



Italy's Heart, Soul and Italian Riviera

Rome, Florence
and the Cinque Terre

When your family or small group arrives in Italy, you will embark on the adventure of a lifetime, accompanied by English-speaking guides at every step. Discover historic Rome, the Roman Forum and Coliseum.

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

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Explore art and religion with private visits to The Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel – and much more of what makes Rome The Eternal City. Then move up to Tuscany, to experience the glory that is Florence, including The Uffizi Gallery and many of the city's other world-famous museums. Next, a tour of the Chianti region, with lunch at a wine producing villa – and a trip to Pisa to see the Leaning Tower. Finally, walking and boat tours of the magnificent Cinque Terre, before heading back to the eternal city.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- English-speaking tour guide throughout.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights, Florence - 3 nights and Cinque Terre - 3 nights.
- Introductory to Rome "Dolce Vita" Tour on the evening of arrival in Rome.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Private tour of The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.
- Introduction to Florence Walking Tour including the Cathedral, Accademia Gallery, the Baptistery and the Duomo.
- Private tour of the Piazza della Signoria and famed Uffizi Gallery.
- Tour of the Chianti Region and wine tasting with lunch in wine producing villa.
- Private Transfer to Monterosso Al Mare with stopover in Pisa for tour of Basilica and Leaning Tower.
- Walking Tour of the 5 villages of the Cinque Terre with Pesto making demonstration.
- Private Boat Tour of Porto Venere along the coast of the Cinque Terre.



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 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 Coliseum, 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 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 Day Excursion to San Gimignano and the Chianti Region

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 6 Tour of Florence's Unique Sites

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 7 Transfer to Monterosso with Visit to Pisa and Lucca

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel in Florence, destination Monterosso al Mare of the Cinque Terre. On the way, you'll visit the Piazza del Duomo in Pisa, also known as the Piazza dei Miracoli. The Duomo is a splendid eleventh century Romanesque cathedral built using fantastic spoils captured in expeditions against the Muslims in Sicily. The marble Baptistery is a majestic circular-plan Romanesque building started in 1153, and the Leaning Tower is one of the most beautiful and famous bell towers in the world. This tower was in trouble from the start; its architect, Nicola Pisano, managed to complete only three tiers before the structure started to lean. With your reserved ticket in hand, you'll reach the top of the tower for a truly memorable experience.

After lunch in nearby Lucca, your driver will drop you off at your hotel in Monterosso al Mare, one of the five villages of the Cinque Terre.

DAY 8 Tour of the Cinque Terre with Pesto Demonstration

Your private guide will pick you up at your hotel and start your walking tour of the 5 villages of the Cinque Terre. Built in ancient times by people seeking refuge from barbarian invaders, and lying between the mountains and the sea, the villages of the Cinque Terre have for centuries been isolated from the rest of Italy. This aura of isolation, and the area's dramatic coastal scenery, have made the Cinque Terre ever more attractive to visitors. You'll enjoy the extremely photogenic excursion from one town to the next using the local trains; explore the towns' narrow alleys and pretty pastel squares overlooking the sea and enjoy making your own pesto the traditional way for lunch in breathtaking surroundings.



DAY 9 Boat Tour to Porto Venere

Experiencing the Cinque Terre from the water is a must! Your private guide will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to the port where your private boat and captain will be waiting for you. On the way to Portovenere, you will admire the five daring villages built on the cliffs, the dry-stone-wall terraces made for farming grapes and olives and the grottoes that dot the bottom of the cliffs as they meet the water. An hour or so into your journey, the town of Portovenere will come into view with its black and white striped cliffs, on top of which stands its famed Doria castle and St. Peter's Church. Docking in Portovenere, you will enter the historical center through the city gate. On the right side, you will see the remains of the city wall, which run up to the castle. As you walk down the main street (Via G. Capellini), you can admire medieval houses that have been turned into small shops. At the end of this carruggio, you will find the Church of St. Peter's, constructed in 1277 over the ruins of another edifice dedicated to Venus. Venus is Venere in Italian, while Porto means harbor, giving origin to the name of the town. A second landmark, the Andrea Doria castle took centuries to build and dominates the town with several of its towers still in good condition. From the castle, you can enjoy a fantastic view over the St. Peter's church and the sea. After lunch at a recommended trattoria, you will re-board your boat and enjoy the ride back to Monterosso.





DAY 10 Transfer to Rome and Walking Food and Wine Tour

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you to the train station to take a high-speed 1st class train back to Rome. Your driver will pick you up at Rome's train station and accompany you to your hotel in the historic center.

That evening you'll enjoy a Walking Food and Wine Tour in the Trendy Trastevere Neighborhood. Think of Greenwich Village, ivy-covered Harvard Square and Paris's West Bank, with cobblestone streets that come alive at night with the buzz of food and nightlife. Romans bring their families to Trastevere for Sunday dinners – and young Romans are found throughout the neighborhood evenings and weekends. You must not leave Rome without walking through these streets, tasting the best food on offer, and taking a million pictures of this amazing hotspot.

On Your Own Italy's guided 4-hour walking food tour we explore this photogenic neighborhood by night. You'll sample a sumptuous blend of Italian classics like pizza and pasta, real Roman street food, less-known meats and cheeses, and amazing wine in a secret cellar – its history will blow you away. Few activities in Rome deliver as many hidden surprises and enchanting moments as this. Be sure to take advantage of an unforgettable night in one of our favorite Rome neighborhoods.



DAY 11 Departure

Your driver will pick you up with plenty of time to make your flight. Rome salutes you with a warm and heartfelt "Arrivederci! See you again! Now that you've travelled with Your Own Italy, 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.
- The private Boat tour to Portovenere is subject to weather conditions. In the case of inclement weather, your guide will accompany you on a larger ferry.
- 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!

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