

## TRIP START DATES

2023	2024
APR   04, 11, 18, 25	APR   02, 09, 16, 23, 30
MAY   02, 09, 16, 23, 30	MAY   07, 14, 21, 28
JUN   06, 13, 20, 27	JUN   04, 11, 18, 25
JUL   04, 11, 18, 25	JUL   02, 09, 16, 23, 30
AUG   01, 08, 15, 22, 29	AUG   06, 13, 20, 27
SEP   05, 12, 19, 26	SEP   03, 10, 17, 24
OCT   03, 10	OCT   01, 08

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit [insightvacations.com/italyescapade](https://insightvacations.com/italyescapade)

## REGIONAL JOURNEY

ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

13 DAYS

2 COUNTRIES

19 MEALS

18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

**feefo** 4.7 /5

GUEST REVIEW ★★★★★

## MAKE TRAVEL MATTER

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

## INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

**Vatican City:** Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

## INSIGHT CHOICE

**Florence:** Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

## AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Bistecca alla Fiorentina Dinner with wine in Florence • Dine-Around options in Lake Maggiore • Celebration Dinner in Rome.

Taste wine near Lake Iseo.

## TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

Travel by gondola, serenaded through the canals of Venice • Hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride in an open-top taxi on Capri.

Visit the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

City tours of Rome, Florence, Assisi, Isle of Capri and Pompeii, all with Local Experts.

# ITALIAN ESCAPADE

"Guests enjoy meeting our Local Expert in Florence, who shows you the secret carvings on the statue of David by Michelangelo."

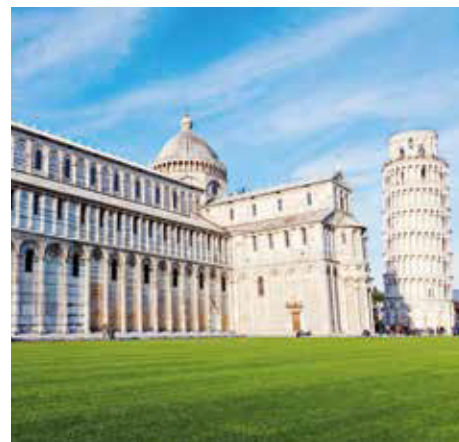
– Lorena, Travel Director



LAKE  
MAGGIORE,  
ITALY



@VINDINDEZEL, VENICE



THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA



### DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

### DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

A Local Expert leads you through the priceless art collection of the Vatican Museums, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Your priority visit includes fast-tracked entry to the museums and a behind-the-scenes look at the Bramante Staircase. Later, continue to St. Peter's Basilica and cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum. (B)

### DAY 3 SIENA AND MEDIEVAL FLORENCE

In medieval Siena, stroll through the winding stone-paved streets to the vast Piazza del Campo. See the Fountain of Joy and walk up to the hilltop cathedral, striped with marble. Continue through the cypress-clad hills and vineyards of Tuscany to Florence.

Enjoy a traditional Bistecca alla Fiorentina steak dinner paired with delicious local wine, a specialty not to be missed. (B) (DW)

Michelangelo Florence.

### DAY 4 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum with an art historian guide and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer.

Walk on to the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistry to see Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria, an open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Famous for the quality of its luxury goods like gold and leather, Piazza Santa Croce is also the perfect spot to see the basilica. Later, use your free time to shop or continue exploring at your leisure. (B)

### DAY 5 PISA AND THE ITALIAN LAKES

Stop in Pisa, to see the incredible Leaning Tower. See the splendid cathedral and baptistry, decorated with mosaics and designs of solid marble. (B)

Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

### DAY 6 THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

Relaxed Start. Today is set aside for you to relax and enjoy all the fantastic sights of this beautiful lakeland area.

For your Dine-Around Evening, choose from a selection of hand-picked restaurants for your dining pleasure. (B) (DW)

### DAY 7 TO VENICE WITH WINE ALONG THE WAY

Relaxed Start. Follow the southern fringes of the European Alps to the vineyards by the shores of Lake Iseo. Here, winemaking traditions run deep.

Taste the delicious vintages produced with a master vintner at a family-owned estate.

Continue to the unique city of Venice and step back in time to the 16th century. (B) (DW)

Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal, Venice.

### DAY 8 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

A private boat ferries you to St. Mark's Square. See the basilica, Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER \* Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. Enjoy being serenaded with traditional songs on a gondola ride, gliding through the city canals in romantic awe. (B)

### DAY 9 HILLTOP ASSISI

Journey to the stone-built, hilltop town of Assisi, home of St. Francis. See the Church of St. Mary of the Angels, before continuing up Mount Subasio with a Local Expert to visit the Basilica of St. Francis. (B) (DW)

Hotel Giotto Assisi.

### DAY 10 SORRENTO ON THE COAST

Journey along the clifftop road to the picturesque resort of Sorrento, perched upon the southern cliffs of the Bay of Naples and looking out to Mount Vesuvius.

With the evening at leisure, why not try some of the local specialties during a regional dining experience? (B)

Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

### DAY 11 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

Cruise to Capri and on arrival step into one of the island's iconic open-top taxis for a drive up the steep, winding roads while a symphony of cicadas sing away in the pines.

Your Local Expert leads you through the narrow alleyways of Capri town, before you descend to the port by funicular and return to Sorrento for some relaxation time. Perhaps join an optional visit to Positano and the Amalfi Coast? (B) (DW)

### DAY 12 ON TO ILL-FATED POMPEII AND ROME

At the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, your Local Expert walks you through cobbled streets. Witness the colourful frescoes that were hidden for centuries.

Travel past the striking hilltop monastery of Monte Cassino on your return to Rome.

In the heart of The Eternal City, you are treated to a quintessential Italian experience. Fine food, wine, music and a private performance of enchanting operetta for your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

Bettoja Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio, Rome.

### DAY 13 ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

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

### KEY

- Join/Leave Options
- UNESCO Heritage Site
- Central Hotels + Nights
- Scenic Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited
- Optional Place Visited
- Cruise

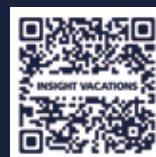


### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE Cruise Lake Maggiore to explore the Barromean Islands. (Photo by @Konyoqueen, Day 5, Lake Maggiore)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.