



## ESSENTIAL ITALY

ROME | FLORENCE | VENICE

8 DAYS  
from  
**\$2,325**

CADS, PP, DBL, OCC.

Discover iconic Italy on this 8-day bestselling journey beginning in Rome's epic metropolis, with its famous fountains, sculptures and living history. Appreciate the true meaning of *La Dolce Vita* in Florence, the capital of Tuscany, home to spectacular art, architecture and cuisine. Conclude your tour in Venice, the romantic *City of Water*; wander its narrow streets and pass over bridges that crisscross its waterways.

### Day 1

**ROME** Arrival in **Rome**, the famed city of the Roman Empire and the Seven Hills. Welcome and transfer from airport to hotel. *Hotel Dei Mellini, Superior Room* ★★★★★

### Day 2

**ROME** Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. This morning on your small group tour, discover the treasures of ancient Rome including special access to the famous **Colosseum**. With your expert guide, visit the major sites of **Ancient Rome** and learn about its mythical origins. Admire the splendid **Arch of Constantine**, climb **Palatine Hill** where brothers Remus and Romulus battled over who would found the first empire, and where Romulus founded the city that would become Rome. Stomp triumphantly as soldiers once did on the legendary **Via Sacra**. In the evening, we suggest you *do as the Romans do*: stop at a local *café* for a quick shot of espresso; explore the city's many *piazas* and dine at a *trattoria* with authentic Italian cuisine and impressive house wines. *Hotel Dei Mellini*

### Day 3

**ROME - FLORENCE** After breakfast, transfer to the train station to board your train to **Florence**, the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Take some time to wander the oldest streets in the city including the **Arno River** and the famous **Ponte Vecchio**. Be sure to experience an authentic Florentine gelato, considered by many to be the best in the world. *Palazzo Castrì 1874, Classic Room* ★★★★★

### Day 4

**FLORENCE** After breakfast at your hotel, begin your small group walking tour exploring the historic and architectural evolution of Florence through Medieval centuries, the glorious Renaissance to the modern day city. Learn about the important Medici Family and their rise to power during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>-centuries. See **Piazza della Signoria**, the **Duomo**, **Brunelleschi's Dome**, **Santa Trinita** and **Orsanmichele Church**, **Ponte Vecchio Bridge** and the secret **Vasari Corridor**, as well as famous shopping streets and the **Oltrarno**, which many consider the city's best kept secret. Enjoy your free afternoon to perhaps tour the **Uffizi Gallery** to see the impressive paintings of Leonardo, Botticelli and many more. Florence is home to one of the oldest pharmacies in the

world, **Santa Maria Novella** located inside a former Dominican monastery which sells beautifully packaged perfumes and elixirs; a great place to pick up some unique souvenirs or just visit their museum. *Palazzo Castrì 1874*

### Day 5

**TOUR OF TUSCANY** Breakfast at your hotel. During your full-day small group tour, drive to **Siena**, a small Medieval city with surprises at every corner. Explore the quiet backstreets and learn everything about its 17 districts and the ritual and rivalry of its annual Palio horse race. Your journey continues to **San Gimignano** to discover the maze of cobbled streets, small squares and local artisan shops. After some free time to explore, see a marvelous sunset over the Tuscan hills followed by dinner with wine tasting in the cellar of a villa in the **Chianti countryside**. Return to Florence for overnight. *Palazzo Castrì 1874*

### Day 6

**FLORENCE - VENICE** After breakfast, transfer back to the train station to board your train for **Venice**, the incredibly romantic floating city. Transfer to your hotel. Venice is the world's only pedestrian city and quite easy to navigate by foot. Take some time to explore the small streets and admire the superb architecture and incredible urban landscape of man-made islands connected by bridges. Optional tours include a romantic gondola ride (not included). *UNA Hotel Venezia, Standard Room* ★★★★★

### Day 7

**VENICE** After breakfast, enjoy your morning at leisure. In the afternoon, your small group tour will take you from **St. Mark's Square** with Skip-the-Line access, to the magical Basilica, dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup>-century, including a stop at the first floor terrace. Visit **Doge's Palace**, the heart of the Republic of Venice, including exploring the massive armoury. End with the limestone **Bridge of Sighs** whose history is not as romantic as local legends depict. *UNA Hotel Venezia*

### Day 8

**VENICE - HOME** Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then check out and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

### TOUR OVERVIEW

▶ Total of 7 nights accommodation; 4-Star hotels

2 nights in Rome  
3 nights in Florence  
2 nights in Venice

▶ High-Speed train ticket (2<sup>nd</sup>-Class): Rome – Florence – Venice

▶ Private transfers; small group\* tours as per itinerary

▶ Continental breakfast daily; other meals as indicated

▶ Hotel taxes and service charges

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Small group\* tour of the Colosseum & Ancient Rome
- Small group\* tours of Florence & Venice
- Full-day tour of Tuscany including Tuscan lunch

#### OPTIONAL ADD-ON TOURS

- Vatican visit in Rome
- Cooking class in Florence
- Romantic gondola ride in Venice
- Painted houses of Burano and blown glass of Murano

**International airfare not included.**  
Minimum 2 passengers travelling.

\*Small group tours consist of up to 25 passengers.

Price as indicated valid March 16, 2017, subject to availability at time of booking. For alternative dates, inquire for pricing. Itineraries are fully customizable. Not valid during Venice Carnival, festivals, trade shows, bank holidays and other special events. Blackout periods may apply.

For full terms and conditions, refer to page 39.

**TOUR CODE: EU1317**