

# MONUMENTAL TRAVEL & EVENTS

"Make your memories Monumental"

## *2019 Italy Showcase from A to V (Amalfi Coast to Venice)*

• *Sept 13-29, 2019* • *\$4550*



### **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Air transportation to Naples from IAD and returning from Venice to IAD (*Airline TBD*)
- 15 nights' accommodations in 3-4 Star hotels (*TBD based upon group size*)
- 19 meals: 15 breakfasts, 1 wine tasting/lunch at winery, 3 group dinners
- Sightseeing, entrance fees and guided city tours\*

- Monumental Travel & Events Tour Director Services of Dianne Wallace, (*President and ITMI certified Tour Director*)
- Private motor coach transportation throughout trip (NOTE: a 30-seat motor coach is necessary to safely access the Amalfi Coast; there will be two 30-seat motor coaches for that portion of the trip to comfortably accommodate the group)
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- All hotel taxes/fees, VAT and tourist taxes

## HIGHLIGHTS OF TOUR

- Stunning views of the Amalfi Coast
- A visit to the Ruins at Pompeii
- A cruise and tour of the Isle of Capri
- Two mornings of guided Rome sightseeing, including St. Peter's Square, Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and the Forum
- A visit to charming Orvieto
- A visit to the walled city of Assisi
- Tuscany sightseeing including San Gimignano, Siena and Florence
- Local wine tasting
- Guided walking tour through wondrous and enchanting Venice

## HOTELS

- 3 nights in Sorrento
- 3 nights in Rome
- 3 nights in Orvieto or nearby
- 3 nights in Florence (Tuscany)
- 3 nights in Venice

## OVERVIEW OF TOUR

Day 1 : Depart U.S.

Day 2 : Naples | Sorrento

Day 3 : Sorrento | Capri

Day 4 : Amalfi Coast | Sorrento

Day 5 : Pompeii | Monte Cassino | Rome

Day 6 : Rome

Day 7 : Rome

Day 8 : Rome | Orvieto

Day 9 : Orvieto

Day 10 : Orvieto | Assisi  
Day 11 : Orvieto | Siena | Tuscany  
Day 12 : Florence  
Day 13 : San Gimignano  
Day 14 : Tuscany | Venice  
Day 15 : Venice  
Day 16 : Venice  
Day 17 : Depart for U.S.

### **FRIDAY, SEPT 13, 2019**

Depart from Washington DC to Naples, Italy

### **SATURDAY, SEPT 14, 2019**

Arrive in Naples and travel to the Gulf of Naples, where you are welcomed by the spectacular panoramic views and by the sapphire blue waters. Tonight a dinner together highlights your arrival in beautiful Sorrento! (*Dinner included*)

### **SUNDAY, SEPT 15, 2019**

This morning we experience Sorrento, strikingly beautiful with its picturesque seaside setting and soaring cliffs plunging into the sea. As you stroll along the coastal road and through the charming town, you'll understand why this town has long been loved by poets and artists. Don't miss the tour to the enchanting and breathtaking Isle of Capri by boat, it will be a highlight! In Capri, you will walk through the narrow lanes of Anacapri, with its chic boutiques and shops offering tastings of the island's famous Limoncello. Then, to La Piazzetta (Piazza Umberto I) where everyone gathers to socialize and to the Gardens of Augustus, towards the top of the island, a natural paradise, from where you can see splendid views of the sea and the famous Faraglioni rock formations, one of the island's natural wonders. After a lovely day in Capri, return to Sorrento and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (*Breakfast included*)

### **MONDAY, SEPT 16, 2019**

A fantastic day as we travel along the rugged Amalfi coast, undoubtedly one of the most spectacular drives in the world, with its dramatic landscapes and amazing panoramas. Nestled into mountains, which rise thousands of feet above the sea, you'll see enchanting villages, cliffs terraced with lemon groves, whitewashed villas and sparkling turquoise seas. Drive by Positano and stop in Amalfi, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to spend time at leisure in town. Return to Sorrento for an evening on your own to enjoy the last night in Sorrento before heading to Rome. (*Breakfast included*)

## **TUESDAY, SEPT 17, 2019**

As we venture to Rome today, we begin in Pompeii, the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE but not excavated until 1748. After a tour and lunch on our own, we continue on toward Rome. We pass along the way to the Eternal City, the town of Monte Cassino, whose Abbey is the mother church of the Benedictine order and a center of medieval art. A German stronghold during World War II, the hilltop Abbey was destroyed by Allied bombing but has lovingly been restored as a replica of the 17<sup>th</sup> century original. Upon arrival in Rome we will get acclimated to the city with an informal walk of the nearby area. *(Breakfast included)*

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPT 18, 2019**

This morning, we tour the heart of ancient Rome: the 55,000 seat Colosseum, built in 72 CE to stage gladiator spectacles; and the temples of the Forum, ancient Rome's political and legal center. The afternoon is free to explore on your own; the possibilities are endless!! Examples of options are: shopping along Via Veneto; sipping an espresso in the beautiful Piazza Navona; visiting the Pantheon, the city's best preserved ancient building; tossing a coin into Trevi Fountain; or visiting any number of renowned museums and churches. *(Breakfast included)*

## **THURSDAY, SEPT 19, 2019**

Another morning of guided touring followed by a free afternoon. This morning we will visit the Vatican for a tour of St. Peter's Square and Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums. Highlights include: Michelangelo's *Pieta* in St. Peter's, considered one of the greatest sculptures of all time; his frescoed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, now restored to its original glory; and art-filled St. Peter's itself, considered by many to be the most important church in all Christendom. *(Breakfast included)*

## **FRIDAY, SEPT 20, 2019**

Leaving Rome, we travel north through a pastoral landscape of gentle agricultural land bounded by mountain wilderness and dotted with traditional villages and medieval hill towns. Mid-afternoon we reach Orvieto, perched high on a plateau above a vineyard-clad plain. *(Breakfast & Dinner included)*

## **SATURDAY, SEPT 21, 2019**

This morning we set out for a guided walking tour of this dramatically set city. We visit the medieval Duomo featuring a frescoed chapel by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli's masterpiece *The Last Judgement*. Next we explore the formerly secret passages of Parco delle Grotte, a labyrinth of underground caves used since Etruscan times. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. *(Breakfast included)*

### **SUNDAY, SEPT 22, 2019**

Today we are off to explore Assisi, considered a gem of an Umbrian town with inviting plazas, abundant flowers, buildings of white marble, and a pervasive medieval air. We visit St. Clare Church and the renowned Basilica di San Francesco, the burial place of St. Francis and a sacred pilgrimage site. Inside are Giotto's priceless frescoes *The Life of St. Francis*. There will be time on your own to stroll the fountain-splashed piazzas and to enjoy local specialties for lunch. *(Breakfast included)*

### **MONDAY, SEPT 23, 2019**

Continuing our journey, today we visit the walled city of Siena, whose ochre colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke the city's medieval past. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe's greatest public squares; its Duomo, one of Italy's finest. We set out on a guided walking tour that includes an inside visit to the Duomo, housing masterpieces by Michelangelo and Donatello, then you have free time on your own to explore as you wish. We continue on with our journey to Florence, the crown jewel of Tuscany. Upon arrival, we will have an informal walking tour to familiarize the group with the surroundings. *(Breakfast included)*

### **TUESDAY, SEPT 24, 2019**

A living monument to the Renaissance, we discover this splendid city on a guided walking tour in the morning. The rest of the day is spent at your leisure enjoying Florence as you wish. *(Breakfast included)*

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPT 25, 2019**

Today is a free day to explore more of Florence on your own or you can join a group that will be visiting classic Tuscany with a visit to the hill town of San Gimignano, known for the 13 watchtowers that have left its skyline virtually unchanged since medieval times. We return to Florence for you to explore Florence at your leisure. *(Breakfast included)*

### **THURSDAY, SEPT 26, 2019**

Today we leave Tuscany and travel through the Veneto region to Venice. We will be stopping at a local winery for a tasting and lunch as we make our way to Venice, a UNESCO site. *(Breakfast & wine tasting/ Lunch included)*

### **FRIDAY, SEPT 27, 2019**

This morning we take a guided walking tour through vast St. Mark's Square and surroundings. After the walking tour, you are free to explore Venice as you wish. *(Breakfast included)*

**SATURDAY, SEPT 28, 2019**

Free time on your own to explore Venice and the surrounding area as you wish before departing for DC the next morning. Gather together with fellow travelers for a farewell dinner (*Breakfast & Dinner included*)

**SUNDAY, SEPT 29, 2019**

Depart Venice and return to Washington DC (*Breakfast included*)

**NOTE:** Tour schedule is subject to change due to local conditions. It is recommended that participants be able to walk on uneven surfaces and for an extended amount of time because some of the attractions and sites included on this tour are not accessible by motor coach and require walking to and from the motor coach as well as touring around the venues.