contrada" or neighborhood it represents.

Accommodation: Le Boscarecce – Standard rooms with breakfast & dinner

Day 7 Tuscany

Half day at the Terme di Rapolano, including transportation & entrance fee.

The rest of the day will be at your own leisure to enjoy this last day in Tuscany.

Accommodation: Le Boscarecce – Standard rooms with breakfast & dinner

Day 8 Tuscany - Home

Early this morning your group will be taken by your private driver to the Florence Peretola Airport for your flights back home.

Pricing Information

Price for shared accommodation: \$2,995 USD before Jan 15, 2017 and \$3,295 after

Price for single accommodation: \$3,685 USD before Jan 15, 2017 and \$3,985 after

Tour price includes:

- All hotels as listed in the itinerary
- All *private* transfers per itinerary
- All tours per itinerary
- Train tickets:
Taranto – Rome 2nd class
Rome – Florence 2nd class
- Entrance fees for tours in Rome and Florence
- Tips (\$ 300.00)
- 4 dinners at the Le Boscarecce
- Extensive travel document package with destination information and options for additional sightseeing.

Land price does not include:

- Additional tips to drivers and guides
- Items of a personal nature
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Any additional tours



TERMS & CONDITIONS

PAYMENTS:

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required two weeks after confirmation of land arrangements. This deposit is applied towards the total trip cost.

Final payment is due 60 days prior to trip departure. Payment due dates are subject to change. Prices quoted are subject to change until paid in full.

Airline tickets have to be paid in full at the time of the reservation.

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY:

All payments for land arrangements (hotels, transfers, sightseeing, etc.) are non-refundable once received. Refunds will not be made for unused land services. Airline tickets are subject to change and/or cancellation fees once tickets have been issued. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND AND ENCOURAGE ALL TRAVELERS TO APPLY FOR TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE. TRIP INSURANCE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST AND WE WILL GLADLY ASSIST TRAVELERS IN APPLYING FOR TRIP INSURANCE. Default insurance does not apply to airlines operating under bankruptcy protection. The acceptance of the initial travel services to be provided, shall be considered an acceptance by the traveler(s) and/or purchaser(s) of all conditions detailed here.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Journeys of the Spirit Luxury Travel acts only as an agent in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and will not be liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render said services. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.

Journeys of the Spirit Luxury Travel and employees shall not be liable for any personal injury, property loss or other damage arising out of, or incident to, the tour or otherwise. Airlines are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their aircraft. Passenger tickets, in use by the airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between airline and purchaser and/or passenger.

Furthermore, Journeys of the Spirit Luxury Travel and employees are not responsible for inclement weather, political acts, or any "acts of God" or the shortening of a trip due to these occurrences. Nor are they responsible for airline or ground operator defaults or repayment of monies lost due to default. Nor are they responsible for lost luggage. Flight schedules and accommodations are subject to change at any time, though such changes are not anticipated. No refunds will be made for changes beyond the control of Journeys of the Spirit Luxury Travel

AMENDMENT FEES: There is a \$100 amendment fee each time an itinerary is revised after invoicing. Amendments made after documents have been issued will incur a \$150 fee to cover courier costs, communication costs and additional time to co-ordinate the changes.

Unused travel arrangements or travel arrangements cancelled, amended or altered once travel has commenced do not qualify for any refund.

FOLLOW-UP CHECK LIST:

Names - The correct spelling of your names must be provided as they appear on your passports. Name changes resulting in the reissuing of tickets will incur a \$150 per person charge, as well as any fees charged by the airlines.

Passports and Visitors Visas - All passengers are required to travel with a passport valid for six months after their return. Visitors to Australia are required to have an entry visa. For a minimal fee of \$25, we can issue an Australian visa for U.S. and Canadian citizens and require a copy of your passport to process.

International Flight and Ticket Numbers - Please note if we are not issuing the international tickets, correct flight information and ticket numbers are required in order for us to arrange applicable transfers and domestic air tickets.

Special Meal requests - Please advise of any special meal requests or dietary requirements.

Seating Preference - Please note that seat requests can never be guaranteed, however we will contact the airlines with your preferences. Some airlines charge a fee to book advanced seat assignments.

Bedding request - Please advise if you prefer double, twin, triple or a single bedded rooms.

Thank you for allowing us to create this journey for you!

Journeys of the Spirit

Custom Travel Services
6245 Vista Verde Drive West
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