



THE GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

Five operas *La Sonnambula*, *La bohème*, *Tosca*,
Cinderella & *Mefistofele*! Plus great food,
incredible cultural and historical landmarks, wine,
art, gardens & architecture.



TRAVEL OF NOTE

9 APRIL – 3 MAY 2024



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Our Italian trip is packed with exceptional experiences: gliding through Venetian canals to the serenade of gondoliers, wandering the small lanes in Rome and Florence, marvelling at the art and sculpture in galleries and the beauty of Renaissance gardens, be captivated by the Cinque Terra, the seaside city of Genoa, the history of the Forum and Coliseum, the architecture of Bologna and delight in the flavours of Tuscany.

Experience the Exceptional...

- Experience operas and theatre tours at many of the grandest opera houses in Italy including *La Sonnambula* in Rome, *La bohème* in Genoa, *Tosca* in Bologna, *Cinderella* in Trieste and *Mefistofele* in Venice plus opera house tours, composers' houses and museums.
- Other special music flavours from our artists including a private tour and concert at Pavarotti's House and other private concerts by our hosts, Puccini and Verdi Immersion days and Puccini concert.
- Operas in grand opera houses: *Teatro dell'Opera di Roma*, *Teatro Carlo Felice*, *Teatro La Fenice*, *Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi*, *Teatro Comunale di Bologna*.
- Stay in idyllic historic 4 and 5 star hotels: Rome (4 nights), Florence (4 nights), Genoa (3 nights), Venice (4 nights), Trieste (3 nights) and Reggio Emilia (3 nights) including palaces and Italian villas!
- We enjoy Italy in Spring in April/May, avoiding the crazy, busy tourist season and the heat of the Italian summer.
- Guided tours and sightseeing in Rome, Florence, Genoa, Bologna, Venice, Trieste, Padua, Vicenza, and visits to Sestri Levante, Portofino, Sienna, San Gimignano, Tuscan hills, Emilia Romagna, Orvieto and Slovenia including Lake Bled!
- Full day tour to Slovenia including walking tour of Ljubljana and Lake Bled, known for its church tipped island, castle and alpine scenery.
- Reserved entrances, therefore, no long queues, to Uffizi Gallery, Accademia, Baptistery, Sistine Chapel, St Peters, Vatican Museum, Borghese Gallery, St Marks, Venice.
- Other special experiences include cruises in Genoa and Venice including visits to Murano and Burano, architecture tour of Palladio works, Tuscan immersion day, tour to the oldest university in the world, churches, and art galleries plus visits to small towns and places of interest!
- Foodies immersions where we will enjoy cooking class, balsamic vinegar, wine and parmigiana tastings, and gourmet meals at vineyards and villas.
- This tour is a Travel of Note and limited to 20 travellers.

OUR ARTISTS FOR THIS TRIP:
Bonaventure Allan Moetaua
and Kelly Lim Harris



PLACES WE STAY

Hotel Romanico Palace & Spa, Rome (4 nights) is located in the heart of the city centre, in the Via Veneto - Villa Borghese area, near by the most important tourist attractions of the city. The hotel features a spa, marble floors, frescoes, antique furniture and Jacuzzi tubs.

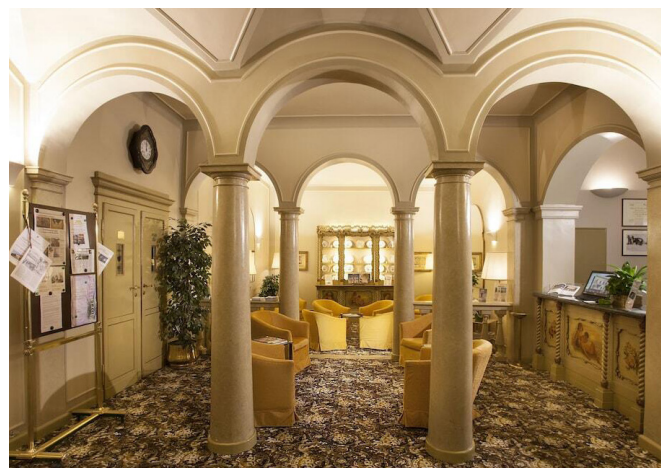
Hotel Piazza San Paolino, Florence (4 nights) is situated in the Santa Maria Novella district in the heart of Florence. The design of the hotel is eclectically inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy with a quirky, arty feel.

Hotel Bristol Palace, Genoa (3 nights) is an Art Nouveau charmer built in 1905 style. Located on one of the most prestigious streets in Genoa, the hotel features an elliptical staircase leading up to its elegant rooms.

Hotel Saturnia & International, Venice (4 nights) is a four star superior hotel located 5 minutes walk from St. Mark's Square and La Fenice Opera House. It is truly Venetian, being partly a 14th century palace.

Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel, Trieste (3 nights) overlooks the Bay of Trieste in the city centre. Set in a historic building with 19th-century architecture, this romantic hotel is steps away from Piazza di Cavana and Piazza Unita d'Italia and Palazzo del Municipio.

Hotel Posta, Reggio Emilia (3 nights) located in the heart of the oldest quarter of Reggio Emilia, the hotel offers a relaxing stay in delightful surroundings and where art, history and tradition are combined with every imaginable modern comfort.



Hotel Posta, Reggio Emilia



Hotel Romanico Palace & Spa, Rome

ROME (4 nights) - Romanico Palace Hotel

Home of the Vatican, ancient ruins, historic churches, mad drivers and art.

Highlights Include:

- Numerous tours including reserved entry tour of the Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica and Sistine Chapel.
- Evening stroll in Rome including the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain with dinner in local restaurant.
- City guided tour with reserved entrance to Borghese Gallery, a jewel of a gallery housed in a palazzo.
- A guided tour and reserved entrances to ancient Rome including the Colosseum, Forum, plus panoramic vistas from the top of the Campidoglio.
- Opera *La Sonnambula* and opera house tour at the lavish Teatro dell'Opera di Roma which is situated in Rome's historic centre and was built in the late 19th century.

TRANSFER FROM ROME TO ORVIETO

Time for a wander and lunch in the medieval hill town, Orvieto, which is situated high atop a volcanic tuff. It's a dramatic setting, accentuated by defensive walls around the town, also made from the same rock. With a rich history going back to Etruscan times, side streets exhilaratingly free of tourist crowds, lots of charming architecture, and fantastic views of the countryside, Orvieto is a great place to wander for a few hours!

FLORENCE (4 nights) - Hotel Piazza San Paolino

A great base to explore with a Tuscany Countryside Tour as well as the beautiful historic city of Florence.

Highlights Include:

- Guided city sightseeing with reserved entrances for the Uffizi, displaying some of the greatest paintings in the world from the Old Masters and Accademia Galleries, including Michelangelo's 'David'.
- A traditional Tuscan dinner with opera concert.
- Tuscan experience day - scenic day around Tuscany, visit to San Gimignano plus Chianti tasting tour.
- Full morning of leisure in Florence to explore the markets and sights including the Medici Palace.
- Visit to Lucca with Puccini immersion day, Puccini house tour, dinner and concert.



St Peter's Basilica



Colosseum, Rome



Teatro dell'Opera di Roma



San Gimignano



Sestri Levante

TRANSFER FROM FLORENCE TO GENOA VIA SESTRI LEVANTE AND PORTOFINO

Time for lunch and a wander at Sestri Levante and Portofino, two of the most picturesque seaside towns in Italy.

GENOA (3 nights) - Hotel Bristol Palace

Genoa was the birthplace of Christopher Columbus (1451), who embodied the active maritime tradition of the city. It is noted for its many examples of medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Gothic architecture set right on a magnificent harbour.

Highlights Include:

- Walking tour of main central sights including churches, Garibaldi St and the Main Square.
- Tour and performance of *La bohème* at famous opera house Carlo Felice Theatre, one of the most famous in Italy.
- The Carlo Felice Theatre, Genoa is located to the side of Piazza de Ferrari beside the monument dedicated to Giuseppe Garibaldi. Among the best known in Italy, it was built in 1928, bombed twice during WWII and rebuilt after the war.
- Cruise with lunch on magnificent harbour.
- Visit the famous Aquarium situated on the waterfront.
- Authentic dinner with music from our hosts.
- Free time to wander the amazing streets and waterfront of this interesting city.



Carlo Felice Theatre

TRANSFER FROM GENOA TO VENICE VIA PARMA AND Busetto

This region is the birthplace of Verdi.

Highlights Include:

- Immersion tour of Verdi including opera houses, churches and house that was part of Verdi's life.
- Private concert in Verdi Museum and lunch.



Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa



Portofino

VENICE (4 nights) – Hotel Saturnia and International

City of love, iconic buildings, San Marco Square, palazzi and canals.

Highlights Include:

- Boat ride entrance to Venice.
- Dinner at al fresco restaurant plus Gondola, serenaded by our tenors!
- Tour with reserved entrances to Doges Palace and San Marco Basilica.
- Tour of La Fenice Opera House and opera performance *Mefistofele*.
- Teatro La Fenice is an opera house in Venice, Italy. It is one of the most famous and beautiful landmarks in the history of Italian theatre. It was burnt down in the 70s and totally rebuilt in its original style.
- Full day off to stroll through Venice streets and canals.
- Visit to the famous Academia Gallery with its priceless art.
- Cruise to Murano, famous for glass making and Burano, the Fishermen's Island for a superb lunch and time at leisure.

TRAVEL FROM VENICE TO TRIESTE VIA VICENZA

Discover Palladian architecture visiting villas and famous buildings designed by Palladio including Teatro Olimpico, the oldest indoor theatre with the oldest stage set constructed in 1585!

TRIESTE (3 nights) - Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel, Trieste

Trieste is unique among cities in Europe with its historic square overlooking the sea and its beautiful opera house.

Highlights Include:

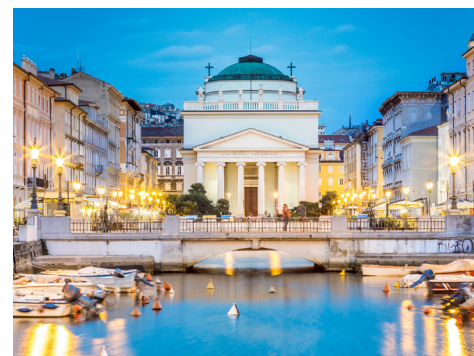
- Walking tour of Trieste including guided tour of ancient Trieste and its main buildings and landmarks including Piazza Canviana.
 - Opera performance of *Cinderella* and opera house tour.
- Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi, Trieste is named after the famous composer. It is built in a similar style to La Scala and is known for its rich velvet interior, gilding, elegant boxes, and fresco ceiling.



Venice Gondola Ride



Colourful Houses of Burano



Trieste



Venice

- Visit Miramare Castle, San Giovanni Park and Rose Gardens.
- Full day tour to Slovenia including walking tour of Ljubljana and Lake Bled known for its church topped island, castle and alpine scenery.
- Final night extravaganza with dinner and singing from our artists.

TRANSFER FROM TRIESTE TO REGGIO EMILIA VIA PADUA.

Visit medieval Padua with tour including Giotto's Frescoes and Italy's second oldest university.

REGGIO EMILIA (3 nights) - Hotel Posta

We base ourselves in this charming and character filled hotel, perfectly situated between Reggio Emilia's two main squares – Piazza de Monte and Piazza del Duomo. An enviable location right in the oldest part of the city and an ideal base to explore the surrounding area.

Highlights Include:

- Premium event - visit and tour to Pavarotti's house, private gala concert in Pavarotti's music room with local professional singers and pianist using the great tenor's own Steinway piano, followed by drinks on the terrace and lunch.
- Bologna Tour including guided walking tour: Archiginnasio Anatomical Theatre, which is part of the oldest university in the world and where the first dissection was performed for its medical students! Other great sights in this lovely city include Stabat Mater Hall where Rossini's Stabat Mater was first performed, Piazza Maggiore, the miles of porticos throughout the city and two of its many churches: Basilica di San Petronio which houses the first European Meridian Line dating from 1576 and the Catholic Cathedral, Cattedrale Metropolitana di San Pietro.
- Numerous foodie experiences including visits to a balsamic vinegar farm, then a cooking class and hilltop dinner with views over the valley at sunset, a very special and gourmet experience.
- Visit, tour and performance of *Tosca* at Teatro Comunale di Bologna, one of the most beautiful opera houses in Italy.



Pavarotti's House



Archiginnasio Anatomical Theatre

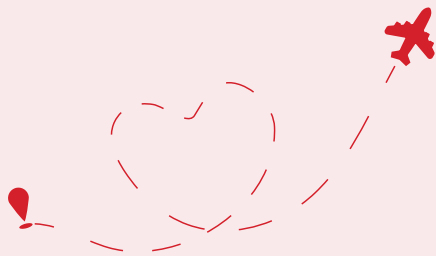


Scrovegni Chapel

TRANSFER FROM REGGIO EMILIA TO MILAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR OUR FLIGHT HOME.



Bologna



\$21,900 per person
twin share
Single Room Supplement Add \$5885

Initial Deposit on booking: \$2000

Second Deposit due: 6 October 2023 \$4000

Final Balance due: 15 December 2023

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Return airfares Auckland - Rome/ Milan - Auckland via Dubai Direct flights on Emirates.
- Stay in idyllic historic hotels at 4 and 5 star hotels: Rome (4 nights), Florence (4 nights), Genoa (3 nights), Venice (4 nights) and Trieste (3 nights) and Reggio Emilia (3 nights) including in palaces and Italian villas!
- We enjoy Italy in Spring in April/May, avoiding the crazy, busy tourist season and the heat of the Italian summer.
- Guided tours and sightseeing in Rome, Florence, Genoa, Bologna, Venice, Trieste, Padua, Vicenza, and visits to Sestri Levante, Portofino, Sienna, San Gimignano, Tuscan Hills, Emilia Romagna, Orvieto and Slovenia including Lake Bled!
- Visit and experience operas and theatre tours at many of the grandest opera houses in Italy including in Rome, Florence, Genoa, Bologna, Trieste and Venice plus opera house tours, composers' houses and museums.
- Five great operas; Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, two of Puccini's operas *La bohème* and *Tosca*, Rossini's *Cinderella* & Boito's *Mefistofele*!
- Other special music flavours from our artists including a private tour and concert at Pavarotti's House and other private concerts by our hosts, Puccini and Verdi Immersion days and Puccini concert.
- Full day tour to Slovenia including walking tour of Ljubljana and Lake Bled, known for its church tipped island, castle and alpine scenery.
- Foodies immersions where we will enjoy cooking class, balsamic vinegar, wine and parmigiana tastings, and gourmet meals at vineyards and villas!
- Reserved entrances, therefore, no long queues, to Uffizi Gallery, Accademia, Baptistery, Sistine Chapel, St Peters, Vatican Museum, Borghese Gallery, St Marks, Venice.
- Other special experiences include cruises in Genoa and Venice including visits to Murano and Burano, architecture tour of Palladio works, Tuscan immersion day, tour to the oldest university in the world, churches, and art galleries plus visits to small towns and places of interest!
- All tours, boat cruises, coach transfers, reserved entry and entrance fees to all sights and sites as listed in itinerary.
- All breakfasts, 8 lunches, 12 dinners, portorage, taxes and tips are included.
- Escorted by Bonaventure Allan Moetaua and Kelly Lim Harris.
- Limited to 20 travellers, this tour is part of our Travel of Note boutique tours.

MODERATE TOUR

All our trips are specifically designed for our core market but this trip does contain travel challenges, either because of the region visited or the walking distances or uneven surfaces that arise at some sites. We do advise that you and your doctor evaluate your level of fitness before you consider booking this tour.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All itinerary details are subject to change, but changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option.
- Initial & Second deposits are fully refundable up until final balance due date, minus an administration fee of up to \$500 plus any non-recoverable costs.
- All monies are non-refundable at final balance due date. This becomes an insurance claim.
- Payment by direct credit incurs no surcharge. Credit card payments will incur a surcharge of 1.5%.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Bookings will only be accepted with initial deposit.
- All travellers must obtain comprehensive travel insurance for international travel and insurance for domestic travel is recommended.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions on booking form.

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