# Your best trip starts here.

**Grand Italian Experience** 



# Your itinerary



# Day 1 | Welcome to Rome



Blaze a trail through la bella Italia – your epic journey begins in Rome, once the powerful capital of the world and yours to explore before meeting your travel companions and Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and orientation drive introducing you to some of the city's iconic and unexpected highlights.

Meals: Welcome Reception Hotel: Crowne Plaza St. Peter's

## Day 2 | Explore Ancient Rome and the Vatican City



Follow in the footsteps of the pilgrims who for centuries have flocked to the Vatican City. Visit St. Peter's Basilica, one of the holiest sites in Christendom, joining a Local Specialist for an included sightseeing tour. See Michelangelo's magnificent Pietà, hewn from the most 'perfect' block of Carrara marble. Then, venture into Ancient Rome to see Circus Maximus, where the thundering noise of chariot races once filled the air, followed by a visit to the Colosseum. The afternoon is yours to explore at leisure. Sit on the Spanish Steps, shop up a storm on Via Veneto or continue your encounter with Ancient Rome on Palatine Hill to see the Temple of Apollo and Flavian Palace, among other excavations.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Crowne Plaza St. Peter's

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most charming areas in the city with a Local Specialist. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares of Rome's historic centre, leading to highlights such as the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, as well as hidden corners of the Eternal City. Adult: 37.00 EUR

Roman Evening with Dinner - Tonight, spend a lively evening with us in Rome. After a short drive, we'll arrive at a characteristic trattoria to relax and enjoy a typical Italian meal, soaking up The Eternal City's unique atmosphere all the while.

Adult: 62.00 EUR

# Day 3 | Journey to the Alberobello Region



We travel east through the Campania Mountains and the orange and olive groves of Puglia near the Adriatic coast, our home for the next two nights. This evening, we enjoy a delicious local dinner at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Sierra Silvana

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Tivoli And Gardens Of The Villa D'Este - Visit the ancient Sabine town of Tivoli with our Local Specialist to enjoy the gardens and fountains of the Villa D'Este. We'll see its grottos and pavilions, the Avenue of a Hundred Fountains, and the Dragon Fountain of the Organ.

Adult: **46.00 EUR** 

## Day 4 | Admire Alberobello's Iconic Architecture



Enjoy a leisurely morning on your own. Consider an Optional Experience or indulge in delectable local flavours at a traditional trattoria. This afternoon, the conical limestone houses of Alberobello take centre stage during our guided tour with a Local Specialist. Here, we'll see the UNESCO-listed collection of almost 1,500 trulli dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This evening, we Connect With Locals with a Be My Guest experience at a traditional masseria. Meet Signor Luciano for dinner on his Alberobello farm where you can taste seasonal produce, including fresh almonds, cherries, tomatoes and olive oil.

Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest

Hotel: Sierra Silvana

#### **Optional Experiences:**

A Guided Visit to Ostuni - With its stark, white-washed buildings, narrow cobbled streets and arched stairways, Ostuni is reminiscent of a North African Arab Medina. Set against three hills, 'The White Town' is a photographer's delight - and we'll get to explore it all with our Local Specialist on this exceptional trip. Adult: **35.00 EUR** 

<sup>\*</sup>On occasion, the price of this optional may increase due to group size.

# Day 5 | Onwards to Sunny Sorrento



The fresh aroma of lemons is your constant companion in the stunning coastal town of Sorrento, your home for the next two nights. View the bustling Piazza Tasso and Corso Italia before spending the rest of the day on your own. Kick back and sip delicious Limoncello di Sorrento, enjoy lunch in this picture-perfect town or spend the afternoon soaking up la dolce vita. Tonight we dine at our hotel in Sorrento.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Grand Parco del Sole

## **Optional Experiences:**

Amalfi Coast and Positano - Come with us for a drive along the famous Amalfi Coast. You'll have a chance to visit the exclusive artists' paradise of Positano, which is magnificently positioned on the Mediterranean coast. Adult: **59.00 EUR** 

## Day 6 | A Day on the Isle of Capri



Cruise the deep blue waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea to the beautiful Isle of Capri. Enjoy a guided tour of Capri town, watching the beautiful people sip their cappuccino in the glamorous piazzetta.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Parco del Sole

#### **Optional Experiences:**

**Discover The Isle Of Capri** - Experience the spectacular cliffs and famous turquoise waters of Capri during a relaxing cruise to the most beautiful part of the island, the southern side. View the beautiful grottoes and unique coastline before ascending to Capri town. This optional experience is weather dependent and may be replaced by a minibus tour of the Island with a visit to Anacapri and the Villa San Michele.

Adult: **47.00 EUR** 

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Sorrento Countryside and Farmhouse Meal - Join us at a traditional farm in the Sorrento countryside, where you'll visit the lemon groves, olive oil mill and see first-hand how mozzarella is made. Afterwards, enjoy the authentic flavours of home-produced cold cuts, marinated vegetables, fresh olives and more - all washed down with the local wine. The atmosphere is informal, as the family are welcoming you into their home. Adult: **53.00 EUR** 

#### Dinner Neapolitan Style with Music -

Join us for an evening of Neapolitan specialties at one of our favourite family-run restaurants. Savour local dishes all served up with the famous Neapolitan hospitality, music and zest for life.

Adult: 65.00 EUR

# Day 7 | Uncover Pompeii's Ruins and on to Assisi



Explore the tragic history of the ancient lost city of Pompeii with a Local Specialist. Gain a deeper understanding of what life was like in this Roman settlement that lay buried for centuries after Mount Vesuvius erupted. Continue your journey through the rolling green and golden fields of Umbria, arriving at the mystical hilltop town of Assisi. Meet your Local Specialist for a visit of the stunning Basilica of St. Francis, featuring exquisite frescoes by Giotto. We'll stay at one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories - a fully renovated old Franciscan monastery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Cenacolo

#### Day 8 | Onwards to Verona and Venice



Celebrate the epic tale of Romeo and Juliet during this morning's visit to the fair city of Verona where you will view Juliet's Balcony and the Roman arena built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. We venture to the Adriatic coast this afternoon bound for Venice. Our home for the next two nights is one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories – Hyatt Centric hotel, preserving the tradition of Murano glass

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hyatt Centric Murano

#### **Optional Experiences:**

**Gondolas & the Grand Canal** - Join us for a breathtaking cruise by private water taxi along Venice's Grand Canal. You'll admire the magnificent palazzi, catching a glimpse of the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square. Later on, you'll glide gracefully on a gondola along Venice's dreamy, narrow waterways. Adult: **79.00 EUR** 

# Day 9 | Cruise the Canals of Venice



This morning start the day by observing the delicate craft of Venetian glassblowing that spans centuries. Your MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience helps to preserve the traditions that have been handed down through the generations and you'll be inspired to buy a souvenir to remind you of the talent and skill shared enthusiastically by the master craftsmen. Next you'll glide by private launch along busy waterways to view the Bridge of Sighs, Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica before spending exploring the city on your terms. Stroll along the Grand Canal, nibble on delicious cicchetti at a cosy bacaro or cross the lagoon for an Optional Experience on the colourful fishermen Island of Burano.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hyatt Centric Murano

# **Optional Experiences:**

Venice's Secrets and St. Mark's Basilica - Explore the hidden maze of streets which make up this unique city as your Local Specialist gives you a fascinating insight into Venice's past and present. You'll visit the majestic Basilica of St Mark, where you'll admire magnificent mosaics in one of the most ornate churches in the world. Adult: 38.00 EUR

**Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks** - This afternoon, discover the Venetian Lagoon by private boat. You'll enjoy a delicious meal, with a selection of drinks, on the fisherman's island of Burano, famous for its multicoloured houses - a photographer's paradise. Adult: **72.00 EUR** 

#### Day 10 | Journey to Northern Trento



This morning, we traverse pastoral Veneto plains to the sophisticated town of Trento surrounded by the Dolomites. Once located within the Austrian Empire, the town exudes both classical Italian elegance and cultural influences from the north, which you can enjoy at one of its many beer halls or cafés. Consider sampling the delicious local apple strudel, then wander around the Piazza Duomo before checking in to your hotel for the night.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Grand

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Sudtirol and the Dolomite Mountains - Come with us as we follow the Adige Valley to Bolzano, capital of the southern part of the Tyrol, with our Local Specialist. You'll have time to shop in the arcaded streets, before taking a cable car to the top of the Renon. Boarding a century-old Alpine train, we'll enjoy incredible panoramas from this famous mountain plateau.

Adult: 62.00 EUR

# Day 11 | Explore Milan and on to the Italian Lakes



Continue west through Italy's stunning Lakes District to the sophisticated powerhouse of Milan. You'll have some free time to explore on your own after an orientation of the city's iconic sights. See the exquisite Gothic Duomo, La Scala Opera House and the Galleria, one of the world's oldest shopping malls. We spend this afternoon on the quiet shores of Lake Maggiore, soaking up the pleasant lakeside atmosphere and exploring Baveno.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Simplon

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Treasures Of Milan - A fantastic opportunity to take in some of the highlights of elegant Milan. Amongst other sights, we'll visit La Scala, the world's most famous opera house, where Giuseppe Verdi, Maria Callas and others have left their mark. Our wonderful Local Specialist will bring the city's eventful past to life. Adult: 45.00 EUR

#### Day 12 | Onwards to La Spezia



Enjoy a relaxed morning in the lakeside resort town of Stresa. Later, travel to the port city of La Spezia on the Ligurian Coast.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: The Poet

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Discover The Borromean Islands - We've organised a private launch to take you to the beautiful islands of Lake Maggiore. Here, you will meet with your Local Specialist to do a tour of the beautiful palace. You will explore the baroque gardens with its white peacocks and from where you can see the Isola Madre and the Isola dei Pescatori. Adult: **49.00 EUR** 

\*This optional is only able to be operated between mid-March and the end of October.

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Wine Tasting and Sarzana Visit - Near the ancient Via Aurelia, we'll visit a winery to learn about "vermentino" grapes, the pride of Liguria. We'll taste several wines paired with local morsels and tour the 18th-century country farm house. Then, we'll continue exploring the area, as we drive up to Sarzana, a small village found by the Romans with rich history and heritage.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

Sarzana Dinner and Drive - Tonight we'll go off the beaten track to the alluring medieval town of Sarzana, a hidden gem. We've chosen an elegant venue, where you'll enjoy dinner with drinks. Its distinctive ambiance is brimming with charm and unique character which make it a firm favourite with the locals. Adult: 68.00 EUR

## Day 13 | La Spezia Your Way



Indulge in a full free day to soak up the laid-back atmosphere. Stroll along the waterfront or consider joining an Optional Experience to Porto Venere and the Bay of Poets where you'll embark on an encounter with the cliffside villages of Cinque Terre. This evening, we dine at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: The Poet

#### **Optional Experiences:**

The Cinque Terre and Porto Venere - Today, with our Local Specialist, we'll visit the Bay of Poets and the beautiful Porto Venere, where we can admire the UNESCO-protected Cinque Terre. Still to this day, the villages retain their charm and reputation for producing some of Italy's most exclusive wines. In inclement weather, Porto Venere cannot be visited.

Adult: 63.00 EUR

### Day 14 | Uncover Pisa and on to Florence



Travelling south through the unforgettable scenery of Tuscany, we arrive in Pisa to view its famous Leaning Tower before continuing to the Renaissance city of Florence. This afternoon is yours at leisure to wander through the grand squares and labyrinthine lanes of Florence, whose connection with the Medici family saw this city become one of the world's most cultural centres. Consider a visit to the Academy of Fine Arts to see the Michelangelo's statue of David, amble along the Arno River or ascend the stone steps up to Piazzale Michelangelo for spectacular views of the city.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

# **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

#### Dinner, Wine and Music in the Tuscan Hills -

This evening we'll take a scenic drive to experience a fun and relaxed evening at a friendly, typical restaurant in the countryside. The chef will delight our senses with regional dishes, made with freshly-bought ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Your delicious meal will be accompanied by excellent wines from the vineyards for which this area is so well known. In short, a Tuscan dream come true in an authentic setting.

Adult: **65.00 EUR** 

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, we'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, The

Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, we'll enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines. Adult: **68.00 EUR** 

#### **Day 15 | Discover Renaissance Florence**



Join a Local Specialist this morning to view the city's finest masterpieces - the magnificent Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower and the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Santa Croce Basilica, the final resting place of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli, Later, learn about the quality and workmanship of two of this city's historic industries at demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and 18-carat gold. Then, spend the rest of the afternoon on your own. Walk across the Ponte Vecchio that has straddled over the Arno River for almost 700 years, or wander through the Renaissance Boboli Gardens, stopping for a slice or two of schiacciata along the way.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

## **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following three optional experiences depending on availability:

Michelangelo's 'David' & Accademia - Enjoy an insight into the world of Michelangelo and his masterpiece, David. We'll visit the Academy of Fine Arts and its Michelangelo collection, where you'll learn all about the life and works of this immortal Renaissance genius through the expert commentary of our Local Specialist. Adult: **49.00 EUR** 

\*This optional is subject to availability and involves reservations and entrance prepayments. If you decide to cancel this optional, a 50% cancellation fee will be incurred.

Bargello Museum Visit - Join us today for a visit to the Bargello museum, housed in one of the oldest and most intriguing buildings of Florence. As you'll learn from your Local Specialist, there was rarely a dull moment in this former barracks and prison! Learn how the Bargello has witnessed crucial episodes of history including fires, sieges and political executions. This fascinating building is now home to the National Museum and boasts awe-inspiring works by Donatello, Brunelleschi and Michelangelo to name but a few. Adult: **42.00 EUR** 

**Discover Palazzo Vecchio** - Marvel at the legacy of the Medici as you visit Palazzo Vecchio, the symbol of Florence's political power for over seven centuries. With our Local Specialist we'll visit the wonderful "Hall of the Five Hundred", dedicated to the Medici popes. We'll also visit rooms decorated with masterpieces by famous artists of the Renaissance like Michelangelo and Donatello.

Adult: **42.00 EUR** 

**Visit To San Gimignano** - Join us for a panoramic drive to the nearby hilltop town of San Gimignano. Magnificently preserved from the Middle Ages, this little town, known as the 'Medieval Manhattan', is one of the most beautiful in Italy - a true gem. You'll also be treated to a delicious local gelato.

Adult: **36.00 EUR** 

#### Day 16 | All Roads Lead to Rome



Journey through the sprawling vineyards of Chianti, past the hill-towns of Umbria before arriving in Rome. This evening we Dive Into Culture at an exclusive farewell dining experience in the Museo Gregoriano Profano, with its centuries of Roman and ancient Greek sculptures and antiquities, or the magnificent surrounds of the Salone di Raffaello in the Pinacoteca. Gain access to the Museum before dinner, then continue your evening with a tour of the Vatican Museums with a Local Specialist, before the weekly evening opening, including views of Michelangelo's magnificent frescoed ceiling in the Sistine Chapel.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Hotel: Shangri-La

# **Day 17 | Journey Home**



Our epic encounter with Italy has come to an end. We say arrivederci to Rome and our newfound friends at the end of our Grand Italian Experience. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

Meals: Breakfast