

## \* Milan \*Venice \* Florence \* Tuscany \* Rome \*

A place full of stunning sites, and iconic cities at the pulse of Italy's vibrant culture, both past and present. Our 11 Day Escorted Tour of Italy will include Milan; a metropolis in Italy's northern Lombardy region, a global capital of fashion and design. Home to the national stock exchange, it's a financial hub also known for its high-end restaurants and shops. Rome; known as the Eternal City, has attracted visitors for over 2,000 years. It is one of the most romantic cities in the world, boasting an attractive mix of grandiose sights — the likes of the Colosseum, Roman Pantheon and Forum — and bustling city life. Florence; home to Chianti wine, the Medicis and the Strozzis; Michael Angelo's David, Elba Island, where Napoleon was exiled; and the legendary cities of Florence and Pisa. Tuscany; is the fertile crescent of Italy where art, history and the pleasures of life shine on. Venice; from its unmatched romantic vibes to its historical heritage to its indisputable beauty, there is no other city like Venice. The "Queen of the Adriatic" is composed of a maze of islands, canals, and bridges, which hide magnificent buildings, historical landmarks of great artistic and cultural importance, as well as charming restaurants and squares. There are no cars in Venice, but you won't need them anyway, since "The City of Bridges" is best explored on foot.

Landscapes that will take your breath away, rich history, and delicious food, your trip to Italy will be nothing short of unforgettable.

Traveling to Italy with Champion Services Travel will make for a unique vacation. Our tours offer custom packages, and tour experiences to destinations uncovering the *African Diasporal Let's learn together a little "AFRO-ITALY!"* 

This Fabulous 11ngt & 11 day Package is Available at

\$4,695 per person, based on double occupancy (SINGLE, \$5,695)

A Champion Travelers Event!!!

A \$500 nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit per person to reserve your space...

Second deposit of \$1,500 pp is due: Jul 15, 2023 and Final Payment is due: Feb 15, 2024!

Cancel Terms: Initial \$500 deposit is Nonrefundable/Nontransferable — Full \$2000 deposit is

under penalty as of Aug 15, 2023, and under full penalty starting Mar 15, 2024! \* Monthly Payments are welcome!

A valid Passport not expiring before 6months after your return home. For Italy entry requirements, visit <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/europe/italy">https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/europe/italy</a> Travel Protection Insurance is required for travel to Italy. A Visa is not required for US Citizens to enter. Airline Taxes & fees are subject to change without notice per the travel industry. Fares, itinerary and schedules are also subject to change without notice.

\*\*Triple & Quad accommodations are not an option. Optional Business Class Air Upgrade starting at \$5,000 pp in addition to the package cost; see agent for details.

PACKAGE INCLUDES: R/T Air from Dulles International Airport, All Transfers, SFC & DLX Hotel Accommodations, Breakfast & Dinner daily, and other meals where mentioned, Escorted Tours w/ English speaking tour guides in modern air-conditioned coaches \* Milan \*Venice \* Florence \* Tuscany \* Rome \* Tours of Famous & Historical Italy Sights, including a Gondola Ride, Leaning Tower of Pisa and the "Black Madonna", a lunch hosted by a Tuscany family and more! 2024 notices & updates to come. Children under 12 not accepted. Not Included: Transportation to/from US Airport, domestic flights outside of the Washington, DC area, Passport, Tipping, things of personal nature and meals not mentioned. Prices & Itinerary are subject to change without notice \* Photos taken by CST are the property of CST and may be used in our future advertisements, and publications.

# Itinerary CST Italy May 5 – 15, 2024

### DAY 1) SUN MAY 5, 2024 DEPART WASHINGTON DULLES INTL. AIRPORT

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

### **DAY 2) MON MAY 6, 2024 - 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 NYX MILAN BY LEONARDO or similar

YX Hotel Milan is the brand new lifestyle hotel in Milan's hot city center. Beware; this is not your average Milan vacation! Expect the unexpected and step inside... Experience the vibrant city of Milan, Italy, from a whole different level! There's no need for lame sightseeing tours. Get to know all the city's secrets with our local tour guides – the City Lovers. Whether you are an art lover or novice, the #ArtatNYX will inflame your curiosity with local street style.

Music is life and our hearts have beats! Ace tunes are played all day and all night and will make you want to move. The urban hotel is located right next to Milano Centrale train station. From here, all popular places are easily reachable, like La Scala opera house, Sforzesco Castle, Quadrilatero della Moda, Quartiere Isola and much more. You're asking yourself what makes a stay at NYX Hotel Milan so special. Well, that's an easy one for us! We've got impressive artworks from local street artists and wicked sounds played by live DJ's in the lobby. Locals and tourists are coming together to grab a drink at the bar. The "clash" restaurant will serve you with outstanding international dishes as well as healthy food full of taste. Discover Milan like you've never seen it before! Be different and book your extraordinary vacation at NYX Hotel Milan!

### **DAY 3) TUE MAY 7, 2024 - 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 Emanuel 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 BD) Hotel NH Milano Palazzo Moscova- (BD) Hotel NYX MILAN BY LEONARDO or similar

#### DAY 4) WED MAY 8, 2024 - MILAN TO VENICE

After breakfast at hotel, we will leave Milan and drive to Lake Gara, 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 mailand. (BD) Hotel FOUR POINT BY SHERATON VENICE MESTRE or similar

Four Points by Sheraton Venice Mestre, strategically located in the commercial area of Mestre, has been totally renovated in 2017 and features Italian design furniture. Ideal for bleisure travellers, the Hotel has 160 rooms and 8 suites distributed on 8 floors and furnished with the signature Four Comfort Bed, as well as Point Restaurant & Bar, a Banqueting Hall for events up to 200 people with 2 meeting rooms. In 2020, the brand new Wellness Point has been unveiled on the 9th floor, with a Wellness area and a Fitness area and a Fitness area. In summer season, Point Garden is the right outdoor living space to enjoy uncomplicated moments.

### Day 5) Thu May 9, 2024 - 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 16<sup>th</sup> century artists such as Titan, Tintoretto and Veronese, St. Mark's Basilica and Square, the Bridge of Sighs. The afternoon is at leisure to walk the many bridges. (BD) Hotel FOUR POINT BY SHERATON VENICE MESTRE or similar

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.

### Day 6) Fri May 10, 2024 - 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 Hilton Florence Metropole or similar

We're in Florence's west district, four kilometers from Florence Airport and six kilometers from Firenze Santa Maria Novella rail station. The city center is 15 minutes away, home to Uffizi Gallery, Ponte Vecchio, and Piazza del Duomo. Enjoy our relaxation area with mega whirlpool and Swedish waterfall. City view rooms and all-day dining complete your stay. Enjoy Tuscan dishes, such as the Florentine T-bone steak, in Luci della Città restaurant. Our hotel also features a lounge bar with marble pillars, wooden flooring, and Italian wines, and a breakfast room with a buffet each morning. Sink into a sofa or chaise longue in the Hilton Florence Metropole hotel's contemporary Lounge Bar, with marble pillars and wooden flooring. Sip a Tuscan Tequila cocktail or try a sweet Italian wine in this Florence bar. Watch TV on our 2 plasma TVs or snack on a club sandwich. For lunches or romantic meals, dine at the Hilton Florence Metropole hotel's elegant Luci Della Città. With floor-to-ceiling windows, leather seats and wooden floors, this Florence restaurant serves Tuscan dishes such as Florentine T-bone steak and a wide range of international wines.

#### **DAY 7) SAT MAY 11, 2024 - 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 Hilton Florence Metropole or similar

### DAY 8) SUN MAY 12. 2024 - 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) Britannia Hotel / Hotel La Griffe Roma or similar (TBD)

The building that houses the Britannia Hotel is spread over four floors, the last of which is surrounded by a glorious terrace. The environment corresponds to the simplicity of the architectural lexicon with comfortable interiors. It is a scene of diligent and cordial hospitality with 33 accommodation. We have multi-lingual staff. Built in the mid-19th century by Prince Don Filippo Orsini, the Britannia Hotel is housed in an elegant building near Via Nazionale, Rome. The property is located in the Repubblica district near the Roman Forum of the emperor Trajan. The city centre can be reached in 5 minutes on foot, while the Roma Termini railway station is 700 meters away. The hotel offers exclusive promotions and also free Wi-Fi. The hotel offers quests several common areas where they can unwind including a living room, an Irish style lounge bar, a silent cabin for telephone calls and a spacious breakfast room.

Hotel Britannia is centred in the heart of Ancient and is within walking distance of all the major attractions including: The Imperial Forum, The Colosseum, The Pantheon, The Spanish Steps and many more. All the rooms come with refined design and have a bathroom with shower and/or bathtub plus a hairdryer and telephone. There is Wi-Fi internet connection, an LCD satellite TV, a mini bar, an electronic safe, air conditioning, central heating plus a kettle with a selection of teas. The beds come with wooden slats and comfortable mattresses. We have the best rates quaranteed and are centrally located in Rome.

### **DAY 9) MON MAY 13, 2024 - 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) Britannia Hotel / Hotel La Griffe Roma or similar TBD)

### **DAY 10) TUE MAY 14, 2024 - 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) Britannia Hotel / Hotel La Griffe Roma or similar (TBD)

### DAY 11) WED MAY 15, 2024 - 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)

(B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner)

### MILAN - Hotel NYX Milano by Leonardo or similar



**VENICE - Hotel Four Point by Sheraton Venice Mestre** *or similar* 



**FLORENCE - Hotel Hilton Florence** or similar



**ROME Britannia Hotel or similar** 



Hotels are subject to change

### **Italian Foods**



Champion Services Travel PO Box 44140, Fort Washington, MD. 20749 301. 686-0970 / cchamp154@comcast.net all4champion.com

### **CHAMPION SERVICES TRAVEL ITALY 2024 TOUR**

Payment Schedule: Not adhering to the payment schedule can result in late payment penalties, cancellation without notice and/or rate increases.

- \$500 per person non-refundable deposit Due at registration or until space is filled
- \$1500 pp second deposit balance after initial deposit is due by July 15, 2023 (If booking for the first time at this date a total payment of 2000 is due at the time of booking
- Full and final payment is due by February 15, 2024
- ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO CHAMPION SERVICES TRAVEL OR CST. Mailing address; PO Box 44140, FT. Washington, MD. 20749 (No faxed registrations please)
- OPTIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENT ARE WELCOMED: \$343 per person, per month Dbl. Occupancy starting Feb. 2023 thru Feb.15, 2024 and \$420 for Single Room (13 months)

#### Cancellation:

- \$500 Initial Deposit is Nonrefundable and Nontransferable
- 100% of the deposit (\$2000) is non-refundable if canceled on or before Aug 15, 2023
- 100% of the total package price is non-refundable if canceled on or after Mar 15, 2024 including No-Show

We must receive your cancellation notice in writing by mail, email or overnight courier, and your cancellation date will be the date we receive your notice – excluding weekends. Your decision not to participate on the Tour due to State Department warnings, fear of travel, or the like will be deemed a cancellation. If a flight you organized or other delays for any reason prevents you from joining the Tour on the Tour start date, you will be considered a no-show, and we cannot provide a full or partial refund or credit toward a future Tour, but you may join the Tour late if you wish. Travel Protection Insurance is HIGHLY recommended!

### **Price Details:**

\$4695 per person based on double occupancy / \$5695 per person based on single occupancy (Upgrades for Air and or Hotel; please contact agency. Based on availability) PAYMENTS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: CHAMPION SERVICES TRAVEL OR CST. Mail to: PO Box 44140, Fort Washington, MD. 20749

### Description: Include number of nights, Package inclusions, Departure city, Dates of travel and Exclusions

Round Trip International Air (economy class), on Luthfansa Air from Dulles Intl. to Milan, Italy, Superior First Class & Deluxe Accommodations; 11 ngts/11 days, breakfast daily & dinner most days, and other meals indicated in itinerary, airport transfers, select tours per itinerary. Not Included: Tour Assistance, Guide & Driver Gratuities, Meals not mentioned, Travel Protection Insurance and things of a personal nature. Tipping will be collected in Italy, at the first hotel. (Suggested amount \$12 pp-pd = \$120 each). 2024 Airline taxes and fees will be reassest, and subject to change per industry. Itinerary is also subject to change without notice. You will be notified accordingly. Please note with group bookings preferred air seating seections are not guaranteed. Business Class Air upgrade starts at \$5000 pp in addition to this package price; see agent for details. Photos taken by CST during our tours may be used in our future marketing. We would like to inform you that any changes or interruptions to your scheduled events or tours due to weather conditions may not automatically entitle you to a refund. Refunds in such cases are subject to the discretion of the destination operator.

### ITALY "KNOW-B-4-U-GO"

**Passport & Visa**: You must have a valid passport with at least four (4) blank pages and must not expire before 6 months after the date of return. **Visas** are not **required** for US Citizens for visits lasting less than 90 days. We recommend you carry a copy of your Passport with you, and leave one home with your loved ones.

<u>POST COVID</u>: Italy entry information, visit, <a href="https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/">https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/</a> - We continue to advise you exercise a high degree of caution. All COVID-19 related entry restrictions into Italy have been lifted. Face masks are required on public transport. Face masks aren't required but are recommended inside enclosed public spaces.

Packing: Average Italy temperatures in Sep/Oct can range from low 70's to high 80's with possible temperature drop or increase by 4-degrees. We recommend you pack your clothing color coordinated, and in layers, for easy peel off or put on! Clothing type recommended is light & cool; hand-sanitizer & hand wash, comfortable walking shoes, sandals, sunglasses and hat. For flying, we also recommend you bring any medication and or medical supplies needed. A "Neck-Roll" may make your flight more rewarding! Pack smart so that you are not over-burdened with lugging too many pieces of luggage. We want you to have an easy-breezy journey! PLEASE ALERT CST OF ANY DIETARY NEEDS AND OR MEDICAL EQUIPTMENT YOU MAY NEED TO CARRY AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION!

Country Time Zone: Italy 6 hours ahead of US-EST

<u>Carrying Money:</u> It is the personal choice of each traveler to carry the amount of money you wish for meals not mentioned in itinerary, shopping, etc.; recommendation-minimum \$50 per person per day should be sufficient, only a suggestion; you may wish to spend more or less. *Most major credit cards are accepted in establishments.* 

Money Exchange: The Currency in Italy is the Euro. When exchanging money upon arrival, make sure that you have clean, crisp bills. Exchanging traveler's checks can be difficult. Make sure to keep the receipts so that you can exchange any leftover Dirhams back at the end of your trip. Or even better, spend everything while you're there so you can avoid being hit twice for fees.

**Using your Credit Cards:** When it's possible to pay for goods and services by **credit card**, MasterCard and Visa are accepted, but rarely **American Express**. Diners Club and Discover **cards** may not be accepted throughout **Italy.** Euros are by far the easiest foreign *currency* to exchange, and are often accepted as payment.

Gratuity: It is customary as a group to offer gratitude for our Tour Guides, Drivers & Land handlers. The recommended amount for tipping is \$12 per person per day (10-days on ground & handling = \$120 per person... we ask that you expressly adhere to the following; place your \$US-Dollars in a sealed envelope with your name and amount on the outside of your envelope for collection upon arrival at the first hotel check-in. Please understand your gratuity covers the handling of 1-piece of luggage. Expect to pay \$1 per extra baggage handled for you.

Eating food & Drinking water in Italy: Most all foods in Italy are safe to eat, especially their cooked foods, peeled fruits & vegetables. Uncooked foods, like salads are not recommended, due to it being washed in their tap water. Street foods are very delicious, however be selective in your choices. Drink only bottled water. Bottled water is widely available throughout Italy and affordable. You can brush your teeth with their tap water; however we suggest using bottled water.

### Do I need Vaccinations?

Immunizations are not a requirement for US Citizens traveling to Italy. US citizens should be up to date on childhood immunizations. Consult with your physician if you have concerns.

### **Phone Adapters & Power Converters:** Do I need Power Adapters?

Yes, Electrical Power Adaptors are needed for Morocco & Spain; the power sockets are of type C and E. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.





**International Adaptor Samples:** 





Make sure to invest in a Universal Adaptor; can be purchased online, Walmart, Staples and or most electronic stores. The cost is minimal.

### How do I dial an International Phone Number from the USA? (This information is best left for your family at home)

Italy Country Code: +39, then the number provided

<u>Your Cell Phone</u>: You may be able to use your own cell phone while in Italy. Check with you cell phone provided for international usage, activation and per minute rates. Purchasing a rental phone in this country may be expensive. FYI: there is a new "AP" that is also FREE, called <u>WhatsApp Messenger</u>. It lets you message and call friends and family. Switch from SMS to WhatsApp to send and receive messages, calls, photos, videos, documents, and Voice Messages. Cell phone to cell phone... you and your loved ones will have to download this app to your cell phone to communicate... check it out.

### What do I dial in an Emergency?

Italy Police: dial 112 from mobile phones

<u>Lufthansa Air:</u> N. American passengers in economy class can check two pieces of baggage at no charge; business class travelers are allowed three. Bags cannot exceed 50 pounds, 8 ounces in weight; the sum of the length, width and height cannot exceed 79.9 inches. <a href="https://www.lufthansa.com/us/en/homepage">https://www.lufthansa.com/us/en/homepage</a>

### **US Embassy Italy:**

Address: Via Vittorio Veneto, 121, 00187 Roma RM, Italy

+39 06 46741

### **Extra Spending Money:**

- Meals not included in itinerary, average \$20 & up depending on selection and location
- Shopping & personal purchases are at your own discretion
- Extra pieces of luggage handled outside of the 1 bag per person is not included.
- Bottled water & selective beverages outside of what will be provided to us in the country on our tour and dining days.
- An updated "KNOW-B-4-U-GO" will be issued as needed

WEATHER CHART FOR ITALY >>>>>>> (Average temps for both are 70's & 80's)

