Fulfill the Dream

Italy
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Why Italy Loves You

Dear Friends,

Italy has long been fascinated with America. The Americans gave us a reason to dream of new horizons and better opportunities. America captured our hearts and imagination and gave us a chance to envision a broader and more fruitful future. As a people, we were attracted to your optimism, your sense of self-accomplishment and your freedom — but, more significantly, we were attracted to your smiles.

We still are. Americans 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 the magnificent Roman Forum, those epic gateways to the past.

Through your enthusiasm and curiosity we feel compelled to welcome, understand and befriend 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 fulfill your dream!

Riccardo Strano
Director - The Italian Government Tourist Board North America

The Mark of Quality and Reliability

Offering peerless experience, dedication and knowledge, Italian Travel Promotion Council ITPC member companies represent the top echelon of U.S. Tour Operators promoting Italy as a destination. When planning a vacation to Italy, consulting an ITPC professional can turn an ordinary trip into the vacation of a lifetime.

ITPC 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. ITPC 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 throughout the United States. Whether traveling on a budget or the sky’s the limit, ITPC 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 whet your appetite for Italy, then call, visit or click on a member company for additional information. You will find a directory of ITPC members towards the back of this publication. As always, the ITPC is committed to giving you, the American traveler, the best possible travel experience to Italy.

Sincerely,

Mauro Galli
ITPC Chairman
WHICH IS YOUR ITALY?

Italy’s love affair with the American traveler is one of the longest, most satisfying relationships between two civilizations. Italy appeals to the heart and soul of every American traveler, whether young or old, traveling alone or with a group, on a budget or seeking luxury. Which is why, year after year, Italy ranks as the most requested foreign destination by all Americans.

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.

Italy offers Singles an opportunity to travel simply and comfortably. The Italians are a warm, welcoming people. You’ll find yourself making new friends with other travelers and locals on daily sightseeing tours, while shopping, and especially at the nightclubs, cafes and restaurants. Hosted Tours or customized trips, known as FITs, are an ideal way for singles to begin their lifelong affair with Italy.

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, sipping coffee at sidewalk cafes 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. Exorted 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: Bernini’s columns 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, hiking 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 cafes, 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, hiking, sailing, sports, opera, concerts, shopping, cooking, religion, art, archeology and gourmet food and wine. ITPC 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, America’s top travel providers to Italy (see list, starting on page 43), are here to help you make the most of your trip – and save you time and money. Buon Viaggio!
ITALIANS WHO CHANGED OUR WORLD

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

Donatello
Considered the founder of modern sculpture, Donato di Bartolo 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 Statue Chapel in the Vatican Museum, the Pieta and The Last Judgement.

Andrea Palladio
One of history’s most influential architects, born in Padova in 1508. Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello home was based on Palladio’s pioneering designs. The Veneto region features numerous Palladian villas.

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.

Caravaggio
Born Michelangelo Merisi in Caravaggio, east of Milan, in 1571, his baroque style explored the balance between light and dark, portraying still life in astonishingly realistic form - as shown in Basket of Fruit, The Musicians and The Legend of the True Cross adorning the choir of San Francis in Arezzo. Overlooked for his major work is a series of frescos entitled The School of Athens adornning the walls of the Vatican.

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.

Raphael
Raffaello Sanzio was born in Urbino in 1483. His superb use of perspective, realism and animation is exemplified by the School of Athens adorning the walls of the Vatican.

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

Christopher Columbus
Born in Genova in 1451, his home still stands today. Columbus guided his three-veased 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.

Donato Polo
Born in Venice in 1554. Marco Polo’s 24-year odyssey through Asia opened up the Orient to Europe. He traveled the ancient Silk Route, was a guest at the court of the emperor Kublai Khan, and his accounts became the greatest exotic travelogues of their day.

Galileo Galilei
Born in Pisa in 1564, he was 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.

Niccolo Machiavelli
Born in Borgo San Sepolcro, Tuscany in 1469. Machiavelli was a political philosopher, a historian, writer, statesman and diplomat. His book, “The Prince,” is a guide to acquiring, maintaining and deploying political power; its controversial ideas are still taught and studied today.

St. Francis of Assisi
Born in Rome in 1553. Artemisia was the daughter of artist Orazio Gentileschi. Recognized as the first woman artist in a male-dominated world of post-Renaissance art, her works are to be found in Rome and in Florence’s Uffizi Gallery.

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THE ART OF THE CITY

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 filled the sky and revel in the riches of the city’s museums. Priceless works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo and Da Vinci fill the halls of the Uffizi Gallery. Priceless works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo and Da Vinci fill the halls of the Uffizi Gallery.

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 showcases Venetian art and the frescoed ceilings of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. From Bernini to Bramante, Raphael and Caravaggio, marvel at the masterpieces that filled the sky and revel in the riches of the city’s museums. Priceless works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo and Da Vinci fill the halls of the Uffizi Gallery.

BOLOGNA
This enchanting medieval city in the heart of the Emilia-Romagna region is peppered with red-brick 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.

FLORENCE
Built by the Romans and immortalized by the Renaissance, Florence affords an unforgettable voyage through timeless art and architecture. Savor the contrast between the Boboli Garden’s green, groomed perfection, Brunelleschi’s bold, red-tiled Duomo and Giotto’s 14th-century Campanile in red, white and green marble. Gothic and Romanesque facades join for attention on the churches of Santa Croce and Santa Maria Novella. Priceless works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo and Da Vinci fill the halls of the Uffizi Gallery. Within the Brancacci Chapel Masaccio’s Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden, their shame and despair palpable. Meanwhile, on the Ponte Vecchio, the latest generation of craftsmen fashion unique art one can wear. It’s as if the Renaissance never ceased; Florence’s enlightenment continues to enchant the world.

NAPELS
In the 17th century Naples reigned as the undisputed cultural capital of Europe. Indeed, over 40% of Italy’s works of art still reside here. 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 Angiorno 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 lustreous 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 artsy also finds expression in its theaters: at The Teatro Massimo and the Teatro Politeama Garibaldi, concerts and ballet have been performed for centuries.
ITALY’S MUSEUMS

FLORENCE

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

Bargello Museum
Formerly a town hall and prison, this houses 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
Features works, carvings and tools by Donatello, Brunelleschi and Luca della Robbia, plus a section dedicated to the history of the Duomo.

Museum of the History of Science
One of the world’s leading museums of Classical art housing many antiquities. It has five branches: Palazzo Alfieri, the Baths of Diocletian, the Aula Ottagona, the Crypta Balbi and the Palazzo Massimo.

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

ROME

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

The Palatine
One of the city’s premier ancient sites of Rome, displaying ruins ranging 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 their many paintings, essentially founding the national art collection.

Museo Nazionale
One of the world’s leading museums of Classical art housing many antiquities. It has five branches: Palazzo Altemps, the Baths of Diocletian, the Aula Ottagona, the Crypta Balbi and the Palazzo Massimo.

Uffizi Gallery
Features, carvings and tools by Donatello, Michelangelo, Michaeuelli and Galileo. Alongside is the Pazzi Chapel designed by Brunelleschi.

Museo dell’Opera del Duomo
Built inside the church of Santa Maria del Carmine, famous for the frescoes on the Life of St. Peter started by Masolino and his pupil Masaccio, and completed by Filippino Lippi.

Santa Croce
A Gothic church containing the tombs of famous Florentines, such as Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Alongside is the Pazzi Chapel designed by Brunelleschi.

NAPLES

Palazzo Reale di Capodimonte
This museum holds the works of Raphael, Perugino, Titian and Botticelli.

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.

Fondazione Museum
Built within the Renaissance Palazzo Cuino this museum offers collections of porcellain, 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.

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

Roman Forum
The central area around which the commerce of ancient Rome developed in the 2nd century BC. Its vivid remains demonstrate the use of municipal places during the era.

The Pantheon
Completed in 127 BC this circular temple, dedicated to “all the gods,” is Rome’s most well-preserved ancient building.

The Colosseum
Rome’s greatest amphitheatre, capable of seating 55,000 spectators. It was used for deadly gladiatorial combats and ferocious animal fights staged by the emperors and wealthy citizens.

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 Seyler, Meli and Morello.

Armeria Reale
A wing of the Palazzo Reale, opened in 1857 containing one of the richest collections of arms and armour.

Malpensaiana
One of Turin’s foremost symbols of architecture, it now houses the National Museum of Cinema.

Museo Egizio
The Egyptian Museum of Turin was established in 1854, with antiquities from about 5000 BC to 330 AD.

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, gold-leaf Gothic façade.

Buchiè di San Marco
The most famous church in Venice, set in St. Mark’s Square, famous for its elaborate Byzantine exterior, façade mosaic and the four bronze horses that sit atop the entrance.

Museo Correr
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.

Pegge Guggenheim Collection
A small museum in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal, home of the art collection of the niece of Solomon R. Guggenheim.

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

A small museum in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal, home of the art collection of the niece of Solomon R. Guggenheim.

Venice

Murano
One of the largest auto museums in the world and the only one of its kind in Italy, this stylistically modern building houses a collection of 170 cars.

Museo dell’Arte
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Perugia: along with Herculaneum, was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.
www.romepertinente.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.

Agrigento & the Valley of the Temples are majestic Greek structures, dating back to the 5th and 6th centuries BC, and one of UNESCO’s World Heritage sites.

Cerveteri is a vast Etruscan necropolis in Lazio; this spectacular network of monumental tombs, shadowy crypts and burial mounds dates back to the 7th century BC.

Ostia Antica, with its colorful frescoes and detailed mosaics, show how life once was in this thriving port on the Tiber river.

The Matera Sassi is an intricate labyrinth of ancient rock dwellings in the Gravina of Matera, comprising alleys and stairways, caves, arches, galleries, gardens and terraces.

Nuraghi, these extraordinary Bronze Age towers of stone, spiraling upward into cones, number over 7,000 and span the island of Sardinia. How they were actually built and maneuvered into place remains a mystery. The nuraghi group Su Nuraxi, near Barumini, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its complex network of towers linked to walls and ramparts were probably used as dwellings, fortresses, tombs and meeting places for ancient peoples.

REMAINS TO BE SEEN

Pompeii, along with Herculaneum, was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.
www.romepertinente.org

Il 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.

Teatro alla Scala
Perhaps the definitive opera house, opened in 1778, the theatre also houses the Museo Teatrale, featuring a remarkable array of opera costumes, paintings, scripts, statues and other materials.

Santa Maria delle Grazie
Built between 1465 and 1482, this Renaissance church is famous for the mural depicting the Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci.

PERFORMING ARTS

Noahere 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.

CONCERT HALLS & THEATERS

Anfiteatro Romano (Catania)
A 2nd century Roman amphitheater carved out of the quarry rock, complete with underground cages attesting to its gladiatorial history. www.teatroteatrobudinghia.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 1753 and decorated with paintings by Luigi Bisi and Luigi Sommogia from the mid-19th century, this theater reopened in 1981. www.comunalebologna.it

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

Teatro Regio (Parma)
A 19th century opera house, built in 1821-23, this neo-classical building is considered one of the most important and famous shrines of Italian music. www.teatroregioparma.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)
This glorious venue was built to pay homage to composer Vincenzo Bellini. www.teatromassimobellini.it

Teatro Dell’Opera (Venice)
Also known as Teatro La Fenice. www.teatrolefenice.it

Teatro Dell’Opera (Rome)
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.teatroallascala.org

Teatro Dell’Opera (Rome)
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 1937, after almost 20 years of disuse. www.teatromassimobellini.it

Teatro Dell’Opera (Rome)
Established in 1854, this theater has undergone three separate restorations over the past 50 years, while retaining its classical Italian structure. www.teatrondelfenice.it

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

The Museum of Contemporary Art (CIMAC)
Established in the mid-19th century, this theater reopened in 1981.

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**MUSIC FESTIVALS**

**March**

**Ravello Classical Music Festival**
One of the oldest Italian festivals, this conceptualized the idea of the “cultural event” and gave Ravello its reputation as a “Città della musica.”
www.ro.amalficoast.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.sanremomarina.it

**April**

**Festival della Valle d’Itria**
An annual opera and classical music festival held in the town of Martina Franca in Puglia, specializing in reviving unknown works, with supporting talks, recitals and oratorios.
www.festivallavalleditria.it

**Hemmen Jammin’ Festival**
Imola is the setting for this three-day rock, pop and hip-hop festival, which provides a huge camping area for visitors.
www.hemmen.it

**Macerata Opera Festival**
One of the world’s most famous opera seasons, held in the Sferisterio, an old ball game court.
www.macerataopera.org

**August**

**Baroque Music Festival**
Held in various churches and palaces in the historic city of Bari, where the popes once resided, these concerts encompass classical, symphony and chamber music.
www.baroquefestival.it

**Rossini Opera Festival**
Inspired by fresh editions of Rossini’s works, this festival of operas and concerts is beautifully set in Pesaro, on the Adriatic coast.
www.rossinifestival.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.sanremomarina.it

**Ravenna Festival**
This major event, held in Reggio, Calabria, is known for its cutting-edge crossover artistic performances, and experimental theater shows, all in an acoustically splendid arena within the natural rock landscape.
www.ravennafestival.org

**Settimana Musicale**
Held in various churches and palaces in the historic city of Bari, where the popes once resided, these concerts encompass classical, symphony and chamber music.
www.settimanamusicale.net

**Stresa Musical Weeks**
Magical music on picturesque Lake Maggiore, where the “Settimane Musicali” presents the world’s leading performers, major symphony orchestras and chamber musicians.
www.stresamusicalweeks.com

**September**

**MVT Day**
Bologna, home of Europe’s oldest university and Italy’s youngest crowd, hosts this popular youth event in a spectacular grassed arena.
www.mvt.it

**Roma Europa Festival**
This exciting event brings together music, dance, theater and visual arts with performances by over 300 artists from 20 countries in various locations throughout the city.
www.romaeuropa.net

**Torna September Music**
Piedmont’s famous classical music festival concentrates on the core of the classical repertory, avant-garde, jazz, and world music, all at the Teatro Regio.
www.teatroregio torino.it & www.comune torino.it/setsembramusica

**October**

**Festival Pucciniano**
This Puccini Festival in Pisa began in 1930 according to Puccini’s own documented wishes: “…once I would like to come here and listen to one of my operas in the open air…”

**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.sanremomarina.it

**Torino September Music**
Piedmont’s famous classical music festival concentrates on the core of the classical repertory, avant-garde, jazz, and world music, all at the Teatro Regio.
www.teatroregio torino.it & www.comune torino.it/setsembramusica
CINEMA
SCREENING ITALY

Films Set in Italy

Adele's Kiss

Amarcord, 1974

Amore Coast

The Talented Mr. Ripley, 1999

Only You, 1994

Milan

The Bicycle Thief, 1948

Panetta

Caro Diario (Dear Diary), 1994

La Dolce Vita, 1960

Roman Holiday, 1953

Sicily

Cinema Paradiso, 1988

The Godfather I and II, 1972 and 1974

Il Postino (The Postman), 1994

Tuscany

La Vita e’ Bellissima, 1997

Stapecr Beauty, 1990

Under the Tuscan Sun, 2003

Venice

Pane & Tulipani (Bread and Tulips), 2001

The Italian Job, 2003

FILMS SET IN ITALY

ARENA DI VERONA

The Arena of Verona was built over 2,000 years ago as an open-air amphitheatre, where Romans could enjoy games, celebrations and fights. In 1913 it was converted into a venue for theatrical performances, staging the Aida to celebrate Giuseppe Verdi's birthday centennial. It remains one of the largest and most well-preserved examples of Roman architecture.

MADE IN ITALY

Italian food is an extraordinary feast for the senses. Ranging from simple to hearty, sweet to spicy, subtle 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.

“La experiencia de esta dolce vita.”

DANTE ALIGHIERI

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

MANGIA! MANGIA!

“Pece 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.

Prima colazione - breakfast, the first meal of the day.

Pranzo - lunch, the midday meal from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, when activity stops.

Merenda - an afternoon snack.

Cena - dinner, usually eaten late, between 8pm and 10pm.

TIPS ON TIPPING

A correct 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 conserve (side dish) of vegetables or salad.

Dolce - Dessert or fruit and cheese, followed by coffee or a digestivo such as grappa.

MAKE A MEAL OF IT, ITALIAN STYLE

Italy’s cities, villages, countryside and coastlines comprise the most beautiful, natural mosaic set on earth. Tread the cobblestones of Rome where Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck rode on a scooter. Experience Tuscany’s rolling hills where Diane Lane found solace. Lose yourself in the landscape of Mastroianni, La Loren, Fellini, Bertolucci, Cardinale, Pacolini and Antonioni. Indulge in some of the country’s finest film festivals. And take time to visit some of the following shining examples of Italy on celluloid.

FESTIVALS

Venice Film Festival

Inaugurated in 1932, the oldest film festival in the world is a prestigious part of the Biennale of Venice, and takes place in late August, early September.

www.venicebiennale.org

Torrina 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.torrinafilmfestival.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.ritfest.org
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 grinds, giving a weaker taste, but still stronger than normal coffee.

Bistretto (restricted) – Less water, yielding a stronger taste.

Doppio (double) – Simply two espressos in one cup.

In Italy, baristas who serve coffee by serving a lungo when a doppio is ordered are frowned upon.

Corretto (corrected) – With a dash of liquor.

Affogato – Served over ice-cream.

Tips: When ordering a coffee in a bar, pay at the cash register first, then take the receipt to the barista (bartender), who will then make your brew.

THE COOL OF GELATO

Gelato (ice cream) is the true taste of an Italian summer. Here’s the scoop on the terms you need to learn before you lick.

Cone – cone

Coppa – cup

Con panna – with whipped cream on top

Gelatiera – ice cream parlour

Granita – shaved ice with assorted fruit juices and sugar

Tips: Pay first at the cash (cash register), then present your receipt when you order.

THE PLEASURE OF FOOD SHOPPING

Although there are many supermarket chains like COOP and Esselunga, shopping for food in the specialty shops makes for a richer, more interesting experience.

d’Orino or Formano – bread shop

il macello – for meat

la norcineria – for pork

una pasticceria – cakes, pastries and cookies

una Latteria – for milk

alimentari – pasta, ham, cheese, general food

enoteca/vinaria – wide selection of wine

WINE - ITALY’S GLORY IN A GLASS

Home to an astounding 2,000 home-grown grape varieties, Italy produces and exports more wine than any other country, also offering the largest variety of categories.

To guide consumers and ensure quality control, the Denominazione di Origine Controllata or DOC (Controlled Denomination of Origin) was introduced in the early 60s. Responsible for a significant enhancement in the quality of Italian wines, this regulation bears a little explanation to assist your discovery of one of Italy’s true treasures.

DOC wines are produced in specific well-defined regions, according to precise rules designed to preserve the traditional wine-making practices. For example, the rules for making Barolo differ markedly from that of Chianti Classico.

In 1980, however, Italian authorities established a superior classification of DOC wines: DOCG (Controlled and Guaranteed Denomination of Origin). DOCG wines spring from the wine regions recognized as the finest in the country. They produce less yield, but with superior quality. DOCG wines must pass a tasting committee before they can be bottled.

The nine DOCG regions are: Barbaresco, Barolo, Brunello di Montalcino, Chianti (in seven subzones), Gattinara, Carmignano (red only) and Torgiano.

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

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 sweetish with a peppery tone to it.

OLIVE OIL, OUR LIQUID GOLD

Olive oils 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.

Tips: How to buy

Buy olive oil in small quantities, since it ages and oxidizes. Check where the olive oil was bottled, and ensure that the color is green or a dark green. Look for the DOP label, a standard organization that defines the various grades of olive oils: this signifies improved quality.

The best place to buy olive oil is in frantoi in Italy, where olive pressing takes place. You can also find top quality oils on estates throughout Italy, from the farms, or from other specialty shops such as an enoteca where you buy wine as well.
SHOPPING

SAY HELLO TO SOME GOOD BUYS

Italian goods are renowned for their quality, design and style, with every town offering unique craftsmanship. From Milan’s designer fashion designs to Cosimo’s silk and Cremona’s violins, from the marble of Massa Carrara, Murano’s timeless Venetian glassware and the genius of Pidolmoff’s goldsmiths to Baveno’s mosaics and the ceramic beauties of Vietri sul Mare, Italy is a shopper’s and gift-giver’s wonderland where you always find more than you bargained for.

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 can vary from city to city, but are normally in January and July. Seasonal stock is marked down to clear and make way for new merchandise.

OPEN-AIR MARKETS

ROME

Porta Portese (every Sunday)

This enormous flea market specializes in clothing, shoes, music CDs, house and kitchen wares, outdoor gear, ceramics and handcrafts. Most sale dates are set by Navigli’s charming canals, the numerous stands contain new and used articles from the ethnic and humourous await the eager shopper at this engaging marketplace, located in the Vomero district.

BOLOGNA

La Pescheria (every Friday and Saturday)

Clothing, shoes and more are found at this labyrinthine shoppee’s paradise.

TURIN

Porta Palio (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 foodstuffs.

Arezzo

Piazza Grande (first weekend of each month)

This enormous flea market specializes in clothing, shoes, books, clothing and more all from a time gone by.

PALERMO

La Vucciria (daily)

A vibrant marketplace, located in the Vomero district. The savvy collector will love this market of antique furniture, books, clothing and more all from a time gone by.

FLORENCE

Piazza San Lorenzo (daily)

An energetic, memorable market offering the finest food, including freshly caught fish from local waters. Perfect for preparing picnic lunches.

MILAN FASHION WEEKS

These are core events on the couture calendar. In mid-March, the fall/winter collections are previewed. The spring/summer collections are unveiled in October.

COMPARATIVE-SIZE CHARTS

The size charts provide just a general guide, as brands and designers often have their own sizing. The charts below give an idea of how Italian sizing compares to American and UK sizing. To ensure the best fit, it’s recommended to try on clothes in person. Additionally, many stores have size charts and guides on their websites.

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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 often discount 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 near Bologna. The malls contain mostly contemporary and houseware brands with brands like Gervasi, Henry Lloyd and Guy Laroche.

Franciacorte Outlet Villene. Guests, Gianfranco Ferre and Ferretti’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 Saino near Brescia.

Ferrara Outlet offers an array of designer labels, with mall outlets in Bagno di San Vito in Mantova, Valmontone, south of Rome; and Molliseta, near Bari.

La Gallera Outlet Center Soritti is located near Bergamo, with over 50 shops featuring clothing and accessories for men, women, children, home furnishings and food courts.

McArthurGlen Designer Outlets has three locations, Serravalle Outlet near Alessandria, the Castello Romano near Rome, and Barberino di Mugello near Florence. The malls contain over 200 stores including clothing, footwear and accessories, all at significant savings.

:)
GREAT PURSUITS FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

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 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 Porto Cervo, Capei 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 Condulmer (Mogliano Veneto) are just two superb examples. www.federgolf.it

NATURAL THERAPY: ITALY’S SPAS

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, Frugi and Ischia. These are ideal holiday resorts in their own right, close to historical artworks and places of great beauty, featuring world-class accommodations. For a complete list visit www.federterme.it.

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.

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.millemiglia.it

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

SOPHIA LOREN

TERME DI SATURNIA
Maremma is one of Tuscany’s most evocative landscapes, southwest of Florence and home to the famous sulphuric thermal baths. For centuries people have luxuriated in these warm waters, hoping to heal the body and mind. Saturnia stands high up on a plateau in the Albegna valley, from where it dominates the magical tufa-dotted landscape inland from Grosseto. The centre contains a fine archaeological area and hot sulphur springs.
ITALY –
A LAND FOR ALL SEASONS

What to do in:

- Winter – skiing & snowboarding, Christmas and Carnevale
- Spring – hiking & biking, the art and culture trail
- Summer – beaches and boating, Alpine hiking, wine tasting
- Fall – Grape harvest, truffle hunting, olive picking

ITALY’S TEMPERATE CLIMATE

Italy’s weather is mild, thanks to the moderating influence of the seas and the Alps that protect her from north winds, but conditions vary considerably according to how far one is from these two elements. The winter is very cold in the Alps, rainy in the Po Plain and the central Apennines, mild and even warm on the Ligurian coast, the Neapolitan coast and in Sicily. The summer is hot and dry, but this is offset by coastal breezes, while in the Apennines and Alps it is pleasantly cool.

For last-minute forecasts log onto: www.eurometeo.com/english

LA 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, chocolates 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 Sun, with all the planets revolving around it, and depending on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else in the Universe to do.

Galileo Galilei

MAJOR CITIES: AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

| CITY         | JAN | FEB | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|--------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Amalfi       | 48  | 52  | 56    | 64    | 71  | 76   | 76   | 71  | 63  | 54  | 50  |     |
| Bari         | 48  | 48  | 52    | 56    | 65  | 71   | 75   | 70  | 63  | 55  | 50  |     |
| Bologna      | 35  | 39  | 48    | 56    | 68  | 71   | 75   | 75  | 70  | 63  | 57  | 58  |
| Bolzano      | 34  | 39  | 47    | 55    | 62  | 68   | 73   | 71  | 65  | 54  | 43  | 35  |
| Cagliari     | 50  | 51  | 53    | 57    | 65  | 71   | 76   | 72  | 72  | 65  | 57  | 52  |
| Capri        | 47  | 47  | 51    | 55    | 64  | 70   | 76   | 70  | 63  | 53  | 48  |     |
| Florence     | 45  | 44  | 48    | 55    | 62  | 69   | 73   | 73  | 68  | 59  | 50  | 42  |
| Genoa        | 48  | 48  | 53    | 56    | 63  | 69   | 75   | 76  | 71  | 65  | 56  | 49  |
| Milan        | 35  | 38  | 45    | 51    | 60  | 67   | 71   | 71  | 65  | 54  | 43  | 36  |
| Naples       | 48  | 52  | 59    | 64    | 71  | 76   | 76   | 76  | 71  | 63  | 54  | 50  |
| Palermo      | 55  | 55  | 57    | 60    | 66  | 73   | 79   | 80  | 76  | 70  | 60  | 58  |
| Perugia      | 40  | 42  | 47    | 54    | 61  | 68   | 73   | 73  | 68  | 58  | 49  | 44  |
| Reggio Calabria | 53  | 53  | 55    | 59    | 66  | 74   | 80   | 81  | 76  | 69  | 61  | 55  |
| Rome         | 47  | 48  | 55    | 59    | 63  | 69   | 75   | 75  | 71  | 64  | 55  | 49  |
| Taormina     | 54  | 54  | 56    | 60    | 67  | 74   | 80   | 81  | 76  | 69  | 62  | 57  |
| Turin        | 36  | 39  | 47    | 52    | 60  | 68   | 73   | 71  | 65  | 55  | 44  | 37  |
| Trieste      | 43  | 44  | 49    | 56    | 64  | 70   | 75   | 75  | 69  | 60  | 50  | 45  |
| Venice       | 35  | 39  | 44    | 53    | 60  | 68   | 73   | 71  | 64  | 55  | 44  | 37  |
LAND OF DISCOVERY
ITALY BY THE REGION

and some special places of ITCP interest
“REGIONS OF THE NORTH

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.

ASTI VALLEY

This is the most mountainous region of Italy, dominated by Alpine peaks, glaciers, valley streams, pine forests and high pasturage lands, and accessed by the tunnels at the historic passes of Monte Bianco and Gran San Bernardo. The capital, Asti, 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 town of the Asta Valley.

Temptations
- Valle d’Aosta Muller Thorug (DOC), white
- Valle d’Aosta Torrette Superiore (DOC), red
- Chambave Passito (DOC), desert wine
- Genoese Alpes grappa
- Moretti beer

Tastes
- Fontina, a semi-soft, smooth whole milk cheese
- Renette apples and Martin Sec pears
- Chestnuts from the Lillanes municipality
- Beets and salat cucidata from Asta
- Bicerin is Turin’s signature blend of coffee, milk and chocolate

JUST FOR KIDS

Just For Kids

Gran Paradiso National Park, set in the Valley of Cogne, Valvasronche and Rhenose, is rich in chestnuts, oaks, white fir and locust-trees, as well as wildlife such as royal cals, woodpeckers, martens, partridges and the alpine finch.

RED LETTER DAYS

Red Letter Days

January 5/6: Feast of San Giovanni in Varese
June 23/24: Festival du Vien de Nus, Chambave, a seasonal fair featuring the mountaineer art of the alpine bow.
July 20/21: 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 Giostre delle Cento Torri, Asti, whereover 300 animals to observe, and in Pobia, the world’s largest Gothic cathedral.

PIEDMONT

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

Temptations
- Barolo (DOCG), red
- Barbaresco (DOCG), red
- Barbera (DOC), red
- Nebbiolo (DOC), red
- Dolcetto (DOC), red
- Anti Savigliano (DOCG) sparkling white

Tastes
- White truffles from Alba
- Risotto with rice from Vercelli, a dish made with beef stock, veil bone marrow and saffron
- Castelmagno cheese is a cylindrical pressed, semi-fat semi-hard cheese tinged with blue mold.
- Bicerin is Turin’s signature blend of coffee, milk and chocolate

ARTS & CRAFTS

- Vachquette from Alessandria
- Ceramics and stones from Castellamonte
- Silverware and jewelry from Valenza

JUST FOR KIDS

Just For Kids

Ski Park in Moncenisio, in the Langhe region, with a variety of 300 animals to observe, and in Polis, showcasing various endangered species.

RED LETTER DAYS

Red Letter Days

February 10 - 26, 2006 XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin hosted by Turin and the surrounding Alps.

LOMBARDY

Spreading over the Po Valley and bordered to the north by the Alps, this region is a veritable lake district, including eastern Maggiore, Varese, Lino, 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
- Barolino (DOC), red
- Lambroscu (DOC), red
- Valdecilla superiore (DOCG), red

Tastes
- Torrione from Cremona, a traditional sweet made of almonds, nougat and honey
- Risotto alla Milanese, sautéed rice cooked in broth and saffron
- Ossobucco, shank of veal with its bone and marrow
- Peraise Soup, a clear broth served with toasted bread and eggs
- Bresaola from Valdecilla, a cured thin-sliced meat

ARTS & CRAFTS

- Violin-making in Cremona, home to the world’s famous Stradivarius
- Legendary accordions from Stradella
- Pottery from Lodig, suppliers to many European noble houses
- Printing and dyeing silk in Como

JUST FOR KIDS

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

Red Letter Days

Year-round, last Sunday of every month, except July & August. Naviglio Grande Antiques Fair, one of Milan’s most charming venues is transformed into a bustling market.

December 7-9, Feast of San Siro, 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 premieres at La Scala.

Cantori Festival, Cogne, wherein the community’s chancellors offer each other wine and food, and sing until sunset.

I hope that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.”

MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI

(1475 - 1564)
TRENTO AND SOUTH TYROL
A dramatic Alpine province, rich in rivers and lakes, and clusters of mountains and valleys, situated by the Adige river. Three natural parks, Adamello-Brenta, Panasoggetto-Pale of S. Martino and Studioi conserve the native flora and fauna, including bears. S studding Germany and northern Italy, the capital Trento combines both diverse cultures to create a fascinating artistic aesthetic.

Temptations
- Caldaro (DOC), red
- Santa Maddalena (DOC), red
- Marzemino (DOC), red
- Teroldego Rotaliano (DOC), red
- Riesling (DOC), white
- Muller Thurgau (DOC), white
- Merlot (DOC), white
- Pinot Bianco (DOC), white
- Bianco Val d’Adige (DOG), white
- Moscato, amber desert wine

Tastes
- Speck, a smoked ham
- Bercilli, blood sausages filled with nuts, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon
- Gansenfleisch, Alpine chamois goat with red wine vinegar, salt pork, herbs and sour cream
- Oraetto, a barley soup with onion, garlic, vegetables and herbs simmered with speck

Arts & Crafts
- Wooden sculptures and masks from the Moena and Pozza are hand carved and hand painted, called facere
- Mosaic work from Spilimbergo
- Hand-crafted wooden chairs from Manzano
- Mural art from Spilimbergo
- Iota from Trieste, a traditional soup with beans, potatoes and sauerkraut

VENETO
Bordered by the eastern part of the Po Valley, this extensive plain comprise the majestic Dolomites of Cadore and the laguna zone, including Venice, the region’s agedly beautiful capital. Here, Byzantine influences abound, in San Marco’s and the Cathedral of Torcello. Venice, is the world’s third largest Roman amphitheater hosts its annual opera season.

Temptations
- Recioto di Soave (DOCG), a golden, fruity white wine
- Bardolino (DOCG), red
- Prosecco di Valdobbiadene (DOC), sparkling white
- Torai (DOC), white
- Amarcord della Valpolicella - (DOCG) dry, light, refreshing red

Tastes
- Pandoro, a Christmas bread cooked in butter, sprinkled with fine white sugar
- Prosecco, a light champagne
- Carnevale Asburgico (Hapsburg’s Anniversary, Arco, began in 1876 to unite the population with their imperial rulers, the Hapsburgs. On the Friday, the mayor to the duomo for the celebration of the Mass. In June 25-6 “Arca di Fato”, San Daniele, a San Daniele promotional event, with tastings, music shows and exhibitions. In September, 2nd Sunday Provincial Grape Festival, Cornova, offers samplings of the area’s finest wines and typical dishes, with a market, an allegorical parade, folk groups and bands.
- Tiramisu, coffee-flavored cream of mascarpone and egg layered with ladyfingers and topped with bitter chocolate

Arts & Crafts
- Murano glass, uniquely hand-blown, fused and tinted
- Burano masks, made with paper-mâché and hand painted

Just For Kids
- Gradaled, 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.
- Festa di San'Antonio, Visit the Clifftop Castles, including a toddler’s play area and a solarium for adults.
- Christmas in Belluno with floats.
- Authentic Tyrolean costume. Christmas in Belluno with floats.
- His Royal Highness the Duke of Burgundy, celebrates lots of fireworks!
- Epiphany of the Thaler, a spectacular sailing event, open to large yachts and thousands of smaller boats, creating a regatta where famous champions and Sunday sailors compete together.

Just For Kids
- Kids Fun Park in the Alta Badia is a winter wonderland, including a toddler’s play area and a solarium for adults.
- Merry Christmas, Gondola Day, a Toddler’s Day. 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.
VENETO (cont’d from pg 31)

Red Letter Days
July, third Sunday Feast of the Redeemer, Venice. Holy Mass is held followed by a religious procession and fireworks. The 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 Motociclo Reggia, Venice, a procession of 20th-century style bikes, with the famous Buicinotto, the boat representing the Scerenissima, at its head. Followed by a racing competition.

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

December, second Sunday Festa del Radicchio, Treviso, honors the uniquely long-shaped radicchi in the Piazza

Red Letter Days
July, every weekend Sagra del Muscolo (Conea) held on Portovenere’s seawall is the Feast of the Mussels organized to help fund Cadimare’s rowing team during the regatta Palio del Golfo in La Spezia. Renowned for delicious mussel–based dishes, dances and other entertainment.

May and July Regata delle Antiche Repubbliche Marinare: this rotating yearly celebration comes to Genoa (the other venues are Amalfi, Pisa and Venice), beginning with a historical costume parade and starring a 2,000-meter boat race.

May, second 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.

Just For Kids
Mirabilandia is an amusement park in Savio with 36 rides, 12 waterfalls, ice skaters, fireworks, acrobatic parrots, stuntmen, flowers and gardens, plus a small town, “Bimbopoli” for very little ones.

LIGURIA
Centered around the Gulf of Genoa on the Tyrrhenian 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 Ventemiglia), 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
• Sciachtera (DOC), white
• Pigato (DOC), white
• Vermentino (DOC), white
• Rossese di Dolceacqua (DOCG), 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
• lace and embroidery from Portofino

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

ITALY’S CENTRAL REGIONS

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.

EMILIA ROMAGNA
Half mountain range (the Apennines), half coastal plain along the Adriatic Apennines, this region’s capital is Bologna, a famous university town. Historically, important Roman traces can be found in Rimini and Ravenna, once capital of the Western Roman Empire. Romanesque Lombardian style is showcased by the Cathedrals of Modena and Piacenza e Ferrara, while Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles are all well represented in the main towns.

Temptations
• Albana di Romagna (DOCG), white
• Sangiovese di Romagna (DOCG), red
• Trebbiano di Romagna (DOCG), sparkling white
• Lambrusco di Sorbara (DOCG), sparkling red and rose
• Castell’Arquato Nocino walnut liquor

Tastes
• Balsamic vinegar from Modena
• Parmigiano Reggiano cheese from Parma
• Tortellini Bolognese in Brodo, pasta filled with Mortadella, prosciutto and veal, in a meat broth

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 ambiance – which inspired de Chirico’s metaphysical paintings – studded 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 Polesine 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.

Just For Kids
• Clay pots from Montetiffi
• Graffito ceramics from Ferrara
• Clay pots from Montefiori
• Golden mosaics from Ravenna

Just For Kids
Amalfi, Pisa and Venice), beginning with a historical costume parade and starring a 2,000-meter boat race.

April 13-17 Pigalle, Rimini, sees hundreds of people compete on the beach for the “Ultimate Frisbee” World Cup.

May, last weekend Polo & Ferrari, Ferrara, is a dramatic horse race between the eight town districts around the oldest town square in Italy, complemented by a Historical Renaissance Parade.

August, last week Pala & 5 Ragioneri e delle Romagna-Tosca, Cerreto Terme, is another wonderful horse race, offset with Renaissance pomp, entertainment and decorations.

www.paliodiferrara.it

www.artefiera.bolognafiere.it

www.mirabilandia.com/index_en.htm

www.costituzione.com

www.paganello.com

www.artefiera.bolognafiere.it

www.mirabilandia.com/index_en.htm

www.paliodiferrara.it

www.costituzione.com

www.paganello.com

www.mirabilandia.com/index_en.htm

www.paliodiferrara.it

www.costituzione.com

www.paganello.com

Art & Crafts
• Ceramics from Faenza
• Graffito ceramics from Ferrara
• Clay pots from Montefiori
• Golden mosaics from Ravenna

Just For Kids
Mirabilandia is an amusement park in Savio with 36 rides, 12 waterfalls, ice skaters, fireworks, acrobatic parrots, stuntmen, flowers and gardens, plus a small town, “Bimbopoli” for very little ones.

Italy in Miniature in Rimini is the most famous miniature park in Italy, with rides, games, monuments and great food.

www.dilurominiature.com

Red Letter Day
January 27-30 “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

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

Temptations
- Bianco di Piombino (DOC), white
- Vernaccia di San gimignano (DOC), white
- Chianti (DOC & DOGC), red
- Brunello di Montalcino (DOC), red

Tastes
- Ribollita, a popular Florentine vegetable minestrone with black cabbage
- Buteca Fiorentina, a regionally unique T-bone steak
- Porcini, a wood pigeon cheese, from sheep’s milk in the Siennese hills

Arts & Crafts
- Ceramics and terracotta from an ancient tradition
dating back to the Etruscan era
- Jewelry from Florence and Arezzo
- Marble from Massa Carrara
- Il Toscano, a long, slim cigar with an intense, strong aroma
- Any leather goods, from jackets to handbags

Temptations
- Brodetto, a simple, tasty fish soup
- Fossa, cheese aged while buried in a pit, great with jam
- Fossa, cheese aged while buried in a pit, great with jam
- Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi (DOC), white
- Cerasuolo (DOC), red
- Montepulciano d’Abruzzo (DOC), red
- Torgiano Rosso Riserva (DOCG), red

Tastes
- Black truffles of Norcia, Cascia, and Spoleto, earthy, distinct and strong flavor
- Honey from Valdarno, a delicate, mixed flower fragrance and flavor
- Budellacini salami from Norcia, flavored with salt, pepper, and fennel seeds, dried fennel
- Porchetta, pork cooked on a spit over a wood fire, stuffed with minced liver, heart and lung, pepper, garlic, salt and wild fennel

Lacquered chestnut and papier-mâché puppets take place each February.

August 15 – August 25 Macerata Opera Festival, Macerata, one of the world’s most famous opera seasons held in the old arena called Sferisterio.

March
- Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence, is the city’s biggest art festival, including international music, drama and dance.
- www.maggiofirenze.com
- June 2 – Festa di Sant’Erasmo (Feast of St. Erasmo). Monte Argentario (Porto Ercole), see the town’s Spanish bridge in opposite directions.
- www.comune.jesu.it
- July 2 & August 15 Palio di Siena, perhaps Italy’s most famous and colorful horse race in the historic town square.
- www.ilpaliodisiena.com
- September 15 Luminara di Santa Croce (Illuminations of the Holy Cross), Lucera, is a centuries-old procession carried out on the eve of the recurrence of the Holy Cross through a city decorated with thousands of lights, from the Church of St. Frediano to the Cathedral of St. Marino.

UMBRIA
The “carea verde” (green heart) of Italy comprises an undulating landscape dominated by woods, valleys and water – most notably the lake known as the Trasimeno, and Falls of the Marmore, which are the highest in Italy. Etruscan traces are abundant in Todi, Bettona, Orvieto and Perugia, while Spoleto and Spello feature impressive Roman remains. Spoleto is a city, where the Romans left some impressive remains. Beautiful examples of Romanesque style are embodied in the Cathedrals of Assisi, St. Silvestro and St. Michele in Bevagna. The Renaissance still lives through magnificent monuments in towns like Perugia and Gubbio, to name but two.

Temptations
- Colla Perugina (DOC), red and white
- Torgiano Rosso Riserva (DOCG), red
- Sagrantino (DOCG), dry dessert wine

Tastes
- Fresh, cheese aged while buried in a pit, great with jam
- Brodetto, a simple, tasty fish soup
- Arrosto segreto, a fish dish, cooked on both sides at the same time
- Porchetta, a very flavorful dish of roast pig
- Fabriano Salame, very spicy cured beef from Fabriano

ABRUZZO
The region embraces the highest and busiest mountains of Central Italy, with peaks which are often 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.

Temptations
- Monopulciano d’Abruzzo (DOC), red
- Cerromola (DOC), rosé
- Trebbiano (DOC), white
- Centocelle, a liqueur from various aromatic plants

Tastes
- Saffron, the pride of the Navelli plains
- Purple-red garlic, exclusively from the fields of Sulmona
- Black lentils from Santo Stefano di Sessanio
- Maccheroni alla Chitarra, a handmade pasta cut in thin strips using a fine wireframe similar to the strings of a guitar
- Confetti, sugar-coated almonds, a traditional wedding treat from Sulmona
- Porcetto, a rich chocolate cake, a Christmas favorite

Near Siena is the Museon for Kids, to introduce children to the world of visual arts through labs, excursions, visits and arts and crafts.
- www.comune.siena.it
- Ab Gialotto Meto, near L’Aquila, an exciting theme park deep in the pine forest along the Tyrrhenian coast.
- www.casadelmondotetto.com

Red Letter Days

March 17, 18, 19. Festiva del Cioccolato, Florence, is a spectacular Easter celebration involving a cart with fireworks set up in Piazza Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiore, and the liberation of a dove of peace.
- www.comune.firenze.it

April 10 - June 30 Maggio Musica Firenze, Florence, is the city’s biggest arts festival, including international music, drama and dance.
- www.maggiofirenze.com

June 2 – Festa di Sant’Erasmo (Feast of St. Erasmo). Monte Argentario (Porto Ercole), see the town’s Spanish bridge in opposite directions.
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Festa del duca (Feast of the Duke), Norcia, has local and national food producers showing off their specialties, with frequent tastings of truffles, the cheese and lentils of Castelluccio and forest fruits.

May, last Sunday Pala della Barletta, Gubbio, consists of a medieval crossbow contest between the Societa Baleristri Eugubina and San Sepolcro.

October, first Sunday Pala dei Tarì, Trevi, boasts a contest between three districts and a historical, costumed procession, commemorating the reconstruction of the town destroyed in the 15th century.

MARCHE
A rugged region, facing the Adriatic Sea, with narrow valleys, deep gorges and numerous rushing streams that meet a coastline of gently rolling hills and flat plains. The regional capital is Ancona, and remarkable Roman remains exist in Ascoli, Fano, Ancona, Fermo, Urbino 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.

Temptations
- Verdichio dei Castelli di Jesi (DOCG), white
- Fossa Rosso (DOCG), rosé
- Moscato, a delicate, timeless dessert wine
- Arrosticini, a rich chocolate cake, a Christmas favorite

Just For Kids
- Gran Sasso & Monti della Laga National Park, in Casa del Parco di Arquata del Tronto.
- www.parcodigranssasso.it

Red Letter Days
July 15 – August 15 Macerata Opera Festival, Macerata, one of the world’s most famous opera seasons held in the old arena called Sferisterio.
- www.comune.mulino.com

August 1 - 7 Summer Jamboree Festival, Ancona, an eclectic musical festival with bands from all over the world.
- www<n>.comune.mulino.com
ARIZUZZO

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**Arts & Crafts**
- Lace from Scanno, artfully crocheted
- Blankets, rugs and tapestries from Taranta Peligna, with flowers, birds, vivid scenes artistically woven in gold and silver jewelry from Sulmona and L’Aquilla’s goldsmiths
- Iron and copper artifacts: gates, housewares from Guardiagrele, Manoppello and Pescocostanzo

**Just for Kids**
- The National Park of Abruzzo, the National Park of Gran Sasso–Laga, the Regional Parks of: Monte Cucco–Volsone–Monte Conero, numerous State Reserves and three World Wildlife Fund Oases, are all natural sanctuaries where stunning landscapes house recognizable and rare animals, extraordinary flowers and plants to enthrall a young traveler.

**Red Letter Days**
- May: First Thursday Procession of the Statue Gethsemani, Corciano
- July: First Sunday San Giovanni in Fiore
- September: First Sunday La Corsa degli Zingari (The Gypsies’ Race), Rocca Paia, has participants meeting on a crag of the Ardinghi hill facing the town. When the bell rings, the race route.

**LAZIO**

Bolling between the Apennines and the Tyrrhenian Sea, this varied region combines coastal flatlands, 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**
- Frascati (DOCG), white
- Montefiascone Est/Ent/Est! (DOCG), white
- Torre d’Albaro (DOCG), red
- Fiano (DOCG), red
- Colle Pecchioni (DOCG), red
- Vernaccia beer

**Tastes**
- Puntafreccia, spars resembling endives
- Bruschetta, homemade bread oven 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
- Bruschetta, homemade bread oven toasted and topped with garlic, tomatoes, olive paste
- Carciofi alla Giudea, artichokes deep-fried in olive oil and garlic, seasoned with mint
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REGIONS OF THE SOUTH

Blending sheer spectacle with a plethora of architectural remains, the south of Italy presents much to enchant today’s visitor. See the breathtaking Roman ruins preserved at Pompeii, the Greek influence and magnificent beaches of Sicily and the mystifying ancient structures in Sardinia called nuraghi. Admire the Romanesque and Baroque styings from Puglia to Campania. Bliss out on the Amalfi Coast or lose yourself in the forested landscape of Abruzzo and Molise, the rugged countryside and bustling fishing ports of Basilicata and Calabria.

**CAMPANIA**

This region is renowned for having one of Italy’s most beautiful coastlines, baked by irregular masses punctuated by valleys and plains. Among Campania’s riches are the sites 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 Herculaneum, Pompeii, Paestum and Cumae, where amphitheaters, triumphal arches, villas, bridges and tombs are plentiful. Baroque design is strikingly expressed in The Royal Palace of Caserta, and even Paleochrist Art is represented in Naples and Nocera, while relics of the Longobard Age can be found in Capua and Benevento.

**Temptations**
- Biancavilla ( DOCG), white
- Falerno del Massico ( DOCG), red & white
- Lacryma Christi ( DOCG), 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
- Zuppa di vongole e cozze, a savory clam and mussel soup flavored with tomatoes and spices
- Napoleon Fierà, crisp yet soft to the bite, inimitable
- Scaloppette, shell pastry filled with ricotta cheese, scallop-shaped and dotted with candied citrus peel

**Arts & Crafts**
- Ceramics from Vietri sul Mare, dazzling majolica earthware
- Handmade paper from Amalfi
- Coral cameos from Torre del Greco
- Leather sandals from Postiano, Capri or Palinuro, original designs or crafted to order

**Just for Kids**
- Vesuvio National Park, in San Sebastiano al Vesuvio (Naples) offers a “hands-on” sensory trail where kids can discover, touch, smell and observe the diverse colors and scents of the local plant life.

**Red Letter Days**
- Monthly, third Sunday except August Vittadini Antiquario, Naples, is held in the Villa Comunale gardens. In December it is open every weekend for the pre-holiday shopping season.

**Citta della Scienza**, Naples, commemorating the “miracle” of the liquefying of the saint’s blood, followed by eight days of other celebrations including processions and prayer.

**Edenlandia**, in Naples, is a theme park with a host of rides, live music and dance shows, 3-D theatre, games and more.

**Villa Comunale Antique**
- The Villa Comunale Aquarium in Naples is one of the oldest in Europe (1875) and houses many varieties of marine life.

**Red Letter Days**
- Monthly, third Sunday except August Vittadini Antiquario, Naples, is held in the Villa Comunale gardens. In December it is open every weekend for the pre-holiday shopping season.

www.vesuvipark.it

www.fieraantiquarianapoletana.it

www.vesuvipark.it

www.vesuvipark.it
MOLISE

Mount 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- and Neoclassical-influenced design can be seen in the civic palaces.

Temptations
- Biéremo (DOC), red, white & rosé
- Pento di Isernia (DOC), red, white & rosé

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

Arts & Crafts
- Engraved church bells of Agnone
- Lamezia (DOC), red
- Steel fretwork, such as firearms, knives, scissors from Campobasso
- Hand-carved pillow lace from Isernia

Just For Kids
The Association of Folklore and Culture in Vinchiaturo gives kids 5 years and up experience of the local traditions with local dances and songs.

Red Letter Days
May 19 & 20, 21, Festa di San Benedetto di Sessano, Vinchiaturo, celebrates the saint whose statue was found intact and undamaged after the 1805 earthquake, and who saved other citizens from harm.

Giochi Tradizionali “La Paga de Casce”
In this lively carnivale game, volunteers toss a hefty wheel of cheese along a tricky route in Vinchiaturo, full of inclines and descents, eventually to return back in front of the Castle of Vinchiaturo. The winner, positioning the cheese on a specified spot, yells out the crucial phrase, “A la ‘n ‘tuttu!” or “It’s all here!”

BASILICATA

An arid, 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. Remains of the Greek era can be found in Metaponto (the Palestrine Table), while ruins of the Roman Age can be seen in Venosa. Medieval art is featured in Venosa and Cerenza (Romanesque style), with Arab-Byzantine and French-influenced architecture in Melfi and Lagopesole and Matera – where visitors can also see the “Santu,” typical houses and churches literally dug into the “tufa” crag.

Temptation
- Aglianico del Vulture, red
- Moscato di Vulture, dessert wine

Tastes
- Dovedolichio, a chili pepper found in many local recipes
- Luganiga, a salt-cured meat kept in lard or olive oil
- Ciussidda, artichokes braised and stuffed with potatoes and stewed in tomatoes
- Pignata di Pecora, ewe cooked with potatoes, tomatoes, onions, pork and pecorino in a clay pot called pignata

Arts & Crafts
- Carpet woven from sheep’s wool
- Enamelled, patinated brass cowbells from Stigliano
- Hand-carved wood, in chestnut, oak, beech, fir, cherry and pear depicting pastoral life and historical traditions
- Clay for the manufacture of majolica, porcelain and ceramics

Just For Kids
Walk through the labyrinthine alleysways of the Sassi of Matera, or take a tour with the pollizino bus.

Lago di San Giuliano
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
May 19, La Festa di Nbudu: Potenza, a parade in costume, food and entertainment to recall the Legend of San Gerardo, who saved the city from a Turkish invasion.
June 15, Festa di San Vito, Castelmolise: San Vito’s statue along with Sant’Antonio and patron San Rocco are paraded from the church through the streets amidst food stands and fireworks.
July 2, Festa di Santa Maria, Matera: entails a painting 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 to the Ionian and Adriatic Seas, Apulia is essentially flat and dry, with occasionally plunging cliffs. Of great cultural interest are the megalithic monuments at Domusna and Menhir, as well as the great archeological complexes at Canne della Battaglia and Igoumenitsa. Roman remains are especially noteworthy throughout the region, and there are superb Romanesque cathedrals at Trani, Barletta, Molfetta, Bitonto 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
- Altamura (DOC), red
- Moscato di Trani (DOC), white

Tastes
- Orecchiette and caciocavallo, the classic pugliese’s pasta course
- Taralli e vino, a simple appetizer of salty and spicy donuts, great with wine
- Consomme di capretto, an ancient recipe featuring a goat cooked on clay

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. Catanzaro is the capital of this region, which yields abundant evidence of previous artistic civilizations and ancient colonies in Sybaris, Gortyne, Catanzaro, Locri, Vibo Valencia. In Cosenza and Reggio Calabria are baths, 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
- Cirò (DOC), red, white & rosé
- Greco (DOC), white
- Serruto (DOC), red
- Lameria (DOC), red, white & rosé

Tastes
- Aubergines, pickled, fried, stuffed or added to scrambled pasta sauces
- Macaroni and lasagne, stuffed with cured meats, sausage, hard-boiled eggs and cheese.
- Softfruits and moscato, a distinctive dish of tripe and tenderloin boiled and cooked with tomatoes and spices
- Carpaccio, cured, aged pork tenderloin from the neck or upper shoulder, seasoned with salt and spices
- Casicciocavallo bianco, 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
CALABRIA

- Colorful pottery from Seminaria, vases, tableware, urns and masks
- Tapestries and blankets from Longobucco, created on looms worked by hand and foot
- Chestnut wood wickerwork from San Giorgio Merego
- Briarwood smoking pipes from Reggio di Calabria, hand crafted and carefully carved

Just For Kids

Natural Museum Gepetto Cappelletti, has a botanical garden overlooking the reefs of the Ionian Sea with over 1,000 specimens of beautiful shells from all over the world.

During the summer kids can enjoy the Aquarium and Marina Palli of Isola di Capo Rizzuto, observing fish and marine life while learning about the protected zones of the Calabrian coastline.

www.riservamarinacaporizzuto.it

Zoofari Aposepik and Odosai 2000 in Romanza are two of the largest water parks in the south, filled with thrilling water slides and various pools.

www.aposepark.it or www.odosai2000.it

Red Letter Days

Easter Week Risu dei Vittori, Nocera Terinese, is highlighted by the Eastern Sunday procession, in which a statue of the Addolorata is carried, followed by several rituals of the “Vattienti.”

May 5 Feast of the Te de Cruze, 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 Saga della Cuja 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 week La Festa del Turista, Vibon Valentia, celebrates the end of the summer holidays with the gathering of the “giants” (huge papier-mâché depictions of the Saracens) and the longest procession in the Catholic world, including decorated carts, musicians, worshippers, knights and more.

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 Siculis, 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 Aegadian, Aeolian 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
- Nero d’Avola (DOC), red
- Aglianico del Taburno (DOC), red & white
- Sambuca di Sicilia (DOC), red & white
- Grenache di Vittoria (DOC), red
- Bianco Alaterno (DOC), white
- Moscato (DOC), white
- Gold, Amber and Ruby Marsala, dessert wine

Tastes
- Delicate and fruity extra virgin olive oils
- 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

Arts & Crafts
- Red coral artwork from Trapani
- Hand-painted tambourines
- Medieval style puppets on a string
- Highly-collectable ceramics from Galgareto
- Fanciful Sicilian carts in all sizes
- Artistic objects made from glazed bread in Salemi

SARDINIA

The second largest island in the Mediterranean, formed by a series of mountainous masses, hills and narrow highlands, has jugged, rocky coasts concealing marvelous beaches and renowned picturesque inlets and plains.

Cagliari is the capital, ruled by a special statute. Pre- and post-historic era are expressed by the megalithic “Tombs of the Giants”; the “domus de janas” (houses of the witches), tombs dug into the rock, and the mysterious “nuraghi,” around 7,000 truncated cone towers found all over the island.

Flavonoid and Roman remains have come to light at Tharros and Nora, there are Roman relics at Porto Torres and Cagliari and the Gothic-Catalonian style survives from the rule of the Spanish House of Aragon.

Temptations
- Vernaccia (DOC), white
- Malvasia (DOC), white
- Nuragus (DOC), white
- Cannonau (DOC), 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 seasoned with herbs and spices and then spit-roasted

Just For Kids

Just For Kids

Aquadream in Baja Sardinia is a major water theme park with twisting slides, games, miniature golf and more.

In Bagheria, near Palermo, is the Museo dei Giocattoli Pietro Persico 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 Aquatico Città, a waterworld 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 Te Gattiyo enjoys two days of celebrations complete with local specialities, processions and Sicilian Carts in honor of Sant Alfio. Filetello e Currizo.

July 9 – 15 Palermo offers seven days of non-stop pageantry, parades and plenty of pushcarts filled with local specialties, processions and Sicilian Carts in honor of Sant Alfio. Filetello e Currizo.

July 25 In Gallipoli, thousands of olive oil-bearing torches (coppa) connected by a fuse are lit at once in commemoration of a day-long festival honoring San Giacomo.

August 23 – 15 Le Cavalcata dei Giganti, Messina, starts 30-foot-tall papier-mâché knights leading a parade of bands and Sicilian carts through the city in a three-day celebration.

December 15 Siracusa is home to a huge celebration in honor of Sant Lucia, the city’s patron saint, involving pageantry, parades and plenty of pushcarts filled with tempting delicacies.

Just For Kids

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Red Letter Days

May 1 Retreat of Saint Efisio, 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, Cavalcata 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.

Aquarium Laguna di Nora in Pula reveals the fish and flora of the Sardinian seas.

Sicilian 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.
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 Italian Travel Promotion Council (ITPC) 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, made easier and more affordable than you can imagine. 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. Next, explore the following alphabetical list of Italy specialists to find the vacations closest to your personality and style.

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“As the Italians say, good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.”
Izaak Walton

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www.insightvacations.com

**Key Tours International**
Key Tours is a wholesale tour operator, specializing in tailored itineraries for Europe and the Mediterranean. Several things set us apart.

- Extensive experience on destinations
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- Incentive & Meeting Planning Division
- Special interest Fly & Drive packages including air, land, sightseeing, overnight stays and flights.

Contact Key Tours International at your travel agent, or call us at 800-576-1784, or visit our website at www.keytours.com

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For 36 years, Maiello has been a leading provider of high-quality, high-value Fly & Drive travel programs. Specializing in comprehensive travel arrangements to Italy and beyond, Maiello offers exclusive premium price quotes, innovative car rental options, impeccable service — everything you need to make the self-drive experience of your dreams. From a bargain rental to a deluxe chauffeured limousine, a quaint villa or a full-service hotel, Maiello’s experienced personnel has the capacity and desire to deliver the most comprehensive travel arrangements to Italy.

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64 years ago an Italian immigrant opened a “travel bureau” in the Bronx called Joseph Perillo & Sons. He never lived to see his son Mario turn the little business into the largest travel company in Italy to America. But it was Joseph’s example of hard work, rock solid integrity and respect for our clients that made our success possible. What does this have to do with YOUR vacation? Plenty! Our family values extend to every aspect of your trip – from the warmth of our guides to the careful selection of restaurants and hotels. So when you compare our trips to other companies, you’ll see rates and dates, meals and excursions. But what you won’t find in the rate box is the most important thing of all – the magic of traveling with the Perillo family. That’s my gift from our family to yours. – Steve Perillo
- Roman Holiday
- The 10 Day Marco Polo Tour
- Italy North Classic
- Italy North Continental
- Tuscany Plus!
- Three Cities Articrat
- Sarda & Sicily

For more information or reservations see your travel agent or call:
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www.theinternationalkitchen.com

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Your Passport to Cooking in Europe
Since 1994, the premier culinary travel company to Italy, France and Spain, offering authentic and unique all-inclusive experiences that include hands-on classes, tastings of wine, cheese, olive oil and diners, market visits, excursions to historical locations, and much more.

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A vacation home lets you explore the country independently at your own pace and in spacious comfort. Parker Villas prides itself on selecting beautiful, staff inspected properties throughout Italy with the American traveler in mind and at affordable weekly rates.

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Picasso Tours, a division of Picasso Travel, offers a variety of tour programs to Europe, with a focus on Mediterranean destinations and Italy in particular. In addition to scheduled Escorted Tours and Cruise Tour departures we offer a large number of independent vacations – city packages and combination of 2 or 3 city packages. Picasso Tours also handles FIT’s in all and kinds of affinity groups: pilgrimages, alumni, students, seniors & special interests.
- Escorted Tours, Scenic Italy, Essential Italy, Highlights of Sicily, Independent Vacations, Italy by Eurostar Train, Naples, Capri & Sorrento, Naples, Sorrento & Positano, City Packages, Naples, Capri, Sorrento, Amalfi, Positano, Ravello, Ciovo, Cinque Terre, Amalfi Coast, Florence, Rome
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800-955-7797
www.picassotours.com

TourCrafters
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TourCrafters, the dependable family–owned tour operator, has been offering packages, tours and travel services in the U.S. since 1980, with offices in Libertyville, IL and Rome.
As a cover story in Travel Agent Maggy says, “...quick and personal service has been a TourCrafters hallmark since it was founded...” TourCrafters’ Italy brochure is published twice yearly, there are also special brochures on Tuscany, Umbria and the Italian countryside, Sardinia, and the Amalfi Coast.
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- Packages to Italian cities & resorts
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- Reservations in selected hotels of superior quality
- Flight reservations and train tickets
- Sightseeing tours & excursions
- Car rentals, transfers, private limousine services
All products and services are available through travel agents, except for some discounted “in-voice” winter packages, which must be booked directly with the company.
800-482-5995
www.tourcrafters.com

Visit Italy Tours
Visit Italy Tours is Italy’s finest Tour Operator specializing in custom–designed packages. With offices in Rome and Los Angeles, we ensure the best quality service and expert knowledge on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Escorted, Independent & Hosted tours
- Custom–designed trips
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- Car Rentals & drive/adventure packages
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- Villa rentals
- Specials in Alumni, Soft adventure, Sports, Senior Citizens

For reservations call your Travel Agent or Visit Italy Tours at:
800-255-3537
www.VisitItalyTours.com
GENERAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL SEASONS

High
June – September. This is the most expensive and popular time to travel.

Shoulder
April – May
September - October

Low
November - December
December 15 - April

DOCUMENTATION

Passports
A passport is valid for 6 months beyond the date of the return flight. Citizens of the USA and Canadian citizens with a valid passport can stay in Italy up to 90 days. If a longer period is required they must obtain a visa.

Note: Minors under 18 years of age not traveling with their parents require a declaration from both parents, or their legal guardian, authorizing their independent travel.

NONSTOP FLIGHTS: USA TO ITALY

ALITALIA 1-800-223-5730 www.alitalia.com
Daily flights
New York JFK – Milan with daily departures.

Approximate flight times to Rome from:
Los Angeles: 15h 35m
New York: 10h 45m
Chicago: 10h

MAJOR ITALIAN AIRPORTS

Rome (FCO)
Fiumicino – Leonardo da Vinci

Bologna (BLQ)
Guglielmo Marconi

Florence (FLR)
Amerigo Vespucci

Genoa (GNO)
Genoa Cristoforo Columbus – Savona

Milan (MXP)
Malpensa

Milan Linate

Bergamo (BOY)
Milano Orio al Serio

Naples (NAP)
Capodichino

Pisa (PSA)
Galileo Galilei

Palermo (PMO)
Pero Riserva

Turin (TRN)
Corso Torino

Venice (VCE)
Marco Polo

Note: Pisa – Florence link
People traveling to Florence can fly to Pisa and then take the new train service directly from Pisa airport to Florence (travel time – 15 minutes).

NORTHWEST AIRLINES 1-800-447-4747 www.nwa.com
Daily flights
Detroit, MI – Rome (seasonal)

EUROFLY 1-800-439-0958 www.eurofly.com
Weekly flights from New York/JFK to:
Naples (Mai-Wed-Fri)
Bologna (Tue-Thur-Sun)
Palermo (Sat)

From January 2006 a business class-only flight will operate between New York/JFK and Milan with daily departures.

APPROXIMATE FLIGHT TIMES TO ROME FROM:

Los Angeles: 15h 35m
New York: 10h 45m
Chicago: 10h

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
- 1 liter of alcohol with an alcoholic strength over 22% per litre
- 2 liters of fortified or sparkling wine
- 50ml of perfumes and 250ml of toilette water
- 500g of coffee or 250g of coffee extract (if over 15 years of age)
- 100g of tea 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:

- Meridiana www.meridiana.it
- Alpi Eagle www.alpieagles.it
- Air Dolomiti www.airdolomiti.it
- Air One www.airone.it
- Air Europe www.air-europe.it (In Italian only)

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, including Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Malta, and the island of Corfu. www.ferriesonline.com

Rail
There are nearly 16,000km (9,900 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-Carne ferry routes, hotels and other special offers. First- and second-class passes are available. Children aged from four to 14 pay half the adult fare, and there is a reduced-rate Youth Pass for travelers aged under 16. Please note that once you purchase your train ticket you must validate it at the yellow box at the beginning of the train track, otherwise it will be invalid. For further information, log onto www.trenitalia.com.

ROAD

Travel the AUTOSTRADA (symbolized by ACI) office will be notified for immediate assistance.

Traffic Regulations
Traffic drives on the right. An International Driver’s license is required for driving in Italy. Passengers are not by law to wear seat belts. Speed limits are 50kph (70mph) in urban areas, 90/100kph (55/65mph) on country roads, 130kph (80mph) on highways. High beams are prohibited, especially in towns and cities, but are permitted when an emergency arises, when driving through darkness but only when no vehicles are coming in the opposite way. Lights are required by law to be ON at all times by law. Red warning triangle on board is mandatory.

Note: Fines for speeding and other driving wrongdoings are particularly heavy and on-the-spot.

TRANSPORT

All Italian cities rely on trams and bus transportation: the fare structure is integrated between the various modes. Tickets can be purchased at:

75 minutes 1Euro
24 hrs. 2Euros
1 week 10Euros
1 month 16Euros

Taxis are either white or yellow. Avoid taxis that are not metered. There are extra charges for night service, luggage and taxis called by telephone. All charges are listed on a rate card displayed in the cab with an English translation. Taxis can only be hailed at strategically located stands or booked by telephone. One cannot hail a cab from the street. A 10% tip is expected by taxi drivers and this is sometimes added to the fare for foreigners.

MONEY MATTERS

Single European currency (Euro)
The Euro is 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 = US$ 1.30 approximately. Do before checking out

Notes are in denominations of Euro 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of Euro 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cent.
Currency exchange
Travelers’ cheques and foreign money can be changed at banks, railway stations and airports, and very often at major hotels (generally at a less convenient rate, depending on the denominations of currency being bought or sold). Check with banks for details and current rates.

Credit card
American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted, as well as other cards. Check with your credit card company for merchant acceptability and other facilities that may be available. Most credit card companies charge a fee for overseas purchases.

Travelers cheques
Travelers cheques are accepted almost everywhere. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take travelers cheques in Euros.

Currency restrictions
Check with the embassy before departure. Import and export of both local and foreign currency is limited to Euro 10,000.00. 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-6:00pm, Sat 8:30am-1:00pm, although many banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

ATM card
Using your ATM card is the easiest and more convenient way to get cash when needed. Just make sure that your card has logos in 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.

ELECTRICITY
In Italy the current is 220 volts, compared to the US 110 volts. If you plan on using your own 110-volt 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 a voltage converter will damage it. Regardless of voltage, you will need an adapter.

USEFUL INFORMATION
Marriage or procedures on marriage in Italy please visit www.italyanb.org/marriage.htm

Enote Italiano Turistico (ENIT) (Italian State Tourist Board),
Via Marghera 2, 00185 Rome, Italy
Tel: (06) 33711 Fax: (06) 346 3379 sedescentrale@enit.it
www.enit.it

Italian Government Tourist Board (ENIT) (ENTI)
630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1055, New York, NY 10111, USA
Tel: (212) 345 3168 Fax: (212) 386 9544 enitny@italiantourism.com

Embassy of the Italian Republic
3500 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA
Tel: (202) 328 2200 Fax: (202) 234 2400 or 2200 (visa section)
smipw@iwash.org
visit.washington@witw.org (consular section)
www.italyanb.org

Consulate General of Italy
692 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA
Tel: (212) 439 8600 Fax: (212) 439 9434 or 439 8649 (visa section)
info@italianconsulny.org
www.italianconsulny.org

Consulates General in: Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Embassy of the United States of America
3801 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016, USA
Tel: (202) 467 4141 Fax: (202) 467 4156 (visa section)
www.usembassy.it

US Consulate General
1 Lungarno Vespucci 38, 00193 Florence, Italy
Tel: (055) 266 9251 Fax: (055) 251 0088
usconsulfirenze@state.gov
This office does not deal with visas or give out information regarding visas.

Currency exchange
Travelers’ cheques and foreign money can be changed at banks, railway stations and airports, and very often at major hotels (generally at a less convenient rate, depending on the denominations of currency being bought or sold). Check with banks for details and current rates.

Credit card
American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted, as well as other cards. Check with your credit card company for merchant acceptability and other facilities that may be available. Most credit card companies charge a fee for overseas purchases.

Travelers cheques
Travelers cheques are accepted almost everywhere. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take travelers cheques in Euro.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones
Full IDD (International Direct Dial) service is available.
- Italy country code is 39, so from the US, dial 011 39 followed by 06 for Rome, 02 for Milan, 041 for Turin, 081 for Naples, 041 for Venice and 055 for Florence.
- Drop the 0 if calling an Italian cellular number.

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

GSM 900 and 1800 networks. Network operators are Telecom Mobile Telephones (www.telecom.it), Italia Mobile (TIM) (www.tim.it), Wind (www.wind.it), Vodafone Omnitel (www.vodafone.it) and H3G (www.h3g.it).

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 cellular carrier. Another alternative is to rent a cell phone. In fact, most tour operators from our list will be happy to arrange this.

If you plan on using your own 110-volt 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 a voltage converter will damage it. Regardless of voltage, you will need an adapter.

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www.usembassy.it

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usconsulfirenze@state.gov
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