



Milan to Rome The Italian 'Grande'

Embark on a captivating journey through Italy

Discover the fairytale 'town of towers' San Gimignano.

Explore Italy's evocative regions as you travel from Milan to Rome discovering regional delights and stunning scenery along the way. Cruise on Lake Como, stay in a dreamy Italian castle, stroll the romantic canals of Venice and explore the idyllic villages of the Cinque Terre. Indulge in local Tuscan delights, walk beautifully preserved medieval towns and of course stay on the Amalfi Coast.



Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach



Welcome drink on Day 1

29 meals including breakfast daily (B) and 12 evening meals (D)

A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners



Hotel portorage of 1 bag per person (where available)

17 nights specially selected hotel accommodation

Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)



Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)

ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides

Local guides as described in the itinerary

Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager



Hand Selected Albatross Experiences including private boat rides on Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Venice, cruises in Cinque Terre and Capri, plus olive oil tasting in a Tuscan farmhouse

ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described



Stresa welcome

Day 1



La Palma Hotel, Stresa, Italy



D

Commencing in central Milan at 2pm we will transfer you to Stresa on wonderful Lake Maggiore, where you will stay the next four nights. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner. This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

Villa Carlotta and Lake Como cruise

Day 2



La Palma Hotel, Stresa, Italy



B,D

This morning we drive to the town of Como and follow the shore of the lake to Tremezzo, where we board our private boat and enjoy a cruise on Lake Como, past a number of striking lakeside villas, to delightful Bellagio. This beautiful town is situated at the tip of the peninsula separating the lake's two southern arms, with the Alps visible across the lake to the north. It's time to relax in this delightful town which boasts peaceful villas and gardens nestled by the lakeside, elegant shops and walkways plus stylish al fresco dining at its very best. Returning to Tremezzo, we visit the world famous Villa Carlotta. This wonderful Villa is set in 70,000 square metres of romantic Italianate Gardens and faces across Lake Como to the Bellagio peninsula. The classic gardens boast fountains and pergolas and in spring time is famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas. Later we return to Stresa. Dinner tonight is included in a local restaurant.

Macugnaga and lakeside Orta San Giulio

Day 3



La Palma Hotel, Stresa, Italy



B

There is nothing like a day in the mountains – especially amongst some of the highest and most dramatic in the Alps! Following a deep valley we soon reach the mountain village of Macugnaga, close to the Swiss border. Used as a location in many films, the village is famous for its beautifully preserved wooden huts and chalets, and the stunning backdrop of the Monte Rosa (Pink) Massif and the 4638 metres high Dufourspitze – Europe's second highest mountain. Your time is at leisure to explore the village and surroundings, and perhaps take a mountain cable car ride (subject to operating) to enjoy lunch and the extraordinary views. Later today we also visit the delightful town of Orta San Giulio beside the beautiful, and some say most romantic of all the lakes – Lake Orta. Your evening is at leisure in Stresa.

Islands of Lake Maggiore

Day 4



La Palma Hotel, Stresa, Italy



B

Boarding our private boat we visit the famous islands of Lake Maggiore. First stop will be Isola Bella where we have included entrance and a guided tour of the palatial Borromeo villa and gardens, which dominate the island. The villa boasts Murano glass chandeliers, gobelin-covered chairs, intricate tapestries and paintings. The spectacular formal gardens rise behind the ornate villa, with patterned flower beds falling in terraces, with statues and ornamental stonework completing the Italianate style. Next we visit Isola Pescatori (the Fisherman's island). Lunchtime is at leisure on this small, picturesque island with its quaint cafés and restaurants set amongst the old houses with wooden balconies, tiny boats and fishing nets. The afternoon and evening are at leisure in delightful, lakeside Stresa.

Lake Garda and CastelBrando

Day 5



Hotel CastelBrando, Treviso



B,D

Bidding farewell to Lake Maggiore we drive east and arrive at Lake Garda late morning. This is the largest of the Italian lakes, with a circumference of approximately 100 kilometres; it is surrounded by lemon and citrus groves and is the meeting point of three Italian regions. There will be time at leisure for lunch in one of the colourful and diverse lakeside towns. You stay in the foothills of the Dolomites, in the superb CastelBrando for the next two evocative nights.

Venice sightseeing and 'My Time'

Day 6



Hotel CastelBrando, Treviso



B,D

After a leisurely start we visit nearby 'Venezia' (Venice) – arguably one of the most romantic cities in the world. At Tronchetto we board a private boat to take us to St Mark's Square, where we join our expert local guide for a walking tour. The rest of the day is free to meander through the myriad of narrow, water lined streets and alleys spanned by humped back bridges.

Montecatini Terme in Tuscany

Day 7



Hotel Ercolini & Savi, Montecatini Terme



B,D

A leisurely start today as we travel south to Tuscany. We arrive in the charming spa town of Montecatini Terme mid afternoon. This was once a favourite 'cure resort' of the crowned heads of state from all over Europe. We stay here for the next five nights, in a traditional family run, 4-star hotel, close to the major sights. As a highlight, this evening we drive into the picturesque Tuscan countryside, where we have arranged dinner at a local olive oil farmhouse estate.

Florence sightseeing and 'My Time'

Day 8



Hotel Ercolini & Savi, Montecatini Terme



B,D

Today is dedicated to nearby 'Firenze' (Florence). We are joined by a local guide who will bring to life this truly beautiful city, which is otherwise known as the 'Cradle of the Renaissance'. We see the Duomo and take in the magnificent statues in the Piazza della Signoria. At the conclusion of your walking tour, we have included a visit to the famous Accademia Gallery, home to Michelangelo's 'David' and numerous other extraordinary Italian, Florentine and Renaissance works of art. Your afternoon is entirely free to enjoy Florence at your own pace. Espresso coffee on Piazza Santa Croce where Michelangelo is buried? A gelato whilst strolling across the Ponte Vecchio? Don't forget the excellent shopping.

Medieval Lucca, Pisa and Olive Oil tasting in a local farmhouse

Day 9



Hotel Ercolini & Savi, Montecatini Terme



B,D

Our first stop today is in one of the most typically 'Tuscan' towns in the area, Lucca – a medieval walled city, filled with palaces, churches, ancient houses and the former home of Puccini, where he wrote Turandot. Walk on top of the city walls for the very best city views, or visit Piazza San Michele and stroll along the shops of Borgo Giannotti. Afterwards we visit Pisa with its famous Leaning Tower, Cathedral and Baptistry in the magnificent Piazza dei Miracoli. This afternoon we visit a local farmhouse to enjoy an olive oil tasting accompanied by Tuscan wines and a light dinner to sample the farms own produce.

Cinque Terre sightseeing

Day 10



Hotel Ercolini & Savi, Montecatini Terme



B,D

A delightful day is planned as we explore the famous Cinque Terre. The name means 'five lands' and comes from the five unspoilt fishing villages that cling to the cliffs, overlooking the sea. We have arranged a coastal boat ride for you to admire the spectacular scenery and almost inaccessible fishing villages, and to visit Portovenere and Monterosso. Our return journey to Levanto, to meet our coach, is by train.

'My Time' in Tuscany

Day 11



Hotel Ercolini & Savi, Montecatini Terme



B

The whole of today has been purposely left entirely at leisure. This is a perfect opportunity for you to do as little, or as much as you want! Maybe take the local train back to the museums and shops of Florence. Alternatively explore Montecatini's old centre and parklands, or pamper yourself in one of the spas. Perhaps just relax in your hotel or sip wine in a café and watch the world go by!

San Gimignano, Siena and Spoleto

Day 12



Hotel Dei Duchi, Spoleto, Italy



B,D

We make the short drive across Tuscany to the fairytale 'town of towers' San Gimignano, famous for its 13th and 14th century Tuscan towers. Exploring the pedestrian walkways of this hilltop town is an absolute delight. Lunchtime will be at leisure in the beautifully preserved streets of medieval Siena amongst the great sights such as the gothic town hall and the Piazza del Campo, scene of the famous Palio horse race. Next we wind up to the hills of Umbria and the wonderful walled town of Spoleto where we stay the next two nights. Medieval Spoleto is easily explored on foot. There are numerous romanesque churches and cobblestoned alleyways lined with shops, bars and trattorias.

Assisi sightseeing and 'My Time' in Spoleto

Day 13



Hotel Dei Duchi, Spoleto, Italy



B

We spend this morning in the nearby beautiful Umbrian city of Assisi. Badly damaged by earthquakes in 1997 the city, dominated by two medieval castles, undertook a remarkable programme of restoration which soon brought it back to all its glory. On arrival in Assisi we are joined by a local guide for a tour of the Basilica of St Francis with its magnificent frescoes. Afterwards there is time for you to explore Assisi at your own pace. Returning to Spoleto, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps take a leisurely walk along the path around the castle and across the medieval viaduct in to the Umbrian countryside. This is the real Italy!

Ancient Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast

Day 14



Hotel Minori Palace, Minori, Italy



B,D

Driving south past Vesuvius we visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii, where a local guide takes us through the city that was buried under volcanic ash in AD 79. Paintings, furniture, mosaics, sculptures, graffiti and even loaves in ovens are wonderfully preserved. From here it's only a short drive to the Amalfi coast and the port towns of Minori and Maiori, where we stay for the next three nights. A perfect base for visiting all the local sights and soaking up the unique atmosphere of the Amalfi Coast

Ferry ride along the Amalfi Coast to the island of Capri

Day 15



Hotel Minori Palace, Minori, Italy



B,D

Enjoy your day as we take you on the ferry along the Amalfi coast, and across to Marina Grande on the island of Capri, which the Roman emperor Tiberius made his capital. On arrival we meet our local guide and board a bus which takes us up to the top of the island to explore the charming village of Anacapri. In the main town, Capri, we visit the Giardino d'Augusto overlooking the Faraglioni, before 'My Time' amongst the boutiques and galleries.

Amalfi Coast cruise to Amalfi and Ravello

Day 16



Hotel Minori Palace, Minori, Italy



B

The Amalfi coast is famous for its twisting, winding scenic drive with picturesque villages and towns hugging the cliffs and craggy coves. This morning we cruise from Minori along the dramatic coastline and spend time exploring Amalfi. Your afternoon is at leisure in Minori. In the late afternoon, we will drive up to perhaps one of the most scenic towns along the Amalfi Coast, Ravello. Perched on the mountain, commanding panoramic views across the coast, Ravello is evocatively described as being "nearer to the sky than it is to the sea", and has been a favourite haunt of artists and composers for centuries. You will have free time to savour the breath-taking views, enjoy an aperitivo overlooking the piazza, and explore the medieval streets of this enchanting village. Your evening is at leisure in Minori.

Hadrian's Villa and Rome

Day 17



Bettoja Mediterraneo, Rome, Italy



B,D

Arriving in Tivoli, on the outskirts of the the 'Eternal City' of Rome, we enjoy a visit to the imposing Hadrians Villa (Villa Adriana) – a UNESCO World Heritage Site that epitomises the grandeur of the Roman Empire. Later we check into our central Rome hotel. Our finale will be a special farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Rome

Day 18



Bettoja Mediterraneo, Rome, Italy



B

Your tour ends today after breakfast.

Hand Selected Experiences

These are just a few of the very special hand selected experiences that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Villa Carlotta
Explore ornate rooms & gardens



Lake Como
Private cruise on pretty Lake Como



Venice
Private boat to St Mark's Square



Florence
Locally guided city tour



Pisa
Leaning Tower of Pisa



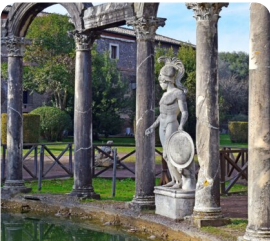
Olive Oil Tasting
Tuscan farmhouse



Amalfi Coast
Ferry ride along the Amalfi Coast



Assisi
Discover Assisi with a local guide



Tivoli
Visit Hadrian's Villa

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 10:27 on 17th May 2024

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	Guaranteed to Depart	
22 May 2024	08 Jun 2024	AUD\$10,447	AUD\$11,947	✓	● Sold Out
12 Jun 2024	29 Jun 2024	AUD\$10,347	AUD\$12,047	✓	● Sold Out

28 Aug 2024	14 Sep 2024	AUD\$9,987	AUD\$11,687	✓	● Sold Out
01 Sep 2024	18 Sep 2024	AUD\$9,987	AUD\$11,487	✓	● Space Available
11 Sep 2024	28 Sep 2024	AUD\$10,447	AUD\$12,147	✓	● Sold Out
18 Sep 2024	05 Oct 2024	AUD\$10,747	AUD\$12,447	✓	● Sold Out
02 Oct 2024	19 Oct 2024	AUD\$10,647	AUD\$12,347	✓	● Space Available
23 Apr 2025	10 May 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
07 May 2025	24 May 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
14 May 2025	31 May 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
21 May 2025	07 Jun 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
28 May 2025	14 Jun 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
04 Jun 2025	21 Jun 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
09 Jul 2025	26 Jul 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register
27 Aug 2025	13 Sep 2025	TBC	TBC		● Pre-Register

03 Sep 2025	20 Sep 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register
10 Sep 2025	27 Sep 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register
17 Sep 2025	04 Oct 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register
24 Sep 2025	11 Oct 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register
01 Oct 2025	18 Oct 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register

* The itinerary and hotels featured are based on 2025 tour departures and may be subject to change. If you are travelling in 2024 please refer to your specific booking Itinerary. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

Tour Suitability

Our tours require a moderate level of fitness due to the unique places we visit and stay. This tour is not suited to anyone who has mobility issues

- ✈ In mid-summer, the heat may be energy sapping.
- ✈ Being in Italy there are a number of beautiful hilltop towns we visit.
- ✈ There are a number of beautiful towns and sites we visit which require exploring on foot and often have cobbled-stone streets and uneven walkways.
- ✈ In Siena the coach drop off point is between a 10- and 15-minute walk on cobbled stone streets, from the central square.
- ✈ In the Cinque Terre you will need to coastal ferry board the boat via a steel gangplank.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATAS Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707