

INSIGHT VACATIONS






The Art of Travelling in Style

GRAND ITALY & SICILY





KEY

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Central
Hotels + Nights |  | Cruise |
| 2 | Scenic
Hotels + Nights |  | Train |
| ● | Place Visited |  | Join/Leave Options |
| ○ | Optional Place
Visited |  | Included Flights |
| | Trip Option |  | UNESCO
Heritage Site |

Day 1 | Welcome to the Eternal City of Rome



Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Settle in before joining your Travel Director for a private visit for Insight Vacations guests to the Basilica of Saint Praxedes, welcomed by the Rector of the basilica. Gaze in awe at the world's best-preserved Byzantine mosaics, illuminated for this evening's experience, and see the first sculpture by Bernini. End the day getting to know your fellow travellers over Roman specialties during a Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel St. Martin, Rome.

Day 2 | Vatican City and Rome with a Local



A Local Expert leads you through the priceless art collection of the Vatican Museums, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Later, continue to St. Peter's Basilica, then cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus, come up close and personal with the beautifully preserved Arch of Constantine, walking on the ancient pavement. Discover the history, the construction and the legends of the iconic Colosseum as you stroll around the exterior of this amazing structure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel St. Martin, Rome.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Piazas & Fountains - With our Local Expert, let's take a "passeggiata" (stroll) to enjoy the backstreets and secrets of pedestrian Rome. Be amazed at sights such as the fascinating Pantheon and the beauty of 17th-Century fountains and beautiful piazzas. Come and enjoy the Rome of the Romans.

Adult: 44.00 EUR

Roman Dinner Party - Enjoy an evening of delicious Roman cuisine with drinks and a great Italian ambiance.

Adult: 71.00 EUR

Day 3 | Pisa and Santa Margherita Ligure



Enjoy a delightful drive to Pisa through rolling countryside dotted with cypress trees, passing vineyards and olive groves. With a Local Expert, view the incredible Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles from which Galileo is said to have conducted experiments on velocity and gravity. See the splendid cathedral and baptistry, decorated with mosaics and designs in solid marble. Your journey continues to the pretty seaside resort of Santa Margherita Ligure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

Day 4 | The Charms of the Cinque Terre

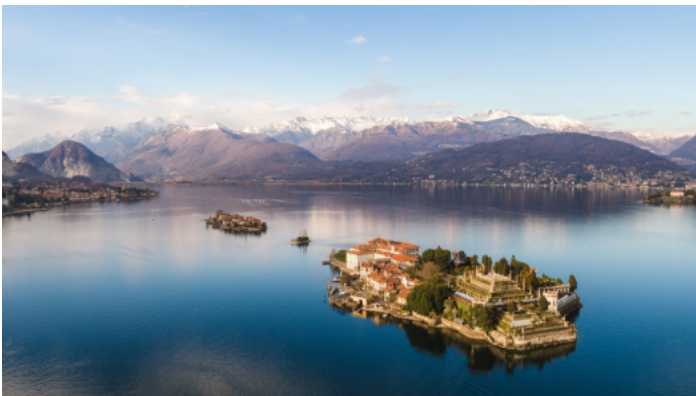


Head to the famous Cinque Terre, which translates to Five Lands. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is located on a gorgeously wild yet hospitable part of the coastline. With a Local Expert, approach one of the fishing villages by boat (weather permitting). In Monterosso, spend some time exploring the medieval quarter or the popular sandy beach before continuing to the village of Portofino, famed for its colourful houses. Browse the boutiques and stay a while in the cafe bars on the piazzetta, watching the yachts moored in the harbour. Then cruise along the rugged Ligurian coast to your hotel in the resort of Santa Margherita.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

Day 5 | Lake Maggiore



Head north to beautiful Lake Maggiore in the Italian Lakes District and the town of Baveno, noted for its narrow cobbled streets and charming 16th century square. On arrival, settle into your hotel and take in the magical scenery. In the afternoon, why not join an optional cruise to Isola Bella to explore the palace and admire the stunning and immaculate Italian style gardens.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Isola Bella - The premier attraction of Lake Maggiore is the Borromean Islands. We'll take a private boat over to Isola Bella, the most famous island, renowned for its incredible palace and stunning Botanical Gardens. Our Local Expert will take us on a guided tour of this privately-owned palace, with free time to admire the gardens. A must!

Adult: 54.00 EUR

** This optional is only able to be operated between mid-March and the end of October.*

Dinner on Isola dei Pescatori - This evening escape to the charming and tranquil island of Isola dei Pescatori. A short boat ride from the shores of Lake Maggiore, this fisherman's Island is inhabited year round by only 50 permanent residents. Stroll through the small piazza,

surrounded by tight and winding alleys, to enjoy dinner at one of the Island's restaurants.

Adult: 78.00 EUR

Day 6 | Onto Venice



Your travels continue past the Soave vineyards, the City of Padua and on to the canals of Venice. In the evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Amadeus

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Magical Venice - Venice can be Europe's most romantic city in the evening, offering dramatic landscapes with buildings that dazzle as the sun sets and the lights go on. Sit back and take it all in as private water taxis take you to the centre of it all, Piazza San Marco, where we have seats reserved outside a famous Venetian cafe, in front of a live orchestra and in view of those illuminated St Mark's sights. Our private water taxis will also take us the length of the Grand Canal, under the Rialto Bridge, seeing Venice at its most magical.

Adult: 61.00 EUR

Day 7 | Venice and the Magic of La Serenissima



Cruise by private boat past historic churches and 13th-century palaces to arrive close to St Mark's Square. Stroll along the waterfront past the Bridge of Sighs and the Doge's Palace. It was from here Casanova made his daring escape. Turn the corner into St Mark's Square and admire the basilica. Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to the island of Murano. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Amadeus

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Hidden Venice - To only experience Venice's big set pieces is to miss out on a hidden world full of surprises! Join a Local Expert for a fascinating walk through some of the lesser known quarters of Venice. The back lanes and 'campi', small squares, where tourists seldom tread are full of history and great places to sample local life.

Adult: 37.00 EUR

Burano Excursion & Meal - Leave the hustle of St Mark's Square behind on a delightful private cruise around the islands of the Venetian lagoon. Alight at the island of Burano, a photographer's paradise, famous for its candy coloured houses, artisan lace makers and leaning bell tower that would give Pisa a good run for its money. Enjoy a superb meal sampling the local specialities with wine included. An excursion not to be missed!

Adult: 82.00 EUR

Day 8 | A Scenic Journey to Florence



Bid farewell to Venice and begin your journey to Renaissance Florence.

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. After, continue on foot to admire the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery, where Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise have been recreated in all their glory. Continue into the Piazza della Signoria, still the political heart of Florence and an open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Spend time gazing at statues such as Neptune and Hercules and Cacus along the front of the Palazzo Vecchio. Alternatively, take a stroll with your Travel Director to Piazza Santa Croce to enjoy a typical Italian treat in a local caffè, where you will be in the perfect spot to admire the basilica, indulge in people-watching the elegant Florentines and pamper yourself shopping for luxury goods like gold and leather.

Enjoy a traditional Bistecca alla Fiorentina steak dinner paired with delicious local wine, a specialty not to be missed.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Florence Novoli.

Day 9 | Florence, Birthplace of the Renaissance



Start the day with a traditional Florentine leather-work demonstration, then there is plenty of time to shop with the rest of the day at your leisure. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to explore the hilltop town of San Gimignano?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Florence Novoli.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

San Gimignano Excursion - A wonderful excursion with our Local Expert to Tuscany's most famous hill-top town! Visit San Gimignano, considered a medieval Manhattan, due to its towers which dominate the skyline. Soak up the unique atmosphere of this ancient gem which has remained intact since the 14th century and today is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Adult: 40.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, we'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, we'll enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines.

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Tuscan Dinner & Cooking Demonstration - Florence and Tuscany are renowned for their rich gastronomic heritage. Tonight we'll travel into the hills near Florence to the northernmost part of the Chianti, where a local chef will introduce you to the dishes that make Tuscan cuisine famous throughout the world. This wonderful cooking demonstration, with superb food and wine, will provide warm and genuine Tuscan hospitality.

Adult: 76.00 EUR

Day 10 | Ill-fated Pompeii and on to Sorrento



Journey south through the volcanic hills of Frascati to Pompeii, which was buried in A.D. 79 by Mount Vesuvius' catastrophic eruption. Walk with a Local Expert through the preserved cobbled streets for a glimpse into the daily life of civilisation during the Roman Empire. Follow the clifftop road to the resort town of Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Sorrento Evening - A chance to enjoy a delicious dinner of local specialities. We arrive at one of the area's unique local restaurants for an incredible dining experience featuring some of the famous dishes of this region!

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Day 11 | Capri, the Isle of Dreams



Meet your Local Expert and cross the Bay of Naples to reach the beautiful Isle of Capri, a rock rising sheer from the Mediterranean! For 2,000 years, Capri has beckoned visitors from Tiberius Caesar to Gracie Fields. Arriving at the Marina Grande by boat, ascend to Capri town. Explore the narrow alleyways and descend to the port by funicular railway for the return to Sorrento. Later, perhaps explore the Amalfi Coast?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Island Tour of Capri - Experience the spectacular cliffs and famous turquoise waters of Capri during a relaxing cruise to the most beautiful part of the island, the southern side. View the beautiful grottoes and unique coastline before ascending to Capri town. This optional experience is weather dependent and may be replaced by a minibus tour of the Island with a visit to Anacapri and the Villa San Michele.

Adult: 52.00 EUR

Amalfi Coast Drive & Positano Visit - Drive along the clear blue waters and picturesque resorts of the Amalfi Coast, arguably the most glamorous and scenic stretch of coast in Europe. Minibuses wind their way down serpentine roads to the exclusive artists' paradise, Positano. Explore elegant shops, watch artists at work, or enjoy an *aperitivo* in a beachside cafe.

Adult: 66.00 EUR

Day 12 | Sassi di Matera and Alberobello



After breakfast, discover two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. First, visit Matera for an in-depth guided exploration of the extraordinary Sassi, ancient troglodyte dwellings and churches dug out of the rock. These are the most extensive example of their kind in the Mediterranean and were inhabited by about 20,000 people up until 1950. Matera was also used as the setting for the film 'The Passion of the Christ'. Continue to Alberobello, the second UNESCO World Heritage Site and your home for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello.

Day 13 | The Trulli of Alberobello



Admire another of Italy's record number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites with a Local Expert. The Trulli of Alberobello are circular structures with conical roofs that are domed within. They are built from local limestone and stacked without using mortar. In the evening, delight at the freshly prepared Farm to Table dinner. Enjoy a typical meal and learn about life in the region through the local food.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Ostuni - In the company of our Local Expert experience the town of Ostuni which is reminiscent of a North African Arab Medina. Admire the stark white-washed buildings, narrow cobbled streets and arched stairways. Set against three hills, 'The White Town' is a photographer's delight.

Adult: 36.00EUR

Day 14 | Sicily and the Taormina Riviera



The local roads will take you south, following the shores of the Gulf of Taranto to the mountainous Calabria region. Travel along the Purple Coast to the very 'toe' of Italy and board your ferry bound for Sicily. According to ancient legend, it was here at the Straits of Messina where the twin whirlpools of Scylla and Charybdis carried unwary seafarers away to their doom! After disembarking, continue to the Taormina Riviera.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hellenia Yachting Hotel & SPA

Day 15 | Taormina and the Dawn Coast of Europe



Join a Local Expert for a visit to the Greek Theatre, graced with the most spectacular of backdrops. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Mt. Etna?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hellenia Yachting Hotel & SPA

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mt Etna - Where myth and legend merge to reality! With a Local Expert we'll drive up Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Ascend through the fertile foothills, bypassing small villages, lush forests, ancient craters and lava flows to see amazing lunar landscapes and houses surrounded by lava. Admire astonishing panoramic views over the eastern Sicilian coast and Ionian Sea whilst discovering the history of Sicily's most popular attraction and its eruptions. *(Footwear such as trainers or boots advised)*

Adult: 61.00 EUR

Dinner in the Clouds - With one of the most incredible rides of your lives, you will arrive high above the sea, a world apart from the areas that tourists tread. You'll arrive in your terraced authentic local restaurant for a truly educational meal of delicious regional specialties, with accompanying local wines.

Adult: 83.00 EUR

Day 16 | Palermo, Capital of Sicily



Head to the Sicilian capital of Palermo.

On arrival, your Local Expert will show you the highlights of the capital. Palermo Cathedral has been altered over the years and a venture inside will help you to appreciate the composite architectural styles. Next, head to the amazing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans. With the outside completely covered in glittering 12th century mosaics, it provides an insight to what's within.

Join your travelling companions and Travel Director at a local restaurant for an unforgettable Celebration Dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: NH Palermo.

Day 17 | Depart Palermo



Your journey draws to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Palermo Falcone–Borsellino Airport at 06:00 and 08:00.

Meals: Breakfast