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THE CORE OF ITALY – FLY and DRIVE
8 days in Rome, Siena, Pisa, Florence, Tuscany and Venice



D01: ROME

Shuttle bus from the airport to the city centre. Visit of the *Città Eterna*. Three thousand years old urban area among the richest of art treasures worldwide. The heart of ancient Rome: *Foro Romano, Colosseo, Via Sacra, Campidoglio*. Suggested dinner in a typical roman restaurant in the quarter of Trastevere. Overnight in Rome.

D02: ROME

The whole day is dedicated to Rome, walking among its *piazze*: *Piazza Navona, Fontana di Trevi*, the palaces of the Italian Government and the Rome churches. *Piazza San Pietro* and the Vatican City, its museums guarding secrets thousands of years old. Another colourful roman dinner and overnight in Rome.

D03: ROME - SIENA (3 HOURS)

Car pickup at the airport or at Termini railway station. Driving northward we will exit the autoroute and pop through the Orcia Valley, studded with many small Tuscan hamlets and rolling hills, home of world famous *Brunello* wine. Arrival in Siena, jewel in the crown of Italian art from the twelfth to the thirteenth centuries. You will spend the rest of the day visiting some of the main sites of this unforgettable city such as *Piazza del Campo* (place of the famous *Palio* horserace) and the Muni Palace; the *Duomo*, considered by some historians to be the finest of Italy; the collection of the *Duomo* museum which includes the works of the master painter Duccio da Buoninsegna, and the old *Spedale*. Then a walk among the old *Contrade* (sienese city quarters). Suggested option (on request) you can be guests of the *Contrada dell'Aquila* for dinner, with its people telling us the traditions of *Palio* rules. Overnight in Siena.

D04: SIENA - SAN GIMIGNANO - VOLTERRA - PISA

Drive from Siena to Pisa. In the surroundings of Siena, we will discover two other “pearls”, outstanding examples of medieval architecture: San Gimignano and its towers (named the New York of the Middle Age) and Volterra, a walled city, former Etruscan capital. (Interesting note: Volterra, during the fifth century BC had seven kilometers of walls while Athens, in the great era of Pericles, had six!). Overnight in Pisa.

D05: PISA - FLORENCE (1 HOUR)

Pisa, the Tuscan city famous for its intellectual tradition, the city of Galileo Galilei and the Normale University. A walk in the center, then onto the Leaning Tower, the *Duomo* and *Battistero* in *Piazza dei Miracoli*. The afternoon is dedicated to Florence, capital of Tuscany. Be ready to visit the *Museo degli Uffizi* (optional), *Ponte Vecchio*, *Museo Accademia* (optional), and the marvelous churches of the historical centre: *Santa Maria del Fiore*, *Campanile di Giotto* e il *Battistero*, *Santa Maria Novella*, *Santa Croce*. Suggested dinner in local *trattoria* and overnight in Florence.

D06: FLORENCE

Full day in Florence. In the morning, drive up the hill to the famous *piazzale Michelangelo* and the terrace of *Abbazia di San Miniato* with its enchanting panoramic view of the entire city from across the River Arno. Then a walk down to the *Piazza della Signoria* and a visit to *Palazzo Vecchio* (optional), the old headquarter of the Medici Government and now house to the Florentine municipality. Enjoy the afternoon walking in the city, shopping and enjoying the historic centre. Overnight in Florence.

D07: FLORENCE – VENICE

3 hours driving to reach the Capital of the *Veneto* region. Car dropoff at Venezia's door, *Piazzale Roma*, and on to the ferry on the *Canal Grande* to start your stay in this magic city, with almost two entire days at your disposal to visit *Piazza San Marco* with its incredible *Basilica* (optional), and the marvelous *Palazzo Ducale* (optional). Overnight in Venice.

D08: VENICE

All-walking day in the streets of Venice, city of the famous Carnival and Historical Boat Races. This incredible city is made of 118 islands tied by 150 bridges. You'll admire *palazzi* in several styles and will enjoy walking along the channels or by Gondola (optional), bordering Venice's Noble palaces, its churches, the Accademia Museum (optional), and the Old Jewish *Ghetto*. Possible excursion to the Island of Murano, capital of handmade glass. In the evening, heading to the airport of Venice or to the railway station, depending where your flight is departing.

The individual participation fee includes:

- Large car from day 3 to day 7
- Hotels 3-4 stars or typical tuscan Agriturismo (Double Occupancy B&B)
- 24hrs Venice Ferry ticket
- Shuttle bus ticket from Fiumicino airport to city centre
- Ferry from Venice to the airport (Alilaguna)
- Medical/baggage insurance
- Car dropoff fee (the car is returned in a different place than the pickup point)

It does not include:

- International flights (we can take care of them on your behalf)
- Entrance charges for museums, churches or other places.
- Guided tours
- Single Room supplement 40€ per night.
- Meals, beverages, tips or any extras
- Fuel and car tolls

Our available activities for an unforgettable experience (on request):

- Guided tours for every tour destination by local professional and experienced guides (in English, other languages if requested)
- Cooking classes by local selected chefs hosted in amazing venues.
- Wine and Olive oil tasting at cellars, Castles or wine/oil producers'
- Local products tasting at selected producers'
- Traditional cuisine meals made with fresh local products at selected restaurants

- Horseback riding tours
- Bicycle tours (individual or guided)
- Glass production demonstration in Murano, Venice

...and many other suggestions.

Note: *This itinerary is available for the whole year round.*

Once you will confirm the trip, Italy Travel Boutique will provide for your chosen day-by-day itinerary with the hotel list and seasonal events and festivals that are worth a visit.

Vouchers: *You will be sent via email the prepaid vouchers for the hotels/agriturismo and the medical/baggage insurance, the car rental vouchers and the flight tickets (optional).*

Car rental: *the car will be prepaid by davincitravels but it will be on the driver's name, and a valid credit card in the driver's name is mandatory at the withdraw desk.*

davincitravels will pay for a basic car insurance cover. If you wish to have a full cover, either we upgrade it on your booking with a price increase or you can ask for it at the car rental desk.

Bear in mind that the car will be under your responsibility, we suggest to make a short video of the car condition at the pickup and dropoff to avoid any unnecessary controversy.

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