

Amazing italy

Tour Pace - With two night stays in each of the cities, this tour is relaxed and well paced. Rome to Florence & Florence to Venice are only half day drives, allowing plenty of time to explore Orvieto and Verona en route.

Hotels - The Principe in Venice is located right on the Grand Canal, while the Croce di Malta is housed in an old Florentine convent. Consequently, both reflect traditional style. The comfortable Rome hotels are more contemporary.

Fellow Passengers - This tour appeals to passengers seeking an in-depth look into the three main cultural cities of northern Italy. Popular with guests who have a limited vacation time and lovers of art, history and architecture.

Highlights - Follow Roman history from the origins of the Empire to the unification of Italy. The Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel in Rome, Renaissance Florence and the splendour of St Mark's Square in Venice brings it all to life!

See spectacular views of the Duomo, Florence



DAY 1 – DEPART CANADA. Overnight flight to Rome.

DAY 2 – ARRIVE ROME. Welcome to the 'Eternal City' of Rome - once the hub of a vast empire that spread from Britain to the Persian Gulf and from Africa to Germany. **Complimentary transfers** to your Insight tour hotel depart Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 09.30, 12.30 & 15.30 hours. Later, please join your fellow guests and Tour Director for a **Welcome Drink**.

Hotel: Massimo D'Azeglio.

DAY 3 – ROME SIGHTSEEING. A local guide introduces you to the grandeur of the city today. Your tour begins at **St. Peter's Basilica**, mother church of the Catholic faith and built around the tomb of St Peter. Once inside, marvel at Michelangelo's early masterpiece - the '**Pieta**', as well as the splendid **dome**, completed after his death. **Now cross the River Tiber to visit one of the wonders of ancient Rome – the Colosseum, where gladiators (and sometimes martyrs) fought to the death against armed warriors or wild beasts. Your tour concludes with a view over the remains of the Roman Forum, once the bustling centre of commerce, law and religion.** This afternoon is free to shop, relax on the Via Veneto, or continue sightseeing? Perhaps visit the Catacombs, the Pantheon, or the Spanish Steps. This evening, why not try a typically Roman dinner in one of the many restaurants? (BB)

DAY 4 – ROME – FLORENCE. Following breakfast, take a short drive to the independent Vatican State. **Here, with a local guide, visit the superb Vatican Museums - treasure house of the Catholic faith with vast collections of ancient and Renaissance art, gathered by Popes over the ages. Marvel at Raphael's brilliant work as you continue into the Sistine Chapel, glorious masterpiece of Michelangelo's fresco skills.** Leaving Rome, ascend the Apennine Mountains to the hilltop town of **Orvieto**, blessed with a wealth of historic buildings. On arrival **visit the impressive cathedral**, its breathtaking facade is considered to be among Italy's finest! Then, a beautiful drive takes you through the Tuscan vineyards to **Piazzale Michelangelo** for sweeping views over **Florence** – a great photo opportunity! Now on to your hotel. **Hotel: Croce Di Malta.** (BB,D)

DAY 5 – FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING. **On your guided walking tour visit the Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's original statue of David.** Then continue to the **Cathedral**, dedicated to St. Mary of the Flowers, to admire **Giotto's bell tower** and the **Gates of Paradise** on the **Baptistry**. Next stop is Signoria Square, political heart of the city and still an open air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Your final visit is at the **Basilica of Santa Croce** which houses the **tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo**, followed by a **leather work demonstration**. The rest of the day is at leisure. (BB)

DAY 6 – FLORENCE – VENICE. This morning travel to the fascinating and historic town of **Verona**, setting for one of history's saddest love stories. Walk with your Tour Director through the old narrow streets to view **Juliet's balcony** and the well-preserved **Roman Arena** (still used for open-air opera performances). Then continue to the romantic city of **Venice** – a step back in time to the 16th century! **Hotel: Principe.** (BB,D)

DAY 7 – VENICE SIGHTSEEING. Venice - a living treasure! Appreciate her splendour as you cruise by the **Church of the Redentore** and Palladio's **San Giorgio Maggiore**, to **St Mark's Square**. Once one of the greatest trading centres of the world, importing goods especially from the Orient, the city's wealth and power is evidenced by the riches of **St Mark's Basilica**. Admire the **Doges' Palace** and its adjoining **Bridge of Sighs** before a visit to one of the glass showrooms for a demonstration of traditional craftsmanship, unchanged for centuries. Now time to relax and watch the gondolas as they slip beneath the bridges. Don't miss the chance to try the delicious seafood, freshly caught in the lagoon! (BB)

DAY 8 – VENICE – ROME. Today follow the smooth highway across the fertile valley of the river Po before climbing high into the Apennine mountains. Continuing southwards, reach the valley of the river Tiber and follow its course back to Rome. **Tonight, drive to a local restaurant for a lively Highlight Dinner including wine and entertainment!** **Hotel: Villa Pamphili.** (BB,HD)

DAY 9 – RETURN TO CANADA. Sadly, your tour comes to an end today. Transfers from the hotel arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07.00 & 09.30 hours. (BB)

9 Days - Italy



Enjoy our Premium Highlights plus these extra tour features

Excursions & Sights

- Admire the works of Bernini and Michelangelo in St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City
- Visit the renowned Cathedral in hilltop Orvieto
- Enjoy panoramic views over Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo
- Visit Michelangelo's tomb, see the Duomo, and Gates of Paradise in Florence
- Traditional Florentine leatherwork & Venetian glass blowing demonstrations
- See Juliet's Balcony and the Roman arena in Verona
- Cruise to St Mark's Square by private launch
- See the Doges' Palace, St Mark's Basilica and Bridge of Sighs in Venice

Guided City Tours

- Indepth sightseeing tours, with audio headsets where appropriate, in Rome & Florence
- Orientation tours of Orvieto and Venice

Insight's First Class Services

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Luxury 40 seat touring coach with extra legroom & onboard toilet
- First Class hotels with all service charges, taxes and portage
- Insight Traveler document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Complimentary transfers Day 2 & Day 9 between Rome Airport and your tour hotel

Quality Dining

- Highlight Dinner of Italian cuisine in Rome (HD)
- 7 buffet breakfasts (BB), 2 three course table d'hôte dinners, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

9 days from C\$192 per day

Starts - Ends	Land Canada	Air+Land from*	Dec 19-Dec 27	\$1725	\$2575	Feb 06-Feb 14	\$1725	\$2399
Oct 31-Nov 08	\$1725	\$2399	* Dec 27-Jan 04	\$1725	\$2399	Feb 13-Feb 21	\$1825	\$2499
Nov 07-Nov 15	\$1725	\$2399	2009		Feb 20-Feb 28	\$1735	\$2399	
Nov 14-Nov 22	\$1725	\$2399	Jan 02-Jan 10	\$1725	\$2399	Feb 27-Mar 07	\$1735	\$2399
Nov 21-Nov 29	\$1725	\$2399	Jan 09-Jan 17	\$1725	\$2399	Mar 06-Mar 14	\$1735	\$2399
Nov 28-Dec 06	\$1725	\$2399	Jan 16-Jan 24	\$1725	\$2399	Mar 13-Mar 21	\$1735	\$2399
Dec 05-Dec 13	\$1725	\$2399	Jan 23-Jan 31	\$1725	\$2399	Mar 20-Mar 28	\$1899	\$2575
Dec 12-Dec 20	\$1725	\$2575	Jan 30-Feb 07	\$1725	\$2399	Mar 27-Apr 04	\$1999	\$2575
						Apr 03-Apr 11	\$1999	\$2575

Supplements

Single Room	Twin	Single	Triple
Dec 27, Feb 13, Mar 27, Apr 03.	\$500		
All other departures	\$325		
Pre & post tour accommodation in Rome:			
Per person per night			
Massimo D'Azeglio [^]			
29 Oct 08-20 Mar 09	\$129	\$177	\$113
Villa Pamphili			
07 Nov 08-17 Apr 09	\$115	\$165	\$106
[^] This hotel has supplements during peak seasons. Please consult your Travel Agent			

Reductions (See page 4)

Share a Triple Room	SAVE \$60 p.p.
Young Travelers 5-17 yrs	SAVE up to \$200
Early Payment	SAVE up to \$100 p.p.
Frequent Traveler	SAVE 5% p.p.
Extra Tour Discount	SAVE up to \$100 p.p.

All Land & Air Prices

Includes economy class transatlantic round trip air travel from Toronto. For supplements from other Canadian gateways, see page 5.

Notes

REF: W202. Prices are C\$ per person sharing a twin room. *Tour departs on Saturday & returns on Sunday. All other departures depart Friday and return on Saturday.

Included Premium Highlights are worth approx. C\$174