

## The Splendors of Italy (6400)

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You've dreamed about Italy—its magnificent architecture, majestic cathedrals, ancient ruins, world-class art, sumptuous cuisine and wine, and relaxing cafés—and now it is your time to experience it. On this affordable Italy tour, explore its most famous cities and discover its unique sights as you overnight in Rome, Siena, Montecatini, and the Venice area. This affordable Italy tour offers you the opportunity to step back in time -- to imagine what life was like 2,000 years ago – picturing gladiators in Rome's Colosseum; and envisioning the bustling world of the Roman Forum – the political, social, and commercial center during the Roman Empire. Imagine life during the Middle Ages as you explore San Gimignano's medieval squares, town walls, streets, alleyways, and 14 towers still standing from the Middle Ages. Visit Florence -- the Renaissance gem – with a walking tour featuring the beautiful Piazza Signoria, the center of Florence's social and political life since the 14th century. On this affordable tour of Italy, you'll discover some of its magnificent cathedrals. In Vatican City, wonder at the masterful St. Peter's Basilica and square. In Orvieto, the Cathedral is a great example of gothic architecture in Italy. In Assisi, where St. Francis was born, visit the world-famous Romanesque and gothic Basilica, where the saint is buried. See Pisa's Square of Miracles – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – with its three structures (Leaning Tower, Cathedral, and Baptistery) that have historically been central to religious life. You'll also enjoy a wine tasting in Greve, the capital of Chianti, and a visit to Venice, including a boat ride to St. Mark's Square. Witness Venetian glassblowers create works of art just as they did centuries ago, and spend some free time admiring the crisscrossing canals, the legendary gondolas passing under the arched bridges, the palaces, and the quaint piazzas. All of this and more—including views of the most scenic Italian landscapes—are included on this fabulous Italy vacation designed for the value-minded traveler!

To know more about the visas for this vacation, [click here](#)

To know more about Indian Restaurants, [click here](#)



## Destinations & Sightseeing

Visits to Orvieto Cathedral, Siena, San Gimignano, Greve in Chianti with wine tasting, see the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Venice, Assisi's St. Francis Basilica.

### Guides:

Local Guides for city sightseeing in Rome, Florence; professional Tour Director while touring Chianti Valley, Apennines

December 21 Departure – Christmas lunch in Florence  
December 30 Departure - New Year's Eve in Rome

Transportation:

Touring by private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach; canal transfer boat in Venice

## Meals

## Meals & Itinerary

Buffet breakfasts daily; 3 dinners, including a dinner at a local restaurant in Siena

## Itinerary

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Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description.

### Day 1

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ARRIVE IN ROME, ITALY. Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore this ancient capital. This evening, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

### Day 2

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ROME. The "Eternal City" is steeped in history, vibrantly alive and exciting, and absolutely unique! Included sightseeing with a Local Guide starts with St. Peter's Square and Basilica. Other highlights are the iconic Colosseum, the largest amphitheater ever built; the Roman Forum; Piazza Venezia, and Campidoglio. An optional visit is available to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, world famous for Michelangelo's impressive fresco of The Last Judgment. (B)

### Day 3

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ROME–ORVIETO–SIENA. Journey to charming Orvieto in the Umbria region to visit its black basalt and yellow limestone CATHEDRAL, an excellent example of Italian Gothic architecture. Reach Siena, with time to visit this jewel of Tuscany. Sit in one of the cafés surrounding the Piazza del Campo and admire one of Italy's most unique squares, famed all over the world for its medieval-style Palio horse race. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

### Day 4

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SIENA–SAN GIMIGNANO–GREVE–MONTECATINI. Arrive in San Gimignano and discover one of Tuscany's greatest attractions. Its medieval squares, town walls, streets, alleyways, and 14 towers make it unique. Next, head into the very heart of the Chianti vineyards, where Chianti Classico wines are produced. Stop in Greve for some WINE TASTING at the Vicchiomaggio wine estate. Arrive in Montecatini in time to join the optional Tuscan dinner outing. (B)

### Day 5

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MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO FLORENCE. This Renaissance gem and city of the Medicis will keep you enthralled the entire day. Wander at leisure and admire the city's timeless beauty. Don't miss out on the included walking tour with a Local Guide, which features most of the city highlights. You will see Piazza Santa Croce; beautiful Piazza Signoria; Palazzo Vecchio and its courtyard; Loggia dei Lanzi; and, to top it all, Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanile, and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistery, known as the "Gate of Paradise." (B,D)

### Day 6

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MONTECATINI–PISA–VENICE AREA. This morning, drive to Pisa to see its SQUARE OF MIRACLES and the amazing Leaning Tower, 180 feet high and no less than 16 feet out of the perpendicular. Head across the wooded Apennine hills into the farmlands of the Po Valley to the Venice area. (B)

## Day 7

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VENICE AREA. Venice is more like a marvelous film set than a real-life city, with its criss-crossing canals, gondolas and water buses, arched bridges, palaces, and quiet piazzas. The included orientation starts with a BOAT RIDE to St. Mark's Square and is followed by time at leisure and a chance to watch Venetian GLASSBLOWERS fashion their delicate objects as they did centuries ago. Don't miss out on the optional gondola trip, gliding along the picturesque canals with a local troubadour to serenade you. (B,D)

## Day 8

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VENICE AREA-ASSISI-ROME. Travel across the Po Delta, then into the green Apennines to Umbria. Stop in medieval Assisi, where St. Francis was born in 1182. Visit the world-famous BASILICA with its beautiful frescoes by Giotto, then head for Rome. (B)

## Day 9

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ROME. Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

## Tour Director

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With Cosmos, there's no better way to get to know your destination than through the eyes of your Tour Director. Averaging over a decade... we'd like you to meet a Tour Director, who is representative of the type of expert that will be with you on your vacation.

### FLORA ANFUSO

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Escorting tours for more than 10 years

"In my 10 years of experience with Cosmos, I have escorted many multi-country European tours but there's no place like home. I am now proud to share with our passengers the passion that I have for my "bella Italia". Italy is a pleasure for the eyes with its enchanting art and architecture, but also a pleasure for the palate. I love introducing our guests to the flavors of my country through visits to vineyards or rolling olive groves. Come have a taste of Italy!"