



YOUR OWN ITALY
BOUTIQUE TOURS

VACATION Packages

2018

*Experience Italy's
Heart and Soul.*

Your Own Italy is proud to offer unique tours of Italy, for both private travel and small groups. These are not ordinary vacations. They are exceptional tours with private drivers, English speaking guides, magnificent locations – and the personal attention of Your Own Italy's owner, your friend in Rome.

My name is Carmen, and my company is **Your Own Italy**. I founded Your Own Italy after living in Rome for 30 years and deciding I wanted to share my love of Italy with American travelers. The trips planned by Your Own Italy are for travelers who want more than a standard vacation, who want to experience the real Italy, and want to feel the heart and soul of its people. An American tour company with offices in Washington D.C., and Rome, Your Own Italy offers vacation packages throughout the country.



CARMEN CARBONELL
President and Your friend in Rome

Our packages are offered in two formats: private packages designed particularly for couples, families, and friends – and the more traditional group format tour packages, where you are meeting and traveling with new people. Our clients who opt to travel privately have the opportunity to see Italy while enjoying the benefit of 24/7 concierge service, without worrying about the logistics.

Each of the packages is also offered for small groups. What makes our group travel unique is that we cap at 16 people compared to the 28 – 40 people that most travel companies offer. Why 16 people?

Much of Italy cannot be experienced when traveling in a large group. From following a tour guide in the very crowded Vatican Museum to having dinner in a characteristic trattoria, smaller is better!

We break up the group into two smaller groups and use private guides. That way there is plenty of time and space to ask questions and give everyone a chance to interact with their guide. The advantage of Your Own Italy group travel is meeting and discovering Italy with others – while still enjoying a “private touch” that won’t be found while traveling with other companies.

My goal is to show you the true beauty of my adopted nation – and ensure that when you leave Italy, you know that you have friends here. We are Your Own Italy.





Roman Rhapsody

THE ETERNAL CITY

Experience the glory of ancient Rome, the treasures of the Baroque, and everything in between. You will enjoy private tours of the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel, saunter in the footsteps of gladiators, visit hill towns of the Roman countryside, mingle with

Vacation length: 7 days/6 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



locals in Rome's famous piazzas, and dine "as the Romans do" at restaurants that are guaranteed to tickle your taste buds. Everything is customized, with private car and guide, from arrival to departure. This is your Roman holiday, from Your Own Italy.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- 6 nights' accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome.
- 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.
- Culinary Experience Day with professional chef OR Walking Food and Wine tour with Master Sommelier.
- Day excursion to the Roman hill town of Tivoli.



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 Tour the Roman Hill Towns

Your private driver and guide will pick you up at your hotel for an excursion to the Roman hill town Tivoli, where you will visit two splendid villas of different periods: the ancient Roman villa of the Emperor Hadrian and the Renaissance Villa d'Este. Hadrian's Villa, the largest of its kind in Roman times, testifies to the remarkable skills of Roman architects and builders, while the Villa d'Este, commissioned in 1550 by Cardinal Ippolito II D'Este, is famous for its masterpieces of Renaissance art and, in particular, for its many pools and fountains. You will enjoy lunch at the extraordinary La Sibilla restaurant (not included).



DAY 5 Culinary Adventure

TAKE PART IN A CULINARY ADVENTURE

The culinary experience includes shopping, immersing yourself in the art and pleasure of hands-on cooking techniques and learning something about Italian culture. You can experience the shopping component, where we'll explore local markets and visit a variety of different stores, just as one would do as an Italian. Stops may include an artisan butchery, fish market, cheese store, bakery, and fruit and vegetable market. We will then head to your home or a select kitchen, where we will prepare various dishes. This interactive cooking class is perfect for people who enjoy Italian cuisine, and want to learn more, as well



as for those who are experienced in the kitchen. The program is tailor-made to suit your individual tastes, including Italian favorites you would like to add to your repertoire, or unique new menus.

OR

ENJOY A WALKING FOOD AND WINE TOUR IN THE TRENDY TRASTEVERE NEIGHBORHOOD

Trastevere is a neighborhood like no other. 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 6 Tour the Works of the Masters

Your tour guide will pick you up at your hotel for a delightful day exploring Renaissance and Baroque Rome, including the paintings, sculptures, and architecture of Michelangelo, Raphael, and Caravaggio. Following lunch, you will also compare the works of Baroque rivals Bernini and Borromini.

DAY 7 Departure

Your driver will pick you up in plenty of time to make your flight. Rome salutes you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with Your Own Italy, you have friends here in Rome.

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:

YOUR OWN ITALY

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Website		www.YourOwnItaly.com





The Eternal City and the City of Romance

Rome and Venice

This private tour is your chance to indulge yourself for 8 days/7 nights in two of the world's most memorable cities, all with experienced English-speaking guides. First, 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. Then move on to one of the world's most unique cit-

Vacation length: 8 days/7 nights

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ies – and one of Italy's most romantic. Meet the wonders of Venice in a walking tour... enjoy the romance of a private gondola ride...explore the Grand Canal... visit the islands of Murano and Burano and more...all with Your Own Italy extras that make vacations unforgettable.

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 Venice - 3 nights.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included
- Introduction to Rome "Dolce Vita Tour" evening of arrival
- Tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum
- Private tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
- Introduction to Venice private walking tour with Gondola ride.
- Private tour of St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and the Doge's Palace
- Private transfer by boat and tour of the islands of Murano and Burano with guide.
- Selection of day-long excursion or walking tour for your "Design Your Own Italy" day.



ITINERARY



DAY 1

Welcome to Rome! Dolce Vita Tour

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DAY 4 Design Your Own Italy Day

Contact us for customizing options on this “Design Your Own Italy” day OR just relax and enjoy shopping.

DAY 5 Transfer to Venice and Tour of Hidden Venice

Your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the Stazione Termini train station to take the high-speed “freccia rossa” train to Venice. Upon arrival your tour guide will meet and lead you to your private taxi-boat. You will never forget the splendid entrance on the Grand Canal into one of the most unique cities in the world. After relaxing in your hotel room you will be taken on a walking tour of the labyrinth also known as “hidden Venice” to enjoy the shops, cafés and colorful gondolas. Your introduction to Venice will culminate with an enchanting gondola glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a music lover? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine.





DAY 6 Tour of Venice's Unique Sites

After a leisurely breakfast, your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); you will climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city and visit the Marciana Library and the Clock Tower.

DAY 7 Explore Murano and Burano

You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano. Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice's 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you'll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.

Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you'll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuchsia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.

DAY 8 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Venice's airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in Your Own Italy.



- 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.
- At times St Mark's basilica is closed due to high water or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark's Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church. Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark's Basilica are available only from April to October. St. Mark's Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas.
- 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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Website		www.YourOwnItaly.com





Italy's Heart and Soul

Rome and Florence

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

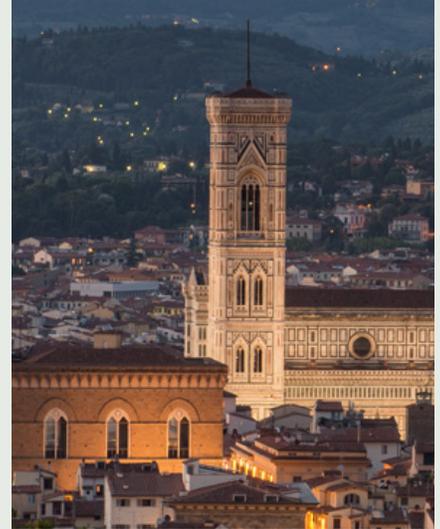
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Then, indulge in the glorious food of Tuscany and art of Florence. Enjoy private tours of Florence's most famous museums, including the world-renowned Uffizi – and the Accademia, which includes Michelangelo's transformational David. Finally, tour the 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 Baptistry, 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

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

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

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



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The Glory of Rome... the Gems of Amalfi

Rome and the Amalfi Coast

Start your Italian adventure in historic Rome, visiting the Roman Forum and Coliseum. Explore art and religion with private visits to The 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



Discover the gems of Positano, Amalfi and Ravello on the panoramic winding roads. Set sail on a romantic tour of Capri on your private boat with a bottle of Prosecco. Scout the ancient city of Pompeii and view the entire region from the pinnacle of Mt. Vesuvius. Delight in the heights and depths of the Amalfi Coast. This is your Italian vacation of a lifetime. With custom touches and English-speaking guides every step.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout your vacation.
- All skip-the-line tickets included.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights and Sorrento - 4 nights.
- Introduction to Rome "Dolce Vita Tour" evening of arrival.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Private tour of The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.
- Private tour of Pompeii with a private tour guide.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Selection of day-long excursion or walking tour for your "Design Your Own Italy" day.
- Culinary experience in a Villa near Sorrento.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.



ITINERARY



DAY 1

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DAY 4

Transfer to Sorrento with Visit to Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many “fast food” restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the 500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch and at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Sorrento.





DAY 5 Let the Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the bluest sea



and enjoy a “granite al limone” or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew’s cathedral, the patron saint of the town.



DAY 6 Sorrento Cooking Class

You’ll enjoy wine tasting and a full immersion, private cooking class in the nearby farmhouse - Fattoria Terranova. A family owned villa that produces its own Campania region wines, you’ll be guided by a sommelier who will tell you of the villa’s history as you walk through the vineyard tasting sparkling, white, red and dessert wine. Afterwards, you’ll experience a hands on cooking class with Francesca using vegetables grown on the farm. You’ll make the famed ravioli of the Campania region filled with fresh ricotta and herbs, as well as the gnocchi with the “pomodorini” of “piennolo vesuviano” sauce. At the end of your meal you’ll receive the farmhouse cook-book and participation certificate!





DAY 7 Dive into the Waters off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of Prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers' cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch awaits you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

DAY 8 Return to Rome

After a relaxing breakfast, your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the train station in Naples for your high-speed train transfer to Rome. Your driver will pick you up at Rome's station and accompany you to your hotel in the historic center. We'll help you plan a farewell dinner in the Eternal City.

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 have friends here in Rome.



- 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!
- The tour of Pompeii 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.

CONTACT:

YOUR OWN ITALY

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Website		www.YourOwnItaly.com





The Three Cities of Art

Rome, Florence and Venice

When your family or small group arrives in Italy, you will experience the glory of ancient Rome, The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, and more of what creates the Rhapsody of Rome.

Vacation length: 10 days/9 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



You will move on to Florence where you'll explore the riches of the city's most famous churches and museums, including the world-renowned Uffizi Gallery. Your Tuscany experience includes a day trip to the Machiavelli Winery and the medieval town of San Gimignano. Finally, to Venice, for a private walking tour and gondola ride, plus private boat tour to the famous islands of Murano and Burano. Your Complete Italian Experience – accompanied at every step with private English-speaking guides.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- English-speaking tour guide throughout.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 3 nights, Florence - 3 nights and Venice - 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.
- Introduction to Venice walking tour with gondola ride.
- Private tour of San Marco, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and Doge's Palace.
- Private Boat Tour of the islands of Murano and Burano with glass-making demonstration.



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 Venice and Tour of Hidden Venice

Your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the Santa Maria Novella train station to take the high-speed "freccia rossa" train to Venice. Upon arrival your tour guide will meet and lead you to your private taxi-boat. You will never forget the splendid entrance on the Grand Canal into one of the most unique cities in the world. After relaxing in your hotel room you will be taken on a walking tour of the labyrinth also known as "hidden Venice" to enjoy the piazzas, or campi in Venetian, shops and cafés. Your introduction to Venice will culminate an enchanting glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a lyricist? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine. This enchanting day ends with dinner at a selected restaurant of your choice.

DAY 8 Tour of Venice's Unique Sites

Your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); You will visit St. Mark's Basilica, with the richness of its marbles and mosaics. The Doge's palace, fourteenth century building from where the ancient Venetian republic exerted the control over the city. Passing through the famous Bridge of Sighs reach the prison cells. Your tour will culminate with a climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city.

DAY 9 Explore Murano and Burano

You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano.

Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice's 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you'll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.



Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you'll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuchsia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.



DAY 10 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Venice's airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in Your Own Italy.



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.
- At times St Mark's basilica is closed due to high water or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark's Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church. Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark's Basilica are available only from April to October. St. Mark's Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- 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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The Eternal, the Spirit and the Art of Italy

Rome, Amalfi Coast and Florence

From the history, religion and art of the Eternal City to the blue waters of Capri to the culinary delights and world-renowned art of Florence, this is a trip that will transform you. With English-speaking guides throughout your trip, you'll start in Rome, where you'll explore history, art, religion and more, including private visits to The Vatican Museums

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



and Saint Peter's Basilica. Next, you'll visit Pompeii – with lunch on Mt. Vesuvius...settle into Sorrento... head to the Amalfi Coast for an experience of a lifetime plus an opportunity for unique and amazing shopping. Then, to Capri, with a private boat trip and swimming in the perfectly blue grottos. Finally, to Florence, with private visits to its famous museum – and time to explore the beauty and tastes of Tuscany. When you return to Rome, you'll be renewed – and there's more to do before you head home.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights, Sorrento - 3 nights and Florence - 3 nights.
- Introduction to Rome "Dolce Vita Tour" evening of arrival.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Private tour of The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.
- Private tour of Pompeii with lunch in wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.
- Introduction to Florence Walking Tour including the Duomo, the Baptistry and the Accademia Gallery.
- Private tour of the Piazza della Signoria and famed Uffizi Gallery.
- Day Excursion to the Chianti Region and wine tasting with lunch and wine tasting in wine producing villa.



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.



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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 Explore Ancient Pompeii and Settle into Sorrento

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many “fast food” restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the 500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch and at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Sorrento.



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ing the bluest sea and enjoy a “granite al limone” or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew’s cathedral, the patron saint of the town.



DAY 6 Dive into the Waters off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers’ cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch awaits you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

DAY 7 Transfer to Florence and Introductory City Walking Tour

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





DAY 8 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 9 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 10 Transfer to Rome and Walking Food and Wine Tour

A driver will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to Florence's train station where you will take a high-speed train to Rome. A driver will be waiting for you and will 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 in plenty of time to make your flight. Rome salutes you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with Your Own Italy, you have friends here in Rome.

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!

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Website		www.YourOwnItaly.com





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

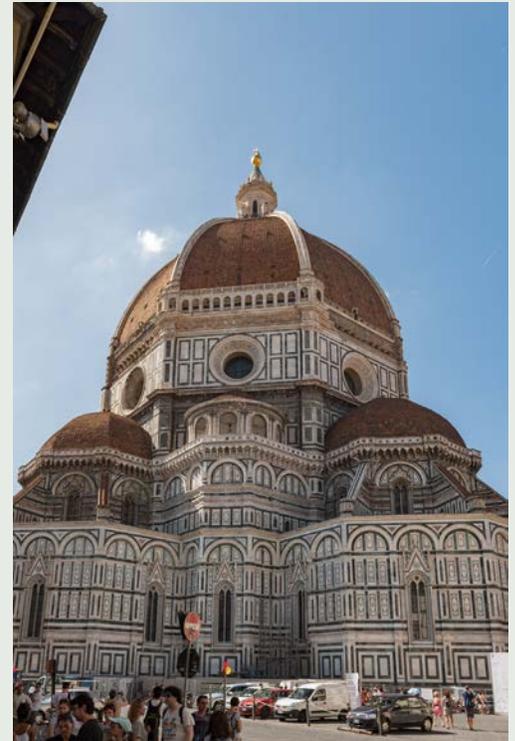
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Explore art and religion with private visits to The Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel – and much more of what makes Rome The Eternal City. Then move up to Tuscany, to experience the glory that is Florence, including The Uffizi Gallery and many of the 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



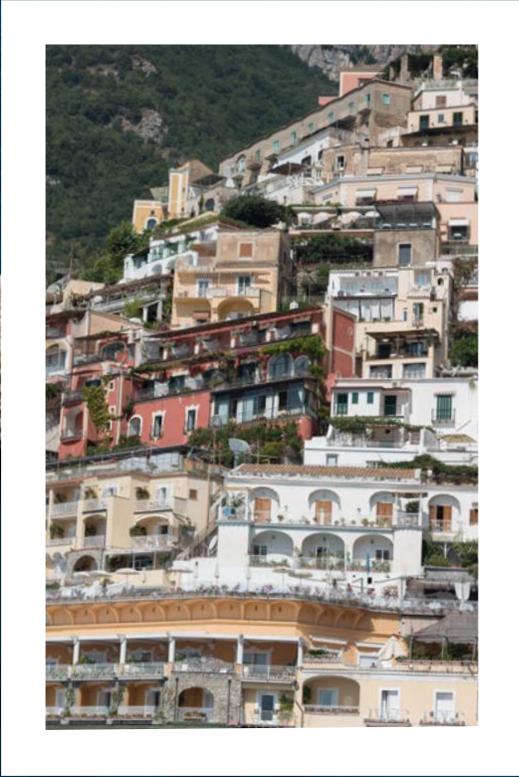
- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas. Shoulders and knees must be covered; shorts, miniskirts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted. It is recommended that you not take large bags or backpacks on tours that include churches as storage accommodations are not always available.
- This tour 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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The History, the Shore and the Romance of Italy

Rome, Amalfi Coast and Venice

This 11-day trip includes more than you can imagine. From the history, religion and art of the Eternal City to the heart-stopping roads of the Amalfi Coast to the blue waters of Capri to the romance of Venice and shopping on its nearby Islands.

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



All with expert, English-speaking tour guides, private cars and the customization that will make this the trip of a lifetime. This is how to make Italy your own – and leave knowing you have friends here when you return.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights, Sorrento - 3 nights and Venice- 3 nights.
- Introduction 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.
- Tour of Pompeii with a private tour guide.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.
- Introduction to Venice walking tour with gondola ride.
- Private tour of San Marco, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and Doge's Palace.
- Private Boat tour of the islands of Murano and Burano with glass making demonstration.



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 **Culinary Adventure**

TAKE PART IN A CULINARY ADVENTURE

The culinary experience includes shopping, immersing yourself in the art and pleasure of hands-on cooking techniques and learning something about Italian culture. You can experience the shopping component, where we'll explore local markets and visit a variety of different stores, just as one would do as an Italian. Stops may include an artisan butchery, fish market, cheese store, bakery, and fruit and vegetable market. We will then head to your home or a select kitchen, where we will prepare various dishes. This interactive cooking class is perfect for people who enjoy Italian cuisine, and want to learn more, as well as for those who are experienced in the kitchen. The program is tailor-made to suit your individual tastes, including Italian favorites you would like to add to your repertoire, or unique new menus.

OR

ENJOY A WALKING FOOD AND WINE TOUR IN THE TRENDY TRASTEVERE NEIGHBORHOOD

Trastevere is a neighborhood like no other. Its ivy-coated, cobblestone streets come alive at night earning it comparisons to Greenwich Village and Paris's Left Bank. It's where Romans choose to eat with their families on a Sunday and where young Romans go for buzzing nightlife at evenings and weekends. You can't leave Rome without walking through these streets, tasting the best food on offer, and taking a million pictures of this amazing hotspot.

On this 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, so be sure to join us for an unforgettable night in one of our favorite neighborhoods in Rome. Take advantage of Rome's vibrant nightlife by walking through the streets of Trastevere with a local.



DAY 5 Explore Ancient Pompeii and Settle into Sorrento

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many "fast food" restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the 500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch and at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Sorrento.



DAY 6 Let the Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the blu-

est sea and enjoy a "granite al limone" or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew's cathedral, the patron saint of the town.

DAY 7 Dive into the Waters off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers' cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch will be ready for you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.





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 8 Transfer to Venice and Tour of Hidden Venice

Your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the train station to take the high-speed "freccia rossa" train to Venice. Upon arrival your tour guide will meet and lead you to your private taxi-boat. You will never forget the splendid entrance on the Grand Canal into one of the most unique cities in the world. After relaxing in your hotel room you will be taken on a walking tour of the labyrinth also known as "hidden Venice" to enjoy the shops, cafés and colorful gondolas. Your introduction to Venice will culminate with an enchanting gondola glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a music lover? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine.



DAY 9 Tour of Venice's Unique Sites

After a leisurely breakfast, your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); you will climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city and visit the Marciana Library and the Clock Tower.



DAY 10 Explore Murano and Burano

You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano. Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice's 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you'll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.

Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you'll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuchsia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.



DAY 11 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Venice's airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in Your Own Italy.



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.
- At times St Mark's basilica is closed due to high water or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark's Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church. Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark's Basilica are available only from April to October. St. Mark's Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas.
- 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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The Soul of Sicily

Palermo, Trapani, Agrigento,
Syracuse and Taormina

This nearly two-week tour of Sicily includes more than you can imagine. From Palermo, the largest city in Italy, to the fishing village of Cefalu'...from the archeological site of Segesta to the beautiful city of Trapani...from the salt pans to an olive oil farm and factory...and that's just the first few days. From there, you'll visit the Valley of Temples...and on to a 150-year old chocolate factory, where you'll indulge in a

Vacation length: 13 days/12 nights

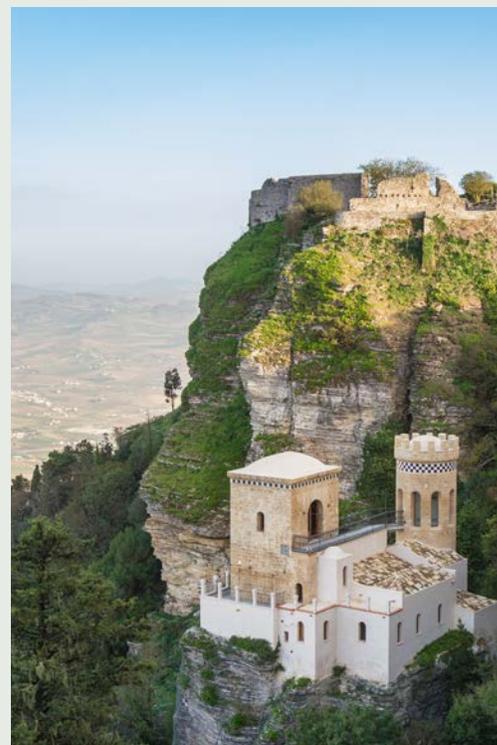
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chocolate-making class... Still want more? You'll head to Syracuse, where you'll see archeological treasures, the world's largest Greek theatre, even Ortygia, the historic center of Syracuse and the perfect place in Sicily to shop. Next: Catania, which sits near the foot of Mt. Etna, the most active volcano in the world today and a must-visit on a Sicilian trip. Finally, a boat tour of the Sicilian coast, a relaxing way to spend your last full day on the island before you fly home from Catania's international Airport. Could you want more? Come back any time. You have friends in Italy. Your Own Italy.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- 12 nights' accommodation in your choice of hotels or apartments in historic center in Palermo - 3 nights, Trapani – 2 nights, Agrigento – 2 nights, Syracuse – 2 nights and Taormina – 3 nights.
- Private walking tour of Palermo.
- Day Excursion to fishing village of Cefalu'.
- Private tour of Monreale and Segesta.
- Private walking tour of Trapani.
- Day Excursion to Erice.
- Private tour of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento.
- Day Excursion to Villa Romana al Casale.
- Private walking tour of Syracuse.
- Day Excursion to Ragusa and Modica.
- Private walking tour of Taormina.
- Day Excursion to Catania and Mt. Etna.
- Boat tour of the Taormina Coastline.



ITINERARY



DAY 1

Welcome to Sicily! Introductory Tour of Palermo

Your driver will be waiting for you at the airport and will escort you by private car to your select boutique hotel in Palermo. In the afternoon, your private tour guide will meet you at your hotel for an introductory walking tour of this capital of Sicily. One of important cities on the Island, Palermo is more than 2,700 years old. The city is noted for its history, culture, architecture and astronomy. The 12th-century Palermo Cathedral houses royal tombs, while the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances. Also in the center are the Palazzo dei Normanni, a royal palace started in the 9th century, and the Cappella Palatina, with Byzantine mosaics. During your walking tour, you'll visit the main

piazas, stop at a street vendor to experience Sicily's famed lemon sorbet and visit the Mercato il Capo, Palermo's farmer's market. Then, back to your hotel for an evening on your own.





DAY 2 Tour the Unique Sites of Palermo

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you on a walking tour of Palermo's most unique sites. You'll visit the Piazza Bellini, with Punic Wall ruins...Arab-Norman churches from the middle ages...Santa Caterina di Alessandria, a baroque church...the Quattro Canti, where the quarters of the old city meet and present the four seasons, four Spanish kings, and three classical orders on the facades of its buildings...Piazza Pretoria...the huge and imposing Royal Palace...and Palermo's Duomo (cathedral), constructed over a period of 600 years. These sites are nothing short of amazing – unique in their diversity and historical significance. Be sure you're wearing comfortable walking shoes for this remarkable tour.

DAY 3 The Cathedral at Monreale and the Fishing Village of Cefalu'

Your driver will pick you and your guide up at your hotel and drive to the nearby town of Monreale to visit the cathedral. Probably the first major piece of Norman architecture in Sicily and without a doubt the most impressive sacred space on the island, the Cathedral at Monreale is a must-see for visitors to Italy. Its architectural treasures include some of the oldest bronze church doors in Europe, a cloister with a winsome combination of Romanesque and Arabic design elements, and a glorious series of apse mosaics that will leave you speechless. Afterwards, your driver will accompany you to the fishing village of Cefalu' where you will have time to enjoy lunch at a trattoria overlooking the water and explore the picturesque town. If the weather permits, you'll have time to relax on the beach at one of the several places with umbrellas and lounge chairs for rent.



DAY 4 Transfer to Trapani with visit to the Archeological site of Segesta

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel: destination Trapani. The city is well known for its Holy Week traditions and contains many fascinating sites. Located at the western tip of Trapani, offering views as far as the Aegadian Islands, is the 17th-century Torre di Ligny watchtower. It houses the Museo di Preistoria e del Mare, with archeological artifacts. North of the harbor, the Chiesa del Purgatorio church holds wooden sculptures that are paraded around the city during Easter's Processione dei Misteri. On the way to Trapani, you'll visit the archeological site of Segesta consisting mainly of what is often considered the best preserved Greek temple in the world. The location of this site – atop a hill in the open countryside – is awe-inspiring. Your driver will then take you to Trapani where you will check in to your hotel. In the afternoon, your guide will pick you up and take you on an introductory walking tour of this baroque gem.

DAY 5 Visit to the Salt Pans, the Mountain Top Town of Erice and a Sicilian Olive Oil Farm

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you on a day excursion that begins with a visit to the Trapani "salt pans." The oldest salt marshes in Europe, the salt pans between Trapani and Marsala form a coastal wetland and nature reserve where sea salt has been harvested for nearly 3,000 years. Your expert, English-speaking guide will teach you about the history and process of salt harvesting. Afterwards, you will visit the medieval city of Erice to see turreted castles, local crafts and magnificent views of the Mediterranean. You will experience the Pasticceria of Maria Grammatico, one of Sicily's most famous pastry chefs, as you taste the traditional almond pastries, jams, cannoli and the famed Sicilian cassate. Next stop, lunch and olive oil tasting at Fontanasalsa a village on the Western coast of the region. Your olive oil tasting includes four different oils from the on-site olive oil factory, served with freshly-baked bread and coarse sea salt. Lunch includes Sicilian delicacies like plates of traditional lasagne, tomato and basil pasta, local cheeses, rice salad, roasted vegetables, olive tapenade and caponata.



DAY 6 Transfer to Agrigento with Tour of the Valley of the Temples

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel for the 2.5 hour drive to Agrigento. On the way, you'll stop by the famed Donna Fugata in Marsala for lunch and wine tasting. After settling in to your hotel in Agrigento, your guide will take you on a tour of the Valley of the Temples, one of the largest archeological sites in the world and one of Sicily's most visited tourist attractions. The private evening tour spares you the noise and press of crowds – and, in the summer, the heat of a Sicilian day. The ancient Greek temples and roads are lit evocatively in the evening, providing a wonderful opportunity to digest centuries of history or simply absorb the beauty of a warm evening among the ruins.

DAY 7 Visit to Ragusa, Modica and a Chocolate Making Factory

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you to visit the jewel of Ragusa, where a private guide will take you on a tour that starts with a visit to the original church of San Giorgio, which survived the earthquake of 1693. Next, you will visit the Giardino Iblis, a beautiful park with 3 churches, where you will enjoy the magnificent view of the two valleys surrounding Ragusa. Walking along Corso 25 Aprile, you will find the most beautiful aristocratic palaces of the city. Passing by the palaces, you will arrive in Piazza Duomo where, at the end of a monumental staircase closed by a wrought iron gate, is the Church of San Giorgio -- a work by Gagliardi, with a facade considered a prime example of late baroque art. Lastly, you will visit the Larocca Palace and its famous baroque masks. You'll also have the opportunity to visit Palazzo Arezzo Trifiletti, guided by a member of the family that has owned it since the end of the 17th century. After lunch, you'll visit nearby Modica, one of the area's UNESCO-listed Baroque towns. You will also indulge in a chocolate-making class at the Dolceria Bonajuto. It's the oldest working chocolate factory in Sicily, in operation for more than 150 years. Just wait 'til you taste the sweets they make – and the ones you'll make yourself during this delicious class.

DAY 8 Transfer to Syracuse with Visit to Villa Romana al Casale

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to Syracuse. On the way, you will stop at Piazza Armerina, where you will meet your guide for a private tour of the Villa Romana del Casale. The villa contained dozens of rooms and its mosaics – unrivalled in the world, and preserved down to the finest detail – range from simple geometric patterns to huge and complex scenes of the natural and human world. After lunch, you will arrive in Syracuse. After relaxing in your hotel, your guide will pick you up and take you on an introductory walking tour of the city center.



DAY 9 Tour of Syracuse

Your private guide will begin your tour with a visit to Syracuse's Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi. Much of modern Syracuse was destroyed during WWII, but its archeological treasures – one of the most important collections in Europe – have been preserved. Next, you will visit the nearby Archeological park, which boasts the world's largest Greek theater and a Roman amphitheater. After lunch, you will tour Syracuse in a golf cart that permits driving in the narrow streets of Ortygia. This small island is the historic center of Syracuse, a popular destination for shopping and entertainment. Landmarks on Ortygia include the Cathedral of Syracuse, the Piazza del Duomo, Piazza Archimede, Fountain of Arethusa and more.



DAY 10 Transfer to Taormina and Introductory Tour of Taormina

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Syracuse and take you to Taormina. After checking into your hotel, your local guide will introduce you to this Sicilian gem.

Taormina is a hilltop town on the east coast of Sicily. It sits near Mount Etna and is known for the Teatro Antico di Taormina, an ancient Greco-Roman theater still used today. Near the theater, cliffs drop to the sea forming coves with sandy beaches. A narrow stretch of sand connects to Isola Bella, a tiny island and nature reserve.

DAY 11 Visit to Mt. Etna and Walking Tour of Catania

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you to Mt. Etna, the culmination of any visit to Sicily. Etna has been erupting for half a million years or more – and is still erupting today. Your visit to the volcano will include a cable car ride to the 2,500-meter mark, where the spectacular views with astonish you. Weather permitting, you can opt to go to the top on a jeep. Not for weak of heart or wearers of pace makers! After lunch, your driver will take you to Catania, Sicily's second largest city. Much of Catania was rebuilt in the eighteenth century, following a volcanic eruption and then an earthquake. The city's wide central square, Piazza del Duomo, features the whimsical Fontana dell'Elefante statue and richly decorated Catania Cathedral. In the southwest corner of the square, you'll visit La Pescheria, a lively fish market behind the Duomo that provides a daily rowdy spectacle surrounded by seafood restaurants.

DAY 12 Boat Tour of the Taormina Coastline

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to your private boat in Taormina's port. You will see Taormina from the best vantage point, the sea, then relax as you tour along the Sicilian coastline with stops on the famed Isola Bella and the Bay of the Mermaids where you will be able to swim in the cool, clear waters. After a sumptuous lunch, you will visit the Blue Grotto with its famed colorful shades of blue and green.



DAY 13 **Departure**

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel with plenty of time to make your flight from Catania's international Airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in *Your Own Italy*.



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!

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The Culture and Antiquity of Southern Italy

Rome, Vieste, the Gargano Coastline, Alberobello, Matera, the Amalfi Coast, Capri and Naples

If you've dreamed of seeing Rome and Southern Italy, this will be the vacation of a lifetime. Thirteen days and twelve nights of the best the Eternal City and the southern part of the nation offer. You'll explore the art and antiquities of Rome, the Trevi Fountain to the Coliseum, St. Peter's Basilica to The Vatican Museums and more – everything you would hope to see in Rome.

Vacation length: 13 days/12 nights

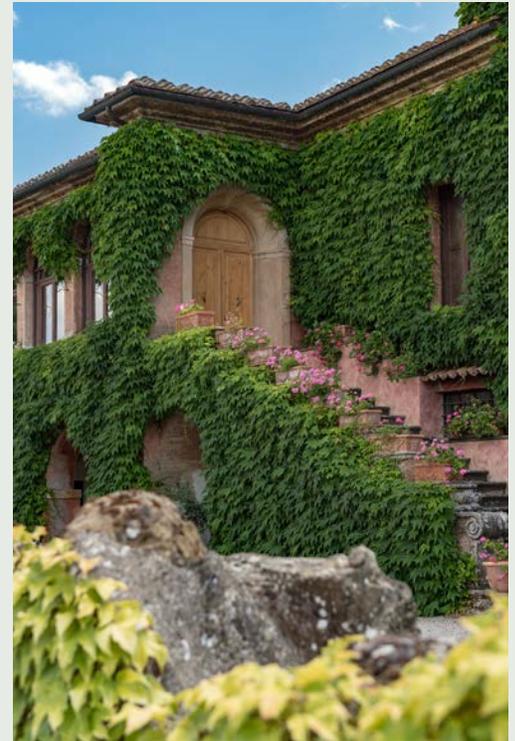
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Then you'll embark on an on-going adventure, through the most wonderful cities and towns, the grottoes and beaches, the winding roads, the cuisine and the antiquities of Southern Italy. Just wait 'til you see the Amalfi Coast – and swim from a boat off the shore of Capri. Finally, you'll visit Naples, one of Italy's most memorable cities. When you head home, this will have become Your Own Italy.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- 12 nights' accommodation in your choice of hotels or apartments in historic center in Rome - 2 nights, Vieste – 2 nights, Matera – 2 nights, Positano – 2 nights, Sorrento – 2 nights and Naples – 2 nights.
- Introduction to Rome “Dolce Vita” Tour evening of arrival.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum OR The Vatican Museum and St. Peter’s Basilica.
- Private Walking Food and Wine tour in Rome’s Trastevere neighborhood.
- Private Tour of Hadrian’s Villa.
- Cruise along the Coast of Gargano.
- Visit to Alberobello.
- Private tour of Matera.
- Private tour of the Greek Temples in Paestum.
- Tour of Pompeii with a private tour guide.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Culinary experience in a Villa near Sorrento.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.
- Private Walking Tour of Naples.



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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

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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.

OR

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.



Enjoy a Walking Food and Wine Tour in the Trendy Trastevere Neighborhood

In the evening you'll enjoy a walking tour in the heart of Rome. Trastevere is a neighborhood like no other. 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 3 Transfer to Vieste with Visit to Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel. Destination: Vieste, a marine resorted known for the purity of its waters. We'll leave Rome early, stopping in the nearby hills to learn about the Roman Emperor Hadrian at the ruins of his huge Villa in Tivoli. An enthusiastic traveler and builder, he left a lasting legacy. In addition to Hadrian's Villa, he built a great wall across Britain and the domed Pantheon.

After your visit to the Villa, you'll be driven over the Apennines, the mountainous spine of the country. Then, you'll arrive at the shores of the Adriatic Sea. Your destination for the evening: the tip of the rugged Gargano Peninsula, one of the most beautiful areas of Southern Italy – and still unknown to American travelers. Here, the Adriatic is at its best, with its clear, blue waters and the feeling that nothing much has changed in the last hundred years.



DAY 4 Cruise along the Coast of the Gargano and Cooking Class in Vieste

This is the day for your boat cruise along the craggy Gargano Coast, a promontory that juts into the Adriatic Sea, the “spur” on the Italian boot. You will marvel at the picture-perfect coves, hidden grottos, and unusual rock formations that make this coastline unforgettable.

We'll return to Vieste for a pasta-making demonstration and lunch, followed by plenty of time to wander through the town or simply luxuriate on the beach.



DAY 5 Transfer to Matera with Visit to Alberobello

On your fifth day in Southern Italy, you will head off the tourist path with your private guide. You will travel through Puglia and into the Basilicata region, with a stop to learn about and sample some local wines, meats, and cheeses. In Alberobello, you will explore cone-shaped, stone *trulli*, centuries old houses that are still lived in today. Then we'll drive on to the town of Matera, a rocky outcrop which includes one of the world's most unique neighborhoods — the Sassi — completely made up of ancient stone and cave dwellings. That afternoon you'll arrive at your hotel in Matera.

DAY 6 Tour of Matera

Touring Matera with the help of a locally grown expert, you will learn the stories of old and new Matera. Imagine this: you will begin the day discovering the wonders of the Sassi — a 9,000-year-old neighborhood. 9,000 years! You will enter a *sasso* home to gain an appreciation for the cave-dwelling conditions endured by the residents until they were relocated 60 years ago. The Sassis now houses museums like the Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario, with period furniture and artisan tools. It also contains rock-hewn churches like the one you will visit, with 13th century frescoes. You will also get to tour the newer parts of the town.

DAY 7 Transfer to Sorrento with Visit to Paestum

Early this morning, your private driver and car will bring you into the Campania region, where you'll tour an organic water buffalo farm that produces the prized local specialty, *mozzarella di bufala*. You will tour the barns and learn how this tasty delicacy is made and enjoy a gourmet lunch including (you guessed it) fresh buffalo mozzarella. After lunch, you'll continue to Paestum. This site includes an awe-inspiring lineup of three ancient Greek temples — the best-preserved collection in Europe. Next: on to the dramatic Amalfi Coast. Be ready for excitement, as your driver negotiates the famous cliff-clinging road that winds above the sea to Sorrento.



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DAY 8 Let the Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the bluest sea and enjoy a “granite al limone” or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew’s cathedral, the patron saint of the town.



DAY 9 Dive into the Waters off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers’ cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch awaits you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

DAY 10 Transfer to Naples with Visit to Pompeii

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many “fast food” restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the



500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Naples.

DAY 11 Tour of Naples

Your private, English-speaking guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you on an introductory walking tour of Naples. Your tour will begin at the beautiful hilltop Museo Capodimonte, home to southern Italy's best collection of Renaissance paintings. The museum includes magnificent masterpieces by Raphael, Titian, Caravaggio, and El Greco. After lunch in the city that invented pizza, you'll be introduced to Naples' grittier side. You'll discover another side of Italy in this Vespa-dodging, laundry-flapping, slice-of-Neapolitan-life walking tour through the heart of this chaotic, memorable city.

DAY 12 Exploring More of Naples

Naples dates back to the 2nd millennium B.C., with centuries of important art and architecture to see. You'll begin the morning with a visit to the serene Cappella Sansevero, home to amazingly lifelike sculptures that must be seen to be believed. The tour will continue with the greatest treasures of Pompeii, brought to Naples' National Archeological Museum for safekeeping. Next, prepare to be dazzled by the Farnese collection, including the largest single sculpture ever recovered from antiquity: the *Farnese Bull*. This larger-than-life riot of animal, human, and divine struggle was adored and painstakingly restored by Michelangelo. Then, armed with the confidence and Neapolitan street smarts you've learned from your guide, your afternoon is free for making your own discoveries in this, *Your Own Italy*.

DAY 13 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Naples's airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in *Your Own Italy*.



- 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!
- The tour of Pompeii 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.

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A UNIQUE VIEW OF ITALY: Sicily and the Amalfi Coast

Sorrento, Positano, Capri, Taormina,
Syracuse, Catania and Mt. Etna

If you have a special love for the sea, historic towns and the lure of volcanoes, this is the perfect Italian trip for you. You'll fly into Naples, then head to Sorrento. Transportation: your private car and English-speaking driver. You will tour Pompeii, the country's best-preserved ancient town, with sites that date back to 79 A.D. – and have lunch on Mt. Vesuvius, the first of your trip's volcanoes. You'll move on to the

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

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Amalfi Coast, with a private boat trip to Capri. Swimming in the perfectly blue waters and grottoes will feel like a dream come true. Then on to Sicily, where you will spend five days exploring the best this great island has to offer. From historic Syracuse, with its archeological treasures to the cobbled streets and famous chocolate of Modica...from Taormina, where history and the Mediterranean meet, to Catania and Mt. Etna, the height of every trip to Sicily... to a boat tour of the Taormina coast...this is Your Own Italy, more than you could have imagined.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- 10 nights' accommodation in your choice of hotels or apartments in historic center in Sorrento - 4 nights, Syracuse – 3 nights and Taormina – 3 nights.
- Tour of Pompeii with a private tour guide.
- Lunch in wine-producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri. • Private walking tour of Syracuse.
- Day Excursion to Ragusa and Modica.
- Private walking tour of Taormina.
- Day Excursion to Catania and Mt. Etna.
- Boat tour of the Taormina Coastline.



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DAY 1 Welcome to Italy!

Your Private driver will pick you up at Naples airport and accompany you to your hotel. After relaxing, you will have time on your own to explore Sorrento. Perched atop cliffs that separate the town from its busy marinas, it's known for sweeping water views and Piazza Tasso, a cafe-lined square. The historic center, a warren of narrow alleys, includes the Chiesa di San Francesco, a 14th-century church with a tranquil cloister. Spend some time discovering Sorrento's colorful street and enjoy dinner on the terrace of a recommended restaurant.

DAY 2 Explore Ancient Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius

Explore Ancient Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius
Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many "fast food" restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the

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500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, you will have the option of a tour of Mt. Vesuvius. Its crater, at an altitude of about 3,400 feet, offers spectacular views of the Sorrento Peninsula, the Gulf of Naples, and the islands of Capri and Ischia. Your private driver will then take you back to your hotel in Sorrento.

DAY 3 Let the Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the bluest sea and enjoy a “granite al limone” or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew’s cathedral, the patron saint of the town.



DAY 4 Dive into the Waters off Capri

You will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers’ cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peeks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch awaits you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

DAY 5 Transfer to Sicily and Arrival in Syracuse

This morning, your driver will take you to Naples Airport for your flight to Catania on Sicily’s eastern coast, where your private driver will be waiting to bring you to Syracuse, once one of the most important cities in the Greek Empire.



DAY 6 Private Tour of Syracuse

Your private guide will begin your tour with a visit to Syracuse's Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi. Much of modern Syracuse was destroyed during WWII, but its archeological treasures – one of the most important collections in Europe -have been preserved. Next, you will visit the nearby Archeological park, which boasts the world's largest Greek theater and a Roman amphitheater. After lunch, you will tour Syracuse in a golf cart permitting driving in the narrow streets of Ortygia - the historic center.



DAY 7 Day Excursion to Ragusa and Modica

This morning, you set off from your hotel for a full-day tour of the Baroque towns of Ragusa and Modica. Starting in Ragusa at the top of Ragusa Superiore, the upper town, your guide takes you down the 242 winding steps that lead to the lower town, Ragusa Ibla, enjoying the rooftop panoramas along the way. You then leave your guide and take a private car to have some free time to explore the cobbled streets of Modica, where you can sample some of the chocolate for which the city is known.



DAY 8 Transfer to Taormina, with Private Tour of the City Center

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Syracuse for the drive to Taormina. After checking into your hotel, your local guide will introduce you to this Sicilian gem. First artists, then expatriates, and then simply the very rich have washed across the city. Where else in the world can you take in the view of an Greco-Roman 3rd century amphi-theater, a smoking volcano, and the blue Mediterranean without even turning your head?



DAY 9 Day Excursion to Catania and Mt. Etna

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you to Catania, Sicily's second largest city, dominated by Mt. Etna. Much of the town was rebuilt in the eighteenth century, following a volcanic eruption and then an earthquake. Your visit will include a tour of the lively daily fish market, located behind the Duomo.

After lunch at a selected restaurant, your driver and guide will accompany you to Mt. Etna, the culmination of a visit to Sicily. Etna has been erupting for half a million years or more. Your visit to the volcano will include taking the cable car to the 2,500-meter mark where you will enjoy the spectacular views.



DAY 10 **Boat tour of the Taormina Coastline**

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to your private boat in Taormina's port. You will see Taormina from the best vantage point, the sea, then relax as you tour along the Sicilian coastline with stops on the famed Isola Bella and the Bay of the Mermaids where you will be able to swim in the cool, clear waters. After a sumptuous lunch, you will visit the Blue Grotto with its famed colorful shades of blue and green.



DAY 11 **Departure**

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel with plenty of time to make your flight from Catania's international Airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in Your Own Italy.



- Please wear comfortable footwear as the tours on your vacation involve a lot of walking.
- 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.
- The tour of Pompeii 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.
- The private Boat tour to Capri 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!

CONTACT:

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The Complete Italian Experience

Venice, Cinque Terre, Florence + Tuscany, the Amalfi Coast, Rome

Vacation length: 17 days/16 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE



This is it: your Grand Tour of Italy. Seventeen days/sixteen nights touring all the major regions of our amazing country. You'll discover all the beauty, romance, art, history, cuisine and culture – you may want to stay! You'll start in Venice, for a walking tour, gondola ride, boat ride to Murano and Burano islands and more. Then you will head to the sophisticated city of Milan, the world capital for design and fashion. Be transformed when you see

Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper...be prepared to shop when you visit the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Next, Lake Como, where you'll explore its beauty and the riches of its residents and visitors...Cinque Terre, where you'll find colorful villages, indulge in a pesto-making class, enjoy panoramic views and more. On to Florence, by way of Pisa. Florence? Too much to summarize here. For all the details of the rest of your trip – the unequalled art of Florence, the preserved history of Pisa, the amazing cuisine of Tuscany, the exquisite beauty of the Amalfi Coast and the glory of Rome, the Eternal City – please read the Itinerary below. This is the trip of a lifetime, exploring the nation...The Complete Italian Experience.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- English-speaking tour guide throughout.
- 16 nights' accommodations total. Your choice of hotels or apartments in historic center in Venice – 3 nights, Milan – 2 nights, Cinque Terre – 2 nights, Florence – 3 nights, Sorrento – 3 nights, Rome – 3 nights.
- Introduction to Venice walking tour with gondola ride.
- Private Tour of San Marco, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and Doge's Palace.
- Private Boat Tour of the islands of Murano and Burano w/ glass-making demonstration.
- Private Walking tour of Milan with visit to see Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper.
- Day Excursion on Lake Como to Bellagio and Villa Balbianello.
- Walking Tour of the 5 villages of the Cinque Terre with Pesto making demonstration.
- Private Tour of Pisa's Cathedral and Leaning Tower.



- Introduction to Florence Walking Tour including the Cathedral, Accademia Gallery, the Baptistry 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 tour of Pompeii with lunch in Wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.
- Introductory to Rome "Dolce Vita" Tour on the evening of arrival in Rome.
- Tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Tour of The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.

ITINERARY



DAY 1 Private Transfer From Airport. Walking Tour Of Venice With Gondola Ride

Your private driver will pick you up at Venice's Marco Polo airport and take you to your hotel in the historic center. That afternoon, you will be taken on an introductory walking tour of the labyrinth also known as "hidden Venice" to enjoy the shops, cafés and colorful gondolas. Your introduction to Venice will culminate with an enchanting gondola glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a lyricist? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine.

DAY 2 Walking Tour Of Venice's Unique Sites

After a leisurely breakfast, your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); you will climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city and visit the Marciana Library and the Clock Tower. Then, you will visit the Bridge of Sighs, an enclosed span of white limestone built in the 1600s to move common criminals. You will see its baroque beauty, learn its sad history, and start to unravel the facts and the lore.



DAY 3 Explore Murano and Burano

You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano. Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice's 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you'll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.

Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you'll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuchsia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.



DAY 4 Private Transfer to Milan with Tour of Milan

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel and take you to your hotel in the historic center of Milan.

After time for you to relax in your hotel, your guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you on an introductory walking tour of Italy's most stylish city. Your tour will include a visit to see one of the most famous works of art in the world, Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper', housed at Santa Maria delle Grazie church.

You will also visit the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping gallery, a 19th century glass vaulted shopping arcade. Filled with fashionable shops and cafes, it is often called the 'salotto di Milano' or 'Milan's drawing room.' It has always been important as a meeting point for the people of the city.

Next on your walk: the medieval Sforza's Castle; a grand medieval Castle and fortress. Once seat and residence for the ruling family of Milan, it now is the home to several of the city's museums and art collections. Your next stop: the Duomo, one of the world's largest, most striking Gothic cathedrals. This magnificent building boasts 135 spires and 3,200 statues, all on the roof and the façade.



DAY 5 Day Excursion To Lake Como And Bellagio

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to Como for a walking tour of this charming medieval town. After lunch you will board a ferry to cross Lake Como, a popular retreat for aristocrats and wealthy people since Roman times. Often called the most beautiful lake in the world for its microclimate and environment, Lake Como is a not only a tourist destination. It also includes many villas and palaces – as well as the homes of many famous people hugging the shores of the lake. This is luxury unlike anything else you will find in the world.



DAY 6 Transfer to Monterosso in Cinque Terre

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Milan and drive you to Monterosso al Mare, one of the five villages in the Cinque Terre. On the way, you'll stop for lunch and a stroll in the charming town of Portofino. Located on the Italian Riviera, Portofino is a fishing village and holiday resort famous for its picturesque harbor and historical association with celebrity and artistic visitors. The town is clustered around its small harbor, and is known for the colorfully painted buildings that line the shore. You'll settle into your hotel in Monterosso. Rest up for your walking tour tomorrow.



DAY 7 Walking Tour of 5 Villages with Pesto Making Demonstration

In one day, explore the villages of Cinque Terre. You'll have a great taste of this unique region, including a touch of local culture, amazing views from the seaside, indulging in local specialties -- everything at your own pace.

With your English-speaking guide, you'll take the train from La Spezia to Riomaggiore, walk along the panoramic footpath that leads from the new to the old part of the village. There, you will have a view of the "Via dell'Amore", the rest of Cinque Terre coast, the harbor and the old Riomaggiore. You'll pass the ancient church of St. John the Baptist to the main street. Next stop is Manarola, one of the smallest villages. You'll walk uphill to the village's church, then choose to walk through the vineyards or through the upper side of the village.

After your stroll, you'll thoroughly enjoy the Pesto making class. You'll pick the basil from fresh plants and use an old mortar to make traditional pesto. Lunch will include pesto bruschetta, meat and cheese platters, olives and vegetable cakes accompanied by white wine from Cinque Terre.

In the early afternoon you'll take the train to Vernazza, the pearl of

Cinque Terre. With your local guide, you will explore the maze of its alleys and enjoy the stunning view of the village from the hiking path leading to Monterosso. Then, back to the starting point village of Monterosso.

DAY 8 Private Transfer to Florence with Stopover in Pisa

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Monterosso for the drive to Florence. On the way, you'll stop by to visit the cathedral complex of Pisa and climb the famed leaning tower. The Pisa Cathedral and its surrounding buildings, constructed from 1063 to 1350, form a Romanesque complex unequalled in all of Italy in size, quality and unique style. The cathedral includes a large separate baptistry and a famous bell tower. How famous? The Pisa Cathedral bell tower is now the Leaning Tower of Pisa. You'll have time to explore and climb to the top of the tower, a truly memorable experience.



DAY 9 Walking Tour of the Museum of the Duomo, the Baptistery, Piazza Della Signoria and Uffizi Gallery

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 10 Visit to a Wine Producing Villa in Chianti for Lunch and Wine Tasting, Plus a visit to Medieval S. Gimignano

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 11 Transfer to Sorrento and Tour of Pompeii

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Florence and transfer you to the nearby train station where you will take a high-speed train to Naples. Upon arrival, a private driver will pick you up at the train station and take you to Pompeii for a private tour. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many "fast food" restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the 500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Sorrento.



DAY 12 Let The Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the bluest sea and enjoy a "granite al limone" or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the

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abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Rufolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew's cathedral, the patron saint of the town.



DAY 13 Dive Into The Waters Off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers' cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch awaits you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

Rome

DAY 14 Private Transfer to Naples Train Station and High-Speed Train to Rome

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel in Sorrento and transfer you to the train station in Naples to take a high-speed train to Rome. A driver will be waiting for you at Rome's train station and will transfer you to your hotel in the historic center. 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 15 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 16 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.

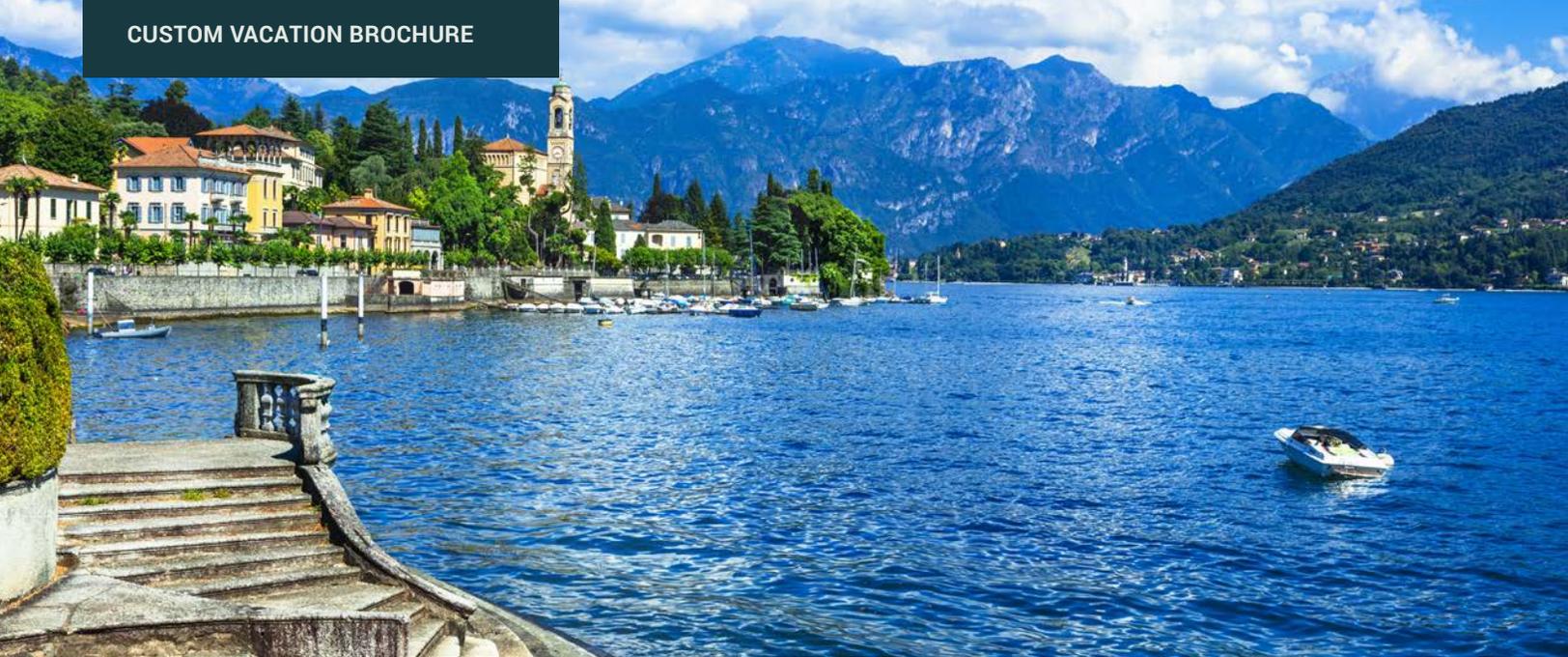


DAY 17 Depart Rome

Your driver will pick you up in plenty of time to make your flight. Rome salutes you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with Your Own Italy, you have friends here in Rome.



- Please wear comfortable footwear as the tours on your vacation involve a lot of walking.
- Many tours take place in an historical areas and are 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.
- 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.
- At times St Mark's basilica is closed due to highwater or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark's Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church.
- Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark's Basilica are available only from April to October
- St. Mark's Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- The tour of Pompeii 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.
- Contact Your Own Italy for customization options on your vacation.
- Refer to our website for details.



The Lakes and Villages of Northern Italy

Milan, Lake Maggiore, Lake Como, Verona and Venice

A trip to Northern Italy is a trip to one of Italy's most beautiful and romantic regions. You'll start in Milan, well-known world-wide as the capital of art and design. You'll get to see it all, from the glass-vaulted shopping arcade to The Last Supper and everything in between. You'll relax on a day trip to Lake Maggiore on a private boat, with a visit to the magnificently beautiful, 16th century Borromean Islands.

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

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Then, on to Lake Como, where you may see the famous celebrities who populate the town. You'll stay at a lakefront hotel, tour the lake and visit Bellagio, known for its art and its beauty. Next: to Verona, with a stop for lunch and wine tasting. You'll tour this ancient city, before heading on to Venice – one of the world's most romantic cities. You will see the sites of Venice on walking tours and gondola rides...enjoy a private boat trip to the islands of Murano and Burano – plan to shop for glass, lace and more. Finally, your private guide will take you on another private boat trip, this time to Venice's airport for departure. You will have had the chance to absorb Northern Italy – and create true friends in Your Own Italy.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- English-speaking tour guide throughout.
- 10 nights' accommodations total. Your choice of hotels or apartments in historic center in Milan - 3 nights, Como - 2 nights, Verona – 2 nights and Venice – 3 nights.
- Private Walking tour of Milan with visit to see Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper.
- Day Excursion to Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands.
- Day Excursion on Lake Como to Bellagio and Villa Balbianello.
- Private Walking tour of Verona.
- Introduction to Venice walking tour with gondola ride.
- Private Tour of San Marco, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and Doge's Palace.
- Private Boat Tour of the islands of Murano and Burano with glass-making demonstration.



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DAY 1 Private Transfer from Milan's Airport and Introductory Tour of Milan

On arrival you'll be met and transferred by private car to your hotel in the heart of the Milan, a global capital of art and design and the second largest city in Italy, after Rome. Once you are relaxed from your travels, your guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you on an introductory walking tour of what is considered Italy's most stylish city. On your walking tour, you'll stop by the alluring Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, a 19th century glass-vaulted shopping arcade. It is known as the 'salotto di Milano' or 'Milan's drawing room' – and has always been as a common meeting point for the people of Milan. It is filled with fashionable shops and cafes – and you MUST plan to shop while you're there.

DAY 2 Tour of Milan's Unique Sites

Your private guide will pick you up at your hotel and accompany you to see many of Milan's most unique sites. The first stop is the medieval Sforza's Castle, a grand medieval Castle and fortress. It was once the seat and residence for Milan's ruling family and now houses several of the city's museums and art collections. Next, you will head to Santa Maria delle Grazie Church, to see Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper, certainly one of the world's most famous works of art. You will stop for lunch, then tour the splendid Duomo, one of the world's largest, most striking Gothic cathedrals. The roof and façade of this amazing build includes 135 spires and 3,200 statues. (How many can you count?!) The

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walking tour will end at Milan's famous Opera House, home of the world-renowned La Scala Theater. Founded in 1778 and still in use today, some of the world's greatest musicians and opera singers have performed here, including Pavarotti and other more recent stars. Giuseppe Verdi was here, often premiering his famous operas.

DAY 3 Day Excursion to Borromean Islands

This is the day you'll enjoy a day trip to the stunning Lake Maggiore. The journey from Milan will take just over an hour in your private car. Then, a private boat will take you out on the lake, which is located at the foot of the Alps, straddling the border of Italy and Switzerland. You will tour the Borromean Islands with your private guide. These are a group of three small islands and two islets on Lake Maggiore, a favorite attraction due to their beautiful palaces, gardens and picturesque setting. Their history dates to the early 16th century and are the perfect way to continue your vacation in Northern Italy.

DAY 4 Transfer to Como

Depart from Milan today by private car to Lake Como, a journey which should take between an hour and an hour and a half. After arriving at your lakefront hotel, you will have the rest of the day to explore the charming medieval heart of the town. Lake Como has been a popular retreat for aristocrats and wealthy people since Roman times. It is now a very popular tourist destination, offering multiple artistic and cultural attractions. It includes many villas and palaces – as well as the homes of many famous people hugging the shores of the lake. Lake Como has been called the most beautiful lake in the world for its microclimate and environment with prestigious villas and villages. This is luxury unlike anything else you will find in the world.



DAY 5 Day Excursion on Lake Como and Bellagio

In the morning, you'll set off with your private guide and boat driver to explore Lake Como. One of the highlights will be a visit to Villa Balbianello, a stunning lakeside retreat where the James Bond film 'Casino Royale' was filmed. After this you'll head to the picturesque town of Bellagio, often referred to as the 'pearl of the lake', to enjoy some free time. Bellagio is a village on a promontory jutting out into the lake. It's known for its cobbled lanes, elegant buildings and Villa Serbelloni Park, an 18th-century terraced garden with lake views. Nearby are the Tower of the Arts, a venue for exhibitions and performances, and the Romanesque San Giacomo Church. Close to rocky Loppia Beach, the Museum of Navigational Instruments displays sundials and compasses. After visiting Bellagio, your boat will take you back down the lake to your hotel.

DAY 6 Transfer to Verona with Visit to Wine Producing Villa

Departing from Lake Como by private car, you will head east to Verona, a journey of approximately two hours. On the way you'll stop for lunch and wine tasting at a wine-producing villa near Verona. As you'll find throughout Italy, the food and wine will be incomparable. Your driver will then take you to your hotel in the historic center of Verona, a medieval town on the beautiful Adige River. Famous as the setting of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," it includes 14th-century residence with a tiny balcony overlooking a courtyard is said to be "Juliet's House." The city also includes a 1st-century Roman amphitheater, which currently hosts concerts and large-scale opera performances.



DAY 7 Tour of Verona

This morning a guide will meet you at your hotel for a private three-hour walking tour of Verona. Verona is an exceptionally romantic city with a rich architectural heritage. It is strategically set at the crossing of two vital trade routes, on the Adige River, and has been an important cultural and commercial hub since the 3rd century. Today, Verona's streets still reveal the rich, multi-layered history, with a medieval core, a labyrinth of cobbled laneways and grand squares with ancient Roman structures. The most complete of these is the wonderful Roman amphitheater, where the city's world-renowned summer opera festival is held every year. Your private guide will show you all the sites, tell you about the history and answer all your questions.

DAY 9 Tour of Venice's Unique Sites

Your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); You will visit St. Mark's Basilica, with the richness of its marbles and mosaics. The Doge's palace, fourteenth century building from where the ancient Venetian republic exerted the control over the city. Passing through the famous Bridge of Sighs, you will reach the Prisons Palace. Your tour will culminate with a climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city.



DAY 8 Transfer to Venice and Tour of Hidden Venice

Your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the Venice. Upon arrival your tour guide will meet and lead you to your private taxi-boat. You will never forget the splendid entrance on the Grand Canal into one of the most unique cities in the world. After relaxing in your hotel room you will be taken on a walking tour of the labyrinth also known as "hidden Venice" to enjoy the piazzas, or campi in Venetian, shops and cafés. Your introduction to Venice will culminate an enchanting glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a lyricist? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine.

DAY 10 Explore Murano and Burano

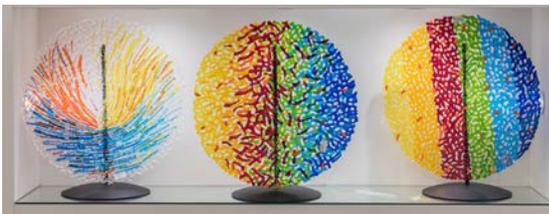
You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano.

Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th



century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice’s 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you’ll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.

Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen’s houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you’ll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuchsia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.



DAY 11 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Venice’s airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt “arrivederci”! See you again! Now that you’ve traveled with us, know that you have friends here in *Your Own Italy*.

OTHER INFORMATION



- At times St Mark’s basilica is closed due to high water or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark’s Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church.
- Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark’s Basilica are available only from April to October. St. Mark’s Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- 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 takes place in an historical area and 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.
- For prices, please refer to our website

CONTACT:

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- To share our love of Italy with our clients
 - To create an experience for them that will make Italy their own
 - To do everything possible so our clients depart knowing that they have friends in Italy





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