

Andrews Group Travel

See Italy

SORRENTO, ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE

September 20-October 1 2015

Day 1 – Welcome to the Eternal City



Today you will be picked-up at the airport by your private driver and assistant. Before checking in at the hotel you will start your experience in Italy with a 3- hour walking tour of the main highlights of the Eternal City with your private English speaking guide. Discover the most atmospheric spots in Rome together with your English speaking guide. Admire the

Spanish Steps and the colossal Trevi Fountain. Then stop for a coffee break before heading to the Pantheon where you will see Raphael's tomb and learn the real cause of the famous artist's death. You will also see the beautiful Piazza Navona, home to spectacular Renaissance buildings and Gian Lorenzo Bernini's beautiful "Fountain of Four Rivers". After the tour check in at the hotel Visconti Palace 4* where you will spend 2 nights including daily breakfast and rest of the day at leisure to relax and rest. In the evening enjoy a dinner in the unique area of Trastevere.

About Rome: The first settlements in the region can be traced back to the early Etruscan civilization in northern Lazio. Rome grew to rule a vast empire and, as the Empire began to divide, the region became the center of the Christian world. Artists and architects flocked to work for the Popes and their families, notably in the Renaissance and Baroque periods when some magnificent architectural works were created.

Day 2 – Enjoy Ancient Rome and the Vatican

In the morning you will be transferred to the Vatican for a 3 hour private experience. Stroll through the main rooms of the Vatican Museums, which house the most extensive collection of art in the world. You will see Raphael's Rooms and Michelangelo's impressive Sistine Chapel. From here you will proceed to Saint Peter's Basilica where you can admire additional masterpieces, such as the Pietà by Michelangelo, and Bernini's Canopy, as well as explore the Popes' tombs. Conclude your morning in Saint Peter's Square and Bernini's Colonnade. Tickets and skip the line reservation to the venues are included. Enjoy lunch after the tour in a great restaurant in the Vatican Area. Then continue your day with your 3-hour private walking tour of Ancient Rome.



Your private walking tour will start from the Colosseum, modern Rome's most recognizable landmark and one of Ancient Rome's most vital social centers. You will learn more about the past of the amphitheater as you listen to tales of gladiators, mock sea-battles and executions. You can then visit the Palatine Hill, the most famous of the seven hills of Rome. From here

you will admire the views of the Roman Forum and Nero's Circus Maximus where chariot races were once held. Romulus and Remus were said to have been found on the Palatine Hill by the she-wolf who nursed and raised them. Legend holds that Romulus went on to found Rome. You will then walk along the Sacred Way, the main path through the Roman Forum that once sparkled with festivals and triumphal processions. Tickets and skip the line reservation to the venues are included.

Evening at leisure

Day 3 – Welcome to the Amalfi Coast



Private transfer from your hotel in Rome to the reserved hotel in Sorrento. You will be enchanted by the beauty of the landscape of the area. Arrival and check-into the hotel

Sorrento Palace 4* where you will stay 3 nights with breakfast included

Time to settle in, relax and freshen up from your journey.

In the afternoon enjoy a driving tour of the enchanting Amalfi Coast including stops in Positano and Amalfi. Return to Sorrento for a great dinner at one of the local

About Sorrento: Sorrento is a small town overlooking the beautiful Bay of Naples. The town has a history that dates back over 2,000 years. Its origins are Roman, although the town has Greek influences. It was later under the influence of Byzantium, then sacked by the Longobards, conquered by the Normans and under the Aragonese's power. After a long period of stagnation, the beginning of the 18th century saw a time of cultural, economic and social rebirth for the whole Sorrento peninsula, reaching its peak in the 19th century. It was the period of the "Grand Tour", thanks to which famous artists such as Byron, Keats, Scott, Dickens, Goethe, Wagner and Nietzsche came to Sorrento seeking for inspiration.

Day 4 – Exploring Capri at leisure



Day at leisure. If the weather is nice, we suggest taking the public ferry and spend the day on the island of Capri. You might take the cable car to Anacapri and take a stroll through the town and do some shopping.

Day 5 Pompeii and Naples

Breakfast at the hotel. Then meet your English speaking driver in the hotel lobby at 9:00 AM and transfer to Pompeii for a guided tour of the archaeological site. The fame of the petrified town is linked to the tragic day in AD 79 when Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying it in 20 feet of pumice and ash. Although the ancient town was discovered in the 16th century, serious excavation works began only in the 18th century, revealing a city petrified in time. Paintings and sculptures have survived in some buildings, and graffiti are still visible on street walls. Enjoy then a great pizza lunch in the heart of Naples.

Then meet up again with your driver and continue onto Naples for a tour of the main highlights of the city. See Castel dell'Ovo, once a royal residence under the Normans and the Hohenstaufen, now belonging to the army. Admire Castel Nuovo, also known as Maschio Angioino, the main Aragonese royal residence, Palazzo Reale, Piazza del Plebiscito and the handsome arcades of the Galleria Umberto I built in 1887 and rebuilt after World War II. Return to Sorrento at the end of the tour and evening at leisure.

Day 6 – Towards Florence

After breakfast meet your English speaking driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to Florence to the reserved 4-star hotel. Check-into the hotel where you will spend 3 nights with breakfast daily.



In the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of one of the most famous galleries in the world, the Uffizi Museums where you will admire works by Botticelli, Leonardo and many more.

Rest of the day on your own.

About Florence: *Florence is a vast and beautiful monument to the Renaissance, the artistic and cultural reawakening of the 15th century. Writers such as Dante, Petrarch and Macchiavelli contributed to its proud literary heritage, though it was the paintings and sculptures of artist such as Botticelli, Michelangelo and Donatello that turned the city into one of the world's greatest artistic capital.*



Day 7 – Best of the Cradle of Renaissance

At 9:00 am meet your English speaking guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy your 3-hour walking tour at the discovery of Florence historic center. You will see the famous Ponte Vecchio, the imposing Duomo, the Baptistery with its famous "Gates of Paradise", the Bell Tower and Piazza della

Signoria with the medieval Palazzo Vecchio, completed in 1332 and still used as a town hall. You will have the chance to rub the nose of the legendary boar, "il Porcellino" to ensure your

return to Florence and visit Piazza della Repubblica, once the Ancient Forum, now a popular meeting place for famous writers, artists and locals. You will also visit the Accademia Gallery, founded in 1563, where Michelangelo's David is kept. The sculpture was commissioned by the city for Piazza della Signoria, but it was moved to the Accademia for safekeeping in the late 19th century.

Tickets and skip the line reservation to the venue are included.



5:30 pm – Your chef will await you at her house for a very special cooking class. Learn how to make a Tuscan meal under the guidance of an expert chef, using fresh ingredients, which vary according to the season and the best Tiramisu ever. This would be a truly delightful Italian experience. When you have finished the lesson it will be time to enjoy your home made dinner accompanied by fine wine to complete the evening.

Return to the hotel on your own and overnight stay.

Day 8 – Siena and San Gimignano



9:00 am - Transfer by coach along roads surrounded by the vineyards and olive groves of the wonderful Chianti countryside. Meet your guide in Siena and enjoy a stroll along the steep medieval streets, among beautiful palaces. You will visit the stunning Cathedral, the Piccolomini Library and the Cathedral Works Museum, before going to Piazza del Campo, where two exciting Palio horse races take place every summer, in July and in August. You will then enjoy a great lunch in Siena.

You will then reach the small medieval village of San Gimignano, famous for its towers, frescoes and many other art treasures for an afternoon at leisure in this fascinating town. Do not miss the chance to taste some of the famous local wines among which the Vernaccia of San Gimignano.

Return to Florence around 7:00 pm.

Day 9 – Arrival in Venice



After breakfast, meet your English speaking driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to Venice Piazzale Roma.

Upon arrival into Venice meet your English speaking transfer assistant who will escort you all the way through the hotel where you will transfer to by private water taxi.

Check-into the classic room we have reserved for your 2-night stay in a beautiful 4-star Hotel. In the afternoon enjoy a gondola ride along the Venetian Canals



Day 10 – Best of the City with Doge’s Palace and Basilica



In the morning meet your English speaking guide for a 3-hour small group walking tour of the best of Venice. You will admire the main landmarks of the city, including the impressive St. Mark's Basilica, one of the greatest buildings of Europe in which architectural and decorative styles of East and West are blended together. You will then enter Doge’s Palace, which features many works of art including paintings by Tintoretto and Veronese. Your guide will tell you the secrets of the glorious past

of the Serenissima Republic. You will also see the famous Bridge of Sighs which links the palace to the prisons.

Tickets and skip the line reservation to the venues are included.

Afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Evening at leisure.

Day 11 - Departure

Meet your English speaking driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to Venice Airport for your flight back home.



Tour Inclusions

- 2 nights in Rome Hotel type Hotel Visconti Palace 4* or similar
- 3 nights in Sorrento Hotel type Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel 4* or similar
- 3 nights in Florence Hotel type Hotel Adler Cavalieri 4* or similar
- 2 nights in Venice Hotel type Hotel Gabrielli Sandwirth 4* or similar
- Daily buffet American breakfast in hotel
- Six 3 course meals (lunch or dinner) including cooking class
- local English speaking assistant where mandatory
- English Speaking Tour guides at all tours
- Mandatory headsets
- Ruins of Pompeii entrance fee
- Vatican Museums entrance fee
- Coliseum and Imperial forum entrance fee
- Uffizi Gallery entrance fee
- Florence Academia Gallery entrance fee
- Doges Palace entrance
- St. Marco Basilica entrance
- boat transfer from Tronchetto hotel in Venice included 1 luggage per pax
- boat transfer from hotel in Venice to Venice airport included
- Gondola Boat ride

ADDITIONAL INCLUSIONS

A detailed itinerary of their Italian journey

One book per couple or person (if traveling alone), on a land of cheery dysfunction

Suggest book list on the area clients will be traveling through

A list of everything you wanted to know, but couldn't remember to ask

Our complimentary Italian concierge phone number that will be at the client's disposal for their whole trip

Tour Leader with the group for the entirety of the trip.

COST:

Includes RT international air from Nashville, ALL TOURS, 4* hotels, all transportations, guides entrance fees, trip insurance. AIR COST MAY BE REMOVED IF FLYING ON OWN ACCORD.

ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE WITH AIR:

\$5570 for double occupancy

Single Supplement fee- Please ask**

Deduct \$ 1350 if you book own air. (Trip insurance cost is \$275 included in total) It is not recommended to remove trip insurance.

DEPOSIT DUE: January 15 \$1000 (\$50 off total trip cost if paid at the Dec 3 meeting or before Dec 12)

Half payment due: March 25 \$2285 Final Payment due June 10 \$2285

Checks Payable to Andrews Group Travel: 103 Brighton Close Nashville, TN 37205