

TOUR CODE

IT+

premier collection

LA DOLCE VITA

A 'Premier Collection' Tour

13 days

Updated 1/4/2008

Day 1 *Arrive in Milan*

Today we arrive in Milan and transfer to our hotel.

Milan is believed to be founded by Celtic tribes who settled along the Po River in the 7th century BC. In 222 BC, Rome marched into the territory, defeated the Gallic and occupied the town as it had a key position on the trade route between Rome and northwestern Europe, ensuring its prosperity.

Overnight in Milan. Carlton Hotel Baglioni. Dinner if required.

Day 2 *Milan, Italy - Lugano, Switzerland*

Today we journey by road from northern Italy to Switzerland and the stylish city of Lugano; our hotel is located on the shores of Lake Lugano.

Lugano a perfect blend of a world city and a small town, a place where business and pleasure, efficiency and work go hand in hand. The city is considered as a cultural centre on account of the exhibitions organised here in the museums and the surrounding suburbs. The city presents a perfect blend of the Italian ambience and Swiss efficiency. The captivating features of the city include the sunny climate, towering mountains, shimmering lakes, tall buildings in the Lombardic style and the historic city centre.

Overnight in Lugano. Principe Leopoldo Hotel. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 3 *Lake Como & Bellagio*

Today we visit the 18th-century Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo to see the beautiful gardens, also known as the Bella Signora del Lago, or Beautiful Lady of the Lake. This wonderful museum contains priceless works of art as well as some of the finest gardens in northern Italy. The gardens are quite simply an explosion of colour and perfumes. An absolute must see while in Lake Como. Stendhal said that "whoever arrives in Milan cannot and must not miss the wonderful Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo".

We also boat across the lake to Bellagio, one of Italy's most beautiful lakeside towns.

We return to Lugano where the evening is free.

Overnight in Lugano. Principe Leopoldo Hotel. Breakfast and lunch.

USA/ Canada
1-800-665-3998

United Kingdom
(0114) 247 3400

Day 4 ***Lugano, Switzerland - Venice, Italy***

Today we travel by road to the canal city of Venice and join our local guide for a walking tour of the city's highlights.

We discover the treasures of Piazza San Marco (St. Mark's Square), visiting dramatic St. Mark's Basilica featuring exquisite mosaics and carvings, and tour the Doges' Palace, official residence of the rulers of Venice in the Middle Ages. Be serenaded on a memorable gondola ride and dine tonight in a popular Venetian restaurant.

Overnight in Venice. Hotel Gritti Palace. All meals.

Day 5 ***Venice: At Leisure***

Spend the entire day exploring Venice at your leisure. Your Tour Leader can offer many recommendations. Possibilities include Galleria dell'Accademia, Murano Island, and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Overnight in Venice. Hotel Gritti Palace. Breakfast only.

Day 6 ***Venice - Florence: Accademia***

Today we travel by Eurostar train (1st class) for Florence, renowned as the birthplace of the Renaissance.

Florence is a city steeped in history and art. Our walking tour begins with a guided tour of the Accademia, which was Europe's first Academy of drawing and today houses a superb art collection, including Michelangelo's David, probably the most famous statue in the world. We then proceed to the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (Duomo), complete with its magnificent red dome. Upon its completion in 1436, the dome was hailed as the greatest architectural achievement of its day, equalling, perhaps even surpassing the monuments of antiquity. The cupola's diameter is greater than that of St Peter's in Rome and the nave is the third largest in Christendom. Even today its brilliant engineering is not fully understood.

We continue along the pedestrian mall to the Ponte Vecchio, the oldest bridge in Florence and the only one in the city to survive World War II. The Ponte Vecchio was built in 1345 and used to be lined with butchers' shops which have now been replaced by rows of gold and silver shops on both sides. At the Piazza Santa Croce, we stop to admire the facade of the Franciscan church of the same name. Inside we see the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo Galilei and chapels covered in frescoes by Giotto.

Overnight in Florence. Hotel Savoy. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 7 ***Florence: Uffizi Gallery***

Reservations have been made at the Uffizi Gallery, Giorgio Vasari's extraordinary administrative buildings which he designed for Cosimo I Medici in the mid-sixteenth century. Reservations allow us to go inside this world-famous museum without waiting in long ticket lines. The galleries here contain the greatest collection of Italian artworks, including hundreds of paintings by such great artists as Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian and Caravaggio. The galleries also contain one of the most famous paintings in the world--Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus.'

The afternoon is free to take in the atmosphere of this Tuscan town.

Overnight in Florence. Hotel Savoy. Breakfast only.

Day 8 ***Florence - Siena & San Gimignano***

Today we enjoy a scenic drive to Siena with a stop along the way for wine tasting and lunch in the Chianti area. After lunch we continue through the hill towns of Tuscany, stopping at the enchanting 14th-century hill town of San Gimignano. No cars are allowed within its medieval walls. We stroll the narrow streets viewing the fortress-like palaces and medieval towers.

We continue with our scenic drive to Siena. Our luxury hotel is a 17th-century palace located in the heart of Siena, a few steps from Piazza del Campo and the Duomo and in the pedestrian shopping area.

Located in the heart of Tuscany, Siena is a magical city with an air of mystery that pervades the streets and piazzas. The name "burnt sienna" comes from the red clay of the Sienese hills and countryside that creates the distinctive colouration of the houses and buildings in this classic Tuscan hill town.

Overnight in Siena. Grand Hotel Continental. All meals.

Day 9 ***Siena: Walking Tour***

This morning we get to know the medieval city on a walking tour. We visit the Piazza del Campo, famous worldwide for its horse races; the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo--home of Duccio's famous La Maesta--and Siena's Duomo, a Gothic architectural masterpiece. The Duomo (Cathedral) is a spectacular example of Gothic Italian architecture, and the accompanying museum houses magnificent works by Italian masters such as Duccio and Giotto. In your free time be sure to sit on the Piazza del Campo, watch people go by, and sip a glass of Chianti.

Overnight in Siena. Grand Hotel Continental. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 10 ***Siena - Rome***

Today we drive to Rome. Upon arrival, we check-in to our luxury hotel, located within walking distance of the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and Via Veneto. Two thousand years of history have made the artistic and architectural patrimony of Rome so rich that it is hard to know where to start your explorations.

Overnight in Rome. The Westin Excelsior. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 11 ***Rome: City Tour***

We begin our tour of Rome at the Campidoglio (Capitoline Hill), seat of the Roman Senate since the 12th century and the original citadel of the ancient city. This beautiful square was redesigned by Michelangelo in the 16th century. Next we take a guided tour of the Roman Forum and we will see the Curia, the Rostra, the Temple of Vesta, the Basilica of Constantine, and the Arch of Titus. We also have a guided tour of the 2,000 year old Colosseum, the symbol of Rome. Built to seat 55,000 spectators, this arena staged Rome's most brutal gladiatorial combats (reservations allow us to avoid long lines).

Our lunch break is spent at the nearby Piazza Navona, one of the most historic baroque squares in Rome, unspoiled by new buildings or traffic. Here, while eating in one of the outdoor cafes, we can admire three of Rome's many fountains. The most impressive is the Fountain of Four Rivers, with detailed figures representing the Nile, Ganges, Danube and Palata rivers. The balance of the day is free for independent exploration.

Overnight in Rome. The Westin Excelsior. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 12 *Rome: Vatican & Spanish Steps*

This morning we visit the Vatican City, St Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo took over the St Peter's project in 1547 and was responsible for the design of the dome. The cavernous interior, which can hold up to 60,000 people, contains many treasures including Michelangelo's Pieta. The Vatican is a sovereign state with its own post office, broadcasting service and newspaper. We visit the elegantly symmetrical Piazza San Pietro.

In the afternoon we continue with the walking tour which includes a visit to the famous Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, designed by Nicola Salvi in 1732. Its water was supplied by one of Rome's earliest aqueducts. Throwing a coin into the fountain is supposed to ensure your safe return to Rome! Balance of the day at leisure.

Join us for a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight in Rome. The Westin Excelsior. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 13 *Departure*

Departure from Rome.

Breakfast.

BUON VIAGGIO!



Please refer to our complete Terms & Conditions outlined on adventures-abroad.com/premier

LAND ONLY DATES

Our itineraries are based on **Land Only** dates and do not include flying time. Please contact our office for arrival / departure information.

EARLY BOOKINGS

We restrict our group size to 12-16 participants and many of our tours fill early. A deposit will confirm your space on tour.

DEPOSIT

Please contact us to check availability before you book. A non-refundable \$500 deposit is required to hold your place on a tour. Optional trip cancellation and interruption insurance must be purchased at the time of booking and is non-refundable.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by check or credit card. Credit card payments will be automatically charged 60 days prior to departure unless you inform us you will be making alternate payment arrangements. **Discount:** If we receive your check payment 70 days prior to departure, you are entitled to a 1.75% deduction off the final balance.

What's included on *Premium* tours?

- *Shared accommodation in deluxe hotel properties*
- *Domestic / intra-tour air taxes & locally paid departure taxes*
- *Airport transfers*
- *Breakfast daily, most dinners, some lunches*
- *Transportation while on tour*
- *"Special Features" outlined on each itinerary*
- *Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in each itinerary*
- *Gratuities for drivers, local guides, restaurant staff, porters*
- *Services of a Adventures Abroad Tour Leader*

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We offer flights from all gateways. Please contact us for prices and details.

FLIGHT PRICES

We maintain contracts with several different air carriers. We do not hold blocked seats on our flights. Our published airfares are based upon availability and are subject to change without notice. Certain seasons are more likely to have limited space and may result in surcharges if you book late. We recommend that you book early for these departures.

What's not included on our tours?

- *Long-haul air taxes and fuel surcharges*
- *Visa and related fees & charges (if applicable)*
- *Trip cancellation / interruption / medical insurance*
- *Single supplement charges (if single room requested)*
- *Tour Leader gratuity*



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BLAINE WA 98230
USA

code IT+	destination LA DOLCE VITA	duration 13 Days
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Prices in US Dollars

Effective Jan 04, 2008

Land Portion		Land Only	New York	Los Angeles
Start	End			
10 May 08	22 May 08	\$7,059	\$7,999	\$8,199
12 Jul 08	24 Jul 08	\$7,059	\$8,099	\$8,299
13 Sep 08	25 Sep 08	\$7,059	\$7,999	\$8,199
09 May 09	21 May 09	\$7,059	\$7,999	\$8,199
11 Jul 09	23 Jul 09	\$7,059	\$8,099	\$8,299
12 Sep 09	24 Sep 09	\$7,059	\$7,999	\$8,199

LAND ONLY PARTICIPANTS	
Tour Begins	Tour Ends
Milan	Rome

special features

- Small groups.
- Experienced Tour Leaders.
- All meals (mostly a la carte), including special local cuisines.
- 5-star accommodation throughout.
- Exclusive air-conditioned coaches.
- Full staff support and portorage at hotels.

payment information

Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Final payment can be made by cheque, Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

Discount: If we receive your cheque payment 70 days prior to departure, you are entitled to a 1.75% deduction off the final balance.

flight information

Flight prices are subject to availability and may change. For prices from other cities, please contact us.

contact us

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www.adventuresabroad.travel

Optional Single Supplement \$634.00
Maximum group size 16