

# THE BEST OF ITALY

## FAMILIARIZATION TOUR

NOVEMBER 3 - 11, 2018



**Day 1: Saturday, November 3, 2018 - Depart the USA**

**Day 2: Sunday, November 4, 2018 – Welcome to Italy**

Arrive at the Rome airport and be welcomed by our tour representative. Time permitting, enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome before checking into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 3: Monday, November 5, 2018 – Rome**

Experience the glory of Christian Rome today as you visit the Vatican, home to one of the greatest museums in the world. And, of course, tour St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's frescoes, now restored to their full, colorful glory. After some free time for lunch, we continue on to the wonders of Ancient Rome. Visit the magnificent Colosseum and the Pantheon. Explore the romance of Rome as you climb the graceful Spanish Steps and stop at the famous Trevi Fountain. Legend says those who toss a coin into the fountain will one day return to Rome to toss another into the waters of Trevi.

**Day 4: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – Assisi**

Your journey continues as you travel to Assisi, the charming medieval town once home to Saint Francis. Just two years after his death, a large Basilica was started in his memory. At one time, the land on which the church stands was an execution ground for condemned criminals. In his humility, Saint Francis asked to be buried there, and it became known as the Hill of Paradise. The church contains his tomb and many great works of art. This afternoon, transfer to Montecatini to check into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 5: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 – Siena & San Gimignano**

This morning, visit one of the most charming and picturesque of all the Tuscan hill towns, San Gimignano. Magical medieval towers dominate the town, once numbering more than 70, but only 14 towers remain today. Beautiful Siena is built across several hills and valleys. The focal point of the city is the shell-shaped town square which is both a meeting place and market place. It is also the venue for the town's famous horse race known as the "Palio". Enjoy free time to visit the towns, shop and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

**Day 6: Thursday, November 8, 2018 – Florence**

The elegant city of Florence is nestled between a line of hills and the banks of the Arno River. During your stay, enjoy the beautiful gardens and a leisurely stroll through the open-air markets. Every street, square and winding alley of Florence is a showcase for Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance grandeur. Among Florence's masterpieces, you'll see the Piazza della Signoria with its Neptune Fountain and Vecchio Palace,

the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral which houses Michelangelo's unfinished Pietá. In the afternoon drive to Venice Mestre and check in for 2 nights at the Hotel in Mestre.

**Day 7: Friday, November 9, 2018 – Venice**

Today we visit the magical city of Venice. Rising between sea and sky, this fascinating city boasts waterways and boats instead of roads and cars, encompassing 118 islands separated by more than 150 canals. Stand in the Piazza San Marco, bordered on three sides by palatial arcades in two tiers and faced on the other by the Basilica of St. Mark, one of the world's most magnificent churches. Tour the Basilica with its treasure of marble and gold-background mosaics. From the square, you can see the famous Bell Tower and the Clock Tower, as well as the charming pink and white Doges' Palace. After seeing the romantic Bridge of Sighs, enjoy free time to explore on your own. You can shop, stroll along the bridges and canals or even indulge in a gondola ride along the Grand Canal. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 8: Saturday, November 10, 2018 – Milan**

This morning, check out of your Venice hotel and drive to Milan. Enjoy a walking tour of Milan. View Sforza Castle and the Milan Cathedral. Visit Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Italy's oldest shopping mall and Teatro La Scala, one of Italy's famous opera houses. Check into your Milan hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 9: Sunday, November 11, 2018 – Depart Milan for Home**

Transfer to the Milan Airport for your return flight home.

**\$2098 from NEW YORK**

**YOUR ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:**

**Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing  
Roundtrip International Airfare**

Additional baggage & optional fees may apply; see fine print for details

**Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes (Subject to change)  
Daily Buffet Breakfast & Dinner, Entrance Fees & Hotel Gratuities  
Deluxe Motorcoaches, First Class Hotels & much more!**

\$300 deposit due Immediately to Reserve your spot on the FAM  
Final payment due 7/21/18

