

TRIP START DATES

2023	2024
MAY 04, 06, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27	FEB 29
JUN 01, 03, 08, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29	MAR 07, 14, 21, 28
JUL 01, 06, 13, 15, 20, 27, 29	APR 04, 11, 18, 25, 27
AUG 03, 10, 12, 17, 24, 26, 31	MAY 02, 04, 09, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30
SEP 02, 07, 09, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30	JUN 01, 06, 08, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
OCT 05, 07, 12, 19, 26	JUL 04, 11, 13, 18, 25, 27
NOV 09, 23, 30	AUG 01, 08, 10, 15, 22, 24, 29, 31
DEC 19, 28	SEP 05, 07, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestitaly

📍 REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

11 DAYS
2 COUNTRIES
16 MEALS
18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo **4.7/5**
GUEST REVIEW ★★★★★

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Vesuvius National Park: Visit Casa Barone, a small family-run farm on the slopes of Mt. Vesuvius and one of the world's only producers of Piennolo tomatoes. Learn about their commitment to sustainability and taste the flavours of this special tomato during your Farm-to-Table lunch.

Visit a glassblowing workshop in Venice.

INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

INSIGHT CHOICE

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Restaurant Dinner in Florence • Celebration Dinner in Rome.

TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

Travel by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride in an open-top taxi in Capri • Enjoy a gondola serenade in Venice • Visit Pompeii

Visit the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

BEST OF ITALY

"Italy is the world's biggest wine producer, with the largest number of native wine grape varieties. Experience delicious cuisine as we travel throughout the peninsula and enjoy a range of Italian wines."

– **Chris, Travel Director**

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND



VENICE,
ITALY



GLASS BLOWING,
VENICE

A #MAKETRAVELMATTER
EXPERIENCE



ASSISI



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. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

The day is devoted to The Eternal City. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth visit to the Vatican Museums, full of priceless art treasures collected by the Popes. Insight has arranged special priority entry and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture, normally off-limits to visitors. Visit the Sistine Chapel, where Popes are elected, to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, to wonder at another of his works, the emotive 'Pietà,' and stand beneath the dome completed after his death. Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus. Admire the beautifully preserved Arch of Constantine, and walk 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. Later, perhaps continue your exploration of Rome to see the Pantheon, toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain and enjoy free time around Piazza Navona? (B)

DAY 3 THE CHIANTI HILLS TO FLORENCE

Drive to the Chianti Hills and the city of Florence. On arrival, you will be privy to the secrets of traditional Florentine leatherwork and see a gold demonstration.

This evening, indulge in a delicious meal at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

NH Firenze/Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence.

DAY 4 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a guided shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer.

Continue on foot to the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery, where Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise have been recreated in all their glory. Visit 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. In the afternoon, perhaps visit medieval San Gimignano? (B)

DAY 5 PISA TO VENICE, THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC

Journey to the coastal town of Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles, as well as the baptistery and colonnaded bell tower behind the cathedral.

Relax and enjoy the scenery as you cross the spectacular Apennine Mountains, through the Emilia-Romagna region - one of Europe's most intensely farmed and fertile plains. Continue through the marshes of the Venetian Lagoon before crossing the causeway into the floating city of Venice. As evening falls, day-trippers desert the city to return to the mainland. Appreciate the peace and tranquility of Venice from your centrally located hotel.

This evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

NH Venezia Santa Lucia, Venice.



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See the iconic Colosseum with a Local Expert. (Photo by @vindiezel, Day 2, Rome)



INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Enjoy fast-track entrance to the Vatican Museums. (Photo by @insightanna, Day 2, Vatican City)



INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Visit St. Peter's Basilica as part of a fascinating guided exploration of the Vatican. (Photo by @insightanna, Day 2, Vatican City)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Take a chance to toss a coin in The Trevi Fountain. (Photo by @Samuel_wayne93, Day 2, Rome)

KEY

- Join/Leave Options
- UNESCO Heritage Site
- 1 Central Hotels + Nights
- 1 Scenic Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited
- Optional Place Visited
- Cruise

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





FLORENCE,
ITALY

DAY 6 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Relaxed Start. Your private boat takes you past historic churches and 13th century palaces to St. Mark's Square. The first sight is the gilded facade of St. Mark's Basilica. Turn the corner, and view the pink marble of the Doge's Palace, connected to the prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape. Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. (B)

DAY 7 ASSISI

Journey to the peaceful town of Assisi, dotted with medieval churches, colourful frescoes and shady courtyards. In the valley, see the Church of St. Mary of the Angels, much venerated as the place of St. Francis' death, then continue up Mount Subasio to the upper town. With your Local Expert, step inside the huge Basilica of St. Francis, built in the 13th century. The frescoes painted by Giotto here heralded a new era in Italian art. Arrive at your hotel, located in the heart of the medieval Old Town. Enjoy the tranquility of the historic old town during free time. (B) (DW)

Hotel Giotto Assisi.

DAY 8 SORRENTO ON THE COAST

Travel south passing Cassino, the scene of a fierce battle during World War II. Follow the spectacular clifftop road to the picturesque resort of Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples to Mount Vesuvius. After checking in to your hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure. (B)

Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

DAY 9 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

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 to Gracie Fields. Arriving at the Marina Grande by boat, ascend to Capri town by one of the island's iconic open-top taxis.

A Local Expert joins you for an exploration of the narrow alleyways. Browse in deluxe boutiques and wonder at the views over the Tyrrhenian Sea. Descend to the port by funicular railway and return to Sorrento, where you are at leisure for the rest of the day. Perhaps head to Positano for an exploration of the colourful Amalfi Coast? (B)

DAY 10 POMPEII, FROZEN IN TIME AND ON TO ROME

Continue to Pompeii, the opulent Roman town which was preserved by layers of ash from the disastrous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. A walk with your Local Expert through the cobbled streets and extensive excavations reveals the daily life of ancient Roman civilization. Visit the Forum and peer into shops and patrician villas, decorated with colourful wall paintings.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in Vesuvius National Park and visit Casa Barone. This small family run farm on the slopes of the volcano is one of the world's only producers of Piennolo tomatoes, an endangered fruit that only thrives in the fertile volcanic soil. Each harvest is sustainably farmed and cared for by the extended Barone family, who all work here.

Be sure to savour the unique flavours of this rare tomato during a truly unique Farm-to-Table lunch. Your journey continues to Rome.

In the evening, enjoy an elegant four-course Celebration Dinner with local wine at a Roman restaurant. As you dine, enjoy a private performance of popular songs and arias from some of Italy's best-loved operas. (B) (LW) (DW)

NH Roma Centro/Hotel Romanico Palace.

DAY 11 ARRIVED E RCI ROMA

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30. (B)



INSIGHT CHOICE Visit the Accademia Museum to see Michelangelo's David. (Photo by @kolange06, Day 4, Florence)



OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE Cruise around the glamorous Isle of Capri. (Photo by @Insightanna, Day 9, Capri)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the ill-fated town of Pompeii with a Local Expert. (Photo by @Carolinaphotogirl, Day 10, Pompeii)

