

GRAND TOUR OF ITALY & SICILY

19 Days FROM \$5,115



Rialto Bridge in Venice

ESCORTED TOUR PROGRAM

(2) Venice • (3) Florence • (3) Rome • (3) Sorrento •
(2) Palermo • (1) Agrigento • (1) Ragusa • (3) Taormina/
Giardini Naxos



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Live the enchantment of Venice from the Bridge of Sighs and Doge's Palace to St. Mark's Square
- Share in tasting experiences of Lambrusco wines and balsamic vinegar with lunch in Modena
- Marvel at the Renaissance City of Florence and the medieval towns of Siena and San Gimignano
- Tour amazing Assisi and visit the Basilica of Saint Francis
- Discover Rome's treasures, visiting the Roman Forum and the iconic Colosseum and enjoying The Eternal City's piazzas, trattorias, and modern city pulse
- Journey south to Naples and the celebrated Amalfi coastline to Positano and on to the romantic isle of Capri
- Delve into the mystery and mystique of Sicily in Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, and beyond

DAY 1 | MON | VENICE Morning arrival into Venice's Marco Polo airport. Here you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in Venice. The balance of the day is at leisure. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a popular restaurant. (D)

DAY 2 | TUE | VENICE Your morning tour of Venice is on foot and will highlight the Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Piombi Prison. Afternoon is at leisure with enough time for more sightseeing, shopping or relaxation. (B)

DAY 3 | WED | VENICE | PADUA | MODENA | FLORENCE This morning depart Venice and stop in Padua to visit the Basilica of St. Anthony and its art, including the large bronze works of Donatello. Continue your scenic drive to Modena where you'll be treated to a special balsamic vinegar tasting session plus lunch, featuring local specialties and Lambrusco wine. After lunch continue to Florence, the home of Michelangelo. (B,L)

DAY 4 | THU | FLORENCE Your morning tour takes you to Michelangelo Square for a panoramic view of the city. Then visit: the Accademia to see Michelangelo's original "David" statue, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry with its "Gates of Paradise" doors, Signoria Square and Santa Croce Church. Enjoy your afternoon exploring the treasures of Florence on your own or embark on an optional tour to Pisa featuring dinner at an authentic farmhouse and winery in the enchanting Tuscan countryside. (B)

DAY 5 | FRI | FLORENCE | SIENA | SAN GIMIGNANO | FLORENCE After breakfast today, head out for a day of discovery to Siena and San Gimignano. Medieval Siena, known for its famed Palio horse races and expansive central Il Campo plaza, awaits your exploration. Visit Siena's Duomo, considered to be one of the finest Gothic cathedrals in Italy. In San Gimignano, stroll the old-world center and take in the fascinating architecture and towers that offer amazing views of the city and the surrounding valley. Tonight, enjoy a festive dinner with wine and music at a charming villa located on a beautiful Tuscan hillside outside Florence. (B,D)



Duomo in Florence



Ancient town of Assisi

DAY 6 | SAT | FLORENCE | MAGIONE | ASSISI | ROME Morning departure for Rome. Drive through the serene Tuscan and Umbrian countryside, passing by the shores of Lake Trasimeno with a stop at the Magione Castle, presently the private residence of the Prince and Grand Master of Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta. Here a wine expert will lecture on the vinification process that takes place at the castle, followed by a delicious tasting of the varieties of wines produced there and a light lunch. Continue to Assisi, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and enjoy your guided tour of St. Francis Basilica. Arrive in Rome in the late afternoon. (B,L)

DAY 7 | SUN | ROME Rome is filled with monuments, fountains, antiquities and other sites worth exploring. Use this free day to discover, on your own, all the Eternal city has to offer, take an optional tour or discover why Roman trattorias are famous for their fine cuisine. (B)

DAY 8 | MON | ROME This morning, experience a very special privately guided tour of the priceless collection of art and treasures in the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. Then proceed to the Piazza Venezia and Roman Forum, with a stop at the Colosseum - a testament to the greatness of Rome's past. Continue your full day tour by viewing the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, the Great Synagogue, Isola Tiberina and Castel Sant'angelo. Tonight bid arrivederci to Rome at a special dinner with wine in a lovely Roman restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 9 | TUE | ROME | POMPEII | SORRENTO This morning, before heading to Sorrento, stop in Pompeii, the ancient city covered by volcanic lava 2,000 years ago, for a guided tour of the remarkably preserved ruins of temples, houses, gardens and public buildings. Then, drive along the spectacular coast road of the Bay of Naples to Sorrento, the famous resort town of orange and lemon groves. Dinner at your hotel restaurant is included. (B,D)

DAY 10 | WED | SORRENTO | POSITANO | AMALFI | RAVELLO | SORRENTO Leave Sorrento in the morning for Positano. Enjoy a brief stop at the Belvedere for a unique view of Moorish architecture blended with pastel colored houses. Weather permitting, board a motorlaunch and cruise along the coast to Amalfi for a walking tour of the old town. Continue to Ravello for lunch at a restaurant with spectacular views of the Amalfi Coast and the Bay of Salerno. Enjoy some free time for a stroll around the center of town before returning to Sorrento. (B,L)

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DAY 11 | THU | SORRENTO | CAPRI | SORRENTO A morning jetfoil whisks you across the blue Bay of Naples to the fabled Isle of Capri, where you will ascend to the Piazzetta, visit the Floral Gardens of Caesar Augustus, and still have free time for lunch and some shopping before returning to Sorrento. Tonight dinner is at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 12 | FRI | SORRENTO | NAPLES | PALERMO Today we say goodbye to Sorrento. Transfer to Naples airport for your flight to Palermo (not included). Arrival in Palermo and transfer to your hotel. Tonight enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 13 | SAT | PALERMO This morning enjoy a tour of Palermo featuring the Massimo Theater, Quattro Canti, a splendid example of Spanish Baroque Architecture, the Palace of the Normans, and the Cathedral housing the shrine of Santa Rosalia. The last stop will be at the Abbey of Monreale, an Arab-Norman Cathedral built in the 12th century famous for its magnificent Byzantine mosaics and the adjacent Benedictine cloister. Balance of the day is at leisure to relax or to take an optional tour of Cefalu, a picturesque fishing village outside of Palermo. (B)

DAY 14 | SUN | PALERMO | ERICE | MARSALA | AGRIGENTO This morning we take a breathtaking scenic drive up to the medieval town of Erice. After the Elymians settled here, it became an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. Wander through its ancient streets, each cobbled with rectangular stones, and take some time to stop by one of the famous homemade pastry shops selling delicacies such as marzipan candies and pistachio pastries. After enjoying an olive oil tasting session and lunch accompanied by Marsala wine at a local farmhouse, we will travel along a coastline mostly made up of salt pans built back in Roman times. Overnight in Agrigento. (B,L)



Ravello



Ragusa

DAY 15 | MON | AGRIGENTO | RAGUSA This morning enjoy a guided tour of "The Valley of the Temples", a UNESCO World Heritage site. One of the main archaeological treasures of the Mediterranean, this site is immersed in a rural landscape of rare beauty characterized by the presence of century-old olive and almond trees. Your guided walking tour will cover about one mile in a mostly downhill direction, with stops along the "Via Sacra" (holy pathway) to admire the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Herakles and ruins of the Temple of Zeus. In the afternoon we continue to Ragusa. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 16 | TUE | RAGUSA | MODICA | ORTIGIA (SYRACUSE) | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS Today's first stop will be in Modica, a quaint historic town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boasting some very fine Baroque architecture, picturesque views and historic sites, Modica is also known for its chocolate. Rich, dark and crumbly, it is produced in a traditional method imported from the New World by Sicily's Spanish overlords. After a chocolate tasting session at one of the most prestigious chocolate makers, we continue to the enchanting island of Ortigia, the old town center of Syracuse. Highlights of Ortigia are the cathedral square with its church built over an ancient Greek temple and the beautiful promenade with its panorama over the sea and the natural bay of the town. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 17 | WED | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS | SAVOCA | D'AGRO VALLEY | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Taormina's charming city center including the Greek/Roman amphitheater with breathtaking views looking over the bay of Naxos. In the afternoon, enjoy a once in a lifetime experience: the "Godfather" tour. See the real Sicily while exploring Savoca and D'Agro Valley, the towns and area that served as location when filming the "The Godfather" trilogy. (B)

DAY 18 | THU | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS Today, you are at leisure to relax, or to take an optional excursion to the slopes of Mt. Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. In the evening, bid arrivederci to your travel companions during a festive farewell dinner with delectable cuisine and sparkling wine in a fashionable restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 19 | FRI | TAORMINA/GIARDINI NAXOS | CATANIA TO USA (OR EXTEND YOUR STAY) Morning transfer to Catania Airport for your return flight home. (B)

(B) Breakfast - (L) Lunch - (D) Dinner

INCLUDED FEATURES

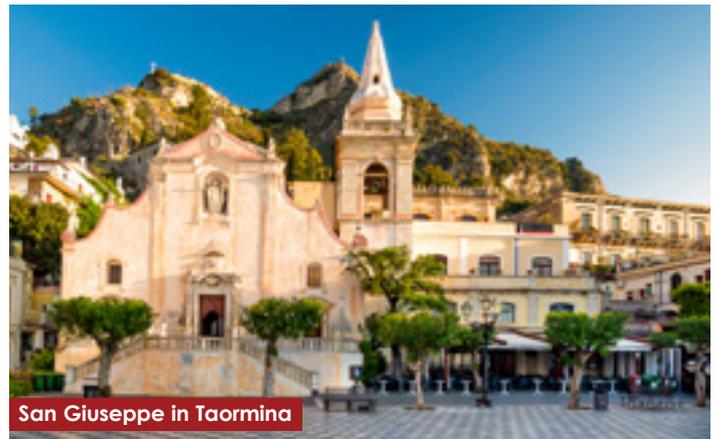
- First class hotel accommodation for 18 nights
- 31 included meals consisting of:
 - 18 buffet breakfasts
 - 2 gourmet lunches with mini a-la-carte menu at local restaurants
 - 1 light lunch at Magione Castle
 - 1 lunch at a local farmhouse
 - 3 dinners at hotel
 - 5 gourmet dinners with mini a-la-carte menu at local restaurants
 - 1 festive dinner with music at a villa outside of Florence (**NEW**)
- Wine, mineral water and coffee or cappuccino served with meals at hotels and restaurants
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Assistance of a professional tour director for the entire length of the tour
- Complete program of sightseeing tours and excursions with entrance fees:
 - Walking tour of Venice, including a visit of the Doge's Palace
 - Balsamic vinegar tasting in Modena and wine tasting at Magione Castle
 - Visit of St. Anthony's Basilica in Padua
 - Walking tour of Florence, including a visit of the Accademia to see the "David" by Michelangelo
 - Excursion to Siena and San Gimignano
 - Tour of Assisi and visit of St. Francis Basilica
 - Tour of Rome, including the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and the Colosseum
 - Guided tour of Pompeii
 - Amalfi coast excursion, including cruise (weather permitting)
 - Excursion to Capri and visit of the gardens of Caesar Augustus
 - Tour of Palermo featuring Quattro Canti, Cathedral and Monreale
 - Visit of Erice
 - Olive oil tasting in Marsala
 - Tour of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
 - Chocolate tasting in Modica
 - Visit of Syracuse
 - Tour of the D'Agro Valley, visit "Godfather" filming locations
- Arrival and departure airport transfers (see page 98)
- Baggage handling
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Personalized audio system to hear your guide from a distance
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- City tax

2020 TOUR DATES & PRICES

Tour's Start Date	Tour's End Date	Price	Tour's Start Date	Tour's End Date	Price
30-Mar	17-Apr	\$5,523	27-Jul	14-Aug	\$5,572
13-Apr	1-May	\$5,523	3-Aug	21-Aug	\$5,471
20-Apr	8-May	\$5,624	17-Aug	4-Sep	\$5,412
27-Apr	15-May	\$5,650	24-Aug	11-Sep	\$5,488
4-May	22-May	\$5,650	31-Aug	18-Sep	\$5,776
11-May	29-May	\$5,650	7-Sep	25-Sep	\$5,776
18-May	5-Jun	\$5,700	14-Sep	2-Oct	\$5,759
1-Jun	19-Jun	\$5,700	21-Sep	9-Oct	\$5,692
8-Jun	26-Jun	\$5,700	5-Oct	23-Oct	\$5,624
15-Jun	3-Jul	\$5,700	12-Oct	30-Oct	\$5,624
29-Jun	17-Jul	\$5,609	19-Oct	6-Nov	\$5,515
6-Jul	24-Jul	\$5,564	26-Oct	13-Nov	\$5,341
13-Jul	31-Jul	\$5,572	2-Nov	20-Nov	\$5,115
20-Jul	7-Aug	\$5,572			

SAVE
up to
10%*

Guaranteed departures in red



San Giuseppe in Taormina

PREFERRED HOTELS (or similar)

City	Nts.	Hotels	Cat.
Venice	2	Cavalletto	First Class
Florence	3	Mediterraneo	First Class
Rome	3	Mediterraneo or Cicerone	First Class
Sorrento	3	Grand Hotel Vesuvio	First Class
Palermo	2	Principe di Villafranca or Plaza Opera	First Class
Agrigento	1	Della Valle	First Class
Ragusa	1	Poggio del Sole	First Class
Taormina/ Giardini Naxos	3	RG Naxos Hotel	First Class

ADDITIONAL INCLUDED FEATURES

- Group size up to 16 people
- "Welcome Souvenir" in Venice
- Bottle of wine in the room in Venice
- Visit of Bacari wine bars to sample Venice's famous "cicchetti" dishes
- Visit of Florence Market, including a gift card with a value of 25 euro to spend at one of the many stores
- Gelato stop at Vivoli, the oldest gelateria in Florence
- Cappuccino break during city tour in Rome
- Visit of a gelato factory in Rome
- Pizza lunch in Pompeii
- Limoncello tasting in Sorrento
- Neapolitan pastries tasting on the Amalfi Coast
- Street food tour in Palermo including tasting of local delicacies
- Picnic in Kolymbetra - Sicily's Valley of the Temples' hidden garden
- Honey tasting in Taormina
- Cannoli and Granita tasting in Taormina
- Free wi-fi on bus
- One bottle of water on bus daily



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up to
10%*

2020 SMALL GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

Tour's Start Date	Tour's End Date	Price
6-Apr	24-Apr	\$6,476
25-May	12-Jun	\$6,653
22-Jun	10-Jul	\$6,653
10-Aug	28-Aug	\$6,424
28-Sep	16-Oct	\$6,577
9-Nov	27-Nov	\$6,068

General Information:

Single and triple rooms: On Request

Single supplement: \$1,645

Reduction for third person sharing twin-bedded room: \$168

Price is per person based on double occupancy

Rates for additional nights in first and last city are available

*Book and pay in full 4-7 months or more before departure. See website for full details.