

italian tours and

Travel by Diana

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f Italian Tours by Diana

Custom Spiritual Journey for the St. Rocco Group – Option 1 Italy only

January 18, 2022

Day 1 Tuesday October 10, 2023 Depart the USA

Depart the USA and board international flight to Venice, Italy.

Day 2 Wednesday October 11, 2023 Arrive Venice

Venice



Upon arrival at the Venice airport, we will meet our private water taxi driver for transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. Check in, relax, and enjoy the afternoon at our own pace. In our free time, we may choose to visit the gift shops around Ponte Rialto or wander through the Dorsoduro neighborhood, a true Venetian area filled with small alleyways, bridges and small antique markets. In the early evening, we will enjoy a spiritual briefing from Father James, mass and then a memorable dinner together. Overnight in Venice. PWT/D/H

Day 3 Thursday October 12, 2023

Venice

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, we will meet our private bilingual certified guide in the hotel lobby for a walking tour of the city.



Venice, which is referred to as La Serenissima by the locals, is a symphony of romance, elegance, mystery and invigoration. Built to accommodate an active maritime trade of exotic spice from the Far East, Venice and her intriguing history are fascinating. We will begin with an overview of Venice by understanding how a series of islands formed the city and how it could be built on water. We will also learn about Venice's history as an important merchant city. We will pass the famous Rialto Fish Market and continue on across the Ponte Rialto, the oldest bridge in Venice dating back to 1172, towards the historic home of explorer Marco Polo. We will discover how Venice's famous boats, gondolas, are made and what it takes to venture towards Campo San Giovanni and Paolo, where locals can be seen relaxing in the piazza. We will also learn about modern Venice and the way the city and its residents have changed over time. Next, we will visit Piazza San Marco. Saint Mark's Basilica is a wonderful example of Byzantine Venetian architecture. It was at one time the Doge's chapel, but was also the mausoleum for Saint Mark, the patron saint of Venice, whose life is narrated in the golden mosaics on the walls. From the outside, we will also see the Palazzo Ducale or Duke's Palace. This impressive structure is a combination of Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance architecture, and was the official residence of the 120 Doges who ruled the "Serenissima Republic" for 1,100 years. St. Rocco Church, where the tomb of St. Rocco can be found, will also be part of our tour today. After our tour, we will enjoy a relaxing gondola ride together followed by a delicious lunch. We will also attend mass together today. Enjoy the remainder of the day at our own pace. Around 6:00 p.m. or so, you may choose to visit an authentic Venetian bacaro. Bacari in Venice are a centuries old tradition that can be compared to a very casual wine bar or taverna. This is where the Venetians congregate at the end of the day to chat, socialize and indulge in savory cichetti, which are small snacks made with the freshest ingredients of the day. It is a great way to rub elbows with Venetians and sample the most delicious examples of Venetian cuisine. Overnight in Venice. **B/G/ET/Gondola/L/H (St. Rocco Church to be included as part of tour)**

Day 4 Friday October 13, 2023

Venice, Modena, Parma

Breakfast at hotel and check out. This morning, we will meet our private water taxi for transfer to Piazzale Roma. Upon arrival, we will meet our private driver for transfer to Modena in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. Modena is famous for its luxurious car brands such as Ferrari, Pagani and Maserati. Founded before the 3rd century BC, this city has known many rulers through the ages including the Villanovans, Etruscans, Romans and Austrians. Upon arrival in Modena today, we will enjoy a delicious parmigiano tasting and tour.

Cheese Tasting



As part of our tour, we will learn about the antique and unchanged process used to produce this world renowned delicacy. In addition to parmigiano, we will also enjoy a tasting of Modena's balsamic vinegar. This traditional and authentic specialty is required by law a minimum of 12 years to age. This product's only ingredient is locally produced cooked grape must that is aged in wooden barrels. After this memorable experience, we will enjoy a delicious lunch together in Modena.

Parma



After our time in Modena, we will continue on our way to our hotel in Parma. Check in, relax, and enjoy time at leisure. We will also attend mass together today. Overnight in Parma. **B/PWT/PD/CheeseTSTG/BalsamicTSTG/H**

**Please note that cheese tasting/factory tour and balsamic tasting are only available at certain times throughout the day.*

Day 5 Saturday October 14, 2023

Parma, Milano, The River Po

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, we will meet our private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to Milano where we will enjoy a guided tour of the city.

Milan



As the capital city of the Lombardia region, Milan is a metropolitan city known as a fashion mecca and a business center of Italy. Founded by Celtic tribes in 400 BC, Romans captured Milan in 222 BC due to its

strategic position along the northern border in the foothills of the Alps. Throughout history, Milan has been sieged by many different conquerors, from the Lombard tribes to the Austrians. Together with our private guide, we will visit the Duomo of Milan, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. Entrance tickets to the Duomo will be pre-arranged for our convenience. There is also La Scala, Milano's famous Opera House, where many of history's finest singers have performed. In addition, we will attempt to purchase entrance tickets to view Da Vinci's "Last Supper", which can be visited if extremely limited tickets are available. Early afternoon, we will enjoy a memorable lunch together in the heart of Milano. Afterwards, we will enjoy some time at leisure in the city. In our free time, we suggest stopping at Cova Café, the most elegant café in Milano, where one can enjoy a coffee, a delicious dessert and lots of people watching. If shopping is your goal, Via Napoleone, a high end fashion lover's dream, is just around the corner. There is also the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, known as one of the world's oldest shopping malls. After our time in Milano, we will again meet our private driver to return to Parma. On our way, we will stop at the River Po, the place where St. Rocco was miraculously brought bread by a local dog. As a result, the owner of the dog found Rocco and brought him to his home where he recovered from his ailment. This will be a time of reflection and prayer. The remainder of the evening is at our own pace. We will also attend mass together today. Overnight in Parma. **B/PD/G/ET/ET/L/H**

Day 6 Sunday October 15, 2023

Parma, Piacenza, Monferrato

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, we will meet our private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to Piacenza where we will visit the church of San Rocco. Afterwards, we will continue on our way to Monferrato where we will discover another church of San Rocco as well as partake in an authentic wine experience in the area. We will then return to Parma to enjoy the remainder of the day at our own pace. We will also attend mass together today. Overnight in Parma. **B/PD/WT/H**

Day 7 Monday October 16, 2023

Parma, Acquapendente, Rome

Breakfast at hotel and check out. This morning, we will meet our private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the town of Acquapendente where St. Rocco stayed for approximately three months to help those suffering from an epidemic. Afterwards, we will continue on our way to our hotel in Rome. Check in and settle. It is believed that in Rome, St. Rocco healed a cardinal from the plague after drawing the sign of the cross on his forehead. In the evening, we will enjoy a memorable dinner together. We will also attend mass together today. Overnight in Rome. **B/PD/D/H**

Day 8 Tuesday October 17, 2023

Roma Antica



Breakfast at hotel. This morning, we will meet our private, bilingual guide as well as our private driver in the

hotel lobby for a four-hour tour of Ancient Roma in all its glory. As we plunge into the vivacious traffic of Rome, our senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern day society. We will feel the heart-beat of the city as we pass through the Piazza Venezia where the monument dedicated to the first Italian King, Vittorio Emmanuelle II can be admired. The Italians refer to this monument as the "Wedding Cake," and we will see why. Today, it has been dedicated to the memory of the unknown soldiers with an eternal flame. We will pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, a site of many chariot races. We will enter the Coliseum, the magnificent Flavian Amphitheatre, where gladiator duels, wild beast fights and naval battles, which were arranged for the entertainment of the ancient Roman people, can be envisioned. Enjoy an in-depth lesson about the construction, history and events that took place here. Entrance tickets to the Coliseum will be provided. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. We may choose to visit the Pantheon and discover its unique history as a Roman pagan temple turned Catholic Church. It is also the final resting place of the famous Renaissance artist Raphael. We may also opt to visit the Roman Forum using the same entrance ticket as used to enter the Coliseum. After our tour, enjoy some time at leisure. In the afternoon, we may choose to visit the church of San Rocco. In the evening, we will enjoy a delicious dinner together. We will also attend mass together today. Overnight in Rome. **B/PD/G/ET/D/H**

Day 9

Wednesday October 18, 2023

Roma Religiosa

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, we will meet our private bilingual guide and private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to Vatican City where we will begin a 3-hour walking tour of the religious side of Rome.

Vatican



We will visit the Pio-Clementino Museum and will then move on to the visitation of The Vatican, The Sistine Chapel and The Vatican Museums. To save time, entrance tickets will be prearranged. The journey through the Vatican Museums will proceed through the Gallery of the Candelabra, the Gallery of Tapestries and the Gallery of Maps. From these Galleries, we will enter directly into the Raphael Rooms, where we will observe the extraordinary frescoes executed by Raphael and the Sistine Chapel. The actual visit to the Basilica, the largest Christian place in the world, will include a viewing of the magnificent Pieta by Michelangelo, Bernini's bronze Baldacchino (canopy), and the throne of St. Peter. At the end of our tour, you may choose to independently visit the underground catacombs which house the remains of the popes. We will also attend mass together today. In the evening, we will enjoy a delicious farewell dinner together. Overnight in Rome. **B/PT/G/ET/D/H**

Day 10

Thursday October 19, 2023

Depart Rome for USA

Breakfast at hotel and check out. This morning, meet your private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Rome airport where you will board a return flight to the USA. **B/PT**

Your Custom Tour Includes the Following:

- 8 Breakfasts
- 8 Nights in a Hotel
- 4 Private Bilingual Certified Guides
- 4 or 5? Entrance Tickets Per Person
- 2 Private Water Taxis
- 1 Gondola Ride Per Person
- Private Drivers Throughout the Journey
- 1 Wine Tasting
- 3 Lunches Per Person
- 4 Dinners Per Person
- 1 Cheese Tasting
- 1 Balsamic Vinegar Tasting

Price Per Person for the land portion of this journey based upon double occupancy and with 24 participants is \$4457.00 + International airfare.

Single Room Supplement is \$675.00

CODES: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner H=Hotel G=Guide ET=Entrance Ticket
PD=Private Driver PT=Private Transfer TRTK=Train Ticket BR= Boat Ride WT=Wine Tasting
PWT=Private Water Taxi CL=Cooking Lesson

