

European Dream

See the Best of Switzerland, Italy and France with fast-track access to the Vatican and dining at Paris' La Coupole.

11 DAYS | 5 COUNTRIES | 15 MEALS | BALANCED



4.6/5



Guest Review Rating



Trip code: N912

DEPARTURE MONTHS

April - September + December

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see [insightvacations.com/dream](https://www.insightvacations.com/dream)

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO VENICE

Welcome to the Queen of the Adriatic, known for its unique waterscapes and rich cultural heritage. Transfers depart from Venice Airport and journey to the hotel by water taxi. What better way to start your dream holiday than in true Venetian style? Join your Travel Director for a dinner at a local restaurant. Savour a cocktail at twilight whilst being serenaded by an ensemble of talented musicians, and admire the tranquillity of St. Mark's Square long after the day-trippers have gone to their mainland hotels. Return to your canal-side hotel in the quiet, peaceful authentic neighbourhood. **(D)**

Hotel: Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio, Venice

TRANSFERS: Depart the airport at 11:00 and 13:00.

WELCOME: Meet your Travel Director at 17:00.

DAY 2 | THE MAGIC OF 'LA SERENISSIMA'

In the morning, prepare to embrace this most romantic city. Visit St. Mark's Square, dominated by its magnificent basilica and overlooked by the great Clock Tower. Also in the square stands the immense Campanile and Doge's Palace which is connected to the ancient prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre. The rest of the day is free. Perhaps shop in the small arcades or why not cruise the Venetian lagoon to the island of Burano for a meal of local specialities and wine? **(B) (RS)**

DAY 3 | VILLA MACHIAVELLI AND ROME

Journey through the lush Tuscan countryside. Meet your local host for a guided tour through the house of the Italian Renaissance diplomat and writer, Nicolo Machiavelli. Savour a light lunch and a tasting of wines made from the vineyards surrounding the estate. Your journey continues as you follow the course of the Tiber to your hotel in the Eternal City of Rome. Enjoy a private visit to the Basilica of Saint Praxedes. Gaze in awe at the well preserved Byzantine mosaics, illuminated for this evening's experience, and see the first sculpture by Bernini. **(B) (L)**

Hotel: Room 007 Select, Rome

DAY 4 | PAPAL AND IMPERIAL ROME

With your Local Expert, visit the Vatican Museums. Insight provides fast-track entry to avoid the crowds and admire the Papal art collection. Inside the Sistine Chapel, admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Leave Vatican City to cross the Tiber and stand outside the Colosseum, imagining yourself back in the days of the gladiators. The afternoon is at leisure. **(B)**

DAY 5 | UMBRIA AND ONTO FLORENCE

Meet chef Lorenzo at his family farm in Umbria. Join an entertaining pasta demonstration and

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) Dinner (D)
RELAXED STARTS: (RS)
HOTELS: On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

a delicious Lunch accompanied by Orvieto Classico wine. **(B) (L) (RS)**

Hotel: Villa Neroli, Florence

DAY 6 | RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

With your Local Expert, view the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery adorned by Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise. You also visit the open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces in Piazza della Signoria and see the area around Santa Croce Basilica, famous for the quality of its luxury goods. In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore the Renaissance capital. Perhaps take the opportunity to visit the Tuscan town of Pisa and see the Leaning Tower. **(B)**

DAY 7 | ACROSS THE ALPS TO LUCERNE

Head north towards the Italian Lake District and continue into the heart of the Swiss Alps, before travelling alongside towering mountains and past rushing torrents, down to scenic Lake Lucerne. Upon arrival in Lucerne, see the town's proud Lion Monument, the covered Chapel Bridge and the baroque Jesuit Church. **(B)**

Hotel: Astoria, Lucerne

DAY 8 | LUCERNE AND MT. STANSERHORN

Explore Mount Stanserhorn on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, as an open-top cable car powered by solar panels take you up the summit. Walk along beautiful scenic pathways, keeping an eye out for marmots and other native animals, with the chance to hear a

conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. At night, you are offered a fine selection of restaurants for your Dine-Around evening. **(B) (D)**

DAY 9 | SIGHTS AND DELIGHTS OF PARIS

Journey through the rural French countryside of Burgundy, famous for its vineyards and wines, to arrive in the vibrant City of Light. During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, facades of the Louvre and banks of the Seine, with its many romantic bridges. See the Place de la Concorde, Champs Élysées and Arc de Triomphe. **(B)**

Hotel: Le Méridien Etoile, Paris

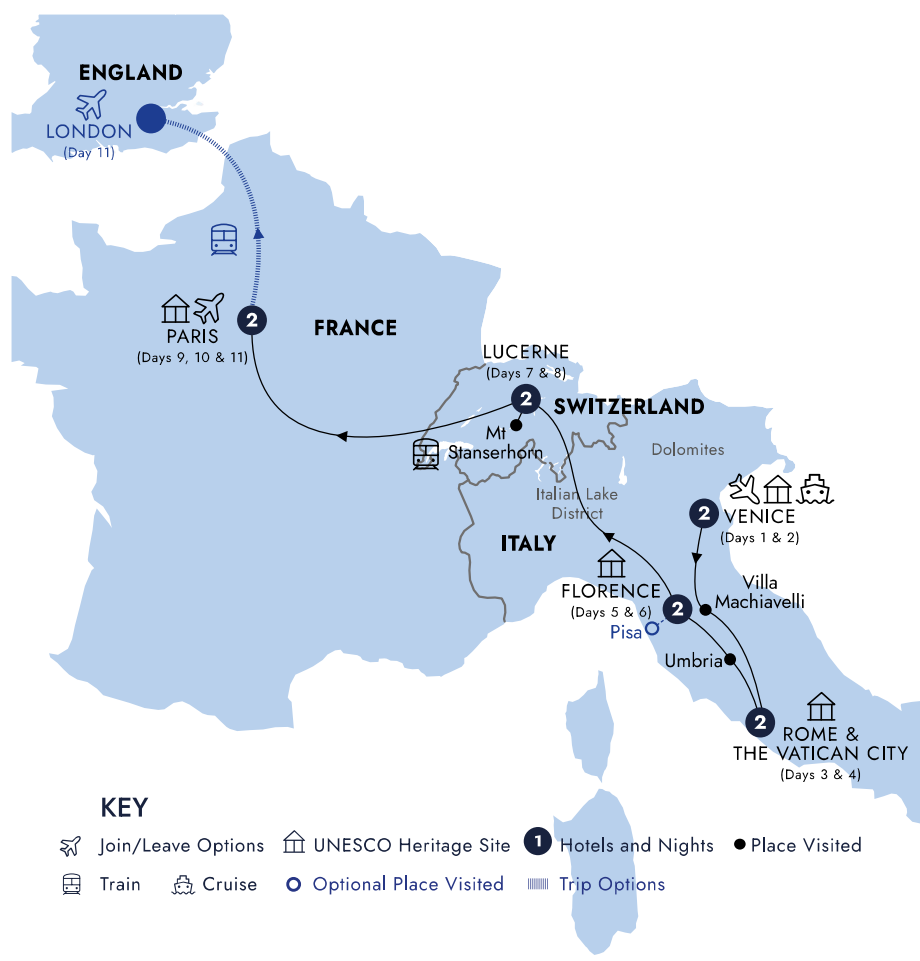
DAY 10 | THE FOOD AND FLAVOURS OF PARIS

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to explore community life in the picturesque Montorgueil district. Alternatively, join a food lover to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies. Indulge in refined French cuisine during your dinner at the iconic restaurant, La Coupole. **(B) (D)**

DAY 11 | AU REVOIR PARIS

Bid farewell to your travelling companions as your journey comes to an end. You may choose to depart for London via Gare du Nord with the return Eurostar option. **(B)**

TRANSFERS: Arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 and 11:00.



HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS

Premium Experiences

Venice | Cruise to St. Mark's Square and see the Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs and St. Mark's Basilica.

Rome | Enjoy exclusive access to the pre-Romanesque Basilica of Saint Praxedes for a once-in-a-lifetime experience during an after-hours visit.

Discover the history and the legends of the iconic Colosseum as you stroll around the exterior of this amazing structure.

Florence | Witness local craftspersons at work during a gold and leatherwork demonstration.

Join a Local Expert for a city tour to view the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery adorned by Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise.

Paris | See famous landmarks, including Pont Alexandre III, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Enjoy a drive along the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

Paris | *Insight Choice* Join an avid food lover to explore small shops and sample local treats, or explore community life in the picturesque Montorgueil district.

Venice | Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using traditional practices. This workshop directly supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Stanserhorn | Walk along beautiful scenic pathways, keeping an eye out for marmots and other native animals, and gain a deeper understanding of the local wildlife and flora. Your visit directly supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 7 & 15: Affordable and Clean Energy & Life on Land.

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®
EXPERIENCE



Premium Dining

Venice | Sample traditional Venetian fare and soak up the ambiance of this charming city.

Umbria | Explore the art of Italian cooking with Chef Lorenzo followed by a tasty lunch.

Paris | Rendezvous with your newfound friends at La Coupole for a rousing dinner with wine.

For all inclusions see tour page online.