

8 DAYS
ITALIAN INTERMEZZO (2012/13)



Tour Summary

Locations Visited

Italy

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- * A Welcome Reception with a light meal (WR)
- * Stop in the peaceful landscapes of Tuscany for a highlight lunch consisting of two-courses and a glass of wine. (HL)
- * Enjoy an authentic two-course Florentine lunch with a glass of wine (HL)
- * Dine-Around evening at your own choice of restaurant from our selection in Florence (DA)
- * Enjoy an end-of-tour Celebration Dinner with wine at a lively local restaurant in Rome (CD)
- * 7 Buffet Breakfasts (BB)

INCLUDED FIRST CLASS SERVICES

- * Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- * Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- * Enjoy the unique comfort of Insight's Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- * Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
- * Insight Traveller Welcome pack
- * Airport arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 1 and Day 8 (Should your flights not coincide with these transfers, please make your own way to/from the airport)

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- * Rome: Enjoy a private guided tour of the Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. Ancient Rome comes alive as you visit the Colosseum and overlook the Forum.

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- * Venice: Cruise to St Mark's Square by private launch. See St Mark's Basilica, bell tower, the ornate Doges' Palace and the adjoining Bridge of Sighs. Drift through the canals on a traditional gondola serenade. Venetian glass-blowing demonstration.
- * Florence: During your guided walking tour, visit the Academy Gallery to admire Michelangelo's original "Statue of David". See the Cathedral, belltower, 'Gates of Paradise' on the Baptistery and visit Signoria Square, political heart of the city. Visit Santa Croce Church housing the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo. Witness a traditional Florence leather-work demonstration

My Itinerary

Day1: ROME AT LEISURE

Welcome to Italy! On arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport, your airport transfers leave for the tour hotel at 09:30, 12:30 & 15:30. Then this historic city is yours to discover - stroll down the Via Veneto for a taste of 'la dolce vita'. Tonight, join your Tour Director for a Welcome reception with drink and a light meal, followed by time to relax. (Welcome Reception)

Day2: ROME SIGHTSEEING

A local guide introduces the grandeur of the city! Start off in the independent Vatican State, the richest community in the world. Visit St Peter's Basilica housing one of Michelangelo's early works, the Pieta, and see the splendid dome completed after his death. Now relive the glory of ancient Rome as you cross the River Tiber to visit the mighty Colosseum. Finally, look out over the site of the Roman Forum, once the bustling centre of commerce, law and religion. The afternoon is entirely at leisure - enjoy Rome at your own pace or check with your Tour Director about additional sightseeing options. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day3: ROME – VENICE

Depart the 'Eternal City' and follow the course of the River Tiber north. Tuscan gastronomy is celebrated world wide, so a glass of wine and a two-course lunch has been arranged in this rustic and beautiful region. Descend to the fertile Po Valley and continue to the glorious city of Venice with its quaint bridges, ornate palaces and romantic gondolas. Your hotel is a former Venetian convent with well-kept cloister grounds. (Buffet Breakfast / Highlight Lunch)

Day4: VENICE SIGHTSEEING

Appreciate the splendour of Venice as you cruise by Palladio's San Giorgio Maggiore to St Mark's Square. Your Tour Director will explain the glorious history of 'La Serenissima', once one of the greatest trading centres of the world – its wealth and power is echoed by the riches of St Mark's Basilica. See the Doges' Palace and its adjoining Bridge of Sighs, then visit one of the glass showrooms for a demonstration of traditional craftsmanship, unchanged for centuries. Relax and enjoy the atmosphere and music and songs as you cruise along the Venetian canals by gondola. There is time to explore or browse through the shops on the Rialto Bridge in the afternoon. Don't miss the chance to try the delicious seafood, freshly caught in the lagoon. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day5: VENICE - FLORENCE

Bid farewell to the unique islands of Venice this morning and re-join your coach. Cross the fertile plains then follow the river Reno high into the Apennines to the Renaissance city of Florence. This is where Italian cooking was born, at the court of the Medici, so reservations have been made for an authentic Florentine lunch; two courses and a glass of wine, the perfect introduction to the city. A pleasant walk is always beneficial after a good meal, so meet with your local guide for a walking tour of the historic centre. Visit the Academy Museum to see Michelangelo's original 'Statue of David'. Admire the marble clad Cathedral and Baptistery, where Ghiberti's 'Gates of Paradise' have been recreated in all their glory. Next stop is Signoria Square filled with Renaissance masterpieces. Finally, visit the church of Santa Croce to see the tombs of Galileo and Michelangelo and learn the secrets of traditional Florentine leather-work. Tonight, there is a wonderful selection of local restaurants to choose from on your Florentine Dine-around evening. (Buffet Breakfast / Highlight Lunch / Dine Around)

Day6: FLORENCE AT LEISURE

Maybe treat yourself to a late breakfast this morning because you have the whole day at leisure; don't miss the magnificent museums and galleries or the chance to browse in the fashionable boutiques. Perhaps consider an optional excursion into the undulating hills of Tuscany and medieval San Gimignano before sampling some fine Florentine cuisine and Chianti wine? (Buffet Breakfast)

Day7: FLORENCE - ROME

As you drive through the peaceful landscapes of Tuscany, there is an informative tutorial about the Chianti wines that make this region so famous: continue along the smooth autostrada back to Rome. Your Intermezzo reaches its crescendo at the Vatican Museums. Wonder at the collection of ancient and Renaissance art gathered by Popes over the ages, then enter the Sistine Chapel, where the Popes are elected. This is where your audio headset comes into its own, providing clear, expert commentary from your local guide. Gaze up now and truly appreciate the significance of Michelangelo's famous painted ceiling.

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To round off your tour, a Celebration Dinner at a Roman restaurant is included this evening, complete with vino and good cheer.(Buffet Breakfast / Celebration Dinner)

Day8: DEPART ROME

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 & 09:30. (Buffet Breakfast)

Available Departures

Departs	Returns	Twin Land Only	Single Land Only
07 Apr 2012	14 Apr 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
14 Apr 2012	21 Apr 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
21 Apr 2012	28 Apr 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
28 Apr 2012	05 May 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
05 May 2012	12 May 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
12 May 2012	19 May 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
19 May 2012	26 May 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
26 May 2012	02 Jun 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
02 Jun 2012	09 Jun 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
09 Jun 2012	16 Jun 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
16 Jun 2012	23 Jun 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
23 Jun 2012	30 Jun 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
30 Jun 2012	07 Jul 2012	\$2550.00	\$3150.00
07 Jul 2012	14 Jul 2012	\$2550.00	\$3150.00
14 Jul 2012	21 Jul 2012	\$2550.00	\$3150.00
21 Jul 2012	28 Jul 2012	\$2450.00	\$2975.00
28 Jul 2012	04 Aug 2012	\$2450.00	\$2975.00
04 Aug 2012	11 Aug 2012	\$2450.00	\$2975.00
11 Aug 2012	18 Aug 2012	\$2450.00	\$2975.00
18 Aug 2012	25 Aug 2012	\$2450.00	\$2975.00
25 Aug 2012	01 Sep 2012	\$2485.00	\$3025.00
01 Sep 2012	08 Sep 2012	\$2650.00	\$3295.00
08 Sep 2012	15 Sep 2012	\$2650.00	\$3295.00
15 Sep 2012	22 Sep 2012	\$2650.00	\$3295.00
22 Sep 2012	29 Sep 2012	\$2650.00	\$3295.00
29 Sep 2012	06 Oct 2012	\$2650.00	\$3295.00
06 Oct 2012	13 Oct 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
13 Oct 2012	20 Oct 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
20 Oct 2012	27 Oct 2012	\$2625.00	\$3270.00
27 Oct 2012	03 Nov 2012	\$2599.00	\$3244.00