



The Masterpieces of Italy!!

Venice, Florence, Sorrento and Rome

Pisa, Siena, Pompeii, San Gimignano, Capri, Wine Tastings and Naples via High Speed Train

May 13 - 23, 2018 11 Days and 9 Nights

What better time to escape to Italy than springtime?! From the canals of Venice to the rolling hills of Tuscany, see and experience the Italy of your dreams. Enjoy wine tastings "Under the Tuscan Sun" and taste the refreshing Limoncello of Sorrento. See some of the world's most famous and recognizable buildings. Gaze in awe at artistic masterpieces in Florence and Rome. As you travel between cities and villages, experience La Dolce Vita! A country that created gelato and pizza and gave us Sophia Loren and Romeo and Juliet is surely a country to celebrate! Join us for mouth-watering meals, crystal blue seas the Italy of the past and the present.

Itinerary

May 13, 2018 - Your Journey Begins

Board your overnight flight for Europe today. Dinner is served en route and a continental breakfast is served prior to landing.

May 14, 2018 - Historic Rome

On arrival in Rome, you'll be met by your **TRIPS representative** and board your motor coach. Begin your days in Italy with a **guided walking tour** of the older parts of **Rome**. See the breathtaking **Pantheon**, standing for 2,000 years. When Michelangelo saw this wonder for the first time, he said it looked like the work of angels! And of course see the stunning **Trevi Fountain**. You surely remember the scene in Fellini's "**La Dolce Vita**" when an alluring Anita Ekberg jumps into the fountain fully clothed inviting Marcello Mastroianni to join her! Check-in to your hotel later today time to freshen up before your Welcome to Italy dinner! Overnight: Rome-Hotel Empire (or similar) (D)

May 15, 2018 - From the Vatican to the Colosseum

This morning **tour the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica** with your local guide. The highlight of your visit today is sure to be the **Sistine Chapel**, the masterpiece of Michelangelo. His canvas of 12,000 sq. ft. took nearly four years to complete, and the spectacular result is one that you'll never forget. You'll enjoy a **traditional pizza lunch** in one of Rome's trattoria's. Then it's a guided tour of the **Colosseum** where gladiators fought and the Roman Forum around which ancient Rome was built. Rome is one of the world's most photogenic cities and after time here, you'll surely agree! Return to your hotel this afternoon with the remainder of the day to explore and enjoy dinner on your own. Overnight: Rome-Hotel Empire (or similar) (B/L)

May 16, 2018 - Pompeii and Sorrento

Depart Rome this morning after breakfast traveling to Naples and the nearby ruins of **Pompeii**. An included **walking tour** with your local guide introduces you to this excavated city stopped in its tracks by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Pompeii offers the best look anywhere at what life in Rome must have been like 2,000 years ago. Buried under 30 feet of hot mud and volcanic ash, the excavation of Pompeii began in the 19th century and continues today. Continue

traveling around the Bay of Naples to **Sorrento** to check into your hotel. Dinner tonight is at your hotel.

Overnight: Sorrento-Hotel Hilton (or similar) (B/D)

May 17, 2018 - Capri and Mozzarella

This morning, enjoy a **hydrofoil boat ride** to the **Isle of Capri** for a guided tour. With its clear waters and spectacular views, it is the queen of the islands in the Bay of Naples. After your tour, there is free time to stroll the winding streets and browse the local goods in quaint shops. Capri is well known for its wonderful perfumeries with custom blended scents! On returning to the mainland, travel amongst hillsides bursting with wild roses and camellias to visit **La Sorgente**, a picturesque farm belonging to the Marciano family. Here you see mozzarella being made the old-fashioned way, completely by hand and of course you'll sample this culinary delight! Meet the family; sip home made wine and refreshing Limoncello and snack on crusty Italian bread with fresh tomato and a drizzle of olive oil. **You won't find a more authentic Italian experience than this!** The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure in Sorrento. Stroll through old town where you'll find charming shops specializing in **inlaid wood products**, a specialty here in Southern Italy. Or, pick up the perfect cameo for yourself. Southern Italy was the center for the production of cameos during the Victorian period - a craft that continues today! Enjoy dinner on your own, perhaps stopping in a local trattoria for a delicious Italian meal!

Overnight: Sorrento-Hotel Hilton (or similar) (B/Wine & Food Tasting)

May 18, 2018 - Naples to Florence

This morning, board a **high speed train** in Naples bound for Florence. We're skipping the 300 mile bus ride, instead traveling through Umbria and Tuscany arriving in just under 3 hours! One of the world's most beautiful cities, **Florence** is rich in history and culture. After lunch on your own, set out on an included **walking tour** taking in **Giotto's Belltower**, **Ghiberti's famous Gates of Paradise** and the **Brunelleschi Dome**. Of course you also visit the **Accademia**, home to **Michelangelo's world famous statue of David**. Check in to your hotel with time to freshen up before enjoying a Welcome to Tuscany dinner!

Overnight: Florence-Hotel Astoria (or similar)

(B/D)

May 19, 2018 - Pisa and Wine Tasting

After breakfast this morning, travel through Tuscany to **Pisa**, where you'll see one of the most remarkable architectural structures from medieval Europe! The architect of the **Leaning Tower** didn't factor in the base being built on clay, and that mistake resulted in one of Italy's top attractions! Continue on, traveling through the breathtaking countryside of rolling hills dotted with vineyards. You're in for a very special **TRIPS treat** when you stop for the **quintessential Tuscan experience! Wine Tasting** in the heart of Italy's most famous wine producing region. You'll not only enjoy a selection of wines, but also mouthwatering Italian meats and cheeses! Return to **Florence** with the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. Stroll the same pedestrian streets walked by Michelangelo and Leonardo. Savor the world's best gelato. Walk the famed **Ponte Vecchio**. Florence is quite simply, magnificent!

Overnight: Florence-Hotel Astoria (or similar) (B/Wine & Food Tasting)

May 20, 2018 - Explore Tuscany

It's another wonderful day in the Tuscan countryside as you travel to **Siena**, a medieval masterpiece. Your guided walking tour includes the famous **Piazza del Campo** the site of the most famous "palio" in all of Italy. Often described as **Italy's best preserved medieval city**, you'll find narrow streets and steep alleys along with a **stunning Gothic cathedral** with a white and black façade. Travel to **San Gimignano**, stopping along the way for a **wine tasting** in the rolling hills of Tuscany! Wild vines once grew in abundance all over the area, and today the wines of **Italian Toscana** are much sought after! On approach to San Gimignano, you'll be struck by the sight of **15 towers surrounding** this walled hill town. Originally an Etruscan village, the town was named after the bishop San Gimignano who is said to have saved the city from **Attila the Hun!** As you enjoy your guided tour through the Old City, you'll feel as though you've been plunged into the Middle Ages with a sense of what it might have been like here more than 700 years ago! After a full day in the Tuscan countryside, return to Florence for dinner on your own.

Overnight: Florence-Hotel Astoria (or similar) (B/Wine & Food Tasting)

May 21, 2018 - Romantic Venice

After breakfast, board your motor coach bound for **Venice**. Check-in to your hotel and prepare to be swept away! Few places can lay claim to such a spectacular natural setting. With canals where streets should be, water shimmers everywhere. **Venice is a city unlike any other.** No matter how often you've seen it in photos and films, the real thing is more dreamlike than you could imagine. The fabulous palaces and churches reflect centuries of history in what was a wealthy trading center. Find a perfect spot in **Piazza San Marco**, where tourists and locals congregate and enjoy a coffee or aperitif while basking in the sunshine and aromas of Venice! The afternoon and evening are yours to fall in love with this alluring city!

Overnight: Venice-Hotel Bonvecchiati (or similar) (B)

May 22, 2018 - Sighs, Squares and a Palace

After breakfast, set out on a **guided walking tour** of Venice including **admission to Doge's Palace**. You'll see one of the most famed of all Venetian icons, the **Bridge of Sighs** and **St. Mark's Square** then, the remainder of the day is on your own to explore Venice. The best way to experience this enchanting city is truly by getting 'lost!' Wander aimlessly through the streets and alleys and discover Venice's charming squares and streets. Perhaps a gondola ride on the **Grand Canal** or walking over the **Rialto Bridge** suits you. Follow your nose as you chase the aroma of delicate pastries just out of the oven or the freshest of seafood being grilled. Your day in Venice will be one that you'll cherish! This evening savor a **Farewell Dinner in a local Venetian Restaurant**.

Overnight: Venice-Hotel Bonvecchiati (or similar) (B/D)

May 23, 2018 - Arrivederci

Breakfast is served prior to your departure for the airport and your flight back to the USA. **Memories of your "Masterpieces of Italy" tour will last a lifetime!**

Masterpieces of Italy

\$5,498.00

per person/ double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$1,698.00

Save \$200.00 pp when paying by check, cash or debit of account.

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and strongly suggested.

Check with your club representative for details.

Inclusions

- Round-trip airport transfers
- Round-trip international airfare to Italy (checked baggage fees not included)
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary with an English speaking tour escort
- 4 Star hotel accommodations in Venice (2 nights), Florence (3 nights), Sorrento (2 nights) and Rome (2 nights)
- 9 "fortified" Italian continental breakfasts
- Four dinners with wine, water and coffee including a TRIPS signature farewell dinner in Rome
- Special Pizza lunch in Rome
- 2 private wine tastings with Italian meats and cheese set amongst the rolling hills of Tuscany
- Farewell dinner in Rome at a local restaurant with entertainment
- All sightseeing and admissions as included in the itinerary including the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Doge's Palace in Venice, the Accademia in Florence, tour of Pompeii, Capri by hydrofoil boat with guided tour
- Full day excursion to Sienna and San Gimignano as well as an excursion to Pisa
- Private mozzarella cheese making demonstration in Sorrento followed by a tasting with wine
- High speed train from Florence to Naples
- Portage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- All taxes and government fees

Reservations for "**Masterpieces of Italy!**" are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$500.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to February 1, 2018. **Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before February 1, 2018. Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.**

50% non-refundable on February 2, 2018. 100% non-refundable as of March 13, 2018.

Make checks payable to **Truity Credit Union**

c/o Leslie Jerden

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