Dear traveler,

By most recent estimates, there are more than 1.3 million Canadians who can trace their ancestry back to Italy, making Italian culture, heritage and language one of the most important components of this country's famous multicultural mosaic. Although the largest waves of Italian immigration to Canada took place around the turn of the century and during the post-WWII period, Italy and its people have been connected to Canada since 1497 when Giovanni Caboto (also known as John Cabot) first set foot on the shores of Newfoundland. Italians have come to Canada over the centuries in search of new horizons and better opportunities. Many intended to return one day to Italy, after making enough money to live out their days in the old country. But Canada captured their hearts and imagination and gave them a chance to envision a broader and more fruitful future. As a people, Italians were attracted to the optimism and freedom they found in the vibrant cities where they settled and built thriving communities, bringing their rich heritage into Canada's dynamic cultural mix.

Canadians willingly embrace our people, culture and history as part of your own. You enjoy, respect and revel in our lifestyle, our gastronomy, our traditions and our history. And we have been continually delighted to share these experiences with you. We see you visiting the eternal city of Rome, a city where we all once belonged. We watch you stroll by the Trevi Fountain in awe and amazement, throwing coins and making wishes or admiring the mighty Colosseum and believing you -- as well as make you smile. The pages of this book briefly tell the story of who we are and how our country can inspire emotions and enrich your life experience. With the help of our partners, we want to share this extraordinary journey with you. So with enthusiasm and curiosity we feel compelled to welcome, understand and befriending you – as well as make you smile.

We see you visiting the eternal city of Rome, a city where we all once belonged. We watch you stroll by the Trevi Fountain in awe and amazement, throwing coins and making wishes or admiring the mighty Colosseum and the magnificent Roman Forum, those epic gateways to the past. Through your enthusiasm and curiosity we feel compelled to welcome, understand and befriending you – as well as make you smile. The pages of this book briefly tell the story of who we are and how our country can inspire emotions and enrich your life experience. With the help of our partners, we want to share this extraordinary journey with you. So indulge yourself and make your travel dreams come true in Italy!

Riccardo Strano
Director - The Italian Government Tourist Board
North America

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The Mark of Quality and Reliability in planning your trip to ITALY

Offering peerless experience, dedication and knowledge CTCPI member companies represent the top selection of Canadian Tour Operators Promoting Italy as a destination. When planning a vacation to the “bel paese”, consulting a CTCPI member company can turn an ordinary trip into the vacation of a lifetime.

CTCPI member companies cover the spectrum of itineraries. You can choose from escorted tours to independent hotel arrangements, sightseeing, villa and apartment rentals, pilgrimage tours, cooking schools, food and wine tours, car rentals, cruises, walking, hiking or biking tours, sporting events, art and music programs, private limousines and more. CTCPI members are the undisputed experts for all aspects of travel to Italy.

To better assist you in planning your vacation, our members offer an ideal combination of cutting edge technology for fast Web access together with friendly and responsive offices and professional call centers located in Canada. Whether traveling on a budget or the sky’s the limit, CTCPI members are committed to satisfying each traveler’s needs with the utmost dedication and care. Customer service and satisfaction is a primary goal of the organization. Member companies are chosen on the basis of their longstanding professionalism and service to the travel industry. Qualifications are regularly reviewed and all members must abide by the association’s strict code of ethics.

Please use this guide to further wet your appetite for Italy, then call, visit or click on a member company for additional information.

CTCPI
Canadian Travel Council Promoting Italy
Romantic Couples
Fall for Italy’s inspiring beauty, as seen in cities like Venice, Rome and Verona, home of Romeo and Juliet. All along the Amalfi coast places like Positano, Sorrento, Praiano and Ravello offer spectacular views of the coral-blue sea and the fabled islands of Capri and Ischia. From a secluded B&B or a whitewashed Villa tucked amongst floral cliffs this land beckons to anyone who is in love with someone special and with life itself. Custom-designed trips known as FITs allow couples to customize their vacation, ensuring lifelong memories.

Families
Experience Italy in a wholly unique way, creating moments that will last forever, bringing history and culture to life in the eyes and minds of your children. Imagine them gazing at the Colosseum for the first time, riding a gondola in Venice, marveling at the Leaning Tower of Pisa or the David in Florence. Family travel can be independent with your own Rental Car, and can include Hotels, Villas and Sightseeing Tours along the way. Or you could travel between the cities by High-Speed Rail – a perennial children’s favorite.

Seniors appreciate Italy’s relaxed pace of life. It shows in the faces of the Italians that can be found strolling arm-in-arm in each piazza, sitting and sipping coffee at sidewalk cafés and admiring amazing works of art. Italy offers seniors an opportunity to cherish their golden years as they enjoy La Dolce Vita beneath Italy’s sunny skies. Escorted Tours by motor coach provides a safe, relaxed mode of travel and the comforting camaraderie of like-minded companions on an unforgettable life journey.

For Students of History and the Arts, Italy is a must, with treasures from civilizations dating back thousands of years. Etruscan, Roman and Greek temples lie side by side with medieval fort towns and majestic Renaissance cities. Over forty percent of the world’s known works of art are found in Italy, while architectural wonders seem to fill every corner.

Benvenuti in Rome, Brunelleschi’s dome in Florence, Palladio’s villas in Veneto, the list is endless. Design a Custom Tour with friends or take a set itinerary that fits your cultural interests. Whatever your budget, what awaits you is priceless.

Young & Active travelers of any age will find endless adventure in Italy. From Alpine skiing to windsurfing on the Italian Riviera, biking through Tuscany, hiking the ancient Dolomites and sailing along the Amalfi coast. Climb an active volcano in Sicily, ride a hot air balloon over the Tuscan hills, then catch a game of world-class championship soccer, Formula One racing or a live open-air concert. At night, the streets are teeming with life, offering countless cafés, restaurants, festivals and nightclubs. Hosted Tours and flexible independent FIT itineraries can easily match your desires, schedule and budget.

Italy was made for lovers of Food & Wine. From Barolo to Brunello, over 400 varieties of wine grace the Italian table. Hundreds of cheeses from the aged, aromatic Parmigiano Reggiano to the succulently soft Mozzarella di Bufala are all produced in strict, time-honored ways. Pasta, hams, fish, veal, fresh organic produce, hot crusty bread and the best olive oil anywhere make Italy a gourmet’s paradise. Cooking Classes, Culinary Tours, Wine Tours and more are specifically designed for food lovers to savor the best that Italy has to offer.

Groups such as clubs, organizations, parishes, and communities congregate in Italy, since it’s a destination that can host a variety of interests – choirs, bands, golf, biking, hiking, fishing, scuba diving, sports, opera, concerts, shopping, cooking, religion, art, archeology and gourmet food and wine. CTCPI Specialists will work together with your organization to create special Customized Tours that will provide the maximum enjoyment and value to your group. Whichever way you want to experience this magical land, Canada’s top travel providers to Italy are here to help you make the most of your trip – and save you time and money.

Buon Viaggio!
Introducing the Italians who redefined culture, history and our perspective in both classic and contemporary times.

Donatello
Considered the founder of modern sculpture, Donatello was born in Florence in 1386. His bronze David was the first nude statue of the Renaissance.

Michelangelo Buonarroti
Born in Caprese, near Florence, in 1475, this magnificent artist and sculptor transformed blocks of marble into figures full of life. His immortal works include the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museum, the Pietà and The Last Judgment.

St. Francis of Assisi
Born in a wealthy merchant family in Assisi around 1181. After taking a vow of poverty, he preached for simplicity and humility before God – as animals as well as to humans. The founder of the Franciscan order, he is also the patron saint of animals and of the environment.

Dante Alighieri
A literary colossus, born in Florence in 1265, author of the Divine Comedy and father of the Italian language.

Sandro Botticelli
A friend of both Leonardo and Michelangelo, born in 1445 and renowned for religious and secular-themed masterpieces such as the Primavera, Birth of Venus and Adoration of the Magi.

Giotto
Born in Florence in 1267. He is best known for the emotion and realism depicted in his frescoes, which grace the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova and the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

Filippo Brunelleschi
Born in Florence in 1377, Brunelleschi was an architect, engineer and an inventor. His crowning masterpiece, the Duomo in Florence established new rules of proportion and symmetry.

Masaccio
Tommaso Masaccio was born in San Giovanni Valdarno, Tuscany in 1401. Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael were all influenced by his work, a collection of which lies in the Brancacci Chapel of Santa Maria del Carmine in Florence.

Piero della Francesca
Born in Borgo San Sepolcro, Tuscany in 1416, his major work is a series of frescoes entitled The Legend of the True Cross adorning the choir of San Francis in Arezzo. Overlooked for centuries, he is now acknowledged as one of the supreme artists of the 15th century.

Christopher Columbus
Born in Genoa in 1451, his home still stands today. Columbus guided his three-vessel expedition across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, aiming to reach the Far East through a westward course. Instead, he landed in the Caribbean and is credited with rediscovering America in modern times.

Leonardo da Vinci
Born in Vinci, near Florence, in 1452. A Renaissance genius, world-renowned for his paintings, including The Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, Leonardo was also a master architect, engineer, mathematician and philosopher.

Niccolò Machiavelli
Born in Florence in 1454, Machiavelli was a navigator and merchant who estimated the world’s circumference within 50 miles. He concluded America was not the eastern part of Asia, as Columbus believed, but a new continent. It is duly named after him.

Christopher Columbus
Born in Pisa in 1564, the inventor of the first astronomical telescope also presaged Newton’s laws of motion and confirmed the Copernican theory of the solar system. Charged with heresy and forced to renounce his theories, his work was officially recognized by the Vatican in 1993.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini
A master painter, his most recognized work, L’Amor Sacro e L’Amor Profano, is on display at the Galleria Borghese in Rome.

Galileo Galilei
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Amerigo Vespucci
Born in In-Vinci, near Florence, in 1452. A Renaissance genius, world-renowned for his paintings, including The Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, Leonardo was also a master architect, engineer, mathematician and philosopher.

Alessandria, Piemonte in 1932. His background in philosophy, medieval literature and mysticism has captured a generation of loyal readers.

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Vittorio Sgarbi
Born in Padova in 1508. Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello home was based on Palladio’s pioneering designs. The Veneto region features numerous Palladian villas.

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Italy is a living museum. Her public structures comprise vivid, visible art and architecture that stand as testaments to the country’s history and culture. The Roman and Greek empires influenced early Italian design with their mighty temples and impressive amphitheaters, while Renaissance, Baroque and Gothic design later played important parts in inspiring both architects and artists in the centuries to come. Their tangible, timeless legacies can be witnessed in every major Italian city and town.

ROME
Founded in 754 BC by orphaned brothers Romulus and Remus, a walk through Rome is a walk through time. From the Colosseum to the Pantheon to the immaculate aqueducts and roads, the Roman Empire influenced design, engineering and architecture for centuries to come. The Vatican offers the awe-inspiring St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museums, housing enormous collections of art and the frescoed ceilings of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. From Bernini to Bramante, Raphael and Caravaggio, marvel at the masterpieces that embellish and define the Eternal City: paintings, sculptures, palaces and ever-flowing fountains.

VENICE
Venice is a feast of magnificent churches, lavish palazzi and stately bridges, all built upon a labyrinth of waterways and streets that are works of art in themselves. Stroll across the Rialto Bridge for an eagle-eye view of the Grand Canal and the gondolas. Delight in the Byzantine wonder of St. Mark’s Basilica, watch St. Mark’s Square bell tower pierce the sky and revel in the riches of the city’s museums. The Gallerie dell’Accademia presents modern giants like Picasso, Dalí, Pollock and Miró. The Peggy Guggenheim Collection showcases Venetian masters such as Tintoretto, Bellini, Giorgione and Carpaccio, while the Peggy Guggenheim Collection presents modern giants like Picasso, Dalí, Pollock and Miró.

BOLOGNA
This enchanting medieval city in the heart of the EmiliaRomagna region is peppered with redbrick roofs and miles of porticos, around which waft intense aromas of Bologna’s famous culinary delights. Visitors will be tempted by plump tortellini, scrumptious tagliatelle with ragù, fragrant mortadella and more. These hearty, savory dishes literally capture the true flavor of this wonderful old town – as well as giving guests the fuel to explore it! Stroll through the Piazza Maggiore or scale the Torre Asinelli, one of Bologna’s Due Torri (Two Towers), a monumental reminder of its historic past. The city is also home to the western world’s oldest university, which fills the atmosphere with a vibrant and passionate spirit. A trip to Bologna is an absolute treat for all the senses.

NAPLES
In the 17th century Naples reigned as the undisputed cultural capital at Europe. Within its National Museum of Archeology lies a bountiful collection of artifacts, sculptures and mosaics recalling its past as well as that of Rome, Greece, Egypt, Pompeii and Herculaneum. Music and song has long defined this sunny city. Naples is home to the San Carlo opera house, Europe’s oldest working theatre since 1737. Architecturally, the jewel in the crown is the Galleria Umberto I; its elegant glass dome and barred vaults now host shops and restaurants. Nearby, the vast Piazza del Plebiscito embraces the Royal Palace and the church of St. Francis of Paola. At day’s end, the sun glints on the towers of the 13th-century Maschio Angiòno fortress.

PALERMO
This ancient Phoenician seaside colony features a spectrum of architectural styles reflecting many civilizations: Greek, Roman, Arabic, Norman, Spanish, French and Byzantine. Each built upon and embellished buildings created by successive cultures, creating a wonderful harmony of designs. From the stunning Royal Palace to the Palatine chapel’s lustrous Byzantine mosaics; from St. John of the Hermits’ original Arab crimson-colored domes and its serene cloisters to the three-tiered Baroque sculptural magnificence at the intersection of Quattro Canti. Palermo’s artistry also finds expression in its theaters: at The Teatro Massimo and the Teatro Politeama Garibaldi, concerts and ballet have been performed for centuries.
Few countries can claim as extensive a heritage of artistic expression. To experience Italy’s art firsthand is to touch the soul of the country. From archeological sites to architecture, museums and galleries, you will discover the many ways Italy’s craftsmen and artists have articulated their passion over thousands of years.

**FLORENCE**

**Galleria dell’Accademia**
Founded in 1563, the first school in Europe to teach the methods of painting, drawing and sculpture.

**Uffizi Gallery**
Italy’s supreme art gallery, created by the archivist Vasari, contains an unparalleled collection of paintings from Italy’s best known masters.

**San Lorenzo**
The Medici family parish church contains the Medici Chapels and mausoleum, as well as works by Donatello, Michelangelo and Brunelleschi.

**Bargello Museum**
Formerly a town hall and prison, this house Italy’s finest collection of Renaissance sculpture.

**Archeological Museum**
Home to a vast collection of Roman, Greek, Egyptian and Etruscan artifacts.

**Museo dell’Opera del Duomo**
A Gothic church containing the tombs of famous Florentines, such as Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Alongside is the Pazzi Chapel designed by Brunelleschi.

**Milan**

**Pinacoteca di Brera**
Milan’s most esteemed museum, where the Accademia di Belle Arti was founded in the 1700’s. Its 38 rooms house a fine art collection covering Renaissance and Baroque art from the 15th to 20th century.

**The Museum of Contemporary Art (GIMAC)**
Opened in 1984, located on the 2nd floor of Palazzo Reale, showcasing the cream of modern Italian and international artists.

**Duomo (Milan Cathedral)**
This grandiose Gothic Cathedral in the city’s main square is made of white marble, with a roof of 135 spires and countless statues and gargoyles, and can hold up to 40,000 worshippers.

**Il Duomo Museum**
Opened in 1992, the museum features, manuscripts and embroidery.

**Santa Maria delle Grazie**
Built between 1463 and 1482, this Renaissance church is famous for the fresco depicting the Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci.

**ROME**

**Capitoline Museums**
Two palaces designed by Michelangelo, The Palazzo Nuovo and the Palazzo dei Conservatori, containing numerous paintings and classical sculptures.

**The Pantheon**
One of the city’s premier ancient sites of Rome, displaying ruins spanning from the simple to the very luxurious.

**Palazzo Corsini and the National Gallery of Antique Art**
Originally the Palace of the Corsini Family who, upon the state’s acquisition, donated many of their paintings and sculptures.

**Museo Nazionale**
One of the world’s most important archeological museums, rebuilt in the late 1600’s as the core of Naples University.

**Museo Nazionale dei Conservatori**
Located in the Palazzo Corsini and the National Archeological Museum.

**VATICAN**

**Vatican Museums**
Residence of the Sistine Chapel and the Raphael Rooms, including many of the most important and unique art collections on earth.

**National Archeological Museum**
One of the world’s most important archeological museums, rebuilt in the late 1600’s as the core of Naples University.

**The Royal Palace**
Behind its beautiful façade are great halls of furniture and paintings, the Biblioteca Nazionale and a small private theater.

**Filangieri Museum**
Built within the Renaissance Palazzo Cuomo this museum offers collections of porcelain, paintings, archeological finds, manuscripts and embroidery.

**Duomo di San Gennaro**
Within the Duomo is the very lavish San Gennaro Chapel housing the relics of the patron Saint of Naples.

**MACRO**
The Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, built at the beginning of the 20th century on a large industrial complex, is now a dynamic center of cultural activity.

**TURIN**

**Palazzo Reale**
The seat of the royal Savoy family until the 1861 unification of Italy took place, displaying ornately decorated apartments, and splendid ceilings painted by Snyder, Men and Morello.

**Armeria Reale**
A wing of the Palazzo Reale, opened in 1837 containing one of the richest collections of arms and armor.

**Museo Antolleniano**
This is Turin’s awesome and original symbol. The Mole was designed by architects Alessandro Antolleni and built between 1863 and 1889. Since 2000, the building houses the National Museum of Cinema.

**Museo Egizio**
The Egyptian Museum of Turin (the second in the world after the Cairo Museum) was established in 1824, with antiquities from about 4000 BC to 659 AD.

**Museo dell’Auto**
One of the largest auto museums in the world and the only one of its kind in Italy, this stylishly modern building houses a collection of 170 cars.

**PINACOTECHE**

**Pinacoteca di Brera**
Architect Renzo Piano built this structure atop the Fist building, featuring the private collection of Giovanni and Marella Agnelli, including works from Canaletto, Canova and Mattise.

**VENEICE**

**Accademia**
An incomparable collection of paintings spanning five centuries through the Byzantine, Baroque, Renaissance and International Gothic periods.

**Ca’ d’Oro**
Sitting on the Grand Canal, the “House of Gold” is a public gallery boasting an ornate, goldleaf Gothic façade.

**Palazzo Ducale**
The heart of this museum comprises the magnificent collection of Theodore Correr, donated to the city of Venice.

**Doge’s Palace**
A Gothic work of art on the Grand Canal, founded in the 9th century, this is the official residence of each ruler (“doge”) of Venice, with the offices of several political institutions within.

**Museo Poldi Pezzoli**
A small museum in the Palace Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal, home of the art collection of the niece of Solomon R. Guggenheim.
Pompeii, along with Herculaneum, was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. www.pompeisites.org

Metapontum is an ancient city on the Gulf of Taranto settled by Greeks around 700 BC, where Pythagoras taught in the sixth century.

Segesta, in northwest Sicily, was first a Trojan colony, then a Carthaginian dependency after 400 BC.

CONCERT HALLS & THEATERS

Anfiteatro Romano (Cagliari)
A 2nd century Roman amphitheater carved out of the quarry rock, complete with underground cages attesting to its gladiatorial history.
www.teatralicodiroomanoincagliari.it

Teatro Carlo Felice (Genova)
A perfect example of the traditional Italian horseshoe design originally built in the early 1800’s, refurbished in the 1990’s after damage from World War II, with a scenic triangular tower and striking façade.
www.carlofelice.it

Teatro Comunale (Bologna)
Built by Antonio Galli Bibiena in 1763 and decorated with paintings by Luigi Busi and Luigi Samoggia from the mid-19th century, this theater reopened in 1981.
www.teatroalcomunale.it

Gran Teatro la Fenice (Venice)
Destroyed in a fire in 1996, for the second time, this Venice landmark was rebuilt entirely in a 19th-century style. www.teatrolafenice.it

Teatro Massimo (Palermo)
Designed by a father and son team in the 1800’s, combining a classical exterior and Liberty-style interior, the theater was renovated and reopened to the public in 1997, after almost 20 years of disuse. www.teatromassimo.it

Teatro Massimo Bellini (Catania)
Renowned for the acoustics of its extravagant interior, and one of Europe’s most beautiful entrance halls, this glorious venue was built to pay homage to composer Vincenzo Bellini. www.teatromassimobellinis.in.it

Teatro Dell’Opera (Rome)
Also known as Teatro Costanzi. www.operaroma.it

Teatro Regio (Parma)
A 19th century opera house, built in 1821-29, this neo-classical building is considered one of the most important and famous shrines of Italian music. www.teatregoriparma.org

Teatro Rossini Lugo (Ravenna)
The theatre, named Rossini in 1859, still sports in its 18th century style, an austere façade with ornamental pillars and plaster cornices at each story. www.teatrorossini.it

Teatro San Carlo (Naples)
After being destroyed by a fire in 1816, the theater was rebuilt within ten months and now boasts an orchestra pit conceived by Giuseppe Verdi in 1872. www.teatrosancarlo.it

Teatro alla Scala (Milan)
This famous neo-classical theater, originally built in 1776 on the site of Santa Maria della Scala, boasts an imposing façade and has one of the world’s largest stages.
www.teatroallascala.org

Nowhere on earth are the performing arts celebrated so joyously as in Italy. From drama to opera to music to film, here are just some of the places where you can indulge your particular passion.
Roman arena, the world’s third largest amphitheater, and among the most well-preserved.
www.arena.it

Festival Internazionale Dell’Opera
Held at Trieste’s Teatro Comunale “Giuseppe Verdi,” this festival of Light Opera features world-renowned performers.
www.teatroverdi.trieste.com/verdi/2009a/

New Opera Festival of Rome
Featuring performances of all classical genres from concerts to operas in the magnificent Courtyard of the Basilica of San Clemente.
www.newoperafestivaldiroma.com

Ravenna Festival
This multifaceted music event – also including opera, concerts, dance, jazz, ethnic music, drama, film, conventions and exhibitions – finds expression in the town’s theaters, piazzas, basilicas, and other public spaces.
www.ravennafestival.org

Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds
A unique celebration, conceived to embrace all aspects of the performing and figurative/visual arts, including opera, concerts, jazz and dance.
www.spoletofestival.it

Ravenna Classical Music Festival
One of the oldest Italian festivals, this “Musical Treasure” has hosted famous artists from all over the world.
www.sanremostory.it

San Remo Festival
The world-famous celebration of the Italian Popular Song takes place on the Italian Riviera at the Teatro Ariston, attracting guests and renowned artists from all over the world.
www.sanremostory.it

Siena’s Santa Maria della Scala and the church of Sant’Agostino are just two of the beautiful venues providing the stages for the Accademia Musicale Chigiana.
www.chigiana.it

Ravenna Festival
One of the world’s most famous opera seasons, held in the Sferisterio, an old ball game court.
www.sferisterio.it

Spoleto Blues
Since this festival started in the early 1980s, legends from Muddy Waters to Dylan, Patti Smith to Santana have graced its stage.
www.spoletoblues.com

MARCH
Ravello Classical Music Festival
One of the oldest Italian festivals, this celebrated the idea of the “cultural event” and gave Ravello its reputation as a “Città della musica.”
www.ravelloarts.org

San Remo Festival
The world-famous celebration of the Italian Popular Song takes place on the Italian Riviera at the Teatro Ariston, attracting guests and renowned artists from all over the world.
www.sanremostory.it

MAY
Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
The city’s biggest arts festival was founded in 1933 and is hosted at the Teatro Comunale, featuring an international program of drama, dance, opera and orchestras.
www.maggiomusicalefiorentino.com

Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds
A unique celebration, conceived to embrace all aspects of the performing and figurative/visual arts, including opera, concerts, jazz and dance.
www.spoletofestival.it

JUNE
Arena Summer Festival in Verona
Each year over 500,000 people flock to see opera in this 20,000-seat Roman arena, the world’s third largest

Ravenna Classical Music Festival
One of the oldest Italian festivals, this “Musical Treasure” has hosted famous artists from all over the world.
www.sanremostory.it

San Remo Festival
The world-famous celebration of the Italian Popular Song takes place on the Italian Riviera at the Teatro Ariston, attracting guests and renowned artists from all over the world.
www.sanremostory.it

MAY
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www.maggiomusicalefiorentino.com

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**FILMS SET IN ITALY**

**Adriatic Coast**
- Amarcord, 1974
- Amalfi Coast
- The Talented Mr. Ripley, 1999
- Only You, 1994
- Milan
- The Bicycle Thel, 1948
- Rome
- Caro Diario [Dear Diary], 1994
- La Dolce Vita, 1960
- Roman Holiday, 1953
- Sicily
- Cinema Paradiso, 1998
- The Godfather I and II, 1972 and 1974
- Il Postino [The Postman], 1994
- Tuscany
- La Vita & Bella [Life is Beautiful], 1997
- Stealing Beauty, 1996
- Under the Tuscan Sun, 2003
- Venice
- Pane e Tulipani [Bread and Tulips], 2001
- The Italian Job, 2003
- FESTIVALS
- Venice Film Festival
  - Inaugurated in 1932, the oldest film festival in the world is a prestigious part of the famous Biennale of Venice, and takes place in late July and August, early September. www.labiennale.org
  - Taormina International Film Festival
  - Founded in 1955, this celluloid celebration screens films in competition, previews, independent features, documentaries, shorts and tributes to filmmakers of the past – all at the Palazzo dei Congressi and the town’s famous Greek Theatre in mid-June. www.taorminofilmfest.it
  - Rome International Film Festival (RIFF)
    - Run by a non-profit cultural organization, RIFF’s mission is to promote and increase the visibility of Italian and international cinema and upcoming industry talent. Films are showcased and awarded during March/April. www.riff.it
  - Bologna Future Film Festival
    - Dedicated imagery created with the latest IT, animation, and special effects, this January showcase celebrates new media and new digital technology. www.futurefilmfestival.org
  - Turin Film Festival
    - Italy’s second biggest film festival takes place in November, focusing on avant-garde and innovative modern cinema. www.turinfilmfest.org
    - Courmayeur Film Noir
      - Every December, this fascinating Alpine ski resort screens the finest mysteries, spy stories, horror and sci-fi. www.nnfest.com
    - Flaiamo Film Festival
      - Held in July and August, Pesaro presents the very best of the international film scene. www.premi/flaiamo.it

**ITINERARIES**

**FEAST FOR THE SENSES**

ITALIAN FOOD IS AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAST FOR THE SENSES. RANGING FROM SIMPLE TO HEARTY, SWEET TO SPICY, SUBLIME TO STRONG, EACH DISH AND DELICACY IS PREPARED WITH THE FRESHEST OF INGREDIENTS. IT’S NO SECRET THAT ITALY’S CUISINE IS INCOMPARABLE, BUT YOU MAY NOT KNOW QUITE HOW TO ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST. HERE’S A HELPFUL GUIDE TO EXPLORING AND SAVORING ITALY’S CULINARY BOUNTY.

**ITALIAN JOB**

“The experience of this sweet life: L’esperienza de questa dolce vita.**

- Prima colazione - breakfast, the first meal of the day
- Pranzo - lunch, the midday meal from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, when activity stops
- Cena - dinner, usually eaten late, between 8pm and 11pm.
- Prima colazione - an afternoon snack.
- Merenda - an afternoon snack.
- Dolce - dessert or fruit and cheese.

**THE ART OF COFFEE**

Making caffè is an art in itself and ordering un caffè in Italy usually means an espresso. This means “to press,” and refers to the pressure applied to the hot water forced through the ground beans, creating this strong, flavorful mixture, whose main variations are listed below.

- Lungo - More water (about double) is filtered through the grinds, giving a weaker taste, but still stronger than normal coffee.
- Ristretto - Less water, yielding a stronger taste.
- Doppio - Simply two expressos in one cup. In Italy, barman who save coffee by serving a lungo when a doppio is ordered are frowned upon.
- Americano - Diluted with hot water.
- Macchiato - With a drop of steamed milk.
- Con panna - With cream on top.
- Affogato - Served over ice-cream.

**TIPS ON TIPPING**

- A coperto is a cover charge, an unavoidable “add-on” that basically covers bread and water and is charged per person. Even though tax and services are usually included in the menu prices, it is typical and courteous to leave a small tip of around 10 percent.

**MAKE A MEAL OF IT, ITALIAN STYLE**

Italian meals consist of 3-4 courses:

- Antipasto - a starter (hot or cold), meant to stimulate the appetite.
- Primo - the first course, usually a soup, rice or pasta dish. This can be topped with a variety of sauces.
- Secondo - the main dish, meat or fish served with a contorno (side dish) of vegetables or salad.

**MAKE A MEAL OF IT, ITALIAN STYLE**

**ITALIAN JOB**

- “Pizza al taglio” - Pizza by the slice, typically a lunch item found at bakeries and offered in many different varieties.
- Spuntino - a snack, usually eaten in-between meals.
- Aperitivo - an aperitif type of drink, usually wine, which is drunk in order to stimulate the appetite before the meal.

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Olive Oil, Our Liquid Green Gold

Olive oil is a liquid green gold. Olives are grown all throughout Italy, from the northern shores, to as far as Sicily and Puglia, meaning each region naturally claims to be the best producer of olive oil. Here’s a brief look inside this fascinating industry, to help you pick out the perfect bottle on your next trip.

How do oils differ?
Within 24 hours of harvest, olives are crushed whole to maintain their naturally low acidity. The pulp is pressed and the liquid obtained comprises water and several oils, the two most common of which are:

- **Extra-virgin olive oil**: The highest quality oil, noticeably green, with acidity of less than 1%, made by cold-pressing the olives—though the use of heat provides more quantity of the oil, the lack of it provides for a better quality.
- **Virgin olive oil**: Produced with no chemical treatment, occasionally cold pressed method, with slightly higher acidity between 1% and 3%.

There are three distinct categories of extra-virgin olive oil, each suited to specific dishes and preparations.

**Mild** - Light and buttery, ideal for raw meats and carpaccio, fish, vegetables, soups and pasta sauces.

**Fruity** - Aggressive taste, perfect for accompanying rustic dishes like the panzanella, Tuscan bread and tomato salad, ribollita, Tuscan vegetable soup; or pasta with beans.

**Fruity-Spicy** - Aggressive taste, perfect for accompanying rustic dishes like the panzanella, Tuscan bread and tomato salad, ribollita, Tuscan vegetable soup; or pasta with beans.

Tips: How to taste oil  
Like wine, olive oil is a high-quality product with body, acidity and fruitiness that vary from product to product. Experts recommend tasting it before you buy, so it helps to train your palate to distinguish one from the other. In general, good olive oil is sweet with a peppery tone to it. Olive oil tasting should be carried out in a controlled environment. Begin by purchasing a couple of top-quality extra-virgin olive oils produced in different parts of Italy along with one of inexpensive brand to compare.

1. Look at the oil against the light to get an idea of the color. For example, greener oils are usually pressed from early-season olives.

2. Smell the aroma of each of the oils and sort them from mild to strong to establish the ideal order for tasting.

3. Taste them either on a piece of unsalted bread or from separate glasses, using about a teaspoonful of each oil. Cup the glass in your hand to warm it and rotate the oil to release its aromas and flavors. Sip and inhale to vaporize the oil in your mouth.

4. Do not swallow. Spit the oil out and rinse your mouth with some water, or have a small piece of fruit to cleanse your palate before the next sampling.
Main street shopping
Italy’s main avenues and boulevards are vital to the country’s shopping scene, and a long-observed social convention. Here you can browse store windows with the Italians, checking the prices and the latest trends as they stroll and enjoy one another’s company.

Sale months
Set sale dates are established twice a year by the local authorities, so they can vary from city to city, but are normally in January and July. Seasonal stock is marked down to clear and new for merchandise.

OPEN-AIR MARKETS
ROME
Porta Portese (every Sunday)
This enormous flea market specializes in antique furniture, books, clothing and shoes.

NAPLES
Mercato di Antignano (Monday through Saturday)
Food, clothing and housewares await the eager shopper at this engaging marketplace, located in the Vomero district.

BOLOGNA
La Piazzola (every Friday and Saturday)
Clothing, shoes and more are found at this labyrinthine shopper’s paradise.

TURIN
Porta Palazzo (Monday through Saturday)
This celebrated market, one of Europe’s largest, is held in the Piazza della Repubblica, highlighted by a vast selection of delectable food items.

DERUTA
Everyone wants to bring home a “piece” of Italy as a reminder of their travels. The hill town of Deruta, in Umbria, has been famed for its glazed and glossy majolica earthenware since the 15th and 16th centuries. Today’s shopper will marvel at the elegant, vivid and regal pieces created in the workshops and boutiques by talented artisans.

OUTLETS
A more economical way of keeping up with the trends and a relatively new concept here, these suburban centers located within warehouses or in shopping villages offer discounted designer labels from factory surplus or previous seasons.

Fifty Factory Stores
Are located throughout the northern part of Italy with two malls in Aosta, Biella, Meda near Milan, and Modena near Bologna. The malls contain mostly contemporary fashions with brands like Cerruti, Henry Lloyd and Guy Laroche.

Franciacorta Outlet Villane
Guess, Gianfranco Ferre and Frette’s famous Italian linens are just a few of the top fashion brands in this high tech mall featuring an Autogrill food court and located in Rodengo Saiano near Brescia. www.franciacortaoutlet.it

Fashion District
Offers an array of designer labels, with mall outlets in Bagnolo San Vito in Mantova; Valmontone, south of Rome; and Molfetta, near Bari. www.fashiondistrict.it

LA GALLERIA OUTLET CENTER SERIATE
Is located near Bergamo, with over 52 shops featuring clothing and accessories for men, women, children, home furnishings and food courts. www.lagalleriaoutletcenter.it

TAX-FREE SHOPPING IN ITALY (I.V.A. Refund)
The tax (VAT) on the purchases you make in Italy can be 20%, 10% or 4%, depending on what kind of goods you are buying, and it is included in the sales price. All visitors residing outside of the European Union are entitled to claim back the tax, if they spend 154.94 Euro (VAT included) or more in one shop in one day (except accommodations, dining or tourist services). The goods need to be exported within three months plus the month of purchase. Example: If you make your purchases on April 10th, you must leave the country no later than July 31st.

The goods purchased and the relevant invoice must be shown at the Customs of exit from the EU territory. The Customs office, after having ascertained that all the requirements are met endorses the invoice. Note that the goods must be shown at the customs office: if the traveller intends to carry them by plane, he must go to the Customs office to declare them before checking in the baggage.

The refund is made directly by the Italian seller according to the terms agreed with the buyer when the goods were purchased (for example, by credit into a bank account, credit card, cheque, etc.). Alternatively, there are some TAX-FREE companies that can grant immediate VAT cash refund when the goods leave the Italian or Community territory, i.e. without the passenger to return the invoice to the seller: however you can use this procedure only at the most important airports or Customs borders. For further information www.italiantourism.com/money.html
**SOCCER**
Maybe the true religion of Italy, calcio is passionately followed, debated and played nationwide. Nothing compares to seeing a major league (Serie A) match, so try to get a ticket: the season runs from September to May. The modern game was said to be invented in Florence during the 16th century; it was played in the biggest square of the city in teams of 27 players using feet and hands.

www.lega-calcio.it (in Italian)

**AUTO & BIKE RACING**
From legendary Grand Prix sites like Imola, Monza and Mugello to the museums of revolutionary brands like Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, Ducati, Aprilia, Augusta and Alfa Romeo, Italy is a mecca for speed freaks of the two- or four-wheel variety.

**CYCLING**
The “Giro d’Italia,” held in March, is second only to the “Tour de France” in importance, and Italy has a proud tradition of cyclists. For the amateur, there are myriad challenging bike trails, both on- and off-road. Tuscany, Umbria and Sicily are just some of the many regions where you can safely ride while enjoying the scenery.

**EXTREME SPORTS**
Recent additions for the more adventurous visitor to Italy include hand-gliding, rock climbing, rafting and caving. Friuli, Trentino, Umbria and Abruzzo lead the way in catering to the thrill seekers.

**SAILING AND SCUBA DIVING**
Italy’s 5,000 miles of coastline offer glorious sailing and rich marine life for the divers, particularly a round Panarea, Vulcano and Lampedusa in Sicily, or Portofino, Capri and Porto Cervo.

**GOLF**
The ancient game combines the love of nature, precision and competition. The Romans used to play a variation, the “paganica,” with a stick and a leather ball stuffed with feathers. Today, Italy offers the modern golfer a selection of magnificent courses in unspoiled landscapes all over the country, of which Palazzo Arzaga and Villa Condulner (Mogliano Veneto) are just two superb examples.

www.federgolf.it

**MILLE MIGLIA**
Not to be missed is the famous Mille Miglia, the Thousand Miles Race, a wonderful historical re-enactment of the 1927 epic vintage car rally from Brescia to Rome and back.

www.1000miglia.eu

**THERMAL BATHS**
Rich in thermal and mineral waters, with a mild climate and stunning scenery, Italy has long been a destination for spa tourism, for therapeutic or pampering reasons. Since Roman times taking care of and cleansing the body has been a central part of the culture, as borne out by famed, popular spa sites such as Abano, Salsomaggiore, Chianciano, Montecatini, Fiuggi and Ischia. These are ideal holiday resorts in their own right, close to historical artworks and places of great beauty, featuring world-class accommodations.

**Thermal Hot Springs** focuses on health problems and medical healing, detoxification and anti-stress treatments, weight loss programs, rest relaxation.

**Health and Beauty Spas** emphasize beauty treatments, massage and holistic medicine and are usually available in most luxury hotels and resorts and the thermal spas.

**Thermal Baths** feature mineral-rich mud and water treatments from natural hot springs and are usually visited for medical purposes.

*Beauty is how you feel inside, and it reflects in your eyes. It is not something physical.*

Sophia Loren
Summer

Italy blossoms during the summer, the time to go wild, to show some skin and have long walks along the beach. Of all the coastline’s different resorts and anchorage, Rome, Toscany and Riccione are for partying; Viaggriogio and Garfagnana are for families; Cinque Terre and Amalfi for new and old lovers; Sardinia and Sicily for the more expert sailors and divers. But, as you’ll discover, there are so much more to explore. Italians celebrate the Ferragosto Festivity which marks the hottest day of the year, August 15th. Everything closes and everyone heads to the beaches – so get your towel ready!

Fall

September marks the breaking of the heat and the return from the holidays. Cities become more vibrant, and harvests dot the countryside - grape and olive picking, truffle and porcini mushroom hunting, making for a season rich in culinary delights. This is a wonderful time to enjoy the mountains, woods, remote towns and local wine festivals. And the weather is ideal for seeing the south in its best light: Sicily, Puglia or Campania, to name a few.

Winter

The Alps, the Apennines and the Dolomites comprise a white wonderland for skiers. December also contains great historical celebrations, including Naples’ nativity sets, created in all the wonderland for skiers. December also contains great historical celebrations, including Naples’ nativity sets, created in all the towns and local wine festivals. And the weather is ideal for seeing the south in its best light: Sicily, Puglia or Campania, to name a few.

Befana (The Epiphany)

As the story goes, on the night between January 5 and 6, the Befana flies on her broom, clutching a heavy sack full of toys, chocolate and candies (plus coal and ashes), passes over the homes below and descends the chimneys to fill stockings hung by children. A plate of tangerines or oranges and a glass of wine is prepared for the arrival of the good witch. The next morning, along with their gifts, they discover that the meal has been consumed and the Befana’s hand print is traced in the ashes found on the plate. This tradition is typically Italian and has not yet been substituted by the “foreign” figure of Santa Claus. Sometimes, in poor communities, people used to dress as the Befana, going from house to house, bringing gifts in exchange for a smile and kind wish.

The ion, which all the planets revolve around it, and depending on it, can still enjoy a bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else in the universe to do. Golden Galatea
Italy’s northern regions are a symphony of breathtaking contrasts. Liguria stretches along the Mediterranean, and the jagged peaks of the Alps extend throughout Valle d’Aosta and Piedmont, complemented by Lombardy’s rolling plains. The snowy Dolomites provide the backdrop to the Trentino Alto-Adige and the Veneto regions, while Venice and the sea maintain their delicate, dramatic relationship and the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia yields a treasure trove of Roman remains.

AOSTA VALLEY
This is the most mountainous region of Italy, dominated by Alpine peaks, glaciers, valley streams, pine forests and high pasturage, and accessed by the tunnels at the historic passes of Monte Bianco and Gran San Bernardo. The capital, Aosta, recognizes both Italian and French as its native tongues, and offers visitors such sights as the 11th century Romanesque Cathedral, Sant’Orso Church and the perfectly preserved forts of the Aosta Valley.

Temptations
- Valle d’Aosta Müller Thurgau (DOCG), white
- Valle d’Aosta Torrette Superiore (DOCG), red
- Chambove Passito (DOC), dessert wine
- Genepy, herbal alpine liqueur

Just For Kids
- Fontina, a semi soft, smooth whole milk cheese
- Renette apples and Martin Sec pears
- Chastauts from the Lillancus municipality
- Tegole almond cookies from Aosta
- Beefsteak alla valdostana, a breaded veal cutlet fried and topped with fontina and ham, then reheated in the oven on a slice of polenta.

Arts & Crafts
- Sabots, the famous wooden clogs from Val d’Ayas
- Hand-woven wool draps (covers) and rustic upholstery fabrics from Valgrisenche
- Lace clothing, curtains and tablecloths from the Cogne valley

Just For Kids
- Gran Paradiso National Park, set in the Valleys of Cogne, Valvarenche and Rhemes, is rich in chestnuts, oaks, white fir and locust trees, as well as wildlife such as royal owls, woodpeckers, martens, partridges and the alpine finch. www.parco.nazionale.gran.paradiso/Eindex.html

Red Letter Days
January 30/31 Feast of Saint Orso in Aosta, an important artisan fair featuring the mountaineer art of the alpine bow
May, second Sunday Festival du “Viein de Nus,” in Nus, celebrates the excellent local wines, Rouge and Malvoise, with tasting in the afternoon.
June 23/24 Feast of San Giovanni, Gressoney Saint John, beginning with the Fires of St. John, the town’s patron saint, the night before a mass, followed by the “Walser” procession with the blessing of the lambs.
September, last Sunday Grape Festival, Chambave, a seasonal event honoring the wine harvest with public sales and tastings.
November 1 Cantes Festival, Cogne, wherein the community’s bachelors offer each other wine and food, and sing until sunset.

PIEDMONT
A region rippling with Alpine streams flowing into the Po, and dominated in the east by the lakes of Maggiano and d’Orta. The capital, Turin, features cultural and artistic influences from the Romanesque-Gothic and Baroque styles, while Sastriere and Bardonecchia offer fantastic skiing resorts.

Temptations
- Barolo (DOCG), red
- Barbaresco (DOCG), red
- Nebbiolo (DOC), red
- Dolcetto (DOC), red
- Asti Spumante (DOCG), sparkling white

Tastes
- White truffles from Alba
- Risotto with rice from Vercelli, a dish made with beef stock, veal bone marrow and saffron
- Castelmagno cheese is a cylindrical pressed, semi-firm semi-hard cheese tinged with blue mold
- Robiola from Murazzano is creamy fresh cheese, superb with olive oil and fresh herbs
- Borsin is Turin’s signature blend of coffee, milk and chocolate

Arts & Crafts
- Wickerwork from Alessandria
- Ceramics and stoves from Castellamonte
- Silverware and jewelry from Valenza

Just For Kids
- Safari Parks in Murazzano, in the Langhe region, with a variety of 300 animals to observe, and in Pobia, showcasing various endangered species.

Red Letter Days
February 10 - 26, 2006 XX Olympic Winter Games, hosted by Turin and the surrounding Alps.
September, second Weekend
- Douja d’Or, Asti, where prestigious wine producers (a douja is an old decanter) host a celebration involving food stands and a parade in traditional costume with carts, wagons and vintage tractors.
- October, first Sunday Palio degli Asini, Alba, is literally The Race of the Donkeys, a comical contest dating back to the medieval rivalry between the cities of Alba and Asti, which coincides with the Feast of the Truffle and a historical recreation of the Giro delle Canto Torri, or Tournament of the 100 Towers.
- September, third Sunday The Palio of Asti recreates historical events and everyday life in medieval times, with Italy’s oldest horse race, a historic procession in medieval attire and spectacular sbandieratori (flag-wavers).

LOMBARDY
Spreading over the Po Valley and bordered to the north by the Alps, this region is a veritable lake district, including eastern Maggiano, Varese, Iseo, Como and northern Garda. Each major city contains striking monuments to Romanesque and Gothic architecture, such as the Cathedral of Milan, while sumptuous Renaissance palaces and churches abound – some containing examples of the Lombard painting movement, which peaked during the fifteenth century.

Temptations
- Franciacorta Spumante (DOCG), sparkling white
- Bonarda (DOC), red
- Lugana (DOC), white
- Valtellina superiore Inferno (DOCG), red

Tastes
- Torrone from Cremona, a traditional sweet made of almonds, nougat and honey
- Risotto alla Milanese, sautéed rice cooked in broth and saffron
- Ossobuco, Shank of veal with its bone and marrow
- Pavese Soup, a clear broth served with toasted bread and eggs
- Bresaola from Valtellina, a cured thin-sliced meat

Arts & Crafts
- Violin-making in Cremona, home to the worldfamous Stradivari
- Legendary accorndions from Stradella
- Pottery from Lodi, suppliers to many European noble houses
- Printing and dyeing silk in Como

Just For Kids
The Leonardo da Vinci Museum of Science and Technology in Milan is a wonderful way to witness the inventions of the great man; the fabulous Toy Museum in Canneto sull’Oglio near Mantua, Fantasy World provides a miniature version of Italy for children to play in; they also love climbing the spiral stairs to the top of the Duomo Cathedral, the world’s largest Gothic cathedral.

Red Letter Days
Year-round, last Sunday of every month, except July & August, Naviglio Grande Antiques Fair, one of Milan’s most charming sections is transformed into a bustling market. December 7-9, Feast of Saint Ambrogio, Milan, celebrated for three days in the Piazza of St Ambrogio with antiques, crafts, food delicacies, sweets, wine, and a market on the third day. Coincides with the Opera season premiere at La Scala.
Kids Fun Park in the Alta Badia is a winter wonderland, including a toddler’s play area and a solarium for adults.

Visit the Clifftop Castles, such as the Churburg [Castel Corin] in Sluderno, Castle Tyrol in Merano, Schloss Runkelstein in Bolzano and the Castle Kastelbell west of Merano.

The Archeology Museum of the Upper Adige in Bolzano specializes in the Stone, Copper and Bronze Ages, and is home to the 200-year-old mumified Ice Man.

Red Letter Days

October, first week Festa dell’uva, Merano, celebrates the harvest with a grape festival and a parade in Tyrolean costume.

December, first Saturday Festa dei Klosen, Passo dello Stelvio, dedicated to Santa Claus, where costumed locals wander the streets until the church bells ring and everyone unites in prayer.

February, second Weekend Carnevale Asburgico (Hapsburg’s Carnival), Arco, began in 1876 to unite the population with their imperial rulers, the Hapsburgs. On the Friday, a concert is held in the hall of the casino; Saturday sees a tribute to traditional artisans and craftsmen, with an evening gala ball, Sunday, is a masked parade, celebrated with floats.

VENETO

Bordered by the eastern part of the Po Valley, this extensive plain comprises the majestic Dolomites of Cadore and the lagoon zone, including Venice, the region’s agelessly beautiful capital. Here, Byzantine influences abound, in San Marco’s and the Cathedral of Torcello, while there are innumerable glorious examples of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance art and architecture. Other uncommon treats include the Venetian islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello; Chioggia, the canals of the Brenta and the Veneto villas.

Tastes

San Daniele Prosciutto, renowned sweet air-cured ham

Lota from Trieste, a traditional soup with beans, potatoes and sauerkraut

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Just For Kids

Topolino Junior Ski Trophy, Madonna di Campiglio, second week of February 2000, with races, competitions and displays hosted by Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Red Letter Days

January 6 Epiphany of the Thaler, Gemona del Friluì, a historical parade of donkeys and knights accompanying the mayor to the duomo for the celebration of the Mass. End of June “Anna di Fasta,” San Daniele, a San Daniele promotional event, with tastings, music shows and exhibitions. www.prosciuttosan DANIELE.it

September, 2nd Sunday Provincial Grape Festival, Cormons, offers samplings of the area’s finest wines and typical dishes, with a market, an allegorical parade, folk groups and bands.

October, second Sunday “Barcolana” Autumn Cup, Trieste, a spectacular sailing event, open to large yachts and thousands of smaller boats, creating a regatta where famous champions and Sunday sailors compete together. www.barcolana.it

VENEZIA-GIULIA

A broad, flat province stretching from the Tagliamento River and to the Adriatic coastline, dotted with lagoons, interesting geological formations and countless grotoes. The regional capital is Trieste; major towns include Udine, Gorizia and Pordenone. Evidence of older civilisations is abundant: Aquileia is a noted Roman archeological center, also with magnificent mosaics in its Romanesque Gothic Basilica.

Temptations

Colli Orientali del Friuli: Tocai Friulano (DOC), white

Collio Goriziano Cabernet (DOC), red

Ramoncello (DOCG), dessert white

Tastes

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Just For Kids

Gardaland, Castelnuovo del Garda, is the largest amusement park in Italy. CanevaWorld, also on Garda, is another theme park with movie studios, water rides and themed restaurants.

Red Letter Days

February Venice Carnival, the highlight of the year, with masked balls and decorated costumes of the 18th century.

June 12-13 Festa di San’Antonio, Padua, a historical, costumed parade, a torchlight procession on the Bacchiglione and lots of fireworks!

June 17-August 31 Summer Theater in Verona, the world’s third largest Roman amphitheater hosts its annual opera season.

July, third Sunday Feast of the Redeemer, Venice, Holy Mass is held followed by a religious procession and fireworks.

Saturday night before St. Mark’s Basin features a kaleidoscopic play of lights and reflections against the city’s silhouetted spires, domes and bell towers.

September, first Sunday Historical Regatta, Venice, a procession of 16th-century style boats, with the famous Bucintoro, the boat representing the Serenissima, at its head, followed by a racing competition.

September, every even numbered year A human chess game is played on the square of Marzolata every second Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This tradition dates back to 1454.

December, second Sunday Fiera del Radichio, Treviso, honors the uniquely long-shaped radichio in the Piazza dei Signori.

REDEEMER, Venice, Holy Mass is held followed by a religious procession and fireworks.

Regions of the north

TRENTINO AND SOUTH TYROL

A dramatic Alpine province, rich in rivers and lakes, and clusters of mountains and valleys, bisected by the Adige river. Three natural parks, Adamello-Brenta, Paneveggio-Pale di S. Martino and Stelvio conserve the native flora and fauna, including bears. Straddling Germany and northern Italy, the capital Trento combines both diverse cultures to create a fascinating artistic aesthetic.

Temptations

Copper articles from Cavalese used in the Ladin Carnival period and hand painted, called faceres and Temptations

Orzetto, a barley soup with onion, and sour cream with red wine vinegar, salt pork, herbs

Gemsenfleisch, Alpine chamois goat nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon

Biroldi, blood sausages filled with nuts

Speck, a smoked ham

Moscato, amber dessert wine

Bianco Val d’Adige (DOC), white

Pinot Bianco (DOC), white

Santa Maddalena (DOC), red

Bardolino Superiore (DOCG), red

Recioto di Soave (DOCG), a golden, fruity white

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Central Italy abounds with diverse landscapes and towns rich in art, architecture and culture. From Tuscany’s transcendent treasures amid countless towers, palaces and churches, to the “green heart” of Le Marche and Umbria, to the lush Po Delta in Emilia Romagna and Lazio, home to Rome and the independent papal state, Vatican City.

**FERRARA**
A rare treasure combining history, beauty and romance, Ferrara is a former fortified city in the heart of the Emilia Romagna region. Its peaceful ambience – which inspired de Chirico’s metaphysical paintings – swaddled with gems for her guests to discover. Its cathedral reflects the glories of both the Romanic and Gothic styles; the Church of Sant’Antonio in Palese contains fascinating frescoes from the 13th and 14th centuries; and the Estense Castle is an extraordinary example of military architecture. The Casa Romei (Palazzo dei Diamanti) was a luxurious private Renaissance residence, while the Museo Nazionale Archeologico hosts numerous artifacts that testify to Ferrara’s formidable past.

**EMILIA ROMAGNA**
Half mountain range (the Apennines), half coastal plain along the Adriatic Sea, Emilia-Romagna is an extraordinary example of military architecture. The Casa Romei (Palazzo dei Diamanti) was a luxurious private Renaissance residence, while the Museo Nazionale Archeologico hosts numerous artifacts that testify to Ferrara’s formidable past.

**Emilia Romagna**
Half mountain range (the Apennines), half coastal plain along the Adriatic Sea, Emilia-Romagna is a dramatic horse race between the eight town districts from Tuscany’s transcendent treasures amid countless towers, palaces and churches, to the “green heart” of Le Marche and Umbria, to the lush Po Delta in Emilia Romagna and Lazio, home to Rome and the independent papal state, Vatican City.

**Tastes**
- Lambrusco di Sorbara (DOC), sparkling red and rosé
- Castell’Arquato Nocino walnut liquor

**Arts & Crafts**
- Ceramics from Faenza
- Graffito ceramics from Ferrara
- Clay pots from Montelitelli
- Golden mosaics from Ravenna

**Just For Kids**
- Miniature park in Italy, with rides, stuntmen, flowers and gardens, plus a small town, “Bimbopoli” for very little ones.
- www.mirabilandia.com/index_en.htm
- Italy in Miniature in Rimini is the most famous miniature park in Italy, with rides, games, monuments and great food.
- www.italiainminiatura.com

**Red Letter Day**
- January “Arte Fiera,” Bologna, a large international contemporary art fair at the Piazza della Costituzione devoted to young galleries, publishing houses, bookstores and institutions.
- www.artefiera.bolognafiere.it
- www.palioferrara.it
- Italy, complemented by a Historical Renaissance Parade.

**Italy’s central regions**

**Regions of the north**

**LIGURIA**
Centered around the Gulf of Genoa on the Tyrhenian Sea, Liguria is a mountainous region formed by the Maritime Alps and the Apennines, leaving only a narrow coastline. The region is divided at Genoa, the capital, into the Riviera di Ponente (west to Ventimiglia), and the Riviera di Levante (east to La Spezia) – the tail end of which is the beautiful, unspoiled “Le Cinque Terre” (the Five Lands). Throughout Liguria, you can find superb examples of Roman ruins, Romanesque and Baroque architecture and many medieval forts, towers, walls and castles.

**Temptations**
- Sfogliatella (DOC), white
- Pigato (DOC), white
- Vermentino (DOC), white
- Rossese di Dolceacqua (DOC), red

**Tastes**
- Basil Pesto, a cold sauce of fresh basil, olive oil and pine nuts
- Focaccia, a flat bread with salt and olive oil
- Farinata, a thin pancake made of chick pea flour and baked in wood ovens.

**Arts & Crafts**
- White and blue ceramics from Albisola
- Handmade lace, macramè, from Chiavari
- Plush velvet from Zoagli

**Just For Kids**
- Water Park, in Ceriale.
- Visit Le Caravelle
- Genoa Aquarium is the biggest in Europe, featuring sandbar sharks, seals and dolphins. Also visit Le Caravelle Water Park, in Ceriale.

**Red Letter Days**
- July, every weekend Sagra del Muscolo (Feast of the Mussels) held on Portovenere’s seashore
- Every weekend Sagra del Pesce (Feast of the Fish), at Camogli, is over 50 years old, a competition between the districts of Porto and Pinetto, that build large wooden structures on the beach which become night bonfires. On Sunday, in an enormous pan in the town square, almost two tons of fish are fried and consumed.

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**Red Letter Days**
- May, last weekend Palio di Ferrara, Ferrara, is a dramatic horse race between the eight town districts around the oldest town square in Italy, complemented by a Historical Renaissance Parade.
- www.paliodiferrara.it/
- August, last week Palio di S.Reparata e della Romagna-Toscana, Castrocaro Terme, is another wonderful horse race, offset with Renaissance pomp, entertainment and decorations.
Italy’s central regions

**TUSCANY**
Stretching gently down the Apennines to the Tyrrhenian Sea, this region is a geographically charming mix of hilly landscapes and long sandy expanses, headlands and archipelagos. With Florence as its capital, Tuscany is unraveled as a cradle of art and monuments to Italy’s many eras and civilizations: Etruscan, Roman, Gothic and Romanesque. From Fiesole to Chiusi, Volterra to Siena, Pisa to Elba, Tuscany’s beauty and appeal is as varied as it is enchanting.

**Tastes**
- Bianchi di Pilgiano (DOC), white
- Vernaccia di San Gimignano (DOCG), white
- Chianti Cosce (DOC)
- Brunello di Montalcino (DOCG), red

**Art & Crafts**
- Ceramic and terracotta from an ancient tradition dating back to the Etruscan era
- Jewelry from Florence and Arezzo
- Marble from Massa Carrara
- Tuscan terroir, a regionally unique Tbone steak
- Porchetta, pork, cooked on a spit over a wood fire, studded with minced liver, heart and lungs, peppers, garlic, salt and wild fennel

**Temptations**
- Barolo wine
- Truffles from Tuscany, with particular respect to white truffles
- Porchetta, pork, roasted in the oven
- Brunello di Montalcino (DOCG)
- Balsamic vinegar of Modena
- Pecorino cheese

**VIAJERO**

**UMBRIA**
A rugged region, facing the Adriatic Sea, with narrow valleys, deep gorges and numerous rushing streams that meet to coast of gently rolling hills and flat plains. The regional capital is Ancona, and remarkable Roman remains exist in Ascoli, Fano, Ancona, Fermo, Urbisaglia and near Macerata. The presence of local artists such as Raphael and Bramante made this area one of the hotbeds of Renaissance art. Beauty can also be found in natural form in the stunning views from cities such as Pesaro and Urbino.

**Tastes**
- Olive oil
- Rucola, fresh green
- Porchetta, a very flavorful dish of roast pork
- Fossa, cheese aged while buried in a pit, great with jam

**Temptations**
- Barolo wine
- Truffles from Tuscany, with particular respect to white truffles
- Porchetta, pork, roasted in the oven
- Brunello di Montalcino (DOCG)
- Balsamic vinegar of Modena
- Pecorino cheese

**ABRUZZO**
The region embraces the highest and hugest massifs of Central Italy, with peaks which often are higher than 2,000 meters, as well as a steep and rocky Adriatic coast. The capital L’Aquila has strong Roman and Renaissance influences, but the most creative period was during the Middle Ages, as seen in many wonderful cathedrals, abbeys and sculptures. Goldsmithing is also a renowned craft, dating back to the 16th century. Adding to the drama of this area, the National Park of Abruzzo is home to species like the Marsican Bear and the Gray Wolf.

**Tastes**
- Fingerling olive
- Rucola, fresh green
- Porchetta, pork, roasted in the oven
- Brunello di Montalcino (DOCG)
- Balsamic vinegar of Modena
- Pecorino cheese

**Temptations**
- Montepulciano d’Abruzzo (DOCG)
- Cerasuolo (DOC), rosé
- Trabucco (DOC), white
- Centered, a liqueur from various aromatic plants
Just For Kids
The National Park of Abruzzo, the National Park of Gran Sasso-Laga, the Regional Parks of Sirente-Velino, The National Park of Abruzzo, The Regional Parks of Sirente-Velino, the Tyrrhenian Sea, this varied region combines coastal Saltans, and extinct volcanoes that form the lakes of Bolsena, Vico, Bracciano, Albano and Nemi. Rome, is, of course, the capital of Italy, as well of the region, which itself is incredibly rich in outstanding relics of all the different periods, and has always been the center of an intensive artistic life from the Middle Ages to the 18th century – and contains the hub of the Papacy in Vatican City.

Temptations
• Fricati (DOC), white
• Montefiascone EstEstEst (DOC), white
• Torre Ercolana (DOC), red
• Fiorano (DOC), red
• Colle Pecchioli (DOC), red
• Peroni beer

Tastes
• Puntarelle, spaces resembling endives
• Bruschetta, homemade bread toasted and topped with garlic, tomatoes, olive paste
• Carciofi alla Giudea, artichokes deep-fried in olive oil and garlic, seasoned with mint
• Spaghetti alla Carbonara, a cream sauce with bacon, garlic and chili peppers mixed in a bowl with raw eggs
• Bucatini all’Amatriciana, slender pasta tubes with tomato sauce and salt pork, and grated pecorino cheese
• Abbacchio alla Cacciatori, baby lamb cooked with rosemary, garlic, anchovies and vinegar
• Porchetto, roasted pork from the Castelli Romani, an area south of Rome

CAMPANIA
This region is renowned for having one of Italy’s most beautiful coastlines, backed by irregular massifs punctuated by valleys and plains. Among Campania’s riches are the cities of Capri, Ischia and Procida in the Gulf of Naples (the regional capital) and Salerno, as well as examples of classic antiquity, such as those in Herculanum, Pompei, Paestum and Cuma, where amphitheaters, triumphal arches, villas, bridges and tombs are plentiful. Baroque design is strikingly expressed in The Royal Palace of Caserta, and even Paleolithic Art is represented in Naples and Nocera, while relics of the Longobard Age can be found in Capua and Benevento.

Temptations
• Bancone (DOC), white
• Falerno del Massico (DOC), red & white
• Lacryma Christi (DOC) red, white & rosé
• Limoncello, a popular golden citrus liqueur from Amalfi

Tastes
• Mozzarella, moist fresh and pungent, from Campania buffalo’s milk
• Sweet, fragrant lemons from Sorrento Zoppa di vongole e cozze, a savory clam and mussel soup flavored with tomatoes and spices
• Neapolitan Pizza, crisp yet soft to the bite, inimitable

Just For Kids
Naples is one of the oldest in Europe (1873) and houses many varieties of marine life. Red Letter Days
Monthly, third Sunday except August Villa Comunale Antoque Fair, Naples, is held in the Villa Comunale gardens. In December it is open every weekend for the pre-holiday shopping season.
• www.fieraantiquarianapoletana.it (only in Italian)

Italy Travel Planner
BASILICATA
Ar ais, rocky region of two coastlines, one in the center of the Gulf of Taranto in the Ionian Sea, and a tiny one on the Tyrrhenian Sea, with the famous resort of Maratea. Potenza is the capital of this archaeologically blessed area. Relics of the Greek era can be found in Metaponto (the Palatine Tables), while ruins of the Roman Age can be seen in Venosa. Medieval art is featured in Venosa and Cosenza (Romanesque style), with Arab-Byzantine and French-influenced architecture in Melfi and Lagapogola and Matera – where visitors can also see the “Sassi,” typical houses and churches literally dug into the “tufa” crag.

Temptation
• Agnello in creta, red
• Moscato del Vulture, dessert wine

Tastes
• Sassi al peperoncino, a chili pepper found in many local recipes
• Luganiga, a salt-cured meat kept in lard or olive oil
• Ciabattina, artichokes braised and stuffed with potatoes and stewed in tomatoes
• Pignatella di Pecora, ewe cooked with potatoes, tomatoes, onions, pork, and pancotto in a clay pot called pignata

Arts & Crafts
• Engraved church bells of Metaponto in the crypt of San Domenico.
• Hand-carved wood, in chestnut, oak, beech, fir, cherry and pear depicting pastoral life and historical traditions
• Clay for the manufacture of majolica, porcelains and ceramics

Just For Kids
Walk through the labyrinthine alleyways of the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour with the pollicino bus. Lago di San Giustino is surrounded by a thick forest and is a breeding ground for water birds and the ideal habitat for many kinds of fish.

Red Letter Days
• July 2 Festa della Madonna in Gravina di Puglia, Matera, entailing a procession of the Madonna being carried on a cart through the streets by costumed horsemen, then returned to the church where the cart is demolished, and faithful followers obtain a small relic to take home.

APULIA
Occupying the easternmost part of the peninsula with a long coastline on the Ionian and Adriatic Seas, Apulia is essentially flat and dry, with occasionally plunging cliffs. Of great cultural interest are the megalithic monuments at Dalmassera and Menhiris, as well as the great archeological complexes at Canne della Battaglia and Igaziana. Roman remains are especially noteworthy throughout the region, and there are superb Romanesque cathedrals at Trani, Barletta, Metaponto and Ruvo di Puglia and Bari – where majestic castles of thirteenth-century Byzantine-Arab style can also be found. Also unmissable is Alberobello with its typical “trulli” houses.

Temptations
• Auletta (DOC), red
• Moscato di Trani (DOC), white

Tastes
• Orecchiette e taralli, a simple appetizer of pugliese’s pasta course
• Arette a rapa, the classic pugliese’s pasta course
• Tarallucci e vino, a simple appetizer of salty and spicy donuts, great with wine
• Cosciotto di capretto in creta, an ancient recipe featuring a goat cooked on clay

Arts & Crafts
• Nativity figurines made out of clay
• Pietra Leccese, a soft stone perfect for intricate detail work; visible all over

Just For Kids
Steps away from one another: Zoosafari, the largest safari park in Italy, and Faasolandia, an amusement park. Visits to the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour of the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour with the pollicino bus. Lago di San Giustino is surrounded by a thick forest and is a breeding ground for water birds and the ideal habitat for many kinds of fish.

MOLISE
Malise is a hilly continuation of Abruzzo’s landscape, crossed by many rivers that flow into the Tyrrhenian Sea. The region’s place in the history of Italian art is secured by the cycle of ninth-century frescoes in the crypt of San Lorenzo in San Vincenzo al Volturno. Elsewhere there are plenty of examples of Romanesque, medieval and Baroque-style architecture – of which Roman-Neapolitan-influenced design can be seen in the civic palaces.

Temptations
• Bertino (DOC), red, white & rosé
• Pantro di Isernia (DOC), red, white & rosé

Tastes
• Giant white celery from Campobasso
• Calzoni di ricotta rustici, rounds of pasta dough filled with ricotta, provolone and prosciutto fried in olive oil Picellati, honey pastries with nuts and grapes

Arts & Crafts
• Engraved church bells
• Enameled, patinated brass cowbells from Stirignano
• Hand-carved wood, in chestnut, oak, beech, fir, cherry and pear depicting pastoral life and historical traditions
• Clay for the manufacture of majolica, porcelains and ceramics

Just For Kids
Walk through the labyrinthine alleyways of the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour with the pollicino bus. Lago di San Giustino is surrounded by a thick forest and is a breeding ground for water birds and the ideal habitat for many kinds of fish.

Red Letter Days
• June 15 Festa di San Vito, Castelmuzano. San Vito’s statue along the main street is paraded by the public in costume through the streets amidst food stands and fireworks.

CALABRIA
The extreme south-western region of Italy, washed by the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas, dominated by a high central Apennine ridge, overgrown with thick woods, and wild coastal landscapes. Catanasso is the capital of this region, which yields abundant evidence of previous artistic civilizations and ancient colonies in Sibari, Catrone, Catanasso, Locri, Vibo Valentia. In Cosenza and Reggio Calabria are cathedrals, theaters and bridges of the Roman Age, while the religious buildings show Byzantine influences, reflecting the region’s time under the Empire of Byzantium. Gothic, Renaissance and baroque influences and styles are also well represented in art, design and monuments.

Temptations
• Citrus (DOC), red, white & rosé
• Greco (DOC), white
• Savuto (DOC), red
• Lamezia (DOC), red, white & rosé

Tastes
• Aubergines, pickled, fried, stuffed or added to scrambled pasta sauces
• Maccaroni and lasagna, stuffed with cured meats, sausage, hard-boiled eggs and cheese
• Soffritti and morsello, a distinctive dish of tripe and innards boiled and cooked with tomatoes and spices
• Cacciovalle silano, cheese from cow’s milk, formed and strung oval-shaped pairs
• Bergamot, a fragrant citrus fruit whose essence is used in teas, candies and liqueurs

Just For Kids
A fabulous Tokyo Disneyland for kids, Zoosafari, the largest safari park in Italy, and Faasolandia, an amusement park. Visits to the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour of the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour with the pollicino bus. Lago di San Giustino is surrounded by a thick forest and is a breeding ground for water birds and the ideal habitat for many kinds of fish.

Red Letter Days
August 27 Cavalcata di Sant’Oronzo, Ostuni, a parade of costumed horsemen carry a giant statue of Saint Oronzo through the streets. September 20-23 Anniversary of the Stigmata and death of Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, remembers and celebrates a popular figure from Pietrelcina with religious ceremonies, prayers and a torchlight procession. December 13-24 Fiera dei presepi e dei pupi, Lecce, is an 11 day antique market displaying hand-crafted nativity figures.
Regions of the south

CALABRIA

Unique Arts & Crafts:
- Colorful pottery from Seminaria, vases, tableware, ums and masks
- Tapestries and blankets from Longobucco, created on looms worked by hand and foot
- Chestnut wood wickerwork from San Giorgio Maritozzo
- Briarwood smoking pipes from Reggio Calabria, handcrafted and carefully carved

Just For Kids
- Natural Museum Libero Gatti Copanello, has a botanical garden overlooking the sea; www.aquapark.it or www.odissea2000.it

Red Letter Days:
- Easter Week Rio dei Vacci, Nocera Terinese, is highlighted by the Easter Saturday procession, in which a statue of the Addolorata is carried, followed by general rituals of the “Vamanti.”
- May 3 Feast of the Tri di Cru, Tropea, commemorates the end of the Saracen occupation during the Middle Ages with fireworks and symbolic acts such as the explosion of a galley and the burning of the dove.
- July 1-7 Sagra della Cipolla Rossa, Tropea, or “the feast of the red onion,” honors the queen of the gastronomy of Tropea. Many farm stands display and sell their home-made specialties, while the feast concludes with games and musical shows.
- August, last weekend La Festa del Turista, Vibo Valentia, celebrates the end of the summer holidays with the gathering of the “giants” (huge papier-mâché depictions of the Saracens) and tastings of delicious regional specialties.

SICILY

Less than two miles from the Italian mainland, Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean and the southernmost region of Italy. Famous for its blue skies and mild winter climate Sicily is also home to Mount Etna, Europe’s largest active volcano. This fertile paradise was settled by Siculi, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Moors, Normans, Spaniards and Bourbons among others, and the remnants of these astounding cultures cover the entire island, from the temples of Agrigento to the priceless mosaics of Piazza Armerina and the ancient capital of Siracusa. Smaller islands, such as the Aeolian, Aegadian and Pelagian chains as well as Pantelleria, just 90 miles off the African coast, are also part of Sicily, offering superb beaches and local lore.

Temptations:
- Noto d’Avola (DOCG), red
- Agrigento del Taburno (DOCG), red & white
- Sambuca di Sicilia (DOCG), red & white
- Cerasuolo di Vittoria (DOCG), rosé
- Bianco Alcamo (DOCG), white
- Maccarese (DOCG), white
- Gold, Amber and Ruby Marsala, dessert wine

Tastes:
- Delicate and fruity extra virgin olive oil
- Savor sea salt from Trapani
- Sicilian honey, pistachios and succulent blood oranges
- Almond paste marzipan shaped into colorful miniature fruits
- Ricotta-filled cannoli
- Delicious cassata cake with ricotta and pistachio

Just For Kids
- The creepy catacombs of San Giovanni, beneath Siracusa date back almost 3000 years.
- Il Piccolo Teatro dei Pupi, also in Siracusa, showcases medieval puppetry most summer evenings.
- In Bagheria, near Palermo, is the Museo dei Giocattoli Pietro Piranio with over 700 toys from the last four centuries.
- In Palermo itself, discover the Museo Internazionale delle Marionette, an entire museum dedicated to the Sicilian art of puppetry.
- Midway between the temples of Agrigento and the Roman-era mosaics of Piazza Armerina kids can enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at the Parco Acquatico del Canne, a water world theme park in Sommatino.

Red Letter Days:
- February 3 – 5 Catania hosts three days of festivities in honor of St. Agatha, revolving around sweets made from marzipan.
- May 9 – 10 Tre Castagni enjoys two days of celebrations complete with local specialties, processions and Sicilian Carts in honor of Santo Alfio, Filadelfo a Cirino.
- July 9 – 15 Palermo offers seven days of non-stop excitement in honor of Santa Rosalia, featuring a huge fireworks display on the 14th and a magnificent parade on the 15th.

SARDINIA

The second largest island in the Mediterranean, formed by a series of mountainous massifs, hills and narrow highlands, has jagged, rocky coasts concealing marvelous beaches and countless picturesque inlets and islets. Cagliari is the capital, ruled by a special statute. Pre- and post-historic eras are expressed by the megalithic “Tombs of the Giants”; the “damos dejanas” (houses of the witches), tombs dug into the rock; and the mysterious “nuraghis,” around 7,000 truncated cone towers found all over the island. Phoenician and Roman remains have come to light at Tharros and Nora; there are Roman relics at Porto Torres and Cagliari and the Gothic-Catalan-style survivors from the rule of the Spanish House of Aragon.

Temptations:
- Vernaccia (DOC), white
- Malvasia (DOC), white
- Nuragus (DOCG), white
- Canninos (DOCG), red & rosé

Tastes:
- Pecorino, cheese made from sheep’s milk, eaten either fresh or aged to a sharp, piquant flavor and grated
- Porchetta, roast suckling pig flavored with herbs and spices and then spit-roasted
- Fiore sardo, golden cheese from sheep’s milk

Unique Arts & Crafts:
- Wrought-gold or filigree creations make lovely jewelry
- Filet lace from Bosa and Osilo, with delicately embroidered flowers, fruits, geometric shapes and folk scenes
- Basket-making from the Campidano area, where straw is woven into spirals around a small brocade fabric center

Just For Kids
- Aquarium Laguna di Nora in Pula reveals the fish and flora of the Sardinian seas. Aquadream in Baja Sardinia is a major water theme park with twisting slides, games, miniature golf and more. www.aquadream.it (only in Italian)
- Water Paradise in Soro offers pools with artificial waves as well as “kiddie” pools, water slides, whirlpools and more. www.spingisci.it (only in Italian)
- To better understand this extraordinary island, visit a perfectly detailed, scaled-down model of Sardegna in Miniatura, Barumini. www.sardegnaenminiatura.it

Red Letter Days:
- May 1 Festival of Saint Elsio, Cagliari, is a celebration including the longest procession in the Catholic world, including decorated carts, musicians, worshippers, knights and more.
- May second to last Sunday Cassaliara Sarda, Sassari, or the “Sardinian Ride,” recalls the victory of the Sardinian and Pisan forces over the Saracens around the year 1000. Hundreds of horses and knights from all parts of the island show off their skills.

40 Italy Travel Planner
Planning the perfect vacation

Italy's waiting. On the previous pages we've tried to give you a flavor of her exclusive appeal and many attractions; a sense of the varied beauty of the land and its remarkable regions; a glimpse of the myriad artistic, cultural and historic influences that remain to be enjoyed there.

The Canadian Travel Council Promoting Italy (CTCPI) represents a broad range of member companies, each of which has exceeded the highest industry standards for customer service, quality, reliability and price/value satisfaction. While each company specializes in one or more forms of travel, they are all committed to assisting you in planning the Italian vacation of a lifetime. Travel with confidence and style. The choice is yours!

Start by determining which kind of travel you enjoy the most.

Type A — Carefree
Prefer to concentrate on seeing and experiencing the country? Try a fixed schedule approach with daily itineraries such as an Escorted Tour by motor coach; mostly all-inclusive with a full-time escort, available year-round. Rates vary based on the season, length of stay, accommodations and destinations. Special interests such as food & wine, archaeology, religion and sports often fall within this category.

Type B — Independent
If you love exploring on your own, choosing your own destinations and accommodations, then a custom-designed Independent Tour, FIT or villa vacation works best for you. Airfare, car rentals, rail, ferry tickets and even access to special venues such as concerts or wineries can all be incorporated to meet your timetable and budget.

Type C — A Little of Both
If you enjoy some structured touring with the flexibility to discover independently, a Hosted Tour may just be the answer. Generally includes airfare and transfers, accommodations, group sightseeing tours in each destination, some meals – and plenty of free time as well.

“As the Italians say, good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.”
Izaak Walton
For over 30 years, Sunquest has been taking Canadians to the world’s best destinations in style. Featuring over 300 vacations to the Caribbean and Mexico, Sunquest also offers a comprehensive cruising program in the Mediterranean, complete with convenient direct flights from Toronto to Rome, Venice or Naples, and itineraries that visit some of the region’s most beautiful ports-of-call.

Offering 4 fabulous itineraries on 4 fantastic ships, you’ll start your journey in either Rome, Venice or Naples – 3 extraordinary jewels in the Italian crown – where you have the option to spend a night before heading off on your cruise, and then board the beautiful MSC Musica, MSC Poesia, or the brand new sister ships the MSC Fantasia and the MSC Splendida.

From these wonderful vessels, explore some of the greatest historical sights in the world, framed by a beautiful backdrop of azure seas and desert, world-class cities and humble villages, festivals, concerts, carnivals and music. This region is the hub of the world’s ancient trade routes... a passionate land of many faces and infinite color.

Whether you are planning a romantic escape, a getaway with friends or a group voyage, Sunquest has made it easy. We have lots of options, with something to suit every style and budget.

Part of the Thomas Cook Group of companies, Sunquest is the winner of the national Agents’ Choice Awards and the Consumers’ Choice Award for ‘Best Tour Operator’ in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg.

For more information on its Mediterranean cruise program, which runs from May to October, please visit www.sunquest.ca or call 416-485-6060 or 1-877-485-6060.

ITALY IS OUR EXPERTISE

For over a third of a century, KOMPAS EXPRESS has been a leader in customizing cultural travel to Italy. KOMPAS EXPRESS works with partner airlines and other travel suppliers to create, develop, and manage specialty programs in Italy. Our aim is to make travel as easy as possible by designing unique tailor made itineraries just for you. Literally anything is possible. We will help you to the best of our ability to get exactly the holiday you want. KOMPAS EXPRESS travel experts can easily create a one-of-a-kind program based on your personal specifications, with as much or as little support as you like from our global network of guides and services. That is for individuals as well as for small groups. This activity has earned KOMPAS EXPRESS through the years a strong and reliable reputation as a very serious and respected travel company. The dedication and commitment to customer service has won KOMPAS EXPRESS the loyalty of its worldwide clientele. Our company has been solidly growing over the past third of a century: we know the areas of Italy we sell and we have our hotels inspected periodically. Most importantly to our philosophy, though, is that everyone in our dedicated team has a passion for what he or she does. Whatever the interest, KOMPAS EXPRESS can design for you a complete program.

For example:
- Choral-performing tours
- Orchestra-performing tours
- Opera
- Art tours
- Academic tours
- Leisure tours
- Food & Wine tours
- Garden tours
- Senior Citizens leisure weeks
- Student cultural tours
- Private Minivan and English-speaking driver for small groups

Call your travel agent today or contact us at: 1-800-EUROPE-1
www.kompasexpress.com
www.kompasXlusive.com
Choose from our personally selected and screen each menu item, so we ensure that every recipe we whip up provides you with outstanding value and excellent variety.

À La Carte - Personally Selected

Looking for a travel experience to suit your style and provide stress free planning together with time and cost savings? Arts & Leisure Tours has reinvented the travel basics to offer a style to suit every traveler. Our trip planners offer custom services designed to create unforgettable experiences from independent travel to small group trips and everything in between, all designed to ensure that you return home with stories you won’t stop sharing.

A&L redesigns your travel ABCs

Since 1990, Arts & Leisure Tours has been offering carefully crafted and unique travel experiences to create memories of a lifetime. We believe our reliability, expertise and knowledge are the keystones of our business and we strive to offer our clients the very best. From our experienced staff to our meticulous planning, we will assist you in all your travel plans and personal arrangements. Let us show you how our styles, pace and our travel values set us apart.

Prefer to fly solo when travelling, or maybe company you? Bravo! This independent trip style is for those who are comfortable on their own. Choose from our flexible suggested itineraries or customize your own, all based on A&L’s personal experience. Our expert trip planners have ‘been there, done that’, so you can be sure that they will be able to assist you in designing your own unique itinerary. Leave the work up to us, the vacation is for you to enjoy!

Connoisseur - Tailor Made Travel

The luxury to do what you want when you travel and to have the very best, this is what Connoisseur travel means to us. Call it extravagance, indulgence, lavishness or upscale. We prefer to call it magic! From grand hotels, to hidden country gems, private Mediterranean yachts to luxury tented camps; you can rest assured you will certainly slumber in finery. Enjoy the hospitality of your local hosts as you indulge in wine tasting in prestigious cellars, relish the cuisine of a particular region. We stay in charming hotels and country inns (with usually only two or three hotels per trip) and dine in small, typical restaurants. The luxury of expert guides, the chance to meet like-minded travellers and the opportunity to take in the best each region offers; with our Dolce Vita trips, you can have your cake and eat it too!

Escorted - Guaranteed Departures

Safety in numbers! If this is your motto, then this is the style for you. Our Escorted trips allow for a very enjoyable and leisurely way to appreciate a foreign country, especially for those with time or budget restraints or for those who would like to cover a lot of ground in a short time. Roll along in comfortable motor-coach vehicles, with panoramic windows and reclining seats. Each tour is guided by professional, multicultural and expert hosts as well as local guides who know the area better than anyone, so you can take comfort knowing that you will not miss out on any of the destination’s highlights. Our tours are also guaranteed which allows you time to plan ahead so you can save money on flights and travel expenses without any worry.

Your style…. Your way!

Arts & Leisure Tours / Travel With Flair

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Your style…. Your way!
Globus vacations are designed to offer you flexibility and choice, plus a pace that best fits the way you want to travel. Globus offers MORE included features, MORE quality hotels and MORE experience with 80 years of taking travelers on unforgettable journeys. In addition, Globus offers twice the number of included features - MORE value with an average price less per day than our nearest competitor. The safety of our travelers and the richness of our vacations is a priority and it is what has made Globus the worldwide leader in travel and a name you can trust.

Monograms is independent travel without the hassle of logistics and guesswork. Unlike most other independent travel companies where you have to execute every detail, Monograms creates extraordinary packages to destinations around the globe.

Cosmos virtually invented the budget vacation. Since then we've redefined the concept of low-cost travel packages. Although others have jumped on the budget-travel bandwagon, Cosmos prices are still the best value. Our team of experts has redefined our itineraries to combine the must-see sights with significant time on your own. We not only offer more choice of activities, we also offer longer stays in key cities for more flexibility in our itineraries. We provide air, accommodations, transportation and the services of a knowledgeable Tour Director for much less than if you booked them individually on your own.

Passion For Italy
For 80 years, Globus family of brands has been providing a variety of products that address the needs of today’s diverse traveller. Whether it’s a fully escorted, premium, independent, or river cruise vacation, with Globus family of brands you will get unmatched value and world-class customer service with every journey.

ITALY
AMAZING VALUE!

ITALIAN EXPRESSO : 9 DAYS
Walk in the footsteps of the Roman Emperors and follow the tradition by throwing 3 coins in the Trevi fountain. Enjoy Renaissance Florence and it’s traditional Tuscan hospitality, art and architecture. Enjoy walking the tiny streets and shopping for Italian designer fashion in the floating city of Venice.
starting at $1195

SIMPLY ITALY : 13 DAYS
Discover the big cities and some of the less famous destinations in this fabulous country. Stay in La Spezia in the Cinque Terre region and Milan, Italy’s fashion capital! You’ll also visit the picturesque village of Sirmione at Lake Garda, stop in Bologna, the home of spaghetti bolognese, and re-enact the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet in fair Verona where the story was set.
starting at $1765
November 1 - December 14 is a popular time to travel. This is the most expensive shoulder period in the year.

MAJOR ITALIAN AIRPORTS

Rome
Fiumicino (FCO) Leonardo da Vinci
www.adr.it
Ciampino (CIA) www.adr.it

Bologna (BLQ)
Guglielmo Marconi www.bologna-airport.it

Florence (FLR)
AmiAgo Vaspucchi www.aeroporti.it

Genoa (GOA)
Cristoforo Colombo – Sestri www.airport.genova.it

Milan
Malpensa (MXP) www.sea-aeropordimilano.it
Linate (LIN) www.sea-aeropordimilano.it

Bergamo (BOY)
Milano Oro al Serio www.sscbo.it

Naples (NAP)
Capodichino www.gesac.it

Pisa (PSA)
Galileo Galilei www.pisa-airport.com

Palermo (PMO)
Punta Raisi www.aeroporto.palermo.it

Turin (TRN)
Citta di Torino www.aeroportitorino.it

Venice (VCE)
Marco Polo www.veniceairport.it

DUTY FREE

The following goods may be imported into Italy without incurring customs duty by passengers over 17 years of age arriving from countries outside the EU:

• 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100 cigarillos or 250g of tobacco
• 2 liters of wine and 1 of spirits (over 22 per cent)
• 50% of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette
• 500g of coffee or 40g of tea extract
• Gifts not exceeding €200.00 (if entering from a non-EU country)

TRAVEL WITHIN ITALY

Air
Domestic airlines connect all country’s airports as well as some European cities. Among them:
Merdiana www.merdiana.it
Air Dolomiti www.airdolomiti.it
Air One - Alitalia www.flyalitalia.com
www.altalia.com

Ferries
Regular boat and hydrofoil services run to most of the islands, including Capri, Elba, Giglio, Sardinia, Sicily and the Aeolian Islands. There are also some links along the coast. Ferry service from main ports connects most of the ports of the Mediterranean countries, included Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Malta, and the island of Corisca. www.ferriesonline.com

Rail
There are nearly 16,000km (9,400 miles) of track in the country. The Italian State Railroad, Trenitalia, runs a nationwide network at very reasonable fares, calculated on the distance traveled, and there are a number of excellent reductions. A new rail pass, the Trenitalia Pass, is the only pass available to people resident outside of Italy (it supersedes the old Italy Flexicard, Railcard and Kilometrico ticket). This allows from 4 to 10 days of unlimited travel within a two-month period. Any train in Italy can be used, although a small supplement is payable on Eurostar Italia services. The pass also entitles the holder to discounts on some Italy-Greece ferry routes, hotels and other special offers. Both first- and second-class passes are available. Children aged from four to 11 pay half the adult fare, and there is a reduced-rate Youth Pass for travelers aged under 26. Please note that once you purchase your train ticket you must validate it at the yellow box at the beginning of the train tracks, otherwise it will be invalid. For further information, www.ferroviedellostato.it

Road
The highway (AUTOstrada, symbolized by AA) has tolls and charge according to distances and size of the motor vehicle. Some stretches, the Salerno-Ragigio, Calabria, Palearo-Catania and Palearo-Mazara Del Vallo, are toll-free. Gas stations along the highways are open 24/7. State roads (SS) are also very good and require no tolls.

The road signs are usually international. Italian highways do accept credit cards: pick the lane that reads Via Card and any major credit card will be accepted by the machine.

Traffic Regulations
Traffic drives on the right. Italy recognises driving licenses and other traffic documents that are valid in other countries. Canadian driving licenses are valid in Italy but the license must be accompanied by a translation or description and the nearest Automobile Club of Italy (ACI) office will be notified of the arrival of the vehicle. The photo is automatically sent back to a computer at the local Municipal Police and if the license plate is not registered a violation ticket is generated and sent to the owner of the vehicle.

The limited traffic areas are clearly indicated with a sign marked with a white circle with red border, stating the hours in which the area is restricted.

Please Note: Due to the law and the authority that is held by the local Municipal Police, the Italian Government Tourist Board cannot act as an intermediary in settling disputes over traffic violations.

Road service:
In case of vehicle breakdown, dial 116 at the nearest telephone and tell the operator your location and car description and the nearest Automobile Club of Italy (ACI) office will be notified for immediate assistance.
TRANSPORT

Travel Times
The following chart gives approximate travel times (hour minutes) from Rome to other major cities in Italy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From Rome to</th>
<th>AIR</th>
<th>ROAD</th>
<th>RAIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
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<td>Milan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.60</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>14.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MONEY MATTERS

Single European currency (Euro)

The Euro is the official currency. The first Euro coins and notes were introduced in January 2002; the Italian lira was still in circulation until 28 February 2002, when it was completely replaced by the Euro. 1 Euro = 1.65 £/CAD approximately. Do check before traveling www.xe.com

Currency restrictions

Check with the embassy before departure. Import and export of both local and foreign currency is limited to Euro 12,500. If it is intended to import or export amounts greater than this, the amount should be declared and validated in Italy on form V2.

Banking hours

These vary from city to city but, in general, Mon-Fri 8:30am-1:30pm and 3:00pm-4:00pm, Sat 8:30am-1:00pm, although many banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

ATM card

Using your ATM card is the easiest and most convenient way to get cash when needed. Just make sure that your card has logos on the back reading NYSE - MAESTRO and PLUS or CIRRUS, and that your pin code is numeric only. Check with your bank for restrictions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones

Full IDD (International Direct Dial) service is available.

- Italy country code is 39, so from Canada, dial 011 39 followed by 06 for Rome, 02 for Milan, 011 for Turin, 081 for Naples, 041 for Venice and 055 for Florence), drop the 0 if calling an Italian cellular number.

- Outgoing international code: 001, Canada city area code and telephone number.

Telephone booths now only accept phone cards, which can be purchased at post offices, tobacco shops and certain newstands and are available for 5, 10 and 20 euros.

Mobile Telephones


- Mobile phones now only accept phone cards, which can be purchased at post offices, tobacco shops and certain newstands and are available for 5, 10 and 20 euros.

If you are traveling to Italy and want to use your cell phone, you most likely won’t be able to do so. Unless you have a GSM tri-band phone, you will need to make special arrangements with your cellular carrier. Another alternative is to rent a cell phone. In fact, most tour operators from our list will be happy to arrange this.

Internet

Internet corner booths operated by Telecom Italia are available for public access and can be found at airports, major hotels and in other public places. Many Internet cafes are scattered throughout all main towns. Wireless connection for laptops are available at the Rome www.cdr.it and Milan airports. www.seaairportmilano.it

Post Offices

Letters between Italy and other countries usually take 4 to 7 days to arrive. Stamps are sold in post offices and tobacco shops.

Hours vary but usually are as follows: Mon-Fri 8:00/8:30am-1:00/1:30pm 2:00/2 3:00pm-5:30/6:30pm Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm.

ELECTRICITY

In Italy the current is 220 volts, compared to the North America 110 volts. If you plan on using your own 110volts appliances, you will need a voltage converter, unless your appliance is designed to also work with 220 volts electricity (dual voltage). For example, most laptops and some electric shavers are designed to work both at 110 and 220 volts. Plugging in an appliance that is not designed to run on 220 volts electricity without using voltage converter will damage it. Regardless of voltage, you will need an adapter.

USEFUL INFORMATION

ENIT - Agenzia Nazionale del Turismo

[Italian Government Tourist Board]

www.enit.it

USEFUL INFORMATION

ENIT - Agenzia Nazionale del Turismo

[Italian Government Tourist Board]

Useful information can be obtained from:

KEA

Via Marghera 2, 00185 Roma - Italy

Tel: 06 49711

Fax: 06 446 3379

www.enit.it

Italian Government Tourist Board (ENIT)

175 Bloor Street East - South Tower Suite 907

Toronto (Ontario) M4W 3R8, CANADA

Tel: 416 925-4882

Fax: 416 925-4799

enitoitaliaturismo.com www.italiaturismo.com

Italian Embassy

275 Slater St, 21st Floor

Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5H9

Tel: 613 232-2401

Fax: 613 233-1485

mbambacchi.ottawa@esteri.it www.ambottawa.esteri.it

Italian General Consulate

126 Beverley St

Toronto (Ontario) M5T 1Y5

Tel: 416 977-1566

Fax: 416 977-1119

consolato.toronto@esteri.it www.constoronto.esteri.it

Italian General Consulate

3489 Drummond St

Montreal (Quebec) H3G 1X6

Tel: 514 849-8251

Fax: 514 499-9471

consolato.montreal@esteri.it www.consmontreal.esteri.it

Italian General Consulate

1100 - 510 West Hastings Street

Vancouver (British Columbia) V6B 1L8

Tel: 604 684-7288

Fax: 604 685-4263

consolato.vancouver@esteri.it www.consvancouver.esteri.it

Canadian Embassy

Via Zara 30

00198 Roma - Italy

Tel: (+39) 06 85444.2911 (recorded information only)

Fax: (+39) 06 85444.2912