

JOURNEY IDEA:

“SI MANGIA BENE”

10 DAYS, LAND TRANSPORTATION BY COACH

Day 1: Fly to Europe

[In-flight meals]

Day 2: Milan

Transfer your hotel; check in.

Enjoy a cup of real espresso during welcome orientation; then on to dinner. The folks at “L’Aragostella” will prepare a meal of fresh local pasta and seafood for you to make you feel “benvenuti” in Italy right away!

[D]

Day 3: Milan * Verona * Venice

See the outstanding sights in the heart of Milan this morning: La Scala, the Duomo, Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele and the mighty Sforzesco fortress. After lunch on your own, we are on the road to Verona, home to Romeo and Juliet. A stroll through the old town will reveal cosmopolitan shops as well as romantic streets and alleyways all in the shadow of the immense Roman Arena.

Venice, the sinking city, is next on our route. Check into your hotel conveniently located on the mainland for easy access, before sailing into the historic center by private launch.

Dinner tonight will be at “Il Trovatore”, famous for their *Spaghetti Neri alla Sepia*.

[B, D]

Day 4: Venice

See St. Mark’s Square and the famous basilica this morning, then observe a glass blower practice the ancient art of lending shape to a glowing mass of liquid glass.

For lunch, drop in at “Trattoria Alla Rivetta” and mingle with the *gondolieri* enjoying their midday break.

The afternoon is on your own to explore the labyrinth of alleyways away from the crowds that lend Venice its charm.

[B, L]



Day 5: Florence

Say *arrivederci Venezia* as we leave the fertile Veneto region. After passing the city of Bologna, also known as *La Grassa* (“the fat one”), we cross the Apennine mountains and roll into Florence, its mighty Duomo in sight long before reaching the bustling center.

During our orientation walk see Santa Croce church, where Michelangelo lays buried, Piazza della Signoria with its prominent Palazzo Vecchio, the Ponte Vecchio and of course the Duomo, cathedral and symbol of the city. Then visit a Florentine leather workshop and learn how to assess the quality of leather goods in the markets.

“Vecchia Firenze” is where dinner will be served tonight; peek into the kitchen and learn how the chef prepares Tuscan specialties, then find out what Chianti wine has to do with black roosters.

Tonight, why not shake your tail feather at a local night club and compete with the locals singing Karaoke?

[B, D]

Day 6: Florence

All day today is at leisure to visit, for example, Galleria dell'Accademia and see Michelangelo's masterpiece, *David*. The Uffizi Galleries and the Borgello sculpture museum are further options for the art lover.

Our highlight dinner tonight at “Il Latini” will make you forget everything you ever heard of calories and diets. This is one of our all-time favorite restaurants, and the owner himself makes sure no-one leaves unsatisfied.

[B, D]



Day 7: Rome

Relax and kick back as we motor past rolling hills of Tuscany and Umbria towards the Eternal City Rome.

Our centrally located hotel makes for easy navigation if you would like to begin exploring the town on your own this afternoon.

“Da Nazzareno”, a restaurant owned and run by the same family for nearly sixty years, is a synonym for amazing food and a relaxed atmosphere to many Romans. Try their “*Fettucine ai Funghi Porcini*” tonight!

[B, D]

Day 8: Rome

The Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Pantheon will be part of today’s sightseeing. Our local expert will relate the importance of ancient Roman architecture towards modern times.

Cross the River Tiber and enter the Vatican, the world’s smallest sovereign country within the city limits of Rome. St. Peter’s Basilica will be the highlight and grand finale of our morning tour. The afternoon is on your own – don’t miss the Vatican Museums featuring Sistine Chapel!

[B]

Day 9: Rome

Your last day in Italy is at leisure; catch up on your souvenir shopping, or visit one of Rome’s great museums or exhibitions.

You have dinner plans tonight: “Quo Vadis” on Via Appia Antica is the perfect setting for al-fresco dining and sharing your impressions of Italy with your travel companions.

[B, D]

Day 10: Travel Home

Your transfer to the airport leaves after breakfast; time to say *Arrivederci Roma!* with memories that last a lifetime!

[B, In-flight meals]

