



# Italy's Heart and Soul

## Rome and Florence

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This is the perfect Italian tale of two cities. Discover historic Rome, the Roman Forum and Coliseum. Explore art and religion with private visits to Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel – and much more of what makes Rome The Eternal City.

Vacation length: 9 days/8 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



Then, indulge in the glorious food of Tuscany and art of Florence. Enjoy private tours of Florence's most famous museums, including the world-renowned Uffizi – and the Accademia, which includes Michelangelo's transformational David. Finally, tour the Chianti region, with wine tasting and lunch. All with private car, English-speaking tour guides and custom options, of course.

## Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights and Florence- 4 nights.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- Introduction to Rome "Dolce Vita Tour" evening of arrival.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Private tour of Renaissance and Baroque Rome.
- Private tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.
- Introduction to Florence private walking tour including the Cathedral and the Accademia Gallery.
- Private tour of the Baptistery, Duomo Gallery and climb up the Bell Tower or Cathedral Dome.
- Private tour of the Piazza della Signoria and famed Uffizi Gallery.
- Spectacular Sunset View of Florence and the Duomo with drinks on the panoramic terrace of the Forte Belvedere.
- Selection of a day-long excursion or walking tour for your "Design Your Own Italy" day.
- Private tour of the Chianti Region with lunch and wine tasting in a wine producing villa.
- Private tour of Siena with driver and guide.



### ITINERARY

DAY 1

## Welcome to Rome! Dolce Vita Tour

Your driver, waiting for you at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport, will escort you by private car to your boutique hotel or selected apartment in Rome. After relaxing you will be picked up by your private tour guide who will accompany you on your "Dolce Vita" Tour. You'll uncover the secrets locked in Bernini's work, marvel at the Pantheon, the best preserved ancient Roman monument, toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain to ensure your return to the Eternal City and simply enjoy Rome's charming streets in a leisurely Italian fashion. By the end of the tour, you will realize that your guide has not only shown you around Rome, but has taught you how to get around Rome making you feel almost like a native.





## DAY 2 Walk in the Footsteps of the Ancient Romans

At the Colosseum, one of the largest structures of the ancient world, Romans once gathered to watch gladiator games, animal contests, and even reenactments of sea battles. A massive stone amphitheater which seated an estimated 60,000 spectators, it was built in only eight years. Your guide will tell you about its design and construction, political purposes, fighters (both willing and unwilling), and eventual demise as an arena. At the Imperial Roman Forum, you will hear about the myths and religions of ancient Rome as you wander through the ruins of meeting halls and temples, such as that of the Vestal Virgins, who maintained Vesta's sacred fire and were considered to be almost goddesses. The most ancient Latin text ever found, the Lapis Niger ("black stone"), can also be found in the Forum, in a foundation of a column. Your tour will end on the Capitoline Hill, the smallest and most important of the seven hills of the Ancient Rome, and enjoy a wonderful view of the city and of the Imperial Forum.

## DAY 3 Explore St. Peter's Basilica and The Vatican Museums

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel for this signature Your Own Italy tour of The Vatican Museum and St. Peter's Basilica. The art of the Vatican is among the most recognizable in the world, with masterpieces by Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo. In leading you through the museums, your guide will convey the tantalizing background of these Renaissance masterpieces, the geniuses who created them, and the powers who commissioned them. In the stunning Raphael Rooms you will see the famous "School of Athens" fresco that depicts influential thinkers of ancient Greece mingling unknowingly with Raphael himself and some of his contemporaries. In the Sistine Chapel, below the largest and most renowned fresco in the world, your tour guide will explain the intriguing history of how this work came to be and the hidden messages Michelangelo painted into it. After the museum, you'll visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest Catholic church in the world, where you can visit the tombs of the Popes, including that of John Paul II. You will also see Michelangelo's magnificent Pietà and Bernini's acclaimed baldachino, or altarpiece.



## DAY 4 Transfer to Florence and Introductory City Walking Tour

Your Driver will pick you up at your hotel in Rome and accompany you to take the high-speed train to Florence. You will be met by a greeter at the train station who will accompany you to your hotel or selected apartment for check in. After relaxing, your private tour guide will take you on an afternoon tour of the historic center that will include the Gothic Cathedral dedicated to Santa Maria del Fiore and the Accademia Gallery Museum to see the famed David.





## DAY 5 Tour of Florence's Unique Sites

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Your private tour guide will take you on a walking tour of the Piazza della Signoria and its many sculptures including the David (the original is in the Galleria dell'Accademia) by Michelangelo which was placed outside the Palazzo Vecchio as a symbol of the Republic's defiance of the tyrannical Medici family. The graceful Loggia dei Lanzi houses the famed sculptures of Perseo holding Medusa's head, by Cellini (1554) and Giambologna's Rape of the Sabines. The day culminates with a private tour of the world-famous Uffizi Gallery. Enjoy the masterpieces of the Renaissance masters Giotto, Michelangelo and Botticelli followed by a glass of prosecco on the terrace overlooking the Piazza della Signoria.



## DAY 6 Design Your Own Italy Day

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Contact us for customizing options on this "Design Your Own Italy" day OR just relax and enjoy shopping!



## DAY 7 Day Excursion to San Gimignano and the Chianti Region

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This delightful, relaxing tour begins when your driver-guide picks you up at your hotel in Florence and takes the picturesque roads through the world-famous Chianti region, lying between Florence and Siena and bordered on the east by the Chianti Mountains and the west by the Elsa River. This wine region boasts delightful vistas framing vine-covered rolling hills and ever-present cypresses, along with an unhurried pace of life and charming villages. You'll visit the celebrated Machiavelli winery for a tour of the vineyard and a sampling of several different types of local wine, followed by a sumptuous lunch in the family's villa. Following this, your driver will take you to the medieval gem of San Gimignano, "city of beautiful towers." In its heyday, the town boasted 72 towers. Now 14 remain, and, rising above Tuscany's Elsa Valley, they give the town the appearance of a medieval dream. Your walking tour begins at the Piazza della Cisterna, Piazza del Duomo Collegiata, and Romanesque cathedral, and continues with a stroll along the ancient pilgrimage road, the Via Francigena. There will also be time to visit shops, browse the lovely Santa Fina pottery and other handmade products, and purchase some saffron, a local culinary specialty.



## DAY 8 Visit Siena and Transfer to Rome

After a relaxing breakfast, your driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you to Siena with its charming backstreets and famous Piazza del Campo designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This hidden gem of Tuscany boasts the impressive 13th century Siena Cathedral, a splendid example of Italian Romanesque-Gothic architecture. After lunch at a selected restaurant, your driver will take you to your hotel in the historic center of Rome.



## DAY 9 Departure

Your driver will pick you up with plenty of time to make your flight. Rome salutes you with a warm and heart-felt Arrivederci! See you again. Now that you've travelled with Your Own Italy, you know you have friends here.



## OTHER INFORMATION



- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas. Shoulders and knees must be covered; shorts, miniskirts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted. It is recommended that you not take large bags or backpacks on tours that include churches as storage accommodations are not always available.
- This tour is not fully accessible for wheelchair users or people with walking disabilities. However, please contact us directly and we will be able to take you on alternative routes suitable for you.
- Please wear comfortable footwear as the tours on your vacation involve a lot of walking.
- Contact Your Own Italy for customization options on your vacation.
- Refer to our website for details on our Cancellation Policy.
- The team at Your Own Italy is absolutely flexible and will customize your vacation to suit your personal tastes and needs. Are you traveling with children? Are you disabled? We will provide all the assistance necessary to adjust our packages to ensure that your vacation is truly memorable!

### CONTACT:

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