



# BCS TRAVEL PRESENTS: HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 2, 2018

## **Day 1 - 24 September (Monday) - Milan, Italy - Cinque Terre - Rapallo**

Meet your Tour Director at your hotel this morning for a walking tour with a Local Guide. Start with a visit to the convent of SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE, where the Last Supper can be viewed. Then, visit DUOMO SQUARE with its magnificent gothic Duomo, the glass-domed GALLERIA, and admire the famous La Scala Opera House. Leave Milan and drive to La Spezia on the Mediterranean Coast and enjoy your excursion to CINQUE TERRE, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including a BOAT RIDE (weather permitting) with a Local Guide. The name dates back to the 15th century and is derived from five little medieval villages standing on stony spurs along five miles of the rocky coastline: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza, and Monterosso. Disembark in Riomaggiore for a walking tour. Continue along the Via dell'Amore to Manarola. Back aboard the boat admire the beautiful coastline as you sail to Monterosso. Afterwards, a TRAIN RIDE brings you to Rapallo, your home for the evening.

## **Day 2 - 25 September (Tuesday) - Cinque Terre - Pisa - Florence**

Stop in Pisa and take the traditional picture pushing back the amazing Leaning Tower, 180 feet high and no less than 12 feet out of the perpendicular, before continuing to Florence. During your walking tour with a Local Guide, visit the ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS to see Michelangelo's celebrated David. Admire the magnificent marble cathedral, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry's heavy bronze "Gate of Paradise," and sculpture-studded SIGNORIA SQUARE. Time at leisure to explore this fascinating city and to browse through the shops. Leather goods and gold jewelry sold by the ounce are attractive buys. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for dining this evening. (Breakfast)

## **Day 3 - 26 September (Wednesday) - Florence**

After breakfast this morning visit what is believed to be the earliest museum in Europe, the UFFIZI GALLERY. A Local Guide will show you one of the most important art galleries in Italy displaying paintings from every age. Admire some classical works of art such as Botticelli's "Birth of Venus", Leonardo's "The Annunciation" and Michelangelo's "Tondo Doni". At the end of the tour choose to stay and explore the museum more on your own if you'd like. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure. Your Tour Director will have suggestions to make the most of your time in the "Cradle of the Renaissance." (Breakfast)

## **Day 4 - 27 September (Thursday) - Florence - Siena - Rome**

Arrive in Siena for an orientation walk through ancient, narrow lanes to PIAZZA DEL CAMPO. See the square, where the biannual Palio, Siena's spectacular medieval-style horse race is held. Time for lunch and shopping before continuing on the "Eternal City". Upon arrival, join a Local Guide for a walking tour of Rome where you will visit several of the cities Piazzas' and more. See Michelangelo's Cristo Redentore located in SANTA MARIA SOPRA MINERVA. Next, at Piazza della Rotonda, explore the inside of the PANTHEON. Continue to the TREVÌ FOUNTAIN, a true masterpiece and certainly the most famous and spectacular fountain in Rome. Your last stop will take you to Piazza di Spagna - the SPANISH STEPS. This area is surely a paradise for the fashion conscious shopper where all the most important and famous names of the Italian style have a boutique. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner at a local restaurant. (Breakfast, Dinner)

## **Day 5 - 28 September (Friday) - Rome**

Sightseeing today includes inside visits to the VATICAN MUSEUMS and SISTINE CHAPEL with Michelangelo's ceiling paintings and The Last Judgment, and monumental ST. PETER'S SQUARE and BASILICA to admire Michelangelo's Pietà. Time for lunch. Then, drive to the ROMAN FORUM and visit the amazing COLOSSEUM, where gladiators once fought. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure. (Breakfast)

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**Day 6 - 29 September (Saturday) - Rome**

Today begins with a visit to the newly constructed LDS TEMPLE. This afternoon let your guide unveil the breathtaking rooms of the BORGHESE GALLERY (subject to availability) and reveal the secrets, stories and techniques behind its masterpieces. Truly a magical setting in which the beauty of the artworks, fountains and monuments mingle with the rich and diverse flora of the vast surrounding park. This evening, enjoy a memorable farewell dinner in one of Rome's popular restaurants, where a delicious four-course meal will be served. A wonderful way to say "Arrivederci Roma!" (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 7 - 30 September (Sunday) - Rome - Pompeii - Sorrento**

After breakfast this morning, a group transfer takes you to the airport for your return flight home, for those not continuing on the extension. A scenic drive southwards along the Highway of the Sun. Arrive in fascinating POMPEII, the Roman city both destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. After lunch, your Local Guide will walk you past patrician homes, public baths, and commercial districts that strikingly recall day-to-day life when Rome was at the apex of her power. Speed across the glittering bay by JETFOIL to the world-famous Isle of Capri. Ride the FUNICULAR to Capri village for a guided visit of this beautiful town. Overnight in Capri. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Day 8 - 1 October (Monday) - Sorrento - Capri - Rome**

Free time to explore the little shops in Capri on the pretty piazzetta this morning. Maybe join an optional excursion to the Blue Grotto. Later, stop in Sorrento for a leisurely visit with time to shop for inlaid wood works and more! Continue along the Gulf of Naples as you return to Rome. (Breakfast)

**Day 9 - 2 October (Tuesday) - Rome**

After breakfast today a group transfer takes you to the airport for your return flight home. (Breakfast)



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