

Itinerary

CST Italy Sep. 24 – Oct. 4, 2023

DAY 1) SEP 24, 2023 DEPART WASHINGTON DULLES INTL. AIRPORT

WE WILL DEPART WASHINGTON DULLES INTL. AIRPORT. FLIGHT DETAILS & SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED. TBA

DAY 2) SEP 25/2023 - MILAN

Arrival to Milan and transfer to your hotel for a relaxed afternoon and evening at your leisure. You may want to make a quick visit to Milan's Fashion district before turning in? Dinner at the hotel, Overnight Milan; **(D) Hotel NH Milano Palazzo Moscova – or similar**

*On the edge of some of Milan's most bustling districts, the **NH Milano Palazzo Moscova** is ideal for business and leisure trips, with restaurants and shops right on the doorstep. This stunning hotel is also close to main train and Metro stations, connecting it to famous sights and the city's airport. Stylish rooms with free Wi-Fi and TV - Views of the city and the hotel terrace - Connecting rooms available - Enjoy a unique dining experience at the new restaurant Forte Milano where you can taste the best of the traditional Italian seafood dishes or head to the Cocktail bar to enjoy drinks in a relaxing and elegant atmosphere. You can relax with a refreshing drink in our bar or outside on the terrace, while the fully stocked gym is available free of charge to all guests. Our spa is the perfect location to unwind and relax with massages, beauty treatments, and steam bath available. Unique dining experience at the Forte Milano restaurant - Gym and outdoor terrace - Spa equipped with facilities including steam bath and massage areas - Awarded the ISO 14001 environmental certificate, thanks to its environmental commitment*

DAY 3) SEP 26/23 - MILAN

We begin our tour of Milan with a local guide to explore Milan, fashion capital of the world. We visit Milan's flagship monument, Duomo Cathedral, its museum, and rooftop terrace. Stop at the magnificent La Scala theater and Sforza castle. Continue our tour to Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, the Opera House and the Sforzesco castle. Visit in the afternoon the famous "Last Supper" Painting by Leonardo da Vinci. Continue with the spectacular Vittorio Emanuele II gallery and its high end shops and the boutiques of the most famous fashion houses in Via Montenapoleone, della Spiga, Sant'Andrea and Manzoni. Enjoy the show, and perhaps some of you will take the famous "Aperitivo" in one of the bars. Dinner in Milan, Overnight Milan **(D) Hotel NH Milano Palazzo Moscova**

DAY 4) SEP 27/23 - MILAN TO VENICE

After breakfast at hotel, we will leave Milan and drive to Lake Garda, the biggest lake in the North of Italy. Here we will stop in Sirmione, a lovely medieval town on the shore of the Lake. After lunch we drive to VERONA, home town of Romeo and Juliet. Walking tour including a stop to view from the outside, the famous Arena (amphitheater) and the Balcony of Juliet. We continue to Venice hotel for dinner and overnight. Boat transportation to the hotel from mainland. **(BD) Hotel NH Venezia Rio Novo – or similar**

*The **NH Venezia Rio Novo** is a modern hotel in the heart of the Dorsoduro district – an area renowned for showcasing the 'real Venice' and bustling with restaurants, shops, artisan boutiques as well as important sites like Ca' Foscari University and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. It's easy to get from here to the rest of the city on foot (the lively Campo Santa Margherita is around the corner) or by vaporetto. The stylish hotel building, which dates back to the 1950s, is built in Razionalismo Italiano style, featuring sleek lines and geometric shapes. The hotel's sleek, contemporary design is reflected throughout the 144 comfortable and spacious rooms, with floor-to-ceiling windows filling them with light. Some offer views over the nearby canal, others views over the distinctive Venice skyline. All come with free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, flat tv screens and extra-comfortable beds. On the ground floor enjoy fine dining in the hotel restaurant 8 Millimetri Cicchetti & Wine or drinks in the bar, overlooking the hotel garden. If you are here on business, be sure to organize an event in our second-to-none flexible and customizable meeting spaces, ideal for any type of function.*

Day 5) SEP 28/23 - Venice

After breakfast we start our walking tour of Venice. Venice is magical with its pink palazzi, green canals, the blue Adriatic Sea, and yellow signs pointing to the center. Venice is eternally beautiful and culturally vigorous. We will have a half day walking tour of Venice, including a visit to the Doge's Palace with its splendid rooms decorated by 16th century artists such as Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese, St. Mark's Basilica and Square, the Bridge of Sighs. The afternoon is at leisure to walk the many bridges. **(BD)**

Today we have a Gondola Ride (45 minutes) with music and a presentation of how Murano's famous Glass is made. Later we will return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **Hotel NH Venezia Rio Novo**

Day 6) SEP 29/23 - VENICE/PISA/FLORENCE

Today, after breakfast, we will depart for Pisa seeing some of the most picturesque scenery. We will stop in Pisa to see the "Leaning Tower" one of the world's best known sights. The best reason to come to Florence is to immerse yourself in a truly astounding collection of Renaissance art and architecture. Florentines are fiercely proud of their cultural heritage and are protective of the assets that define their city. Dinner and overnight in Florence. **(BD) Hotel Mercure Firenze Centro – or similar**

Boasting free WiFi and an on-site bar, Mercure Firenze Centro is centrally located in Florence, 1,000 feet from Santa Maria Novella Train Station. A sweet and savory breakfast buffet is available daily. All air-conditioned, rooms are complete with a flat-screen TV and a mini-bar, while some also feature a sofa bed. Each room has a private bathroom with a bath or shower. You will find a 24-hour front desk at the property. It has meeting facilities and laundry service is available. Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral is a 7-minute walk from the Firenze Centro, while both the Uffizi Art Gallery and Ponte Vecchio Bridge.

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DAY 7) SEP 30/23 - FLORENCE

Breakfast at hotel, followed by a walking tour of Florence including a visit to the Academia to see Michelangelo's original David Statue, Giotto's Bell Tower; the Baptistery with its "Gates of Paradise" doors, Signoria Square and Santa Croce Church. This afternoon is free to pursue personal interests and have lunch on your own. You might want to visit the leather market in town or a jewelry shop near Ponte Vecchio where you can assist a demonstration on how silver bracelets are made by the famous Florentine artisans. *Tonight Dinner is at leisure so that you can choose your own place to dine. Overnight Florence, (B) [Hotel Mercure Firenze Centro](#)*

DAY 8) OCT 01/23 - FLORENCE/TUSCANY/ROME

Today you will driver across Tuscany towards Rome. Our first stop is the medieval town of San Gimignano. Set on a hilltop is an enchanting village with narrow streets. We stop in Cortona, the place where the Tuscan Sun was set, and here we visit a Ceramic Shop where you can learn how the famous ceramics are made and painted.

Today you will be hosted by a Tuscan family for lunch. Visit their Farm and learn how their wine is made by visiting their cellar. You will sample bread with homemade olive oil and special Tuscan specialties. We continue on to Rome.

Welcome to the Eternal City! Upon arrival we drive to our hotel for overnight. **(BL)** [Mercure Roma Centro Colosseo – or similar](#)

Featuring a rooftop terrace and a seasonal pool with views of the Coliseum, Mercure Roma Centro Colosseo offers modern rooms and free WiFi throughout. The Coliseum is 1,300 feet away. Rooms are equipped with LCD TV with satellite channels, air conditioning, and a mini-bar. Some rooms overlook the Coliseum. The extensive buffet breakfast features fresh, local traditional produce, and starts at 06:30 during the week. The snack bar is open every day until midnight, and the roof bar is available between May and September. The Mercure Roma is well served by public transport, and just 1,650 feet from Colosseo Metro Station. The paleochristian Basilica of San Clemente is just opposite the hotel.

DAY 9) OCT 02/23 - ROME

This morning experience a very special privately-guided tour of the priceless collection of art and treasures found in the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. You will be amazed by the beautiful wall frescoes created by Michelangelo, Perugino, and Botticelli. The unique ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is surely one of Michelangelo's greatest achievements. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the Christian world, built over the tomb of St. Peter. Then proceed to the Piazza Venezia, and the Roman Forum, with a stop at the Colosseum - a testament to the greatness of Rome's past. Continue your full tour day with visits to the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, Castel Saint Angelo. Then back to our hotel to get ready to dine out at a popular Roman restaurant. *Here you will have a presentation on how to make Pizza and sample the most famous dish in the world. (BD) [Mercure Roma Centro Colosseo](#)*

DAY 10) OCT 03/23 - ROME

Take advantage of a "Full Day" at leisure with many interesting things to see and do on your own. You may wish to visit some of the famous churches, or you may want to visit some of the museums, or take the underground to the many sights such as the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona... or simply relax in Rome's atmosphere at your own pace.

Tonight our farewell dinner will be at Casanov, a restaurant where an Opera Singer will be entertaining you with pieces from the most romantic and famous Italian songs. **(BD)** [Mercure Roma Centro Colosseo](#)

DAY 11) OCT 04/23 - ROME/USA

Today we say farewell and take with us wonderful memories from our Italian journey. We are transferred to the airport for our morning flight to the USA. *Flight schedule TBA (B)*

Hotels Italy

MILAN - Hotel NH Milano Palazzo Moscova



VENICE - Hotel NH Venezia Rio Novo



FLORENCE - Hotel Mercure Firenze Centro



ROME - Mercure Roma Centro Colosseo



Hotels are subject to change

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Italian Foods

