CUSTOM VACATION BROCHURE

The History, the Shore and the Romance of Italy

Rome, Amalfi Coast and Venice

This 11-day trip includes more than you can imagine. From the history, religion and art of the Eternal City to the heart-stopping roads of the Amalfi Coast to the blue waters of Capri to the romance of Venice and shopping on its nearby Islands.

Vacation length: 11 days/10 nights

FOR PRICES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE

All with expert, English-speaking tour guides, private cars and the customization that will make this the trip of a lifetime. This is how to make Italy your own – and leave knowing you have friends here when you return.

Highlights and what's included

- Private Mercedes transfers to and from the airport and train stations.
- Business Class seats on High-Speed trains.
- English-speaking tour guides throughout.
- All Skip-the Line tickets included.
- Accommodation in your choice of hotel or apartment in historic center of Rome - 4 nights, Sorrento - 3 nights and Venice- 3 nights.
- Introduction to Rome "Dolce Vita" Tour on the evening of arrival in Rome.
- Private tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum.
- Private tour of The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.
- Tour of Pompeii with a private tour guide.
- Full day excursion in private car to Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- Full day excursion with guide in private boat to Capri & Anacapri.
- Introduction to Venice walking tour with gondola ride.
- Private tour of San Marco, the Marciana Library, the Clock Tower and Doge's Palace.
- Private Boat tour of the islands of Murano and Burano with glass making demonstration.

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DAY 1 Welcome to Rome! Dolce Vita Tour

Your driver, waiting for you at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport, will escort you by private car to your boutique hotel in Rome. After relaxing you will be picked up by your private tour guide who will accompany you on your "Dolce Vita" Tour. You'll uncover the secrets locked in Bernini's work, marvel at the Pantheon, the best preserved ancient Roman monument, toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain to ensure your return to the Eternal City and simply enjoy Rome's charming streets in a leisurely Italian fashion. By the end of the tour, you will realize that your guide has not only shown you around Rome, but has taught you how to get around Rome making you feel almost like a native.

DAY 2 Walk in the Footsteps of the Ancient Romans

At the Coliseum, one of the largest structures of the ancient world, Romans once gathered to watch gladiator games, animal contests, and even reenactments of sea battles. A massive stone amphitheater which seated an estimated 60,000 spectators, it was built in only eight years. Your guide will tell you about its design and construction, political purposes, fighters (both willing and unwilling), and eventual demise as an arena. At the Imperial Roman Forum, you will hear about the myths and religions of ancient Rome as you wander through the ruins of meeting halls and temples, such as that of the Vestal Virgins, who maintained Vesta's sacred fire and were considered to be almost

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goddesses. The most ancient Latin text ever found, the Lapis Niger ("black stone"), can also be found in the Forum, in a foundation of a column. Your tour will end on the Capitoline Hill, the smallest and most important of the seven hills of the Ancient Rome, and enjoy a wonderful view of the city and of the Imperial Forum.

DAY 3 Explore St. Peter's Basilica and The Vatican Museums

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel for this signature Your Own Italy tour of The Vatican Museum and St. Peter's Basilica. The art of the Vatican is among the most recognizable in the world, with masterpieces by Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo. In leading you through the museums, your guide will convey the tantalizing background of these Renaissance masterpieces, the geniuses who created them, and the powers who commissioned them. In the stunning Raphael Rooms you will see the famous "School of Athens" fresco that depicts influential thinkers of ancient Greece mingling unknowingly with Raphael himself and some of his contemporaries. In the Sistine Chapel, below the largest and most renowned fresco in the world, your tour guide will explain the intriguing history of how this work came to be and the hidden messages Michelangelo painted into it. After the museum, you'll visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest Catholic church in the world, where you can visit the tombs of the Popes, including that of John Paul II. You will also see Michelangelo's magnificent Pietà and Bernini's acclaimed baldachino, or altarpiece.

DAY 4 Culinary Adventure

TAKE PART IN A CULINARY ADVENTURE

The culinary experience includes shopping, immersing yourself in the art and pleasure of hands-on cooking techniques and learning something about Italian culture. You can experience the shopping component, where we'll explore local markets and visit a variety of different stores, just as one would do as an Italian. Stops may include an artisan butchery, fish market, cheese store, bakery, and fruit and vegetable market. We will then head to your home or a select kitchen, where we will prepare various dishes. This interactive cooking class is perfect for people who enjoy Italian cuisine, and want to learn more, as well as for those who are experienced in the kitchen. The program is tailor-made to suit your individual tastes, including Italian favorites you would like to add to your repertoire, or unique new menus.

OR

ENJOY A WALKING FOOD AND WINE TOUR IN THE TRENDY TRASTEVERE NEIGHBORHOOD

Trastevere is a neighborhood like no other. Its ivy-coated, cobblestone streets come alive at night earning it comparisons to Greenwich Village and Paris's Left Bank. It's where Romans choose to eat with their families on a Sunday and where young Romans go for buzzing nightlife at evenings and weekends. You can't leave Rome without walking through these streets, tasting the best food on offer, and taking a million pictures of this amazing hotspot.

On this guided 4-hour walking food tour we explore this photogenic neighborhood by night. You'll sample a sumptuous blend of Italian classics like pizza and pasta, real Roman street food, less-known meats and cheeses, and amazing wine in a secret cellar – its history will blow you away. Few activities in Rome deliver as many hidden surprises and enchanting moments as this, so be sure to join us for an unforgettable night in one of our favorite neighborhoods in Rome. Take advantage of Rome's vibrant nightlife by walking through the streets of Trastevere with a local.

DAY 5 Explore Ancient Pompeii and Settle into Sorrento

Your private driver will pick you up at your hotel - destination Pompeii. The most well-preserved ancient town, with its intact streets, and many buildings up to the second story is a true experience of time travel. See how the ancients entered their city through one of the main gates, lived in courtyard centered airy homes with vivid frescoes depicting the leisurely life of the wealthy inhabitant. Live also the footsteps of the commoner eating on the go at one of the many "fast food" restaurants on his way to the baths followed by an imaginary discussion at the temple in the main Forum. Close your eyes while sitting in the 500-person theater imagining a performance about to begin, all in the shadow of the Vesuvius. After lunch and at a wine producing villa on Mt. Vesuvius, your driver will take you to your hotel in nearby Sorrento.

DAY 6 Let the Coast Awaken Your Spirit

Your driver will pick you up for an experience of a lifetime. The winding roads that cling to the mountain side of the Amalfi Peninsula await the expertise of your Italian driver – and your excitement! First stop after a breathtaking view of the Sea from dizzying heights is the jewel of Positano. A tiny town that clings to the side of a mountain tumbling down to sea level. Enjoy a picturesque walk through some of the loveliest shops displaying the Positano style: white linen dresses, artisan sandals and jewelry, dotted by open air art exhibits in the beautiful courtyards just beyond the white washed walls that define the narrow winding road from top to bottom. Enter one of the bars with terraces overlooking the blu-

est sea and enjoy a "granite al limone" or Italian lemon ice, the best way to cool off. With the abundance of flowers, the white buildings and deep blue sea, you will feel part of the visual richness which is Italy. From Positano you will be taken to the top of Mount Cerreto to the town of Ravello where you will have lunch on the most spectacular, panoramic terrace you have ever seen followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens of Villa Ruffolo, the home of the world-famous summer music festival. As you wind down the mountain with your driver make sure to stop for breathtaking views and photos. Wrap up the day in main town of Amalfi where you will visit the 11th century Saint Andrew's cathedral, the patron saint of the town.

DAY 7 Dive into the Waters off Capri

Last, but not least, you will spend an unforgettable day on a private boat to Capri. Be prepared to dive in the pristine blue waters of the world-famous grottos that encircle the base of the famed island. The captain of your private boat will take you to nearly private coves where the colors of the water dance amongst the many hues of the deep blue that characterizes this enchanting island. No need to bring towels or drinks...your private guide is well prepared for impromptu toasts of prosecco as he purposefully has the boat linger under the lovers' cove. Upon docking, dry off and meet your private taxi driver who will transport you in an open vehicle up the hairpin, narrow road to Anacapri. On the way, sneak a few peaks at the white washed villas masked by an abundance of colored flowers. A stroll at the top of the mountain to visit the famed Capri sandal makers as well as a breathtaking view from the enchanting villa San Michele perched on the furthest edge overlooking the bay. A sumptuous seafood lunch will be ready for you upon your return to the dock at a famed restaurant where the fresh catch of the day is all that is offered. Your captain awaits to take you back to Sorrento.

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DAY 8 Transfer to Venice and Tour of Hidden Venice

Your driver will pick you up and accompany you to the train station to take the high-speed "freccia rossa" train to Venice. Upon arrival your tour guide will meet and lead you to your private taxi-boat. You will never forget the splendid entrance on the Grand Canal into one of the most unique cities in the world. After relaxing in your hotel room you will be taken on a walking tour of the labyrinth also known as "hidden Venice" to enjoy the shops, cafés and colorful gondolas. Your introduction to Venice will culminate with an enchanting gondola glide through the canals of Venice. Are you a music lover? A tenor will join your gondola ride and sing opera as you sip on a glass of wine.

DAY 9 Tour of Venice's Unique Sites

After a leisurely breakfast, your private tour guide will introduce you to the main attractions of one of the most unique cities in the world. You will have a first-hand presentation of the Piazza San Marco (famous for its yearly flooding in the winter); you will climb to the top of its bell tower for the magnificent views of the city and visit the Marciana Library and the Clock Tower.

DAY 10 Explore Murano and Burano

You will be picked up at the dock of your hotel by a private boat and speed along the Venetian Lagoon to two islands famous for their handicrafts and architecture: Murano and Burano. Known for its glassware shops and factories, Murano boasts a long and still-thriving tradition dating back to 1291, when glass artisans moved their kilns from the old city center. Explore the island on foot and stop at a glass factory to watch a skilled glassblower create works of art. View the magnificent splendor of Murano's palaces and Veneto-Byzantine style churches, some with mosaics and ornamental motifs designed in the 12th century, and catch a glimpse of San Michele – Venice's 19th-century cemetery – across the water. Before re-boarding the boat, you'll have time to visit a museum showcasing the world-famous Murano glass.

Afterward, journey to the island of Burano and admire the picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors. In this miniature Venice, you'll find the famous lace – abundant since the 16th century and once considered the most refined in Europe. Browse local shops and find lace on display at a museum dedicated to the craft of lace. You will enjoy lunch in a restaurant on the canal with the colorful backdrop of the fuscia pink, deep blue and vibrant yellow houses that characterize this lovely island town.

DAY 11 Departure

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and accompany you by private boat to Venice's airport for departure. We salute you with a warm and heartfelt "arrivederci"! See you again! Now that you've traveled with us, know that you have friends here in Your Own Italy.

- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas. Shoulders and knees must be covered; shorts, miniskirts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted. It is recommended that you not take large bags or backpacks on tours that include churches as storage accommodations are not always available.
- This tour is not fully accessible for wheelchair users or people with walking disabilities. However, please contact us directly and we will be able to take you on alternative routes suitable for you.
- Please wear comfortable footwear as the tours on your vacation involve a lot of walking.
- At times St Mark's basilica is closed due to high water or religious ceremonies. During high water the tour will take place, but it might happen we have to partly adapt the tour to the weather conditions. On those occasions when St Mark's Basilica is open with high water, skip the line tickets will not be accepted as all visitors have only 1 door open to get in the church. Guaranteed skip-the-line entrance to St. Mark's Basilica are available only from April to October. St. Mark's Basilica does not offer a fast entry service to anyone in other periods, considered off peak season.
- There is a dress code for churches and basilicas.
- Contact Your Own Italy for customization options on your vacation.
- Refer to our website for details on our Cancellation Policy.
- The team at Your Own Italy is absolutely flexible and will customize your vacation to suit your personal tastes and needs. Are you traveling with children? Are you disabled? We will provide all the assistance necessary to adjust our packages to ensure that your vacation is truly memorable!

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