

# ITALY



## 2019 Smart Tours

“Smart Tours” is a collection of vacation packages designed to meet the desires of discerning travellers. We share this passion for travel and our goal is to create the best journeys at affordable rates. We’ve paired excellent accommodations, usually boutique hotels that offer great value for money along with combining small groups (when available) and private excursions to create the best experience of travel. Often in these collection of journeys, you will find “driver guides”, a smart solution that add great value along with great service. From Rome to Florence and in cities like Siena, San Gimignano, Montepulciano, we have driver guides using new cars or vans and offer a narration along the way.

### Highlights

- Excellent hotels 4\* located in the heart of the city or beautiful villas in the magnificent Italian countryside
- Welcome briefing on request
- Tours in every city
- A combination of Signature Private Excursions or Small Group Tours
- 24/7 Concierge by Phone
- High level of customization

# ST1.Rome, Florence & Venice

7 nights / 8 days

**Highlights: Rome, Vatican, Siena and Chianti wine tasting, Florence, Venice.  
3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence, 2 nights in Venice**

Itinerary

## DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Private transfer from FCO APT to Hotel in Rome

Late afternoon meeting with your local assistant for a welcome briefing

**Overnight in Rome**

## DAY 2 ROME, VATICAN & MORE

**B**

In the morning, meet your guide at the Vatican and join a small group to visit Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our expert guide will be your docent as you pass through the vast Vatican collection. This Vatican tour will focus on the must-see and famous masterpieces of the Vatican, including the **Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, Michelangelo's Dome, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square**. After visiting the Sistine Chapel you'll enter what many consider a wonder of the world and the most magnificent church on earth - St Peter's Basilica, before ending in outside in the superb square designed by Bernini **Overnight in Rome**. Optional guided tours of "Heart of Rome" or "Colosseum & Imperial Rome" are available

## DAY 3 ROME - FREE TIME

**B**

We're firm believers in allowing for free time to explore places on your own in order to get a true sense of the city. Take time to enjoy a coffee at a cafe or walk along the via Condotti enjoying the wonderful items on sale in the windows. Rome is filled with interesting neighborhoods such as Monti or Trastevere. The best way to see the city is to walk, where undoubtedly you'll unearth wonderful finds, whether it's the intoxicating aroma of a bakery or handmade leather goods. Discover that quaint piazza with children chasing each other or look up and see a grandmother hanging garments out the window to dry.

If you want, we can organize a day outside of the city, visiting a vineyard and enjoying a lovely lunch in the countryside or take a ride out to see the Villa d'Este in Tivoli famous for its Renaissance gardens and the art filled palace.

**Overnight in Rome.**

## DAY 4 ROME, FLORENCE. SIENA AND MONTERIGGIONI B, L

**Meet your driver guide at your hotel and transfer to Florence. You'll stop in Siena and Monteriggioni** for an independent visit these enchanting villages. The drive itself is magnificent: enjoy the view of Chianti hills covered by vineyards and olives trees, cypresses and castles that dot the countryside. Siena is probably Italy's loveliest medieval city. Its heart is the central piazza known as Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio, a horse race run around the piazza twice every summer, recently made famous in the James Bond movie, The Quantum of Solace. During our drive to Florence, we'll stop at a wonderful Tuscan Villa and vineyard for a cellar visit followed by lunch and wine tasting. This will be a great day where you'll get to experience the best aspects of this wonderful region! You'll arrive late afternoon in Florence and overnight in the heart of the town.

Time permitting, we'll take a short stop at the charming and tiny castle town of Monteriggioni.

**Overnight in Florence**

## DAY 5 FLORENCE

**B**

Today, you'll join a small group to explore Florence and discover the 2000 years of tumultuous history that changed the world forever. This is a city filled with historic sculptures, frescoes and paintings. You'll visit 3 churches - the Duomo, Santa Trinita and Orsanmichele. By day's end, you'll understand why Florence became one of the greatest art centres the world, home to Michelangelo, da Vinci, Lippi, Botticelli and Brunelleschi to name a few. You'll walk through the medieval center of the city passing the Baptistery, the Bell Tower, the Gates of Paradise, Brunelleschi's Dome, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio, along with Medieval towers and Renaissance palaces. When the morning tour ends, enjoy the city or head back to further explore some of the sites we passed earlier in the day. Take time for a relaxing lunch and in the afternoon head over to the Accademia to visit Michelangelo's the David.

**Overnight in Florence**

## DAY 6 VENICE

**B**

After breakfast you'll board the high-speed train to Venice getting there in about two short hours. On arrival, meet your assistant and transfer to your hotel located in the heart of the city. You'll have the balance of the day to explore this floating city of islands and bridges. Take time to visit the Peggy Guggenheim or Palazzo

Grassi two Venice's world class museums. Know that getting lost in Venice is one of the best experiences in the city. Trust us, it's a very easy thing to do and always a wonderful way to discover the magic of this magical town.

### Overnight in Venice

#### DAY 7 VENICE

**B**

Today, you'll join a Small Group Tour to explore Venice by boat, coasting along Venice's Grand Canal, an extraordinarily beautiful and unique highway. Our guides, have their fingers on the pulse of Venice, knowing every mossy, misty canal, crumbling palace and skeleton in the cupboard. Listen to tantalising stories about the fabulous palaces and sites lining the Grand Canal. Find out which locations were used in famous films and discover celebrities' favorite local hang outs. As the sun starts to sink below the horizon, take a Gondola ride, sliding through the canals, passing beneath the myriad of bridges connecting the islands of the city. Enjoy an aperitivo before your last dinner in Italy and when done stroll through Piazza San Marco and enjoy the orchestral music before heading to bed **Overnight in Venice**

#### DAY 8 DEPARTURE

**B**

Independent transfer to airport or train station.

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>Roma</b>	<b>Florence</b>	<b>Venice</b>
Conciliazione, Dei Mellini****	Pierre, Executive****	Palazzo Selvadego, Palazzetto Madonna****

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category Upgrade to 5\* available on request*

#### What is included

- Welcome briefing upon arrival with our local assistant
- Daily breakfast
- 3 Nights in Rome
- 2 Nights in Florence
- 2 Nights in Venice
- Arrival Transfer
- Small Group Tour: Visit of Vatican, Entrance Fee Included. Transfers not included
- Driver Guided tour "Tuscany Countryside" with on route stop in Siena & Monteriggioni. Pick up in Rome and drop off in Florence
- 1 Typical Lunch in Siena
- 1 wine tasting in Chianti area
- Small Group Tour: Walking Tour of Florence
- High Speed Train from Florence To Venice, 1<sup>st</sup> class
- Meet & Greet Transfer from Venice Railway Station to Hotel in Venice
- Small Group Tour: Boat Tour of Venice

#### What is not included

- Departure transfer
- City Tax

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Departure	JAN FEB	MAR	APR	MAY JUN JUL	AUG	SEP OCT	NOV DEC
Mini 2	Double	2400	2460	2600	2970	2600	2970	2400

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events such as Fairs and holidays. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

# ST02.Rome & Florence

Rome, Vatican, Siena, Florence.

5 nights / 6 days

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Private Transfer upon arrival in FCO Rome APT.

Late afternoon meeting with your local assistant for a welcome briefing. Overnight in Rome **DAY**

### 2 VATICAN & MORE

**B**

In the morning, meet your guide at the Vatican and join a small group to visit Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our expert guide will be your docent as you pass through the vast Vatican collection. This Vatican tour will focus on the must-see and famous masterpieces of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, Michelangelo's Dome, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and more. Following the visit of the Sistine Chapel you'll enter what many consider a wonder of the world and the most magnificent church on earth - St Peter's Basilica, before ending in outside in the superb square designed by Bernini. **Overnight in Rome.**

### DAY 3 ROME - FREE TIME

**B**

We're firm believers in allowing for free time to explore places on your own to get a true sense of the city. Take time to enjoy a coffee at a cafe or walk along the via Condotti enjoying the wonderful items on sale in the windows. Rome is filled with interesting neighborhoods such as Monti or Trastevere. The best way to see the city is to walk, where undoubtedly you'll unearth wonderful finds, whether it's the intoxicating aroma of a bakery or handmade leather goods. Discover that quaint piazza with children chasing each other or look up and see a grandmother hanging garments out the window to dry. **Overnight in Rome**

### DAY 4 ROME, FLORENCE, SIENA AND MONTERIGGIONI B

Meet your driver guide at your hotel and transfer to Florence. You'll stop in **Siena and Monteriggioni** for an independent visit these enchanting villages. The drive itself is magnificent: enjoy the view of Chianti hills covered by vineyards and olives trees, cypresses and castles that dot the countryside.

Siena is probably Italy's loveliest medieval city. Its heart is the central piazza known as Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio, a horse race run around the piazza twice every summer, recently made famous in the James Bond movie, The Quantum of Solace. During our drive to Florence, we'll stop at a wonderful Tuscan Villa and vineyard for a cellar visit followed by lunch and wine tasting. This will be a great day where you'll get to experience the best aspects of this wonderful region! You'll arrive late afternoon in Florence and overnight in the heart of the town. Time permitting, we'll take a short stop in at the charming and tiny castle town of Monteriggioni. **Overnight in Florence**

### DAY 5 FLORENCE

**B**

Today, you'll join a small group to explore Florence and discover the 2000 years of tumultuous history that changed the world forever. This is a city filled with historic sculptures, frescoes and paintings. You'll visit 3 churches - the Duomo, Santa Trinita and Orsanmichele. By day's end, you'll understand why Florence became one of the greatest art centres the world, home to Michelangelo, da Vinci, Lippi, Botticelli and Brunelleschi to name a few. You'll walk through the medieval center of the city passing the Baptistery, the Bell Tower, the Gates of Paradise, Brunelleschi's Dome, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio, along with Medieval towers and Renaissance palaces. When the morning tour ends, enjoy the city or head back to further explore some of the sites we passed earlier in the day. Take time for a relaxing lunch and in the afternoon head over to the Academia to visit Michelangelo's the David. **Overnight in Florence**

### DAY 6 FLORENCE

**B**

Independent transfer to airport or station.

FEATURED PROPERTIES	
Roma	Florence
Conciliazione, Dei Mellini****	Pierre, Executive****

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- Welcome briefing upon arrival with our local assistant
- Daily breakfast
- 3 Nights in Rome
- 2 Nights in Florence
- Arrival Transfer
- Small Group Tour: Visit of Vatican, Entrance Fee Included. Transfers not included
- Driver Guided tour "Tuscany Countryside" with on route stop in Siena and Monteriggioni. Pick up in Rome and drop off in Florence
- 1 Typical Lunch in Siena
- 1 wine tasting in Chianti area
- Small Group Tour: Walking Tour of Florence

#### What is not included

- Departure transfers
- City Tax (4/6€ per person per night, to be paid locally. The amount may change according to local policy)
- Optional Excursions

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Departure	JAN	MAR	APR	MAY	AUG	SEP	NOV
		FEB			JUN		OCT	DEC
Min 2	Double	1760	1760	1980	2190	1980	2190	1760

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations such as Fairs, religious holidays, May 1st.**

# ST03.Rome, Florence, Cinque Terre

6 nights / 7 days

Rome, Vatican, Montepulciano, Pienza, Siena, Florence, Cinque Terre

2 nights in Rome, 3 nights in Florence, 1 night in Portovenere

## DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Independent arrive in Rome. Late afternoon meeting with your local assistant for a welcome briefing. Overnight in Rome

## DAY 2 VATICAN & MORE

B

In the morning, meet your guide at the Vatican and join a small group to visit Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our expert guide will be your docent as you pass through the vast Vatican collection. This Vatican tour will focus on the must-see and famous masterpieces of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, Michelangelo's Dome, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and more. Following the visit of the Sistine Chapel you'll enter what many consider a wonder of the world and the most magnificent church on earth - St Peter's Basilica, before ending in outside in the superb square designed by Bernini. **Overnight in Rome.**

## DAY 3 ROME, FLORENCE, SIENA AND MONTERIGGIONI

B, L

Meet your driver guide at your hotel and transfer to Florence. You'll stop in **Siena and Monteriggioni** for an independent visit these enchanting villages. The drive itself is magnificent: enjoy the view of Chianti hills covered by vineyards and olives trees, cypresses and castles that dot the countryside.

Siena is probably Italy's loveliest medieval city. Its heart is the central piazza known as Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio, a horse race that is run around the piazza twice every summer, recently made famous in the James Bond movie, The Quantum of Solace. During our drive to Florence, we'll stop at a wonderful Tuscan Villa and vineyard for a cellar visit followed by lunch and wine tasting. This will be a great day where you'll get to experience the best aspects of this wonderful region! You'll arrive late afternoon in Florence and overnight in the heart of the town. Time permitting, we'll take a short stop in at the charming and tiny castle town of Monteriggioni. **Overnight in Florence**

## DAY 4 FLORENCE

B

Today, you'll join a small group to explore Florence and discover the 2000 years of tumultuous history that changed the world forever. This is a city filled with historic sculptures, frescoes and paintings. You'll visit 3 churches - the Duomo, Santa Trinita and Orsanmichele. By day's end, you'll understand why Florence became one of the greatest art centres the world, home to Michelangelo, da Vinci, Lippi, Botticelli and Brunelleschi to name a few. You'll walk through the medieval center of the city passing the Baptistery, the Bell Tower, the Gates of Paradise, Brunelleschi's Dome, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio, along with Medieval towers and Renaissance palaces. When the morning tour ends, enjoy the city or head back to further explore some of the sites we passed earlier in the day. Take time for a relaxing lunch and in the afternoon head over to the Academia to visit Michelangelo's the David. Overnight in Florence

## DAY 5 FLORENCE-FREE TIME

B

Today you'll have free time to further explore Tuscany & Florence. Florence is a city that you can visit again and again. Here are some of our favorite things to do is to spend some time in the Palazzo Strozzi Museum. There are always interesting exhibits by Italian and international artists. Watch the sunrise from the Ponte Vecchio and then take a walk along the Arno. Another interesting thing to do is to climb Giotto's Campanile (the bell tower). If you want to head out of the city one of the great things to do is to visit Chianti and visit a few wineries along with lunch or dinner. We can help you to organize this memorable excursion. Overnight in Florence

## DAY 6 PISA & CINQUE TERRE

B

Meet your **private driver guide** at hotel early morning and transfer to Portovenere. Your first stop will be in Pisa to enjoy the view of **Leaning Tower and Piazza dei Miracoli**. We'll then continue to Cinque Terre for a tour of the area. Cinque Terre is the name of a district that encompasses five glorious towns, where small houses are surrounded by lush nature. Visitors are fascinated by the beauty of these five small villages, namely: **Manarola, Riomaggiore, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso al Mare**. The inhabitants of Cinque Terre benefit not only from its pristine waters, but from its natural environment, where wild nature is interspersed with **vineyards, olive groves and citrus orchards**, creating a precious bond between man, his traditions and this breathtaking stretch of coast. You'll arrive late afternoon in La Spezia. Overnight in La Spezia

*\*the tour can be done by train in case of bad weather condition.*

## DAY 7 LA SPEZIA

B

Independent transfer to airport or station.

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>Roma</b>	<b>Florence</b>	<b>La Spezia</b>
Conciliazione, Dei Mellini****	Pierre, Cavour, Baglioni****	NH La Spezia, CDH****

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

**What is included**

- Welcome briefing upon arrival with our local assistant
- Daily breakfast
- 2 Nights in Rome
- 3 Nights in Florence
- 1 Night in La Spezia
- Small Group Tour: Visit of Vatican, Entrance Fee Included. Transfers not included
- Driver Guided tour “Tuscany Countryside” with on route stop in Siena & Monteriggioni. Pick up in Rome and drop off in Florence
- 1 Typical Lunch in Siena
- 1 wine tasting in Chianti area
- Small Group Tour: Walking Tour of Florence
- Driver Guided tour “Pisa & Cinque Terre” with excursion by boat. Pick up in Florence, Drop off in La Spezia

**What is not included**

- Arrival & departure transfers
- City Tax

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

Pax	Departure	JAN FEB MAR	MAR	APR	MAY JUN JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV DEC
Min 2	Double	2200	1960	2190	2830	2760	2830	2650	2200

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

## ST05. Verona, Valpolicella, Lake Garda & Veneto Villages

5 nights/ 6 days

Verona, Valpolicella, Lake Garda,

1+1 nights in Venice Countryside, 1 night in Verona, 2 nights in Merano Itinerary

### DAY 1 ARRIVAL

**B**

Transfer from VCE airport to your hotel. Overnight in an elegant villa in the charming Venetian Countryside

### DAY 2 VICENZA & VERONA

**B**

Meet your driver and transfer to Verona. On route stop in Vicenza and free time to explore the city of **Palladio**. Continue to Verona and check in at hotel. In the afternoon, discover the city with your private guide. We'll start our exploration of Verona with Roman Arena and then continue to **Piazza delle Erbe, the Market Square, Piazza dei Signori**. You'll have plenty of time to admire the many monuments, inside courtyards, the architecture as well as the hidden spots and streets of Verona. The city was celebrated by Shakespeare, the setting for Romeo and Juliet and where the Capello family lived. We'll visit the courtyard of the House of Juliet. Verona is a city with lots of choices to enjoy a wonderful meal. Make sure to try the local specialties, polenta with anchovies, tortellini Valesgno, great risottos and gnocchi. **Overnight in Verona**

### DAY 3 VALPOLICELLA & LAKE GARDA

**B**

Meet your driver guide at hotel in Verona and transfer to Merano, in Alto-Adige, the northern Italian region bordering Switzerland. Your first stops are in Valpolicella. The countryside of Verona is enchanting. Valpolicella is famous because of its **vineyards** and **wine**, but also because of its aristocratic villas, its Romanesque churches and its stone and marble quarries. We will take you to one of these country villas to admire the architecture and landscape and you can also taste the different wines from this area. We'll enjoy a wine tasting in a typical Valpolicella Wine Estate.

We'll then drive north along the eastern shore of the lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy, a view of deep blue water in contrast with brilliant green and white of the Alps. Vineyards, olive groves and lemon trees are grown throughout the region and the wines and olive oil produced here are excellent. Beautiful small villages are spread out along the coast: **Bardolino, Garda, Brenzone, Malcesine, Torri del Benaco**. The medieval **castles**, the Romanesque **churches**, the small harbours filled with colored fishing boats and the variety of flowers and trees you'll see will enchant you. We'll arrive late afternoon in Merano. **Overnight in Merano**

### DAY 4 FREE DAY, MERANO & THE DOLOMITES

**B**

After breakfast you'll have the day free to discover the breathtaking beauty of Merano, a vibrant spa town, surrounded by the Alps. It's known for its spacious parks, Spa's, easy walking routes, botanical gardens and waterways. They'll invite you to linger and enjoy the green and pleasant atmosphere of the old town. The region of Alto Adige, also known as South Tyrol was part of Austria until 1918 and the language that you'll hear is often German. **Overnight in Merano**

### DAY 5 ASIAGO, BASSANO DEL GRAPPA AND THE VENETO TRAILS

**B**

Driver guided tour to Asiago and Bassano del Grappa with drop off in Vicenza.

The Asiago Plateau rises to **an altitude of 3,281 feet**. This enchanting landscape **hosts green forests that are completely covered by the wintertime snow**. A precipitous road - with ten hairpin turns along the way - climbs upward from the plain offering up a magnificent scenery of vast fields, villages decorated by high bell towers and a crown of peaks in the backdrop. **Bassano del Grappa** is a small but beautiful Italian village known for wonderful Palladian architecture and unique foods and wines. The city lies at the foothills of the Alps, where the Brenta river emerges from the southern end of the Brenta valley and begins its traverse of the lowlands past Vicenza and Padua on its journey to the Adriatic. The town is famous for the "**grappa**", made from distilling the remains from the winemaking process. You'll arrive late in the afternoon onto the Venice mainland, where your hotel is located: near the Laguna if you want to extend your staying or the airport if you'll make your way home. **Drop off in Venice Countryside**

### DAY 6 VENICE Transfer to VCE Airport

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
Verona	Merano	Venice Countryside
Giberti, Mastino****	Hotel Aurora	Villa Marcello

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- Daily breakfast
- 1+1 nights in Venice Countryside
- 1 Night in Verona
- 2 Nights in Merano
- Arrival transfer and departure transfer
- Private Walking Tour of Verona
- Driver Guided tour “Valpolicella & lake Garda”. Pick up in Verona and drop off in Merano
- Wine tasting in Valpolicella
- Driver Guided tour “Asolo and Bassano del Grappa”. Pick up in Merano and drop off in Venice countryside

#### What is not included

- City Tax

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Departure	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Min 2	Double	2780	2990	2990	2990	2990	2990	2780

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

## ST07. Hidden Treasures of North Italy

Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Mantova, Verona, Vicenza 6 nights / 7 days

3 nights in Bologna, 2 nights in Verona, 1 night in Milan

### DAY 01 ARRIVAL

Independent arrival in Bologna. Overnight in the heart of the city

### DAY 02 BOLOGNA

**B, D**

Meet your guide at your hotel and start your discovery of Bologna, the capital of the region of Emilia-Romagna and many say it the gastronomic capital of Italy.. The city is also the home of the oldest university in the western world. Bologna is a city with a rich cultural life and intriguing historical legacy. First as an important urban center under the Etruscans, then the Gauls and Romans. We'll visit the Piazza Maggiore, the home to the Basilica di San Petronio. We'll walk through the tangle of tiny alleys behind the church getting a flavor of the city, one that is filled with music and a youthful energy. The afternoon is yours, free to explore the town. If you want, you can join a cooking class in the city. Learn how to make *tortellini* or *tagliatelle* al ragu. **In the evening, you'll enjoy a wonderful dinner in one of the cities great osteria's or trattorias.** It's a city that begs you to discover the culinary culture of the region and you won't be disappointed.

**Overnight in Bologna**

### DAY 03 VISIT OF FERRARA & RAVENNA

Full day excursion to Ferrara and Ravenna with a driver escort.

We'll stop in **Ferrara** for an independent visit of the city. Ferrara, city on the low Emilian plain surrounding the ford of the Po River, is an enchanting result of Medieval and Renaissance art and architecture. During the Renaissance, some of the most important Italian maestros, in the service of the Estense Court, realized structures and monuments of exceptional value for Ferrara. The city's history is profoundly tied to that of the d'Este Family, who made Ferrara (between the 13th and 16th Centuries) the magnificent place it is today. **Ravenna is byzantine town, totally different** from any other Italian city, known for the colorful mosaics adorning many of its central buildings, like the octagonal Basilica di San Vitale, the 6th-century Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and the cross-shaped Mausoleo di Galla Placidia. Return in Bologna late afternoon. **Overnight in Bologna**

### DAY 04 MODENA and MANTUA

**B**

After breakfast, your driver escort will meet you at your hotel you'll head to Verona. We'll stop along the way in Modena and Mantova for an independent visit. The Province of **Modena**, carries on the best of Emilian traditions, is a territory defined by flavors, nature and its love for everything related to cars. Its home to Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati. Modena is a city with an important past. It was built along the ancient Via Emilia, and it seems to be Etruscan in origins. Later, the Celts and the Romans laid claim to it. It's also home to Balsamic vinegar, in our view, one of the best condiments ever invented. We will stop to learn more about **balsamic vinegar and have a tasting** in a little traditional farm.

**Mantua** is one of the most beautiful jewels from the Renaissance. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in 2008. The city extends over three clear, reflecting lakes, created artificially as a defense for the city and designed using the curves of the River Mincio. Arrival in Verona late afternoon.

**Overnight in Verona**

### DAY 05 VERONA and VALPOLICELLA

**B**

Today explore the city of Verona with a private guide. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, Verona is a wonderful example of the urban, artistic and architectural blend that reflects the historical periods from the last 2000 years. **Piazza Erbe** is the best example: architecture from the Roman, Medieval and Renaissance periods combined along with the period of the 19th-Century palazzi. Near the Adige River, other buildings from the Roman period mark the most influential historical eras for the city: the fortress of **Castelvecchio**, now the site of the Modern Art Museum; **the Scaliger Bridge**, an outstanding example of Medieval architecture; and the Scaliger Arches, tombs built for the lords of Verona. On the other bank of the river, you can visit the remains of the **Roman Theatre**, where currently, performances of Shakespeare or the Verona Jazz Festival are heard. Not far away is the **Giardino Giusti**, one of the most beautiful Italian gardens of the Renaissance.

**\*Optional tour:** In the afternoon, you can visit the beautiful Valpolicella wine region with an expert driver guide. A land of history and flavors where, in addition to its numerous historic villas, wine tradition is the distinguishing factor. This area produces exquisite, world-famous wines using special and unique Italian techniques. Further to the south, the Basso Veronese area is a world of its own, with its slow rhythms, silent places, and changing colors; it offers a distinct way of life that welcomes the visitor with open arms. Overnight in Verona

#### DAY 06 FRANCIACORTA & LAKE ISEO

**B**

In the morning after breakfast, meet your driver escort and transfer to Milan. On route stop in Franciacorta and Lake Iseo to discover this unique territory. Franciacorta stretches for over km 200 and encompasses 19 municipalities: every town and village has unique treasures and a double common thread: good wine and nature.

The landscape is characterized by fascinating hills covered in vineyards, which over time have replaced the original woods. The first vineyards appeared in Prehistory; this agricultural activity continued to expand under the Romans until well into the Middle Ages, thanks to favorable climate and soil conditions.

Lake Iseo is a real hidden gem, with its romantic charm and the unique natural world on Monte Isola. The atmosphere here is different from any other Italian lake. Nature regulates the time and places, such as the Torbiere Natural Reserve, declared a priority area for biodiversity, the workshops that create nets and wooden boats, the fishermen's trattorias where they cook freshly caught fish.

You will arrive in Milan late afternoon. Overnight in Milan

**DAY 07 DEPARTURE. Independent transfer to airport.**

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>Bologna</b>	<b>Verona</b>	<b>Milan</b>
<b>Cappello Rosso</b>	<b>Mazzanti, Giberti</b>	<b>Una Cusani, Visconti Palace</b>

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- 3 nights in Bologna
- 2 nights in Verona
- 1 night in Milan
- Daily breakfast
- Private excursion to Ferrara & Ravenna with driver escort
- Dinner in Bologna
- Private Walking guided tour of Bologna
- Private transfer from Bologna to Verona with on route stop in Modena and Mantova
- Private Walking guided tour of Verona
- Private transfer from Verona to Milan with on route stop in Franciacorta and Lake Iseo

#### What is not included

- Arrival and departure transfer
- City Tax
- 

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Departure	JAN	APR	MAY	AUG	SEP	NOV
		FEB		JUN		OCT	DEC
		MAR		JUL			
MIN 2	Double	3000	3200	3400	3050	3400	3000

Rates are not valid in case of Special Events, Verona Opera Festival or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**\*Optional Tour of Valpolicella** with driver guide and wine tastings for 2 people , total A\$900

## ST08.Alps, Matterhorn & Northern Lakes

7 nights / 8 days

Lake Maggiore, Como, Lake Garda, Valpolicella & Verona

3 nights in Lake Maggiore, 2 nights in Lake Como, 2 nights in Verona/Lake Garda

**Saturday** Arrival in Stresa, Lake Maggiore

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Independent arrival at Lake Maggiore. Overnight on Lake Maggiore

#### DAY 2 LAKE MAGGIORE

**B**

Meet your guide in Stresa pier and start your excursions by boat to the charming Isola Pescatori and the intriguing Isolabella. Art and nature come together in perfection to produce the beauty of the Borromean Gulf. The little towns of Baveno and Stresa are given an atmosphere of luxury and elegance by the many aristocratic mansions. The three Borromean Islands in the heart of the Gulf opposite Stresa are wonderfully picturesque and eternally fascinating. Outstanding among its 19th century mansions are the Villas of San Remigio, Giulia and Taranto. Their gardens are among the best known and most visited in Europe. The hills around Verbania are studded with a wealth of picturesque little villages with fabulous views over the Borromean Gulf and the islands. **Overnight on Lake Maggiore**

#### DAY 3 ZERMATT and the MATTERHORN

**B**

Meet your guide at your hotel and join a group to visit Zermatt the world-famous ski resort by coach. Enjoy the dramatic Swiss alpine scenery and the Matterhorn as you drive through the alpine region. The Matterhorn is often called the Mountain of Mountains at 14,692 feet high. It may be the most-photographed mountain in the world. It is myth and emblem for Alpinists and photographers alike as well as Switzerland's most famous landmark and symbol. Zermatt lies at the foot of the Matterhorn and its existence is closely linked to the mountain. The town is a car-free zone, has preserved its original character and offers nearly unlimited possibilities as far as excursions are concerned. **Overnight on Lake Maggiore**

#### DAY 4 MILAN

**B**

Today after breakfast you'll drive from Stresa to Como. We'll stop in Milan where you'll have free time to explore the town.

Discover the charming of the most European city of Italy. Fashion and design: these are just a couple of the artistic forms that make Italy famous, and Milan plays a key role in this aspect Italy.. Milan is also an impressive city of art. The Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie is home to the Last Supper, the celebrated Leonardo Da Vinci fresco. A major architectural masterpiece is the renowned Teatro alla Scala. The imposing Duomo (Cathedral) is absolutely extraordinary, constructed in white marble and dedicated to the Birth of the Virgin Mary. After your independent visit, you'll continue to Como.

**Overnight on Lake Como**

#### DAY 5 COMO

**B**

In the morning you'll take a private walking tour of **Como**. The town proudly displays to visitors its dual character: that of an art city rich in history, and that of an active center buzzing with modern life. Close to the coast rises the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, with its magnificent Gothic facade, its Renaissance and its Baroque dome by Filippo Juvarra. Como also offers walks through other epochs, particularly Medieval Como, returned to its former splendor after significant restoration works. At the end of your tour, your guide will walk you over to the dock and provide you with a ticket to Bellagio where you'll enjoy an independent visit of the most famous place on the lake. Experience its historic town center surrounded by ancient city walls; the narrow roads begin at Lake Como's shores and run through the hills to a series of lakeside luxury hotels and elegant shopping streets. The town's ancient origins are visible in its Romanesque Cathedral dedicated to San Giacomo, the interior of which seems unchanged from the 12th Century. At the top of the hill are two classic examples of 18th and 19th-Century noble villas: Villa Serbelloni and Villa Melzi. **Overnight on Lake Como**

### DAY 6 LAKE GARDA

B

Transfer from Como to Verona. On route stops in Sirmione and other small villages of Lake Garda. In 1921 Ezra Pound wrote to James Joyce from Sirmione's harbour on **Lake Garda**: "Dear Joyce, I'd like you to spend a week here with me. The location is well worth the journey - both Catullus and I can guarantee it!". Lake Garda, with its mild climate and perfect water temperature, seems but a patch of sea set between the Alps and northern Italy's Pianura Padana (i.e. the Po River Plain). The shores are surrounded by palms, oleander, olive trees and vineyards, in addition to the beaches, little ports, parks and nature reserves. The wines and olive oil produced here are excellent. Beautiful small villages are spread out along the coast: **Bardolino, Garda, Brenzone, Malcesine, Torri del Benaco**, just to mention a few. The medieval **castles**, the Romanesque **churches**, the small harbors filled with colored fishing boats and a variety of flowers and trees will enchant you to no end.

**Overnight in Verona**

### DAY 7 VERONA

B

Today discover the city with a private guided walking tour. We'll start at the Roman Arena and then continue to **Piazza delle Erbe, the Market Square and Piazza dei Signori**. You'll have plenty of time to admire the many monuments, inside courtyards, the architecture as well as the hidden spots and streets of Verona. The city was celebrated by Shakespeare, the setting for Romeo and Juliet and where the Capello family lived. We'll make sure to make time to visit the courtyard of the House of Juliet. Verona is a city with lots of choices to enjoy a walk through the Giardino Giusti, Verona's medieval garden, spend some time in the Duomo, Verona's 12th century Cathedral and of course make time for a wonderful meal. Be sure to try the local specialties, polenta with anchovies, tortellini Valeggio, great risottos or enjoy a delicious platter of assorted cheeses and house-cured *salumi* along with a few glasses of wonderful vino.

**Overnight in Verona**

### DAY 8 DEPARTURE

B

Independent departure transfer to the train station or the airport in Venice (a little over an hour) for a return flight home

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
Lake Maggiore	Lake Como	Lake Garda
Milan et Du lac	Palace, Barchetta****	Olivi****

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- 3 nights in Lake Maggiore
- 2 nights in Como
- 2 nights in Verona
- Excursions by boat to charming Isola Pescatori and intriguing Isola
- Excursions by coach to Zermatt - dramatic Swiss alpine scenery and home to the Matterhorn
- Transfer from Stresa to Como, with on route stop and free time in Milan (3hrs)
- Private Walking tour of Como
- RT Boat tickets to Bellagio for an independent visit (delivered by the guide after the visit of Como)
- Transfer from Como to Verona. On route stops in Sirmione and other small villages of Lake Garda
- Walking tour of Verona

#### What is not included

- Arrival & departure transfers
- City Tax

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Departure	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Min 2	Double	3980	3980	3980	3980	3980	3580

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

## ST09. Piedmont & Lake Maggiore

4 nights / 5 days

Lake Maggiore, Stresa, Monferrato, Alba, Barolo, Vergne e Morra, Asti 2 nights in Lake Maggiore, 2 nights in Alba

Itinerary

### DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Independent arrival in Lake Maggiore. Overnight on Lake Maggiore

### DAY 2 LAKE MAGGIORE

B

Meet your guide in Stresa pier and start your excursions by boat to the charming Isola Pescatori and the intriguing Isolabella. Extending between Piedmont and Lombardy, one of the banks of Lake Maggiore curves into Swiss territory. The luxuriant vegetation descends the slopes to the lake with its little pebble beaches and tiny bays. Countless of towns on the Lake Maggiore are renowned resorts: Cannobio, Cannero Riviera, Verbania, Baveno and Stresa, an international tourist destination. The Borromean Islands are rich in fascination, lying in the middle of Lake Maggiore and offering the perfect balance between art and nature: think Baroque palace and the Italian garden at Isola Bella; the neoclassical home and English-style garden at Isola Madre and a colorful village of rustic houses on the Isola Pescatori. A truly enchanting landscape of banks dotted with historic villas and parks filled with the colorful flowers that are typical of Lake Maggiore: camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Overnight on Lake Maggiore

### DAY 3 ASTI and MONFERRATO

B

After breakfast, you'll meet your driver for a private transfer from Stresa to Alba. You'll stop along the way in Monferrato for an independent visit of Monferrato. There are countless hills that stretch as far as the eye can see, where ancient villages and castles are perched, a succession of gentle slopes planted with vines the rows of which make geometric shapes. This is the magnificent scenery of the Langhe, Roero and Monferrato, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Monferrato is one of the three towns that received this recognition. We'll stop at the old town of Asti. A picturesque and charming town, opening onto the triangular shaped Piazza Alfieri, where the famous Palio (horse race) is run, each year since the 13th century. Among the architectural landmarks are noble palaces, towers and ancient churches, and the majestic gothic Cathedral di Asti Santa Maria. As you continue to Alba, we'll stop at a charming vineyard for a wine tasting Overnight in Alba

### DAY 4 LANGHE & ROERO

B

Today you'll enjoy a full day private tour with your driver guide along the magnificent route from Vergne to La Morra and the village of Barolo with its castle, home to some of the best vineyards in the world.. The Langhe and Roero district of Italy make for one of the most charming landscapes in the Region of Piedmont. Think rolling hills, quaint villages struck on cliffs, and prized vineyards and gastronomic traditions. For food and wine lovers this area is the height of excellence, ideal for relaxing and enjoying the good life amidst nature, art, the epicurean's favorite hobby of wining and dining. Overnight in Alba

### DAY 5 DEPARTURE

B

Independent departure

FEATURED PROPERTIES	
Lake Maggiore	Alba
Grand Hotel Majestic****	Marchesi Alfieri Wine Estate

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

What is included

- Daily breakfast
- 2 Nights in Stresa
- 2 Nights in Alba
- Regular Boat tour to Borromee Islands
- Private transfer from Stresa to Alba with stops in Monferrato for an independent visit of Asti and Monferrato.
- Wine tasting in Monferrato
- Full day private tour with driver guide to visit the magnificent route from Vergne to La Morra, the village of Barolo with its castle
- Wine tasting with at Ceretti Winery in Alba

What is not included

- Arrival & departure transfers
- City Tax

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

Pax	Departure	MAR APR	MAY JUN JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT NOV
Min 2	Double	1880	2160	2300	2160	1880

Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.

## ST10. Cinque Terre & Piedmont Wine Trails

5 nights / 6 days

Cinque Terre, Portofino and Santa Margherita, Alba, Barolo, Langhe, Asti and Piedmont wines 2 nights in La Spezia, 2 nights in Barolo region, 1 night in Milan

**Day 01: Arrival B**  
Independent arrival in La Spezia  
Overnight in La Spezia

**Day 02: Cinque Terre B**  
Meet your guide in La Spezia and start your exploration of the villages by boat. Cinque Terre is the name of a district that encompasses five glorious towns, where small houses are surrounded by lush nature. Visitors are fascinated by the beauty of these five small villages, namely: **Manarola, Riomaggiore, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso al Mare**. The inhabitants of Cinque Terre benefit not only from its pristine waters, but from its natural environment, where wild nature is interspersed with vineyards, olive groves and citrus orchards, creating a precious bond between man, his traditions and this breathtaking stretch of coast. **Overnight in La Spezia**

**Day 03: Portofino and Santa Margherita B, D**  
Meet your driver and transfer to Barolo Area. You will have an on route stop in Portofino and Santa Margherita for an independent discovery of these two unique jewels of Italian Riviera.  
Upon your arrival at your hotel in Barolo Region, enjoy a gourmet dinner "Piedmont style"  
**Overnight in Barolo Region**

**Day 04: Vergne, La Morra & Alba B, L**  
Meet your driver guide and transfer to Barolo region.  
*"Even in the midst of summer, the idyllic vineyard landscapes of Piedmont are rarely invaded by crowds of tourists, and the run-up to the grape harvests, beginning in September, can be an ideal time to visit winemakers, who have more time than usual to let visitors taste their vintages. Great wines are made all over the region, but the key area, just an hour's drive from Turin, is the Langhe and Roero, separated by the winding Tanaro river."* (The Guardian). Visit La Morra, Vergne and the magnificent village of Alba, the capital of Barolo region. Enjoy a great lunch and a wine tasting.  
**Overnight in Barolo Region**

**Day 05: ASTI and MONFERRATO B**  
Meet your driver escort at tour hotel and motori to Milan. You will explore on the way the Langhe Region and will stop in different villages and wineries. The Langhe and Roero district of Italy make for one of the most charming landscapes in the Region of Piedmont. Think rolling hills, quaint villages struck on cliffs, and prized vineyards and gastronomic traditions. For food and wine lovers this area is the height of excellence, ideal for relaxing and enjoying the good life amidst nature, art, the epicurean's favorite hobby of wining and dining. **Drop off in Milan** and overnight in town

**Day 06: Departure B**  
Independent transfer to airport

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>La Spezia</b>	<b>Barolo Region</b>	<b>Milan</b>
<b>CDH La Spezia</b>	<b>Marchesi Alfieri, Villa Tiboldi</b>	<b>GH Visconti</b>

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

**What is included**

- 2 night in La Spezia
- 2 night in Barolo Region
- 1 night in Milan
- Daily Breakfast
- Guided visit of Cinque Terre by boat and train
- Transfer from La Spezia to Barolo region with an route stop in Portofino
- Driver escort to explore Barolo Region: La Morra, Vergne & Alba. Lunch and wine tasting included
- Transfer from Barolo region to Milan with on route stops in Asti and Langhe Villages. Lunch and wine tasting included.
- Drop off in Milan

**What is not included**

- City Tax

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

Pax	Departure	MAR APR	MAY JUN JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT NOV
Min 2	Double	2830	3190	3190	3190	2830

Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st.

## ST12. Pure Tuscany for the connoisseur from Rome

6 nights / 7 days

Perugia, Assisi, Cortona, Montepulciano, Bagno Vignoni, Crete Senesi, Chianti, Siena, San Gimignano 1 night in Cortona, 2 nights in Crete Senesi area, 3 nights in Florence

### DAY 1 FROM ROME TO VAL D'ORCIA

L

Independent arrival in Rome. Meet your driver guide in Rome and transfer to Cortona. We'll stop on the way to Cortona in Perugia and Assisi for an independent visit. **Perugia is medieval-walled hill town** famous for its squares, Gothic palaces and jazz cafes. The music is everywhere and became the soundtrack of any visit. This is also a capital of Italian Art. **Perugino Gentile da Fabriano, Pinturicchio, Lo Spagna, Raphael** and many others lived and worked here. The city is also famous for chocolate maker Perugina. A visit to the Museum of Chocolate and factory is a must if you're a true lover chocolate (an English tour needs to be reserved in advance so let us know if you want to visit Perugina) Lunch will be in a typical Trattoria with a wine tasting. Afterwards, we'll continue to the magnificent village of **Assisi**, the birthplace of St. Francis. You'll tour the town with a guide as well as have some leisure time to explore before arriving in Cortona in the late afternoon..

**Overnight in Cortona**

### DAY 2 COOKING CLASS IN CORTONA & VINEYARDS EXPERIENCE B,L

After breakfast you'll head to a cooking class followed by lunch. In the afternoon, you'll have a short visit of Cortona with your driver guide followed by a visit to the Avignonesi Winery for a wine tasting. Cortona is a small charming town in the Valdichiana. The city, high on a hill, is the location of the film, "Under the Tuscan Sun". It's surrounded by stone walls dating back to Etruscan and Roman times and offers a spectacular view over the valley from every corner of the town. After leaving Cortona, we'll make a short stop in Montepulciano for an independent visit then continue to Bagno Vignoni. Montepulciano is a medieval town of rare beauty, of elegant Renaissance palaces, ancient churches, charming squares and hidden corners and boasts vast panoramas all over the wonderful Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana valleys that surround it. **Overnight in Bagno Vignoni.**

### DAY 3 CRETE SENESI

B

Today is a day to enjoy some free time to explore the Crete Senesi region of Tuscany or take the time to enjoy the Bagno Vignoni Thermal Spa. Crete Senesi literally means Sieneese Clays. This is a great place to go to if you are looking for some peaceful time, surrounded by pure and untouched nature; hills, woods, waters and a semi-desert, breaking up the green landscape that is typical of Tuscany. This beautiful part of the region is filled with countless small tiny villages such as Asciano, Buonconvento, Monteroni d'Arbia, Rapolano Terme, San Giovanni d'Asso.

**Overnight in Bagno Vignoni**

### DAY 4 SIENA and MONTERIGGIONI

B, L

Meet your driver guide at your hotel and transfer to Florence. You'll stop in **Siena and Monteriggioni** for an independent visit of these enchanting villages. The drive itself is magnificent: enjoy the view of the Chianti hills covered by vineyards and olive trees, cypresses and castles that dot the countryside. Siena is probably Italy's loveliest medieval city. Its heart is the central piazza known as Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio, a horse race run around the piazza twice every summer and recently made famous in the James Bond movie, "The Quantum of Solace". During our drive to Florence, we'll stop at a wonderful Tuscan Villa and vineyard for a cellar visit followed by lunch and wine tasting. This will be a great day where you'll get to experience the best aspects of this wonderful region! You'll arrive late afternoon in Florence and overnight in the heart of the town.

Time permitting, we'll take a short stop in at the charming and tiny castle town of Monteriggioni.

**Overnight in Florence**

### DAY 5 FLORENCE

B

Today, you'll join a small group to explore Florence and discover the 2000 years of tumultuous history that changed the world forever. This is a city filled with historic sculptures, frescoes and paintings. You'll visit 3 churches - the Duomo, Santa Trinita and Orsanmichele. By day's end, you'll understand why Florence became one of the greatest art centres the world, home to Michelangelo, da Vinci, Lippi, Botticelli and Brunelleschi to name a few. You'll walk through the medieval center of the city passing the Baptistery, the Bell Tower, the Gates of Paradise, Brunelleschi's Dome, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio, along with Medieval towers and Renaissance palaces. When the morning tour ends, enjoy the city or head back to further explore some of the sites we passed earlier in the day. Take time for a relaxing lunch and in the afternoon head over to the Academia to visit Michelangelo's the David.

**Overnight in Florence**

**DAY 6 VOLTERRA & SAN GIMIGNANO**

**B,L**

After breakfast, meet your driver guide for a full day tour to Volterra & San Gimignano. San Gimignano is the quintessential Tuscan hilltop town, a small walled village famous for its medieval architecture and towers that rise above all the surrounding buildings. The patrician families of San Gimignano had built 72 tower-houses as symbols of their wealth and power but today only 14 remain.

From here, we'll head to Volterra, a Tuscan hill town that is a wonderfully unspoiled and not on the usual tour's towns. The history of Volterra is imbedded in the Etruscan period and there are many examples that date to the 4th century B.C..

It seems that Volterra has managed to avoid the stress of today's life and whoever comes to Volterra has the immediate impression of stepping into the past, as we walk the medieval streets, you'll be impressed with the shops that line the streets filled with wonderful assortments of beautifully crafted handiwork. After our visits to these two wonderful towns, we'll stop at a Tuscan villa estate for lunch along with a cellar visit and wine tasting. This is a great day where you'll get to experience the best aspects of this wonderful region! Overnight in Florence

**DAY 7 DEPARTURE.** Independent departure transfer

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>Cortona</b>	<b>Crete Senesi</b>	<b>Florence</b>
<b>Villa Armena* * * * *</b>	<b>Orto delle Terme</b>	<b>Palazzo Castri*****</b>

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

**What is included**

- Daily breakfast
- 1 Night in Buonconvento
- 2 Nights in Crete Senesi area
- 3 Nights in Florence
- Driver Guided tour to "Assisi & Perugia". Pick up in Rome, drop off in Cortona
- Cooking Class at Villa di Piazzano
- Wine tasting and visit of Vineyards at Avignonesi Wine Estate
- Driver Guided tour to "Siena & Monteriggioni". Pick up in Cortona, drop off in Bagno Vignoni.
- Driver Guided tour to Signature "Montepulciano & San Quirico". Pick up in Bagno Vignoni, drop off in Florence
- Small Group Walking Tour of Florence
- Driver guided tour of San Gimignano and Volterra with lunch and wine tasting

**What is not included**

- Arrival & departure transfers
- City Tax

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

Pax	Departure	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Min 2	Double	3080	3450	3580	3580	3490	3490	3580	3580

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

# ST14.Rome, Sorrento & Amalfi Coast

5 nights / 6 days

Rome, Vatican, Sorrento, Pompeii, Amalfi, Capri, Positano, Ravello  
2 nights in Rome, 3 nights in Amalfi Coast

## Itinerary

**DAY 1 ARRIVAL** Independent arrival into Rome.  
**Overnight in Rome**

### DAY 2 VATICAN & HEART OF ROME

**B**

In the morning, meet your guide at the Vatican and join a small group to visit Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our expert guide will be your docent as you pass through the vast Vatican collection. This Vatican tour will focus on the must-see and famous masterpieces of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, Michelangelo's Dome, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and more. Following the visit of the Sistine Chapel you'll enter what many consider a wonder of the world and the most magnificent church on earth - St Peter's Basilica, and then ending outside in the superb square designed by Bernini.

**Overnight in Rome.**

Optional guided tours of "Heart of Rome" or "Colosseum & Imperial Rome" are available

### DAY 3 ROME & POMPEII B

In the morning you'll board a high-speed train from Rome to Naples. Your driver will meet you and continue to Pompeii. Pompeii was a **holiday resort** for wealthy Roman politicians and nobility. It is now famous for its civic buildings lining the streets some still intact today, exceptional examples of the epoch's architecture. Another remarkable construction is the **House of Mysteries**, which derives its name from the murals depicting the initiation rites (i.e., the mysteries) of the Dionysian cult. A peculiar characteristic of Pompeii is the **florid graffiti covering the walls** in just about every building; this is because when the volcanic eruption happened, Pompeii was set to carry out elections in the days ahead - hence the writings and ideograms, which depict political and sexual content. After the tour, motor to Amalfi Coast

You'll arrive in Amalfi in the late afternoon, just in time for an aperitivo before you head out for a lovely dinner.

**Overnight in Amalfi.**

### DAY 4 FREE TIME

**B**

We're firm believers in allowing for free time to explore places on your own in order to get a true sense of where you are. Take time to enjoy a coffee at a cafe or walk along main streets of the town. The best way to see the town is to walk, where undoubtedly you'll unearth wonderful finds, whether it's the intoxicating aroma of a bakery or handmade leather goods, beautiful music boxes or fine lace. Discover a quaint park with children chasing each other or have a glass of wine while sitting by sea. Another great thing to do is to head over to Capri for the day. Visit the Blue Grotto, sit in a cafe on the Piazzetta, Capri's famous square and make sure to have a lunch looking out on the Faraglioni. Book a table at Il Geranio, Villa Verde or Da Luigi and you won't be disappointed.

**Overnight in Sorrento**

### DAY 5 AMALFI & RAVELLO WITH LEMON TOUR

**B**

**Signature "Amalfi Drive" private visit of the Amalfi Coast** with an excellent and expert driver guide.

This excursion combines the fantastic landscapes of Ravello and Amalfi along with the local culture of food and wines. In Amalfi, learn about the history of the city and the ancient Maritime Republics, then visit an incredible "limoneto", a cliff where lemon trees are cultivated. Pick your lemons and prepare a fresh squeezed lemonade "Amalfi style". Later, continue to Ravello, a destination for artists, musicians, and writers, including Richard Wagner who composed some of his wonderful operas. Ravello is also famous for its villas, such as Villa Cimbrone, dating from at least the 11th century AD and Villa Rufolo.

**Overnight in Sorrento**

### DAY 6 DEPARTURE

**B**

Independent departure transfer

<b>FEATURED PROPERTIES</b>	
<b>Roma</b>	<b>Amalfi</b>
<b>Savov, DeiMellini****</b>	<b>Palazzo Ferraioli, Riviera Amalfi****</b>

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

**What is included**

- Daily breakfast
- 2 Nights in Rome
- 3 Nights in Amalfi Coast
- **Arrival transfer**
- **Small Group Tour:** Visit of Vatican, Entrance Fee Included. Transfers not included
- Transfer from Rome to Amalfi via Pompeii by train + private car
- Candle-light dinner in Amalfi Coast
- Guided visit of Pompeii, with Entrance fee
- Driver guided Tour "Amalfi Drive & Ravello"

**What is not included**

- departure transfers
- City Tax
- 

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

<b>Pax</b>	<b>Departure</b>	<b>JAN FEB MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY JUN JUL</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV DEC</b>
Min 2	Double	1900	2200	2400	2500	2200	1900

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st.**

## ST15. Rome, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast & Apulia

7 nights / 8 days

Rome, Vatican, Sorrento, Pompei, Amalfi, Capri, Positano, Ravello, Matera, Bari, Alberobello, Lecce 2 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Amalfi Coast, 1 Night in Bari Countryside, 2 nights in Lecce

### Itinerary

**DAY 1 ARRIVAL** Independent arrive in Rome. Overnight in Rome

#### DAY 2 VATICAN & HEART OF ROME

**B**

In the morning, meet your guide at the Vatican and join a small group to visit Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our expert guide will be your docent as you pass through the vast Vatican collection. This Vatican tour will focus on the must-see and famous masterpieces of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, Michelangelo's Dome, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and more. Following the visit of the Sistine Chapel you'll enter what many consider a wonder of the world and the most magnificent church on earth - St Peter's Basilica, and then ending outside in the superb square designed by Bernini.

#### DAY 3 ROME, SORRENTO, POMPEII & LUNCH, WINE TASTING ON VESUVIO B, L

In the morning you'll board a high-speed train from Rome to Naples. Your driver will meet you and continue to Pompeii. Pompeii was a **holiday resort** for wealthy Roman politicians and nobility. It is now famous for its civic buildings lining the streets some still intact today, exceptional examples of the epoch's architecture. Another remarkable construction is the **House of Mysteries**, which derives its name from the murals depicting the initiation rites (i.e., the mysteries) of the Dionysian cult. A peculiar characteristic of Pompeii is the **florid graffiti covering the walls** in just about every building; this is because when the volcanic eruption happened, Pompeii was set to carry out elections in the days ahead - hence the writings and ideograms, which depict political and sexual content. After the tour, motor to Amalfi Coast  
You'll arrive in Amalfi in the late afternoon, just in time for an aperitivo before you head out for a lovely dinner.  
**Overnight in Amalfi.**

#### DAY 4 AMALFI & RAVELLO WITH LEMON TOUR

**B**

**Signature "Amalfi Drive" private visit of the Amalfi Coast** with an excellent and expert driver guide. This excursion combines the fantastic landscapes of Ravello and Amalfi along with the local culture of food and wines. In Amalfi, learn about the history of the city and the ancient Maritime Republics, then visit an incredible "limoneto", a cliff where lemon trees are cultivated. Pick your lemons and prepare a fresh squeezed lemonade "Amalfi style". Later, continue to Ravello, a destination for artists, musicians, and writers, including Richard Wagner who composed some of his wonderful operas here. Ravello is also famous for its villas, such as Villa Cimbrone, dating from at least the 11th century AD and Villa Rufolo.  
**Overnight in Amalfi.**

#### DAY 5: MATERA

**B**

After breakfast your driver guide will meet you and you'll head to Bari, a port city on the Adriatic Sea and the capital of the region of Puglia. As you pass through the region of Basilicata we'll take a stop in Matera for a guided visit of the town. It's said that the town may be the longest continuously inhabited human settlement in the world.

*Stand in the right spot at a viewpoint overlooking Matera's huddled sassi, and it's not difficult to imagine you've been teleported back to the Holy Land circa 100 BC. At once epic and cinematic, the 'Citta Sotterranea', as it's known, perches on the upper reaches of the steep-sided Gravina gorge and its timeless urban landscape has often been used to evoke biblical scenes in films and TV. (Lonely Planet).*

**Overnight in Martina Franca**

**DAY 6: BARI & ALBEROBELLO**

**B**

In the morning after breakfast, you'll meet your driver and drive to Lecce with a stop in Alberobello a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A lovely spread of pinnacles announces Alberobello's characteristic historic center. The old town center is entirely composed of **trulli**. These are traditional homes whitened with quicklime and capped by conical bare-stone roofs. Crosses, pierced hearts, and zodiac signs decorate the roofs, maintaining the air of mystery that surrounds the trulli. We'll also stop in Ostuni, the "White City" *par excellence*, and the only one in Val d'Itria fronting the sea, with its characteristic historic center, once painted entirely white.

**Overnight in Lecce**

**DAY 07: LECCE**

**B**

Today, you'll enjoy a half day guided visit of Lecce. Called "**the Florence of the South**", Lecce welcomes visitors with its magnificent baroque architecture, which blazes on the portals of its palaces and on the facades of the many churches that line the streets inside the city's three ancient gates: Porta Rudiae, Porta San Biagio and Porta Napoli. Everywhere you turn, the city will dazzle your eyes with baroque exuberance. Lecce is also thought of as the capital of southern Italian cooking and the town is filled with wonderful restaurants to pick from.

**Overnight in Lecce**

**DAY 8: DEPARTURE**

**B**

Independent transfer to your airport or station

FEATURED PROPERTIES			
Roma	Amalfi Coast	Martina Franca	Lecce
Dei Mellini****	Lloyd's, Palazzo Ferraioli****	Villa San Martino	Risorgimento, Patria

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

**What is included**

- Daily breakfast
- 2 Nights in Rome
- 2 Nights in Amalfi
- 1 night in Martina Franca
- 2 nights in Lecce
- Arrival Transfer
- Small Group Tour: Visit of Vatican, Entrance Fee Included. Transfers not included
- Transfer from Rome to Sorrento
- Guided visit to Pompeii, entrance fee included
- Driver Guided tour of "Amalfi & Ravello" with lemon tour
- Transfer by private car from Sorrento to Bari with on route stops in Matera
- On route stop in Matera for an independent visit
- Transfer from Bari to Lecce with on route stop in Alberobello & Ostuni
- On route stops in Alberobello & Locorotondo for an independent visit
- Walking guided tour in Lecce

**What is not included**

- Departure transfers
- City Tax

**RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$**

Pax	Dep	JAN FEB MAR	APR	MAY	JUN JUL AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV DEC
Min 2	Double	2900	3120	3600	3800	3900	3800	2900

Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.

## ST16.Sorrento, Amalfi Coast & Apulia

6 nights / 7 days

Sorrento, Amalfi, Capri, Positano, Ravello, Matera, Bari, Alberobello, Lecce

3 nights in Sorrento, 1 Night in Bari, 2 nights in Lecce

### DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Arrival Transfer from Naples APT.

On route stop in Pompeii (time permitting) for an independent visit

**Overnight in Amalfi Coast.**

### DAY 2 AMALFI & RAVELLO WITH LEMON TOUR

**B**

**Signature “Amalfi Drive” private visit of the Amalfi Coast** with an expert driver guide.

This excursion combines the fantastic landscapes of Ravello and Amalfi along with the local culture of food and wines. In Amalfi, learn about the history of the city and the ancient Maritime Republics, then visit an incredible “limoneto”, a cliff where lemon trees are cultivated. Pick your lemons and prepare a fresh squeezed lemonade “Amalfi style”. Later, continue to Ravello, a destination for artists, musicians, and writers, including Richard Wagner who composed some of his wonderful operas here. Ravello is also famous for its villas, such as Villa Cimbrone, dating from at least the 11th century AD and Villa Rufolo.

**Overnight in Amalfi Coast.**

### DAY 3 CAPRI

**B**

Optional tour of Capri (Shared tour or Private)

**Overnight in Amalfi Coast.**

### DAY 4: MATERA

**B**

After breakfast your driver guide will meet you and you’ll head to Bari, a port city on the Adriatic Sea and the capital of the region of Puglia.. On the way, as you pass through the region of Basilicata we’ll take a stop in Matera for a guided visit of the town. It’s said that the town may be the longest continuously inhabited human settlement in the world.

*Stand in the right spot at a viewpoint overlooking Matera’s huddled sassi, and it’s not difficult to imagine you’ve been teleported back to the Holy Land circa 100 BC. At once epic and cinematic, the ‘Citta Sotterranea’, as it’s known, perches on the upper reaches of the steep-sided Gravina gorge and its timeless urban landscape has often been used to evoke biblical scenes in films and TV. ( Lonely Planet).*

**Overnight in Martina Franca**

### DAY 5: ALBEROBELLO, OSTUNI and LECCE

**B**

In the morning after breakfast, you’ll meet your driver and drive to Lecce with a stop in Alberobello. a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A lovely spread of pinnacles announces Alberobello’s characteristic historic center,. The old town center is entirely composed of **trulli**. These are traditional homes whitened with quicklime and capped by conical bare-stone roofs. Crosses, pierced hearts, and zodiac signs decorate the roofs, maintaining the air of mystery that surrounds the trulli. We’ll also stop in Ostuni, the “White City” *par excellence*, and the only one in Val d’Itria fronting the sea, with its characteristic historic center, once painted entirely white.

**Overnight in Lecce**

### DAY 6: LECCE

**B**

Today, you’ll enjoy a half day guided visit of Lecce. Called “**the Florence of the South**”, Lecce welcomes visitors with its magnificent baroque architecture, which blazes on the portals of its palaces and on the facades of the many churches that line the streets inside the city’s three ancient gates: Porta Rudiae, Porta San Biagio and Porta Napoli. Everywhere you turn, the city will dazzle your eyes with baroque exuberance. Lecce is also thought of as the capital of southern Italian cooking and the town is filled with wonderful restaurants to pick from.

**Overnight in Lecce**

### DAY 7: DEPARTURE

**B**

Independent transfer to your airport or station

FEATURED PROPERTIES		
<b>Amalfi Coast</b>	<b>Martina Franca</b>	<b>Lecce</b>
<b>Lloyd's, Palazzo Ferraioli****</b>	<b>Villa San Martino</b>	<b>Risorgimento, Patria</b>

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- Daily breakfast
- 3 Nights in Sorrento
- 1 night in Martina Franca
- 2 nights in Lecce
- Arrival Transfer
- Guided visit to Pompeii with private car, entrance fee included
- Driver Guided tour of "Amalfi & Ravello" with lemon tour
- Candle Light Dinner in Amalfi Coast
- Transfer by private car from Sorrento to Bari with on route stops in Matera with by car
- On route stop in Matera for an independent visit
- Transfer from Bari to Lecce with on route stop in Alberobello & Ostuni
- On route stops in Alberobello & Locorotondo for an independent visit
- Walking guided tour in Lecce

#### What is not included

- Departure transfers
- City Tax

#### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Dep	JAN	FEB MAR APR	MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP	OCT	NOV DEC
Min 2	Double	2600	2730	3480	3260	2950

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**

## ST17. Charming Sicily

7 nights / 8 days

Palermo, Marsala, Erice, Menfi, Agrigento, Modica, Siracusa, Etna, Taormina 2 nights in Palermo, 2 nights in Menfi, 2 nights in Siracusa, 1 night in Taormina

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL B

Arrival transfer from Palermo Airport  
Welcome briefing upon arrival with our local assistant  
**Overnight in Palermo**

#### DAY 2 PALERMO & MONREALE B

Meet your driver guide at your hotel for a full day private visit of Palermo & Monreale. Palermo is the Capital of Sicily, a city whose rich history is marked by the influence that was left by invaders from around the world; Greeks, Arabs, Romans, Normans, French and Spaniards played a role in making Sicily and Palermo what it is today. Its language, architecture, art and food are reflected by those diverse cultures. It's crumbling Baroque architectural landmarks and its contemporary art scene, its creative cuisine, make Palermo a sight to behold. After your visit to Palermo, we'll head to Monreale, the historic hill town just outside of Palermo. In 1174, the Norman King, William II ordered the construction of a new church honoring the Virgin Mary. The Cathedral is a wonderful fusion of architectural styles, influenced by Arab, Byzantine and Norman craftsman and for sure, the highlight of the Cathedral are the golden mosaics that cover the entire interior. Depictions of saints, kings and angels, biblical scenes from the old and new testament, ending in a colossal image of Christ make up this mosaic masterpiece. When you exit the Cathedral take some time to visit the Cloisters next door. This former Benedictine abbey was also built on William's instructions and one can argue just as beautiful.

**Overnight in Palermo**

#### DAY 3 WESTERN COAST: ERICE, TRAPANI AND SALT PANS B

Transfer from Palermo to Menfi with stops in Erice and Trapani for an independent visit. As you drive along the coast the edge of the sea is marked with salt flats, dotted with windmills that in years past were used to pumped water. **Built around its port, the historic center of Trapani** abounds in testimonials to its history and art: ancient buildings, monuments and churches such as the Cathedral of San Lorenzo with its elegant Baroque facade, and the Sanctuary of the Annunziata. As you drive further south you'll see not far from the coast, the small isle of **Mothia**, a Phoenician settlement where a number of ruins are visible. **Erice**, is a medieval town though its roots go far back in history. The town is perched on a mountainside overlooking Trapani, surrounded by defensive town walls and crowned by the Castle of Venus from where you can get a breathtaking view of the coast. After our visit of the area, we'll arrive late in the afternoon arrival in Menfi **Overnight in Menfi**

#### DAY 4 FREE TIME B

We're firm believers in not packing in every day with preset sightseeing. Our view is that free time is a great way to get to know a town or area at your own pace. The ancient Greek city of **Selinunte** is close by. It's one of the most impressive archeological sites in the Mediterranean and as wonderful as anything you'll see in Greece. This was Magna Graecia and in 409B.C. Selinunte ceased to exist because 100,000 Carthaginians laid siege to the town and over nine days slaughtered 16,000 of the town's inhabitants. If this isn't to your liking, we can organize a bit of vineyards touring or roll up your sleeves and take a **cooking class** at the Planeta Estate. Last but not least, don't feel guilty about just hanging out by the pool, reading that book you packed, and enjoying a wonderful lunch at the restaurant. That's what vacation is all about!

**Overnight in Menfi**

#### DAY 5 AGRIGENTO & MODICA B

In the morning after breakfast, we'll leave Menfi for **Siracusa** with a stop in **Agrigento** for a guided visit of the Valley of the Temples. Agrigento was in ancient times the Greek city of Akragas settled by colonists from the Greek islands of Rhodes and Crete. The city prospered and as in Selinunte, in 406B.C. Hannibal and the Carthaginians laid siege to the city. Today the Valley of the Temples is viewed as the best examples of the ancient world because of how well the original settlement site has been preserved. After the exploration of Agrigento, you'll head east, and we'll take a stop in **Modica** for an independent visit. The town is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site as one of the Baroque towns of Sicily. If you're a chocolate lover, this is the town to visit. Take a stop at Antica Dolceria Bonajuto (Corso Umberto 1,159), the cities most famous chocolate maker. Buy enough to last a few days!!

**Overnight in Siracusa**

### DAY 6 SIRACUSA & ORTIGIA

**B**

Today we will take a guided walking tour of **Siracusa**. Syracuse was defined by Cicero as “the most beautiful city in Magna Graecia.” He was right of course. Still today the echoes of its ancient grandeur reverberate from the streets, churches and monuments. Syracuse is a destination no traveler should pass up and, with Sicily's Mediterranean climate, can be visited in any season of the year. Made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in **2005**, the city shows its ancient vestiges in every nook and cranny, from Classical to Baroque splendors, all within a landscape of enchanting beauty. This city was once the largest city in the Western world with a population of almost **300,000**. The Greek theater dates back to the fifth century B.C. and could seat **15,000** people. **Ortigia** the small island off the mainland is the soul of Syracuse, filled with **2,500** years of history. The daily morning food market is not to be missed. Take a stop at a wonderful shop called “I Sapori dei Gusti Smarriti” (flavors of lost tastes) where you'll find a few wonderful Sicilian delicacies to bring back home or nibble on the road.

**Overnight in Siracusa**

### DAY 7 TAORMINA

**B**

In the morning, we'll drive from Siracusa to **Taormina**. Along the way, enjoy the beautiful views of the volcano Mount Etna. Upon your arrival, you'll have a guided visit of Taormina, 'Pearl of the Mediterranean Pearl', located on a sheer natural terrace above the sea, with breathtaking views around every corner. Winding streets with shops, bars and restaurants make it perfect holiday spot. The Greek theatre is, located in a fantastic position carved into the earth. It is hard to say if today's audience, as well as in ancient times attended performances without being fascinated by the views across the sea. Taormina is an ideal destination all year round, thanks to the mild climate and all that it has to offer for fun, relaxation and a joie de vivre.

**Overnight in Taormina**

### DAY 8 DEPARTURES. Independent departure transfer

FEATURED PROPERTIES			
Palermo	Menfi	Siracusa	Taormina
Palazzo Brunaccini*****	Planeta Estate, 11 Vigneto*****	Etrangers, GH Ortigia*****	Montetauro, Diodoro*****

*Hotel may be substituted with similar category*

#### What is included

- Welcome briefing upon arrival with our local assistant
- Daily breakfast
- 2 Nights in Palermo
- 2 Nights in Menfi (Agrigento)
- 2 Nights in Siracusa
- 1 night in Taormina
- Arrival Transfer
- Full Day private visit of Palermo & Monreale with driver guide
- Transfer from Palermo to Menfi and on route stops in Erice, Trapani and Salt Plans for an independent visit
- Transfer from Menfi to Siracusa and on route stops in Agrigento for a guided visit, entrance fee included
- Free time in Modica for an independent visit
- Walking guide tour of Siracusa, entrance fee included
- Transfer from Siracusa to Taormina
- Departure transfer

#### What is not included

- City Tax

### RATES PER PAX IN AUD\$

Pax	Dep	JAN FEB	MAR	APR	MAY JUN	JUL	AUG SEP	OCT	NOV DEC
Min 2	Double	3200	3260	3400	3600	3640	3990	3520	3340

**Rates are not valid in case of Special Events or Celebrations like Fairs, Xmas, Easter, May 1st. Not valid during Venice Carnival.**