



ITALY

HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY (TOUR CODE: 11955)

STARTS AND ENDS

Milan to
Rome

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 2023 - 31 Oct 2023

EXPERIENCE

Cultural
Rail

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Travel by high-speed train as you admire mountains, hills, changing patterns of landscapes and small towns of Italy from Milan to Rome.

Highlights

- Stay in the beautiful villages of the **Cinque Terre** region.
- Stay 2 nights in the coastal town of **Sorrento** overlooking the stunning bay of Naples.
- Visit to the glamorous village of **Bellagio** and the breathtaking **Villa Balbaniello**, used as movie-set for James Bond: Casino Royale and Star Wars!
- Admire the best-known statue in the world, the imposing **David by Michelangelo**, a sculpture of absolute beauty, icon of the renaissance model!
- Experience the local **food markets in Trastevere**, one of the cores of the Roman nightlife, bustling and busy with pubs, restaurants and clubs for all ages!
- Discover the old vineyards and olive groves which characterise the splendid **Chianti territory** - Greve, Panzano, Gaiole, Radda, Castellina e Castelnuovo Berardenga!
- Enjoy a **private Cinque Terre tour by local train** and discover the stunning coastside villages!
- Enjoy a tour of the **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica**, skipping all lines!

Explore the cultural highlights and gems of Italy during this intriguing, 20-day independent holiday from Milan to Rome.

Start your journey in **Milan**, recognised as one of the world's four fashion capitals. It is also home to numerous cultural museums, art galleries, buildings and shopping districts. From Milan, travel to **Lake Como**, a popular retreat for aristocrats and celebrities and explore the cities and

towns of Bellagio.

Fall in love with Italy's resplendent Mediterranean coastline, the Italian Riviera, as you journey through the **Cinque Terre** via Genoa and other irresistible seaside towns. Travel to the beautiful city of **Florence**, the capital of Tuscany and birthplace of Renaissance. Enjoy a tour of the city including its main sights such as the Florence Cathedral, Piazza della Signoria and the Basilica of Santa Croce.

Then, depart for **Naples**, the capital of the Campania, known for its culinary traditions and beautiful Amalfi Coast. Enjoy a short stay in the enchanting town of **Sorrento**, where you can do as much or as little as you want.

Continue to the Eternal City of **Rome** and visit its celebrated landmarks including the Colosseum, the Vatican's Museum, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Milan at the Starhotels Ritz - 4* or similar
- 3 nights in Monterosso al Mare at Hotel Palme - 4* or similar
- 4 nights in Florence at Hotel De la Ville - 4* or similar
- 2 nights in Naples at Grand Hotel Santa Lucia - 4* or similar
- 2 nights in Sorrento at Grand Hotel Vesuvio - 4* or similar
- 4 Nights in Rome at Hotel Imperiale - 4* or similar
- 2 class Train Ticket Milan to Genova
- 2 class Train Ticket La Spezia to Florence
- 2 class Train Ticket Florence to Naples
- 2 class Train Ticket Naples to Rome
- Arrival private transfer from Malpensa airport to the hotel in Milan
- Private transfers to/from railway station as per Itinerary
- Departure private transfer from Rome hotel to Fiumicino Airport
- Daily Breakfast
- One dinner at Imperial Hotel in Rome
- 2 dinners in Sorrento
- Half-day private walking tour of Milan with English-speaking guide
- Full-day private excursion to Lake Como with English-speaking driver
- Cinque Terre excursion with English guide and Cinque Terre card
- Skip-the-line tickets to Accademia Museum and private Florence walking tour
- Private Chianti full day tour with wine tasting and lunch
- Skip The Line small group of max 10 people: Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum Tour
- Small group of max 12 people: Pizza-baking class and Rome food tour
- Skip the Line- Small group of max 10 people: Vatican Museums Tour
- Ferry tickets in Lake Como as per itinerary

ITINERARY

Intro Map

A splendid journey from Milan to Rome visiting all the highlights of Italy like lake Como, Cinque Terre, Chianti and Amalfi Coast.



Day 1 Milan

Welcome to Milan! Meet our driver at Malpensa Airport and take a private transfer to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Milan at **Starhotels Ritz** or Similar.



MILAN CATHEDRAL AT NIGHT

Day 2 Milan

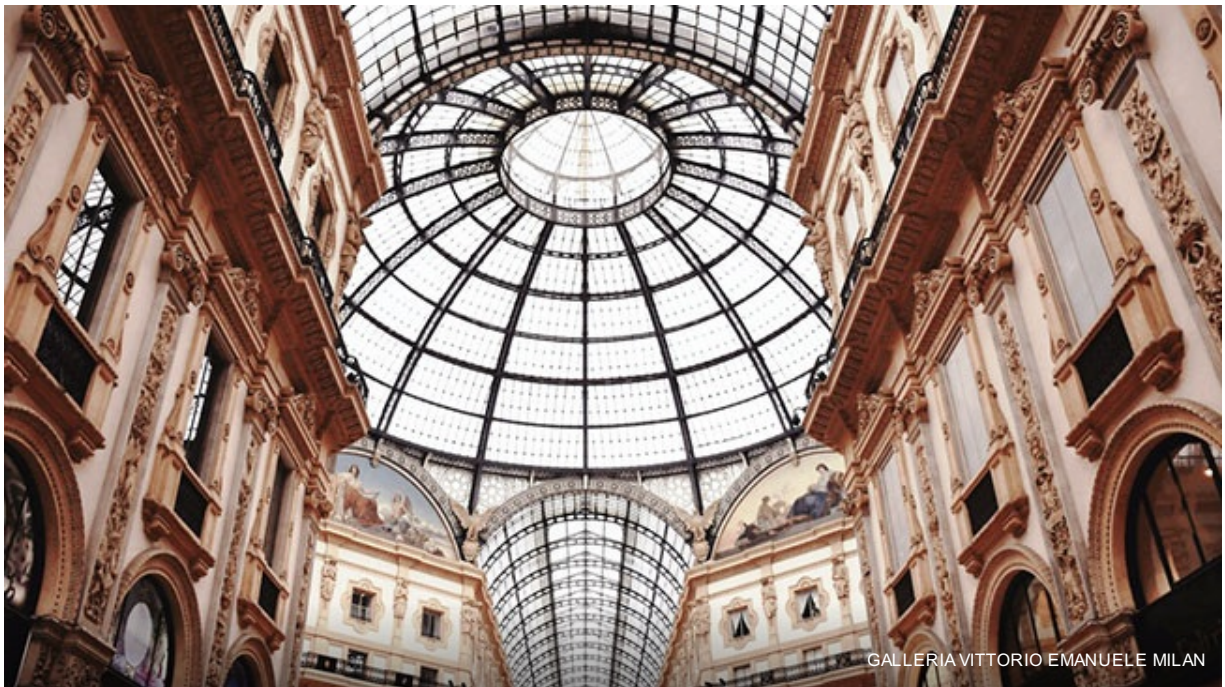
After breakfast at the hotel, meet your private English-speaking guide at the lobby around 9.30am and begin your walking tour around this wonderful city.

You will be able to plan your itinerary together with your guide: the Duomo, the Sforza Castle, the Columns of San Lorenzo, the Scala Opera House are only a few of the many interesting places you can visit in Milan. By reaching the splendid Duomo Cathedral, you will witness a striking example of Gothic architecture and the largest church in Italy. Walk inside Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping gallery, a 19th-century glass-vaulted shopping arcade. Brimming with fashionable shops and cafes, it used to be the connecting path between the Cathedral and La Scala Opera House, so that ladies could stay dry on their way to the theatre in case of rain. La Scala Theatre was founded in 1778 and is still in use: it has hosted some of the world's greatest musicians and opera singers, including Pavarotti, Maria Callas and Giuseppe Verdi.

The afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight in Milan at the **Starhotels Ritz** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Milan Lake Come & Bellagio Milan

After breakfast at the hotel, your driver will arrive to take you to your destination for the day: the amazing **Lake Como**, located only an hour's drive away.

It is the third largest lake in Europe and is surrounded by stunning alpine scenery and beautiful villages. The drive will continue along the panoramic lake road SS 340, until you'll reach the first stop: **Villa Balbianello** (entrance ticket not included). The property was formerly owned by the Italian explorer and philanthropist Guido Monzino, who donated the building and gardens to the FAI (National Trust of Italy). The Villa now hosts an extremely beautiful and rich museum of Monzino's expeditions and also includes many art masterpieces of his collection. More recently, the property was used as movie-set for James Bond: Casino Royale and Star Wars: Il Episode films.

You will then take a car-ferry ride towards **Bellagio**, one of the most famous and glamorous towns on the lake. You will have some free time for lunch in town. There are plenty of cafés and restaurants with a stunning panorama, and you can also shop at world-class stores and admire the town's centuries-old architecture.

In the late afternoon, your private driver will take you back to your hotel in Milan.

Overnight in Milan at the **Starhotels Ritz** or Similar.

Important: Please note that a moderate amount of walking (15 min) is involved to and from the car parking to Villa Balbianello.

Breakfast



LAKE COMO

Day **4**

Milan

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today is at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Overnight in Milan at the **Starhotels Ritz** or Similar.

Breakfast



MILAN CATHEDRAL

Day **5**

Milan Monterosso al Mare

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a private transfer to Milan Railway Station. Board the train to Genoa Railway Station. Here, you'll be greeted by your driver and taken to your hotel in the village of Monterosso al Mare, Cinque Terre.

The rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the breathtaking swimming pool of the hotel overlooking the rugged coastline of Cinque Terre or if you feel energetic you can take a stroll down to the marvellous village of Monterosso.

Overnight stay in Monterosso al Mare at **Hotel Palme** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day **6**

Monterosso al Mare

After breakfast, today is at leisure to explore what Monterosso al Mare has to offer.

Alternatively, check out our optional extras to fill your day with a pre-booked experience (own expense).

Overnight in Monterosso al Mare at **Hotel Palme** or Similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **7**

Monterosso al Mare Cinque Terre's villages Monterosso al Mare

After breakfast, meet your guide at approximately 10.00am to begin a **private Cinque Terre tour by local train**:

- **Monterosso al Mare**, the largest and most visited of the villages
- **Vernazza**, "the beauty queen" of the Cinque Terre
- **Corniglia**, the smallest village, standing on a high cliff
- **Manarola**, a village that seems to climb the steep cliff on which it stands, overlooking the sea and the surrounding vineyards (and where most Instagram photos are taken!)
- **Riomaggiore**, an exquisite seaside town with views worthy of a postcard.

Return to your hotel by local train and the rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight in Monterosso al Mare at **Hotel Palme** or Similar.



Day 8

Monterosso al Mare La Spezia Florence

After breakfast, take your private transfer to La Spezia Railway Station.

Board your train to Florence. On arrival, you'll be greeted by a driver and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel Calzaiuoli** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day **9**

Florence

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the morning meet your guide at the hotel and enjoy a **private walking tour Florence** (4 hours) with a visit to the Accademia Museum.

In the **Accademia Gallery** you can admire the best-known statue in the world, the imposing **David by Michelangelo**, a sculpture of absolute beauty, icon of the Renaissance. Inside the Accademia Gallery you can admire other important works by this famous artist such as “I Prigioni”, “San Matteo” and “Pietà di Palestrina”.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel De La Ville** or Similar.



Day **10**

Florence Chianti Florence

Breakfast at the hotel. Today enjoy a **Chianti Classico tour, with wine tastings and lunch**.

Pick up at the hotel and travel through the hilly expanses of the old vineyards and olive groves, which characterise the splendid Chianti territory - Greve, Panzano, Gaiole, Radda, Castellina e Castelnuovo Berardenga. We will have a **wine tasting and lunch** in one of the most famous vineyards of the area, you will be guided through a tasting of different wines of the Chianti area and organic extra virgin olive oil.

Return to Florence and the evening is yours to explore the city on your own.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel De La Ville** or Similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day 11 Florence

After breakfast, today is at leisure to explore what Florence has to offer.

Alternatively, check out our optional extras to fill your day with a pre-booked experience (own expense).

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel De La Ville** or Similar.

Breakfast



FLORENCE CATHEDRAL PAINTING

Day 12 Florence Naples

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a private transfer to Florence Railway Station. Board the train to Naples Railway Station. Here, you'll be greeted by your driver for a private transfer to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Naples at the **Grand Hotel Santa Lucia** or Similar.

Breakfast



VESUVIUS FROM NAPLES

Day 13 Naples

After breakfast, today is at leisure to explore what Naples has to offer.

Alternatively, check out our optional extras to fill your day with a pre-booked experience (own expense).

Overnight stay in Naples at the **Grand Hotel Santa Lucia** or Similar.



Day 14 Naples Sorrento

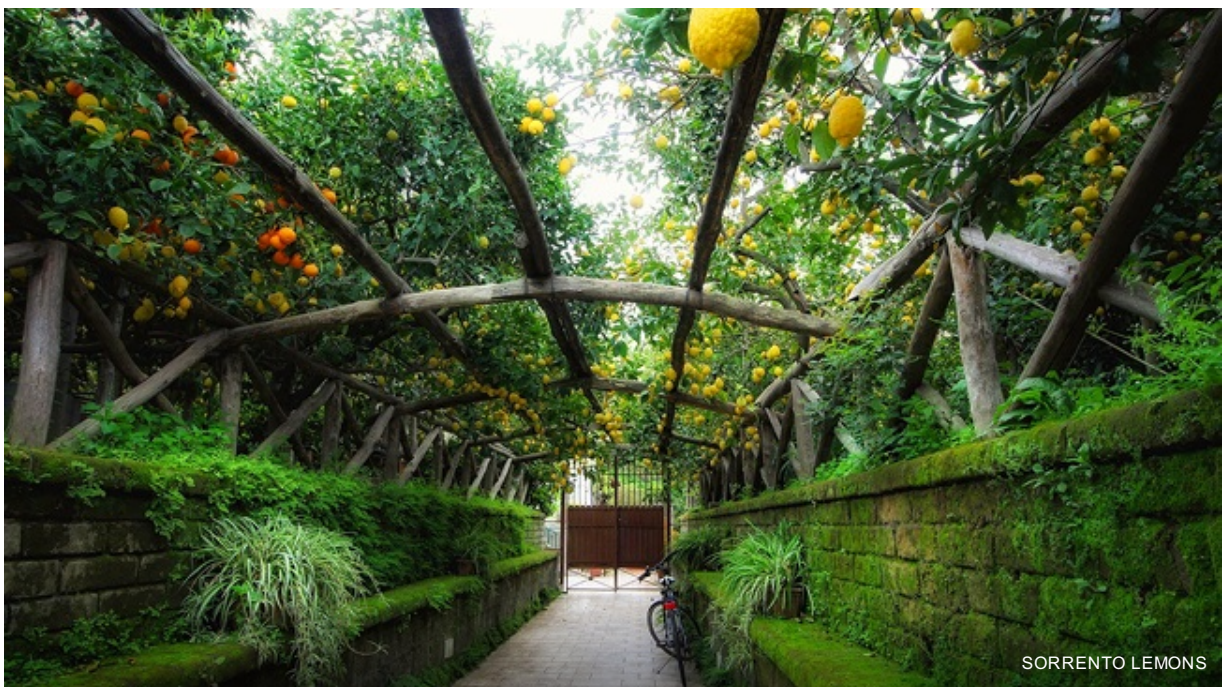
After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a private transfer to Sorrento.

The day is at leisure to explore the beautiful coastal town of Sorrento.

In the evening, enjoy a dinner at the hotel overlooking the bay of Sorrento.

Overnight stay in Sorrento at **Grand Hotel Vesuvio** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 15 Sorrento

After breakfast, the day is at leisure to explore the beautiful coastal town of Sorrento.

Alternatively, check out our optional extras to fill your day with a pre-booked experience (own expense).

In the evening, enjoy a dinner at the hotel overlooking the bay of Sorrento.

Overnight stay in Sorrento at **Grand Hotel Vesuvio** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 16 Sorrento Naples Rome

After breakfast, take your private transfer to Naples Railway Station.

Board your train to Rome. On arrival, you'll be greeted by your driver and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Imperiale Hotel** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day 17 Rome

Enjoy a breakfast and your hotel, then put on a pair of comfortable shoes and then start your small group of the Colosseum and Trastevere.

Today a must-see for every traveller who visits Rome: the **Colosseum**, the symbol of Rome! Your guide will take to the archaeological area to join a super-agile **small group of less than 8 people**. Gain your special access to the **Colosseum** and, once inside, learn about the bloody past of the Amphitheater led by passionate and expert guides. This huge travertine and tuff structure could hold between 50,000 and 80,000 spectators, all hungering for pretty gory shows such as hunting games or gladiatorial fights. The tour includes also a guided walk in the **Roman Forum**, the cultural and political centre of Ancient Rome, as well as a stroll around the **Palatine Hill**, the area where the city of Rome was legendary founded by Romulus and where the emperors used to live for centuries.

At the end of the tour time at your leisure and lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, join a family friendly, hands-on class of no more than 12 people in **Trastevere** at Lo Studio (Vicolo della Scalaccia 8). You'll learn what ingredients are needed to make the **perfect pizza** dough, how to knead it and how to top it properly. And you'll do it yourself, choosing your own ingredients: you'll be free to experiment with various recipes and toppings. Bake the pizza in the oven and wait for it to turn into a thin-and-crispy-but-still-fluffy delicacy. While the pizza is in the oven, enjoy your well-earned rest! Relax and immerse yourself in the unique experience of an Italian pizza dinner. Start with a tasty bruschetta and make a toast to the good life: water, wine or a soft drink is included. Taste the pizza you prepared and find out whether you developed the skills of an authentic pizzaiolo.

After this unforgettable experience, you can take some time to stroll around on your own. Trastevere is one of the cores of the Roman nightlife, bustling and busy with pubs, restaurants and clubs for all ages. You can enjoy a walk before heading back to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Imperiale Hotel** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day 18 Rome

After a rich breakfast, you will meet your driver who will take you to the meeting point with your local foodie guide.

You will enjoy a lovely walking tour through **local food markets**, grocery stores and gelato shops in the areas of **Campo De' Fiori**, **Trastevere**, and the **Jewish Ghetto**. We know that walking makes one hungry, that's why we thought you'd appreciate some pit-stops! You'll enjoy a slice of freshly baked crispy "Pizza Bianca" (Rome's own version of focaccia) cut in half horizontally and filled with thin slices of freshly cut mortadella: a traditional, more-Roman-than-the-Colosseum easy snack that locals love. And what about trying a "**Suppli**"? This little ball of deep-fried tomato sauce risotto with a heart of melted mozzarella cheese is everyone's favorite street food. Pasta will be on the list too, along with some dishes from the

Roman Jewish tradition: “Carciofo alla Giudia”, a deep-fried artichoke that looks like a tiny sunflower, as well as “Filetto di Baccalà”, a battered and deep-fried fleshy cod fillet. Save some space for dessert, because we won’t skip our portion of artisan “Gelato”!

At the end of this experience, meet your driver to head to the Vatican area, ready to join a super-agile group of less than 8 people. Meet your professional guide and take a tour of the **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St.Peter’s Basilica**, skipping all lines! Admire the Gallery of Tapestries, the Geographical Maps and the beautiful Raphael’s rooms before arriving at the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo’s masterpiece! After the Sistine Chapel you will be taken, through an exclusive access to St. Peter’s Basilica, skipping long lines. At the end of the tour, time at your leisure to discover hidden corners of Rome.

Overnight stay in **Rome** at **Imperiale Hotel** or Similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



WALKING THROUGH ROME: CASTEL ST. ANGEL

Day

19

Rome

After breakfast, today is at leisure to explore what Rome has to offer.

Overnight stay in **Rome** at **Imperiale Hotel** or Similar.

Breakfast



Day 20 Rome

Breakfast and check out of your hotel. Enjoy a private transfer to the airport.

Breakfast



OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Day 6: Private Wine Tour with box lunch - Cinque Terre

Monterosso

Meet your guide at the hall approximately at 10.00am for the beginning of a unique experience: **wine trekking** amongst the vineyards of one of the most spectacular slopes of the Cinque Terre area, with a 360° panorama of the surrounding hills and the sea. During the walk, the guide

will lead you step by step to discover the territory and its grapes, olive trees, lemon groves and fantastic views. The wine trekking is also supported by a digital audio-guide app.

A picnic basket with gourmet sandwiches will be included, along with a bottle of Cinque Terre PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) *Buranco* wine, seasonal fruit, water, glasses and corkscrews.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Day 11: Skip the line Uffizi Museum with audioguide

Florence

At 11.15am meet at the Uffizi Gallery Museum. Visit one of the most famous art galleries in the world on your own with an audioguide. Admire numerous works of art by Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello, Giotto, Cimabue, Masaccio and many others. Among the precious exhibition halls of the Gallery, the most renowned one contains the refined works by Botticelli, amongst which the absolute masterpieces: "Primavera" and "Birth of Venus". The latter painting, the icon of the Museum, represents the allegory of the birth of the goddess emerging from the sea foam and symbolises the ideal of beauty as an expression of purity and spiritual quality, typical of the Renaissance Neoplatonic aesthetics.

Includes:

- Assistance at the Meeting Point
- Audioguide in your own language
- Museum Skip-the-line Entrance Ticket



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Day 11: Small group: Siena and San Gimignano UNESCO Jewels (max 8 people)

Florence

The journey begins in a comfortable minivan that takes you to **San Gimignano**, the village built between the hills of Chianti and Val d'Orcia. It is easily recognisable in the distance for the high towers that dominate the landscape of vineyards, from which the famous wine "Vernaccia" is produced. The driver will leave you at the door that opens between the village's thirteenth-century walls. You will enter the lively historic centre characterised by narrow streets, picturesque squares, tower houses, palaces, churches and ancient convents.

Less than an hour away, a **guided tour of Siena** awaits you. The city, built on three hills, welcomes you with its ups and downs of streets, bordered by ancient palaces. During your walking tour you can admire the folkloric multicolored flags, the oldest Bank in the world and Piazza del Campo, the very heart of the city, with its wonderful "Fonte Gaia". And it's here that the famous horse race called "Palio" takes place every year. During your guided visit you will also gaze at the Baptistery of the 14th century and the amazing Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral, one of the most beautiful in Italy.

Includes:

- English Driver 6 hours
- Local guide in Siena



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Day 13: Small Group tour of Pompei and Vesuvius with Wine tasting (max 8 people)

Naples

A must-see for every traveller who visits Italy: Pompeii and the Volcano Vesuvius!

Pick up at the hotel at about 7.45 am and be taken to the meeting point where your guide and a small van are waiting for you.

The Roman City of Pompeii disappeared under a thick layer of volcanic ash, blasted over the city as a consequence of a devastating volcanic eruption which killed its inhabitants making it disappear for about 1500 years, until it was rediscovered as one of the best preserved ancient locations in the world. This unique archeological site provides a snapshot of Ancient Roman city life. After Pompeii, drive up Mt Vesuvius and stop in a local restaurant located in a panoramic place along the slopes. Enjoy your wine tasting with local food.

Whereupon, our driver will lead you to 1000 metre altitude and once there you will walk to the real top of the volcano to see the crater. At the summit, you can enjoy the explanation made by a professional guide of the National Park, or just peek into the crater on your own. We'll board our van and travel back to Naples.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Day 13: Small Group Tour of Amalfi Coast (max 12 pax)

Naples

The enchanting Amalfi Coast! Home to limoncello, the delicious lemon liqueur, the Amalfi coast is a stunning location and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pick up at the hotel at about 7.40 am, transfer to the meeting point where our English-speaking driver is waiting for you. Explore the famous Amalfi Coast on this small group full-day excursion. Colorful tiny houses perched upon cliffs and amazing views of the ocean are only a small part of what will make you fall in love with this exclusive destination, one of the most charming villages of southern Italy: Positano and Amalfi. You will be taken to Positano, that, thanks to its splendid panoramic position and enchanting town center, is one of the most beautiful villages in the south of Italy. From the quaint, colorful shops that line the roads, to its numerous world famous beaches, Positano will leave you amazed. We will then move on to Amalfi: with its Mediterranean architecture, stacked houses and colorful buildings, Amalfi is definitely one of Italy's most VIP summer destinations. You'll spend a whole day with us, touring around the marvelous Amalfi coast, until finally you'll be driven back to Naples.

Includes:

- Transportation
- Pick up / Drop off hotel
- English speaking guide
- Duration of the tour 8 hours approx



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [contact us](#) for details.

Day 15: Small Group: Capri Full Day (max 12 people)

Sorrento

A day entirely dedicated to visiting Capri, an island rich in natural, panoramic, historical beauties and worldly activities. Pick up from your hotel or meeting point and transfer to the port of Sorrento. During the boat trip you will sail around the Sorrentine Coast passing through Marciano, Mitigliano and Bagni Regina Giovanna. Arriving in Capri, you will pass the lighthouse of Punta Carena, the imposing Faraglioni Rocks, The Green and White Grottoes and the Roman Villa of the Emperor Tiberio. Swim in the blue water of the Gulf or relax and sunbathe on board. Once landed in Capri you can spend your time as you wish: visiting Anacapri, stroll around the famous Piazzetta, do some shopping in Via Camerelle or visiting the Blue Grotto.

Includes:

- Drinks on board
- Snorkeling equipment
- Transfer from Sorrento center to the Port.
- Embarking from the port of Piano di Sorrento or Massa Lubrense or Sorrento
- Sail around the Sorrentine coast
- Tour the island of Capri (Not guided)
- Free time of 3 hours to explore Capri without guide
- Return at the port
- Transfer at the hotel

Not Included:

- Lunch
- Guide
- Beach towels
- Landing tax in Capri (€ 2.50 per person to be paid on spot)



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ACCOMMODATION

Starhotels Ritz

Milan

Its chic, contemporary atmosphere and strategic position **near the shopping district of Corso Buenos Aires** and Porta Venezia make the **Starhotels Ritz** an ideal starting point to experience Milan's fascinating charm.



Grand Hotel Santa Lucia

Naples

Grand Hotel Santa Lucia is an elegant Art Nouveau hotel, built in 1906 by the famous architect Giovan Battista Comencini. This wonderful accommodation offers majestic views over Mount Vesuvius, Castel dell'Ovo and the entire bay of Naples.



Imperial Hotel

Rome

Ideally located in Via Veneto, the Hotel Imperial offers one of the most exclusive and convenient addresses in the city. This area's finest shopping is just a step away. Cornerstone of the Roman culture such as the iconic **Trevi's Fountain** and **Spanish Steps** are within easy walking distance, and getting to The Hotel Imperiale is hassle-free with the Rome's effective public transports.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
Italian	EURO

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package