



NARROWGATE
T R A V E L

and Dr. Dan Carden Present

\$3950.00pp (dbl.occ.)

Price based on 30 paid tour participants

Initial Deposit: \$300

Final Payment 12/6/23

The Best of Italy

March 5-15, 2024



More of the World for Less

GATE 1

T R A V E L™

Your Daily Itinerary



DAY 1, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - Depart for Italy

Depart Atlanta, GA for Italy

DAY 2, Wednesday, March 6 - Arrive in Venice

Arrive in Venice and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure in this magical city built over a hundred small islands and connected by 400 bridges. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 6 PM, followed by dinner. We recommend you to select flights that arrive no later than 4 PM

Overnight: Venice, NH Venezia Rio Novo Hotel

Meals: Dinner



DAY 3, Thursday, March 7 - Venice City Tour

The discovery of Venice begins with a boat ride to the Island of Murano, known for its artistic and colorful glassware. Visit one of the factories to witness the art of glassblowing. Afterward, continue to the main Venice island and take a walking tour with your local guide through the maze of narrow alleyways and bridges before reaching St.

Mark's Square. Upon reaching the square, stop to view its most prominent monuments including the Bridge of Sighs, the pink marble Doge's Palace, and golden Basilica of San Marco, one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. It was built over several centuries in a fusion of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian architecture. The rest of the day is yours to explore Venice at leisure, or participate in this afternoon's optional Gondola Ride, offering a different perspective of this unique city built on water.

Overnight: Venice, NH Venezia Rio Novo Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4, Friday, March 8 -

Excursion to Pisa and Lucca, Montecatini

Magnificent panoramas await you today. Drive through the rolling countryside dotted with olive trees to Lucca, a jewel of medieval architecture, with its massive 17th-century walls framing the city. Walk along the winding streets of the original Roman grid revealing layers of history at every turn. Arrive at the Church of San Michele adorned by its beautiful piazza, occupying the site of the ancient Roman Forum. Then, to Pisa to view the famous Piazza dei Miracoli with its Leaning Tower, one of the most instantly recognizable structures on earth. The monuments on the extraordinary Piazza dei Miracoli create a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. Touring resumes with a scenic ride through Tuscany prior to a late afternoon arrival in Montecatini, the spa center of Italy known for its world-famous thermal baths and expansive parks and gardens. Dinner this evening will be at your hotel.

Overnight: Montecatini, Grand Hotel Vittoria

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 5, Saturday, March 9 -

Town of Greve, Chianti Wine Tasting and Lunch

Today begins with a visit to the small medieval town of Greve in the Chianti region. Its famous triangular-shape square has been for centuries the place of the Saturday market, setting of the Monday Easter antique fair and the Chianti Classico Exposition. Minutes from the center you will see the countryside full of vineyards and olive groves, dotted with small medieval villages, castles and villas – all of which have been home to muses, explorers and artists. The day continues with more breathtaking scenery as you continue your travel in the magnificent Chianti region, in the very heart of the Tuscan countryside, where one of Italy's most famous red wine is produced. Chianti offers a unique landscape, with green, gentle hills covered with wide fields of vineyards and olive groves, small rural villages, characteristic parishes and countryside homes in stone. The Chianti landscape is so stunning that it has inspired many famous photographers - so keep your cameras ready. Stop at one of the local vineyards for a wine tasting followed by lunch, highlighted by regional specialties. A late afternoon arrival is planned back to Montecatini

Overnight: Montecatini, Grand Hotel Vittoria

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 6, Sunday, March 10 -

Florence, Wine Tasting & Cooking Class with Dinner

Following breakfast you will travel to the lively Renaissance city of Florence, with its priceless art and architecture. Here a walking tour is planned through the heart of Florence. View the magnificent Duomo, with its Brunelleschi-designed dome, the renowned "Gates of Paradise" of the Baptistery by Ghiberti and Giotto's Bell Tower. You'll be enchanted as you walk through the open-air art museum of Signoria Square, with its Palazzo Vecchio, first residence of the Medici family that today houses the seat of the city government. Continue to the splendid Ponte Vecchio, also known as the "Old Bridge." A lovely end to the day with a visit to a traditional Tuscan farm. After a warm welcome and wine tasting, participate in a "hands-on" cooking class followed by dinner with delicious typical local dishes and regional wines.

Overnight: Montecatini, Grand Hotel Vittoria

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 7, Monday, March 11 - Full Day Cinque Terre

Today, travel to the spectacular Cinque Terre, one of the most beautiful areas of the Liguria region. Here, the five small villages of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza & Monterosso are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your tour will include a visit to at least two of these spectacular villages, nestled in the cliffs overlooking the sea and the surrounding hillsides. This active trip covers a fair amount of ground. Expect from three to four hours walking where you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. Trains and/or boats will be the means of transportation. * Exact tour itinerary and villages visited to be advised locally. Operation of the tour is subject of weather condition and group size.

Overnight: Montecatini, Grand Hotel Vittoria

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 8, Tuesday, March 12 - Depart for Rome via Orvieto

Following breakfast and hotel check out you will depart south for Orvieto, a small city perched on a rock cliff in the Umbria region. At its heart, Orvieto is a picturesque medieval city, replete with a quintessentially Italian atmosphere – centuries old, charming, with winding cobblestone streets, broad piazzas, and one of the most important Gothic cathedrals in Italy. Here you will visit the historic Duomo di Orvieto, dating from 1290, with its mosaic facade that houses a marble Pietà sculpture. A late afternoon arrival is planned in the capital city of Rome.

Overnight: Rome, Starhotels Michelangelo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 9, Wednesday, March 13 - Pompeii Excursion

Depart Rome this morning on a full day excursion to Pompeii. Drive along the Sun Route motorway through the scenic regions of Lazio and Campania, rich in astonishing natural beauty. At a distance, you can view the magnificent Abbey of Montecassino perched high on the mountaintop (weather permitting). This was the scene of a huge battle near the end of World War II in which the abbey was completely destroyed but has since been restored. As you pass the Bay of Naples, majestic Mt. Vesuvius marks the way to Pompeii, the city that was frozen in time under a thick carpet of volcanic ash almost 2,000 years ago. Explore Pompeii's original streets with its winding alleyways, steps and inclines. View the tragic fossils of people attempting to escape beside their children and dogs, along with the preserved ruins of the Temples of Apollo and Jupiter, and the Forum. Spend time on your own for lunch before returning to Rome

Overnight: Rome, Starhotels Michelangelo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 10, Thursday, March 14 - Vatican Museums & Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel

Today, visit the Vatican Museums and Michelangelo's masterpiece, the Sistine Chapel. Stroll through one of the most important art collections of the world. Admire the Gallery of Tapestries and the Geographical Maps before arriving to the Sistine Chapel, with its great frescoes by Michelangelo. Continue to St. Peter's Square, passing Bernini's famous colonnade to view St. Peter's Basilica, built on the burial site of Saint Peter. This afternoon brings you on a walking tour to explore the grand piazzas of the Eternal City. Stand in awe in front of the majestic Spanish Steps, the longest and widest decorative steps in Europe, and with your local guide stroll through the most characteristic "piazzas and vias" of Rome. Stop to admire the breathtaking grandeur of the Trevi Fountain and take the opportunity to toss in one, two, or three coins, each of which is supposed to bring a unique kind of good fortune. View the monumental Pantheon, the best preserved of any Roman building and admire the baroque Piazza Navona, which follows the shape of the ancient Roman Domitian Stadium, with Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers and the Egyptian Obelisk.

Overnight: Rome, Starhotels Michelangelo

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 11, Friday, March 15 - Depart Italy

Transfer to the airport in Rome for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

