

12 Days: Highlights of Italy-BTCDFT



Day 1 - Venice/ Venice Airport

Upon arrival at Venice airport, meet your private English speaking driver for a direct transfer by water taxi to your hotel in Venice: Hotel Ca' dei Conti 4****. Check in and rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2 - Venice

Breakfast and meet your private English speaking guide at the hotel for your walking tour. The heart of Venice is a square: Saint Mark's Square. Entering in the square by the two monumental columns in front of the lagoon (the so-called "water square"), near the Bridge of Sighs, suddenly we can admire the history of the Republic of Venice displayed: you will visit the Doge's Palace, seat of government and center of political and administrative life of the city, the Basilica (entrance tickets included), with its golden mosaics and precious marbles, the Clock Tower and the Bell Tower. The walk then leads to the Grand Canal and to the famous Rialto Bridge through beautiful and hidden corners. Throughout the tour you will make some appetizing stops, enabling you to sample "i cicchetti" (classic Venetian appetizers) made with the best ingredients found in the city accompanied by well-known wines. At the end of the tour, you will enjoy a private gondola ride. A gastronomic and historical tour of this wonderful ancient city on the lagoon; perfect for those who want their journey to be a unique, unforgettable experience. Overnight in Venice

Day 3 - Venice/Milan- Afternoon guided tour

After breakfast and check out at the hotel, your private English speaking water taxi chauffeur will transfer you to the railway station, for departure by fast train to Milan where you will get in about 2 hours and 30 minutes. Here your private driver will welcome you and escort you to your hotel : Una Maison 4****, very close to the Duomo, the Scala and Via Montenapoleone. A comfortable and quiet place, perfect for a stay. Lunch will be on your own. After lunch, you will join a guided walking tour of the city and you will discover the famous Teatro alla Scala (from outside) and the Duomo with its golden Madonnina. Milan has always been a rich and important city. It offers a particular assortment of churches, buildings and monuments. The most important church is

the Cathedral which is the third largest church in the world. You can appreciate the Cathedral square at different times of the day and in different seasons of the year to appreciate the colors . The Candoglia marble turns red at the sunset and white at sunrise. Do not miss this square and this special place. Milan has many historic palazzos like the Royal Palace situated in the Duomo square itself and its origins are very old and its history runs intersected with that of Milan and those who governed this city from Sforza to Napoleon , from the plague to the bombing . The tour will end at the Church Santa Maria delle Grazie, where you will admire the Last Supper. End of the tour and rest of the day at your leisure. Overnight in Milan.

Day 4 - Milan/ Parma/ Cinque Terre “Gourmet day” in Emilia Romagna

After breakfast and check-out at hotel, early morning departure by private car to Parma. First stop will be for the visit of a Traditional Balsamic vinegar producer of Reggio Emilia which represents one of the most highly-prized traditional delicacies. The visit consists of Vinegar works: batteries of barrels in which traditional Reggio Emilia Balsamic vinegar is produced. The secret and the skill in traditional balsamic vinegar lie in optimal ageing and refinement in batteries of wooden barrels that extends for a long time, yet never under 12 years. Then, you will discover the Culatello di Zibello, considered the king of “Salami”. It is an high delicatessen product obtained from the upper hind legs of the pig. To make Culatello a good knowledge of little secrets is required. The production take places during cold months from October till February and may last from 13 to 20 months. The visit will end with a delicious complete typical lunch and after that your driver will be ready to transfer you to Monterosso at your hotel: Hotel Porto Roca 4****. Check in and rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 5 - Guided tour in Cinque Terre / Pisa / Florence

Breakfast at your hotel and get ready to discover the Ligurian Coast with your personal English speaking guide. You will discover the idyllic village of Monterosso: farthest to the west and the most populated of the five Cinque Terre villages, it is situated in the center of this small natural bay. The Ligurian Coast is a masterpiece of nature that offers its visitors unique and breathtaking vistas; here, you will find five little “jewels” or hills - the Cinque Terre - the true “jewels” of the Mediterranean sitting along a rugged portion of coast on the Italian Riviera. Together with your guide, you will reach with public boat or train (as per your choice) Manarola: a region characterized by its colorful houses facing the sea, and its small intertwining streets connected by a network of stairways that lead to the little village. Along the way, there will be many stops, so you will take photos of the Gulf of La Spezia and Riomaggiore, a village that contains a very high concentration of houses in a small area, a distinctive feature giving the impression of a "tree" with its buildings as the branches. Once you arrive in Manarola, you will have a walk to Punta Bonfiglio, where you can enjoy a stunning panoramic view. Then, you will embark on a public boat to discover the Cinque Terre by sea. During your excursion, you will have a stop in Vernazza, nestled in a breathtaking inlet whose shoreline features classic cultivated terraced grapevines. While from the boat, you will admire a the 90 meters high promontory: Corniglia. Your tour will end at your hotel where you can spend the evening reminiscing about the five little jewels (each bringing its own special sparkle to your day). Rest of the day at your leisure. Overnight in Monterosso al Mare.

Day 6 - Cinque terre / Pisa /Florence

After breakfast and check out at your hotel, you will meet your English speaking driver who will transfer you to Florence. Along the way, you will stop in Pisa and enjoy a private tour. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your private English speaking guide and the tour

begins in the Piazza Dei Miracoli, famous for its Leaning Tower and for the many beautiful architectural structures that distinguish this city. From here you will have time to explore this small city with your guide, you will discovered the many aspects of this fascinating town, named after a Greek city, from which it is believed originated the first inhabitants. A town, who thanks to its Tower, has become a symbol in Italy and in the world. It has also fascinated many film directors that have chosen it as a set location for their films. It is so evocative and characteristic, that it has been proposed as one of the seven modern wonders of the world. Before proceeding to Florence you will stop for a typical Tuscan lunch, where you will taste the traditional ingredients. Transfer to Florence to your hotel degli Orafi 4****. Check in and rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 7 - Uffizi and Accademia Galleries

Meet your private guide in the lobby of your hotel and start your day tour from the Uffizi Gallery. The Gallery houses a superb collection of priceless art, originating in great part from the Medici family collection, enriched over the centuries by endowments, exchanges and donations, among which an important group of religious works stands out, resulting from the suppression of the monasteries and convents between the XVIII and XIX centuries. Here, you will find the richest collection in the world of works of the Tuscan school, Florentine in particular, among which: Cimabue, Michelangelo, Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci and Raffaello. Without parallel is the collection of works by Sandro Botticelli. After the tour, you will have free time for lunch at your leisure. Re-join your guide and together proceed towards the Accademia Gallery, where the more symbolic work of Michelangelo is housed: Il David, an expression of beauty and physical perfection. It also has other sculptures by Michelangelo and a collection of Renaissance paintings: you will admire also the “Il Ratto delle Sabine” by Giambologna (The Rape of the Sabine Women), as well as “La

Madonna ed il Bambino” (Madonna and Child) and “la Madonna del Mare” (Madonna of the Sea) by Botticelli. End of the visit and spend the rest of your day at leisure. Overnight in Florence.

Day 8 - Florence / Pompei / Sorrento

After breakfast and check out, meet your private English speaking driver at the hotel and transfer to the railway station, where you will take your fast train to Naples . Here , private transfer by car and private driver to Sorrento. Along the way, you will stop in Pompeii for a guided tour at the excavations. Visit the archeological site and admire the ruins of this famous city that, in AD 79 was submerged by lava from the nearby volcanic eruption of Mt Vesuvius. You will be able to examine up close the daily life of this Roman population and how it was devastated by one of the worst natural disasters in ancient history. The excavations of Pompeii are, due to their importance and relevance, the most visited archeological site in the world. Free time for lunch and transfer to Sorrento at the beautiful Boutique hotel Maison La Minervetta 4****. Check in and rest of the day at your leisure .

Day 9 - Sorrento/ Cheese making and Amalfi Coast

Today you will spend a pleasant and exciting day in the countryside of Sorrento (10 km away) for a special gourmand tour. Silence and beauty are the two main words which describe this farmhouse holiday spot in Sorrento. A true farmhouse where products from the garden are cultivated by local farmers and brought fresh to the table. Those who wish to participate in farm activities like this are more than welcome. A small hill immersed between sea and land where days go by slowly and noisy city chaos is nowhere to be seen. In this farmhouse, you truly find the hidden side of the Amalfi Coast, made of strong citrus plant aromas, small paths through the beautiful landscapes which bring you straight to the beach, experiencing it all at a slow and easy farmhouse pace. Cheese is the

oldest way to conserve milk. During this tour 7 typical different cheeses of the Sorrento Peninsula will be tasted to allow you discovering a world of amazing flavours and fine aromas. The seasoned caciotta massese, the Provolone del Monaco, the riaviulillo, the uzzuttella massese, the caciocavallo, the sheep's milk cheese caciotta, and fresh mozzarella cheese with demonstration of the famous treccia of Sorrento. Participation Guests will be equipped with hats and aprons and invited to the demonstration of the mozzarella. A fun activity that suits everyone. Obviously including tasting! All combined with a good glass of red wine and the savoury marmelades of the farmhouse. A limoncello tasting will end pleasantly this special day. You will continue your tour with your private driver and discover the Amalfi Coast by way of a charming and pleasurable scenic route. You will stop in Ravello, the city of music on the Amalfi Coast with a panoramic view in a setting of extraordinary natural beauty. You will reach the nearby town of Amalfi, one of the oldest maritime republics. Here, you will have free time to explore the beauty of this small village. You can walk around this splendid cliff town overlooking the sea to discover its secrets: for example, the history of the ceramics of this place that dates back to ancient times and the stunning Duomo of St. Andrea. Transfer back to your hotel in Sorrento and overnight.

Day 10 - Sorrento / Rome and Ancient Rome tour

Breakfast and check out at the hotel. Transfer by private car and driver to the rail station in Naples for departure by fast train to Rome. Here your driver will escort you to your hotel: Forty Seven 4**** centrally located. Check in and free time to relax and have lunch at your leisure before getting ready for a guided tour in the ancient Rome. In the afternoon, together with personal guide walk to the Ancient part of the Eternal city: Colosseum and Imperial Fora. With direct access to this remarkable landmark and no waiting in long lines, you will be awestruck even before entering.

Once inside, your personal guide will bring to life the ancient world of the various emperors, noblemen, aristocrats, gladiators and wild beasts that once populated this building. You will then proceed towards the nearby Roman Forum, known as the "heart" of ancient Rome, and the commercial, political and religious center. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure. Overnight in Rome

Day 11 – Vatican Museums /Dinner / Rome by night tour

Meet your private driver and English speaking guide at the lobby of your hotel and transfer to the Vatican Museums for a morning tour including the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica. There are no queues and no waiting as your specialist guide introduces you to the masterpieces of such great painters as Raffaello, and Michelangelo. This is one of the greatest collections of art in the world, a collection gathered over the centuries by the Popes of the Catholic Church. You will be enthralled and enchanted by the stunning vision of the Sistine Chapel and also continuing on to the Cortile della Pigna ("Court of the Pinecone") and the celebrated Raphael's rooms and finally you will have direct access into Saint Peter's Basilica. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure before joining a restaurant with a traditional menu carefully selected by the chef and including only the freshest ingredients: your dinner will be a gourmand experience. After dinner, your private English speaking driver will delight you with stories and illustrate the history of the most famous Roman monuments on a night pleasant tour. You will witness and appreciate those monuments as twilight descends into night. Transfer back to your hotel and overnight in Rome.

Day 12 - Departure day

After breakfast and check out at hotel, your personal driver will escort you by car to Rome Airport, Leonardo da Vinci, for your flight back home.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 2 nights at the hotel Ca dei Conti 4**** in Venice or similar
- 1 nights at the hotel Una Maison 4**** in Milan or similar
- 2 nights at the hotel Porto Roca 4**** or similar
- 2 nights at the hotel degli Orafi 4**** in Florence or similar
- 2 nights at the hotel Maison La Minervetta 4**** in Sorrento or similar
- 2 nights at the hotel Forty Seven 4**** L in Rome or similar
- Breakfast everyday at the hotels
- 1st class train tickets where mentioned
- All transfers with private luxury car equipped with A/C and English speaking driver as per program
- Arrival and departure transfers in Venice with private Water taxis
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide for 4 hour tour in Venice
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide for 3 hour tour in Milan
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide for 6 hour tour in Cinque Terre
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide for 3 hour tour in Pisa
- Professional, personal English speaking guide for 6 hour tour in Florence
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide for 2 hour tour in Pompei
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide in Rome 3 hour tour of Colosseum and Imperial Fora
- Professional, personal, English speaking guide in Rome 4 hour tour of Vatican Museum
- Tour of Rome by Night (2 hours)

- Cicchetti tasting in Venice
- Private Gondola ride
- Tastings in Parma
- Cheese tasting and light lunch in Sorrento
- Lunch with complete menu (beverages excluded) in Parma
- Lunch with complete menu (beverage excluded) in Pisa
- Dinner with complete menu (beverage excluded) in Rome
- Reserved Entrance tickets (with no waiting lines) For:

1. Doge's Palace (Venice)
2. Last Supper (Milan)
3. Uffizi Gallery and Accademia Museum (FLORENCE)
4. Pompei excavation (POMPEI)
5. Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel (ROME)
6. Imperial Fora and Colosseum (ROME)

THE TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- All meals not mentioned in the program
- All transfers not mentioned in the program
- Tips
- All that is not expressly listed in "THE TOUR INCLUDES"

For prices – Pls contact us