

Best of Italy

with optional 2-Night Venice Pre Tour Extension

Highlights...

Venice • Gondola Ride • Classical Music Concert • Ravenna • Republic of San Marino • Winery Tour & Cooking Class • Florence • Orvieto • Rome • *Trastevere* Food Tour Dinner



12 Days • 16 Meals: 10 Breakfasts • 1 Lunch • 5 Dinners

Cultural Connections

- Let classical music transport you back in time during a concert of Vivaldi's famous *Four Seasons*.
- Discover the craftsmanship behind the Venetian gondolas during a visit to a local *Remèr* oar-making workshop.
- Be dazzled by medieval mosaics in Ravenna that gave inspiration to the poetry of Lord Byron and to Cole Porter's romantic song, *Night and Day*.

Must-See Highlights

- Glide under bridges and along canals during a gondola ride in Venice.
- Embark on a walking tour featuring Florence's artistic and architectural gems.
- Discover the long-lost Etruscan civilization during a visit to hilltop Orvieto.

Culinary Experiences

- Experience the flavors of *Trastevere* – Rome's medieval district – during a food tour dinner.
- Participate in a hands-on cooking class dedicated to Romagna's *piadina* flatbread and *tagliatelle* pasta.
- Taste traditionally made Parmigiano cheese and balsamic vinegar at a vocational school dedicated to culinary arts and agriculture.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Join us for a fabulous Italian adventure featuring the magic of Venice, Florence and Rome. Journey to the wine-producing Romagna countryside for a two-night stay in a wine resort, and visit the Republic of San Marino, an enclave state of Italy. Come along with us and embrace the history, culture, art and romance of this incredible country.

Day 2: Venice, Italy

Welcome to enchanting Venice (UNESCO) with its 117 tiny islands surrounded by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. This evening, meet your fellow travelers over a welcome dinner. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Venice

This morning, join a local guide for a walking tour of Venice's most iconic sights. Pause for the perfect view over the Bridge of Sighs and take in St. Mark's Square, adorned with marbled palaces and gilded basilicas. Travel by boat to Murano** for an expert glass-blowing demonstration, a renowned tradition on the island. Following an afternoon at leisure, delve into Venice's classical music heritage while attending a live performance of the *Four Seasons** composed by the great Venetian Antonio Vivaldi. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Venice

This morning, explore the traditional Venetian craftsmanship behind one of the city's symbols: the sleek, iconic gondola boats. Visit a local *Remèr* oar-making workshop, one of only a handful still active in the city. Then, glide along the canals during a gondola ride.** The afternoon is yours to explore more of the floating city. Perhaps you'll head out for your own treasure hunt in search of the city's hidden gems such as the whimsical Scala Contarini del Bovolo or the imposing Arsenal where the Republic of Venice built its merchant fleet and its commercial fortune. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 5: Venice - Romagna Countryside

Say "ciao" to Venice as you journey towards the Romagna region, famous for its epicurean lifestyle and its *joie de vivre*. Spend the afternoon exploring Ravenna (UNESCO). During the darkness that enveloped the last days of the Roman Empire, Ravenna emerged as a center of power thanks to its strategic position. The city's rulers – the Byzantines, the Goths – adorned its churches with dazzling mosaics. During a guided walking tour, discover the city's most illustrious monuments. In the late afternoon, continue to your hotel nestled among vineyards in the Romagna countryside and settle in for your two-night stay. This evening, be immersed in this bucolic setting during a wine-paired dinner at your wine resort hotel. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Romagna Countryside

Grab your passport*** and journey to the landlocked Republic of San Marino, the fifth-smallest country in the world. Perched at the top of Mount Titano, the old town of San Marino (UNESCO) gives visitors sweeping views over the Adriatic Riviera and the gentle rolling hills of the Romagna countryside. Explore the Old Town's intricate system of fortification towers, walls, gates and bastions during time at leisure. This evening, wrap up your stay in the Romagna Countryside with a tour of your resort's own winery, before joining the local chef for a hands-on cooking class centered on Romagna's typical *piadina* flatbread, and pasta staples such as handmade *tagliatelle*. Then, sit back and enjoy the results of your work for dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 7: Romagna Countryside - Florence

Today, travel to the Emilia region, Italy's foodie haven. During an **Impact Moment**, meet students and teachers at a vocational high school**** dedicated to the culinary arts and agriculture. Here, Italy's future chefs and farmers learn how to make *Parmigiano Reggiano* cheese according to traditional standards, dating back to the 1300s. Students also try

their hand at aging balsamic vinegar, a generational process taking anywhere from 12 to 25 years. Enjoy a farm-to-table light lunch prepared by the culinary students using ingredients from the school's farm. Later, continue to Florence (UNESCO), the “Cradle of the Renaissance” and your home for the next two nights. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 8: Florence

This morning, meet a local expert for a walking tour of a city that is a work of art all on its own. Your guide will highlight the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Baptistery. You'll also visit the Piazza della Signoria with its impressive Palazzo Vecchio. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Florence's cultural riches independently. Perhaps you'll visit to one of the city's many museums,***** such as the Uffizi or Academy Gallery, where Michelangelo's *David* is kept. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 9: Florence - Orvieto - Rome

This morning traverse southern Tuscany, the ancient land of the Etruscans. This mysterious civilization predated the Romans, who assimilated them, erasing most of their way of life, even though many early kings of Rome were Etruscans. By all accounts, they were an advanced society and culture. One of the Etruscans' most important cities was hilltop Orvieto. Here, **it's your choice!** Join an expert local guide for an in-depth walking tour of the city **-OR-** enjoy free time to eat, drink, and dive into the local scene. Arrive in Rome (UNESCO) in the late afternoon and settle in for a three-night stay. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 10: Rome

This morning, your extensive walking tour winds its way through Rome's medieval district, which developed organically from the ruins of the ancient city. This neighborhood is a charming combination of narrow cobbled streets, dark tufa stone, and repurposed Roman ruins. Ascend to the panoramic terrace of the *Vittoriano* with a combination of stairs and elevator to take in one of the city's most impressive views. Gaze upon the vestiges of the Roman Empire, from the Forum to the majestic Colosseum before making the most of a free afternoon in the Eternal City. This evening, explore Rome's dynamic dining scene during a food tour** in the bohemian *Trastevere* district. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 11: Rome

Delve into Rome's second Golden Age on a walking tour exploring the city's Renaissance and Baroque heritage alongside views of the Pantheon and the oval-shaped Navona Square. Then, **it's your choice!** At your own pace, peruse the remarkable collection of antique Greek and Roman statuary of the Palazzo Altemps museum **-OR-** extend your walking tour and reach the banks of the Tiber River to admire the round-shaped Castel Sant'Angelo fortress. Standing tall above the river, this imposing castle sheltered popes and became the setting for Puccini's beloved opera, *Tosca*. The afternoon is yours. Perhaps you'll indulge in some shopping along Rome's Cola di Rienzo street or make your way to the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica.***** Gather tonight to toast the end of your Italian adventure during a farewell dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 12: Rome - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close today, leaving you with many fond memories of incredible Italy. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It! The Independent Republic of San Marino

This tiny country is the fifth smallest in the entire world, and the third smallest in all of Europe. At 23.6 square miles, only Monaco and Vatican City are smaller countries than San Marino. Set like a tiny jewel in Italy, surrounded on all sides, it only has a population of just over 30,000 residents. Here, they speak Sanmarinese, Italian, and Romagnol, the oldest dialect of the region. It was founded in 301 A.D. by its namesake, St. Marino, making it the oldest Republic in the world. Its Historic Centre and Mount Titano are beautifully preserved areas that look much like they did during the medieval era, which is why UNESCO declared them a heritage site in 2008, protecting them for future generations.

Your itinerary at a glance	
Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 4	Maison Venezia UNA Esperienze, Venice or Hotel Santa Marina, Venice
Days 5, 6	Borgo Conde Wine Resort, Romagna Countryside, Forli
Days 7, 8	Grand Hotel Cavour, Florence
Days 9 – 11	Ponte Sisto Hotel, Rome or UNAHOTELS Trastevere, Rome
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.	

Explorations: These small group tours give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

Important Tour Information:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Due to motorcoach access restrictions in Florence, your hotel stay will require a 15-minute walk to the property. You will be responsible for carrying your hand luggage to the hotel while larger luggage will be transferred via luggage van.

Agility is required for boarding the gondola boats and motorboats in Venice.

While in Rome, the visit to the Vittoriano roof terrace requires negotiating 2 to 3 flights of steps. The elevator is not accessible for those who require special assistance as it requires climbing steps to reach it and may not be suitable for those suffering from vertigo.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The areas featured on this tour require extensive walking over cobblestones, uneven and often narrow sidewalks, and occasionally unpaved terrain with loose gravel. For your comfort, we recommend bringing well broken-in walking shoes.

*****The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel are closed on Catholic holidays, May 1 and on most Sundays (the Museums are open the last Sunday of the month and are free of charge: because of that, lines are usually longer than on other days). The Vatican Museums require advanced reservation to access. In order to avoid standing in long lines, we suggest you reserve your ticket online prior to departure if you plan to visit during your free time in Rome. While there is no reservation required (or available) for Saint Peter's Basilica, you must be prepared for long lines and security checks. Due to the large crowds expected around the 2025 Catholic Holy Year, you may experience higher than average wait times for entering the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. Due to heightened security measures, it is forbidden to enter these sites and museums with handbags and backpacks larger than 16 x 14 x 6 inches (40 x 35 x 15 cm).

****During weekends and school holidays, the visit to the culinary vocational school will be replaced by a visit to the Pavarotti museum, and lunch will take place at a local balsamic vinegar producer.

*****Most museums in Florence are closed on Mondays, including the Academy Gallery and the Uffizi, as are other state museums. Most state museums in Florence require reservations to access. In order to avoid standing in long lines, we suggest you reserve your ticket online prior to departure if you plan to visit the Academy Gallery or the Uffizi during your free time in Florence.

Days of features are interchangeable.

In Italy, some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that forbid motor coaches from circulating, especially in the historic areas of Venice, Ravenna, San Marino, Florence, Orvieto and Rome.

**On occasion, due to inclement weather, your boat trip to Murano Island may be substituted with a visit to a local glass factory, and your gondola boat ride may be substituted with a motorboat transfer. In Rome, your food tour may be served in a local restaurant instead.

*Exact concert program is confirmed 6 months ahead of your tour departure date and is subject to change. Occasionally the orchestra may be on tour and unavailable.

Most shops and businesses in Italy are closed on Sundays and on national/religious holidays.

***Bring your passport to San Marino if you would like to have it stamped with the country's entry visa.

When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Travel Requirements:

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

ETIAS visa waiver requirements are anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2026, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Extend your vacation with...

Optional 4 Days 2-Night Venice Pre Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$899.00 double, \$1,199.00 single, land only

Per Person Rates: \$699.00 double, \$999.00 single, land only

Per Person Rates: \$999.00 double, \$1,499.00 single, land only

2 Meals: 2 breakfasts

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Give yourself the luxury of extra time in Venice, the "Queen of the Adriatic." Start your trip early with a pre-tour extension and make the most of your time in Italy's most romantic city.

Day 2: Venice, Italy

Arrive in Venice, the floating city home to lavish art collections, wonders of architecture, and where marbled palaces tower over gondola-laden canals. Your hospitality desk representative will be present in the hotel's lobby for two hours this evening, providing you with suggestions for your time at leisure.

Day 3: Venice

This morning, join an expert local guide for a walking tour of the 500-year-old Rialto Bridge and San Polo's district. Rialto is the oldest among only four bridges spanning the Grand Canal. Pause at the top, taking in the views of the city's prime waterway, flanked by the ornate facades of Venice's noble palaces. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may choose to experience the local cuisine at a typical *bacaro*, a small wine bar where locals stop for a glass of wine – traditionally called *ombra* – and a quick bite of local tapas – that Venetians call *cicchetti*. (B)

Day 4: Venice

Enjoy a whole day to explore Venice at your leisure. You can meander amongst the historic streets, taking in the city's unique architecture and gondola-laden canals. Perhaps you'll visit the Venetian Ghetto, the oldest Jewish quarter in Europe. Or take a local public waterbus ride to the nearby island of San Giorgio which offers spectacular views of St. Mark's Square and the Doge's Palace. This evening, join your fellow travelers arriving for the main tour. (B)

Important Tour Extension Information:

The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3. This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable as is climbing 3 flights of stairs. You can handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time. This level is not a fit for travelers that require mobility assistance devices.

During this extension, you can expect to have a **hosted** experience or two, with a local representative revealing more of what this destination has to offer. Enjoy a mix of independent exploration and guided sightseeing and experiences.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 travelers is not met to operate.

Extensions not purchased at time of deposit are subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

Air inclusive rate is valid for travelers who have purchased our air package for the full tour, depending on the air schedule selected. Rate may vary for those who have purchased their own air.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Important reservation information:

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes.

Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613**



