



# PEARLS OF ITALY

featuring THE LAKE DISTRICT, VENICE, FLORENCE, TUSCANY & ROME



Lose yourself in a captivating journey through Italy's most scenic areas, as well as its most alluring cities. As you travel across northern Italy, marvel at the impossibly blue glacial lakes nestled in the Alpine foothills and flirt with the seductive city of Venice, whose legacy as a powerful maritime republic shines through its architecture. Head south to Tuscany, where the golden age of the Renaissance was born. Then, as they say all roads lead to Rome. Conclude your journey in the Eternal City. See ancient Roman monuments and other treasures that have been added to this veritable outdoor museum over the centuries.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Accommodations

- **Three nights** in Stresa, Italy, at the first-class **Hotel La Palma**.
- **Two nights** in Venice at the first-class **Hotel Saturnia & International**.
- **Three nights** in Florence at the first-class **Grand Hotel Baglioni**.
- **Two nights** in Rome at the first-class **Rose Garden Palace**.

### Transportation

- All train transfers and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

### Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend **Welcome and Farewell Receptions** and **Dinners**.

### Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy 10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

## MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Your exclusive **Small-Group experience** is limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- Stay in **four ideally located hotels**, allowing you to make the most of your time at your destinations.
- **A uniquely designed itinerary** provides exceptional opportunities to experience the history and culture of four regions of Italy: **Lombardy, Veneto, Tuscany** and **Rome**.
- Cruise **Lake Maggiore**, and discover the picturesque Borromean Islands.
- Explore the sights and sounds of **Venice**.
- Discover the winemaking tradition of **Chianti**, and enjoy a **wine tasting**.
- Four **UNESCO World Heritage** sites are featured on this program: Venice and its Lagoon and the historic centers of Florence, San Gimignano and Rome.

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Milan, Italy.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

### DAY 2 ~ MILAN/STRESA

Upon arrival, transfer† to Stresa and the Hotel La Palma.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

### DAY 3 ~ BORROMEAN ISLANDS

**Educational Focus:** *The Lakes District.*

**Excursion:** *Borromean Islands.*

Cruise Lake Maggiore to Isola Madre's paradise of baroque splendor and botanical gardens. Then, embrace the rustic charm of the peaceful fishing village of Isola dei Pescatori. Finally, visit Isola Bella, the Beautiful Island, extolled by writers over the centuries. Explore its 17th-century baroque palace and summer house.

**Local Flavor:** Lunch is served at a restaurant on one of the islands.

### DAY 4 ~ STRESA

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy the day at leisure.

### DAY 5 ~ MILAN/VENICE

**Excursion:** *Milan.* Visit the Renaissance Santa Maria Delle Grazie and its rectory to see Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." Visit the opulent 14th-century Duomo, a Gothic masterpiece.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy time for lunch at leisure.

Continue to Venice by train. Check in to the Hotel Saturnia & International.

### DAY 6 ~ VENICE

**Excursion:** *Highlights of Venice.*

Explore Venice's maze of bridges and waterways. See St. Mark's Square, the Campanile and the Doge's Palace.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in Venice.

### DAY 7 ~ FLORENCE

Board a train for Florence and the Grand Hotel Baglioni.

**Excursion:** *Florence.* Take in the sights of Florence, including the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Piazza della Signoria, Old Palace and Ponte Vecchio.

**Educational Focus:** *Renaissance Art.*

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

### DAY 8 ~ FLORENCE

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy the morning at leisure.

**Excursion:** *Accademia Gallery.* A private guide will show you works by Italy's most famous artists, including Michaelangelo and Botticelli.

### DAY 9 ~ CHIANTI

**Excursion:** *Chianti.* Visit the classic Chianti towns of San Gimignano and Castellina.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Castellina and a wine tasting.

**Educational focus:** *Contemporary Italy.*

### DAY 10 ~ ROME

Board a train for the Rose Garden Palace, your hotel in Rome.

**Excursion:** *Ancient Rome in a Modern City.* See the remnants of ancient Rome's greatest monuments, the Colosseum and the Forum, that still stand proudly today. Continue to Piazza Navona, the elegant square built atop an ancient stadium.

### DAY 11 ~ ROME

**Excursion:** *The Vatican.* Explore Vatican City, the world's smallest sovereign state. Visit the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.

**Independent Exploration:** Your afternoon on this final day is at leisure. Enjoy a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### DAY 12 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

**NOTE:** *The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

### ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

**Uffizi Gallery.** On Day 8, discover Florence's artistic legacy from the Middle Ages to the 16th century at the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's greatest art museums.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



### HOTEL LA PALMA

Stresa

Overlooking Lake Maggiore, the Hotel La Palma is centrally located in Stresa and has superb views of the Borromean Islands from rooftop lounge. Each guest room also features its own terrace or balcony. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### HOTEL SATURNIA & INTERNATIONAL

Venice

Sitting just a stone's throw from St. Mark's Square and many of Venice's other great landmarks, this charming hotel has been welcoming guests for more than a century. Enjoy seasonal Venetian cuisine at the restaurant. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### GRAND HOTEL BAGLIONI

Florence

The Grand Hotel Baglioni is ideally located in the heart of Florence. The hotel's three restaurants serve Italian favorites, and the rooftop bar offers a 360-degree view of the city. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### ROSE GARDEN PALACE

Rome

The Rose Garden Palace is just steps from the Via Veneto, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. Relax in the rose garden or with spa services. The hotel also has a pool, fitness center, restaurant and bar. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

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*Accademia, Florence  
View from Campanile, Venice*



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