

Best of Italy

Tour Pace - This tour has a well balanced pace with two-night stays in three of the five centres – Rome, Tuscany and Sorrento – and overnight stays in Assisi and Venice. The driving days are of a comfortable length with several stops en route for refreshments and photo opportunities.

Hotels - Modern hotels in Rome including the Crowne Plaza St Peters, with its magnificent garden setting close to the Vatican. Traditional styles in the other centres. Due to demand, there is a range of accommodation in Venice, your hotel will be allocated according to the day of the week travelled.

Fellow Passengers - This popular tour is suitable for anyone who wishes to see the major highlights of this beautiful country in 10 days. It appeals to those with a love of history, art, architecture, Italian cuisine and 'la dolce vita'.

Highlights - Highlights are many: the ancient historic and religious sights of Rome, the touching beauty of Assisi, the unique waterscape of Venice, the artistic heritage of Florence (epitomised by the statue of David) and the stunning scenery of Capri, the Island of Dreams.



See the Spanish Steps, Rome with time at leisure

DAY 1 – DEPART CANADA. Board your overnight flight.

DAY 2 – ROME AT LEISURE. Welcome to Italy! On arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport, your **airport shuttle service** leaves for the tour hotel at 09:30, 12:30, 15:30 & 18:45. After checking in, enjoy your hotel's wonderful facilities and beautiful grounds. As night falls, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers for a **Welcome Drink**. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza St Peters.**

DAY 3 – ROME SIGHTSEEING. Enjoy an **in-depth sightseeing tour with a local guide who will take you inside the Vatican Museums to gaze upon the treasures of the Popes. Also see Michelangelo's famous ceiling inside the Sistine Chapel**, before **touring St Peter's Basilica** to wonder at another of his

works, **the emotive 'Pieta'**. Then **cross the Tiber to visit the Colosseum, scene of many gladiatorial contests.** After seeing the **Roman Forum**, the rest of the day is yours to relax and sightsee or shop. (BB)

DAY 4 – ROME – ASSISI. Leave Rome and follow the valley of the River Tiber to the hills of Umbria, which form part of the Apennines. Your destination is the peaceful hill-top town of **Assisi**, the home of St Francis. **Visit the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels**, built on the site of the original Porziuncule Chapel foundations, then continue up **Mount Subasio** to the town and **visit the Basilica of St Francis** with its magnificent frescoes by the artist **Giotto**. **Hotel: Subasio.** (BB,D)

DAY 5 – ASSISI – VENICE. A pleasant drive leads to the romantic city of **Venice**, and what better way to see it than from a **private launch**? Cruise past Palladian churches and 13th century palaces to **St Mark's square**. See the **Doges' Palace**, connected to the prisons by the **Bridge of Sighs**. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape. Now **admire the mosaics of the Basilica** and watch one of the few remaining masters blow molten glass into a unique creation at a **Venetian glass-blowing factory**.

Relax and enjoy the atmosphere as you cruise along the Venetian canals by gondola. **Hotel: Amadeus/Quattro Fontane/Continental/Le Boulevard/Principe/Grande Albergo Ausonia & Hungaria.** (BB,D)

DAY 6 – VENICE – TUSCANY. Leave magical Venice, and drive along the scenic **Brenta Canal** with its magnificent **Palladian villas**, once the summer residences of Venetian nobility. Cross the plain of the Po River and traverse the Apennines, the hilly backbone of Italy, to reach the Arno valley. Follow the river westwards to the coastal town of **Pisa** to **see the famous Leaning Tower**, where elaborate steps have been taken to prevent this landmark from falling over. Time also to admire the **marble cathedral and Baptistery** before continuing to the Tuscan spa resort of **Montecatini** for a two-night stay. **Hotel: Francia & Quirinale.** (BB)

DAY 7 – FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING. Drive to the Tuscan capital, **Florence**, and join a **local guide for a walking tour and highlight visit to the Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's monumental figure of David**. Continue to the **multi-coloured marble Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiore** to see **Giotto's belltower** and '**Gates of Paradise**' before visiting the **Piazza della Signoria**, still the political heart of Florence. The area around **Santa Croce Basilica** is famous for the quality of its luxury goods; see a **demonstration of leatherwork** in the very place this craft first established itself. Then, there's free time to shop for Florence's finest or continue sightseeing. (BB,D)

DAY 8 – TUSCANY – SORRENTO. Take the smooth motorway south through the rich volcanic hills of Frascati to **Cassino** and visit the **Commonwealth Cemetery**, overlooked by the austere monastery of Montecassino – headquarters of the Benedictine order. Take the clifftop road to your hotel in the picturesque resort of **Sorrento**. **Why not immerse yourself in the Italian culture and work up an appetite on a traditional evening stroll (passeggiata) - it's a time to 'see and be seen'.** **Hotel: La Pace.** (BB)

DAY 9 – ISLE OF CAPRI EXCURSION. Spend the morning being shown the art of '**intarsio**' or marquetry wood inlaying before **cruising to the sun-drenched island of dreams, Capri – a rock rising from the Mediterranean**. Take the **funicular train up to the main village (Capri Town)**, then spend time exploring the narrow alleyways, browse in the exclusive boutiques and enjoy the fabulous views over the **Mediterranean Sea**. Perhaps join an optional tour to Anacapri to visit Villa San Michele before returning to your hotel for some relaxation time. (BB,D)

DAY 10 – SORRENTO – ROME. Only a short drive from the hotel lies **Pompeii, the opulent Roman town which was preserved by layers of ash from the disastrous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79**. A walking tour through the varied and extensive excavations with a local guide brings the ancient, ill-fated city to life. Afterwards, the smooth motorway leads back to the 'Eternal City' of Rome. **Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a last night celebration Highlight Dinner of local cuisine, complete with wine and entertainment. Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal.** **Hotel: Sheraton.** (BB,HD)

DAY 11 – RETURN TO CANADA. Arrivederci Roma! Sadly, your tour comes to an end after breakfast. **Departure transfers** arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 & 09:30. (BB)

11 DAYS ~ ITALY

Glide along the atmospheric canals exploring the intimate and hidden parts of Venice by gondola



Enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums housing the art treasures of the Popes. Then admire Michelangelo's famous depiction of the Creation in the Sistine Chapel

Visit Rome's Colosseum, scene of gladiatorial conquest and over look the Forum

Roman Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant, including pasta, wine and entertainment

Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal

Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour

Enjoy a guided tour through the cobbled streets, shops, villas and temples of the ill-fated town of Pompeii.

Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour



Key

- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- HIGHLIGHT DINNERS
- PERSONAL INSIGHTS
- CENTRAL HOTELS & NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS & NIGHTS
- Gateway hotel & nights

See hotel details on pages 175-179

Experience the evening skyline view of beautiful Tuscany



Enjoy Your Included Tour Features

Premium Highlights

Visit the superb Vatican Museums and admire Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel
Explore the wonders of ancient Rome as you visit the Colosseum and overlook the Forum
Drift through the romantic canals of Venice by traditional gondola
Visit Florence's Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's original 'Statue of David'
Cruise to Capri, the Island of Dreams, and ascend to Capri town by funicular railway
Glimpse a moment of every day Roman life, as you tour the excavations of Pompeii

Personal Insights

As night falls, locals dress for the evening and enjoy 'the art of strolling the streets'.
Join us in the Italian social ritual of 'La Passeggiata'
Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal in Rome

Additional Excursions & Sights

- Tour St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City
- Visit the Basilicas of St Francis and St Mary of the Angels in Assisi
- Cruise, with commentary, to St Mark's Square in Venice
- See the Bridge of Sighs, Doges' Palace and St Mark's Basilica
- Scenic Brenta Canal drive past the summer mansions of the Venetian nobility
- See the Cathedral, Baptistery and famous 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'
- See Florence's Cathedral, belltower, 'Gates of Paradise' and visit Signoria Square
- Visit the Commonwealth Cemetery at Cassino
- Demonstration of traditional Florentine leather-work,
- Demonstration of 'Intarsio' marquetry inlay woodworking in Sorrento
- Demonstration of traditional glass-blowing in Venice • Scenic Apennine Mountains drive
- Cliff-top drive from Sorrento to Naples overlooking the Bay of Naples

Insight's First Class Services

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with onboard toilet
- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
- Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Airport Shuttle arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 2 and Day 11

Quality Dining

Highlight Dinner of local cuisine with entertainment in Rome (HD)
9 Buffet Breakfasts (BB) and 4 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

11 days from C\$239 per day

Starts - Ends	Price	Starts - Ends	Price	Starts - Ends	Price
Canada Feb 13 - Feb 23	\$2435	Canada Jun 14 - Jun 24	\$2950	Aug 29 - Sep 08	\$2925
# Feb 27 - Mar 09	\$2435	>PD Jun 17 - Jun 27	\$2950	^ Aug 30 - Sep 09	\$2925
# Mar 13 - Mar 23	\$2475	PD Jun 19 - Jun 29	\$2950	>PD Sep 02 - Sep 12	\$2950
# Mar 20 - Mar 30	\$2475	*PD Jun 20 - Jun 30	\$2950	PD Sep 04 - Sep 14	\$2950
* Mar 28 - Apr 07	\$2825	^PD Jun 21 - Jul 01	\$2950	*PD Sep 05 - Sep 15	\$2950
Apr 03 - Apr 13	\$2935	>PD Jun 24 - Jul 04	\$2950	^ Sep 06 - Sep 16	\$2950
Apr 10 - Apr 20	\$2935	PD Jun 26 - Jul 06	\$2950	>PD Sep 09 - Sep 19	\$2950
PD Apr 17 - Apr 27	\$2935	* Jun 27 - Jul 07	\$2950	PD Sep 11 - Sep 21	\$2950
* Apr 18 - Apr 28	\$2950	^ Jun 28 - Jul 08	\$2950	*PD Sep 12 - Sep 22	\$2950
PD Apr 24 - May 04	\$2950	> Jul 01 - Jul 11	\$2950	^ Sep 13 - Sep 23	\$2950
^ Apr 26 - May 06	\$2950	PD Jul 03 - Jul 13	\$2950	>PD Sep 16 - Sep 26	\$2950
>PD Apr 29 - May 09	\$2950	* Jul 04 - Jul 14	\$2950	PD Sep 18 - Sep 28	\$2950
PD May 01 - May 11	\$2950	^ Jul 05 - Jul 15	\$2950	*PD Sep 19 - Sep 29	\$2950
* May 02 - May 12	\$2950	> Jul 08 - Jul 18	\$2950	^PD Sep 20 - Sep 30	\$2950
^PD May 03 - May 13	\$2950	PD Jul 10 - Jul 20	\$2950	>PD Sep 23 - Oct 03	\$2950
>PD May 06 - May 16	\$2950	* Jul 11 - Jul 21	\$2950	PD Sep 25 - Oct 05	\$2950
May 08 - May 18	\$2950	>PD Jul 15 - Jul 25	\$2950	* Sep 26 - Oct 06	\$2950
*PD May 09 - May 19	\$2950	PD Jul 17 - Jul 27	\$2950	^ Sep 27 - Oct 07	\$2950
^PD May 10 - May 20	\$2950	* Jul 18 - Jul 28	\$2950	>PD Sep 30 - Oct 10	\$2950
>PD May 13 - May 23	\$2950	^ Jul 19 - Jul 29	\$2950	PD Oct 02 - Oct 12	\$2950
PD May 15 - May 25	\$2950	>PD Jul 22 - Aug 01	\$2950	* Oct 03 - Oct 13	\$2950
*PD May 16 - May 26	\$2950	Jul 24 - Aug 03	\$2950	^PD Oct 04 - Oct 14	\$2950
^PD May 17 - May 27	\$2950	*PD Jul 25 - Aug 04	\$2950	> Oct 07 - Oct 17	\$2950
>PD May 20 - May 30	\$2950	^ Jul 26 - Aug 05	\$2899	^PD Oct 09 - Oct 19	\$2950
PD May 22 - Jun 01	\$2950	> Jul 29 - Aug 08	\$2899	* Oct 10 - Oct 20	\$2950
* May 23 - Jun 02	\$2950	PD Jul 31 - Aug 10	\$2899	>PD Oct 14 - Oct 24	\$2950
^ May 24 - Jun 03	\$2950	* Aug 01 - Aug 11	\$2899	^PD Oct 16 - Oct 26	\$2950
>PD May 27 - Jun 06	\$2950	> Aug 05 - Aug 15	\$2899	* Oct 17 - Oct 27	\$2950
May 29 - Jun 08	\$2950	Aug 07 - Aug 17	\$2899	> Oct 21 - Oct 31	\$2950
*PD May 30 - Jun 09	\$2950	*PD Aug 08 - Aug 18	\$2899	^PD Oct 23 - Nov 02	\$2950
^ May 31 - Jun 10	\$2950	^ Aug 09 - Aug 19	\$2899	* Oct 24 - Nov 03	\$2899
>PD Jun 03 - Jun 13	\$2950	> Aug 12 - Aug 22	\$2899	> Oct 28 - Nov 07	\$2775
PD Jun 05 - Jun 15	\$2950	Aug 14 - Aug 24	\$2899	Nov 06 - Nov 16	\$2699
* Jun 06 - Jun 16	\$2950	* Aug 15 - Aug 25	\$2899	Nov 27 - Dec 07	\$2625
^PD Jun 07 - Jun 17	\$2950	>PD Aug 19 - Aug 29	\$2899	Dec 11 - Dec 21	\$2625
> Jun 10 - Jun 20	\$2950	+ Aug 20 - Aug 30	\$2899	Dec 18 - Dec 28	\$2625
PD Jun 12 - Jun 22	\$2950	Aug 21 - Aug 31	\$2899		
* Jun 13 - Jun 23	\$2950	* Aug 22 - Sep 02	\$2899		
		> Aug 26 - Sep 05	\$2899		
		PD Aug 28 - Sep 07	\$2925		

PD: Preferred Departures (details page 182) See www.insightvacations.com for updated lists

Supplements

Single room	\$585
Pre & Post tour accommodation in Rome	
Per person Per night	Twin Single Triple
Crowne Plaza St Peters	\$198 \$271 \$186
Sheraton	\$187 \$273 \$170

Notes

REF: E922. Prices are per person sharing a twin.
*Tours depart Saturdays and return Tuesdays.
^Tours depart Sundays and return Wednesdays.
>Tours depart Wednesdays and return Saturdays.
All other tours depart Friday and return Monday.
#Departures operate as per our 2008 brochure.

Reductions (See page 182)

Triple Room Discount SAVE \$90 p.p.
Young traveller Discount SAVE \$290
Early Payment Discount
12mths \$290 10mths \$220 6mths \$145
Extra Tour Discount SAVE up to \$147 p.p.

Insight's Airport Shuttle Service

Transfers operate on the days and at the times shown in the itinerary. Passengers arriving outside

these days and times have the option of either purchasing a transfer (see page 21) or making their own way from/to the airport.

Insight's Low Airfare Promise

Insight Promises we will provide the best airfare available to us at the time you make your reservation. Please see page 181 for full details. Airfares are not included in the prices listed above.

Included are worth approximately C\$366