



ITALIAN

Expressions

The Art of Intelligent Travel Organising

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

ITALIAN *Expressions*



THE ART OF INTELLIGENT TRAVEL ORGANISING



AT EXPRESSIONS WE MARRY THE ART of intelligent travel organising and a passion, love and knowledge of Italy. The result is that we can bring you the true flavour of Italy and its captivating charm. Holidays and travel experiences to Italy are all about an appreciation of things Italian: the way of life, the culture, the art, the design, the landscape, the food and the wine. The Italian countryside exudes a classical harmony that is all but imprinted in the Western psyche and the charm and humour of the Italian people creates an endearing sense of well-being. As true Italian specialists we know how to share with you the passion that is Italy and its true flavour.

Our clients have taken comfort in recent times in the fact that we have been in business for 28 years now and obviously have confidence in what we do. Over these years not only have we grown in experience but we have also developed excellent relationships with our suppliers. You gain from these relationships as they give us numerous benefits that we pass on to you such as early booking offers, free room upgrades etc. Sometimes we're not even aware of the small but important gestures they make to our clients behind the scenes but they do tell us quite readily that they enjoy having our clients as guests in their hotel.

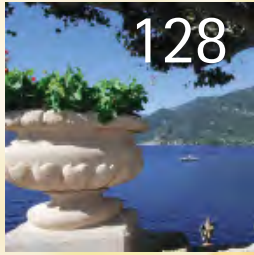
We are proud to be a specialist organiser of bespoke holidays and travel experiences to a destination as rich as Italy. We look forward to looking after you.

Marcelle Hoff *Martin Garland*

Marcelle Hoff and Martin Garland
Owners and joint managing directors

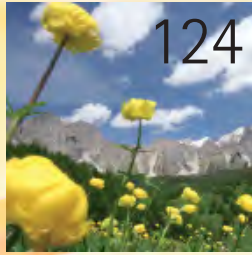


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ITALIAN LAKES
An enticing mixture of coolness and the exotic. Picturesque, relaxing and easily accessible.



124

ITALIAN ALPS & DOLOMITES
Distinctive mountain peaks.



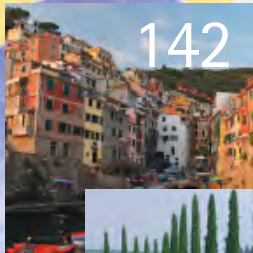
120

VENETO
Rich in history and diverse in scenery with great historic cities.



146

PIEMONTE
Home to some of the most noble Italian wines. A land of vineyards, truffles, castles and hidden treasures.



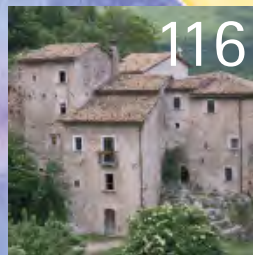
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88

LIGURIAN RIVIERA
Sheltered coves, wide bays, fishing villages and dramatic coastline cornice.

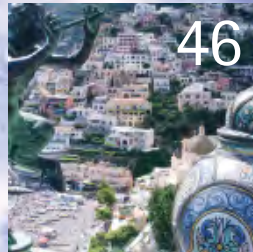
TUSCANY
The cradle of Italian culture, magnificent art and architecture and classical landscapes.



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LATIUM AND ABRUZZO
Coast and mountains, culture and history, a region that is easy to reach from Rome.

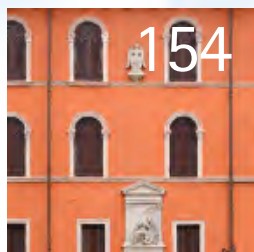
AMALFI COAST AND CAPRI
Dramatic scenery, a relaxed way of life, historic sites, offshore islands and stunning seascapes.



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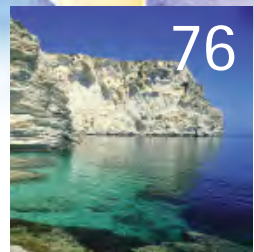
SARDINIA
Clear, emerald seas, rugged scenery and wonderful beaches. Sophisticated hotels.

150



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ITALIAN CITIES
The cities of Italy are some of the most magical, interesting and rewarding in Europe.



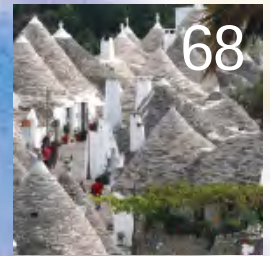
76

SICILY AND AEOLIAN ISLANDS
Immensely rich in architecture, history and scenic beauty. Islands, coast and countryside to visit.



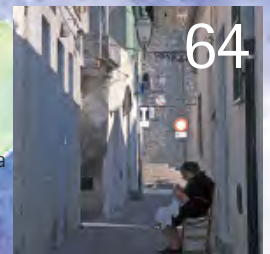
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UMBRIA
A rural land of hills and river valleys with atmospheric villages.



68

PUGLIA
A region of olives and vines, distinctive architecture and gentle landscape.



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CALABRIA AND BASILICATA
Unexplored, dramatic, natural and fascinating.

What Italian Expressions is all about and what it means for you

Our team of professionals

Providing personal service with a professional approach is at the heart of the way we operate our business.

Personally owner-run

We are an independent, truly specialist tour operator, established in 1989, owned and run by Marcelle Hoff and Martin Garland, selling hotel holidays of quality. In addition to our personally-selected hotel holidays to Italy we also have longstanding programmes to France, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. Newer developments for us include Spain, Sri Lanka, Rail holidays, Luxury Hotel Holidays Worldwide, Shades of Green (holidays and travel experiences to New Zealand, Australia and South Pacific), Expressions Families. We know personally the majority of our hotels and have put together our holidays ourselves with our clients in mind. Contact with Italian Expressions means contact with the people who know the holidays, who will share their knowledge and experience with you.

Personal service

All aspects of your holiday are personalised from your individual holiday confirmation to your documentation, providing you with information that is relevant to your particular holiday. From the point of initial contact with us, you will deal with the same sales consultant, who will handle all aspects of your booking and ticketing.

Professional solutions

We work hard to give you the holiday you want. We pride ourselves on being a professional company, providing you with the speed of response, accuracy of information and level of detail you demand. We approach your holiday in a way that means we work to offer you the arrangements you want, not to slot you in to pre-existing arrangements. This might mean juggling dates, securing the last available room or tailoring a complex itinerary involving numerous hotel stays, internal flights and several car-hire or transfer arrangements. Your holiday is as individually fashioned and tailor-made as you want it to be.

From a professional team

Our team of Italian specialist travel consultants has a combination of many years' experience tailor-making holidays to Italy, Italian native speakers and graduates in Italian who know the country, culture and language too. They know the nuances of what is important to you when holidaying in Italy. They operate an automatic concierge service, helping you to explore every aspect of special interest or activity fitting to your holiday.

Peace of mind

Coupled with our professionalism, with Italian Expressions you are buying peace of mind in all aspects of your holiday.

Full financial protection

Full financial protection is offered when you book a holiday with us. Our air holidays are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 3076. As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Expressions Holidays has provided a bond (licence number 5263) to protect non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK and other non-flight packages excluding pre-arranged travel to and from your destination. Please refer to our booking conditions for full details. We are also members of ABTA (W1080) and AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators), an organisation of some of Britain's best specialist tour operators.



Confirmed arrangements

When you book an Italian Expressions holiday, you know that you are not leaving your holiday to chance. Your arrangements are made in advance, so that you know when and where you're going to be day by day.

Help is at hand

In the unlikely event of your requiring assistance when you're abroad (unfortunately, unforeseen events do mean that sometimes clients have to return home for example), we are just a phone call away and can be relied upon to offer advice and help. We do not employ local representatives but all clients are issued with a 24-hour emergency contact number.



Outstanding hospitality, Hotel Savoy Florence

Locations across the country

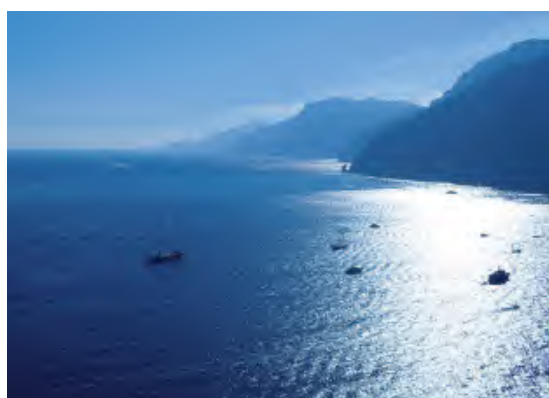
As true specialists, passionate about the country we are representing, we feel it is important to convey to you the true flavour of Italy. Certainly, the well-known regions such as Tuscany, the Amalfi Coast and the Italian Lakes are representative of the real Italy and are immensely satisfying to visit. However, Italy also possesses a wealth of country, coast and islands that are not quite as well known. Our two or more centre holiday suggestions are a popular way to combine regions, utilising our wealth of experience. Discover the true flavour of Italy with Italian Expressions.

Undiscovered country

As well as the better known regions of Italy, we bring you a variety of the relatively undiscovered too. For example Puglia, the so-called heel of Italy, a dignified and attractive region, a great producer of olive oil and wine. The interior is noteworthy with its patchwork of olive groves, vineyards and the white-washed conical houses called trulli. At the other end of the country is the region of Piemonte, noted for its outstanding wine, Barolo, and its truffles. Even within the better known areas such as Tuscany and the Italian Lakes we also offer the more 'off-the-beaten-track' places as well as the obvious, for example, the Maremma in southern Tuscany and Lake Iseo, one of the lesser-known but still very natural Italian lakes.

Dramatic coast

With Italian Expressions you can experience the unspoiled beauty of the dramatic coastline of Calabria and Basilicata, deep in the south. Then, there is one of our favourite stretches of coast, the Argentario, near Porto Ercole in southern Tuscany and either side of it splendid sandy beaches, flanked by a beautiful soft rural landscape.



Amalfi coast

Two or more centre holidays

Italy demands to be discovered and there is no better way than to combine one or more cities and regions to get a real flavour of the country. Popular combinations are Venice and the Lakes, Florence and the Tuscan coast and countryside, Rome and the Amalfi Coast. Our suggested touring holidays that combine many places in one holiday can be found on pages 14 to 17.



Capri



Sardinia



Sicily



Ischia

Magnificent islands

CAPRI

Rediscovered by English and German expatriates in the 19th Century, Capri was once home to emperors and monks. Just off the coast opposite Sorrento, Capri is best reached by hydrofoil from Naples (about 40 minutes) or from Sorrento, Positano and Amalfi.

SARDINIA

A large, sparsely populated island best reached direct by air. The countryside was poor for many years with the local population living off the land and the sea. The Costa Smeralda started to be developed by the Aga Khan in the early 1960s and now is known as one of the most exclusive and sophisticated coastal resorts in Europe.

SICILY

Is a large island in its own right with its own character and traditions. Fascinating historically, it is well worth combining a stay on Sicily with a visit to the nearby Aeolian Islands, each with their own character and described in more detail within the Sicily section of this brochure.

ISCHIA

Is the largest island in the Gulf of Naples lying about 40 minutes by hydrofoil from the city of Naples. The climate is mild and its vegetation luxuriant and sub-tropical. It is famous for its hot mineral springs and spa establishments. Monte Epomeo, a long-extinct volcano, affords panoramic views of the bay of Naples.

Types of hotel we offer

The hotels we offer

More than just star ratings

A stay at one of our hotels is at the heart of an Italian Expressions holiday. Our hotels have been personally selected to offer you exceptionally high standards of comfort, service and cuisine. Many of our hotels are among the most highly acclaimed in the whole of Italy. Others are full of charm and character or provide rest and relaxation amid an atmosphere of luxury and style. Below we feature a selection of the hotels we work with, with many often fitting into more than one category.

Star ratings

Star ratings are an important indicator of facilities and price, but, just as important as a star rating is character and ambience. We believe that whatever the official star rating of our hotels, whether 3, 4 or 5 star, each hotel has unique qualities and a sincere individuality of its own.

Invitation to share our passion

Our brochure descriptions cover the facts of each hotel but we also hope to convey at the same time a personal opinion about each one. We invite you to share our passion for them...



Hotel Splendido, Portofino

Grand hotels

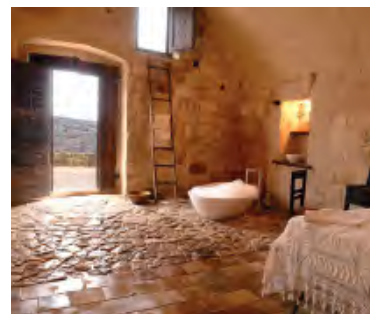
Some of the finest, best-known hotels in Italy are world-class 'Grand Hotels', often occupying buildings dating from the turn of the Century, in imposing locations and where service is of the utmost importance.



Belmond Villa San Michele, near Florence

Historic hotels

Many of our Italian hotels occupy buildings of great historic significance and interest, such as monasteries, castles, manor houses, villas and palaces.



Le Grotte della Civita Sassi di Matera, Basilicata

Rustic hotels

In countrified locations, completely in harmony with their natural surroundings, these hotels have a charm and quality of their own. Often associated with Tuscany and Umbria, the food is hearty and the welcome assured.



Hotel Villa del Sogno, Lake Garda



Il Falconiere, Tuscany

Cosy hotels of charm

Perhaps in lakeside villas, country houses or pretty seaside resorts, these hotels were often once family homes and now offer the service of an hotel with the feel of a 'home from home'.



Caol Ishka, Sicily

Fashionable boutique hotels

There is a new wave of trendy, boutique hotels in Italy. Have a look at Caol Ishka in Sicily and Lefay Resort on Lake Garda.

How you travel

By air including hire-car

Scheduled flights

Our holidays are based on scheduled flights with British Airways. We include scheduled flights in our holiday prices because we feel that our clients want the flexibility of departure date and duration offered by a daily scheduled service, rather than perhaps a weekly charter service. The scheduled airlines also offer the possibility of a premium cabin such as Club Europe with British Airways, which is popular with many of our clients. Wherever these scheduled airlines fly from and to, we can offer you their services. If there is no direct flight from your local airport, we offer a connecting flight with British Airways at a small supplement.

No-frills airlines

With the advent of the no-frills airlines in recent years, it may happen that the route of your choice is Stansted to Naples with Easyjet or Jet2 Manchester to Pisa. At your request we will make the flight bookings for you with these airlines.

Charter flights from local airports

A charter flight from your local airport is sometimes more convenient for you than a scheduled flight from London or having to change aircraft. We can arrange for you to have a charter flight, usually at a reduction off the overall cost of the holiday. More details on request.

Private jets

Travel by private jet to any destination in Italy. We can arrange this for you. Just contact us for details.

With hire-car included in price

A hire-car is essential for many, but not all, of our hotels. We include a hire-car in the price of your holiday for the majority of hotels but we can arrange for you to have a taxi transfer instead in appropriate cases. The hire-car is actually a very cost-effective means of getting from the airport to your hotel and back and also provides the means to explore the area during the course of your stay - an essential element of your holiday for most of the regions featured in this brochure. Obviously you do not need the hire-car when staying in a city and then we do not include it in the price of the holiday. However, if you combine a city with another region (for example, Venice and the Veneto), we would arrange for you to collect your hire-car at the end of the stay in Venice, have the use of it for your stay in the Veneto and then return it to the airport at the end of your holiday).

By rail

Rail travel to Italy and within Italy is an increasingly popular option. You can travel to Paris by Eurostar and then take the overnight sleeper to Venice and stops in between or you can overnight in Switzerland and enjoy a scenic journey over the Alps to Italy. Many clients now combine stays in various Italian cities, travelling by train in between. For a special occasion or for a leisurely, nostalgic rail journey, we offer the Venice-Simplon-Orient Express. More details of rail holidays on pages 10 to 13.

Self-drive with Channel crossing

Enjoy the freedom of the open road and the excitement of feeling the landscape of Europe change as you head south by taking your own car all the way to Italy. We offer you the choice of a crossing with P&O Ferries or by Eurotunnel. We can book overnight stops for you at the hotels we work with in France or you can make the arrangements yourself.

Plus

Italian domestic flights

If you want to combine two different regions in Italy, it can be most appropriate to fly in between. For example, to combine the Lakes with the Amalfi Coast, it makes most sense to fly from Milan to Naples. We are skilled at making these arrangements for clients, so please ask us for advice.

Private car transfers

Whilst many clients want the use of a hire-car, it is not always absolutely vital, especially for hotels within a reasonably short distance of an airport and for those in resorts that are readily served by good public transport, for example on the Amalfi Coast or the Italian Lakes. With some city centre hotels, it can be more cost-effective for you to take a taxi at the airport taxi rank, rather than having to allow waiting time for a pre-booked driver. However, many clients do want us to prebook a private transfer and we are happy to arrange this for you.

Boats and hydrofoils

For visiting Capri, Ischia and the Aeolian Islands you will need to travel by boat or hydrofoil. In some cases transfers can be pre-arranged or else they are booked locally. We will advise you.

Helicopter transfers

Some of our hotels do have helicopter landing pads and therefore can accommodate arrival by helicopter. If you want this service, please ask us for advice. Please check with us first.

Pricing messages

Our pricing policy

Price is an important issue but more important than the actual price is the need for you to receive real value for money, whatever price you pay. We offer both extremely competitive prices when you compare like with like and real value for money in the quality of service you receive from us and our suppliers and business partners.

Best available price at the time of booking

Prices are not displayed in full in this brochure for the simple reason that in the course of the year there are now so many variations that come into play. The major reasons for changes to prices include variations in exchange rates, airlines give us access to a whole range of special fares for which availability varies throughout the year (at some points there might be excellent availability for lower fares, at other times the fare we might have based the brochure price on previously will not be available and a supplement would be applicable) and hotels introduce special offers in the course of the year. In this way when you enquire about a holiday we will give you the best available price for your holiday taking into account all the offers available in the market place at the time.

Guide price in brochure

In order for you to have a fair idea of the sort of price range a particular hotel fits into, we give you a guide price for every hotel holiday in the brochure. This is based on a Type A (standard or lowest category) room for a given number of nights (usually 3, 5 or 7 as an example) and will include the basic airline fare and hire-car or transfer rates we have priced our Italian holidays on traditionally. However, these prices are only a guide and are based on the lowest-priced season in the year. Prices for high season will be higher.

How to get a price for your holiday

All you have to do to get a confirmed price for the holiday you want is to give us a call. We will have up to the minute prices ready for you and we will be able to quote immediately as we have always done in the past. We will have prices ready but by not publishing up to a year in advance, it means we will not be publishing prices that may have become out of date by the time you come to book your holiday. Our team of Italian specialist sales consultants will have all the details ready for when you call us.

Price guarantee upon booking

We guarantee that once you have made a firm booking with a deposit payment, there will be no increases in the price of your holiday due to currency movements. Similarly special offers or price reductions introduced after you have booked your holiday cannot be passed on to you retrospectively.

Negotiated benefits and Special Offers

We have negotiated for many of the hotels in this brochure to provide special offers for our clients. These range from free room-upgrades to free nights. These are offers that you receive by booking with us and you should not find them available to the general public. Likewise, we have negotiated a range of benefits with our top quality business partners, such as British Airways. For example, flying into one airport and out of another often at no additional cost, collecting your hire-car from one place and returning it to another, Club Europe travel with British Airways, just one way or both, at modest supplements and no obligation to stay a Saturday night in Italy. Many offers are time-sensitive and can only be applied to bookings made within a certain period.

Holidays excluding travel arrangements

The holiday that includes hotel accommodation, flights and hire-car or transfers offers the best value for money. If you ask us to quote for just booking the accommodation for you, we are happy to do so, but we think you will find that the overall holiday price is the best value for money. Our operating costs are the same and therefore you may find that asking us to book accommodation only appears expensive in comparison with the hotel's own rates. Therefore, before making any travel arrangements of your own and then asking us to book accommodation only, check with us first.

Checking in at the Hotel Villa del Sogno, Lake Garda



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Rail holidays to Italy

Holidays by rail to Italy are a popular way to travel. Watching the countryside of Europe change in front of your eyes is an undeniably romantic pleasure. There are a number of different, interesting routes you can take to reach Italy from the UK – we summarise these below and give some short example itineraries to illustrate timings. You may wish to travel outwards by one route and back another, or perhaps out by train and back by air. Italian Expressions can tailor-make your rail holiday to Italy.

1. To Italy on daytime trains through France

It is possible to travel from the UK to Italy in one go all in a day. High speed trains travel from Paris to Turin and Milan a few times a day and you can connect onto these services coming from the UK the same day by Eurostar. From Turin and Milan, onward connections to elsewhere in Italy can be made.

Sample timings

Day one

London St Pancras 09.17 Paris Nord 12.47 – Eurostar
Paris Lyon 14.41 Milan Porta Garibaldi 21.50 – TGV

Day two

Milan Centrale 10.20 to Rome Termini 13.40 – Eurostar Italia

2. To Italy via the Swiss Alps

Eurostar to Paris, then TGV onwards to Zurich. Spend one night in Zurich (or more if you wish). On day two, travel by Eurocity train from Zurich through the Alps to Milan and onwards to other parts of Italy. For those with more time, a spectacularly scenic route is to travel from Zurich to Chur, Davos, or St Moritz, then to Tirano on the Swiss/Italian border on the Bernina Express – this four hour journey is through some of the very best Alpine scenery travelling slowly in a specially designed train with panoramic windows. From Tirano you can continue to Milan by local train along the eastern edge of Lake Como. Using the Bernina Express, we can arrange a holiday breaking the journey twice in Switzerland – in Zurich and the Engadine, making the journey to Italy gently paced with plenty of time to appreciate the breath-taking mountain scenery.

Sample timings – direct from Zurich via the Gotthard

Day one

London St Pancras 11.31 Paris Nord 14.47 – Eurostar
Paris Lyon 16.23 Zurich 20.26 – TGV Lyria

Day two

Zurich 11.32 Milan 15.35 – Eurocity

Sample timings – direct from Zurich via the Bernina

Day one

London St Pancras 11.31 Paris Nord 14.47 – Eurostar
Paris Lyon 16.23 Zurich 20.26 – TGV Lyria

Day two

Zurich 07.12 to Chur 08.43- Regional Express
Chur 08.58 to Tirano 13.00 – Bernina Express
Tirano 15.08 to Milan 17.40 – Regionale

3. To Italy via Munich and the Austrian Alps

Following the Eurostar to Paris, or Brussels, you can travel by daytime trains to Munich. After a stay in Munich, a daytime train takes you southwards through the Austrian Alps to Italy arriving into Verona or Venice. There is also a good quality sleeper train that travels overnight from Munich through Verona and Florence to Rome, and there is a separate service to Venice.

Sample timings

Day one

London St Pancras 10.24 Paris Nord 13.47 – Eurostar
Paris Est 15.55 Munich 21.36 – TGV

Day two

Munich 11.34 Venice 18.10 – Eurocity

4. To Italy via overnight sleeper

The Thello sleeper service travels overnight from Paris to Milan, Verona and Venice. This sleeper train is simple in terms of on board comfort, but offers a time efficient and reliable route to reach Italy overnight.

Sample timings

London to Milan and on to Florence and Rome

St Pancras 14.22 Paris Nord 17.47 – Eurostar
Paris Lyon 19.14 arriving Milan Centrale next day 06.00 – Thello
Then Milan to Florence 07.20-08.59, or Milan to Rome 07.00-09.59

London to Verona and Venice

St Pancras 14.22 Paris Nord 17.47 – Eurostar
Paris Lyon 19.14 arriving next day 07.54 Verona or 09.35 Venice.

Through Switzerland by train



Sample itineraries

This is a very small selection of examples of the types of itinerary we can arrange. We can arrange trips throughout Italy using any train route.

OVER THE ALPS TO VENICE HOLIDAY

From London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet, you travel by Eurostar to Paris Gare du Nord where you transfer to Gare de Lyon station. We can time your journey to give you time for lunch in the famous Train Bleu restaurant in Gare de Lyon station. The journey continues by high speed TGV Lyria train to Zurich. The journey from London to Zurich takes about eight hours. Following a night in Zurich travel by Swiss Eurocity train from Zurich to Milan. This journey goes through the Alps and the Gotthard Pass giving great views along the way. At Milan a change of train takes you onwards to Venice where you stay three nights. Following your time in Venice, you can either return to the UK by air, or by train.

We include

- Standard premier tickets on Eurostar from London to Paris and first class on all other trains.
- One night's bed and breakfast in Zurich at the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera
- Transfers in Venice between the station, hotel and airport.
- Three nights bed and breakfast in Venice at the Hotel Bisanzio
- Flight from Venice back to the UK.

Prices from £1,590 per person based on two sharing

We can also arrange a holiday to Venice using the Bernina Express for an even more scenic route – see the itinerary below. Standard class throughout will also reduce the price.

LAKE COMO ON THE BERNINA EXPRESS HOLIDAY

Travel out to Zurich in the same way as on the itinerary above. After a night in Zurich, travel by train to Chur along the edge of Lake Zurich. In Chur you take the Bernina Express for the four hour journey to Tirano in Italy. This is a truly spectacular journey over many viaducts and through tunnels. There are views of glaciers, mountain lakes, small villages and pine forests. On arrival in Tirano, a local train takes you on to Lake Como and a short car transfer takes you to Bellagio and the Villa Serbelloni where you spend four nights. The return journey is made by high speed TGV from Milan to Paris on back to the UK.

We include

- Standard premier tickets on Eurostar from London to Paris (and back) and first class on all other trains.
 - One night's bed and breakfast in Zurich at the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera
 - Transfers on Lake Como between Lecco station, hotel and Milan station.
 - Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Villa Serbelloni.
- Standard class throughout will also reduce the price.

Prices from £2,660 per person based on two sharing

FLORENCE AND TUSCANY BY TRAIN HOLIDAY

From the UK, travel to Paris on a midday Eurostar. At Paris Lyon, board a high speed TGV Lyria service to Lausanne, arriving in the early evening. Following a night on Lake Geneva, travel by Intercity train to Milan and on to Florence. Spend three nights in Florence, with two full days in this beautiful city. Pick up a hire car and spend the next five nights in the Tuscan countryside. Return the car to Florence and then to Milan by train. Take an overnight sleeper from Milan to Paris, and then travel from Paris back to London on the Eurostar.

We include

- Standard premier tickets on Eurostar from London to Paris (and back), a double sleeper on the sleeper train and first class on all other trains.
- Transfer on arrival in Florence
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in Florence at the Rocco Forte Hotel
- Five days' car hire
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at Borgo San Felice in Tuscany

Prices from £2,640 per person based on two sharing

Standard class throughout will also reduce the price.

SICILY BY TRAIN HOLIDAY

Surprising as it may sound, you can travel all the way to Sicily by train. The train goes onto a ferry between mainland Italy and Sicily. This makes for a great journey with stops along the way possible in Zurich, Milan and Naples in this example. The journey can also be broken in Florence or Rome.

We include

- Standard premier tickets on Eurostar from London to Paris, and first class on all other trains.
- Transfers in Milan, Naples and Sicily.
- One night's bed and breakfast in Zurich at the Ambassador a l'Opera
- One night's bed and breakfast in Milan at Hotel Carlton Baglioni
- One night's bed and breakfast in Naples at Hotel Grand Vesuvio
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in Taormina at Hotel Villa Belvedere
- Flight back to the UK

Prices from £1,990 per person based on two sharing

Standard class throughout will also reduce the price.

Travel to Italy by train through Switzerland



Rail holidays within Italy

Train is often the most time efficient, convenient and relaxing way of getting around Italy. Large distances can be covered in relatively short times. Comfortable high speed trains operated by Trenitalia and Thello cover the routes between most major cities. As an example, Venice to Naples can be covered in just over five hours, and Venice to Florence in two hours. We can arrange first or second class tickets and book sleeper routes too, such as the overnight Rome to Sicily service.

Major high speed routes include

Turin – Milan – Bologna – Florence – Rome – Naples

Venice – Verona – Milan – Turin

Venice – Bologna – Florence – Rome – Naples

First class prices for these routes usually vary from between £50 to £100 per person.

There are also a number of smaller lines something very scenic, such as the journey from Milan to Tirano on the Swiss border.

Sample itineraries traveling by train within Italy

These are some suggestions showing how easily different regions of Italy can be combined using train travel. In each of these we would include:

Flights from the UK to your destination and back from the end point of your holiday

Private transfers (by water taxi in Venice) or car hire

First or second class train tickets

Hotel accommodation from three to five star.

Prices vary according to accommodation used, class of train travel and season.

1. Venice, Florence and Rome

Fly from the UK to Venice. Spend three nights in each of Venice, Florence and Rome. Travel between them by train. Example timings – Venice 11.25 Florence 13.30; Florence 11.08 Rome 12.40. Fly from Rome back to the UK. This combination doesn't involve any long journeys and makes for an ideal introduction to Italy's beautiful cities.

2. Venice and the Amalfi Coast

Fly from the UK to Venice. Spend three nights in Venice, and then travel on to Naples by train where you can pick up a hire car and drive to Sorrento or the Amalfi Coast. This is a great combination in spring or autumn when Venice may be quite cool and the Amalfi coast a lot warmer. Following a stay of five nights, return your car to Naples airport and fly home.

3. Rome and Sicily

Fly from the UK to Rome. Spend three nights exploring Rome. Next, catch the train from Rome to Taormina or elsewhere on Sicily where you can spend four days or so before flying back to the UK. Example timing – Rome 11.26 Taormina 20.43. The journey from Rome to Taormina by train is an interesting one, with the train going on a ferry to make the crossing onto Sicily.



Venice



Positano on the Amalfi Coast



Olive groves in Sicily

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express



The ultimate train journey across western Europe, from London to Venice, which allows you to enjoy the luxury of rail travel as it used to be. Conjuring up the romance of travel in the Twenties and Thirties, when rail travel flourished and was deemed to be the only civilised way to travel across Europe, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express continues that tradition of elegance and refinement today. The London to Venice journey allows you almost a day and a half to breathe in the style and service of a by-gone age, whilst enjoying the changing scenery as you travel across some of Europe's most spectacular scenery. All meals on board are provided.

The journey London to Venice

You depart from London Victoria station late morning, having brunch on board the British Pullman before reaching the coast. You cross with Eurotunnel to Calais and then board the historic Continental train. Dinner is taken en route to Paris and then by breakfast time you have reached the Alps. You enjoy lunch and tea on board before reaching Santa Lucia station in Venice, on the Grand Canal in the late afternoon.

The journey Venice to London

You depart from Venice mid-morning, heading towards Verona, the Dolomites and the Alps. You enjoy lunch and tea and then you are heading west into the sunset at dinner time. Overnight on board and then from Paris the train heads back to Calais and the Eurotunnel crossing. You reach London's Victoria station in the late afternoon.

DEPARTURE DATES LONDON TO VENICE

The 2017 London to Venice departures are on 23, 30 March, 6, 20, 23, 27 April, 4, 14, 18, 21, 28 May, 4, 22, 25, 29 June, 6, 13 July, 10, 17 August, 14, 17, 21, 24 September, 1, 5, 8, 15, 19, 22, 29 October, 2 November.

DEPARTURE DATES VENICE TO LONDON

The 2017 Venice to London departures are on 22, 29 March, 5, 8, 19, 22, 26 April, 3, 17, 20, 31 May, 21, 24, 28 June, 5, 12 July, 2, 9, 16 August, 13, 16, 20, 23 October, 1 November

PRICES

Add the following for travelling one way on the Orient Express to our holiday prices for the Venice through the Alps holiday (or ask us to price a tailor-made stay in Venice with Orient Express one way and either flying back or returning by train).

£1750 per person for travelling outbound London to Venice (you return by sleeper from Venice to Paris in a 2 berth sleeper and the Eurostar - no overnight in Zurich).

£1820 per person for travelling inbound Venice to London (but this journey includes the overnight in Zurich on the way out and the journey in the daytime from Paris to Zurich and then Zurich to Venice via Milan).

On certain dates you may travel between Rome and Venice overnight and between Venice and Rome in the day-time with a sumptuous 3 course lunch included. Please ask us to give you the best possible price for this journey at the time of enquiry.

Please note

If you are particularly interested in travelling on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, then you might be pleased to know that this legendary train also travels to Budapest, Krakow, Dresden and Istanbul. We have extensive personal knowledge of these fascinating European cities and will be pleased to put together a tailor-made holiday involving the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and these cities.

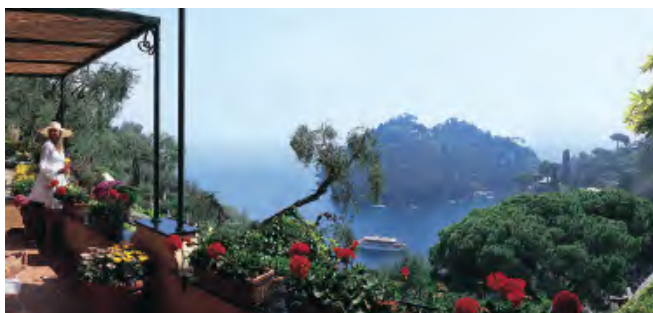


The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

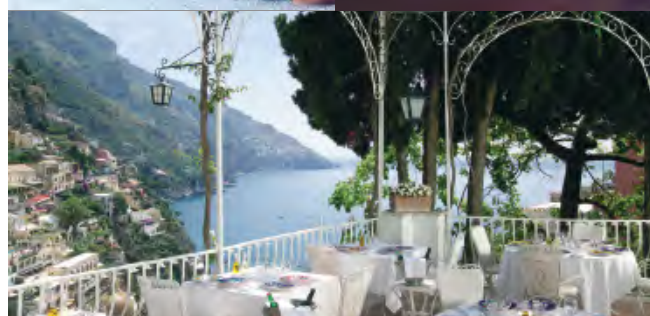
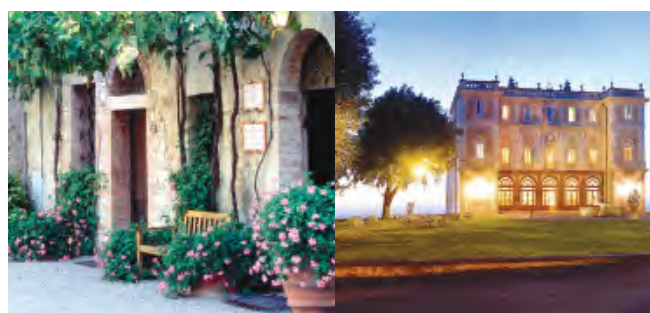
One of the elegant dining cars

Touring holidays

Use these suggestions as they are, or adapt them to suit your own tastes and budgets. Type A (standard or basic category) rooms are included unless otherwise stated. Don't forget, our well-established French Expressions brochure features over 80 hotels of character in 19 different regions of France, many of which are ideal as overnight stops or as part of a multi-centre holiday, split between France and Italy with perhaps Switzerland, Austria and Germany too en route.



Top Hotel Splendido; bottom left Borgo San Felice; bottom right Il Pellicano



Top left Borgo San Felice; top right Villa Grazioli; bottom Hotel Poseidon

Romantic interludes

Italy is probably the most romantic country in Europe, a country where romance is not only in the beautiful landscapes, buildings and atmosphere, but where romance is a way of life. This touring holiday includes a stay at three very romantic and yet very different hotels, each enjoying marvellous locations, two on the dramatic Italian coastline and one amid the forested hills and vineyards of Chianti country in Tuscany. This itinerary makes an ideal honeymoon or just a marvellous holiday.

From Tuscany to the Amalfi Coast

From the cradle of Italian culture you start your holiday amid the Chianti vineyards of Tuscany, an excellent base for exploring cities and countryside. Then you head south through southern Tuscany to the rural heart of Umbria. A stop en route near Frascati in the Alban Hills allows for relaxation or perhaps a visit to Rome. Then finally the dramatic coastline and azure sea of the Amalfi Coast, with its lemon groves.

We include

- Three nights' bed and breakfast in a classic room at the Belmond Hotel Splendido at Portofino.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in a classic room at the Borgo San Felice.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in a garden view at the Hotel Il Pellicano at Porto Ercole on the Tuscan Coast.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways from London Heathrow to Milan, returning from Rome to London.
- Hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday.



We include

- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Borgo San Felice in Tuscany.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Park Hotel Villa Grazioli near Frascati.
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Poseidon, Positano.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways from London to Pisa, returning Naples to London.
- Hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday.



From about £2,590 per person IT11

From about £3,680 per person IT02

For centuries the grand tour was the required finale to the education of a northern European gentleman and Italy was the essential destination in any grand tour of Europe. Today, a touring holiday to Italy is an equally desirable and enriching experience. Not only do you experience the diversity of the Italian countryside, landscapes and horizons but you will cherish the variety of flavours of the Italian way of life. The travel options we offer provide numerous ways of travelling to and in Italy.

The incomparable cities Venice Florence and Rome

These cities hardly need an introduction, and whether you've visited them before or never at all, they hold a unique place in everyone's mind. From the reputedly decadent beauty of Venice, with its bobbing gondolas, Byzantine and Gothic architecture and shimmering light to the Renaissance treasures of artistic and cultural Florence at the heart of Tuscany and then the grand finale in the Italian capital, Rome, with its outstanding monuments and sites, capturing the history of Italy and Europe from the Romans to the 20th Century.

We include

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Flora or the Hotel Bisanzio in Venice.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Helvetia and Bristol in Florence.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel d'Inghilterra in Rome.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways from London to Venice, returning from Rome to London.
- First class rail travel from Venice to Florence and from Florence to Rome.



(Cheaper options are available in Florence, eg the Brunelleschi and in Rome, eg the Hotel Mascagni).

From about £2,150 per person IT01

Three lakes and Venice

A leisurely touring holiday of the northern Italian lakes culminating in a stay in Venice. You start at dramatic Lake Como and then move on to the small lake of Iseo known for its natural scenery before arriving at the lush shores of Lake Garda. Each lake has its own character and the water-side locations of our hotels on the lakes makes for an enchanting ambience. Finally, you experience the uniqueness of Venice and a stay in our hotel right on the Grand Canal and within easy walking distance of all the sights.

We include

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni at Bellagio on Lake Como.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Albereta near Lake Iseo.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Villa del Sogno at Gardone Riviera on Lake Garda.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Ca'Sagredo in Venice (this can easily be extended by adding our extra and touring night price).
- Scheduled flight with British Airways London to Milan, returning from Venice to London.
- Hire of a group A car for for eight days from Milan to Venice.



From £2,680 per person IT03



Hotel Flora; top right Helvetia and Bristol; bottom right Hotel d'Inghilterra



Top left Villa Serbelloni; top right L'Albereta; bottom Villa del Sogno and Hotel Ca'Sagredo

Touring holidays



Clockwise from top left; Villa Belvedere, Villa Meligunis, La Luna, Capofaro



Clockwise from top left; Locanda delle Donne Monache, Masseria Torre Coccaro, Santa Caterina

Islands of the south

Sicily, the Aeolian Islands and Capri

A magnificent tour of the southern part of Italy, staying on four very different islands. From Sicily you head to the idyllic Aeolian Islands of Lipari and Salina and then by hydrofoil across the Mediterranean to Naples and on to the exclusive and sophisticated island of Capri.

Amalfi Coast, Basilicata and Puglia

A leisurely exploration of the southern part of Italy, covering both the well-known beauty spots of the Amalfi Coast and the lesser-known, more southerly regions of Basilicata and then on to the eastern coast and Puglia. A holiday of dramatic seascapes and beautiful interiors, both wild and cultivated. An ideal way to combine new regions and explore the south.

We include

- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Belvedere, Taormina, Sicily.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Villa Meligunis, Lipari.
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Capofaro, Salina.
- Five nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Hotel Luna, Capri.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways London to Catania, returning Naples to London.
- Private car transfers Catania to Taormina, Taormina to Milazzo, Naples port to Capri and Capri to Naples airport.
- Hydrofoil tickets Milazzo to Lipari, Lipari to Salina, Salina to Naples.



We include

- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Santa Caterina, Amalfi.
- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Locanda delle Donne Monache, Maratea on the coast of Basilicata.
- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Masseria Torre Coccaro in Puglia.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways London to Naples, returning from Bari to London.
- Hire of a group A car for the twelve days from Naples airport back to Naples airport.



From £3,160 per person IT13

From £3,240 per person IT15

To Tuscany with own car

A sample touring holiday, for those interested in taking their own car to Italy, combining our hotels of charm and character in France for overnight stops with our Italian hotels. This is only a suggestion and you might want to break your journey elsewhere or extend your stay in any of the hotels mentioned. Please phone us to discuss your proposed itinerary.

We include

- One night's bed and breakfast at the Montrachet in Burgundy.
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Imperial Palace at Annecy.
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Villa d'Amelia, in Piemonte.
- Seven nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Borgo San Felice in Tuscany.
- One night's bed and breakfast at Hotel San Rocco on Lake Orta.
- One night's bed and breakfast at Schwyz near Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Briqueterie near Epernay, Champagne region.
- P&O ferry crossing Dover to Calais or Eurotunnel crossing Folkestone to Calais for car and passengers.



From £2,750 per person IT06



Clockwise from top: Le Montrachet, Imperial Palace, Borgo San Felice, La Briqueterie, Hotel San Rocco, Villa d'Amelia



Clockwise from top: Excelsior Palace, Villa d'Amelia, Hotel Bellevue

Liguria, Piemonte and the Italian Alps

From the sophisticated waters of the Mediterranean on the Ligurian Riviera, through the noble vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco to the serenity of the Italian Alps and Cogne, in the shadow of the Gran Paradiso. A tour allowing for relaxing by the sea and exploration of attractive vineyards.

We include

- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Excelsior in Rapallo, on the Ligurian Riviera.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Villa d'Amelia near Alba in Piemonte.
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Bellevue in Cogne.
- Scheduled flight with British Airways London to Pisa, returning Milan to London.
- Hire of a group A car for twelve days.



From £2,580 per person IT17

Authentic experiences of Italy

Italy is rich in history, culture, food, wine, music, sport and spas. In essence, the richness of living and life in Italy is brought to you by Italian Expressions with our range of authentic experience holidays and breaks. We know that many clients want to combine a stay in a truly luxurious and cossetting environment with mind and knowledge enhancing experiences, particularly ones that illuminate local culture or individual interests and pursuits.

TO THESE ENDS over the next few pages you will find our current selection of holidays that incorporate events, activities and special interests. This fascinating selection includes garden and villa tours for small groups, visiting La Mortella on Ischia and the gardens of Ninfa south of Rome, truffle hunting in Piemonte, experiencing how mozzarella is made in Puglia, wine tasting in Umbria, cycling days in, Greek theatre in Sicily, visits to private gardens on Lake Maggiore, opera in Verona and Torre del Lago.

Do check our website for even more ideas of authentic experience holidays in Italy.
www.italianexpressions.co.uk

A brief overview of holidays in this brochure

Music in Italy – pages 20-21

Festivals and events in Italy – pages 22-23

Garden tours of Italy – pages 24-35

Food and wine in Italy – pages 36-37

Cookery holidays in Italy – pages 38-43

Other activities to be found on the website

Personalised guided tours in cities

This is perfect if you are reasonably familiar with the Italian cities, but like many of us find them irresistible to visit every so often and now you need more insight and depth into places of interest.

We can arrange for a registered English--speaking local guide to accompany you on a walking tour of a city of your choice. We recommend this service highly for Florence, Rome, Venice, Naples and Palermo. The guide takes you on a tour to places you are particularly interested in, whether the focus be a particular style of architecture, a particular artist, gardens or social history. Prices from about £350 for three hours.

Chauffeur-driven excursions

These are ideal if you don't want to drive yourself; you are collected from your hotel and your English speaking driver takes you exactly where you want to be, waits whilst you visit the place of interest and brings you back to the hotel. Prices from about £350 for half a day.

Golf in Italy

Just a few of the hotels we feature have golf courses on the premises, such as the Masseria San Domenico and the Masseria Torre Cocco in Puglia. Others, for example the hotels in Tuscany, have access to a number of golf courses within driving distance.

Sailing in Italy

There are a number of hotels that have their own yachts that you can hire on a skippered basis for days or half days. Some also make arrangements through local yacht companies. Hotels that offer this service include the Pellicano in Tuscany, the Palazzo Avino in Ravello, the Hotel Caruso in Ravello and the Masseria Torre Cocco in Puglia.

Walking in Italy

Walking in all sorts of shapes and forms is of course possible wherever you are. The hotels in Tuscany and Umbria are particularly good as bases for walking as are the ones in the mountains, the Hotel Bellevue in Cogne and the Hermitage in Cervinia. From the Villa di Monte Solare in Umbria, the hotel will give you a two-day itinerary from the hotel back to the hotel each day and come to collect you too.

Cycling in Italy

Again Puglia, Tuscany and Umbria all lend themselves well to cycling as there are plenty of tracks and lanes off the main roads where you can cycle and hire mountain bikes. A really worthwhile way to experience the local countryside.

Spas in Italy

Italy has a long history of spas dating back to Roman times and the country has abundant springs and spas specialising in a variety of treatments using mud, sulphur, sea water and mineral waters. Some of the hotels we offer are built over a spring such as the Grotta di Giusti, the Bagni di Pisa, the Fonteverde and the Terme di Saturnia. These tend to offer a truly authentic Italian spa experience, which can be more medical in flavour than an English equivalent. Others have superb spas using sea water such as the Masseria San Domenico in Puglia and the Capri Palace in Capri. Some just have an amazing range of beauty treatments in their hotel spa – many hotels offer this but some of the best are the Pellicano, L'Andana, the Castello del Nero, the Villa Serbelloni, Le Sirenuse, the Mezzatorre and the Excelsior Palace. Just ask us for details and we can tailor a spa break to suit your requirements.

Special occasions

Italy is a favourite destination to celebrate a special event or anniversary. Not only are there plenty of superbly luxurious and pampering hotels to stay in, but the staff will also take extra special care of you. All our hotels have splendid suites, ideal for a special occasion, or let us book a special dinner for you either in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant and treat yourself to a business class flight and perhaps a luxury car either for the transfer or to use yourself.



*Italy is brought to you
by Italian Expressions
with our range of
authentic experience
holidays and breaks*



Music in Italy

Music in Italy takes the form of numerous famous and not so famous festivals of opera and concerts as well as regular performances at world-famous theatres in the major cities. We can secure you seats at almost any festival or performance you may be interested in. Tickets for the very popular performances do get sold very far in advance, so do please let us know as soon as you can and we will do our best to reserve you tickets for the performance of your choice.

Verona Festival

The Verona Festival is the highpoint of the Italian opera lover's year. Verona's Roman Arena, where gladiators once battled, has been the magnificent setting for the most famous opera festival in the world since 1913. The stage is the biggest in the world and the arena holds 15,000 spectators during its season from the end of June until the end of August. There is a great choice of ticket prices according to the location and comfort of you seat.

We can give you immediate availability of the seats you want and let you know when we have booked them exactly where in the arena they are. Tickets must be prepaid at the time of booking and they are non-refundable. (A handling charge is added to the face value of your ticket if you ask any agent in the UK to make the reservation for you). The organizers reserve the right to change the programme.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Palazzo Victoria for three nights during the festival and let us book you seats in the 2nd sector stalls for one performance. Flights with British Airways from Gatwick to Verona both ways, Euro Traveller included and a private transfer from the airport to the hotel and back. Bed and breakfast included.

Prices from about £1,320 per person.

Verona festival programme 2017

Nabucco

June 23, 29
July 7, 12, 15, 18
August 4, 9, 12, 18, 23, 26

Aida

June 24, 30
July 5, 9, 11, 16, 20, 23, 28
August 3, 6, 8, 13, 16, 20, 24, 27

Rigoletto

July 1, 6, 14, 19, 27

Madama Butterfly

July 8, 13, 22, 29
August 11, 19

Prices for Verona

Ticket prices for the performances vary from about £40 per person for an unreserved stone step to £235 per person for a 1st sector stall Gold on a Friday and Saturday. Most people opt for at least a numbered seat on the steps at about £100 per person or a 2nd sector stall at about £145 per person. Tickets are non-refundable once bought.

Puccini Festival

Puccini was born in nearby Lucca in 1858 but from about 1891 and covering his most productive years, he spent most of his time at Torre del Lago, a small community about fifteen miles from Lucca. By 1900 he had acquired land and built a villa on the lake, now known as the 'Villa Museo Puccini'. He lived there until 1921 when pollution produced by peat works on the lake forced him to move to Viareggio, a few kilometres north. After his death, a mausoleum was created in the Villa Puccini and the composer is buried there in the chapel, along with his wife and son who died later. The 'Villa Museo Puccini' is presently owned by his granddaughter, Simonetta Puccini, and is open to the public. His works included La Boheme, Tosca and Madama Butterfly. Each year in July and August his life and works are celebrated with a festival of opera at Torre del Lago.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the hotel Bagni di Pisa at San Giuliano Terme or the Hotel San Lucca Palace in Lucca (both hotels are about 30 mins drive from Torre del Lago) for four nights and let us book you 2nd sector seats for one performance. We also include flights with British Airways from London to Pisa, a Group A hire-car and bed and breakfast. Half board and additional performances can be arranged on request.

Prices from about £1,250 per person.

Puccini festival programme 2017

Turandot

July 14, 23
August 4, 12

La Rondine

July 15, August 5

La Boheme

July 21, 28, Aug 11

Tosca

July 29, August 10, 19

Madama Butterfly

August 18

Prices for Puccini festival

Ticket prices vary from about £50 per person for a 4th sector seat to about £190 per person for a Gold seat. Many opt for a 2nd sector seat at about £105 per person. Tickets are non-refundable once bought.



Verona's Roman Arena, where gladiators once battled, has been the magnificent setting for the most famous opera festival in the world since 1913

Ravello Festival

The well-established Ravello Festival is held over two months every summer. The concerts take place in the Villa Rufino, the villa that inspired Wagner's Parsifal and also at a venue in the coastal village of Conca dei Marini. The main venue includes a suspended stage, built in the gardens of the villa, with panoramic views over the coast and the sea. Top calibre artists and musicians perform here. A superb occasion in stunning scenery.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel Palazzo Avino for three nights during the summer. Flights with British Airways from Gatwick to Naples both ways, Euro Traveller included and private transfer from Naples airport to your hotel and back. Bed and breakfast included in a queen double room mountain side. (performances extra).
Prices from about £1540 per person.

Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro

The composer Gioacchino Rossini was born in the town of Pesaro, on the shores of the Adriatic and a festival is now held here every year in his honour. Established in 1980, the fixture is an important fixture in Italy's operatic calendar. The festival has revived many of the composer's lesser known works and is held in the month of August. The venues are the Teatro Rossini and the Adriatic Arena in Pesaro.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Carducci 76 in Cattolica, about 10 miles away, for seven nights during the summer and let us book you a Tier side seat for one of the performances. Flights with British Airways London to Bologna return, Euro Traveller and use of a basic group hire-car. Bed and breakfast is included.
Prices from about £1620 per person.

Macerata Opera Festival

Macerata is a historic town set in attractive countryside south of Ancona. It actually has the largest outdoor arena after Verona, having been built in the early 19th Century to host handball games. However, from 1914 the venue was adopted for summer opera performances and the Macerata Festival started. Today it attracts from the greatest performers in the world with Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras having performed here in the past. Let us find you a hotel nearby. Prices on request.

Umbria Jazz Festival

The Umbria Jazz Festival takes place every year in July amongst the Roman ruins, mediaeval ramparts and elegant churches of Perugia. Stages are set up in its streets of pale stone houses in this University city overlooking the valley of the Tiber. The festival lasts for ten days and has a mixture of jazz legends and new talents. Quite a treat for all music lovers.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Villa di Monte Solare, about 20 miles from Perugia, for seven nights in July during the festival. Flights with British Airways London to Rome return, Euro Traveller and use of a Group B hire-car. Bed and breakfast included, half-board can be booked as an optional extra.

Prices from about £1530 per person.

Opera Season at the Caracalla Roman Baths

In the summer months of June to August, the famous Teatro dell'Opera in Rome moves outdoors to the magnificent setting of the ancient Roman baths of Caracalla. The annual programme of opera, ballets and concerts is rich and varied with a range from classical to some slightly less well-known pieces.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel de Russie in Rome for 3 nights in June, July or August and let us book you a seat in the first stalls for a performance. Flights with British Airways London to Rome return, Euro Traveller, a private car transfer both ways and bed and breakfast is included.

Prices from about £1550 per person.

Concerts and opera throughout the year

The great Italian cities all have their opera houses and performances at any of them such as La Scala in Milan, San Carlo in Naples, the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, the Palafenice in Venice, the Teatro Rugio in Turin and the Teatro Comunale in Florence and be arranged by us for you in advance of your stay.

The programme at each of these theatres does not appear far in enough in advance for us to publish in this brochure but further details can be provided by our sales team or will appear on our website in the course of the year.



Festivals and events in Italy

There are many, many festivals of varying degrees of importance and magnitude throughout Italy. Some are linked to significant religious festivals and others are linked to celebrating the fruits of the earth. Some have national importance and others are extremely localised. All, however, reflect the culture of the country and provide an intimate insight into the Italian way of life, spirit and make up.

January

Winter sales in Rome

An event rather than a festival, but of great interest to the visitor as the best of Italian fashion, furniture and food is on sale at discounted prices from mid January for about six weeks. In addition, museums and art galleries also discount their admission fees. A great chance to combine some New Year shopping and cultural visits.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel Inghilterra, Rome, for four nights for the price of three nights from 1 January to 28 February. We include return flights with British Airways London to Rome, private return car transfers and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,080 per person.



A winter break

February

Almond Blossom Festival

In southern Sicily, spring comes early and February is the traditional season to celebrate the almond blossom with its festival amongst the Valley of the Temples and the town of Agrigento. Today the festival is a major international folklore festival with numerous parades, shows, fireworks and craft displays as well as garlands of almond blossom and atmospheric lighting among the temples.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel Villa Athena in Agrigento for three nights in February. We include flights from London to Catania return with easyjet, hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,280 per person.



Almond blossom

Carnival in Ivrea

The carnival in Ivrea is full of atmosphere when the mediaeval town is illuminated with lights and colours and the air is perfumed. The festival has its origins back in the 13th Century and recalls a famous local rebellion, symbolised by the Battle of the Oranges, in fact a four day orange fight in the squares and streets. The main events take place on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday leading up to Shrove Tuesday. On Ash Wednesday the riotous behaviour quiets down and fried polenta is dished out to the public.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Relais Sant'Uffizio near Asti, about an hour and a half's drive from



Battle of the Oranges, Ivrea

Ivrea (north of Turin) for five nights on bed and breakfast. We include return flights with British Airways London to Turin, Euro Traveller, and hire of a basic group car.

Prices from about £1,030 per person.

Other carnivals: Carnival in Venice, Carnival in Viareggio, Carnival in Cento (near Ferrara).

Easter Day in Florence

The Scoppio del Carro, the 'Explosion of the Cart', takes place at midday on Easter Day in front of the Duomo in Florence. It is one of Florence's most famous ceremonies and is usually attended by thousands of people. A rocket in the guise of a white dove is released from a flaming cart that also sets off sparkling wheels and crackers.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel Helvetia and Bristol for 3 nights on bed and breakfast. We include scheduled flights London to Pisa return with British Airways, Euro Traveller, and a private car transfer.

Prices from about £1,290 per person.

Other events in Holy Week: Gubbio and Sicily (Trapani, Caltagirone and Palermo).

May

Palio di San Giorgio in Ferrara

Every weekend in May, this Palio follows a precise ritual from when it was first performed in the 13th Century, culminating in a parade of about a thousand characters in Renaissance costumes and then lastly on the fourth Sunday in May, the races in the Piazza Ariostea.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Hotel Duchessa Isabella in Ferrara for 3 nights on bed and breakfast. We include scheduled flights London to Bologna return with British Airways, Euro Traveller, and the use of a basic group car.

Prices from about £1,250 per person.

June

Strawberry Festival

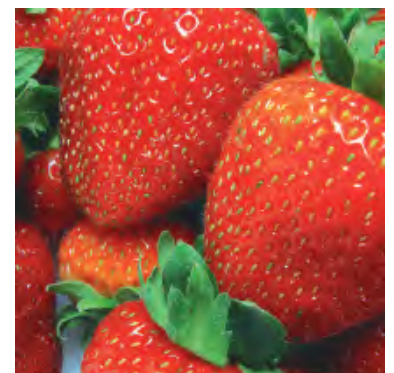
Nemi is a small town about 20km south of Rome on a hill overlooking the volcanic lake of Nemi. It is famous for its wild strawberries, small, sweet and with a distinctive flavour. Since 1922 Nemi has been holding its strawberry festival when women dressed in the local costume sell and offer visitors the fruit served in numerous imaginative ways. The town is decked out in flowers.



Florence



Hotel Duchessa Isabella, Ferrara



Celebrate strawberries

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Villa Grazioli about 20km away from Nemi and visit the festival for a day of your holiday. We suggest five nights. We include return flights with British Airways London to Rome, Euro Traveller, the hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,350 per person.

Classical Greek Theatre Festival

June also features a festival of classical Greek theatre held in the famous Greek theatre in Siracusa in Sicily. The Greek theatre is cut into the local rock and is one of the finest and largest of its kind and is an atmospheric venue to this annual festival of theatre.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Grand Hotel Ortigia, Siracusa, for three nights. We include return flights with British Airways London to Catania, Euro Traveller, a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,180 per person.

Giostra del Saracino

In Arezzo, Tuscany in June and September, a jousting contest of mediaeval origins thought to date from the time of the Crusades is re-enacted in this historic town. Thought to reflect the battles between the Crusaders and the Saracens, the joust in the Piazza San Francesco is the culmination of a week of historical costume parades, banquets and concerts.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Relais il Falconiere, Cortona, about 30km from Arezzo for five nights giving you time to perhaps visit Arezzo twice or more during your stay. We include return flights with British Airways London to Pisa, Euro Traveller, hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,630 per person.

July**Feast of the Redentore**

The Feast of the Redeemer in Venice is held on the third Saturday and Sunday in July. It is performed on the waters of the lagoon in front of St Mark's Square when countless crafts of all sorts line up beside each other to await spectacular fireworks at midnight. Huge barges are transformed into dance floors and the lagoon seems like a floating carpet as revellers cross from one boat to another to meet and greet each other. An amazing spectacle.

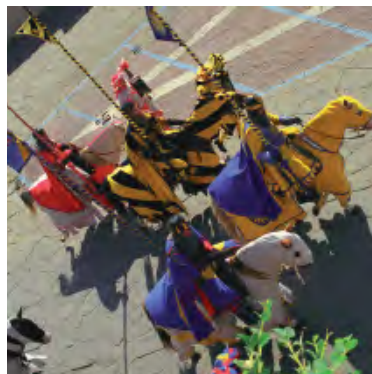
Suggested holiday

Stay at the Baglioni Hotel Luna just a few yards from St Mark's Square for three nights. We include return flights with British Airways London to Venice, Euro Traveller, a private boat transfer and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,560 per person.



Greek theatre



Arezzo and the Giostra del Saracino



St Mark's, Venice

August**Tuscan Sun Festival**

This is a multi-faceted musical festival held from in August in Cortona, famous for its Etruscan heritage and Renaissance works of art. To accompany the music and to highlight the senses there are also art exhibitions, culinary delights, literary discussions and beauty treatments.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the nearby Relais il Falconiere for five nights during the festival to make the most of all the events. We include return flights with British Airways, Euro Traveller, London to Pisa, hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,440 per person.

September**Palio di Asti**

This is one of the oldest Palio's in Italy and sees 21 contestants relive the ancient tradition of the Palio in the historic centre of Asti in Piedmont. In the days preceding the race there are numerous events including a colourful flea market and the trials of the jockeys on the field. The winner gains possession of the crimson banner with the coat of the arms of the city.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Relais Sant'Uffizio about 10 miles from the town of Asti for five nights to include the day of the Palio. We include flights with British Airways London to Turin, Euro Traveller, hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

Prices from about £1,280 per person.

December**Christmas Market in Merano**

In each town in the South Tyrol the Christmas tree is decorated individually to reflect the character of the place. Merano's is decorated with apples. In the month before Christmas, there are Christmas markets in the towns in this area, a Germanic tradition, yet here with an Italian flavour. Use the markets as an excuse for a winter weekend away, perhaps to do some Christmas shopping.

Suggested holiday

Stay at the Vigilius mountain resort about four miles from Merano for four nights. This gives you chance to travel down the mountain by cable car to visit the market on the Saturday but also time to enjoy the mountain air with a host of activities, relax in the spa and relish the gourmet Alpine cuisine. We include flights with British Airways London to Verona, Euro Traveller, hire of a basic group car and bed and breakfast.

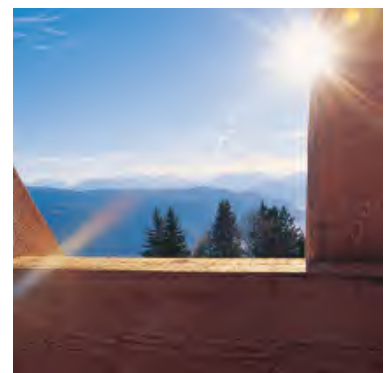
Prices from about £1,390 per person.



Detail from a violin



The Palio di Asti



Vigilius mountain resort

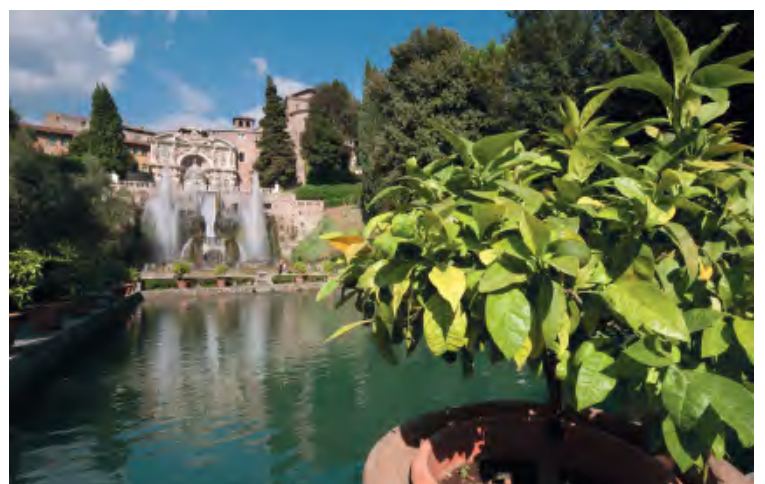
Tours of gardens and villas of Italy for small groups



Caserta near Naples

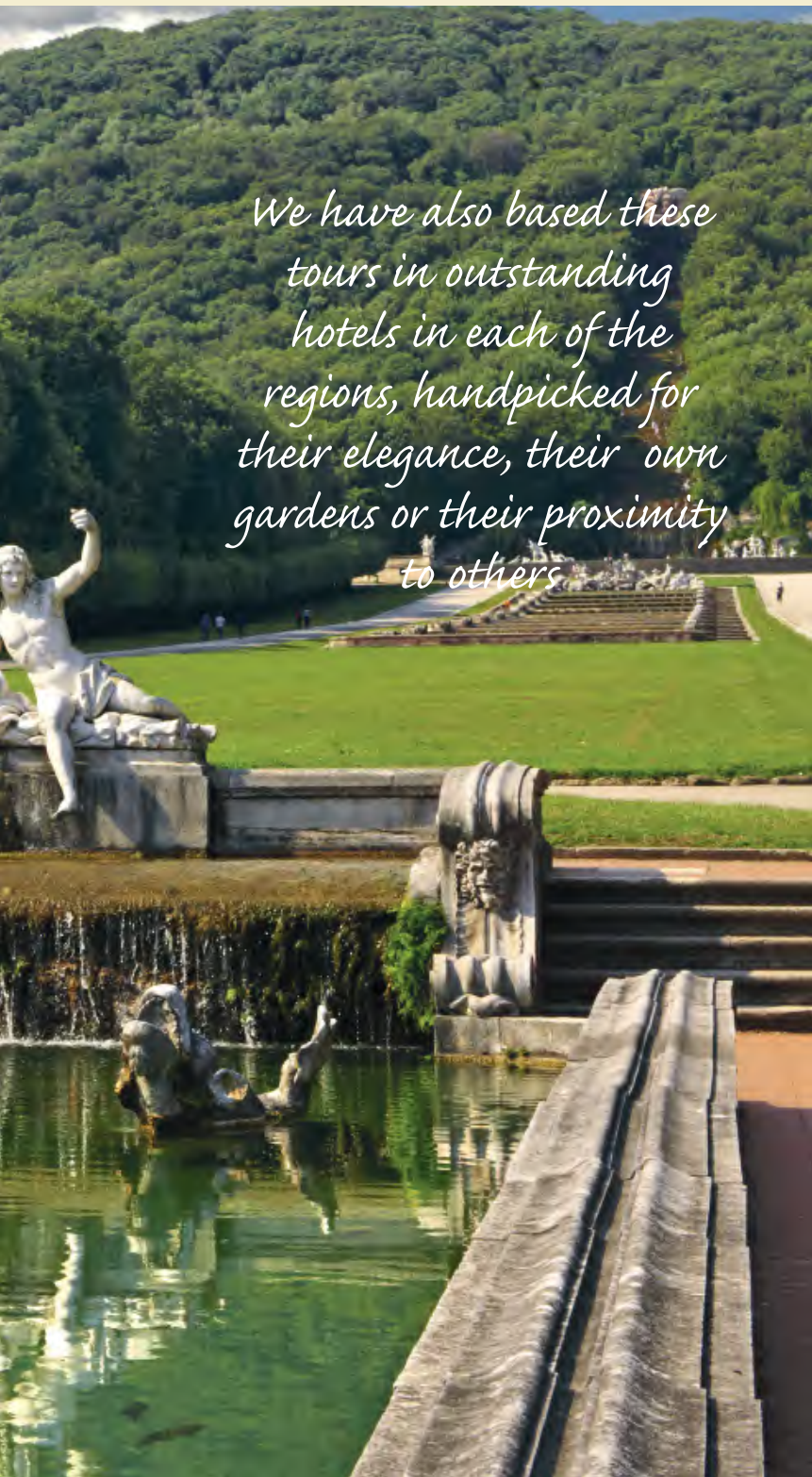
From the Romans to the Renaissance, Italy has been a playground for the rich and famous – and a treasure trove for their art. Sculptures and mosaics, Botticellis and Donatellos: from hilltop churches to city cathedrals, Italy is a living, breathing museum of masterpieces that has drawn poets and writers, artists and musicians, and the curious rich from all over the world.

LITTLE WONDER their legacy remains, not just in museums and galleries, but also in extraordinary gardens, with almost every palazzo and villa hiding its own exquisite gem. Perfectly complementing the more traditional delights of the Amalfi Coast, the Italian Lakes, Tuscany, the environs of Rome and the Veneto, our programme of Tours of Gardens and Villas of Italy gives access to some of the finest gardens in Europe, and many of which have been instrumental in the way gardens have been designed and developed in the Western World. We have also based these tours in outstanding hotels in each of the regions, handpicked for their elegance, their own gardens or their proximity to others.



Villa d'Este near Rome

We have also based these tours in outstanding hotels in each of the regions, handpicked for their elegance, their own gardens or their proximity to others



SCATTERED WITH HILLTOP VILLAGES and cypress-studded horizons, mediaeval towns, and humble trattoria serving rustic feasts in cobbled courtyards often overlooking the plains, Tuscany has called to sun-starved north Europeans – and the British in particular – like nowhere else in Italy. Not for nothing Shelley described it as a 'paradise of exiles'. Bookended by the Alpi Apuane mountains to the north (whose quarries supplied the marble for Michaelangelo's David) and the sun-baked clay hills of the crete to the south, Tuscany packs an astonishing variety of landscapes into a relatively tiny area, making it possible to gorge on duomos and campaniles by morning, gardens by afternoon, with simple, sumptuous, sun-kissed lunches in between. In Tuscany it is the influence first and foremost of the Medicis that shaped their country dwellings and their land into the classical landscape that we think of as Tuscany today.

TO THE NORTH, THE VENETO AND THE ITALIAN LAKES have a more alpine accent, split between the lush, mountainous splendours of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore, where microclimates allow for some fascinating plants and trees, and the plains of the River Po and the Brenta canal, where water and shelter from north winds play a vital role. Here you find terraced gardens, as well as wilder English-style parks, the influence of Palladio and then the French Baroque with many surprisingly exotic trees, shrubs and plants, collected from all over the world.

IN THE FAR SOUTH you explore the rugged, breathtaking cliff-gardens of the Amalfi Coast and Capri, inspiring of artists, poets and musicians. Here are traces too of the origins of gardens and plants from Roman times in the excavations of Pompeii and the remains of Tiberius's Villa Jovis on Capri. Even 'modern' gardens such as that of Axel Munthe are based on the classical and are constructed with ancient artefacts in prime positions. The climate of this region which is suitable for olives, oranges and lemons is also suitable for tender exotics. The soil is rich and fertile around Naples. The Naples region also boasts the Palazzo Reale at Caserta, modelled on Versailles and one of the most important architectural gardens in Europe.

AT THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY, in the vicinity of Rome, much influenced by Roman emperors, the Papacy and Italian aristocrats, are truly amazing gardens that have shaped the design and structure of gardens the world over dating from the 16th Century. Bramante played a key role in the link between the villa and the countryside in a way that emulated Roman models. On the whole plants are less important than structure in this region. Key features include terraces, steps, ramps, central perspective, symmetry and proportion and the use of water.

Expressions garden tours for small groups

A unique feature of our tours is that they operate for small numbers only. You travel in a small, luxury coach with just 16 seats. You have a local guide to accompany you to the garden visits but not in between. You stay in Expressions tried and tested hotels or ones that we have known about and used for our individual guests for 20 years.

Alternative travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Important information

These tours are based on 14 people participating. Flight times are subject to alteration and are confirmed at the time of booking. We reserve the right to consolidate departure dates if there are insufficient numbers for any of the departure dates and to alter the accommodation if necessary. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary if we cannot be accommodated in any of the villas and gardens for any reason closer to the date of departure.



Ninfa, Rome area tour

Tour of the gardens and villas of the environs of Rome

This tour explores the architectural gardens of the ancient region of Latium which have influenced the development of Western garden design. Today located in the region of Lazio, these gardens developed mainly in the late 16th Century and were first and foremost architectural with plants being only of a primary importance in Ninfa and Landriana, which are recent creations. This tour encompasses some of the greatest masterpieces of Italian garden design. This tour operates with a maximum of 14 people.

THIS TOUR FOCUSES ON some of the most important gardens or villas and gardens in Italy, located in Lazio, to the north and the south of Rome. You are based for the first three nights to the north of Rome in the historic city of Orvieto from where you can reach Villa Lante, a perfect Renaissance garden, which is a landmark in the history of Italian gardens and nearby Sacro Bosco at Bomarzo, with its collection of overwhelming and eccentric stone sculptures amid the parkland. Near Viterbo is also the Villa Farnese, dating from the mid 16th Century and another masterpiece of Italian garden art providing a perfect balance of landscaping, architecture and sculpture.

Then you drive south visiting the magnificent Villa d'Este and Villa Adriana at Tivoli near Rome. Villa Adriana offers a magical insight into the gardens of antiquity and its hay meadows, wild flowers, pools and fishpond remain as features whilst the Villa d'Este is the quintessential garden of the High Renaissance and resplendent in its structure and use of water. You will be based near Frascati to the south of Rome, from where you can reach three spectacular and vastly different gardens: those of Castel Gandolfo, rich in history, Landriana, bursting with luxuriant flowers, shrubs and trees in an English fashion yet containing controlled Italian styles amidst colour from April to October, and Ninfa, where crumbling mediaeval walls provide a sheltered microclimate for rare and tender plants and an amazing collection of plants from all over the world. Amid 20 acres, plenty of summer heat and water from the hills, this is a unique garden, frequently perceived as a perfect garden.

Finishing the tour in Rome gives you a wonderful opportunity to extend your stay in Italy, with perhaps a few days in Rome itself for shopping, sightseeing or further garden visits.



Villa Lante



Hotel Piccolomini



Inside the Villa Grazioli



Villa d'Este



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive in Rome and transfer to your first hotel

We include the 08.30 flight from London Heathrow that arrives in Rome Fiumicino at 12.00 hrs. You are met by a tour escort who welcomes you to the tour and then taken by small coach to your hotel in Orvieto. Time to unpack and rest before dinner. Dinner is not included but we will give you a list of recommended restaurants within walking distance of the hotel

Day two: Visit Villa Lante and Sacro Bosco at Bomarzo

Depart from the hotel after breakfast to visit first of all Villa Lante's garden, with abundant water features of cascades, fountains and grottoes, and superb stone carving. You enjoy a visit with a local guide of the gardens. Then you visit the bizarre collection of both eccentric and delightful stone 'beasts' and 'monsters', dating from the mid 16th Century. Enjoy this park in your own time before returning to the hotel. Own arrangements for dinner.

Day three: Visit Villa Farnese

This is a half day excursion with your coach and driver to Villa Farnese, about 12 miles south of Viterbo. Hailed as a magnificent masterpiece, the garden here harmonises landscape, architecture and sculpture and bursts with a spectacular water feature, the Casino del Piacere, dating from about 1560. The remainder of the day will be at leisure back at your hotel, with time to visit Orvieto. Own arrangements for dinner.

Day four: Travel to Frascati visiting Villa d'Este and Villa Adriana in Tivoli

You leave your first hotel this morning and head south towards Rome for two incredible visits before reaching your hotel near Frascati, where you will be based for the next three nights. A packed lunch is provided. The first visit is to the Villa d'Este, now a UNESCO world heritage site and an impressive garden of man-made terraces, fountains, grottoes, nymphs, often considered a model for European gardens thereafter. Then you visit the nearby Villa Adriana, villa of the Emperor Hadrian and even in its ruined state is one of the most spectacular Roman gardens and an impressive monument to antiquity. The garden recreated a sacred landscape and a hydraulic system fed water to the main structures. Today it is still a magical site with wild flowers, meadows, tall cypresses, fishpond and pool remaining as features. You have time to settle in to your hotel near Frascati before dinner that is included at the hotel.

Day five: Visit the Giardini della Landriana

The highlight today is a guided visit of the Giardini della Landriana. Occupying 25 acres and created since 1956,

this is a rarity in Italy due to the scale of the separate compartments and the combination of luxuriant English planting and formal Italian structure. The garden is a mass of colour from April to October. Whites, blues, olives, citrus, cottage-style mauves and yellows abound. Formal and informal 'rooms' open and close in speedy succession. The influence of Russell Page is evident. A break for lunch is taken at the end of the visit here before you continue to Frascati where you have some free time to explore the town on your own. You are then taken back to the hotel for time to relax before dinner, which is included at the hotel this evening.

Day six: Visit the Giardino di Ninfa

The garden of Ninfa is an amazingly special place and perhaps the perfect garden. A guide here conducts the visit. You will witness the verdant location, fed by streams from the hillsides, the impact on the plants of temperatures that rarely fall below 10 degrees Centigrade, the dilapidated walls of the village buildings that provide a microclimate for rare plants to flourish, trees and walls flower-covered and there are scents of rose and jasmine. This is a fantastic collection of plants from all over the world that flourish in this idyllic site. A packed lunch is provided today with time to eat it after the visit of Ninfa. In the afternoon there is a visit with guide of the gardens of Villa Aldobrandini in Frascati. After a fascinating day, return to the hotel for the included dinner this evening.

Day seven: Visit the Gardens of Castel Gandolfo and then return from Rome to London

Today there is a final garden to visit; that of the gardens of the papal residence Castel Gandolfo. This is private visit with a guide. Please note: no shorts or sleeveless tops. There is some free time at the end of the visit before departing for Rome airport and the flight at 15.15 hrs for London Heathrow, arriving in at 16.35 hrs.

Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person.

10 May 2017	£2,250
17 May 2017	£2,350
7 June 2017	£2,350
6 September 2017	£2,350

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Single supplement for use of double: £300 per person.

Deposit payment: £300 per person

We include

- Flights with British Airways London Heathrow to Rome in Eurotraveller

- Transportation on the mainland in a small coach with one piece of luggage per person.

- Services of English speaking tour escort throughout.

- Services of a local guide for Villa Lante, Villa Farnese, Villa d'Este, Villa Adriana, Landriana, Ninfa Aldobrandini and Castel Gandolfo.

- Entrance tickets to the gardens visited.

- Three nights' bed and breakfast in a standard double or twin room at the Palazzo Piccolomini in Orvieto.

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Villa Grazioli, Frascati in a classic double or twin room in the Paggeria wing of the hotel.

- One packed lunch per person.

Palazzo Piccolomini Orvieto

This is a small, historic 4 star hotel with just 22 rooms in the centre of the hill-town of Orvieto, providing a charming and discreet location for your stay. The Palazzo is a renovated aristocratic town mansion dating from the end of the 16th Century and located within easy reach of the shopping area, the Cathedral and the lifts that operate from the parking areas below the town. There is a breakfast room and reading room. The hotel bedrooms are air-conditioned with digital TV. There is no restaurant at the hotel itself but many within easy walking distance.

Park Hotel Villa Grazioli Frascati

The Park Hotel Villa Grazioli dates from the 16th Century. Once a Cardinal's villa, it has been carefully restored as a 4 star hotel to combine its wealth of history and modern comforts for its guests. There are 62 rooms in the main Villa and two smaller villas, the Paggeria and the Limonaia. Rooms are elegant and restrained, and overlook the park, Frascati the Hill of Tuscolo or the direction of Rome. The Acquaviva Restaurant has an enchanting hanging garden with a view over Rome, and offers guests specialties of local and Mediterranean cuisine. There is an outdoor swimming pool. The classic rooms are located in the Paggeria wing of the hotel. Rooms can be upgraded on request at a supplement.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

The gardens at Ninfa

Tour of the gardens and villas of the Amalfi coast, Capri and Ischia

This gardens and villas tour explores a glorious region whose climate is not only suitable for olives, vines, oranges and lemons but also for tender exotics. The region of Campania around Naples is blessed with a rich, fertile and well-drained soil that was appreciated by the Romans. From native plants of Roman times to exotic imports, there is a flourishing huge diversity here to explore. You are based on the outskirts of Sorrento and then on the island of Ischia. This tour operates with a maximum of 14 people.

THIS TOUR OFFERS a classic introduction to the landscape, history and flora of Campania including the magical islands of Capri and Ischia. In Ravello, perched high above the coast, the remarkable site of Villa Cimbrone boasts a wisteria-clad pergola almost the length of the garden, formal and informal side gardens, a rose garden and trees such as umbrella pines, plane trees and olives that intermingle with palms, cycads, phormiums and yuccas. An air of slight neglect and seemingly wild native euphorbias, scented anemones and giant fennel create a pleasing and relaxed atmosphere. Nearby the gardens of Villa Rufolo extend along three terraces that contain a variety of trees and flowers, from palms and yuccas to oleander and bougainvillea. A gem is the private Tenuta Porta di Ferro near Salerno, a Grandi Giardini Italiani where the estate includes rare plants, Mediterranean native species and an experimental garden with water plants and contemporary design.

The island of Capri is home to the extraordinarily beautiful villa and gardens created by Axel Munthe will entrance and delight. Sculptures, ancient artefacts, a granite Sphinx, a Greek tomb are to be discovered throughout the gardens, shady pergolas and a profusion of colour as well as stunning panoramas of the island. You are accompanied on a walking tour of the Giardini di Augustus, botanical gardens designed in terraces overlooking the sea full of ornamental plants and flowers.

On the island of Ischia you visit the private gardens of Ravino, home to succulents and cacti, and then you will treasure a visit to La Mortella, the home and gardens created by Lady Walton, an exotic oasis amongst the maquis where luxuriant plants and trees from around the world co-exist with the indigenous, creating a unique universe with an aromatic fragrance.

*In Ravello,
perched high above
the coast, the
remarkable site of
Villa Cimbrone*



Villa Cimbrone



La Mortella



Porta di Ferro



Villa Rufolo gardens and view



Garden of the Cocumella



The Mezzatorre

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive on the Amalfi Coast

You may choose to fly to Naples between the 06.40 flight from Gatwick arriving at 10.20 or the 15.00 flight arriving at 18.40. You are met and transferred to the hotel. Free time and dinner under your own steam. The hotel has a restaurant and there are numerous others nearby.

Day two: Visit Ravello with Villa Cimbrone and Villa Rufolo

Depart after breakfast for a full day excursion by coach accompanied by a local guide for the spectacular drive along the coast road to spend the day in Ravello and Amalfi. There is plenty of time to explore the delights of the Villa Cimbrone and the Villa Rufolo in Ravello, free time for lunch and then a visit to Amalfi where you stop to visit its Paradise Cloister. You make your own arrangements for dinner, perhaps at the hotel or nearby.

Day three: Visit Capri

Today you are taken to Capri by boat with a guide for a visit first to Anacapri and the extraordinary Villa San Michele, home of Axel Munthe. Enjoy this astonishing collection of ancient artefacts, mosaics and sculptures set amidst splendid vegetation. Then there is free time for lunch before visiting the Giardini di Augustus and a gentle walk to the Punta Tragara from where you can admire the Faraglioni rocks. For those who are fit and able walkers and happy to cope with the steps and uneven surfaces, an optional visit to the amazing site and Roman ruins of Villa Jovis is possible (entrance fees at own cost). Return to your hotel for dinner under your own steam.

Day four: Visit Tenuta Porta di Ferro

Today we are pleased to offer you a hidden gem near Salerno. The Tenuta Porta di Ferro is a private estate with several distinct garden areas devoted to rare plants, contemporary and experimental design, water plants and Mediterranean species. It is a member of the Grandi Giardini Italiani and the garden development started in the early 20th Century. The journey time is about 90 minutes by car. Once there you will visit the themed gardens, presented by a botany expert from the estate, translated by your English speaking escort. A brunch is included and there is also the chance to see and taste the farm produce, much of it DOP. The extensive gardens feature mixed borders of perennials, citrus trees, lavender, roses, wistaria, bougainvillea, agapanthus, water plants, olives and vines. Return to your hotel for the evening.

Day five: Transfer to Ischia

Leave Sorrento at 9.30 for the direct ferry (50 mins) to Ischia crossing the Bay of Naples. You are transferred to your hotel, the Mezzatorre. In the afternoon you are taken to the gardens of Ravino, a private garden housing a private collection of exotic plants, succulents and cacti, unique in Europe. Spread over an area of about 6000 square metres, you will be able to walk through the gardens along pathways of over 500 metres in an area with abundant plants. The gardens are the result of the passion and care of Giuseppe d'Ambra. Back to the Hotel Mezzatorre to relax and explore. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Day six: Visit of La Mortella

A visit to La Mortella is the highlight of your stay on Ischia. The garden is a 15 minute walk from the hotel but we will arrange a transfer for you. You will have an English speaking guide to give you a tour of the gardens (about 2 hours). La Mortella is Lady Walton's magnificent garden that is an oasis of greenery amid the maquis. The air is humid enough for New Zealand tree ferns and there is a range of rare and tender trees, palms, shrubs and bulbs. The garden offers a parallel existence of indigenous plants (the aroma of the maquis or machia in Italian abounds) as well as the exotics. Charming, fascinating and oozing specimens to delight. The rest of the day is your own before the included dinner at the hotel.

Day seven: Return to London from Naples

Morning at leisure before departing in the afternoon by road and sea back to Naples and on to the airport for the flight leaving at 19.25 arriving back into Gatwick at 21.10 or departing at 21.10 arriving at 22.50.

Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person.

4 May 2017	£2,280
18 May 2017	£2,550
8 June 2017	£2,630
14 September 2017	£2,630

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Single supplement for use of double: £520 4 May, £650 18 May, £680 8 June and 14 September, per person.

Deposit payment: £300 per person

We include

- Flights with British Airways London Gatwick to Naples in Eurotraveller

- Transportation on the mainland in a luxury small coach with one piece of luggage per person.
- Transportation from Sorrento to Ischia and from Ischia to hotel, back from hotel to Naples.
- Services of a local guide for the excursions and visits as mentioned.
- Entrance tickets to the villas and gardens mentioned with brunch at the Tenuta Porta di Ferro
- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Grand Hotel Cocumella, near Sorrento in a standard double or twin.
- Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Hotel Mezzatorre, Ischia in a classic double with sea view.

Grand Hotel Cocumella Sant'Agnello, near Sorrento

The 5 star Grand Hotel Cocumella is situated in its own tranquil and beautiful park in Sant'Agnello, just a 20 minute walk from Sorrento's lively centre with its ample choice of tempting shops, bars and restaurants. The atmosphere of the hotel is traditional, historic and elegant and almost no two rooms are alike in size, even if they are in the same category. A pretty terrace overlooks the gardens and here guests can enjoy the buffet breakfast. The Cocumella also has its own man-made beach which is reached by a lift in the gardens; this is exclusively for guests' use, and deckchairs, umbrellas and bathing cabins are provided.

Hotel Mezzatorre Ischia

This is a 5 star luxurious hotel in a splendid location on the coast in Ischia, about 15 minutes' walk from La Mortella. The hotel has a superb spa, a private thermal spring, swimming pool, restaurant and lovely gardens of Mediterranean maquis. From here you can also walk into the nearest town on the coast of Lacco Ameno in about half an hour (or be taken by the hotel's shuttle). The 45 rooms and 12 suites have views of the sea, gardens or park.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included.

Tour of the gardens and villas of Tuscany

Combining Chianti and the Lucca region this 6 night tour reflects the diversity and beauty of Tuscan villas and gardens; Italianate, baroque, parkland, water features and stunning views. The garden tour holiday operates with a maximum of 14 people.

THIS TOUR COMBINES THE CLASSICAL HEART of Tuscany with a stay near Greve in Chianti from where you visit three of the most beautiful and historic gardens in the Chianti area, accompanied by a local guide; Villa Poggio Torselli at San Casciano Val di Pesa, Giardino di Vignamaggio at Greve and Villa Geggiano near Siena.

These villas date from the 15th Century and each of their gardens is famed in its own way for its design and beauty. Villa Poggio Torselli is renowned for its spectacular flowering plants including Indian giant hibiscus and a golden crown of 120 secular lemon trees, whereas Vignamaggio boasts an ornate Italian garden with ornamental trees, roses and cypress and Villa Geggiano, frequently used as a film set, is resplendent with ancient cypress, sculpted boxwood as well as lemon trees.

From Chianti you move further west towards the coast and the town of Lucca, which offers the opportunity to visit some of the less well-known gems of this region, including the baroque gardens of Palazzo Pfanner inside the mediaeval town, Villa Grabau, Villa Oliva, the Parco della Villa Reale and the Villa Torrigiani. En route though you visit the impressive gardens of Villa Garzoni, famed for its Baroque terraces, staircases and water cascades. The Villa Grabau is renowned for its English-style parkland which abounds in rare trees, planted initially in the 16th century when the villa was built and added to over the years. Villa Oliva enjoys views over the countryside near Lucca from its position on a hillside. Its gardens descend the hill and there are numerous water falls and fountains. The Parco della Villa Reale is an extensive garden and parkland with numerous linked water features, a Moorish garden, a lemon garden, a green theatre and a camellia walk. Finally the Villa Torrigiani houses a baroque garden with nymphaeum, grottoes, water games and flowers.



Parco della Villa Reale



Villa Torrigiano



Parco della Villa Reale



Tuscan view from Villa le Barone



Hotel Bagni di Pisa



Palazzo Pfanner

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive in Tuscany

You either join our flight at 08.50 from Heathrow arriving in Pisa at 12.00 or you make your own way either to Pisa for this time or directly to the hotel. At Pisa you are met by your small luxury coach and English speaking driver and tour escort who take you the hour and a half approximately to your hotel for the first three nights, the Villa le Barone at Panzano near Greve in Chianti. There is time to unpack and explore the hotel and its grounds as well as the country tracks nearby before dinner.

Day two: Visit to Villa Poggi Torselli

Today you enjoy the stunning landscape of Chianti and this part of Tuscany, with its mixture of rolling landscaped vineyards and wooded hills. You visit the Villa Poggi Torselli at San Casciano Val di Pesa, renowned for its spectacular flowering plants, where you have a guided visit. Packed lunch accompanies you. You return to the hotel Villa le Barone for dinner.

Day three: Full day tour Greve to Siena.

Today is a full day starting with Villa Vignamaggio was the home of the Gherardini family and Lisa Gherardini who is said to be the subject of da Vinci's Monna Lisa. Here you enjoy guided visit. Then you head south towards Siena and the second garden of the day at Villa Geggiano, now a national monument, where you have a guided tour. A packed lunch today and then you return back to the Villa le Barone for dinner.

Day four: Departure for Lucca and visit Villa Garzoni gardens en route

You leave Greve this morning for your second stay of the tour, at the Bagni di Pisa near Lucca. En route we have included a visit of the gardens of Villa Garzoni, dating from 1652 and famous for the balustraded terraces, symmetrical staircases and water cascades, which make the most of the hillside location. Lunch is included at the Ristorante Garzoni. You arrive at the Bagni di Pisa mid to late afternoon, with time perhaps for a spa treatment or a swim in the hotel's pool. Dinner is taken at the hotel.

Day five: Full day tour to Villa Grabau and Villa Oliva

Today a local guide accompanies you on your visit to Lucca and the baroque gardens of Villa Pfanner and then nearby Villa Grabau and the gardens of the Villa Oliva. These two villas and their gardens near Lucca give you a flavour of the variety of the gardens in this area with both English-style parkland with rare trees and formal water features. Time in the day to relax with your packed lunch. Dinner is taken back at the hotel Bagni di Pisa.

Day six: Full day tour to Parco Villa Reale di Marlia and Villa Torrigiani

Your guide accompanies you to two splendid gardens in the Lucca area again today. The Parco Villa Reale is a very large garden with numerous water features, gardens within gardens and an enormous amount to explore. Lunch is included at a local trattoria in between visits. Villa Torrigiani is very pretty, formal and ornate. Villa Torrigiani is very pretty, formal and ornate. You return to the hotel for dinner and your last night.

Day seven: Return to London from Pisa

You have some time this morning to relax before heading back by your small coach to Pisa airport and your flight to London Heathrow which leaves at 13.05 arriving at 14.30.

Dates and prices

2017 Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person sharing a double or twin room:

4 June 2017	£2,350
25 June 2017	£2,450
10 September 2017	£2,450

Supplements: Single supplement for use of double: £460 per person.

Superior double or twin room at the Villa le Barone £30 per person per night

Deposit payment: £300 per person

We include

- Flights with British Airways London Heathrow to Pisa in Euro traveller
- Transportation from Pisa airport and back to Pisa airport in a small coach for maximum 14 people with one piece of luggage per person, English speaking driver/escort
- Entrance tickets to the gardens mentioned with guided visits of all except Villa Grabau.
- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Villa le Barone in a classic double or twin rooms.
- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Hotel Bagni di Pisa in double or twin rooms.
- Three packed lunches per person
- Two lunches in local restaurants per person

Villa le Barone Panzano, Greve in Chianti

This is a traditional hotel, once an aristocratic villa and now a 4 star hotel of less than 30 rooms, in its own grounds amid a typical Tuscan landscape of rolling fields and vineyards. There is a swimming pool and tennis court.

Hotel Bagni di Pisa San Giuliano Terme, near Lucca

This is a 5 star spa hotel of about 60 rooms, situated on the edge of a small spa town. It is renowned for its spa facilities including a thermal pool and cave, yet its location near Lucca and Pisa make it an ideal base. There is an indoor and outdoor pool, spa and fitness centre.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Tour of the gardens and villas of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore

This 6 night group tour combines stays in five star hotels on both Lake Como and Lake Maggiore, both of which have a distinctly alpine feel but are also luxuriant in their vegetation. The garden tour holiday operates with a maximum of 14 people.

THIS TOUR OF TWO VERY POPULAR and dramatically beautiful Italian lakes features a splendid range of striking villas and their gardens which you visit with a local guide.

On Lake Como these include the splendid Villa Melzi d’EriI at Bellagio with its eclectic collection of sculptures in this essentially English-style park that abounds with excellent tree specimens, the enchanting Villa Balbianello facing Serbelloni, secluded in its setting and full of woods of pine, cypress and oak as well as flowerbeds and the Villa Carlotta at Tremezzo, full of imaginative planting, sunny terraces, with climbers, ferns, giant magnolias and cork oaks. Two more gardens complete the tour at Lake Como; Villa Cipressi which is poised upon a rocky promontory with terraces leading down to the lake, planted with Mediterranean shrubs and vines, laced with magnolia, eucalyptus, pittosporum, lavender and agave and Villa Monastero, renowned for a fine collection of Mediterranean and tropical vegetation, as well as fountains and statues.

On Lake Maggiore we had to include Isola Bella, one of the most dramatic 17th Century Baroque gardens in Italy, seemingly floating on the surface of the lake with its ten-terraced garden and marble balustrades. Water theatre, putti and grottoes embellished with tinted stucco, pebble mosaic and shellwork add to the sense of fantasy here. Trees include orange trees, lemons and pomegranates. We also visit Isola Madre and the Botanical garden Alpinia above Stresa. There is also time for an optional visit to the Villa Giulia in Pallanza.



Villa Monastero



Lake Como from the Grand Hotel Imperiale



Grand Hotel Majestic, the gardens



Gardens of Villa Taranto



Isola Bella

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive in Milan

You either join our flight at 09.10 from Heathrow, arriving in Milan Linate at 12.05 or you make your own way either to Milan Linate for this time or directly to the hotel. At Milan you are met by your small coach for up to 14 participants. You arrive at your first hotel on Lake Como in time for dinner.

Day two: Full day to Villa Cipressi and Villa Monastero

Meet with the local guide whose services you have this morning as you visit and tour the gardens of Villa Monastero (renowned for a fine collection of Mediterranean and tropical vegetation, as well as fountains and statues). After the visit there is time for lunch (own expense) before a guided visit to Villa Cipressi, poised upon a rocky promontory. You are taken back to the hotel in time to relax before dinner.

Day three: Full day guided tour of gardens

This is quite a full day with a total of three gardens to be visited on different shores of Lake Como. First you visit the Villa Melzi d'Eril (at Bellagio with an eclectic collection of sculptures in this essentially English-style park that is full of excellent tree specimens), time for your packed lunch in between, a short interlude in Bellagio itself, and then on to Villa Balbianello for a guided visit (in a secluded setting and full of woods of pine, cypress and oak as well as flowerbeds) and then to Villa Carlotta at Tremezzo for another guided visit (full of imaginative planting, sunny terraces, with climbers, ferns, giant magnolias and cork oaks). You return to the hotel in good time for dinner.

Day four: From Lake Como to Lake Maggiore

Today you leave to drive over to Lake Maggiore heading for the Grand Hotel Majestic in Pallanza. This afternoon take a stroll to the public gardens at Villa Giulia about 5 minutes from the hotel for a visit under your own steam (no guide). Settle in and enjoy some free time before the included dinner at the hotel.

Day five: Isola Bella and Isola Madre

Today is spent on the islands in Lake Maggiore, described to you by the local guide. You go first to Isola Madre for a guided visit and then by boat to Isola Bella to visit the museum and gardens. Isola Bella is one of the most dramatic 17th Century Baroque gardens in Italy, seemingly floating on the surface of the lake with its ten-terraced garden and marble balustrades. Packed lunch is provided. Dinner at the hotel.

Day six: Villa Taranto

Your guide gives you a tour of the gardens of Villa Taranto, followed by a visit to the Botanic gardens Alpina above Stresa and reached by cable car. Packed lunch provided. There is free time to visit Stresa itself. Dinner at the hotel.

Day seven: Back to Milan and London

You have a large part of the day at leisure on Lake Maggiore

today as your flight does not depart until 19.00 from Milan Malpensa. Arrive back at Heathrow at 19.55 hrs.

Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person

9 May 2017	£2,290
23 May 2017	£2,350
6 June 2017	£2,350
27 June 2017	£2,350
5 September 2017	£2,350

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Single supplement for use of double: £400 per person.

Deposit payment: £300 per person

We include

- Flights with British Airways London Heathrow to Milan in Euro traveller
- Transportation from Milan airport and back to Milan airport in a small coach for maximum 14 people with one piece of luggage per person.
- Entrance tickets to the gardens mentioned
- Services of an English speaking local guide for garden visits as mentioned
- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Grand Hotel Imperiale in a double or twin park view rooms
- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Grand Hotel Majestic, Pallanza in double or twin rooms with partial lake view.
- Three packed lunches provided per person.

Grand Hotel Imperiale Moltrasio, Lake Como

The Grand Hotel Imperiale is a four star hotel and one of the many historical hotels on Lake Como. The rooms, whether in the modern wing or in the original hotel are all elegantly furnished with modern amenities and have either lake views or views over the gardens. The hotel's outdoor swimming pool is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

Grand Hotel Majestic Pallanza, Lake Maggiore

Situated on a promontory in Lake Maggiore surrounded by English-style gardens of lawns and trees, the Grand Hotel Majestic dates from the 1870s and is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World. There are 90 rooms, two restaurants, a spa and an indoor swimming pool.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Tour of the gardens and villas of the Veneto

This 6 night tour splits between the two cities of Padua and Verona, both with clusters of significant gardens in and around them whilst their villas benefit from the influence of the great Palladio. Also in this region, due to the importance of the cities of Padua and Verona, there are very particular gardens of historic interest inside the cities themselves. Please note that this holiday does involve walking tours of up to 2 or 3 hours in duration and the gardens have terraces and steps. This tour operates with a maximum of 14 people.

THIS TOUR ALLOWS YOU plenty of time to explore the beautiful cities you stay in. Also, because of the proximity of the gardens to the cities, there is little driving time in between each visit or each day in total. The tour starts with a drive of about 30 minutes south-west of Padua and the Villa Barbarigo Pizzoni Ardemani whose gardens take the form of an amphitheatre surrounded by hills but reached by avenues containing all the attributes of an Italian garden: box hedges, lemon trees, sculpture and water features, including water games which may soak the unsuspecting visitor. Nearby on the edge of the Euganean Hills is Villa Emo at Rivella. This villa dates from 1588 and is attributed to Vincenzo Scamozzi, a pupil of Palladio. The main lines of the garden are straight and Italianate but the planting is informal with lots of indigenous flowers such as primroses, hellebores and hepaticas, mixed with salvias, iris and arums in the water.

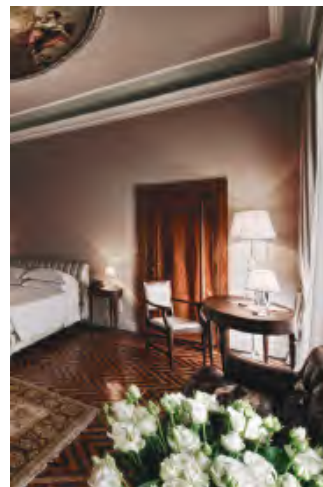
Padua is a delightful, small city and at its heart is the Botanic Garden. Just under 30 minutes' drive from Padua, on the Brenta Canal, is the Villa Pisani, whose gardens reflect the French influence at the time with its gates and grilles offering views to the countryside outside of the park. There is also a labyrinth, gentle lawns, avenues of water and decorative statues. Our time in Verona is spent exploring the city with a local guide but also visiting the Giardino Giusti, set on a steep hillside behind the villa courtyard, inside Verona and one of the oldest Renaissance gardens in Italy, dating from the 1570s and much visited by artists over the centuries. Goethe was inspired by the huge cypress trees. Our final garden is that of the Villa Rizzardi that lies about 11 miles to the north of Verona. Its most outstanding feature is a green theatre, the finest of its kind in Italy dating from 1796. The alleys and vistas have been designed to glimpse the hills and mountains whenever possible. An avenue of cypresses interspersed with palm trees leads to a belvedere. There is also a wilder bosco where stone beasts lurk.



Villa Pisani



Palazzo Victoria, Verona



Junior suite at the Palazzo Victoria



Villa Barbarigo

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive in Italy

We book you onto the 14.00 British Airways flight from Gatwick to Venice, arriving at 17.10. You are met by your small luxury coach and driver/escort who take you to Padua, a drive of less than an hour. As our hotel is in the historic centre, passengers and luggage will be transferred to the hotel by minibus. Time for a stroll in the city centre and to try one of our recommended restaurants for dinner (not included).

Day two: Visit Villa Barbarigo and Villa Emo at Rivella

Today you are driven the short distance (about 30 minutes) south-west of Padua to the area of the Euganean hills for the two visits today. A local guide at the gardens will provide guided visits. Enjoy the sense of theatre from the setting of Villa Barbarigo, with its beautiful garden that has strong structural element but also is full of flowers as well as clipped hedges, box, magnolias and fishponds with waterplants. At Villa Emo, you will appreciate the very pretty borders and flowers, unusual in such a structured Italian garden. An English influence is evident in the double herbaceous borders and blocks of blue iris. The setting of the villa is a delight with the estate-owned apple orchards, corn fields and vineyards. Return to Padua for the evening and own dinner arrangements.

Day three: Explore Padua and visit the Botanic Gardens

This morning you will enjoy a walking tour with a guide of the heart of Padua with its bridges, arcaded streets and piazzas and also the famous historic botanic gardens. Padua is a delightful, small city (setting for Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*) and home to an ancient university. The city has arcaded streets, piazzas and is intersected by branches of the Bacchiglione river. At the heart of Padua is the historic Botanic Garden, dating from 1545 and founded as an apothecary's teaching garden for the University Medical School. Living plants from all over the world were brought here to be studied and for use in herbal medicine. The layout is still very geometric. The rest of the day is at leisure for you to explore on your own. Own arrangements for dinner.

Day four: Villa Pisani and Verona

You leave Padua this morning for the second stay of the tour but en route you drive along the Brenta Canal and stop to visit Villa Pisani, one of the most famous of the villas on

the canal and resplendent with symmetrical water features, statues and lawns. If possible we will visit Villa Trissino Marzotto before reaching Verona. Your hotel is in the city centre, a few minutes' walk from the Arena. This afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the city on your own. Own arrangements for dinner or visit one of our recommended restaurants.

Day five: Sightseeing of Verona and the Giardino Giusti

You enjoy a morning's sightseeing walking tour of Verona with a local guide, have free time for lunch, and then in the afternoon you visit the Giardino Giusti, one of the oldest Renaissance gardens in Italy and from which you will be able to admire panoramic views of the Alps and the Po valley. The highest level of the gardens is thick with 19th Century landscape-style planting and then lower down on the flat are formal box-edged parterres, lemons in pots and fountains. Cypress form a walk and there are beautiful views to the Alps and across the Po to Mantua. Own arrangements this evening for dinner.

Day six: Villa Rizzardi and Valpolicella wine tasting with lunch

Your final full day on this tour takes you north of Verona towards the Valpolicella wine region and first a visit to Villa Rizzardi and its famous green theatre, the oldest in Italy. After the visit you will have a wine-tasting and a light lunch. Mid-afternoon return to Verona for your final night. Own arrangements.

Day seven: Return to London from Verona

You will check-out after breakfast for a morning flight back to London, departing from Verona at 11.50 and arriving into Gatwick at 12.50 hrs. If you prefer we can arrange for you to have a full day in Verona and fly back on the evening flight at 22.10 arriving into Gatwick at 23.00 hrs (transfers extra). Or why not extend your stay in Italy and visit Lake Garda or Venice perhaps? Ask us for details.

Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person

7 June 2017	£2,340
6 September 2017	£2,340

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Deposit payable: £300 per person

Supplements:

Single occupancy £450
Grand deluxe double at Palazzo Victoria £15 per person per night

We include

- Flights with British Airways Gatwick to Venice, Verona to Gatwick in Euro traveller
- Transportation from Venice airport back to Verona airport in a small coach for maximum 14 people with one piece of luggage per person, English speaking driver-escort.
- Entrance tickets to the gardens mentioned with guided visits
- Sightseeing tour on foot of Padua and Verona
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in double or twin rooms at the Hotel Majestic Toscanelli, Padua
- Three nights' bed and breakfast in a deluxe double or twin room at the Palazzo Victoria, Verona
- Luggage and passenger transfer in Padua

Hotel Majestic Toscanelli Padua

This is a 4 star hotel in the heart of the old town of Padua, traditional in style, furnished with antiques and with each bedroom having its own soft furnishings. Rooms have either bath or shower and wc and overlook the square at the front of the hotel or the courtyard at the back. The hotel offers a buffet breakfast and there is an American bar serving drinks and food.

Palazzo Victoria Verona

The Palazzo Victoria is now a 4 star hotel with about 70 rooms and suites in the historic centre of Verona. Originally a private palazzo, the building has been painstakingly restored to incorporate original features such as Roman mosaics and mediaeval frescoes. There is a bar, popular with the Veronese where cocktails can be enjoyed often accompanied by live jazz and there is also a restaurant with show kitchen. Super location and lots of atmosphere.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates and from UK regional airports or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.



Food and wine in Italy

Food and wine represent the essence for many visitors of the real Italy. Traditionally food plays an immense role in the life of an Italian and the elemental dishes of the daily Italian table have spread worldwide to an extent that the lives of many people would not be the same without them. What better than to come to Italy and not just experience its food and wine on an everyday level, but to be able to delve deeper and explore the pleasures of real Italian food – by visiting where it is made, tasting its flavours, watching it made and learning the art of cooking the true Italian way, perhaps under the guidance of a great Italian chef?

EXPRESSIONS HOLIDAYS offers you an epicurean voyage around Italy, with cookery holidays for small groups of 2 to 6 people, with one-off cookery lessons incorporated in a hotel stay, with truffle hunting weekends, opportunities to explore limoncello and pizza, to see how real mozzarella is made and a celebration of ham, cheese and balsamic vinegar. Plus, never far away either, are the many-varied and splendid wines of Italy, from the sparkling prosecco of the northern hills to the robust Nero d'Avola of Sicily with opportunities to taste and buy both at our hotels and at vineyards nearby.

Here is a roundup of some of the food and wine holidays we can offer – more can be seen on our website – and also on the next few pages are the Cookery holidays for small groups in detail, but which can also be operated for couples.

Castello del Nero Tuscany

Share the secrets and passion for cooking of the Chef at Castello del Nero and participate in these lessons held in the hotel's kitchen for 2 to 6 people at a time. Each lesson has a theme; perhaps All about Pasta, a Tuscan Menu or All about Fish. You finish by dining on the food that has been created. You receive an apron and you go away with the recipes that have been cooked.

Prices for a three night break including one cookery course start at about £1,160 per person based on four people taking part.

Masseria Torre Coccaro Puglia

On request the Masseria Torre Coccaro in Puglia will organise a cookery lesson of a duration of two and a half hours for a minimum of just one person and a maximum of eight. Lunch is included in your course and recipes include pasta such as orecchiette or frisciddi and traditional local dishes including Tiella of rice, potatoes and mussels, broad beans and chicory, eggplant timbale and Puglian pastries.

Price for a three night break including one cookery course start at about £1,190 per person based on two people taking part.



Truffle-hunting in Piemonte

Stay at the Relais San Maurizio and let them accompany you on a local truffle hunt where you also sample the truffles and a selection of local fine wines. This can take place all year but the autumn months are the best months for truffle hunting. Perhaps combine a visit here with a visit to Alba, home of the world famous white truffle festival that takes place in October and November. The truffle hunting lasts about two and a half hours and can take place in small groups of 2 to 5 persons.

Prices for a three night break including the truffle hunting start at £1380 per person based on 2 people participating.

Celebration of ham, cheese and balsamic vinegar

Combine a city break in Parma with the Parma Golosa Experience, where you can visit the production sites of Parma ham, traditional Balsamic vinegar and parmesan cheese and witness the production methods that have been used for 2000 years. You need to drive yourself to the factories but the visits are pre-arranged for you. You can visit just one or two of the three foods but if you do all three, allow about 6 hours in total. The visits are conducted in English.

Prices for a three night break staying at the Palace Hotel Maria Luigia in Parma including the visits to ham, cheese and balsamic vinegar sites start at £1,050 per person based on 2 people participating. The price comes down slightly if there are four of you.

Limoncello and flavours of Sorrento

More mozzarella but also limoncello and pizza – famous flavours of the Sorrento region – are available here. This half day tour ending with lunch starts with a drive from Sorrento to Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi, a small village not far from Sorrento and a local farmhouse where they make mozzarella and limoncello, the lemon flavoured liqueur so popular in this area. On arrival at the farmhouse you are met by the owner for a coffee and biscuits before taking a stroll through the garden. Then there is a hands-on demo that includes mozzarella cheese making, pizza and limoncello. At the end enjoy a lunch of these local products.

Prices for a five night holiday at the Grand Hotel Cocumella near Sorrento including the visit to the farmhouse and lunch start at about £1750 per person.

Mozzarella in Puglia

This is a rare and fascinating insight into one of our most loved and versatile cheeses. You are taken to a traditional farm set in olive groves where your experience starts with the sheep and goats whose milk is used for ricotta cheese and the cows whose milk is used for the mozzarella and burrata. The farm manager shows you how to make both mozzarella and burrata which you can also taste. Then you finish off with a visit to Monopoli and its markets where you can taste ice-cream or the focaccia barese. The tour lasts from 9.30 to 12.30. Stay at the Masseria Torre Coccaro.

Prices for a five night holiday at the Masseria Torre Coccaro to include the visit to the mozzarella farm and the market start at £1470 per person.



Borgo San Felice

Borgo San Felice in the Chianti Classico region has its own wine production in the hamlet. The Agricola San Felice owns about 650 hectares of which 140 produce high quality wine. It also has about 17,000 olive trees. Its labels include Poggio Rosso and Vigorella, one of the Supertuscans. The estate also has land in the Montalcino area where it produces Brunello and in the Maremma too. Vin santo and grappa are also produced as is olive oil. Many clients are unaware of how prestigious the winery is when they come to Borgo San Felice. We suggest you have a tasting of 3 wines and extra virgin olive oil on one occasion and then enjoy a traditional Tuscan country-style dinner in the cellar accompanied by four of their wines on another occasion. One of the original Chianti producers, the Castello di Brolio, is about five minutes by car from the hotel, so we suggest you visit this along with Badia a Coltibuono and the Castello di Fonterotoli, 25 and 45 minutes' drive respectively.

Prices for a five night break at the Borgo San Felice including the tasting and a dinner with wine start at £1660 per person.

Valpolicella Hotel Villa del Quar

The Hotel Villa del Quar has a splendid cellar, worthy of its 2 Michelin star restaurant. We suggest you take one of the organised wine tastings in the cellar with the Sommelier. A fitting appreciation would be one of Amarone della Valpolicella, the most important wine of the Valpolicella region. The hotel's cellar holds vintages from 1960 to the present day. You taste three different vintages of Amarone.

Prices for a five night break at the Villa del Quar including the Amarone tasting start at £1850 per person for a minimum of four.



Expressions Holidays offers you an epicurean voyage around Italy, with cookery holidays for small groups of 2 to 6 people



TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

Wine tour of Piemonte

A superb 4 night tour for up to 14 people accompanied by an experienced wine and food expert, discovering the land and the variety of the wines of Piemonte, including the renowned Barolo and Barbaresco.

About the region and the tour

A tour of the Piemonte (Piedmont) region of north-west Italy, once part of the kingdom of Savoy and at the forefront of Italian unification in the mid 19th Century, is a fascinating and amazing journey into an attractive landscape that bursts with the distinctive flavours of its produce, from wine to hazelnuts, from chestnuts to truffles, from cheese to breadsticks. Whilst the food products merit a visit in their own right, it is the allure of the great wines of the region that attracts many and it is this that is the focus of our 4 night wine appreciation tour.

Barolo and Barbaresco, two of the most revered red wines in the world, hail from the heartland of this region, both produced from the 'Holy Grail' variety of Nebbiolo grape (named after the morning mists that hover atmospherically over the vines here during harvest time). In addition to these, there are other high quality wines to tempt your palate including Barbera, Dolcetto and Moscato. One of the most appealing and fascinating aspects of the wines of Piemonte is their variety and how this exists within a very small geographic area, with small, individual differences from how the producer decides to vinify, whether more traditional or modernist, the influence of the climate and soil when the vineyards are at slightly different altitudes and facing different directions.

The estates we visit in this tour will demonstrate how many factors contribute to the subtle difference in the wines, from multiple award winning, small boutique family-run wineries, through to one of Italy's leading wine co-operatives. The tastings we include will show you a range of wines including some of the Reserve and Cru wines as well as the intriguing Barbera, the early ripening Dolcetto, considered less complex and easy drinking and Freisa and Grignolino. It is not only these classic red wines that are produced in Piemonte, but Arneis, a herby white with notes of almonds, the classic Gavi di Gavi, Timorasso with its peach and apricot notes, and of course the frothy Moscato d'Asti, a wine that actually smells of grapes but also elderflower and is the ideal wine to liven your palate at the end of a meal because of its fizz and naturally low alcohol levels.

Quite rightly as befits any exploration of Piemonte, home to the Slow Food movement, we will also be introducing you to local produce with chocolate-tasting and a visit to a local cheese producer and providing you with Piemontese specialities at included lunches and dinners.

Your tour leader

Cindy-Marie Harvey tells us that having discovered a love of Pinot Noir at an early age, she seemed destined for a life in the wine trade. However, her love of languages led her to work in Italy. After living in Piemonte for five years, discovering the delights of Nebbiolo and white truffles, she returned to the wine trade in the UK. She has spent the last 20 years planning and escorting wine tours to all the main wine regions of the world, from South America to Burgundy and Bordeaux. She now shares her passion for food and wine on her own website, Love Wine Food Ltd as well as in her own kitchen where she is often found surrounded by recipe books in Italian, French or Spanish. She looks forward to sharing her passion for the region of Piemonte with you.



Barbaresco Vineyards



Cascina Chicco Winery



Oddero Winery



Relais Villa d'Amelia

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: Arrive in Piemonte

You depart London Gatwick on the BA2578 at 13.15 and arrive in Turin at 16.05. There you will meet Cindy-Marie Harvey, your tour guide, for your onward coach transfer (journey time just under 2 hours) to your hotel in Piemonte. This evening you will dine together at the hotel in their Michelin-starred gourmet restaurant, enjoying a 4-course menu. Cindy-Marie will pair the menu with a selection of wine as an introduction to the principal wines of the region, chosen from the hotel's cellar, housed in a deconsecrated chapel in the courtyard.

Day two: Barolo day

After breakfast, you travel through the rolling hills of the Langhe, covered with their famous vines, towards the vineyards of the Barolo classification. Known as the 'King of wines', Barolo has a world-wide reputation for having great depth and complexity, with aromas of roses and tar. It's about 45 minutes by coach to our first stop, at the family-run, multiple award-winning wine estate of G D Vajra where you discover what makes these wines so different in style according to where their vineyards are situated. The Nebbiolo grape that produces Barolo can be compared to the Pinot Noir of Burgundy in its combination of fickleness and divine qualities. Barolo is produced only from a handful of villages and you continue through the Barolo heartland to your next visit at Cordero di Montezemolo. The estate is easily recognisable by the ancient Lebanese cedar tree that overlooks their vineyard. Here you will taste their range of wines, paired with a simple but delicious home produced lunch, which may include their Grandmother's recipe for pickled vegetables. After lunch it is just a drive of about 30 minutes to the small hilltop town of Cherasco, famous for two things – snails and chocolates. There will be time for a stroll before a chocolate tasting at one of the most traditional producers, which will include some inventive flavours as well as the famous Baci di Cherasco, or 'Cherasco kisses' made from chocolate with local hazelnuts. Back at the hotel in the evening there is a light supper of local salami and cheeses, bread and grissini and local hazelnuts accompanied by a selection of three local wines, perhaps a Roero Arneis, a Barbera d'Alba and a Langhe Nebbiolo.

Day three: Barbaresco day and Alba

Today after breakfast it is just a short drive of about 30 minutes to our first visit of the Barbaresco day. The vineyards of Barbaresco are less than 25 kms from those of Barolo, they take up about a third of the land of Barolo vineyards and are very different in style. Barbaresco is often seen as the more feminine side of Nebbiolo, with a seductive aroma of violets, roses and cherries. Your first visit is to the Produttori di Barbaresco, a leading example of how to be a co-operative producing quality rather than quantity. Their wines have won numerous awards and show the attention to detail in the vineyards owned by their 50 plus members in some of the best Barbaresco Crus including Ovello, Montestefano and Pajé. You will taste some of their wines at their cellars in the heart of the village of Barbaresco. Then you continue to the opposite end of the village for a lunchtime appointment at Marchesi di Gresy, whose cellars sit in a dramatic amphitheatre of vines. They make a couple of whites from international varieties, but it is their Barbaresco from the Martinenga hill that claims the attention of the wine world, as you will discover when you taste a range of their wines over lunch on the estate. After lunch you return to the hotel for some free time before venturing out late afternoon for Alba, the main town of the Langhe, whose narrow streets are lined with a cornucopia of shops, selling wine but also many gastronomic delights to take home such as salami made with Barolo or tuma cheese marinated in truffles and olive oil. There is time to explore for a while before meeting again for dinner at one of the Slow Food's restaurants, where you will pair a selection of wines with dinner, possibly starting with the local Agnolotti del Plin, silky parcels of stuffed pasta served with butter and sage. You return to the hotel after dinner.

Day four: Cheese, Cuneo and Castles

This morning after breakfast you drive about 45 minutes to the first appointment of the day: with a local cheese maker, Beppe Ocellini. Thanks to the cows having the freedom of high altitude pasture in the Alps around Cuneo in the south of the region, the milk they provide produces fabulous cheeses, some of which are aged in their cellars before being sold. Beppe Ocellini is a great believer in the Slow Food movement and philosophy and this is reflected in the quality of their cheeses, such as the award-winning soft Paja Tuma, or maybe La Gran Reserva, an aged cheese coated in Barolo as well as truffle-infused cheese. You taste a selection of their cheeses this morning before continuing to the county town of Cuneo, situated between the Gesso and Stura rivers. There is time to relax and explore at lunchtime. Lunch is not included today but there are numerous cafés and restaurants to tempt you. The town is dominated by the large Piazza Galimberti lined with porticoed walkways and shops selling the local speciality, Cunesi – a chocolate truffle laced with rum. You then return to the hotel for a rest and time to freshen up before you depart in the evening for a visit to one of the most imposing castles of the region at Grinzane Cavour. This castle was home to the Count of Cavour, a prime minister of Piedmont who was

instrumental in the process of the unification of Italy. You visit the castle with its displays relating to the history of food and wine in the region and then enjoy an aperitif in the cellars of the castle, now the regional Enoteca before dining at the restaurant inside the castle. You return to the hotel after dinner.

Day five: Wine estate for lunch and flight home

Check-out of the hotel after breakfast and head to your final wine tasting at the estate of Marchesi d'Alfieri, who have been making wine since 1696. This is an estate immersed in the history of the region and its wine-making, situated in the hills between Alba and Asti. They are respected for their wide range of Barbera but they also make Grignolino, another indigenous variety, a lighter red, often drunk young with tones of cherry. You discover the appeal of their wines over lunch before your onward journey to Turin and the flight back to Gatwick, the BA2579 departing at 17.05 and arriving at 17.50.

Dates and prices

This tour departs on the following dates from London for these prices per person sharing a double or twin room:

17 May 2017 **£2450**

4 October 2017 **£2630**

Supplements: Single use of double £380 per person

Deposit payment: £400 per person

We include

- Flights with British Airways London Gatwick to Turin, Euro traveller. Club upgrade available on request at a supplement.
- Transportation from Turin airport in a small luxury coach for a maximum of 14 people, with one piece of luggage per person.
- English-speaking tour guide with knowledge of the wine and food of Piemonte.
- Four nights' bed and buffet breakfast in double or twin rooms at the Relais Villa d'Amelia. Superior rooms are included in May and deluxe rooms are included in October.
- One 4-course dinner at the Villa d'Amelia on day 1 in the gourmet restaurant with wine
- One simple supper at the Villa d'Amelia on day 2 in the bistro with wine
- Other meals included as follows: Lunch with wine on day 2, lunch with wine on day 3, dinner with wine in Alba on day 3, dinner with wine on day 4, lunch with wine on day 5.
- Entrances and wine tastings as mentioned in the itinerary

Relais Villa d'Amelia, Benevello

The four star Relais Villa d'Amelia, member of the Small Luxury Hotels, sits amid 7 acres of parkland and hazelnut groves about 20 minutes' drive from Alba and about 35 minutes' drive from Barolo. In its transformation from estate villa to hotel, it has retained its traditional features, which blend in with contemporary furnishings of its 37 bedrooms. The Villa d'Amelia has a Michelin-starred restaurant whose chef Damiano Nigro trained with Gualtiero Marchesi, an outdoor swimming pool and wellness centre. We include the hotel buffet breakfast with a wide choice of items. Cooked eggs and freshly squeezed juice can be ordered A la carte at a supplement.

Optional additions

Extend your holiday with a few days in the regional capital, Turin. This is a great city to explore on foot thanks to seemingly endless porticoed buildings in the historic centre. Sections of the old Roman walls remain and are located close to the Porta Palazzo, where the vibrant open air and covered foodmarket is found. Turin possesses numerous baroque cafés, where you can indulge in the local bicerin, a blend of espresso and hot chocolate or find your way to enjoying a local aperitif, Vermouth. There are all sorts of museums and galleries, from Egyptology to Fiat cars, Flemish and Dutch masterpieces to the cinema museum. We recommend that you stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Sitea or the 5 star Principe di Piemonte.

Different travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on different dates and from UK regional airports, or to extend your holiday with a stay elsewhere in Italy, just let us know. If you are not arriving from the UK, then we can give you a price that excludes flights and perhaps with extra transfers included. We will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Terms and conditions

This tour is based on 14 people participating. If there are fewer than 14 people participating we may modify the tour (smaller coach but the visits would remain the same). We do reserve the right to alter the itinerary if we cannot be accommodated at any of the venues for any reason closer to the date of departure. Holiday insurance is not included but it is absolutely essential that you are fully insured.

The cuisine of Chianti, refined Tuscan cooking

This is a 4 night holiday with hands-on cookery classes at the Relais Villa Belpoggio in Chianti, as well as a visit to a local market, a local baker or an organic farm and time to visit nearby Arezzo. During your stay there is time to relax and appreciate the local area and you can relax in the Villa's carefully tended grounds at any time, along with its unique swimming pool – formed from a former storage facility for the estate's water. This holiday operates with 2 to 6 people.

About the cookery

The group cookery classes are held at Relais Villa Belpoggio and a local bakery. The Villa's lessons are taken by English-speaking chef, Andrea Campani, who cooks using local, mainly organic, produce. All classes are hands-on and each participant will be invited to input ideas on menus and techniques. The emphasis is on explaining and instructing you in traditional cooking methods and regional dishes. Each of the lessons lasts between two and three hours and is followed by a meal together.

Where you stay

The Relais Villa Belpoggio is a boutique hotel of only 10 rooms and two apartments, in the countryside near the village of Loro Ciuffenna just 35 kms from Florence in the direction of Arezzo. It is set in a secluded part of the valley of the River Arno, upstream from Florence, and its belvedere looks out over the valley and its wooded hills. Hills, woods, fields, olive groves and vineyards are all to be found nearby. The Villa dates back to the 17th Century, having been built for the aristocratic Fiorilli family. Today it is a boutique hotel, run by a husband and wife team and combines charm and cosiness with high standards of service and comfort, thanks to a painstaking restoration first begun in 2003. Facilities at the hotel include its swimming pool for summer use and a nearby tennis court. They do offer a dinner service at the hotel depending on occupancy but there are numerous restaurants within easy reach by car. The hotel is about 2 hours' drive from Pisa airport.

All rooms have bath or shower and WC, air-conditioning, heating, telephone, Wi-Fi internet access, in-room entertainment system with satellite TV, mini-bar and safe. We include a classic double in our basic price but the apartments are also available at a supplement and ideal if you want to stay longer than the four nights included in the course.



Breakfast at Relais Villa Belpoggio



Hands-on pasta making



The chef



Relais Villa Belpoggio



Relais Villa Belpoggio

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**Day one: London to Chianti**

Depart from London to Pisa, on the British Airways flight at 08.50 from Heathrow arriving at 12.00 at Pisa. You will be met and taken by mini-bus to the Villa Belpoggio in Loro Ciuffenna. The journey time is about two hours. If you want to travel by another airline, or to another airport or have a hire-car, we can adjust the details and the price for you. Once you have checked in to the Villa, there is time to explore it and its grounds, perhaps enjoying a refreshing drink before your invitation to join a guided tour at 6.30 taking you through the history of the villa and its gardens. Dinner with wine this evening at Villa Belpoggio is included.

Day two: Visit of Arezzo and cookery lesson in the afternoon

This morning we arrange for you to be taken into Arezzo (about 40 minutes' drive), birthplace of Piero della Francesca and home to numerous churches, mediaeval palaces, fine town square and Roman amphitheatre, for some free time to explore and then you are transferred back to the hotel ready for the first cookery lesson given by the chef, which takes place at 3pm, followed by dinner at 7.30 pm of the menu you have created in the afternoon.

Day three: Morning visit to local market and afternoon cookery lesson

This morning you will visit a local market from about 9.30 until 11.00 with an English-speaking guide. Then there is some free time before your afternoon cookery lesson at the Villa. This two hour session is hands-on and provides an insight into the preparation of regional dishes as well as traditional cooking methods. At the end of the session, you share the evening meal together.

Day four: Morning visit to bakery with lesson or organic farm visit and free afternoon

In the morning after breakfast there is a visit to a nearby bakery in a nearby mountain village, where you will be invited to make your very own 'schiacciata' (a Tuscan speciality light lunch) by the baker. Lunch consists of the fruits of your labour after a pleasant walk in the surroundings. If the bakery is not available, it will be substituted with a visit to an organic farm that produces wine and vegetables or truffle hunting. The afternoon is free for you to walk, potter around nearby Loro Ciuffenna or relax beside the pool and in the gardens. Tonight dinner with wine at the Villa Belpoggio is included.

Day five: Chianti to London

After breakfast bid farewell to your charming hosts at the Villa Belpoggio and the transfer back to Pisa for the 13.05 hrs flight to London Heathrow arriving at 14.30 hrs.

Dates and prices

The holiday operates on the following dates:
23 April 2017, 21 May 2017, 4 June 2017, 17 September 2017

Price per person:

As part of a group of 4 or 6:

£1,630 when sharing a double in April and May

£1,680 when sharing a double in June and September

For just two people on dates on your choice with transfers provided:

£1,940 when sharing a double in April or May or **£1,475**

if you want to have a hire-car and no arranged transport during the holiday.

£1,990 when sharing a double in April or May or **£1,525**

if you want to have a hire-car and no arranged transport during the holiday.

Supplement per person:

£390 for single occupancy of a double room

Deposit payment required: £300 per person

What's included

- Flights in Euro Traveller with British Airways London to Pisa return
- Mini-bus transfer from Pisa airport to the hotel and back
- Four nights in a double room with buffet breakfast
- Dinner with wine on two evenings at the Villa Belpoggio
- Two cookery classes at the Villa Belpoggio each of 2 to 3 hours' duration with a meal to follow.
- One baking class at a local bakery followed by lunch or visit to organic farm
- Visit with English speaking guide of a local market
- Transport to and from Arezzo in one morning

Alternative travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates allowing you more time in Italy before and/or after the course, if you want to fly into and out of a different airport or fly at different times to the ones suggested, if you want the use transfers from and to the airport or if you want to travel out and back by train instead of flying, all this is possible. Just discuss your travel plans with us and we will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Important information

Flight times are subject to alteration and are confirmed at the time of booking.

Dining room at Relais Villa Belpoggio

Cookery in Umbria, traditions of Umbrian cuisine

4 night holiday with hands-on cookery classes at the Villa di Monte Solare near Perugia plus wine-tasting, one gourmet dinner and two additional dinners. During your stay we recommend a visit to the historic cities of Perugia and Assisi. This holiday operates with 2-6 people on certain dates but can be operated for just 2 people on dates of your choice too.

About the cookery

The cookery classes are held at Villa di Monte Solare and are taken by the English-speaking chef, Nicola Fanfano, who cooks using mainly organic produce. The classes are hands-on with each of the 6 participants having their own work station. The emphasis is on explaining and instructing you in traditional cooking methods and regional dishes. Each of the three courses lasts approximately three hours and is followed by a meal together.

Where you stay

The Villa di Monte Solare, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, is in the countryside near the village of Tavernelle di Panicale and a few miles south of Lake Trasimeno. Surrounded by undulating hills, woods, fields and olive groves, the Villa was the residence of a noble family and dates back to the 18th Century. Today it is a small hotel of just 25 rooms, family-run and combines a charm and cosiness with high standards of service and comfort. Antique and traditional local furniture complete the picture of terracotta floors, murals and original fireplaces.

Facilities at the hotel include two swimming pools for summer use, clay tennis court, spa and cycle hire. The hotel is about 2 hours' drive from Rome Fiumicino airport.

All rooms have bath or shower and WC, air-conditioning, heating, telephone, Wi-Fi internet access, in-room entertainment system with satellite TV, mini-bar and safe.

We include a classic double in our basic price but superior rooms and suites are also available at a supplement.



The equipe at Villa di Monte Solare



Fresh pasta making



Example of fine dining at the Villa di Monte Solare



Villa di Monte Solare



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day one: London to Umbria

Depart from London Heathrow on the British Airways flight at 08.35 arriving in Rome Fiumicino at 12.05. (Flight times may vary according to departure date). You are met and transferred to the hotel Villa di Monte Solare. The journey time is about two hours. Once you have checked in, there is time to explore the villa and its grounds, perhaps enjoying a sandwich or tea and cakes before changing for dinner. Enjoy an aperitif and then you are served dinner (drinks not included).

Day two: Your first cookery class

After breakfast your first cookery class starts at 10 am. This three hour session is hands-on and provides an insight into the preparation of regional dishes as well as traditional cooking methods. At the end of the session, you share a meal together. Free time this afternoon to explore on your own or to relax at the hotel. Dinner is not included tonight.

Day three: Free day

Today is a free day but if you have a hire-car with you it is worth visiting the famous wine town of Torgiano and the Lungarotti Wine Museum, one of the best in the world. There is also an olive oil museum to visit. Then you could continue Assisi, birthplace of St Francis, World Heritage Site and a symbol of peace or visit the nearby university city of Perugia. Dinner (without drinks) is included at the Villa di Monte Solare tonight.

Day four: Your second cookery class

The class this morning starts after breakfast at 10 am. Once again it is hands-on and will focus on yet more aspects of regional dishes and traditional Italian methods of cooking. A meal together follows the course. Spend the afternoon relaxing or perhaps walking in the nearby countryside. Own arrangements for dinner.

Day five: Umbria to London

A leisurely breakfast and then some free time before a departure about midday in your luxury minibus for the journey of about two hours back to Rome Fiumicino airport for your flight which departs at 17.20, arriving in London Heathrow at 18.55 hrs.

Dates and prices

The holiday operates on 23 April 2017, 14 May 2017, 4 June 2017 and 10 September 2017.

This holiday can be operated for just 2 people with departures on a Sunday or Tuesday with the cookery lessons taking place on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

Price per person:

£1,590 when sharing a superior double or twin room.

Supplements per person:

£320 for a suite

£280 for single use of a classic room

(We can operate a version of the holiday for 2 people and not being part of the group, so with own hire-car, 4 nights, 2 dinners and 2 cookery lessons for **£1,390** per person)

Deposit payment required: £300 per person

What's included

- Flights in Euro Traveller with British Airways London Heathrow to Rome return
- Transport by luxury mini-bus from Rome airport to the hotel and back
- Four nights in a superior double room with buffet breakfast
- Two dinners included
- Two cookery classes each of 3 hours' duration

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room and are based on 2-6 people taking part. The maximum in the group is 6.

Alternative travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates allowing you more time in Italy before and/or after the course, if you want to fly into and out of a different airport or fly at different times to the ones suggested, if you want the use of a hire-car for your holiday or if you want to travel out and back by train instead of flying, all this is possible. Just discuss your travel plans with us and we will adjust the details and the price accordingly.

Important information

This holiday is based on 2-6 people participating.

Cookery in Sicily, regional Sicilian cuisine

4 night holiday for a minimum of just 2 people, with two hands-on cookery classes at the 5 star Eremo della Giubiliana set on an immense estate near Ragusa, in south-eastern Sicily, about 90 minutes' drive from the airport at Catania. You have time to visit the Baroque towns of Ragusa and Modica. We can offer you private car transfers or the use of a hire-car.

About the cookery

The cookery at the Eremo della Giubiliana will instruct you in how to recreate the aromas of Sicily in your own home. A hallmark of the cuisine here is how the tried and tested recipes of the local aristocracy are skilfully adapted to suit contemporary taste. Only the finest organic ingredients are used to execute a typical Mediterranean diet. The two classes you receive are hands-on tuition from the chef and give you some flexibility tailored to your own preferences and experience.

Where you stay

You stay at the five star deluxe Eremo della Giubiliana, which lies in its own estate on the fertile plains between the historic town of Ragusa Ibla and the seaside resort of Marina di Ragusa. The current owners have had possession of the Eremo since the 18th Century and heirlooms such as portraits and antique furniture feature in both the bedrooms and the public rooms. The thick stone walls, once used to protect the property from pirates, now create a cool and tranquil atmosphere. The bedrooms, converted from what were once hermitage cells and used by the Maltese Knights of the Order of Saint John, are simple but comfortable and are beautifully furnished. There is a swimming pool, spa, restaurant and cycle hire. In the summer months, service is outside under the Mediterranean skies.

All rooms have bath and wc, satellite television, air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe, hairdryer and telephone.

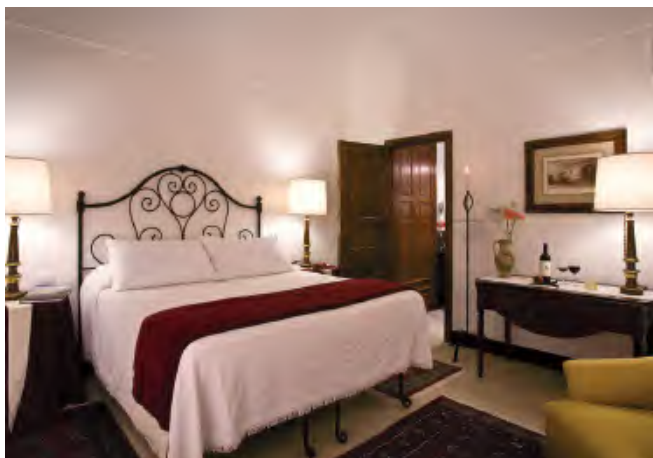
We include a classic double in our basic price but superior rooms and suites are also available at a supplement. If you want to extend your stay and explore the region, then one of their cottages on a bed and breakfast or self-catering basis might suit you.



Pasta-making at the Eremo della Giubiliana



Sicilian desserts at the Eremo della Giubiliana



Bedroom at the Eremo della Giubiliana



Historic exterior of the Eremo della Giubiliana

HOLIDAY DATES OF YOUR CHOICE**Day one: London to Sicily**

Depart from London Gatwick on the British Airways flight at 14.30 arriving at Catania at 18.30 (Flight times may vary by about an hour according to departure date). You collect your hire-car for the drive to your hotel, the Eremo della Giubiliana, near Ragusa, about 90 minutes' from Catania. We can also arrange for you to have a car and driver if you don't want a hire-car. You arrive in time to have something to eat in the hotel's restaurant (the restaurant closes at 10 pm but in case you arrive too late, the hotel can prepare you a cold plate).

Day two: First cookery lesson with the chef

This is a three hour practical lesson with the chef. Today's hands-on lesson with the chef is based around your own choice of theme for the three hours' tuition. You can choose between the secrets of home-made pasta where you learn how to combine the right sauce with the right type of pasta, using only the tastiest ingredients, or a comprehensive course on the cuts and preparation of meat, with suggestions for the accompanying vegetables, or you visit a fish market and learn how to select the best fish followed by a variety of traditional methods for its preparation, or Sicilian desserts!

Day three: Day at leisure

A day to unwind and relax at the hotel, in the grounds, perhaps taking walk or enjoying a spa treatment. Or take a taxi (or drive yourself if you have the hire-car) into nearby Ragusa or Modica (setting for the TV detective series Montalbano).

Day four: The second cookery lesson with the chef

Today's hands-on lesson with the chef is based around your own choice of theme for the three hours' tuition. You can choose between the secrets of home-made pasta where you learn how to combine the right sauce with the right type of pasta, using only the tastiest ingredients, or a comprehensive course on the cuts and preparation of meat, with suggestions for the accompanying vegetables, or you visit a fish market and learn how to select the best fish followed by a variety of traditional methods for its preparation, or Sicilian desserts!

Day five: Sicily to London

The day is at leisure until you need to leave in the afternoon for your evening flight from Catania to London Gatwick departing at 19.15 and arriving at 21.30 hrs.

Price per person

The holiday operates on any day of your choice for a minimum of two people.

£1,250 from 7 Jan to 31 March, and from 1 Nov to 27 Dec 2017

£1,320 from 1 to 31 July and from 1 to 31 October 2017

£1,390 from 1 April to 30 June, 1 Aug to 30 Sep 2017

All above based on two people sharing a classic double or twin and including hire-car.

Special offer

Stay one extra night free of charge on bed and breakfast with just a supplement of £25 per person for the use of the hire-car for the extra day. This does not apply to stays from 1 to 31 August 2017.

Additional nights can be added either here or at any of our other hotels in Sicily.

Supplements per person:

£120 for a private car transfer instead of the hire-car

£60 for a superior double room

£220 for a deluxe double room

£350 for a single except from 1 April to 30 June and from 1 Aug to 30 Sep when it is **£410**

£47 per person per night for dinner (short menu)

Deposit payment required: £300 per person

What's included

- Flights in Flights in Euro Traveller with British Airways London Gatwick to Catania return. Flights with other airlines on request. Flight times can vary according to the day of the week.
- Use of a group B hire-car for the duration of the holiday (private transfers possible at a supplement)
- Four nights in a double or twin classic room on bed and breakfast
- Two cookery classes each of 3 hours' duration

Prices are based on a minimum of two people and are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Alternative travel arrangements

If you want us to arrange flights on other dates allowing you more time in Italy before and/or after the course, if you want to fly into and out of a different airport or fly at different times to the ones suggested, if you want the use of a hire-car for your holiday or if you want to travel out and back by train instead of flying, all this is possible. Just discuss your travel plans with us and we will adjust the details and the price accordingly.



Bread-making at the Eremo della Giubiliana



Amalfi coast

Best known for its dramatic coastal scenery deep gorges, violently-shaped rocks that plunge into a deep blue sea, tempered by the luxuriant vegetation that thrives in the favourable climate; lemons, oranges, olives, almonds, vines, camellias and bougainvillea. Basked in a clear light, the shades of green and the vibrant hues of the flowers offer a welcome contrast to the deep blue of the sea and austere rock to which all life seems to cling along the coast. Human habitation thrives too in the tiny fishing villages in rocky coves and in the pink and white-washed flat-roofed or domed buildings that hug the cliffs in layers. The region's history of trading throughout the Mediterranean still shows in the Moorish and Byzantine architectural styles; domes and arcades, wrought-iron balconies and colourful ceramic tiles which depict the region, perhaps fishing boats, lemons and the sun.

The regional cuisine is light and simple, based on local fish and shell-fish, lemons and oranges, mozzarella and fresh herbs. Whilst the climate is particularly appealing too, there are numerous excursion and sightseeing possibilities including the islands of Procida, Capri and Ischia, the city of Naples, the Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the romance of Ravello and the bustle of Sorrento.



Lemons grow in abundance in this region

General information

A drive along the Amalfi coast from Positano to Amalfi offers stunning and breathtaking scenery. Visit the Emerald Cave near Vettica Minore by boat. Enjoy the superb view of the coast from the 13th Century Gothic Villa Rufolo in Ravello. Spend a full day visiting the awe-inspiring site of Pompeii, visiting the remains of the villas containing both vibrant and delicate frescoes. Herculaneum is nearby and also worth visiting.

The Greek site of Paestum has outstanding Doric temples. In the resort of Amalfi stroll along the Via Genova and the Via Capuano taking in the typical architecture of Campania with the flower-covered balconies, narrow alleyways leading to fountain-filled little squares. Take the chairlift on Capri to Monte Solaro or walk to the Migliara Belvedere for a view of the lighthouse.

On Ischia visit the beaches of Citara and Maronti and enjoy a morning's walk to Monte Epomeo for panoramic views of the coast. Well-worth visiting is the often forgotten island of Procida between Naples and Ischia, with its vines and fishing, flat roofed white houses and atmosphere most characteristic of the region in bygone days. Vietri for ceramics. Stalls of lemons, garlic and peppers.

Festivals

Ravello - music festival June to July, Capri the festival of San Costanzo on 14 May, the festival of Sant'Antonio in Anacapri on 13 June and the festival of Madonna della Liberta in Marina Grande in September, Positano has Lo Sbarco dei Saraceni on the second Sunday in August.

Gastronomic highlights

Neapolitan cuisine is now famous the world over for its use of tomatoes, pizza, mozzarella cheese, dried pasta and lemons. Local specialities include Mozzarella in Carrozza, Panzanella alla napoletana, Pasta alla sorrentina (with scamorza cheese and tomatoes), Sartu (an elaborate rice pie stuffed with meats, sausages, mushrooms etc), Timballo di Maccheroni (also elaborate with maccheroni baked in a pie and a sauce of chicken livers, mushrooms and black truffles), Carciofi ripieni alla napoletana (baked stuffed artichokes), Coviglie (a mousse-like dessert), Sproccolati (sun-dried figs on sticks) and Sfogliatelle (breakfast pastries).

The region produces a number of excellent red and white wines. The most famous white is called Lacrimi Christi, from vines grown on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius. Taurasi from Avellino is a full-bodied red. Capri, Ischia and Sorrento all produce their own local wines.

Cultural highlights

The House of the Vettii at Pompeii, The baroque Palazzo Reale at Caserta, Villa Jovis in Capri, the Doric temples of Paestum, 'Modesty' by Antonio Corradini in the Cappella Sansevero in Naples, the Gothic church of San Lorenzo Maggiore in Naples, the Majolica tiles in the cloisters of the 14th Century Santa Chiara in Naples, Michelozzo's tomb of Cardinal Rinaldo Brancaccio in the 14th Century church of Sant'Angelo in Naples.

A day out on the Amalfi Coast

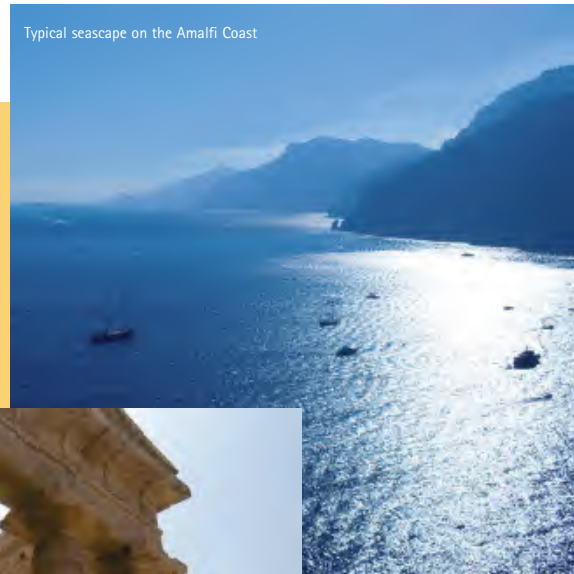
A day's excursion to Capri from Positano staying at the Hotel Poseidon

From Positano take the hydrofoil at about 8.30 to Capri. Relax and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Amalfi Coast from the sea as you travel along the Sorrento peninsula passing places such as Marina di Cantone.

You then spot the greenish mass of the island of Capri in the distance and the multi-coloured vibrancy of the Marina Grande approaches. Perhaps pause for a coffee at a harbour-side cafe at Marina Grande before taking the funicular up above the port to the town of Capri. A mass of alleyways, squares, gardens and shops opens out to stunningly beautiful vistas of gardens, villas, cliffs, sea and sky. Stroll along the Via Tragara, pausing every so often on a shady bench to take in the atmosphere or to admire the views.

Then enjoy a leisurely lunch perhaps of a 'Caprese' salad and grilled 'Spigola' with lemons and olive oil. After lunch you might want to explore the Certosa or treat yourself to Italian fashions in Capri town before taking the hydrofoil back to Positano. A fitting end to an enjoyable day is dinner at the simple but very characterful trattoria the Blue Grotto in Positano.

Typical seascape on the Amalfi Coast



This region is famous for its ceramics



Temple at Paestum

Much treasured from the days of the Roman Empire until the Romantic poets of more recent times, the area south of Naples is strikingly attractive

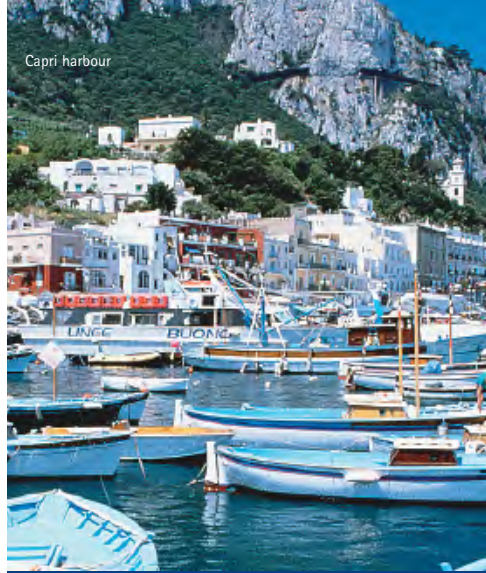
Our two centre recommendations

The Amalfi Coast is most readily combined with Rome and Lazio, Sicily and the southern regions of Puglia, Calabria and Basilicata. Worth considering is a two centre stay within the Amalfi Coast, combining perhaps Capri and Positano or Ischia and Capri.

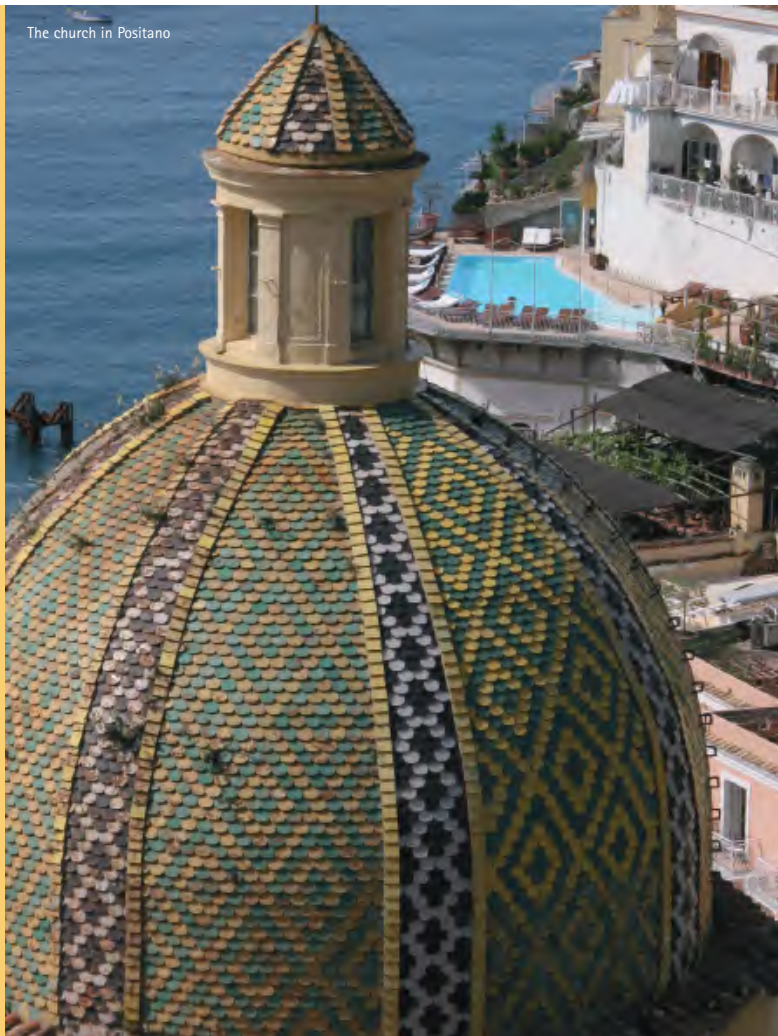
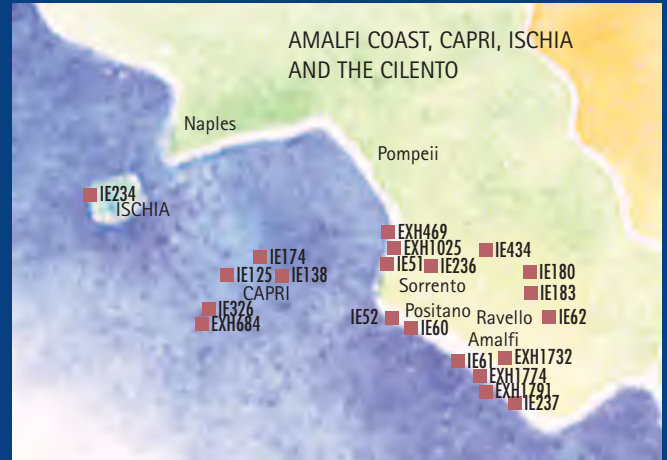
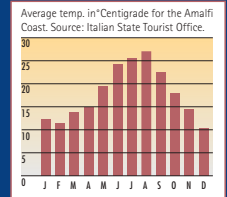
How you get there

By air Airport at Naples (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick). The hotels on the Amalfi Coast are about 90 minutes by car from Naples airport. Rome is also possible as a gateway with numerous daily flights. The drive from Rome to Naples is about three hours. Easyjet flies from Stansted to Naples. Ask us for a fare quote at the time of booking if you are interested in this route. We can also offer you charter flights from UK regional airports to Naples.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with our hotels on the Amalfi Coast (except those on Capri, Ischia and one in Sorrento). However, you may prefer a taxi transfer instead. Please ask us for price differences.



Capri harbour



The church in Positano



Evening scene on Capri



Roman mural from the Hotel Caruso

“A charming hotel - one we recommend most highly”



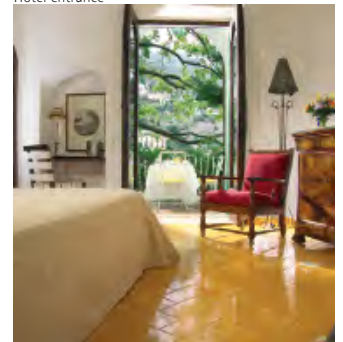
The pool and terrace at the Hotel Poseidon



The elegant lounge at the Poseidon



Hotel entrance



A standard room at the Poseidon

Hotel Poseidon Positano

The Hotel Poseidon is one of our favourite hotels and one that is also highly praised by our clients consistently. The hotel has a charming ambience of style and relaxation. A 4 star family-run hotel, the Hotel Poseidon is situated in the romantic, terraced resort of Positano. The public rooms are tastefully furnished with antiques whilst the lounge-bar has an open fireplace, comfortable armchairs and the terraced garden bursts with vines, bougainvillea, roses and flowering shrubs. Original paintings hang from the walls throughout the hall and public rooms, adding charm and character. Most bedrooms have a private terrace or balcony; there are two main categories of rooms, with the superior ones being larger and having a partial sea view and the standard ones having a garden or village view. Within the hotel is a small but elegant health and beauty centre, which has a Turkish bath, solarium and offers various body and facial treatments. The well-equipped gym is free to all hotel guests. The hotel is ideal for honeymooners, sun-lovers and those wishing to explore this beautiful stretch of coastline. The swimming pool has a panoramic terrace, where it's a delight to sit and enjoy the view over Positano to the sea, especially when the purple bougainvillea is in bloom or in the evenings at dusk. It is a walk of about 10 minutes down to the seafront and centre of the resort, so restaurants for dinner

are reached easily. Positano has managed to preserve its atmosphere as a quaint artists' and fishing village; coaches are forbidden and there are no large hotels. It has numerous art galleries, clothes shops and craft stores, restaurants, cafés and bars, all of which complement the charming ambience of Positano.

HOTEL POSEIDON IE52

Official category 4 star.

Open 13 April to 22 October.

Location About 90 minutes from Naples.

Distances in miles Naples 36, Rome 166, Amalfi 11, Sorrento 11.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Swimming pool, Panoramic terrace, Parking (Euros 25 per day), Beauty and fitness centre, Wireless internet. Children under 8 are not accepted between 26 May-7 October. The hotel is not equipped for disabled clients.

Bedrooms 48 rooms, with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and terrace or balcony.

Local interest The Amalfi coast with Amalfi and Ravello, Capri and Ischia, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Boat trips.

Sports nearby Tennis, Water-sports, Fishing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Minimum stay Four nights from 26 May to 7 October.

Holiday prices From about £1235 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Fruit trees by the pool



Stylish interior at the Hotel Le Sirenuse



The elegant restaurant at Hotel Le Sirenuse

“Character, charm and superb quality. An exceptional hotel”



View from the terrace

Hotel le Sirenuse Positano

Le Sirenuse is a 5-star hotel of outstanding quality and charm, a haven where the traditions of yesterday are in harmony with the comforts of today. Originally the summer residence of the Marchese Sersale, to whom the hotel still belongs, Le Sirenuse was transformed into an hotel in the early 1950s, yet the ambience of a delightful private home is maintained and enhanced by the number of cosy corners, lounges and terraces, inside and out, that the hotel has for reading or a drink. Just five minutes' walk from the port and seafront of Positano, Le Sirenuse is blessed with stunning views over Positano and the sea. From its terraces there is a marvellous feeling of proximity to the roofs of the houses and the dome of the church. Tiled floors, white walls and abundant plants combine well with comfortable sofas, antique chairs and tables, paintings and ornaments. The elegant bar has an exquisite 18th Century antique counter. Meals are served in the Michelin-starred, arcaded restaurant or al fresco on the panoramic terrace. The bedrooms vary in size and all but a few have sea view and balcony or terrace. There is a long, narrow swimming pool and poolside terrace, also with remarkable views. There is also a full Aveda spa where guests have complimentary use of the gym, sauna and steam bath. A wide range of treatments will calm the mind and rejuvenate the body, as Aveda blends

perfectly the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda with the more modern practice of using extract of plants and flowers. Treatments at the spa include a body polish, a pure massage and an express facial. The Sirenuse combines most skilfully high standards of professional service and a relaxed, holiday environment.

HOTEL LE SIRENUSE IE60

Official category 5 star.

Open 19 March to 23 October

Location About 90 minutes' drive from Naples.

Distances in miles Naples 36, Rome 166, Amalfi 11, Sorrento 11.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Swimming pool (April to October), Bar, Michelin-starred restaurant, Aveda Spa, Gym, Sauna, Lift, Parking (Euro 40 per day payable locally), Room service, Extensive DVD library.

Please note that due to its structure and cliffside location, the hotel is not suitable for children aged six years or under.

Bedrooms 58 rooms and suites, each with bath and wc, whirlpool jacuzzi, air-conditioning, flat screen plasma television with satellite channels, DVD player, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, iPod docking station, safe and mini-bar. There are no non-smoking or interconnecting rooms, and the hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Local interest The Amalfi coast with Amalfi and Ravello, Capri and Ischia, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Boat trips.

Sports nearby Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1480 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Historic ambience and a convenient location”



Swimming pool at Santa Caterina



Lounge at the Santa Caterina



Bedroom at the Santa Caterina



View of the gardens and exterior of the Santa Caterina, with Amalfi in the distance

Hotel Santa Caterina Amalfi

The Hotel Santa Caterina, a 'grand-style' five-star hotel, stands surrounded by flower-filled terraces and gardens on the coast about a ten minute walk from the centre of Amalfi, in the direction of Positano. Perched on the cliff, the Santa Caterina was built in the early nineteenth century and was a favourite haunt of leading cultural and political figures at the time. As well as enjoying breathtaking views out to sea and of the Amalfi coast, the guests of the Santa Caterina have the benefits of the luxuriant vegetation of the palm trees, umbrella pines, lemon trees and bougainvillea that adorn the terraces beneath the hotel. Pot plants, paintings, hand-made tiles and antique furniture give the public areas and the bedrooms a homely feel. You can dine under the white vaulted ceiling of the restaurant or al fresco under the fragrances of the pergola of lemon. The menus are very good value (from about Euros 50 per person) and the cuisine is based on fresh, local produce with lots of fish and seafood. (Please note that the restaurant is closed in December, January, and February). In the distance is the sparkling of the sea and the coastline of the Bay of Salerno. The hotel has its own man-made beach and swimming pool by the sea, reached by lift from the hotel; here a wide variety of light meals and pizzas are served at lunch-time. Most bedrooms, which vary in size, have

balcony or terrace and all have private bathroom decorated with specially designed tiles. It is probably well worth upgrading to the deluxe room with front sea view to make the most of the dramatic location of the hotel. We recommend the Santa Caterina highly for a relaxing stay and a friendly, cosy atmosphere.

HOTEL SANTA CATERINA IE61

Official category 5 star.

Open 11 March to 11 November.

Location About an hour and a half's drive south of Naples, nearest motorway exit at Vietri sul Mare.

Distances in miles Naples 43, Sorrento 21, Positano 11, Rome 170, Salerno 15.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool in operation from April until October, Man-made beach, Restaurant which is closed in January and February, buffet breakfast only during these months, Complimentary open air parking or charged garage, Room service, Gym.

Bedrooms 66 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest The Amalfi coast with Amalfi and Ravello, Capri and Ischia, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Boat trips.

Minimum Stay 3 nights over Easter weekend.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1460 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Honeymooners and couples celebrating a wedding anniversary receive a complimentary bottle of Spumante and flowers on arrival.

NH Collection Grand Hotel Convento di Amalfi

A former monastery dating back to the 13th Century, the NH Collection Grand Hotel Convento di Amalfi is a 5 star hotel situated in the heart of Amalfi. The hotel's unmistakable air of history is combined with a contemporary and simple elegance in the white walls, vaulted ceilings, neutral furnishings, and warming terracotta tiles. The decoration of the hotel's 53 rooms and suites follows the same natural colours, but plush pillows, throws, and romantic white drapes add a pervading sense of luxury. Individual features such as high ceilings, alcoves, and intricate screens set each room apart from the others, whilst beautiful views of Amalfi and the sea are visible throughout the hotel. Communal areas have a distinctive style, established through features such as the sepia-toned artwork, high-backed chairs, and the red flowers that decorate most surfaces. The hotel restaurants offer a high standard of gourmet cuisine with an emphasis on locally sourced dishes. Take advantage of the spectacular coastal views with the option to dine outside on the restaurant's panoramic terrace, or enjoy poolside relaxation at lunchtime in the hotel's second restaurant. The outdoor infinity pool seems to blend with the vast sea, and, as it is heated, it is accessible year round. The wellness centre at the hotel adds another layer of indulgence, with a Turkish bath, massage treatments, and fitness area. Health and beauty treatments are also available. Quiet tranquillity can be sought in the ancient cloisters and chapel, decorated with beautiful frescos and intricate arches of pale yellow sandstone, both of which are remnants of the hotel's monastic past. Located around one mile from Amalfi's port, the hotel offers easy access to the rest of the Amalfi Coast, and is within walking distance of the small shops and cafes of Amalfi.

NH COLLECTION GRAND HOTEL CONVENTO DI AMALFI EXH1791
Official Category 5 Star.

Open 1 April to 2 November.

Location In Amalfi, less than 1 mile from Amalfi's port.

Distance in Miles Sorrento 19, Naples 38, Ravello 5, Positano 9.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel 2 Restaurants, Bar, Wellness area including a fitness room, Outdoor heated infinity pool, Garden, Ancient cloister, Church and Complimentary Wi-Fi. Organised hotel excursions include Ravello's chamber music concerts, private tours of Pompeii and boat trips to Capri at a charge.



Outdoor terrace at the hotel

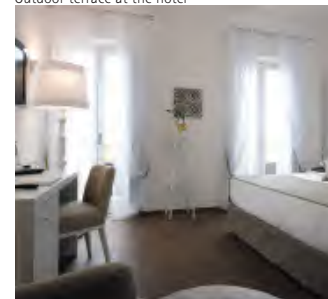
Bedrooms 53 rooms and suites include en-suite bathrooms with rain head showers, TV, tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary Wi-Fi. Most rooms have sea view.

Local interest The nearby port offers excursions to Sorrento and Capri, Pompeii lies around 60 minutes' drive away. In Amalfi there is a 13th Century Cathedral, ceramic factories and the waterfalls of Valle delle Ferriere.

Sports nearby Sailing and hiking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1350 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car hire. Private car transfer is optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Bedroom at NH Collection Grand Hotel Convento di Amalfi

"A stunning, historical hotel with fantastic facilities"



View of the gardens and infinity pool at Monastero Santa Rosa

MONASTERO SANTA ROSA EXH1774

Official category 5 Star.

Open 14 April to 5 November

Location Conca dei Marini, about 2 miles from Amalfi.

Distance in miles Amalfi 2, Ravello 6, Positano 9, Sorrento 19, Naples 37.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Outdoor heated swimming pool, Fitness facilities, Gardens, Rose and Herb gardens, Spa with a stone sauna, herbal steam room, aromatic shower, crushed ice fountain, tepidarium, whirlpool footbaths and hydrotherapy pool, Sun terrace, Green for boules and a games room. Complimentary shuttle service to Amalfi.

Bedrooms 20 suites and rooms with air-conditioning, bathroom with Jerusalem stone facilities, safe, minibar, TV, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Most rooms contain both shower and bath and every room has sea view.

Local interest Ceramic factories, Amalfi's 13th Century Cathedral, and the waterfalls at Valle delle Ferriere and Valle dei Mulini.

Sports nearby There are walking trails and sailing opportunities.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1645 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

Monastero Santa Rosa Conca dei Marini

Perched high on the cliffs, the Monastero Santa Rosa is a 5 star converted convent with spectacular views of the Amalfi coast and a focus on well-being and luxury. The former 17th Century home of Dominican nuns, the hotel retains a peaceful and tranquil ambience, and, at a distance of around 2 miles from Amalfi, enables guests to enjoy the close proximity to the centre in seclusion and peace. At night, the hotel can be seen from Amalfi with lights shining on its stone façade; a beacon of the area's history. The hotel was named after the flora found in the ancient herb garden, and the 20 rooms and suites retain similarly ancient features, such as vaulted ceilings and alcoves, but still have elements of understated luxury in the stylised dark woods and Jerusalem stone of the bathrooms. From the wrought iron king-size beds to the extensive terraces and private alfresco dining, the accommodation perfectly blends the hotel's historical ambience with comfortable and indulgent features and stunning sea views. Previously known as one of the thirty nine castles of Italy, the magnificent Monastero Santa Rosa hosted the likes of Jackie Kennedy for dinners of fresh seafood and other local ingredients. Today, the hotel's restaurant maintains the same ethos, combining local cuisine with elegant presentation. The large terrace is an ideal place to watch the sun set over the sea, whilst the garden's warming wood burner and plush seating call for alfresco drinks beneath the stars. The heated infinity pool appears to blend sea and sky, and the addition of the local stone border makes it as much a water feature as a swimming pool. Walk through the canopied gardens of coloured flowers to get to the Spa, where guests will find the original wine cellar and such indulgent facilities as aromatic showers, herbal steam rooms, and treatment rooms. Guests are able to take the complimentary shuttle into Amalfi to explore the town, or the walking trail entitled the 'Path of the Gods,' which climbs into the clouds, high above Amalfi.

"The perfect balance of tranquility and indulgence in a historical setting"

"A charming and welcoming family run hotel!"

Hotel Miramalfi Amalfi

Opened in 1956, Hotel Miramalfi is a family-run hotel offering splendid views of Amalfi and 4 star accommodation. The reception has a charming and eclectic mix of contemporary and traditional styling, complementing the chic striped furnishings with the paintings of Amalfi that hang on the white walls. The 49 bedrooms and suites are comfortably and simply furnished, with colourful floor tiles and bedding, set beside the high ceilings and neutral walls. Each room has a sea view and the added luxury of a sun-filled balcony to enjoy. The hotel has a fantastic restaurant with glass walls that offer panoramic views across the vast sea and colourful buildings of Amalfi. The food blends local and gourmet cuisine, served in a dining room with a formal feel, as men are required to wear long trousers in the evening. The outdoor American bar is more casual, with comfortable armchairs and a knowledgeable cocktail waiter on-hand until late in the evening. Views from this outdoor bar are spectacular, particularly over the shining lights around Amalfi. In the daytime, the outdoor swimming pool and pool bar, built into the cliff-face, offer a unique place to relax in the sun. These outstanding facilities can be reached via lift or stairs. Ideally placed for excursions around the Amalfi Coast, the Hotel Miramalfi is a comfortable and welcoming hotel with good facilities in a popular location.

HOTEL MIRAMALFI EXH1732

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location Around half a mile from the centre of Amalfi.

Distance in miles Sorrento 19, Naples 37, Positano 10, Ravello 5.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar and pool bar, Outdoor salt-water swimming pool, Beach area with lift or stair access, Complimentary Wi-Fi. There is a shuttle service to the centre of Amalfi

Bedrooms 49 rooms and suites with sea view, balcony and ensuite bathroom with a bath or shower, complimentary Wi-Fi, TV and Safe.

Local interest Amalfi's 13th Century Cathedral, the waterfalls of Valle delle Ferruere, boat excursions and Ceramic factories.

Sports nearby Sailing and hiking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast

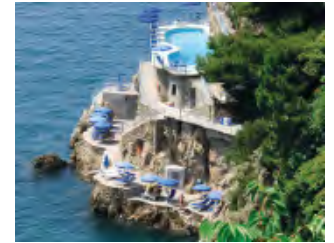
Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car hire. Private car transfer is optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Al fresco dining at Hotel Miramalfi



Bedroom at Hotel Miramalfi



The beach area

"A luxurious hotel enjoying breathtaking views of the Bay of Naples"

Capri Palace Hotel and Spa Anacapri

At 300 metres above sea level, the Capri Palace enjoys a glorious position high up on the island of Capri. Situated in the centre of the small town of Anacapri, the Palace is just a short taxi ride from the Marina Grande and ten minutes from Capri town. The hotel is a luxurious five star property with extremely high levels of service and attention to detail. The interiors of the Capri Palace are stylishly decorated in ecru, cream and gold furnishings alongside Louis XVI antiques. Guests are really pampered at the hotel and many spend all their time here, perhaps at the hotel's spa, the 'Capri Beauty Farm', or by the large pool with poolside restaurant, Il Mosaico, that serves fresh grills at lunchtime. For those who want to explore, the hotel is in the centre of historic Anacapri, where authentic everyday life is more evident. Dinner is served in the fine dining restaurant, L'Olivo, the only restaurant on the island with two Michelin stars. The rooms with garden view feel secluded and peaceful and look onto the green slopes of Monte Solaro. Sea view rooms enjoy panoramic views of the Bay of Naples. The hotel also has deluxe category rooms and suites, with their own private garden and heated pools. A stay at the Capri Palace is highly suited to those looking for something special; it is an ideal location for a honeymoon or celebrating an anniversary, or a perfect retreat to simply relax in style.

CAPRI PALACE HOTEL IE326

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open 13 April to 21 October.

Location About 50 minutes from Naples to Capri by hydrofoil, about 20 minutes from Sorrento to Capri by hydrofoil.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Outdoor heated swimming pool with poolside bistro, 2 Restaurants one with two Michelin stars, the other with one Michelin star, Wine cellar, Terraces, Spa and beauty centre 'Capri beauty farm', Gym, Lift, Bar and lounge, Heliport nearby, Baby-sitting. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 77 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, plasma

television, telephone, Wi-Fi, mini-bar and safe. Some rooms have own private pool.

Local interest Chair lift to Monte Solaro, the highest and most panoramic point of the island, Anacapri with its local craft shops, Capri town with its fashionable designer shops, the Blue Grotto of Capri.

Sports nearby Boats for hire (private boats of the hotel), swimming at Capri's beaches.

Minimum stays 1 night all year round
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.
Holiday prices From about £1550 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Capri Palace Hotel, swimming pool at night



Hall at Capri Palace Hotel



A Deluxe Bedroom at Capri Palace Hotel

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 or 3 nights for the price of 2 for stays between 13 April-17 May 2017 and 18 September-21 October 2017 in Classic, Superior and Deluxe Room. Valid for arrivals on Sundays only.

Book at least 45 days prior to arrival and save 15% for stays between 13 April-31 May 2017 and 18 September-21 October 2017.

Guests staying in Star Junior Suites and Suites receive a complimentary bottle of champagne and fruit basket on arrival, one complimentary massage per person per stay and one fine dining experience for two guests on arrival evening.

Hotel Quisisana Capri

The Quisisana is one of our most cherished hotels in Italy, and one which clients of ours have enjoyed visiting and re-visiting over the years. For us the charm of the Quisisana lies in its combination of high standards and relaxing atmosphere, spacious rooms and gardens and excellent restaurant. You reach the hotel on foot in about five minutes from the main square of Capri town, the Piazza Umberto I, and arriving at it from a typical Capri street the Quisisana greets you with a powerful presence, its cream-coloured walls gleaming in the sunlight. As you pass the few tables and chairs where passers by or hotel guests can stop for a refreshing drink, you enter the light, spacious reception area from where you can glimpse views of the gardens and the sea beyond. The 148 air-conditioned bedrooms are on several floors and many have a view of the sea. The rooms are decorated stylishly in a manner that is suitable for the climate, with excellent tiled bathrooms and several with balconies. An outstanding highlight of the hotel is the restaurant, Rendez-Vous, which offers fine dining in the evenings. At lunchtime you can sample the cuisine of the Colombaia restaurant by the pool. We can arrange for the hotel to transfer you from Naples airport to the hotel. Highly recommended for a relaxing holiday in luxurious surroundings. Early booking especially recommended.

HOTEL QUISISANA IE125

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 April to 23 October.

Location About 50 minutes from Naples to Capri by hydrofoil, about 20 minutes from Sorrento to Capri by hydrofoil.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool open April to October, 2 Restaurants, Gardens and terrace, Gym, Beauty centre, Sauna and Turkish bath, 2 Tennis courts, Indoor pool, Lift, Babysitting.

Bedrooms 148 rooms each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Capri with its villas and grottoes, the Amalfi coast with Amalfi and Ravello, Ischia, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Boat trips and water-sports, Naples.

Sports nearby Swimming in the sea, Watersports, Trekking.

Optional transfers Prebooked transfer from/to Naples airport and hotel, see page 182.

Child policy Children under 12 are not allowed to use the indoor pool, but may use the outdoor before 2pm and after 5pm.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Minimum stay 3 nights from 25-28 March, 29 April-15 June and 7 August-17 September. A minimum stay of 5 nights applies from 16 June- 6 August where the board basis is half board. Please note that on 15 August the Ferragosto Gala Dinner is compulsory and charged at a supplement.

Holiday prices From about £1550 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The front entrance to the Hotel Quisisana



Pool area

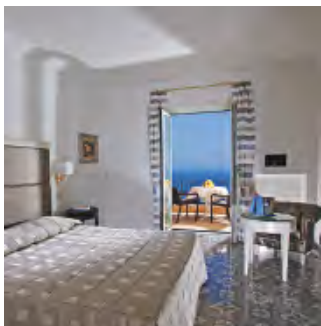
“One of our favourite hotels in Italy. A wonderful hotel which complements a beautiful island”



Exterior view of Hotel Luna



Swimming pool at Hotel Luna



Room interior at Hotel Luna

Hotel Luna Capri

The Hotel Luna enjoys a striking position in Capri town, just a couple of minutes' walk from the centre, situated between the famous Chartreuse of San Giacomo and the Gardens of Augustus. Nestling into the rocky hillside of Capri amid beautiful gardens of olives, palms, roses and enjoying tremendous views of the sea and the Faraglioni rocks, the Luna offers comfortable 4-star accommodation in 54 rooms, many of which have a side or full sea view. The rooms with full sea view are well worth having as the views are very dramatic and give a feeling of being very close to the sea when in reality it is several hundred metres below you (in fact we recommend strongly that you book a room with side sea view or a room with front sea view to really make the most of the splendid situation of the hotel on the island). As you enter the hotel an understated yet traditional and comfortable feel greets you; there is a lounge area, a bar and outside terrace, restaurant and in the gardens a good-sized swimming pool and sun terrace, where a wide range of light and tasty lunches are served. Expressions clients have complimentary use of a sun bed by the pool. The sun terrace, pool area and garden terraces are perfect daytime spots for rest and relaxation and then in the evening you can dine in the hotel's restaurant or easily wander into the centre of the town, which is quieter in the evenings once the day visitors have left the island. Half board here represents very good value for money although you may stay on just BB before 25 May and after 25 September.

HOTEL LUNA IE138

Official category 4 star.

Open 13 April to 21 October.

Location About 50 minutes from Naples to Capri by hydrofoil, about 20 minutes from Sorrento to Capri by hydrofoil.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Swimming pool with sunbeds, Gym with sea views and wellness rooms, Gardens and terrace.

Bedrooms 54 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Capri with its villas and grottoes, the Amalfi coast with Amalfi and Ravello, Ischia, Pompeii and Herculaneum,

Boat trips and water-sports, Naples.

Minimum stay Four nights from 13 April to 24 May and 25 September to 21 October. Five nights from 25 May to 24 September.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1290 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Complimentary bottle of Spumante for Italian Expressions guests.

“An attractive hotel with beautiful gardens and views”

“Stylishly understated with an elegant simplicity”

Casa Morgano Capri

A feeling of understated elegance greets you when you arrive at the Casa Morgano, a small 5-star hotel of just 28 rooms. Built in terraces with spectacular views of the sea, the hotel is surrounded by palms, shrubs and bougainvillea. Typical of the ambience of Capri, the feel of the cool white interiors with their huge potted plants and comfortable sofas blends with the brightness of the light outside on the terrace, so that interior and exterior complement each other and merge into one. The bedrooms are of a good size with cheerful, colourful soft furnishings contrasting with the simple whiteness of the walls. It is well worth upgrading to a room with full sea view here. At lunchtime, the hotel offers a restaurant service by the pool and dinner can be taken in one of the numerous restaurants within a very short walk of the hotel. We are sure that you will enjoy the stylish atmosphere and comfortable accommodation at the Casa Morgano.

CASA MORGANO IE174

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 April to 31 October.

Location About 50 minutes from Naples to Capri by hydrofoil, about 20 minutes from Sorrento to Capri by hydrofoil.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, Gym, Bar, Terraces, Lift. Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. Children under 15 are not accepted.

Bedrooms 28 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, balcony or terrace, Deluxe Rooms and Junior Suites have a sea view, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest Capri with its shops, seascapes,

boat trips, The Amalfi Coast reached by hydrofoil - Positano and Amalfi, Naples.

Sports nearby Swimming in the sea, Tennis available at the Hotel Quisisana.

Italian Expressions include Bed and continental breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1380 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Infinity pool at Casa Morgano



Lounge interior at Casa Morgano



Room lounge at Casa Morgano

“A charming villa, refined and luxurious”

Caesar Augustus Anacapri

The Caesar Augustus is an elegant villa perched on the cliffs in Anacapri and owned by the Signorini family, who have cared for the villa for the last three generations. The mansion has been painstakingly restored and transformed into a luxury Relais & Chateaux hotel of just 55 cosy rooms, furnished with regional flavour combined with antiques and artistic attention to detail, fitting of its status. Rooms are of a good size, with the smallest category, the deluxe, being 344 sq ft. Most face the sea and have balcony or terrace. The furnishings and decoration combine to create a feeling of calm, elegance, sophistication and cosiness. The hotel is on a number of floors and there are garden terraces bursting with greenery and colour. Umbrella pines, palms and cypress trees provide shade to the garden areas. The hotel is lucky to have a large terrace affording spectacular sea and island views. Swimming is sublime in the rimless pool where pool and sea in the distance seem to merge. The restaurant, the Lucullus Terrace, serves plenty of local vegetable dishes, fish and seafood. Charming and luxurious, traditional and reflecting regional flavour.

CAESAR AUGUSTUS EXH684

Official category 5 star.

Open 12 April to 28 October.

Location About 50 minutes from Naples to Capri by hydrofoil, about 20 minutes from Sorrento to Capri by hydrofoil.

Nearest airport Naples

At hotel Restaurant, Outdoor swimming pool, Spa treatment area, Terrace, Lounge, Fitness area, Complimentary shuttle to the Port of Capri. Complimentary Wi-Fi. Only children over 11 years are permitted.

Bedrooms 55 rooms and suites, almost all with private balcony or terrace facing the sea, Private bathroom with bath or shower and WC, Air conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, Telephone, Satellite television, Mini-bar, In-room safe, Hairdryer.

Local interest Chair lift to Monte Solare, the highest point on the island, Anacapri with its local craft shops, Capri with its designer shops,

Blue Grotto, Axel Munthe's villa San Michele, Villa Jovis.

Sports nearby Boats for hire, Swimming from Capri's beaches, Tennis.

Minimum stay 2 nights from 12 April-18 May and 1-28 October. 3 nights from 19 May-30 September.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1460 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Caesar Augustus at night



Terrace dining



Aerial view of the swimming pool



Classic Suite interior

“A splendid hotel in a beautifully dramatic setting”



Exterior view of Mezzatorre

Mezzatorre Resort and Spa Ischia

The Mezzatorre Resort and Spa offers the ideal location for those who truly wish to 'get away from it all' for a while and yet enjoy luxurious surroundings. Set in splendid isolation on the headland just above San Montano Bay, this imposing hotel was built around an original 16th Century watch tower, from where the views over the sea and Ischia's western shores are unsurpassed on the island. Yet the pretty harbour town of Lacco Ameno is only about 15 minutes away on foot and the hotel does operate a shuttle service to the town. Also nearby is Lady Walton's garden, La Mortella. The tower houses two elegant lounges and the Spa, as well as six suites and the new deluxe Grand Suite. The backdrop is an enchanting forest of pines and oaks, spanning seven hectares, all of which belongs to the hotel. The restaurant and large seawater swimming pool, surrounded by sun-terraces, face the sea and some steps lead down to the rocky bay below, where a selection of watersports are on offer, as well as the opportunity to simply relax and enjoy the scenery. The luxurious bedrooms, air-conditioned and decorated in fresh, summery colours, are in a series of buildings in the grounds. The hotel enjoys a fabulous reputation for its Spa and the treatments are extensive. The distinctive Mezzatorre offers utter tranquillity and comfort in a stunning and secluded location. Highly recommended.

MEZZATORRE RESORT AND SPA IE234

Official category 5 star.

Open 13 April to 21 October.

Location About 2 hours and 15 minutes by car and ferry from Naples airport.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Private bay, Heated seawater swimming pool, Spa centre, Restaurant, Piano bar, American bar, Terraces, Poolside restaurant for lunch, Windsurfing, Canoeing and snorkelling on the beach, Tennis court, Gym, Complimentary minibus service to Lacco Ameno, Cycle hire, Room service. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 57 Rooms and suites, each with Bath or shower and wc, Air-conditioning, Heating, Satellite TV, Telephone, Mini-bar, Safe.

Local interest The nearby village of Lacco Ameno, Ischia's Aragonese Castle, Procida, Naples, the historic sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius, Capri.

Sports nearby Watersports, Fishing, Walking.

Minimum stay Seven nights from 7-18 August, three nights at all other times.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast. Bed and breakfast only is available.

Holiday prices From about £1390 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 45 days prior to arrival and save 10% for stays between 13

April-21 October 2017.

Honeymooners staying at least 7 nights from 13 April-30 June and 1 September - 21 October receive a complimentary room upgrade and sparkling wine on arrival.

For stays of at least 7 nights save 10% for between 13 April-31 May and 25 September-21 October 2017.

For stays of at least 7 nights between 13 April-30 June and 1 September-21 October 2017 receive 1 daily entrance to the wet area of the Spa including complimentary use of the 2 thermal pools and 20% discount on all Spa treatments.

“Unwind and experience the delights of Sorrento, exploring the surrounding sites and scenery”



Antiche Mura facade



Antiche Mura guestroom



Antiche Mura swimming pool

Hotel Antiche Mura Sorrento

Built in the 'Belle Epoque' style of 19th century, Hotel Antiche Mura is a 4 star hotel in the heart of Sorrento with charming surroundings. An impressive pale yellow building, the hotel gains its name from the old city walls which are still visible in the grounds. The main entrance hall is light and airy and retains the grand atmosphere of a large villa. The 46 bedrooms are spacious with an inviting appearance established by warm-coloured, elegant furnishings. Many rooms and suites have balconies or terraces looking out over the ancient 'Valley of the Mills' – a naturally formed and very deep valley situated behind Sorrento's central square, with romantic ruins and an oasis of greenery. There are plenty of peaceful places to sit, from the lounge inside to the beautiful garden shaded by lemon groves and the relaxing poolside. Considering the central city location of the hotel, the garden is exceptionally peaceful, and the outdoor swimming pool is ideal for a refreshing dip after a busy day's sightseeing. The poolside bar provides guests with cooling beverages. The hotel serves a hearty buffet breakfast and, although there is no restaurant, there is a snack bar in the grounds which serves salads and simple dishes throughout the day. Alternatively, there are numerous trattorias and restaurants within walking distance. The helpful staff are on-hand to arrange numerous excursions

and mini-cruises to nearby cultural attractions. With family accommodation also available, the hotel welcomes guest of all ages. The Hotel Antiche Mura is ideally placed for trips around Sorrento, visiting the port, and the surrounding Amalfi Coast.

HOTEL ANTICHE MURA EXH469

Official category 4 star.

Open 20 March to 7 January

Location Sorrento, on the Viale Enrico Caruso leading onto one of the main squares.

Distance in miles Naples 30, Amalfi 20, Positano 11, Rome 165.

Nearest airports Naples.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, Garden, Views of the Valley of the Mills, Sun loungers, Bar, Snack bar, Ironing room, Excursion booking service.

Bedrooms 46 rooms with en suite bath or shower, view of either the piazza or the garden, telephone, satellite TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, air conditioning, mini bar, safe, hairdryer. Most rooms have a balcony or terrace.

Local interest The hotel has part of Sorrento's ancient wall on its grounds and over looks the Valley of the Mills, Boat trips to Capri, Train to Pompeii and Naples.

Sports nearby Bicycle hire, watersports and sailing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £895 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car hire. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Bellevue Syrene dining



Bellevue Syrene pool and terrace



Bellevue Syrene Winter Garden

"A splendid, historic hotel ideal for a long, relaxing stay on the Amalfi Coast"



View across Bellevue Syrene terrace

Bellevue Syrene Sorrento

Poised on the cliffs above the shores of Sorrento, the Bellevue Syrene is an elegant and historic hotel that offers magnificent sea views across to Naples. Built on the foundations of a Roman Villa, the hotel was originally a private residence dating from 1750 before it opened as the Bellevue Syrene in 1820. Now part of the Relais Et Chateaux group, the hotel draws on nearly two hundred years of experience to present the ideal balance between traditional and contemporary design to create a beautiful space. From the large glass chandelier and striking modern art pieces in the fresh blue and marble main lounge, with its intricate pink and turquoise flowers, to the rich ochre of the terrace's pillars, the hotel's decoration is as bold as it is beautiful. The rooms and suites at the hotel are incredibly light, with tiled floors and white walls, whilst chaise longue and armchairs in azure blue bring modern colour to the cavernous historic spaces. The restaurant at the hotel is large and open-plan with fantastic sea views and offers cuisine based on the local dishes of Sorrento and its surrounding coastline. Frescoes and characterful painted walls line the corridor leading to the breakfast room, and a terrace provides a romantic setting for dinner. A highlight is the outdoor space; from the small walled garden with trailing flowers to the outdoor swimming pool and striped sun

loungers. When not exploring the boutiques and varied attractions of Sorrento, guests can relax on the hotel's idyllic beach or bathe in the sea. The Bellevue Syrene is a stunning property with luxurious accommodation located within walking distance to the centre of Sorrento.

BELLEVUE SYRENE IE434

Official category 5 star

Open 29 March to 2 January

Location Seafront in Sorrento

Distances in miles Amalfi 20, Naples 32, Salerno 40, Potenza 99, Maratea 130, Rome 165

Nearest airport Naples, 34 miles away

At hotel Restaurant with dedicated sommelier, snack bar, 2 outdoor terraces, lounge, winter garden, cigar room, outdoor swimming pool, beach area, lift, disabled access, car park with valet parking, wifi.

Bedrooms 50 rooms and suites with bathroom with bath or shower, air-conditioning, minibar, safe, and wifi. Classic, Superior, and Deluxe rooms all have sea view. The Lord Astor Suite is the highest category room.

Local interest Boutique shops of Sorrento, Chiostrro di San Francesco, Basilica di Sant'Antonio, boat excursions along the Amalfi Coast, trips to Capri, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Naples.

Sport nearby Fishing, diving, sailing water sports, and tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast
Holiday prices From £1690 per person for 7 nights in a Classic Double Room with sea view including scheduled British Airways flights and private transfers. Please ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An elegant hotel set in beautiful gardens”



Grand Hotel Cocumella



Pool at the Grand Hotel Cocumella

Grand Hotel Cocumella Sant'Agnello-Sorrento

This gracious hotel is situated in its own tranquil and beautiful park in Sant'Agnello, just a 20-minute walk from Sorrento's lively centre with its ample choice of tempting shops, bars and restaurants. Set in the leafy and well-tended gardens where various types of flowers, fruits and vegetables bloom are a lovely swimming pool surrounded by terraces, and a tennis court. The hotel has spacious public rooms and bedrooms decorated in traditional style. The atmosphere of the hotel is traditional, historic and elegant and almost no two rooms are alike in size, even if they are in the same category. Leading off the hotel a pretty terrace looks out to the gardens and here guests can enjoy the full buffet breakfast. The summery restaurant, Scintilla, specialises in regional and vegetarian cuisine and here there is also the possibility of eating 'al fresco'. Grand Hotel Cocumella also has its own man-made beach which is reached by a lift in the gardens; this is exclusively for guests' use, and deckchairs, umbrellas and bathing cabins are provided. A unique asset of the hotel is its magnificent fully crewed ship, which provides the opportunity for guests to go on sailing excursions for the day.

GRAND HOTEL COCUMELLA IE236

Official category 5 star.

Open 10 April to 31 October.

Location 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Sorrento and about an hour's drive south of Naples airport.

Distances in miles Naples 29, Amalfi 15, Positano 7, Salerno 30, Rome 158.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Swimming pool, Private man-made beach and sundeck accessed by lift, Restaurant, American bar and piano bar (open-air during July and August), Gardens, Cocktail bar, Panoramic terrace, Tennis court, Gym, Wellness area, Complimentary parking, Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and complimentary water and fruits on arrival. Private tall ship for excursions.

Bedrooms 50 rooms, each with bath or

shower, wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest Villa Comunale gardens in Sorrento, Markets in Sant'Agnello (Monday) and Sorrento (Tuesday), The coastal resorts of Amalfi and Positano, Ravello, with its Summer Music Festival, Historic sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Islands of Capri and Ischia, Mount Vesuvius and the historic city of Naples.

Sports nearby Watersports, Walking, Sailing.

Children Children are welcome.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1190 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and private transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A traditional Grand Hotel in a superb position with splendid grounds”



Exterior of the Excelsior Vittoria



The stunning location of the Excelsior Vittoria

Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria Sorrento

Built in 1834, and now celebrating 170 years of hospitality, the Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria was conceived to be one of Europe's most glamorous hotels and over the years has welcomed many of the world's celebrities. Situated at the heart of Sorrento with its entrance just off the main square, Piazza Tasso, this 19th Century villa is surrounded by extensive and beautiful gardens containing lemon and orange trees as well as a colourful array of flowers. Its outstanding position on a cliff fifty metres above the harbour means that splendid views over the Bay of Naples can be enjoyed from both the grounds and many of the rooms in the hotel. The lounges and dining room are on a grand scale and have wonderfully intricate frescoed ceilings, marble columns and ornate stucco mouldings. Guests preferring to eat outside can take advantage of the spacious terrace with its breathtaking vista or enjoy a light snack on the terrace by the swimming pool. Bedrooms are situated in three interconnected buildings and are decorated in Belle Epoque style, many with original furniture, and overlook either the sea or the hotel's beautiful gardens. Suites are available on request. An added advantage is the lift on the terrace behind the hotel which takes guests directly to the harbour below, where ferries depart for Naples, Capri and Ischia.

GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR VITTORIA IE51

Official category 5 star.

Open 3 April to 8 January.

Location About an hour's drive south of Naples Airport.

Distances in miles Naples 30, Amalfi 14, Positano 6, Salerno 29, Rome 157.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Swimming pool (usually open May to October), Restaurant, Cocktail bar, Direct access to port via lift, Garden, Terraces, Lift, Parking.

Bedrooms 98 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, television, telephone, mini-bar, some rooms will have a balcony.

Local interest Villa Comunale gardens in Sorrento, Markets in Sant'Agnello (Monday) and Sorrento (Tuesday), Coastal resorts of Amalfi and Positano, Pompeii, the islands of

Capri and Ischia, Mount Vesuvius and the historic city of Naples.

Sports nearby Watersports and swimming in the sea nearby.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1250 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Terrace view at Palazzo Avino



Guestroom interior



Outdoor swimming pool

"A luxurious hotel in a very privileged location"



Palazzo Avino exterior

Palazzo Avino Ravello

Palazzo Avino continues to receive very favourable reports from our clients since its opening in 1997. Situated in the heart of Ravello splendidly overlooking the Amalfi coast, the Palazzo Avino occupies a 12th-century palace now completely refurbished yet with its regional Moorish influences having been retained. The colour of pinkish terracotta on the outside, the interior is cool and light with marble and pale-coloured furnishings. The Caffè dell'Arte is an elegant lounge-bar serving snacks and afternoon tea, the Restaurant Terrazza Belvedere offers fresh pasta and light bites, whilst one floor below is the gourmet Rossellinis Restaurant that enjoys one Michelin star. The bedrooms face both the sea and the mountains. They all vary slightly in size but are comfortably and elegantly furnished in an understated fashion. In the marble bathrooms, bathrobes and slippers are provided. The views are quite superb from the hotel and many a peaceful hour could be spent on the terrace sipping a refreshing drink or up on the sun deck enjoying the panorama of the Amalfi coast below and the hills around Ravello. An added bonus is the open-air swimming pool, which enjoys a splendid situation on one of the garden terraces with views of the sea. There is also a spa with a hydro-pool, steam bath, sauna and treatment rooms. The hotel also has its own beach club, Clubhouse by

the Sea, situated a 15-minute drive from Ravello which opens on 1 May. The Palazzo Avino is an ideal place for honeymoons and special occasions, so early booking is advisable, especially for the rooms that have the sea view.

PALAZZO AVINO IE183

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 April to 22 October.

Location About 75 minutes' drive from Naples airport.

Distances in miles Naples 37, Amalfi 3, Rome 172, Salerno 18.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel One-star Michelin restaurant, Garden, Rooftop sun deck, Plunge pools, Two jacuzzi pools, Gym, Spa, Lifts, Room service, Valet Parking (Euro 40 per day), Outdoor swimming pool, Beach club Clubhouse by the Sea (open from 1 May), Massage, Babysitting, Welcome amenities.

Bedrooms 43 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Ravello summer music festival, Boat trips from Amalfi to Capri and Positano, the Amalfi Coast with its dramatic land and seascapes, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Market in Ravello on Tuesdays.

Sports nearby Swimming in the sea, Riding, Tennis, Walking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1399 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 1 April-7 May and 9-22 October 2017.

"A remarkable hotel rich in exotic history, set high on the rocky Amalfi Coast"



Dining terrace



Ancient columns



Guestroom



View from the Hotel Palumbo

Hotel Palumbo Ravello

The Hotel Palumbo in Ravello is a five star converted palace graced with sensational high altitude views across the blue sea and terraced mountains of the Amalfi Coast. As you approach and enter, the individual features of the hotel take you through the vast history of both the Hotel Palumbo and the surrounding area. You will observe ancient Greek and Roman marble columns from 600BC, 11th century pointed arches from the east, colourful Amalfi Coast ceramics, a Medieval architectural base, and a unique character brought to the building by the family that has owned the hotel for over a century. In the Confalone Restaurant salon, which dates back to the 17th century, ornate frescoes of red, green, and gold fold to the shape of the archways in the vaulted ceiling and complete this fine-dining experience. Dining here is watched over by Guido Reni's painting of San Giovanni Battista. Alternatively, dine on the terracotta-tiled, red-canopied terrace looking out across the sea. Outside, at the bottom of a garden rich with the scent of orange-blossom, are 18th century pergolas entangled with vines. Guestrooms have a traditional style, with floral linen bed covers, antique cabinets and drawers, and pastoral scenes framed on the walls. Each one has particular features that are unique in the palace, such as Vietri tiles, small flights of stairs, or curved ceilings. Quirky floor tiles

and upholstered furnishings add a touch more individual character. The Hotel Palumbo is a historic five star hotel that offers a very personalised service and an atmosphere unmatched on the Amalfi Coast.

HOTEL PALUMBO IE62

Official category 5 star

Open All year

Location High on the hillside in Ravello

Distances in miles Pompeii 19, Salerno 30, Naples 34, Maratea 120, Rome 168

Nearest airport Naples, 37 miles away

At hotel Confalone Restaurant, Don Pasquale Bar, terrace, and Confalone garden.

Bedrooms 13 rooms with antique features, satellite television, internet access, safe, and minibar. Rooms are split across the Palazzo Confalone and the Casa Palumbo. In the latter, each of the 4 rooms is named after a locally-produced wine, and in the former, guests are fully immersed in the building's history.

Local interest Valle delle Ferriere Nature Reserve, picturesque Ravello, shipyards of Amalfi, Emerald Grotto at Conca dei Marini, Saracen towers of the Isles of Il Galli, colourful Positano, and trips to Naples, Pompeii, Capri, and Herculaneum.

Sport nearby Walking, swimming, and cycling.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast
Holiday prices From £1220 per person for 7 nights in a standard double room including scheduled British Airways flights and private transfers. Please ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Outdoor dining at the Hotel Caruso



Hotel entrance



Suite at the Hotel Caruso

"A striking hotel with glorious views of the beautiful surrounding area"



Evening setting at the Belmond Hotel Caruso

Belmond Hotel Caruso Ravello

The Belmond Hotel Caruso is set high on a cliff top in the beautiful town of Ravello overlooking the stunning Amalfi coast. The hotel occupies a spectacular location rich in ancient history with glorious and colourful views of the surrounding area. The hotel is a sister hotel to the renowned Belmond Hotel Splendido in Portofino, the Belmond Hotel Cipriani in Venice and the Belmond Villa San Michele in Fiesole. The Hotel Caruso boasts 48 rooms and suites most with a terrace and glorious sea views, and some of the deluxe junior suites also have a garden. The hotel has recently been refurbished and many of the buildings restored, including the 'Belvedere' garden area that features a grand 11th Century Colonnade with superb views along with a swimming pool, spa, gym. In the main building is situated the beautiful Belvedere restaurant where guests can dine either in the elegant dining room or on the outdoor terrace whilst admiring the outstanding views of the Amalfi Coast, and then enjoy an after-dinner drink in the cocktail and piano bar. Days can be spent exploring the stunning surrounding area: as well as glorious scenery. The striking town of Ravello boasts many architectural attractions including the wonderful Villa Rufolo, a mediaeval villa surrounded by pretty gardens and exotic plants and

fountains. The Villa Cimbrone features paintings, antiques and relics from all over Italy and colourful gardens rich in Mediterranean flora and fauna. There are also many walks to be enjoyed along picturesque mountain paths as well as sailing excursions from Amalfi to Positano, Sorrento and Capri.

BELMOND HOTEL CARUSO IE180

Official category 5 star.

Open 31 March to 30 October.

Location About one hour's drive from Naples.

Distances in miles Naples 40, Rome 155, Amalfi 3, Sorrento 31.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Heated outdoor infinity pool open from April to October, Two restaurants, Poolside bar, Piano bar, Gym, Boutique, Laundry and dry cleaning, Room service, Valet parking at a charge, Spa.

Bedrooms 50 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, safe, telephone, internet, mini-bar, tea & coffee facilities, satellite TV, DVD player, bathrobes and slippers, hairdryer, most with a sea view and terrace and some deluxe junior suites and executive suites have a private garden.

Local interest Ravello music festivals held in attractive gardens of the Villa Rufolo from March to the end of October, grand villas and

churches in Ravello, the spectacular Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Paestum, Positano and the island of Capri are also close by.

Sports nearby Walking, Sailing, Tennis, Golf.

Italian Expressions include Bed and Breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 31 March-13 April, 17 April-31 May and 1-31 October 2017.

“A stunning 17th Century palazzo in an idyllic setting by the sea”



Sun beds by the pool



The courtyard at Palazzo Belmonte



Terrace at the Palazzo Belmonte



Aerial view of the Palazzo Belmonte

Palazzo Belmonte Santa Maria di Castellabate

Palazzo Belmonte is a special and unique property, set in five acres of lush gardens and facing the sea at Santa Maria di Castellabate. As soon as one steps through the huge gates leading into the grounds and walks through the gardens, perfumed with the scent of jasmine and honeysuckle, time seems to stand still. Prince Belmonte occupies a private wing of the property, but the rest has been exquisitely converted into spacious rooms and suites without alteration to the original structure. Each room is individual in shape and style; some have vaulted ceilings and some have terraces overlooking the sea, the gardens or the flower-filled inner courtyard, and in each case the thickness of the ancient walls negates the need for air-conditioning. The rooms are situated in the three wings of the main building and an adjacent sixteenth century house called Edoardo's house, where some have views along the coast. The Villa Belmonte, a villa of 29 rooms, has a more modern and informal style. All rooms and suites are decorated in white which emphasises a contemporary Mediterranean feel. Many of the rooms are ideal for families where children can be accommodated in an interconnecting room. The sandy beach, where the hotel provides its own deckchairs and umbrellas, is accessed just through the grounds. The use of the chairs is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Alternatively, the large swimming

pool, surrounded by spacious terraces and equipped with changing rooms, showers and a pool-side bar where light lunches are served, is situated just above the beach. Meals and drinks are served on the Belvedere terrace in warm weather, and guests can enjoy a romantic dinner by candlelight in this magical setting. Just across the bay from the hotel is the Punta Licosa, private land owned by the Prince and ideal for walking and cycling and from where you can take a boat to a small island with a light house. This area is ideal for a beach holiday in a region that is less touristy than the Amalfi Coast and with better beaches.

PALAZZO BELMONTE IE237

Official category Historical residence.

Open 8 May to 31 October.

Location On the southern edge of Santa Maria di Castellabate and just under 2 hours' drive from Naples airport.

Distances in miles Naples 76, Amalfi 33, Positano 40, Rome 204, Salerno 44.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Private beach (use included in the price), Swimming pool and terraces, Gardens, Restaurant, Bar, Parking in grounds.

Special interest The hotel can organise food and wine holidays and walking itineraries.

Bedrooms 29 rooms in the Villa with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, private terrace, telephone, mini-bar and tea tray.

Local interest Market at Santa Maria di Castellabate on Saturday mornings, Vietri sul Mare (famous for its pottery), Salerno, Amalfi, Ravello, the Roman site of Paestum, Padula.

Sports nearby Water sports, Diving club, Boat hire, Tennis, Riding, Cycle Hire.

Minimum stay 3 nights.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast. Optional half board can be offered.

Holiday prices From about £1019 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



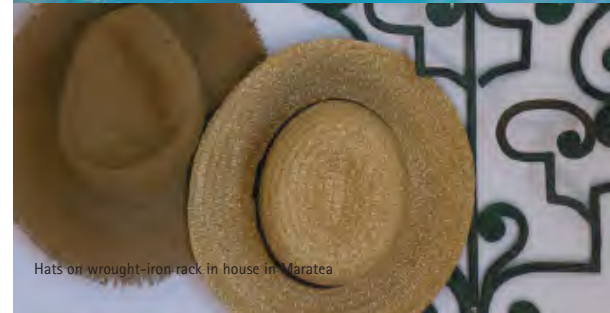
Calabria and Basilicata

Calabria and Basilicata are southerly regions of outstanding natural beauty, with an unspoiled coastline of bays, coves and long sandy stretches of beach interspersed with lush, Mediterranean vegetation and a mountainous interior both forested and scorched bare in parts, where traditional crafts are practised in the perched villages and wild animals such as boar and wolves still roam in the forests and hills. Both regions have coastlines on the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas and although until recently barely visited by the tourist, both regions were influenced over the centuries by the Greeks, Lombards, Byzantines and Normans, as reflected in the architecture and is indicative of a more prosperous past. The towns of Cosenza, Catanzaro, Potenza and Matera are all of historic interest and worthy of visiting.

It is well-worth making the effort to venture from the beautiful coast to explore the rugged, remote interior with plateaux of pine and beech, or terraces of chestnut and oaks. Sparsely populated with people who are solidly hardworking and welcoming, a visit to Calabria and Basilicata is a journey of exploration, where you can discover an ancient, southerly Italy.



Cave on the coast near Maratea, Basilicata



Hats on wrought-iron rack in house in Maratea

General information

Traditional crafts including ceramics, wrought-iron, wood-carving, glass-making, textiles survive in both regions. Costumed dolls and shawls, lace and embroidery in Calabria. Enjoy the breathtaking views from the summit of Monte Biagio above Maratea, crowned as it is by a huge statue of the Redeemer. Take a boat from Praia a Mare to see the grottoes at the Isola di Dino. Visit the striking hill town of Rivello. Explore the Sassi, the cave district of fascinating Matera. Drive inland from Paolo on the coast to the old Calabrian town of Cosenza through vineyards and orchards, forests of oak and chestnut and enjoy the panorama as far as the volcanic Aeolian island of Stromboli. Tropea is famous as being one of the most picturesque towns on the Calabrian coast, with its cathedral, palaces and beaches. Marvel at the famous 10th Century Byzantine cathedral of Stilo.

Cultural highlights

The 13th Century Duomo in Matera containing the 'Madonna della Bruna' an anonymous 12th Century painting. The 13th Century frescoes in the church of Santa Maria di Idris in Matera. Rossano's Museo Diocesano houses the Codex Purpureus Rossanensis, a rare 6th Century Greek gospel with silver lettering. The church of San Francesco in Stilo has an ornate carved wooden altar and a 16th Century painting of the 'Madonna del Borgo' by an unknown artist. Tropea's cathedral has a 14th Century painting by an unknown artist, the 'Madonna di Romania'. In the church of the Ritiro in Cetraro are three statues by Giovanni Battista Mazzola.

Gastronomic highlights

The gastronomy of these regions is based on traditional, strong, sharp and sun-filled flavours. Basilicata is known for its pasta made

in old-fashioned shapes, scamorza cheese, use of fennel and Pollino mushrooms. Calabria uses chilli, aubergines and peppers lavishly. Roast kid with potatoes, peas and artichokes is a regional speciality. Provolone cheese comes from Sila and one of the most famous cakes is the Cozzupa, shaped as an animal, person, basket or heart. The most well-known wine in Calabria is Ciro produced near Crotona. Aglianico del Vulture is the best red wines in Basilicata.

Festivals

Drama festival is held in Maratea in August. Matera holds the Sagra della Madonna della Bruna on the 2nd July.

Our two centre recommendations

Calabria and Basilicata can be combined as a two centre holiday but each of the regions can also be combined with Puglia, the Amalfi Coast and Sicily in particular.

How you get there

By air Airport at Naples (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick direct to Naples). Airports at Lamezia Terme and Reggio di Calabria - served by 'No frills' airlines. We can also offer you charter flights from UK regional airports to Naples. Easyjet flies from Stansted to Naples.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with our hotels in Calabria and Basilicata. You may collect and return the car from and to different locations at no additional cost, ideal for a two centre holiday.

A day out in Basilicata

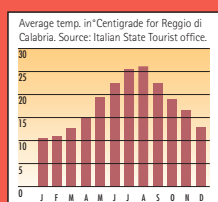
A day's excursion from Maratea

Take the road up to Monte Biagio for a panoramic view of the coast and the Gulf of Policastro. Then drive northwards towards the town of Sapri, passing through the resort of Acquafredda. The road then becomes one of the most beautiful in Italy with breathtaking views. At Sapri leave the coast and drive inland to the perched town of Rivello, a picturesque village where you could pause for exploring or refreshments (perhaps lunch). Then take the motorway south as far as Mormanno in Calabria leaving it to take the winding road to Scalea back on the coast. Follow the coast road northwards passing the Isola di Dino with its grottoes which you can reach by boat from Praia a Mare. At Praia a Mare take a detour to the Santuario della Madonna della Grotta above the town where there is a mediaeval wooden statue of the Madonna and Child and another marble Madonna. Back to Maratea.

Rocca Imperiale, Calabria



Traditionally unexplored southerly regions of dramatic natural beauty, stunning coast and mountainous interiors



Fried anchovies with sun-dried tomatoes



Maratea



Dining outside by the garden



Bedroom

"A refreshingly understated blend of monastic and exotic"



View of the hotel and pool with terrace

Hotel la Locanda delle Donne Monache Maratea

La Locanda delle Donne Monache is set in the heart of the delightful town of Maratea on the coast and was once occupied by Visitandine nuns. The hotel, nestling in its private gardens with large terrace, is ideally placed for enjoying the coast and the beaches of Maratea whilst also exploring the dramatic wealth of scenic and cultural treasures the Lucania region here has to offer. The atmosphere is one of understated elegance, with simplicity with a slight exotic touch. The rooms, each named after an aspect of the ancient monastery life, make the most of the abundant light, and their furniture combines the classic with warmth; each room is decorated with Murano lamps, contemporary oils and traditional paintings. All rooms have long windows, balconies or terraces with private gardens. The hotel's restaurant, Il Sacello, offers local and traditional recipes served to the highest contemporary standards and guests can dine both indoors and under the portico overlooking the garden.

HOTEL LA LOCANDA DELLE DONNE

MONACHE IE147

Official category 4 star.

Open 28 April to 17 October.

Location In the village of Maratea, about 3 hours' drive south of Naples.

Distances in miles Naples 136, Rome 265, Reggio di Calabria 213, Matera 153.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Wine cellar, Library, Room service, Fitness room, Massage room, Outdoor pool with sun terrace, Garden, Wi-Fi, Parking, Shuttle service to the beach.

Bedrooms 27 rooms and suites each with private bath or shower and WC, mini-bar, hairdryer, bathrobes, direct telephone line.

Local interest Maratea, Coast, Rivello village, National park, Grumento Roman remains, Regattas and festivals locally, Matera is 2 hours' away, Weddings arranged.

Sports nearby Walking, Watersports

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £825 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 15 April 2017 to receive a 5% reduction for stays from 28 March–17 October 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 28 April–31 May 2017 and 18 September–17 October 2017.

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 between 1 June–31 July 2017 and 11–17 September 2017.

“A unique luxury eco-boutique amid the natural opulence of a UNESCO site”

Sextantio Albergo Diffuso Le Grotte della Civita Matera

Grotte della Civita is a four star boutique hotel situated within the prehistoric caves of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Sassi di Matera, a 9000 year old city with thousands of caves that have been used for centuries as dwellings, churches and palaces. The town has been a World Heritage Site since 1993 and blends perfectly into the surrounding natural environment. The hotel has just 18 rooms and was carved out of the cliffs along the lanes climbing up to Matera. The rooms have been restored respecting the original shape and materials and today offer comfortable but unique accommodation with spectacular views over the extraordinary landscape below. A stay at the Grotte della Civita offers a unique opportunity to experience the cave dwellings first hand, albeit in a stylish 21st Century way, and also a chance to glimpse a completely different way of life. Ramble through the ancient streets, visit some of the 150 or so rock-hewn churches, enjoy activities such as rambling and birdwatching in the canyon below Matera. The hotel's dine around arrangement offers you dinners at selected restaurants in Matera. The Ionian coast is about 40km away but the location of Matera makes it a great combination with both the Amalfi Coast and Puglia.

LE GROTTTE DELLA CIVITA EXH685

Official category 4 star.

Open 4 January to 19 December

Location The hotel is in the centre of Sassi di Matera.

Distances in miles Bari 40, Rome 290, Naples 160.

Nearest airport Bari

At hotel Breakfast room, Boutique, Car park, Bar, Concierge service, Library, Aglianico del Vulture Wine Tasting. Please note that there is no restaurant at the hotel.

Bedrooms 18 rooms with bath or shower and WC, air conditioning, heating, bathrobe, complimentary Wi-Fi.

Local interest UNESCO heritage site of Matera, National Park, Greek Temple of Metaponto, Picnics in the Canyon, Walking, City tours, Beach 40 minutes away.

Sports nearby Walking, Cycling, Golf Course around 40 minutes away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1495 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Unique style of a bedroom at the Sassi di Matera



View of Matera



Entrance to a room at Sassi di Matera

“Historical hotel with beautiful coastal views”

Villa Paola Tropea

Poised on the cliffs above Tropea's shores, Villa Paola is a 5 star hotel with beautiful surroundings. Whilst parts of the hotel's structure date back to 1543, the traditional dark red and cream exterior, combined with the colourful flowers of the gardens, give an attractive and almost contemporary appearance. Inside, the hotel carefully blends modern decoration with historical and traditional features. Perhaps the best example of this is the ancient cloister, now converted into a tranquil lounge and library; the ideal area for a peaceful morning of relaxation. The 11 bedrooms at the hotel are very light and offer views of the sea and beautiful gardens. The high-ceilinged rooms feel incredibly spacious, and the accent colour of deep purple adds an element of subtle luxury. There is an abundance of colour in the hotel gardens, with green lawns and flowers of pinks, blues, and whites. An outdoor swimming pool with a jacuzzi is found in the garden, and the solariums make good use of the coastal location. The hotel terrace offers panoramic views of the sea and surrounding cliffs and is the ideal place to relax outdoors. A Thalassotherapy Wellness Centre belonging to the hotel lies 7 miles away, and offers hotel guests a range of indulgent treatments. Ideally placed for days wandering down to Tropea's beach, Villa Paola provides a comfortable stay with helpful staff in a beautiful location.

VILLA PAOLA EXH1787

Official category 5 star.

Open 27 May to 17 October.

Location About 1 mile from Tropea's port.

Distance in miles Rosarno 23, Lamezia Terme 38, Naples 266, Rome 396.

Nearest airport Naples.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool with jacuzzi, Solarium, Terrace, Lounge with library, Thalassotherapy Wellness Centre 7 miles away. 11 bedrooms with air-conditioning, king-size bed, bathroom with shower or bath, TV, mini bar, safe, hairdryer and telephone.

Local interest The 12th Century monastery, Santa Maria dell'Isola, the picturesque fishing

town of Scilla with a castle, and Tropea's beach and fishermen's caves.

Sports nearby Boat rental, sailing and water sports, golf 19 miles away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1370 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior and pool of Villa Paola



Lounge and library of Villa Paola



Puglia

Puglia is a gentle land of immense character and a wealth of architectural sights and glorious scenery, on the coast and in the interior. One of the most startling impressions of Puglia must be the contrasting colours of azure and white, enhanced by the green of olives and vines. Typical sights must be the trulli, the low lying white-washed houses with beehive-like conical grey roofs, flat fields of grain, olives and vines and here and there perfect examples of mediaeval castles or splendid Byzantine-influenced Norman churches and cathedrals. Red chillies can be seen drying from the wrought-iron balconies of white-washed houses in the villages. Broom and mint grow wild in the fields. The coastline is noted for its long sandy beaches and the beauty of the hilly Gargano peninsula with bays sheltering beneath dramatic cliffs.



Cliffs and coastline in Puglia

General information

Explore the Gargano peninsula with its dramatic coastline of coves and cliffs, beaches and forested interior. Take a boat trip to the Tremiti islands off the coast of the Gargano. Local handicrafts include ceramics from Grattaglie, rugs and fabrics from Alberobello, wrought-iron and furniture from Monopoli and Ostuni, papier-mache (particularly nativity scenes) from Lecce. Wine, olive oil and strangely-shaped pasta. The Salentine peninsula should be discovered for its vineyards and olive groves, megalithic remains and grottoes. The Trulli are one of the outstanding architectural features of Puglia: houses of obscure origins with white-washed lower portions and grey conical roofs. Grotte di Castellanata.

Cultural highlights

The cultural highlights of Puglia are to be found in the quality of the Norman religious and secular architecture and the Baroque of Lecce in particular. Highlights include in Lecce the church of Santa Croce begun in 1549 by Gabriele Riccardi and with a magnificent 17th Century facade, the loggia of the 15th Century Palazzo Vescovile, the Duomo rebuilt by Giuseppe Zimbalo (lo Zingarello) and the church of Santi Nicola e Cataldo (the most important Romanesque church in the Salentine). Bari possesses the Basilica di San Nicola, one of Puglia's first great Norman churches. The 15th Century frescoes in the church of Santa Caterina d'Alessandria in Galatina are of particular merit. In Bitonto's Romanesque cathedral is an Ambo by Maestro Nicola dating from 1229 with a bas-relief showing Frederick II and his family.

Festivals

Martina Franca holds the Festival della Valle d'Itria in late July early August. Bari holds a historical parade

of St Nicholas on 7-10 May and a procession on the sea. Galatina has a curious tradition coinciding with the Feasts of Saints Peter and Paul on 28-29 June as tarantism has survived here. Lecce has a feast for the patron saints of the city on 24 to 26 August.

Gastronomic highlights

Olive oil is produced in enormous quantities and this together with local fruit, wine and seafood feature in the regional gastronomy. Specialities include Focaccia bread flavoured with olives, fennel and chicory, Panzerotti (pasta with anchovies, capers and strong ricotta cheese), Tiella di Cozze (rice, potatoes and mussels), Melanzane alla campagnola (aubergines roasted and soaked in oil, garlic and basil). Dried pasta of all sorts of shapes and sizes is also a regional speciality. Puglia also is a great wine producer. A light red is produced at Cerignola and a robust red at Bari. Red Primitivo del Salento or di Manduria are well known.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include Puglia and the Amalfi Coast, Puglia and Basilicata or Calabria, Puglia and Latium.

How you get there

By air The closest airport for a direct flight from London is Bari with British Airways. 'No frills' airlines fly into Bari.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to Puglia. There is no additional charge for collecting your car from one place and returning it to another.

A day out in Puglia

A day's excursion from the Melograno, Monopoli

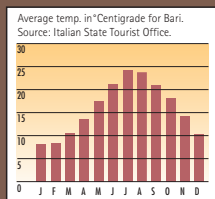
This is a full day visiting many of the most attractive and beautiful sights in the region - you may want to split it up and take two or three days to cover what we suggest here.

Start at Monopoli on the Adriatic and take the coastal road south heading for Marina di Ostuni. You pass the Graeco-Messapian town of Egnazia where the antiquarium houses vases and terracottas and then the fishing village of Savelletri and then Torre Canne, a spa town with good bathing. Pass more resort beaches until you reach Marina di Ostuni. At this point you turn away from the coast to the little white town of Ostuni built on three hills with the church of Santa Maria Maddalena and its cupola of coloured majolica.

On through picturesque scenery to Cisternino, a small town of Greek appearance whose white terraced houses with external staircases. Across country skirting the edge of the Valle d'Itria to reach the rococo town of Martina Franca, with elegant squares and palaces. Enjoy the view from the Via Pergolesi outside the town gates and pause for lunch either in the town or at a local trattoria nearby.

Then through the picture postcard scenery of the Valle d'Itria with its trulli surrounded by pretty small holdings of vines and olives, north to Locrotondo, one of the most beautiful towns of the region, built on a circular plan on a hill top. Wander through the narrow streets with their well-kept white houses, wrought-iron balconies and pots of flowering vines. You're now at the heart of the trulli region, declared a national monument with over 1000 trulli. Next stop is the trulli town of Alberobello where a whole quarter of the town consists of trulli. Pause to purchase wine or olive oil at one of the many Masseria in the region, ancient once-fortified farmhouses. The final stop is at the Grotte di Castellana and then back to Monopoli.

Still relatively undiscovered - explore this gentle and dignified land with its glorious coast, distinct white-washed houses, olive groves and vineyards





Exterior view of Il Melograno and pool



Courtyard of Il Melograno

Il Melograno Monopoli

Undoubtedly one of the finest hotels in Puglia, Il Melograno is an impeccably restored 16th Century structure decorated with a fine collection of art and antiques. All the luxuries one would expect of a 5 star hotel are here without compromising the regional character or charm. The olive groves surrounding the hotel provide the extra virgin olive oil used in its excellent Mediterranean cuisine and the fruits of an ancient citrus grove in the gardens are used to make the fresh orange juice and jams which are offered at breakfast. These trees can be seen through the picture windows of the cool and spacious lounge areas, which provide welcome shade during the summer months. Given the hot climate in this corner of southern Italy, guests usually dine 'al fresco' and breakfast is taken by the pool. 'Il Melograno' means the pomegranate, and in the hotel grounds, one can wander amongst a profusion of greenery, including pomegranate trees, indian figs and almonds. The hotel features a luxurious spa with hammam and hydrochromotherapy, as well as an indoor pool, sauna and gym. The bedrooms are charmingly decorated in Moorish style and are situated in two wings of the hotel, nestling around a central piazzetta, featuring period furniture and oriental rugs. There is a private beach five miles from the hotel, towards the ancient town of Egnazia. Il Melograno's unique fish restaurant can be found here. Il Melograno offers a serene and beautiful base from which to explore this region.

IL MELOGRANO IE245

Official category 5 star.

Open 8 April to 5 November.

Location Ten minutes' drive from the centre of Monopoli and about forty-five minutes from Bari Airport.

Distances in miles Monopoli 2, Grotte di Castellana 10, Savelletri 12, Bari 28, Brindisi 43, Matera 50, Lecce 67, Naples 190, Rome 307.

Nearest airport Bari.

At hotel Restaurant, Indoor swimming pool, outdoor swimming pool which is open seasonally, Spa with complimentary access to the Turkish bath, sauna and gym. Private beach with beach club around 5 miles away, open seasonally. Two tennis courts, paddle court, Jogging track, Gardens, Car park, Mountain bikes to hire, Room service, Complimentary transport service to the beach, Baby-sitting.

Bedrooms 40 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, satellite television, telephone, air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe and wifi.

Local interest Monopoli, with its lively port and pretty historic centre, Grotte di Castellana, Alberobello, with its mediaeval 'trulli', Martina Franca, Castel del Monte, Ruins of Egnazia, the 'white city' of Ostuni (market on Saturdays), Gallipoli, the unspoilt coastline of Puglia.

Sports nearby Horseriding, Scuba diving, Watersports, Boat rental, Fishing, 18 hole Golf Course at Egnathia Golf Club, 10km distance.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1420 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Thermal pool at Hotel La Peschiera



Bedroom



Bar at Hotel La Peschiera

Hotel La Peschiera Monopoli

Hotel La Peschiera is an idyllic 5 star retreat near Monopoli in Puglia. As the hotel takes its name from the surrounding fishing reserve, the hotel's restaurant fittingly specialises in seafood, serving it on a candlelit terrace beside the calm sea. There is a simple elegance and charm to the hotel's white-washed walls and thatched canopies, whilst sumptuous fabrics in neutral colours achieve a refined feeling of luxury. With only 12 rooms and suites at the hotel, each has been individually decorated with an ambience of tranquil seclusion, and most offer views of the sea. Rooms are very light and blend traditional and contemporary styles, some with gauze-draped four poster beds or pastel-coloured chesterfield sofas. Breakfast is a splendid affair, served on a patio which overlooks the hotel's thermal pools and the sea. The private beach is a definite highlight of the hotel, with sun parasols, towels, showers, and, indulgently, an outdoor bar. The Spa is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, with 6 thermal baths, a sauna, and health and beauty treatments. Guests are also encouraged to spend cultural days away from the hotel. At such a close distance to the historical centre of Monopoli, guests can seek out the traditional architecture or while away afternoons in coffee houses and boutiques.

HOTEL LA PESCHIERA IE2451

Official category 5 Star deluxe.

Open 22 April to 31 October.

Location Less 2 minutes' walk from Monopoli beach.

Distance in miles Bari 34, Brindisi 40, Monopoli 8, Naples 195, Rome 315.

Nearest Airport Bari.

At hotel Restaurant with outdoor terrace, Wellness Centre with sauna, outdoor swimming pool and 6 thermal pools, tennis and paddle court, Private beach with bar service, parasols, sunbeds and beach showers, 24 hour room service and concierge service.

Bedrooms 12 rooms and suites with air-conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi and bathroom with bath or shower, hair dryer, mini-bar, safe, tea and coffee making facilities,

TV and telephone.

Local interest The historic centre of Monopoli, archaeological ruins of Torre Egnatia and the spectacular caves in Grotte di Castellana.

Sports nearby Water sports, and an 18-hole golf course around 5km away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday Prices From about £1640 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"A graceful family-run property, full of character and charm"

"A truly beautiful property with a blissful pool"



Exterior of Masseria San Domenico



The stunning indoor thermal water spa pool



Bedroom at Masseria San Domenico



The swimming pool and exterior of the Masseria San Domenico

Masseria San Domenico Savelletri di Fasano

Just seven hundred metres from the sea, the Masseria San Domenico (Spa-Thalasso & Golf) is set amongst orchards and olive groves where fresh local produce is cultivated and can be sampled by guests. In the spacious grounds is a fabulous and very large swimming pool with naturally-filtered seawater, one side of which is formed by a charming rockery. A masseria was originally a fortified farmhouse; the buildings of the property are made from white local stone and its oldest structure - the tower which was originally built for defence purposes - dates back to the 15th Century. Dinner can be taken outside on an evocative terrace overlooking the pool and grounds or in the gracious restaurant with its impressive fireplace and vaulted ceilings. The menu consists of delicious regional specialities and provides an excellent introduction to Pugliese cuisine. There is also an elegant bar terrace with custom-made wrought iron furniture, where drinks and snacks are served all day. The 'frantoio' or oil press of the original farmhouse has been preserved and can be seen in the foundations of the Masseria. The bedrooms, situated in two buildings, have marble floors and are elegantly decorated. There is an excellent thalassotherapy centre at the hotel with a wide range of beauty treatments available. Guests using these facilities can also enjoy a low calorie menu which includes local

seafood dishes. The San Domenico golf course (18 holes), is situated four kilometres away on the sea front. Highly recommended as a great holiday hotel in a still relatively unexplored part of Italy.

MASSERIA SAN DOMENICO IE247

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open 28 March to 10 January.

Location One and a half miles south of Savelletri and about one hour's drive from both Bari and Brindisi Airports.

Distances in miles Brindisi 34, Bari 40, Matera 57, Lecce 58, Naples 200, Rome 316.

Nearest airport Brindisi, Bari.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Swimming pool with naturally-filtered seawater, (operational from May to Sep), Private beach (June to September) about 5 minutes walk or served by hourly shuttle, Tennis, Gym, Sauna, Steam room, Beauty salon, Massage, Thalasso pool, Golf course, Cycles, Parking, Wi-Fi.

Bedrooms 47 rooms, each with shower or bath and wc, air conditioning, television, telephone, hairdryer, mini-bar, safe and internet connection.

Local interest The fishing village of Savelletri, Egnazia, Fasano (market on Wednesdays), Selva di Fasano, the 'white city' of Ostuni (market on Saturdays), Alberobello, with

its mediaeval 'trulli', Martina Franca, Lecce, Gallipoli, the coastline of southern Puglia.

Sports nearby Horseriding, Scuba diving, Boat rental, San Domenico Golf course (18 holes).

Children Children over 12 are welcome.

Minimum stay 7 nights in August.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1480 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Masseria Torre Coccaro



Jacuzzi pool



Beach club of the Masseria Torre Coccaro

“A charming masseria hotel that combines a perfect balance of modernity and rustic simplicity”



The Orange Garden Suite

Masseria Torre Coccaro Savelletri di Fasano

Located just outside of the town of Savelletri, about three kilometres from the sea and a ten-minute drive to the town of Fasano, the Masseria Torre Coccaro is a pretty hotel in the heart of the countryside. Surrounded by olive groves and fig trees and a number of old masserias, or farms, the landscape is particularly beautiful. The hotel has the perfect balance of modernity and rustic simplicity. The grounds are quite unique and there is plenty to explore. The hotel uses the large garden to grow their own vegetables, which are used in the dishes served at the restaurant. Cuisine here is very much Pugliese, with fish, pasta and fresh vegetables featuring predominantly on the menu. The hotel also runs cooking courses for guests who wish to enhance their culinary skills. There are a number of communal areas such as reading rooms and lounges inside and a restaurant, swimming pool and attractive bar outside. The real focal point of this property is the original masseria; excellent work has been carried out to restore it. The building that houses the majority of bedrooms is very new, yet it blends in perfectly with its surroundings. Bedrooms are very spacious and again reflect the original style of the masseria; most have their own private terrace and a garden overlooking olive trees. Two suites resemble caves and underground niches. Another feature of this hotel is the small underground spa set in a

natural cave complete with an indoor pool, Turkish bath, fitness room, massage and treatments. Aveda sponsors the spa and guests will find these products in their bedrooms. The hotel has its own private beach area about three kilometres away, where there is also a fish restaurant and sushi bar. Guests can also rent a motorised yacht and crew for day-trips along the coast. The Masseria Torre Coccaro superbly captures the character of an old masseria but still remains a comfortable and quality hotel.

MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO IE757

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Savelletri di Fasano.

Distances in miles Brindisi 34, Bari 40, Matera 57, Lecce 58, Naples 200.

Nearest airport Brindisi/Bari.

At hotel Indoor and outdoor swimming pool (outdoor pool is open from April to October), Private beach (open May to the end of Sep) with complimentary shuttle, Motorised yacht with crew (payable locally), Two restaurants, Spa with a fitness room, Turkish bath, massage and treatments, Babysitting, Room service, Mountain bikes.

Special interest The hotel can organise cycling and walking itineraries, olive oil and wine tasting, half day cooking courses.

Bedrooms 37 rooms including 9 junior suites, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, telephone, radio, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe. **Sports nearby**, Golf, Fishing, Horse riding, Sailing, Tennis, Watersports, Football, Beach volley.

Minimum stay 7 nights during August, 3 nights during July and the Easter period and 2 nights during in May, June and September during the weekend.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1190 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

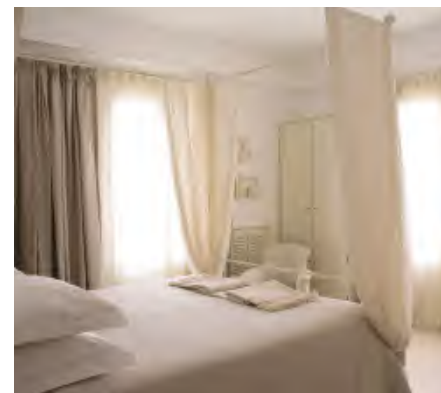
“A village-like atmosphere of hotel and villas amid olive groves”



Dining at Borgo Egnazia



Borgo Egnazia beach club



Bedroom interior at Borgo Egnazia



Aerial view of the hotel and pool, Borgo Egnazia

Borgo Egnazia Savelletri di Fasano

The Borgo Egnazia was conceived as a resort village consisting of hotel, residential-style villas, an Apulian style Borgo with sports and leisure facilities sitting amid olive groves a few hundred metres from the Adriatic Sea and bordering the ruins of the ancient city of Egnathia and the fisherman's village of Savelletri. The Borgo Egnazia is a sister resort to the Masseria San Domenico, with whom we have worked for many years and whose golf club and beach club the resort uses too. The history and culture of the region are reflected in the architectural style of the exterior and the painstaking detail of the interiors, fashioned by local craftsmen. Dry-stone walls, Arab gardens and lush vegetation create an environment of seclusion and privacy. The resort consists of three distinct areas; the central building, La Corte, houses the hotel with its 63 rooms, there is the Borgo with its alleyways and white-washed houses which contain a total of 93 suites and rustic-chic 'Borgo splendida' rooms and then there are the exclusive Villas which offer the comfort and cosiness of a home but with the service of a five-star hotel. Each villa has three bedrooms, rooftop terrace, garden, patio and a private pool. The resort abounds in leisure and sports facilities and has the 18-hole championship golf course at San Domenico, a tennis academy, three outdoor swimming pools, an indoor heated swimming pool, and a private beach club with water sports nearby, served by

a complimentary shuttle. Children are catered for with the Kids' Club with its own swimming pool, playground and range of activities for all ages. Dining is important to your stay, so not only are there two full service restaurants, but you can have 24-hour room service as well as a personal chef in your villa.

BORG EGNAZIA EXH744

Official category 5 star

Open All year.

Location About a mile south of Savelletri and about one and a half hour's drive from Bari and Brindisi airports.

Distances in miles Bari 40, Brindisi 34, Matera 57, Lecce 58, Naples 200, Rome 316

Nearest airport Bari, Brindisi

At hotel 2 restaurants, cooking school, 2 pool bars, 2 bars, Spa cafe, Kids' club, 3 outdoor swimming pools, 1 heated indoor pool, private beach club with water sports and complimentary shuttle to beach, Vair spa, fitness centre and wellness studio, tennis academy, 18-hole championship golf course.

Bedrooms 155 rooms and suites with 28 private villas with own pool and garden. Rooms have a private balcony, terrace or garden, hairdryer, mini-bar, safe, Wi-Fi, TV, telephone, double vanity in bathroom, tub and walk-in shower.

Local interest Fishing village of Savelletri, Egnazia, Fasano with market on Wednesdays,

Selva di Fasano, the white city of Ostuni Alberobello with its trulli.

Sports nearby Riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1090 per person for 7 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



View from pool terrace at Masseria Torre Maizza

Masseria Torre Maizza Savelletri di Fasano

Situated just 1.5km from the sea, the Masseria Torre Maizza is set in a large estate with ancient olive trees, fields and crops. Dating back to the 16th Century the Masseria continues to be a working 'farm', producing herbs, fruit and vegetables. The old buildings of the original farm have now been converted, retaining many original features, but with all the modern amenities expected of a 5 star hotel. The heated swimming pool (open seasonally) is sheltered from the sea breeze by the original farm wall and is surrounded by ancient colonnades, giving it a truly 'Roman Baths' feel. The 26 rooms and suites are all spacious and airy and have beautiful original, vaulted ceilings and are decorated in a tasteful, muted style. The 'Ristorante delle Palme' focuses on producing excellent Mediterranean cuisine with a special emphasis on Apulian tradition. In summer, they even use their own 500 year old pizza oven to produce calzoni and fresh pizzas. The chef also organises cookery classes where you can learn traditional Apulian dishes and how to make local pasta, all using the fresh ingredients from the local market and the Masseria. The Exclusive Coccaro beach club is nearby and offers beach activities and many areas for relaxing in and two massage pavilions. The hotel as an excellent spa with Aveda treatments, a Jacuzzi and Turkish Bath. The 9-hole Coccaro Golf Club encircles the Masseria and offers the player many challenges.

"A lovely hotel on a working agricultural estate, producing delicious fresh fruit and vegetables"

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 between 3 January-23 July and 4 September-29 December 2017 on a bed and breakfast basis.

Book before 28 February 2017 to save 20% for stays of at least 2 nights from 3 January-30 April and 1 October-31 December 2017, for stays of at least 4 nights for stays in May, June and September 2017, or for stays of at least 6 nights in July 2017.

Book before 30 April 2017 to save 15% for stays of at least 2 nights between 1 March-30 April and 1 October-31 December 2017, for stays of at least 4 nights in May, June and September, or for stays of at least 6 nights in July.

Book before 30 June 2017 to save 10% for stays of at least 4 nights between 4-30 September 2017 or for stays of at least 2 nights between 1 October-31 December 2017.

Up to two children up to the age of 12 years old stay free of charge between 3 January-23 July and 4 September-29 December 2017 when sharing with their parents.

MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA EXH990

Official category 5 star.

Open All year

Location About a mile from Savelletri and an hour and a half's drive from Bari and Brindisi.

Distances in miles Brindisi 34, Bari 40, Lecce 58, Naples 200.

Nearest airport Bari.

At hotel Outdoor heated swimming pool, Aveda Spa with treatments, Jacuzzi and Turkish Bath, private beach with complimentary shuttle bus, 4 restaurants, boat trips, complimentary mountain bike hire, Golf Club.

Bedrooms 26 rooms and suites, including two suites with own plunge pool. Rooms are on

the ground floor with garden or terrace, air conditioning, telephone, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe, hairdryer and Wi-Fi.

Local interest Cookery courses, Cycle rides and Quad bike rides.

Sports nearby Golf, Horse riding, Fishing, Sailing, Watersports, Tennis

Minimum stay 7 nights during August and 3 nights during July and the Easter period from 14-17 April.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast

Holiday prices From about £1190 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior and pool at Canne Bianche Hotel and Spa

Canne Bianche Hotel and Spa Torre Canne

Canne Bianche Hotel and Spa is a 4 star hotel with a picture-perfect exterior. The white-washed building is adorned with flowers that spill over the walled gardens. The hotel is situated directly on the Puglian coast, between the blue sky and sea, a short distance from Torre Canne. A harmonious ambience is created through blending the proximity to the sea with a defined style. There is unpretentious luxury in the exposed wooden furniture, bright whites, and flowering plants about the hotel. The simplicity in style, indulgently comfortable furniture, varied food, and the spa set the hotel apart. The hotel's 55 rooms and suites have luxurious marble bathrooms, memory-foam mattresses and spacious balconies or private patios with views of hills, hotel grounds, or the sea. The restaurant uses fresh produce with an emphasis on seafood caught the same day and expertly pairs meals with local wines to give an all-round reflection of Puglian cuisine. Cookery classes give further insight into the local gastronomy. Aperitifs are often enjoyed in the lobby bar, or cocktails and coffee after dinner, all accompanied by music played on the grand piano or live concerts. The Aqua Spa is a haven of relaxation and continues the hotel's natural atmosphere with candlelight and aromatic essential oils. Hydrotherapy and treatments with natural, locally-sourced ingredients are key to the health and beauty benefits of the salon. The Aqua Spa's facilities include a sauna, Turkish bath, jacuzzi, ice waterfall and Technogym fitness room. From beside the outdoor swimming pool, lawns and flower beds lead to a private beach where sun loungers await.

"A modern and thoughtfully designed hotel that places emphasis on exceptional local produce and nature"



Example of a bedroom at Canne Bianche Hotel and Spa



View of outdoor dining at Canne Bianche Hotel and Spa

CANNE BIANCHE HOTEL AND SPA EXH1754
Official category 4 star.

Open 31 March to 12 November.

Location Torre Canne, about 1 hour's drive from Bari airport.

Nearest airport Bari.

Distances in miles Bari 40, Brindisi 34, Monopoli 17, Lecce 67, Naples 203.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Outdoor swimming pool, Gardens, 4 Floodlit tennis courts and Private beach with sun loungers, umbrellas and tables, Aqua Spa, Technogym fitness centre, Room service and concierge service.

Bedrooms 55 rooms and suites each with a private patio or balcony, air conditioning and

heating, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe and a minibar with snacks. Each room has a jacuzzi bath or marble shower, bathrobes, slippers and hairdryer.

Local interest Lecce has stunning Baroque architecture, and there is the 'white city' of Ostuni and the archaeological sites at Savelletri.

Sport nearby At the hotel there are daily exercise classes, including yoga, walking, and pilates. Mountain bikes are available to rent.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast. Holiday prices From about £970 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible, ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 28 February 2017 to receive 15% off the nightly rate for stays between 1 April-30 June 2017 and 1-30 September 2017 or book before 31 May 2017 to receive 15% off the nightly rate for stays between 1 October-12 November 2017.

“An elegant hotel right in the historic heart of this fabulous little city”

Hotel Patria Palace Lecce

Lecce, known as ‘the Florence of the South’, is well worth visiting for its wealth of beautiful baroque architecture, elaborately carved from the pale local stone. Hotel Patria Palace is situated in a little square, Piazzetta Riccardi, within easy reach of all the town’s highlights and opposite the stunning elaborate façade of the Basilica of Santa Croce. Behind the hotel’s classical 17th Century exterior both public rooms and bedrooms have been extensively renovated and furnished with all the modern comforts worthy of a 5 star property. Bedrooms usually overlook either the square or the Basilica and are graciously decorated in blues and golds, each room featuring a different hand-painted mural. There is a smart restaurant, the Atenze, and a bar in the hotel; alternatively Lecce has a good choice of eateries which specialise in regional cuisine. A member of Mgallery Collection, the Patria Palace harmoniously combines traditional and modern styles to create an ideal base for short stays in Lecce and its surroundings.

PATRIA PALACE IE246

Official category 5 star.

Open 2 April to 28 December.

Location In the historic centre of Lecce.

Distances in miles Gallipoli 23, Brindisi 24, Otranto 25, Ostuni 45, Taranto 53, Alberobello 66, Bari 94, Naples 257, Rome 373.

Nearest airport Brindisi, Bari.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Lift, Parking (pay locally), Cycle hire, Room service.

Bedrooms 67 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest Lecce, with its stunning baroque architecture (market on Mondays and Fridays), the ‘white city’ of Ostuni (market on Saturdays), Alberobello, with its mediaeval ‘trulli’, Martina Franca, Gallipoli and the unspoilt coastline of southern Puglia.

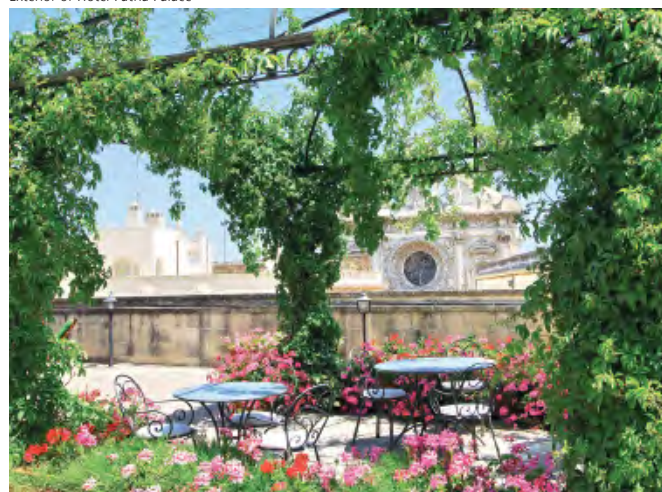
Sports nearby Golf in Acaya Golf Club (18 holes), Swimming; nearest beach is 9 miles away, Horse Riding, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £890 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Hotel Patria Palace



Terrace at Hotel Patria Palace

“Set against the spectacular views of the Adriatic Sea, Don Ferrante is an ideal blend of the contemporary and historical”

Don Ferrante Monopoli

Located in the heart of the historical centre of Monopoli, Don Ferrante is a 5 star hotel and a charming example of traditional Puglian architecture. Named after the 16th Century Viceroy of Bari, Don Ferrante was once a fortress that formed part of the city wall. The white walls of the hotel remain as a testament to the building’s Mediterranean style, and offset the contemporary furnishings inside. Spectacular views of the Adriatic sea lie to one side, and, to the other, the ancient churches, narrow streets, and glittering white-washed buildings mark Monopoli’s historic quarters. The arched ceilings and exposed pale stonework add an unmistakable historic charm to the hotel’s 10 rooms and suites. Large windows flood each bedroom with light, enhancing the soothing properties of the light-wood furniture and the neutral colours of the bed linen. Modern, stylised chandeliers hanging from high ceilings give a nod to the hotel’s age, but with a contemporary edge, and jewel-coloured tiles in the bathrooms are an elegant touch. Comfortable armchairs add a splash of colour to the Solarium, where guests may enjoy the setting sun accompanied by drinks from the bar. The restaurant is set outside and serves local dishes presented to gourmet standards. A private shuttle transports guests to the beach. Roses grow up the walls, and at sunset, the outdoor pool, lit by lanterns, becomes a romantic paradise. For added indulgence, the hotel offers massages, health, and beauty treatments, and a sun-terrace jacuzzi. Don Ferrante is a luxurious hotel with beautiful sea views, set close to Monopoli’s historical centre and beach.

DON FERRANTE EXH1231

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Monopoli

Distance in miles Bari 30, Brindisi 46, Lecce 70, Naples 190

Nearest airport Bari.

At hotel Restaurant open from June to August, Outdoor lounge bar, Swimming pool, Wellness centre, Complimentary beach shuttle service, Solarium, Sea view terrace with jacuzzi, Complimentary public parking, Charged cookery classes.

Bedrooms 10 rooms and suites containing air-conditioning and heating, a safe, minibar

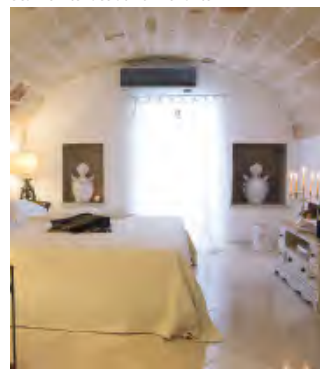
and hairdryer, flat screen TV with CD and DVD player, iPhone docking station, bathroom with shower, complimentary Wi-Fi, slippers and bathrobes. Some rooms have a balcony.

Local interest The hotel offers excursions into the old town in a Tuk Tuk and sightseeing tours with an English speaking guide at a cost.

Sports nearby Watersports, Boat hire at the hotel, Countryside walks.
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.
Holiday prices From about £1140 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Sea view terrace at Don Ferrante



Bedroom at Don Ferrante



Outdoor swimming pool and sea view



Coastline of Sicily

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands

The rich tapestry of Mediterranean history can be witnessed on the southerly island of Sicily, fascinating not only for its amazing blend of cultures including Greek, Arab, Byzantine and Norman and its architectural treasures which reflect these influences but also for its breathtaking scenery of coast, parched mountains and fertile groves of almonds, oranges, lemons and olives. Bougainvillea and oleander flourish as do palm trees, walnuts and grapes. The people are proud and independent, reserved but sincere and helpful and traditions thrive to an extent that the atmosphere of Sicily is unrecognisable in the context of other parts of Italy further north. The towns and villages are contrasting with picture postcard scenes of mediaeval labyrinthine alleyways adorned by wrought-iron balconies and baskets of flowers or severe delapidation punctuated by grand Baroque or austere Norman cathedrals and churches. Additionally there are of course some of the most important sites of the ancient Greek world such as the temples at Agrigento, the theatre at Taormina and numerous relics at Siracusa, reputedly one of the most beautiful cities of the Greek world. High above the island looms Mount Etna, one of the largest volcanoes in the world and an awe-inspiring sight. Off the north coast of Sicily, the beautiful Aeolian Islands offer escape and remoteness, natural scenery and a startling light, a sleepy way of life and romantic isolation. Sicily holds an appeal for those who want typical rest and relaxation with cultural activities at hand, and for those who want to be more adventurous and experience more of this captivating island.

Harbour scene in western Sicily



The Aeolian Islands

Each different in character and each strikingly attractive in its own right. The waters around the islands are exceptionally clean and are home to exotic fish, turtles and sea-horses. The hotels in the islands are not plush or sophisticated, but are simple and in harmony with their surroundings. The Aeolian Islands are not easy to reach (which is just as well, because this has helped to preserve their character and special feel) and you have to be prepared for delays, cancellations and a little uncertainty in travel details.

Lipari is the most 'Sicilian' of the islands in its feel around the main town and port, being just about 40km from Milazzo. There is a road around the island and the scenery is breathtaking. Pumice and obsidian cover the beaches. Lipari town has a cathedral dating initially from the 11th Century with a vault with 18th Century frescoes. Broom and olives thrive alongside tropical plants.

Vulcano is the southernmost island of the archipelago, famous for its therapeutic mud baths and natural springs. The dramatic volcanic landscape is perfect for hikes and walks and the coast is punctuated by caves with stalactites and stalagmites. The island is unusual in its agricultural heritage, producing well known sheep's milk cheeses.

Salina has the appearance from the distance of a green island with two rounded mountains (extinct volcanoes) and a smooth coastline. It is a simple island whose inhabitants mainly earn their living producing capers for export. Despite its name there are no longer any salt pans. There are numerous small pebble beaches, grottoes and offshore formations.

General information

An ascent of Mount Etna, partly by car and then further on foot (guides available), through the luxuriant vegetation of the lower slopes cultivated with oranges and lemons amid bursts of bougainvillea and poinsettias and then higher up the groves of walnuts, cherries, almonds, pistachios and vines. Puppet theatres are a spectacle of Sicilian life, with performances being colourful and in dialect. Palermo is known for its street markets, especially Vucciria and Ballaro, where traders and hawkers, pickpockets and shoppers converge amongst narrow streets and stalls of wares. Traditional costumes and dialect of Piana degli Albanesi, where Albanians settled in the 15th Century. Revel in the splendid site of Taormina above the sea with views to Etna. Local crafts include cork, ceramics, honey, embroidery, raffia. The calm and remoteness of the Aeolian Islands with their clear waters, beautiful scenery and peaceful way of life. Enjoy the gardens of the Villa Giulia in Palermo and the Public Gardens in Taormina.

Cultural highlights

Palermo contains some of the greatest Arab-Norman buildings in existence - San Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Palazzo Reale with its striking Cappella Palatina and La Martorana. Monreale outside Palermo is the greatest work of Norman architecture in Sicily and contains beautiful 12th and 13th Century mosaics and cloisters. The Doric temples of the 5th Century BC in the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Cefalu has the 'Portrait of a Man' by Antonello da Messina, dating from 1465 in its Museo Mandralisca.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, Sicily and Calabria, Sicily and the Amalfi Coast.

Gastronomic highlights

The gastronomy of Sicily, like much of the culture of the island, has been heavily influenced by its history with the impact of the Arabs on the way of life being illustrated. Cuscus is a Sicilian version of couscous and marzipan features heavily in sweets. Local produce includes citrus fruits, almonds, capers, olives, peppers and fish. Local specialities include Maccheroni con le sarde (pasta with sardines, fennel, raisins, pine nuts and saffron), Pesce spada (grilled sword fish), 'alla Siciliana' with capers, red peppers and herbs. Cassata is a popular dessert made with ricotta, candied fruit and pistachios and Cannoli are almond biscuits stuffed with ricotta. Sicily produces a variety of red and white wines including Corvo di Salaparuta and Etna, Marsala and Malvasia.

Festivals

Many Sicilian local festivals are linked to Saints' Days. A few of the most well-known festivals generally include Carnival celebrations in Taormina and Acireale. Easter is celebrated especially in Trapani, Marsala and Piana degli Albanesi. Messina celebrates Ferragosto on the 15th August with a firework display over the Straits. The Sagra del Mandorlo in Fiore takes place in Agrigento in the first and second weeks of February to celebrate the almond blossom. Taormina Arte is almost a summer festival of music, cinema, ballet and theatre, held in the Greek theatre. The Palio dei Normanni takes place in Piazza Armeria in August.

Sicily is utterly absorbing and fascinating. A land with a character that is completely its own, important for the heritage of Europe and scenically captivating



A day out in Sicily

A day's drive from Agrigento to Siracusa

Leave the Valley of the Temples and head east through lovely countryside of almond trees, olives and vineyards. After a while the road reaches the coastline which is rocky and dotted with mediaeval defence works and then after Licata the road skirts the shore at Falonara where there is a 14th Century castle surrounded by palm trees. After Gela you pass through cultivated countryside where there are abundant olives and oranges, cane and vines around the town of Vittoria. Not far away is the pretty Baroque town of Comiso with its Chiesa Matrice by Rosario Gagliardi. Continue to the amazing town of Ragusa (the most interesting part is Ragusa Ibla), famed for its noteworthy Baroque architecture also by Gagliardi, with the church of San Giorgio being one of his masterpieces.

Have lunch at one of the local trattorie, perhaps U Saracinu near the church of San Giorgio. Ragusa is also famous for its embroidery, raffia and honey. Continue initially south-west passing Modica and then through the attractive landscape of low drystone walls, fields of pasture and crops, dotted with farmhouses built of local stone. Later you reach Noto, also famous for its Baroque architecture by Gagliardi. Built from scratch in the late 17th Century the local white tufa, a limestone, was used which has been turned a dark yellow-brown colour by the sun. Take time to stroll the streets and admire the fascinating buildings, a mixture of churches, palaces and monasteries. Beyond Noto enjoy the beautiful scenery of almond trees, olive groves and citrus fruits before reaching Siracusa.

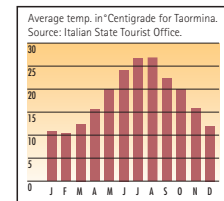
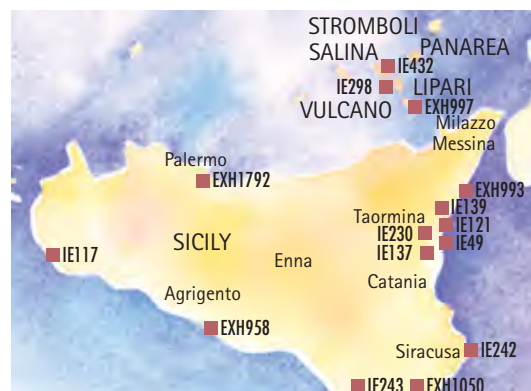
How you get to Sicily

By air Airport at Catania with scheduled flights with British Airways from London as well as 'No frills' and charter flights into Catania and Palermo.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with our hotels on the mainland of Sicily. However, if you are staying in Taormina or in any one location you might not need the use of a car, so a transfer can be arranged for you instead. When driving around Sicily you do have to bear in mind the time it can take to travel from place to place.

How you get to the Aeolian Islands

By Air to Catania (as for rest of Sicily). However it is usually impossible to get further than Lipari the first day. We recommend that on the way there you break your journey in Taormina and then continue the next day. The return journey from the islands to Catania can be done in one day. To reach the islands you take a hydrofoil (summer timetable runs from June to September, before and after that the schedules are less frequent) from Milazzo on the Sicilian coast. Milazzo is about a 2 hour taxi ride from Catania airport. The hydrofoil timings are approximately as follows: Milazzo to Lipari - one hour, Milazzo to Panarea - 1 hour 45 minutes, Milazzo to Salina - 1 hour 45 minutes. In the summer months there is also a hydrofoil service from Naples to the islands with Stromboli being the closest with a journey time of about 4 hours. We do not include the cost of the taxi transfer or the hydrofoil tickets in the holiday prices - details are provided by us on request about the transfer arrangements.



Fishing boat and harbour scene in Sicily



Farming salt in western Sicily



“A charming hotel of quality on the sea beneath Taormina”



Exterior of the Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea



Dining at Villa Sant'Andrea



Double Deluxe with terrace at Villa Sant'Andrea



Terrace at Villa Sant'Andrea

Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea Taormina Mare

The Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea was originally built by an English family in a glorious location on the water's edge amidst sub-tropical gardens. The flavour of the family villa remains in the subtle and elegant decoration, the antique furniture and paintings and the style of the hotel, yet tasteful refurbishment has meant that the bedrooms offer high standards of contemporary comfort. Oliviero's Restaurant has a good reputation locally and affords delightful views across the bay of Mazzaro. Service is in the garden terrace by the beach in the summer months. Clients have the use of the hotel's beach, a mixture of sand and shingle, equipped with sun loungers, umbrellas, towels, showers and changing facilities, all complimentary to hotel guests. There are 6 new beach cabanas, adding another layer of beach luxury. The bedrooms are all of different sizes, aspects and decoration. Some face the sea, some the gardens, and some of the sea view rooms have balcony or terrace. The hotel is situated a couple of minutes' walk from the cable car to Taormina.

BELMOND VILLA SANT' ANDREA IE139

Official category 5 star.

Open 7 April to 29 October.

Location About one hour's drive from Catania airport, and about one and a half hour's drive to Milazzo.

Distances in miles Catania 33, Enna 85, Messina 33, Milazzo 53, Palermo 160, Siracusa 70, Agrigento 142.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Bar, Restaurant, Private beach, Gardens, Panoramic outdoor swimming pool, Wellness centre, Gym, Shuttle service to Grand Hotel Timeo in Taormina, Boat cruises along the coast, Diving centre on private beach, Kids' Club, Babysitting, Parking at a charge.

Bedrooms 60 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, balcony or terrace, air-conditioning, television, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, telephone and mini-bar.

Sports nearby Golf at 'Il Picciolo'.

Local interest Taormina - Greek theatre and panoramas, Mount Etna, Giardini Naxos, Agrigento, Messina.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1290 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 on a bed and breakfast basis or stay 5 nights for the price of 4 on a half board basis between 28 April-30 June 2017 and 28 August-14 October 2017.



Exterior of Grand Hotel Timeo



Pool at Grand Hotel Timeo



Bedroom at the Timeo

“An excellently situated hotel offering a luxurious environment”



Dining on the terrace at Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo

Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo Taormina

The Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo was Taormina's first hotel, which may explain why it is situated in such a privileged position, with the impressive Greek amphitheatre dating from the third century BC on one side and the lovely public gardens on the other. This elegant villa was originally transformed into a hotel in 1873 and has undergone extensive restoration work, during which no expense seems to have been spared to recreate the sumptuous surroundings which made the original hotel a favourite destination of numerous illustrious guests. Originally the hotel was made up of two buildings; the Grand Hotel Timeo and the Villa Flora, but today they inter-connect. From the mature and luxuriant gardens which surround the property one can enjoy marvellous views over Naxos Bay and across to Mount Etna. The hotel's restaurant is bordered by a panoramic terrace, where guests can eat when the weather is fine and which offers the best in Sicilian and Mediterranean cuisine. Other public rooms include a stylish piano bar, literary terrace and several lounges and reading areas decorated in warm, natural colours, all enjoying the same stunning views over the coastline. Bedrooms are richly furnished and well equipped with modern comforts. The hotel also offers a complimentary transport service to the nearby private beach at its sister hotel, Villa Sant'Andrea, where umbrellas, deckchairs and towels are provided for guests. The Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo is excellently located for access to the centre of Taormina, just a short walk away.

BELMOND GRAND HOTEL TIMEO IE230

Official category 5 star.

Open 23 March to 12 November.

Location About one hour's drive from Catania Airport and about one and a half hour's drive to Milazzo.

Distances in miles Catania 33, Enna 85, Messina 33, Milazzo 53, Palermo 160, Siracusa 70, Agrigento 142.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Swimming pool, Restaurant, Piano bar, Wellness centre, Gym, Sun terrace, Gardens, Complimentary transport service to beach at sister property with free use of umbrella, deckchairs and beach towels, Diving centre on private beach, Babysitting service, Lift, Parking in grounds and garage available (with supplement).

Bedrooms 70 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, balcony or terrace, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, wireless internet access, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Taormina - Greek amphitheatre and public gardens, Mount Etna, Giardini Naxos and the Coast, Agrigento, Messina, Ragusa and Siracusa.

Sports nearby Watersports, Tennis, Il Picciolo Golf Club (18 holes).

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1550 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 5 nights for the price of 4
between 28 April-25 May 2017 and
1-28 October 2017.

“A comfortable, centrally located hotel, offering excellent value for money”



Hotel exterior



Balcony



Guestroom



Hotel pool terrace

Hotel Villa Belvedere Taormina

The Hotel Villa Belvedere is a 4 star hotel located centrally near the botanical gardens of Taormina, perched on a hill-side affording beautiful views of the coast and the countryside towards Mount Etna. Occupying an historic Sicilian villa, the Villa Belvedere offers comfortable accommodation in reasonably good sized bedrooms, some of which have a balcony with tables and chairs. The bedrooms are simply but pleasingly equipped. There is a small, prettily furnished lounge with paintings and comfortable chairs, a cosy bar area nearby and on a floor below, a breakfast room. Outside there is a sun terrace and swimming pool reached through terraced luxuriant gardens of tropical plants and bougainvillea, above which tower immense palm trees. On the terrace by the pool, tasty light lunches are served. The hotel can also arrange for you to join local excursions to all the major sites and places of interest.

HOTEL VILLA BELVEDERE IE121

Official category 4 star.

Open 4 March to 17 November.

Location About one hour's drive from Catania airport, and about one and a half hour's drive to Milazzo.

Distances in miles Catania 33, Enna 85, Messina 33, Milazzo 53, Palermo 160, Siracusa 70, Agrigento 142.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Swimming pool and Restaurant are open seasonally, Bar, Panoramic terrace, Parking (limited and charged), 24-hour room service, Garden, Lift, 2 guest internet desks, Free Wi-Fi available throughout the hotel.

Bedrooms 49 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, satellite television, telephone, hairdryer, safe, air-conditioning and tea and coffee making facilities.

Sports nearby Golf, Tennis, Watersports, Fishing, Canoeing, Scuba diving.

Local interest Taormina - Greek theatre, Mount Etna, Giardini Naxos and the coast, Agrigento, Messina.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £820 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay at least 7 nights between 1 April-31 October 2017 and receive on complimentary lunch (excluding drinks)

Couples celebrating a honeymoon receive welcome flowers, fruit and a bottle of Italian Prosecco sparkling wine upon arrival.



Exterior View of Mazzaro Sea Palace



Guestroom lounge, balcony, and private pool



Guestroom

“Superb service within a relaxed sea-side atmosphere”



Seafront dining and sunbathing at the Mazzaro Sea Palace

Mazzarò Sea Palace Taormina Mare

Situated on its own private beach overlooking the sea at Taormina Mare, the Mazzarò Sea Palace offers warm hospitality and comfort in a relaxed sea-side atmosphere. The 88 rooms and suites are all elegantly furnished most with balconies and terraces overlooking the beautiful bay of Mazzarò. There are suites which can accommodate families and some even have their own private plunge pools. The hotel prides itself on its service; whether you wish to take an excursion to Etna, play a round of golf at the Etna Golf Resort, enjoy the water sports on the beach or simply order a cocktail from your sunbed, the staff are there to oblige and ensure your stay is as relaxing as possible. The 'Gattopardo' restaurant serves regional dishes with creative flair and dinner can be taken on the terrace above the beach during the summer months. The bar 'Tancredi' serves delicious snacks at lunchtime and will serve aperitifs or after dinner drinks on the beautiful panoramic terrace. The recently opened HYD'OR Wellness Centre, situated in the sister hotel, The Atlantis Bay, just next door offers a range of Ayurveda treatments for the face and body. There is also a fully equipped gym for the more energetic and a fine swimming pool overlooking the sea. This is a truly relaxing hotel for couples and families alike, perfectly situated for a beach holiday, but with the added bonus of being close to the fascinating sites of Taormina.

THE MAZZARO SEA PALACE IE49

Official category 5 star.

Open 23 March to 4 November.

Location on the sea in Taormina Mare, a cable car ride from central Taormina.

Distances in miles Catania 37, Siracusa 53, Cefalu 85, Palermo 120.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, 24-hour room service, Concierge service, 'Tancredi' Bar serving lunchtime snacks and afternoon tea, Roof Terrace, 'Gattopardo' restaurant.

Bedrooms 72 bedrooms and suites with sea views, 16 rooms with mountain views, each including bath or shower and WC, satellite TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, telephone, safe, mini-bar, radio, hairdryer.

Local interest Taormina, Roman amphitheatre, concerts, operas and film festival.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf, Tennis, Watersports, Fishing, Sailing.

Minimum stay 7 nights from 6 to 19 August.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From £1190 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Set within beautiful grounds offering the ultimate in relaxation”

Hotel Giardino di Costanza Mazara del Vallo

Located in Mazara del Vallo and set in more than 100,000 square metres of parkland, the five star deluxe Hotel Giardino di Costanza is a magnificent venue for relaxation and rejuvenation. The hotel is built in traditional architecture typical of the region, set amongst olive groves and vineyards, with 91 rooms, junior suites and suites decorated in Sicilian style. At the hotel's elegant Restaurant Dubbesi the menu consists of delicious traditional Sicilian and Mediterranean cuisine. Guests can enjoy evening entertainment at the Saffron Bar and sample a large selection of Mediterranean wines at the Enoteca del Mediterraneo. There is an excellent spa at the hotel, which features exclusive treatments using a variety of natural Sicilian products. There are also two outdoor swimming pools and a heated one indoors, and a fitness room, sauna and jacuzzi. The hotel is ideal for both families and couples: child-friendly aspects include a swimming pool adapted for families and a crèche. The beach is about five miles away and the hotel provides a free shuttle service there and back. The Hotel Giardino di Costanza offers the perfect blend of ancient and modern, simplicity and extravagance.

HOTEL GIARDINO DI COSTANZA IE117

Official category 5 star.

Open 22 April to 21 October.

Location About 1 hour's drive from Palermo airport.

Distances in miles Trapani 19, Catania 196, Messina 206, Enna 151, Siracusa 209.

Nearest airport Palermo.

At hotel Two outdoor pools, Heated indoor pool, Poolside bar and terrace, Restaurant, Piano bar, Enoteca del Mediterraneo, Jacuzzi, Spa, Fitness room, Sauna, Two tennis courts, Library and reading room, Bicycles, Jogging and walking track, Yoga, Room service, Shop, Hairdresser, Parking, Children's crèche, Free shuttle to the private beach "Lido Costanza" and sun umbrella and sunbeds per room during summer.

Bedrooms 91 rooms, each with bath, shower and wc, sitting area, balcony or terrace, air-conditioning, satellite television, radio, telephone, internet access and mini-bar.

Local interest The temples and museums at Selinunte, Segesta and Agrigento, The salt fields and wine of Marsala, The mediaeval town of Erice, Palermo, the island's capital with its golden mosaic-laden cathedrals and stunning architecture.

Sports nearby Horse riding, Water sports.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1380 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Terrace at the Hotel Giardino di Costanza

SPECIAL OFFERS

Guests staying at least 4 nights receive complimentary return transfers from Palermo or Trapani airport.

Book before 31 March 2016 to receive 10% off the nightly rate for stays between 22 April 2017–21 October 2017.

Stay at least 7 nights between 22 April–21 October 2017 and receive 15% off the nightly rate.

“A hotel of historical interest and culinary delights”

Palazzo Brunaccini Palermo

Founded in 1714, the 4 star Palazzo Brunaccini is situated in the heart of the old town of Palermo. The hotel takes its name from the Princess Lucrezia Brunaccini, the former 18th Century occupant of the building. The hotel's careful restoration and the addition of modern furnishings has created a charming elegance, whilst the hotel's collection of art and antiques adds a refined, historic ambience to communal areas. The 18 rooms and suites are decorated in neutral tones, but with romantic features such as exposed beams, antique furniture, and four poster beds that enhance the palatial feel of the hotel in most room categories. The restaurant places utmost importance on local cuisine, and thus the chef personally chooses the selection of local cheeses and wines that will accompany the menu. The ancient Ballaro market lies close to the hotel, offering a plethora of artisan goods and local produce to invest in. It is here that the hotel's cookery tours begin. Wine tasting is available at the hotel, with samples of Sicilian cured meats and cheeses. The hotel's interesting past and central location in Palermo's old town creates a unique and enchanting ambience, whilst contemporary touches ensure maximum comfort.

PALAZZO BRUNACCINI EXH1792

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location In the heart of the old town of Palermo.

Distance in miles Cefalu 48, Trapani 69, Enna 89, Marsala 80, Catania 133.

Nearest airport Palermo.

At hotel Restaurant, Babysitting, Cooking classes, Guided tours and Wine tasting are available at a charge, 24 Hour reception, Garage and Disabled access.

Bedrooms 18 rooms and suites with bathroom with shower, air-conditioning, telephone, TV and Wi-Fi.

Local interest The ancient Ballaro market, the Quattro Canti baroque square and Senate's ancient library of Casa Professa, art exhibitions

in the Palazzo Santelia.

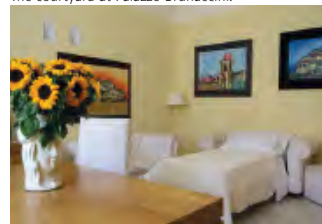
Sports nearby Watersports, cycling and sailing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £895 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car hire. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The courtyard at Palazzo Brunaccini.



Bedroom at the hotel



The exterior of Palazzo Brunaccini.



Hotel Villa Meligunis, the entrance courtyard



Rooftop pool at the Villa Meligunis

Hotel Villa Meligunis Lipari

The Villa Meligunis is a glorious, small hotel of just 32 rooms, enjoying a central location in the ancient centre of the town of Lipari, a short step from the sea in what was the old fisherman's quarter, criss-crossed with alleys and lanes. Its location offers a perfect base for exploring the town of Lipari and getting out and about. There is a beach about 200 metres away but the hotel also offers a free shuttle to a beach equipped with chairs and umbrellas in the summer season, although a local charge is payable for these. The hotel occupies a restored 18th Century villa which is furnished in a style in keeping with its history and location. There is a charming courtyard and garden abounding in spiky cacti and purple-pink bougainvillea. The hotel has a restaurant on a panoramic terrace which affords beautiful views of the town and the sea. The bedrooms are tastefully furnished combining contemporary comfort and a regional flavour; some of them have their own balcony or terrace. Highly recommended in its own right and as a two centre with Panarea or Stromboli.

HOTEL VILLA MELIGUNIS IE298

Official category 4 star.

Open 7 March to 29 October.

Location In the centre of the town of Lipari.

At hotel Swimming pool open from May to October, Bar service at the pool, Private garden, Bar, Lounge and TV room, Laundry service, Lift, Safety deposit boxes, Restaurant open during the summer months, Room service, Bike rental, Massage (on request), Free shuttle to and from the beach of Canneto 10 minutes away (from 18 June to 18 September), Excursions.

Bedrooms 32 rooms, some with balcony or terrace, some with sea view, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, mini-bar, satellite television, telephone, radio, safety deposit box.

Sports nearby 200 metres away is the beach of Portinente, Fishing, Boat trips, Tennis, Scuba Diving, Water-skiing, Paragliding, Windsurfing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast and transfer from Lipari port to the hotel.

Holiday prices From about £765 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer can be arranged. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

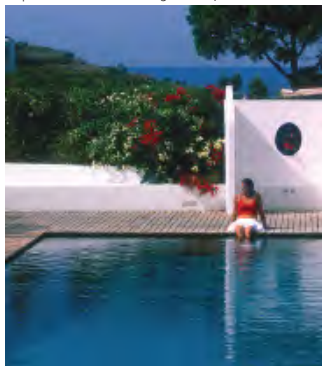
SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 21 March 2017 to receive 30% off the nightly rate for stays between 7 March–29 October 2017.
Book 60 days prior to arrival to receive 20% off the nightly rate, book 45 days prior to arrival to receive 15% off the nightly rate or book 30 days prior to arrival to receive 10% off the nightly rate.

“A charming hotel in a glorious location”



Capofaro and surrounding countryside



A spectacular view by the pool



Bedroom at the Capofaro

Capofaro Salina

Located on the Aeolian island of Salina near the lighthouse of Faro, the Capofaro is owned by the Tasca d'Almerita family whose love for vineyards and the sea has made the Capofaro possible. Rich Mediterranean flora and fauna and cliffs of dark volcanic rock surround the hotel, and six acres of 30-year-old Malvasia vines stretch before you. The hotel has 20 rooms grouped together in seven cottages built in typical Aeolian style with white walls, flat roofs and columned terraces. Rooms boast beautiful views across the vineyards to the sea with the islands of Panarea and Stromboli in the distance. Days can be spent walking in the surrounding countryside. The island boasts 18 scenic hiking trails and guests can explore this area with a guide if they wish. Boat trips to the other Aeolian Islands can also be arranged. The outdoor swimming pool and its terraces provide the perfect place to relax and there is also a tennis court and massage if you prefer. Guests can take their evening meal of local cuisine in the elegant restaurant by the pool overlooking the sea.

CAPOFARO IE432

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 May to 31 October.

Location Salina is 1 hour and 30 minutes by hydrofoil from Milazzo. The hotel is about 15 minutes in a taxi from the jetty. (Taxis are payable locally at approximately Euro 15).

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Swimming pool, Restaurant –open from mid May to the end of the season, Room service, Tennis court, Massages on request.

Bedrooms 20 rooms each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television and mini-bar.

Local interest Pollara beach, Nature reserve.

Sports nearby Walking, Boat trips to the surrounding Aeolian Islands.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £760 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer can be arranged. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A delightful hotel in a stunning location”

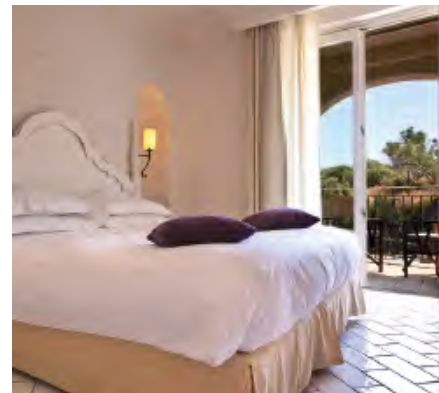
“Set within a magnificent landscape this luxurious hotel offers the ultimate in relaxation”



Therasia Resort lobby



Dining at Therasia Resort



Classic Room interior at Therasia Resort



Swimming pool at Therasia Resort

Therasia Resort and Spa Vulcano

With spectacular views out to sea and across the neighbouring Aeolian Islands of Alicudi, Filicudi, Salina, Lipari, Stromboli and Panarea, the Therasia Resort has possibly one of the most spectacular positions of any hotel we have seen. Vulcano is the southern most island of the Aeolian archipelago, separated from Lipari by a tiny strait, and is just a 45-minute hydrofoil ride from the port of Milazzo in Sicily. The hotel has been recently renovated and the owners have made good use of the local volcanic stone from Etna, brightly coloured tiles from Sicily in the bathrooms and local whitewashed walls to reflect the sun's rays. The 97 rooms and suites are furnished in a simple, but comfortable style and are decorated in cool cream and pastel shades. The interior public spaces of the hotel are airy and light with comfortable sofas and chairs in the open-plan lounges and there is a lovely poolside bar, along with the terrace bar, Il Faraglione, with views out over the striking Faraglione Rocks. The hotel has a private rocky bathing area and access to the sea, with sun loungers and umbrellas as well as a tempting infinity pool. The hotel has two restaurants offering a choice between fine dining, L'Arcipelago, and the less formal Il Cappero restaurant, both serving excellent Sicilian dishes, using local ingredients. There are numerous walks available, even up the crater of the volcano itself and a wide range of water sports is available nearby.

Therasia Resort and Spa EXH997

Official category 5 star.

Open 14 April to 13 October.

Location Vulcano is about 45 minutes hydrofoil from Milazzo port or about 1 hour and 30 minutes by ferry.

Nearest airport Catania

At hotel Terrace bar, Poolside bar serving snacks, 2 restaurants, Spa and wellness centre, Sea bathing platform, outdoor infinity pool, hydro-massage pool, and cactus gardens

Bedrooms 97 rooms and suites, all with telephone, air conditioning, mini-bar with complimentary soft drinks, safe and satellite TV.

Local interest Hiking, Boat trips to the other Aeolian islands, hot thermal springs and volcanic beaches.

Sports nearby Diving, Sailing, Watersports.

Minimum stay 7 nights in August.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast

Holiday prices From about £980 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 for stays between 14 March–7 July 2017 and 9 September–13 October 2017.

Book before 1 January 2017 to save

20% for stays between 3–6 nights

between 14 April–10 August 2017

and 26 August–13 October 2017.

Book before 30 April 2017 to save

10% for stays between 3–6 nights

between 14 April–10 August 2017

and 26 August–13 October 2017.

Honeymooners staying in a

Classic or Comfort room receive a

complimentary upgrade to the next

room category as well as receiving

sparkling wine in the room upon

arrival.

Grand Hotel Ortigia Siracusa

This fine hotel is marvellously situated right by the seafront in Ortigia, which is the historic centre of Siracusa, where some of the best examples of Sicilian baroque architecture can be found. The cool, spacious interiors of the hotel are decorated in Liberty style and an atmosphere of calm elegance pervades. Floors are of pale marble and furnishings are in serene pastel shades. In the original cellar, where the bar is now situated, original Greek remains have been discovered and carefully preserved. The restaurant, which provides an excellent standard of regional and Mediterranean cuisine, is on the top floor of the hotel and commands wonderful views of Ortigia's harbour and sea front (the 'parfait' is the speciality dessert of the house and well worth tasting). The attractive bedrooms, which have wooden floors and soft furnishings in fresh, crisp colours, have been equipped with the latest in modern comforts and some have views out to sea (available at a supplement). For guests wishing to relax between sightseeing visits, the hotel also offers a Spa with a range of treatments and a boat service to and from its own private sandy beach nearby.

GRAND HOTEL ORTIGIA IE242

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About one hour's drive from Catania airport.

Distances in miles Catania 37, Ragusa 50, Taormina 69, Enna 88, Messina 97, Milazzo 117, Agrigento 132, Palermo 170.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Panoramic restaurant, Bar, Private beach with charged transport service by boat from hotel, Room Service, Lift, Parking, Spa.

Bedrooms 58 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, radio, telephone, Wi-Fi, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Siracusa where there is outstanding Greek and Roman remains, an archaeological museum, Catacombs and the Fountain of Arethusa. The baroque town of

Ragusa Ibla, with the beaches of Marina di Ragusa, Taormina and its picturesque streets and Greek amphitheatre. Piazza Armerina has a 3rd Century Roman villa with superb mosaics and at Agrigento there is the Valley of the Temples and birthplace of Luigi Pirandello.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf, Tennis, Watersports at hotel's private beach.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1050 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Grand Hotel Ortigia



Grand Hotel Ortigia

"A first class hotel in a splendid location"

Villa Athena Agrigento

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels group, the Villa Athena occupies an unrivalled position being the only five-star hotel to be situated within the Valley of the Temples archaeological park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Just 200 metres from the Temple of Concordia amidst Saracen olive trees and centuries-old palms, the hotel offers 25 rooms and suites overlooking the park or temples, each beautifully renovated in a contemporary style. There are two restaurants each capturing the essence of its archaeological environment and serving the finest seasonal Sicilian cuisine. The Terrace of the Gods is an atmospheric and romantic setting for dinner overlooking the Temples of Concordia and Juno whilst Il Granaio di Ibla houses a glass-enclosed ancient Greek cistern and features a modern take on traditional local cuisine. Encircled by an 18th-century colonnade, the Patio Lounge meanwhile offers a sophisticated setting for cocktails and there is an enticing outdoor swimming pool and sun terrace set amidst the Sicilian gardens. A simply stunning luxury base for exploring the many delights of this fascinating and historic region.

VILLA ATHENA EXH958

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location In the Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park, approximately two hours drive from Palermo.

Distances in miles Aragona 11.5, Scicca 38, Piazza Armerina 73, Ragusa 81, Palermo 82, Cefalù 86, Catania 105, Siracusa 135, Taormina 137.

Nearest airport Palermo.

At hotel 2 restaurants, patio lounge, outdoor swimming pool, solarium, 24-hour reception and concierge, laundry service.

Bedrooms 25 rooms and suites, each featuring air-conditioning, direct-dial telephone, flat screen LCD TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, hairdryer and mini-bar.

Local interest The Valley of the Temples, the Pirandello theatre and cathedral in Agrigento,

Aragona's Maccalube mud volcanoes, the beaches of the southwest coastline including Eraclea Minoa.

Sports nearby Water sports and sea swimming.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £690 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Villa Athena Exterior.

"Five-star luxury set amidst archaeological splendour"

“A wonderfully individual little property offering excellent personalised service”

Eremo della Giubiliana Ragusa

This unique guest house lies on the fertile plains between the historic town of Ragusa Ibla and the seaside resort of Marina di Ragusa (ten and seven kilometres away respectively). The architect Sr Nifosi, whose family inherited the property, converted it from a 15th Century convent with great respect for the original structure and opened it to guests in 1997. Heirlooms such as portraits and antique furniture, which have been passed down from generation to generation, feature in both the bedrooms and the public rooms. Even the original kitchen of the convent, with its ancient hearth and cooking utensils, has been preserved for display purposes. The thick stone walls, which were once used to protect the property from pirates, now create a cool and tranquil atmosphere. The hotel's restaurant specialises in local cuisine and many of the herbs and vegetables which are used as ingredients for the generous meals are to be found growing in the grounds surrounding the Eremo. The menu changes daily. A bountiful selection of fresh local produce also features in the full buffet breakfast. In the Eremo's cellar, which was the crypt of the original convent, there is an impressive collection of Sicilian wines. The bedrooms, converted from monks' cells, are simple but very comfortable and have beautifully elaborate wrought iron beds, fresh white walls and tiled floors. Guests also have access to a swimming pool in the private garden of the Nifosi family. The hotel also offers a selection of excursions in its own light aircraft, by mountain bike, Land Rover or on foot and suggested itineraries are available. Eremo della Giubiliana provides a wonderfully homely base, ideal for short stays as part of a tour of southern Sicily.

EREMO DELLA GIUBILIANA IE243

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open All year.

Location About one and a half hour's drive from Catania airport.

Distances in miles Catania 68, Siracusa 50, Agrigento 86, Enna 86, Taormina 100, Messina 125, Milazzo 145, Palermo 166.

Nearest airport Catania.

At hotel Swimming pool open May-October,

Restaurant, Bar, Terraces, Excursions by light aircraft (bookable locally), Complimentary parking, Wellness treatments, Cycle hire, Room Service, Private beach 8km from hotel.

Bedrooms 19 rooms, each with bath and wc, satellite television, air conditioning, mini-bar, safe, hairdryer, telephone.

Local interest The baroque town of Ragusa Ibla with its 18th-century Church of San Giorgio and the beaches of Marina di Ragusa,



Exterior of the Eremo from the gardens

Siracusa (outstanding Greek and Roman remains and archaeological museum), Piazza Armerina (3rd century Roman villa with superb mosaics), Taormina (picturesque streets and Greek amphitheatre), Agrigento (Valley of the Temples, birthplace of Luigi Pirandello). **Sports nearby** Walking and mountain bike riding (hotel provides suggested itineraries Tennis, Archery, Fishing, Swimming, and watersports on the beaches at Marina di

Ragusa.

Minimum stay Two nights from 15-17 March and 29-31 December.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £890 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A former aristocratic residence bedecked in opulent elegance”

Palazzo Failla Modica

Situated amongst the winding stepped streets of the Old Town in Upper Modica, just a few paces from the San Giorgio Duomo and the Castello dei Conti, Palazzo Failla typifies a characteristically classic, 19th-century Sicilian nobleman's dwelling, former home of the Failla family. Original black and white photos of the Failla family and estate books add character and cachet to this aristocratic residence. Vaulted fresco ceilings, antique furnishings, and handcrafted majolicas (ceramics), exude a traditional charm and elegance in keeping with a bygone era. This sophisticated and opulent design carries through to the ten bedrooms, where a range of sumptuous and individually-styled accommodation makes for a most comfortable stay. The jewel in the crown must surely be the Michelin-starred La Gazza Ladra (maggie) restaurant, a modern, monochrome setting for a refined and artistic menu blending skill and sensibility and abundant in seafood. There's also La Locanda del Colonnello situated nearby, offering a more traditional and rustic yet delicious cuisine and Caffè Blandini, an attractive afternoon tea room by day, transforming into an intimate wine bar as the evening draws in. Sumptuously elegant, yet relaxed and informal, Palazzo Failla is a truly charming Sicilian gem.

PALAZZO FAILLA EXH1050

Official category 4 star superior

Open All year.

Location On Upper Modica's Via Blandini, approximately 1 hour, 40 minutes from Catania airport.

Distances in miles Ragusa 10, Noto 24, Catania 45, Siracusa 46, Palermo 167.

Nearest airport Catania

At hotel Michelin-starred La Gazza Ladra restaurant, Caffè Blandini, garage, valet parking, laundry service, 24-hour room service.

Bedrooms 10 rooms, each featuring air-conditioning, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite TV, radio, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest The churches and monuments of Modica, the beaches of the Ragusa coastline 15km away, Scicli's San Matteo church.

Baroque Noto, lovely Siracusa.

Sports nearby Fishing, beaches and water sports.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £980 per person for 7 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 5 nights for the price of 4 for stays from 1 January-28 February, 1-15 July and November 2017. Book before 31 March and receive a reduction of 10%. Not combinable.



Beautiful interiors at Palazzo Failla



Tuscany

An appreciation of Tuscany is akin to the appreciation of life itself. Its classical landscape of rolling hills and vineyards dotted with olive and cypress trees, its misty green-grey mountains that are never too far distant, and perched hill-top towns of rich brown and gold stone houses combines with the beauty of the works of art contained in the towns and villages throughout the region to create an inspirational union of the spirit and the senses. There is an intrinsic comfort in the supposed contrast between the delicacy of a Botticelli and the heartiness of Ribollita soup, yet both are typical of this fascinating region. As birthplace of the Renaissance, the impact of Tuscan and in particular Florentine traditions and culture on European heritage is fundamental to our way of life. In addition to the obvious attractions of the scenery of Chianti and the art cities of Florence and Siena, there are the less well-known regions south of Siena with its moon-like landscape of hills, the patchwork vineyards of Montalcino, the coastal marshlands of the Maremma, the spas of Montecatini and Saturnia, the islands of Elba and Giglio, and the Casentino with the source of the Arno and abundant mushroom crops. Wherever you travel in Tuscany, you will be inspired by the beauty of your surroundings and the way of life, which is quintessentially that of Italy too.



General information

Landscape of shades of greyish greens and yellow-browns dotted with cypress trees and umbrella pines, chestnut trees and olive groves. On the coast there are long sandy beaches flanked by umbrella pines, islands such as Elba and Giglio off-shore and the rocky cliffs of the Argentario.

Famous wines of Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Alabaster is produced in Volterra. Gold and silver are worked in Florence and the Ponte Vecchio is lined with jewellery shops. Ceramics and hand-painted majolica from raw terracotta from Impruneta to the glazed pottery of Siena are to be found throughout Tuscany. Lucca has traditionally produced silk and hand-woven fabrics. Marbled paper and stationery is a speciality of Florence. Leather goods including shoes, handbags and belts are to be found from market stalls to designer shops such as Gucci and Ferragamo.

Interesting markets include the Mercato dell'Antiquariato which sells furniture from antiques to bric-a-brac in Arezzo on the first weekend of every month, in Pisa on the second weekend and in Lucca on the third weekend. The 'wild' Maremma is known for its long-horned white cattle and cowboys (butteri) and natural springs including Saturnia.

Cultural highlights

As birthplace of the Renaissance, Tuscany contains a wealth of treasures: Giotto's Campanile and Brunelleschi's Dome in Florence, the Tombs of Galileo and Michelangelo in Florence's Santa Croce, Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus' and 'Primavera' and the portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Urbino by Piero della Francesca in the Uffizi, Michelangelo's 'David' in the Accademia, the architecture of the Piazza

della Signoria in Florence, 'The Tuscan Maremma' painting by Giovanni Fattori in the Palazzo Pitti in Florence, the Piazza del Campo in Siena, 'The Legend of the Cross' frescoes by Piero della Francesca in Arezzo, 'The Creation' fresco by Bartolo di Fredi in the Collegiata in San Gimignano, Romanesque church of the Collegiata in San Quirico d'Orcia, 14th Century Fortezza of Montalcino, Renaissance masterpiece of the church of Madonna di San Biagio at Montepulciano, the abbey-church of Sant'Antimo, mediaeval Lucignano and the towers of San Gimignano, the Etruscan Museum in Cortona.

Gastronomic highlights

Simple country food is at the heart of Tuscan cooking. Regional dishes include Bruschetta (bread or ciabatta toasted and rubbed with garlic, olive oil and salt), Ribollita (bean, cabbage and bread soup), Pasta with hare or wild boar sauce, Porcini mushroom and truffle dishes, Bistecca all Fiorentina (thick cut of sirloin and fillet beef), Cantucci (almond and honey biscuits) served dipped in Vin Santo, Panforte (chocolate, nut and spice cake). Pecorino cheese made from sheep's milk. Local wines include the white Vernaccia di San Gimignano and the Bianco di Pitigliano. Famous reds include Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino and the Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Vin Santo made from semi-crushed grapes left for several months is an excellent dessert wine.

Festivals

Many of Tuscany's festivals resound with the flamboyance of the Renaissance and keep Tuscans and visitors alike in touch with the region's rich history. Others are linked to Tuscany's hearty traditions of eating and drinking. The most famous is Siena's Palio which takes place on 2 July and 16

August each year. Others include the Sagra del Tordo (Festival of the Thrush) in Montalcino on the last Sunday in October when there is an archery contest and charcoal-grilled thrush are a delicacy. In Florence Calcio in Costume (a football match played in mediaeval costume) takes place in June. Pisa has the Giocco del Ponte (Game of the Bridge), a mock battle in Renaissance dress also held in June. Viareggio celebrates Carnival on Shrove Tuesday with a huge display of flamboyant floats. In May and August Massa Marittima holds the Falcon Contest.

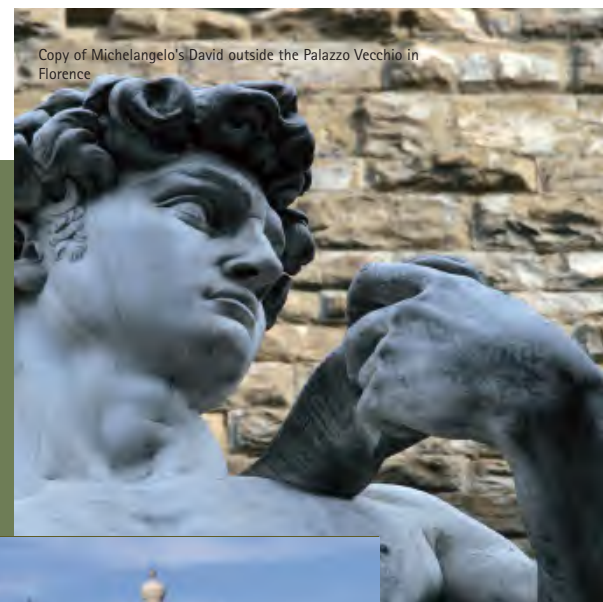
Our two centre recommendations

Any region in Italy can be combined with Tuscany. However, a few popular suggestions: Tuscany and Umbria. Tuscany and the Italian Lakes. Venice, Florence and then the Tuscan countryside or coast.

Tuscany is the essence of Italy with its inspiring appeal to the spirit and the senses



Cypress trees and rolling vineyards of Tuscany



Copy of Michelangelo's David outside the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence



Pisa

A day out in Tuscany

An interesting itinerary for a day's excursion into the country side if you're based at the Hotel il Pellicano, at Porto Ercole

Drive through Orbetello and join the 'Aurelia' northwards for a very short distance. Then you turn to the right along a long, straight road flanked by fields of sunflowers and vines, gently sloping upwards to the town of Magliano, surrounded by 14th Century and Renaissance walls. Stop perhaps to stroll along the Via di Mezzo. Continue as the road winds onwards and upwards through the perched village of Pereta and on to Scansano, stopping for a mid-morning cappuccino.

After Scansano you head towards the regional capital of Grosseto skirting the town but perhaps stopping at the famous Etruscan and Roman site of Roselle before continuing northwards towards the famous vineyards of Montalcino. In the distance to your right looms the peak of volcanic Monte Amiata. The road climbs through the glorious vineyards until you reach the town itself. Park in one of the numerous carparks indicated and then it's a short walk into the centre of this beautiful town with cobbled streets, interesting shops selling an enormous variety of local wine, food, ceramics, Florentine stationery and pictures. The 14th Century fortress affords remarkable views over the surrounding countryside. Have lunch in the Pizzeria San Giorgio and then visit Il Coccio for a wide range of ceramics. Wine can be tasted and purchased in one of the many 'Enoteca' in Montalcino or visit one of the producers - in front of the castle a map shows the location of the local producers. Return back to the coast perhaps stopping for a swim on the sandy beach near Albinia.

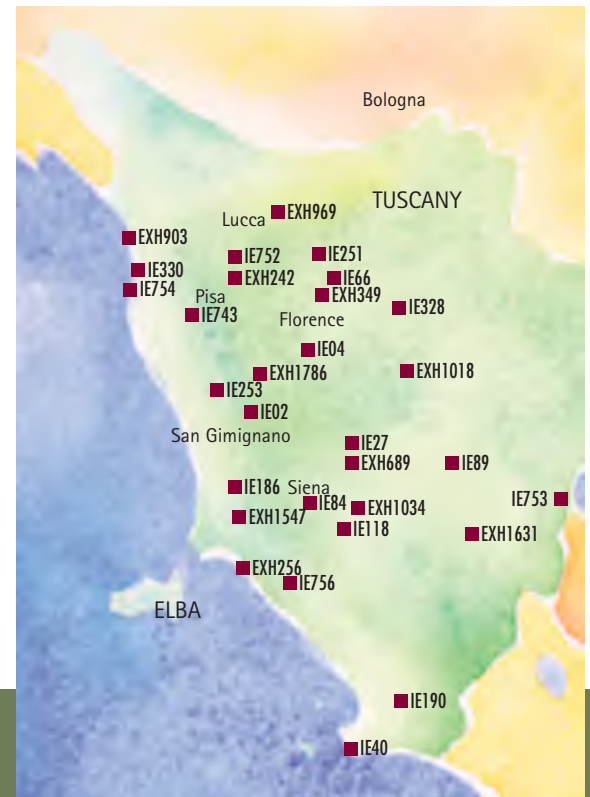
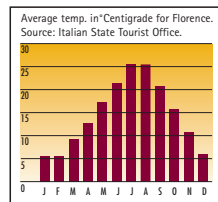
How you get there

By air Airports at Pisa (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick), Bologna (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick) and Florence (non-daily flights with Meridiana from London City). Rome (numerous flights by British Airways from London) is also recommended for the hotels in southern Tuscany. 'No-frills' and some charter flights into Pisa. Most of the hotels in Tuscany are no more than a couple of hours' drive from one of the airports.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to Tuscany (except the Florence and Pisa city centre hotels) as you really do need a car to make the most

of your holiday in this region. However, if you want to combine a stay in Florence with a stay in the country then you do not need the car during your time in Florence. In this case, we arrange for you to drop off or to collect your car in Florence at the beginning or end of your stay there.

With your own car Tuscany can be reached comfortably with two overnight stops from the UK if you want to take your own car. For example you could overnight in Alsace and then the Italian Lakes and then return via Lake Geneva and the Champagne region. Ask us for advice and let us make these arrangements for you.



Tuscan farmhouse



Olives and bread are typical of the hearty cuisine of Tuscany



“A cosy and luxurious hotel in the hills above Florence with outstanding personal service”



Luxurious interiors



Elegant staircase



Refined dining



Entrance to il Salviatino

Il Salviatino Fiesole

Il Salviatino is a remarkable, luxurious hotel on the hillside in Fiesole, enjoying magnificent views of Florence and its Duomo. Standing amid acres of private parkland and beautifully landscaped gardens, Il Salviatino was once the family home of the Salviati, Bardi and Ojetti families and today the villa has been completely refurbished as a luxury hotel. During the 19th century the villa attracted local and international artists who would mingle with its aristocratic owners. Today, the villa retains very much the feel of an aristocratic family home with its wood-panelled library and original parquet floors. The rooms and suites are situated in both the main villa and in the so-called Greenhouses underneath the Italian Gardens. The eight Greenhouse suites have glass covered porch areas and direct access to the park, whilst Dome View Deluxe rooms and Dome View Junior Suites have a view of the Florence Duomo. Warm and elegant, Il Salviatino offers guests a unique, distinctive hotel experience, with the Service Ambassadors anticipating every guest's need, thus ensuring an unforgettable stay from beginning to end. A unique place is the extraordinary Spa Il Salviatino, uniting Il Salviatino's idyllic setting and renowned service with the ancestral knowledge and delicate aromas of Dr Vranjes, one of Florence's most exclusive perfume houses. In a region renowned for its culinary heritage, food and beverage at Il Salviatino have been conceived to be far more than a service but a memorable journey to the roots of Tuscan gastronomy. In summer, meals are served on the Terrazza overlooking the Italian gardens and the city of Florence.

In winter, "Le Serre" will welcome you for breakfast, lunch and dinner, in its cosy and relaxed atmosphere. Children are welcome at Il Salviatino and babysitting can be arranged, there are connecting rooms and extra beds can be allocated to all but the Deluxe and Dome Deluxe rooms.

IL SALVIATINO EXH349

Official category Five star

Open 6 April to 31 October

Location On the hills of Fiesole overlooking Florence, just a 10-minute shuttle transfer from the Duomo.

Distances in miles Florence centre 5, Pisa 53, Siena 50, Rome 178, Milan 190

Nearest airport Florence 10km, Pisa 60km

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Library, Spa Il Salviatino, Pool open April to October, Gardens, Service ambassador, Terrace with dining, Babysitting service, Children welcome, 24-hour room service, Laundry service, Valet parking, Weddings arranged.

Bedrooms 45 rooms and suites, each with air conditioning, private bathroom with sit down rain shower (some also with bath), direct-dial telephone, Nespresso coffee machine, hairdryer, flat screen HD television, safety deposit box, complimentary Wi-Fi, complimentary in-room mineral waters.

Local interest Florence, Fiesole with its Etruscan ruins and stunning Roman theatre, Siena, Chianti region.

Sports nearby Golf, Walking, Jogging.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast
Holiday prices From about £1435 per person for 7 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 in all room types from 22-31 October 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 in all room types or stay 3 nights for the price of 2 in Dome View Junior Suites from 6 April-4 May 2017, 9 July-7 September 2017 and 1-21 October 2017.

Stay at least 3 nights between 5 May-8 July 2017 and 8-30 September 2017 and receive a complimentary 3 course lunch excluding drinks.

"A very special residence in glorious countryside"



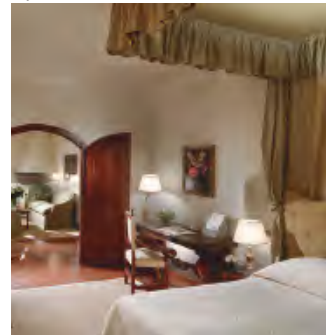
Panoramic views from the hotel



Gardens at Hotel Villa San Michele



Façade of Villa San Michele



The Donatello Suite at Villa San Michele

Belmond Villa San Michele Fiesole, near Florence

In the hills above Florence is the beautiful Belmond Villa San Michele, built in the 15th Century as a monastery, with a façade designed by Michelangelo. Surrounded by cypress and olive trees and a flowering terraced garden, the hotel enjoys magnificently tranquil views over the city of Florence and the Arno Valley. In its careful transformation the hotel has kept many of the monastery's original features, including the chapel which now houses the reception area and the cloister adjoining the Cenacolo which is now the restaurant containing a marvellous fresco of the Last Supper dating back to 1602. The entire ambience is one of outstanding quality and serenity. A special feature of the hotel is the Loggia where you can enjoy a drink and dine on warm evenings. The restaurant with terrace service is superb both for the food and the views over the Arno Valley. The bedrooms have all been decorated in a style that is comfortable and relaxing and yet in keeping with the historical importance of the building. There is an open-air panoramic heated swimming pool and the terraced gardens provide vistas of the Arno Valley below. The shuttle service operated by the hotel means you can reach the Piazza della Repubblica in about 15 minutes. The Belmond Villa San Michele is well known as one of the most exquisite hotels in Italy.

BELMOND VILLA SAN MICHELE IE66

Official category 5 star.

Open 30 March to 29 October.

Location About a ten-minute drive north-east of Florence.

Distances in miles Florence 5, Pisa 53, Siena 50, Rome 178, Milan 191.

Nearest airport Florence, Pisa, Bologna.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Open-air heated panoramic swimming pool (April to October), Gardens, Fitness room, Baby-sitting, Parking, Cookery school, Complimentary shuttle service to centre of Florence.

Bedrooms 46 rooms and suites each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, television, DVD player, mini-bar, safe, telephone and wireless/wired internet.

Local interest Florence - with its architectural and artistic treasures, Fiesole - Etruscan ruins, Siena - within easy reach for a day, Chianti country - starts about 15 minutes drive south

of Florence with its vineyards and hill-top villages.

Sports nearby Golf, Walking, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £2290 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 for stays from 28 April-14 June 2017 and 1 August-9 September 2017.

Book at least 60 days before arrival for stays from 28 April-14 June 2017 and 1 August-9 September 2017 and receive a reduction of 15%.

Stay in a Junior Suite between 29 April-14 June 2017 and receive 70 euros credit per room per stay.

“An enchanting Renaissance villa in the midst of glorious countryside, yet only fifteen minutes from Florence”



Villa la Massa general view



Restaurant terrace overlooking the Arno at Villa la Massa



Swimming pool by the Arno at Villa la Massa



The Arno bedroom at Villa la Massa

Hotel Villa La Massa Florence - Candeli

In terms of location this beautiful sixteenth century palazzo really does enjoy the best of both worlds. Set on the River Arno, the hotel and grounds boast views across the river and over the wooded plains of Tuscany. Florence is just a 15-minute drive away and the hotel provides an hourly shuttle service which takes guests to the historic centre and back. The hotel consists of three buildings, situated on either side of the swimming pool with its leafy terraces and garden. In the main villa the impressive central atrium with its graceful arches and period furniture also serves as a sitting area. Adjoining this, a cosy bar provides drinks and light lunches and there is a full bar service by the pool. The elegant hotel restaurant, Il Verrocchio, is situated in the opposite villa and specialises in typical Tuscan cuisine. Meals can also be taken in the beautiful riverside setting of the restaurant terrace on warm evenings. The bedrooms and suites, each with splendid views over the surrounding countryside, are situated in all three villas and are individually decorated in Renaissance style with antique or reproduction pieces. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, this is an ideal hotel for enjoying the best of Tuscany.

HOTEL VILLA LA MASSA IE251

Official category 5 star.

Open 6 April to 29 October.

Location 15 minutes' drive from Florence and about 60 minutes from Pisa.

Distances in miles Florence 4 1/2, San Gimignano 35, Pisa 48, Siena 42.

Nearest airport Florence, Pisa, Bologna.

At hotel Swimming pool (May to September), Bar service to the pool, Garden and terraces, Restaurant, Bar, Lift (in central villa only), Fitness centre, Massage, Cycle hire, Private parking, Babysitting, Room service, Daily shuttle to and from Florence city centre.

Bedrooms 37 rooms, each with private bath, air-conditioning, satellite television, free Wi-Fi, telephone, radio, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest Florence, San Gimignano (market on Thursdays), Chianti wine route, with markets at Castellina and Greve on Saturdays and Panzano on Sundays. Pistoia, Lucca, Siena, Arezzo, Volterra, Forte dei Marmi on the coast.

Sports nearby Tennis, Jogging track, Walking, Horse riding, Golf course in Ugolino, 6 miles away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet

breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1260 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine and flowers on arrival.

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 6–27 April 2017, 14 July–31 August 2017 and 25 September–29 October 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 28 April–13 July 2017 and 1–24 September 2017.

For stays of at least 4 nights receive a complimentary bottle of wine in room upon arrival.



Aerial view of the Hotel Borgo San Felice



The swimming pool



Typical style of bedroom

“Highly recommended for a charming ambience and high levels of service and comfort”



Hotel Borgo San Felice

Hotel Borgo San Felice San Felice, near Castelnuovo Berardenga

The Borgo San Felice occupies almost the entire hamlet of San Felice on a slight hill north-east of Siena in Chianti country. Owned by the San Felice wine makers, the hamlet was converted almost house by house into a hotel about ten years ago and is now a beautiful Relais Et Châteaux hotel. Now, Borgo San Felice is one of the most appealing hotels in Tuscany, corresponding to the characteristics of charm, character and quality we pride ourselves on. Surrounded by vineyards and gently rolling hills, the turrets of Siena can be seen in the distance against the setting sun. The houses occupied by the hotel surround the old village square and church and all have been carefully renovated and furnished to a very high standard. Pots of flowers adorn paths, lemon trees stand on terraces, lawns are carefully maintained. The Borgo San Felice has a total of 46 rooms located in different houses and decorated in slightly different styles, some being quite modern. There is a spacious, very comfortable lounge and bar, an excellent restaurant charmingly decorated open every day serving creative dishes covering demands for a lighter lunch to a more robust dinner. The restaurant serves excellent regional specialities such

as pigeon and truffles in season. The swimming pool is surrounded by a sun terrace, and there are two tennis courts. A wine shop sells the San Felice wine, seventeen different kinds in total of white, red, and vin santo. We recommend the Borgo San Felice most strongly.

HOTEL BORGO SAN FELICE IE27

Official category 5 star.

Open 13 April to 8 October.

Location About 20 minutes' drive north east of Siena.

Distances in miles Castelnuovo Berardenga 6, Siena 13, Florence 55, Pisa 105, Perugia 58.

Nearest airport Pisa, Florence, Bologna.

At hotel Swimming pool which is open seasonally, Bar service at the pool.

Complimentary use of the tennis courts, bicycles hire and fitness centre. There is a Health centre with wine therapy, Wine shop, Working vineyards and wine tasting, Parking and Room service.

Bedrooms 46 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, safe, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest Chianti Classico wine route, Tuscan hill villages, Siena (market on Wednesdays) and Florence, Arezzo and

Perugia for a day excursion, Montalcino and Montepulciano wine villages.

Sports nearby Walking, Cycling, Riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1420 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An enchanting hotel in a lovely location offering top quality service and comfort with the atmosphere of a private house. Charmingly unique”



Interior view of Villa le Barone



Dining on the terrace at Villa le Barone



Room interior at Villa le Barone



Exterior view of Villa le Barone

Hotel Villa le Barone Panzano in Chianti

The Hotel Villa le Barone is a charming hotel just outside the picturesque village of Panzano in the heart of the Chianti Classico wine producing region, with outstanding views over the vineyards which start right at the hotel and stretch into the distance. It was once the home of the famous Della Robbia family and today is owned by their descendants Count and Countess Aloisi de Larderel. In its transformation from private house to hotel it has retained all its charm and character. The hotel today consists of four separate houses, in which the bedrooms are located, surrounded by a shady garden with reclining seats and hammocks, terrace and swimming pool. The main villa is built in the style of the region with creamy white walls, terracotta tiles and stone roof, brown wooden shutters and thick stone walls. The ceilings are vaulted inside and in the charming lounge there is an open fire-place (where a log fire burns in cool weather), wooden panelled doors, comfortable chairs and original library of antique books. Flowers or fresh fruit and bottled water are supplied regularly. Some of the rooms enjoy wonderful views of the vineyards and the village of Panzano. A charming and relaxed hotel full of regional flavour.

HOTEL VILLA LE BARONE IE04

Official category 4 Star.

Open 14 April to 31 October.

Location About 30 minutes' drive south of Florence.

Distances in miles Greve 4, Florence 20, Siena 21, Castellina in Chianti 8, Pisa 70, Assisi 110, Punta Ala 90, Porto Ercole 100, Portofino 170, Lake Como 235, Lake Garda 190.

Nearest airport Florence, Pisa, Bologna.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool (usually operational from April to October), Bar, Fitness room, Fitness trail, Tennis court, Restaurant, Cycles, Room service, Parking is complimentary in grounds, complimentary Wifi, Library

Bedrooms 28 rooms, each with private bath or shower, internet access, satellite TV, mini-bar, air conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi.

Local interest Chianti Classico wine road, Tuscan villages, Florence, Siena, Arezzo, Market in Greve on Saturdays and in Panzano on Sundays.

Sports nearby Golf and Walking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast. Holiday prices From about £960 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

Hotel Relais Il Falconiere Località San Martino, near Cortona

This delightful hotel is the result of a true labour of love on the part of the owners Silvia and Riccardo Baracchi. Once the home of the Italian poet Antonio Guadagnoli, the palazzo dates back to the 1600s and many original features have been carefully preserved, such as the frescoed walls in the little private chapel in the grounds and the antique furniture dotted throughout the hotel. Relais Il Falconiere stands in utter peace and tranquillity; surrounded by a garden of cypress trees and horse-chestnuts it faces the countryside of eastern Tuscany and the green valley of Val di Chiana. Its spacious bedrooms are situated either in the main building or in a neighbouring smaller villa about 150 metres away, and each room has beautiful traditional furniture such as wrought iron four-poster beds and ornate lampstands. Each villa has an outdoor swimming pool. A highlight of any stay at Il Falconiere is the cuisine; the original dishes created here are personally supervised by Silvia Baracchi and served in the elegant restaurant, with one Michelin star, on two floors. Alternatively, guests can dine on the wonderful outside terrace from May to September. The hotel has its own vineyard and wine tasting tours are available. The hotel also boasts an elegant and fascinating spa called the Thesan Etruscan Spa using natural products based on olives and grapes. The Relais Il Falconiere is ideally located for trips to both Tuscany and Umbria.

HOTEL RELAIS IL FALCONIERE IE89

Official category 4 Star.

Open 1 April to 13 November.

Location Five minutes' drive north of Cortona.

Distances in miles Perugia 32, Pisa 120.

Nearest airports Florence, Pisa, Rome, Perugia.

At hotel Two swimming pools open May to September, Michelin starred Restaurant, Bar, Terrace, Garden, Complimentary Wi-Fi, Lift, Room service, Babysitting, Cookery courses and wine tours, Thesan Spa with complimentary access to the relax area, Steam room, sauna, emotional shower, and hydromassage pool. Complimentary parking. **Bedrooms** 22 rooms, each with jacuzzi bath

or shower and wc, air-conditioning, hairdryer, satellite television, safe, telephone, mini-bar and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Local interest The walled Etruscan hilltown of Cortona, Perugia, Arezzo, Lake Trasimeno. **Sports nearby** Walking, Ellera golf course (18-hole), Riding, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1460 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The grounds of the Relais Il Falconiere and the beautiful surrounding area



Bedroom at Falconiere

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 or 5 nights for the price of 4. Couples celebrating their honeymoon receive a complimentary bottle of Italian sparkling white wine and a basket of fruit on arrival.

"Traditional, charming and with a superb restaurant"

Relais la Suvera Pievescola

The Relais la Suvera stands on a hillside commanding beautiful views of the Tuscan countryside just above the hamlet of Pievescola. There was a castle here in the Middle Ages which was then transformed into a Renaissance villa in the 16th Century. Nowadays the Suvera is the country residence of its owner the Marchese Ricci Paracciani Bergamini and his wife, Principessa Eleonora Massimo. They opened its doors to guests only in 1989 and today la Suvera is an exceptional place to stay, furnished with antiques throughout and hung with original works of art. The aura of a stately but private home greets you as you arrive, and la Suvera is probably the most exquisitely and individually furnished 'hotel' we feature. Candlesticks, vases, ceramics, ornaments, paintings complement the style of each room, some of which are furnished in quite exact period style, for example, there is a Napoleon room and a Neo-Gothic suite. La Suvera consists of 36 rooms and suites situated in three main buildings, the Papal Villa, the Stables and the Farm. The style of the rooms does vary from building to building, with the suite in the Papal Villa being the most historic and individual, whilst those in the Stables are slightly more rustic and less ornate. A unique feature of La Suvera are the superb public rooms, that attract national museum-status classification, such as the Library, the Pope Giulio II Hall and the Marquise Campana Hall, all furnished with precious antiques but still radiating a genuine lived-in feel. A delightfully atmospheric restaurant, in the Oliviera, sits just opposite the main gates to La Suvera, where local Tuscan specialties are served together with wines from their own estate. There is also a heated outdoor swimming pool, a spa, a tennis court and shady gardens with cypress and chestnut trees.

RELAIS LA SUVERA IE186

Official category Dimora storica.

Open 14 April to 2 November

Distances in miles Siena 30, Florence 45, Rome 165, Pisa 85.

Location About 30 minutes' drive north of Siena.

Nearest airport Pisa, Bologna, Florence.

At hotel 2 restaurants, Outdoor swimming

pool, Wellness Centre with complimentary use of the facilities, Treatments are charged. Museum, Church, Gardens, complimentary Tennis, Lift to some floors, Walks.

Bedrooms 36 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, television, telephone, mini-bar and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Local interest Siena and Florence, Chianti



Relais la Suvera, pool area with hotel building behind.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 31 January 2017 to receive 15% off the nightly rate for stays between 14 April-2 November 2017, or book before 31 March 2017 to save 10% for the same period. Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 14 April-18 May and 1 October-2 November 2016. Stay 5 nights for the price of 4 between 19 May-30 September 2017.

vineyards, the Sienese countryside, the walled town of San Gimignano, Volterra.

Sports nearby Walking, Riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1170 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"An aristocratic home, now a unique and luxurious place to stay"

“A luxurious village-resort with superb facilities”



Courtyard dining at Monastero



Outdoor spa treatments



Cosy bedroom at Monastero



Castel Monastero

Castel Monastero Near Castelnuovo Berardenga

Having opened in June 2009, Castel Monastero occupies what was an ancient hamlet with a monastery dating from the 11th Century called Monastero dell'Ombrone. It can be found to the east of Siena and south of the town of Castelnuovo Berardenga amid the vines, cornfields, chestnut forests and rows of cypress trees of the Ombrone valley. The restoration of the village has transformed the main square into the heart of the resort where you can dine and enjoy a drink and the buildings now house the 74 rooms and suites. Immediately around the resort are lawns and vineyards as well as striking views of the countryside. Three outdoor pools have been set a little way off from the heart of the resort whilst the spa is situated over two floors in a building in the village. It offers a wide range of treatments for relaxation as well as weight loss and detoxifying guided by Dr Mosaraf Ali, the leading expert in integrated medicine. Castel Monastero prides itself on being a centre for sampling and developing Tuscan gourmet culture. As well as offering gastronomic delights in the restaurants, cookery courses and wine tastings are run on a regular basis by our executive chef and sommelier. The style of decoration throughout the hotel pays homage to Tuscan traditions and offers a rustic elegance with modern touches. Castel Monastero is a superb addition to our selection of luxury hotels in Tuscany.

CASTEL MONASTERO EXH689

Official category Five star

Open 24 March to 26 November.

Location About one hour and twenty minutes' drive south of Florence.

Distances in miles Florence 50, Siena 12, Arezzo 45, Rome 120.

Nearest airport Pisa, Florence

At hotel Two restaurants: Contrada by Gordon Ramsay open 1 May to 31 Oct and La Cantina on the main square and cellar, Bar, complimentary Tennis court use, Chapel, Fitness centre, Spa, Room service, 3 outdoor pools which are complimentary, and 2 indoor pools, Parking, Babysitting (on request), Cookery school, Laundry, Cycle hire, Personal shopper, Hot air balloon trips.

Bedrooms 74 rooms and suites.

Local interest Wines and villages of the Chianti region, Siena, Florence, Arezzo, Montalcino.

Sports nearby Walking, Riding, Golf, Cycling.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 60 days prior to arrival to receive 15% off the nightly rate. Valid for stays between 24 March-26 November 2017.

Stay 7 nights for the price of 5 between 24 March-28 June 2017, 5 July-11 August 2017, 17-26 November 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 24 March-28 June 2017, 5 July-11 August 2017 and 1 October-26 November 2017.

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 24 March-1 April 2017 and 10-26 November 2017.

One child aged 3-11 years stays free of charge when sharing a Prestige Room, Junior Suite or Suite with parents.

Hotel La Collegiata Near San Gimignano

Just a five-minute drive from the centre of San Gimignano, La Collegiata is set on a hill, surrounded by a verdant park of cypress trees, which grow in abundance in central Tuscany. The impressive hotel building, made of the local stone 'pietra serena', dates from 1587 and was originally a Franciscan monastery. An atmosphere of serene tranquillity still pervades the beautifully tended grounds and the spacious rooms of the hotel. Although La Collegiata is ideally located for exploring the highlights of Tuscany you may not want to leave the outdoor swimming pool, which is surrounded by lawns and flowering borders, and has its own bar to one side. The former chapel of the monastery has been converted to accommodate the hotel restaurant, which serves excellent regional cuisine, some of the ingredients of which are grown in the gardens surrounding the hotel. Many other original features have been carefully maintained, such as the vaulted and beamed ceilings featured in many of the rooms, the arched ceilings and picture windows and the internal courtyard, in the centre of which is an ancient well. Under this courtyard is a wine cellar where local products can be tasted and bought. The Renaissance-style decoration in the communal rooms at La Collegiata is reflected in the bedrooms here, which are spacious and stylish. All this, added to superb views across to San Gimignano from the hotel grounds, is conducive to a very pleasurable stay at La Collegiata.

HOTEL LA COLLEGIATA IE253

Official category 4 star.

Open 25 March to 31 October.

Location Half a mile north-west of San Gimignano and about 45 minutes' drive south of Florence.

Distances in miles San Gimignano ½, Florence 35, Pisa 50, Siena 25, Punta Ala 85, Assisi 105.

Nearest airport Florence, Pisa, Bologna.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool (usually operational from May to September), Restaurant, Terrace and Grounds, Lift, Free private parking, Wine cellar.

Bedrooms 21 rooms, each with jacuzzi

bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite tv, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest San Gimignano - market on Thursdays, Chianti wine route, Greve in Chianti, Siena, Florence, Arezzo, Volterra, The Arno Valley, Castiglioncello on the coast.

Sports nearby Tennis, horse-riding, walking, 18-hole golf course.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

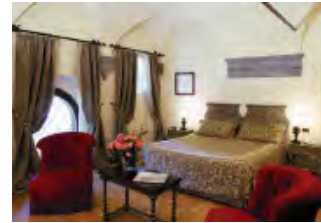
Holiday prices From about £1625 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Hotel and grounds at La Collegiata



Gardens and exterior



Bedroom

"An elegant Tuscan retreat offering Renaissance-style comfort, a serene atmosphere and superb views of San Gimignano"

Hotel le Renaie Pancole, near San Gimignano

The Hotel le Renaie enjoys a splendid, quiet, rural location in the hamlet of Pancole. The Renaie is modern in style but does also have a traditional appeal. This 3 star hotel provides very comfortable holiday accommodation, well-suited to a long stay and to being a base for day excursions throughout Tuscany. All the air-conditioned bedrooms are very clean and cheerful. Seven of the rooms also have large terrace-balconies which overlook the front of the hotel and are well-worth the small supplement payable. The hotel lounge has a cool, relaxing and comfortable atmosphere with its open fire-place and cosy armchairs. Beyond the lounge there is a small bar, and then the hotel's restaurant, called the Leonetto, which justifiably enjoys excellent local acclaim and is open for lunchtime service only. The hotel has two sister restaurants nearby for dinner. The outdoor swimming pool and garden add to your enjoyment of this comfortable and well-run hotel. Le Renaie is an ideal centre for relaxation, and soaking in the Tuscan atmosphere.

HOTEL LE RENAIE IE02

Official category 3 Star.

Open 1 April to 4 November.

Location About 5 minutes' drive north of San Gimignano and about 45 minutes' drive south of Florence.

Distances in miles San Gimignano 3, Florence 34, Pisa 50, Siena 24, Volterra 16, Assisi 105, Lake Garda 195, Venice 200.

Nearest airport Florence, Pisa.

At hotel Swimming pool (usually in operation May to September), Bar service is available on the restaurant terrace, Restaurant Leonetto for lunchtimes, Bar, Tennis court at the Hotel San Paolo, just over a mile away (free of charge, pre-booking necessary), Wi-Fi available in lounge, terrace and pool area, Table tennis, Parking.

Bedrooms 25 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest San Gimignano - famous walled town, market on Thursdays, Chianti wine route - vineyards and hill towns, Vernaccia vineyards near the hotel, Florence and Siena, Volterra - famous for its alabaster, Cecina and Castiglioncello on the coast within reach for a day's excursion.

Sports nearby Walking, Riding, Golf.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

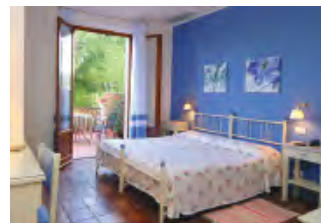
Holiday prices From about £830 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Hotel le Renaie



Standard Bedroom interior at Hotel le Renaie



Room interior at Hotel le Renaie

"A relaxing, comfortable hotel in a glorious location with an outstanding restaurant. Excellent value for money"

“Fantastic, monastic chic on the skirt tails of Siena”

Hotel Certosa di Maggiano Siena

A former Carthusian monastery dating back to 1314, the Certosa di Maggiano is today a luxury hotel of exceptional character, set just a stone's throw from historic Siena and its magnificent Piazza del Campo. Undoubtedly ranking amongst the finest hotels in Siena, the property comprises arcades, cloisters and chapels which have been sympathetically transformed into luxury interiors hosting an Emperors' Hall, library, cigar bar, games room and four distinct areas dedicated to the restaurant, Il Canto, voted one of the world's top 50 restaurants in 2010. Overseen by Paolo Lopriore, described as the most creative and courageous chef in Italy, the internationally acclaimed Il Canto offers a menu infused with passion and imagination, where tastes and flavours leave a lasting culinary impression. As you'd expect with a restaurant of this calibre, there is an extensive wine cellar full of exquisite names and vintages. With just 17 rooms, many fashioned from the original friars' cells, the architectural integrity and atmospheric intimacy of the hotel remains undiminished. Looking out onto the central cloister, the Tuscan landscape or the beauty of Siena, each of the rooms is unique in typology, style and décor, yet all maintain a romance and charm that is hard to rival. Leisure facilities are numerous, from the heated outdoor swimming pool and tennis court to the Maria Galland wellness centre and running track. This is a fabulous hotel of limitless character and historic style, the perfect luxury Tuscan retreat.

HOTEL CERTOSA DI MAGGIANO EXH1034

Official category 4 star

Closed Mid-November to mid-March.

Location About 1 mile from Siena.

Distances in miles Viareggio 9, Lucca 21, Pisa 22, San Gimignano 30, Florence 65, Rome 143.

Nearest airport Pisa, Florence, Bologna.

At hotel Restaurant (open daily for dinner from Mar to Oct, except Tuesdays. From Nov to Mar, it is open for dinner Wed to Sun), cigars bar, Emperors' Hall, heated outdoor swimming pool with lifeguard, tennis court, fitness room (open 1 May to 31 Oct), jogging and walking track, Maria Galland wellness centre, yoga, pilates, qi gong, games room, TV room, 24-hour reception, laundry service, parking, secured underground parking, helipad.

Bedrooms 17 rooms, each featuring air-conditioning, satellite LCD TV, mini-bar, safe, telephone, iPhone/iPod music speaker, hairdryer, bathrobes and slippers.

Local interest Historic Siena with its Piazza del Campo, Duomo and Palio, southern Tuscany and the rolling hills of the Siena countryside, the wine regions of Chianti, Montalcino, Montepulciano, San Gimignano.

Sports nearby 6km jogging trail, horse riding, biking, walking, Versilia Golf Course.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The Certosa di Maggiano near Siena



The cloisters



The gardens

“The perfect place to unwind in the heart of the Tuscan countryside”

Castello di Velona Tuscan Resort & Spa Montalcino

Situated just south of the lovely Tuscan town of Montalcino, the Castello di Velona perches on a small outcrop amidst the gently-rolling Siennese hills. Built in the 11th Century, the castle's original function was to protect the road from ancient Etruria and Rome. The oldest surviving part of the hotel is the 12th Century watchtower and the rest of the hotel dates back to the Renaissance when the castle was converted into a residential villa. After significant renovation, the hotel re-opened in 2011 offering 46 rooms and suites and a new restaurant with a beautiful panoramic terrace. The emphasis here is truly on relaxation in beautiful Tuscan surroundings and the spa offers many treatments using local produce and olive oils. The natural hot spring water in the spa flows at 50 degrees and is classed as 'hyper-thermal', rich with minerals and salts. All the bedrooms are individually furnished with a blend of modern design, period furniture and antiques. The Il Vignale restaurant is a cosy trattoria serving delicious Tuscan dishes and the Abbazia fine dining restaurant serves regional food with slightly more refined flair. There is also an informal pool bar which serves lunchtime snacks and drinks.

CASTELLO DI VELONA TUSCAN RESORT & SPA IE118

Official category 5 star.

Open 20 April to 8 January.

Location about 2 hours drive from Pisa and Florence and half an hour from Siena.

Distances in miles Montalcino 5, Florence 90, Siena 25, Pisa 75.

Nearest airport Pisa, Florence or Rome.

At hotel Restaurant, bar, lounge, 2 outdoor swimming pools and 2 indoor swimming pools, a pool bar which is open seasonally, Thermal Spa with 5 treatment cabins, 1 couples treatment room, a steam room, sauna and emotional shower. 24 hour room service and concierge service, wine tasting of the property's wines Rosso and Brunello di Montalcino, baby sitting (must be booked

in advance, dry-cleaning and laundry service, sightseeing tours and limousine service on request.

Bedrooms 46 rooms and suites with bath or shower and WC, satellite television, air conditioning, internet connection, hairdryer, mini-bar, safe.

Local interest Cooking classes on request, Wine tasting, Olive oil tasting, Siena, Pienza, San Gimignano, Sant'Antimo Abbey, Monte Amiata, Chianti.

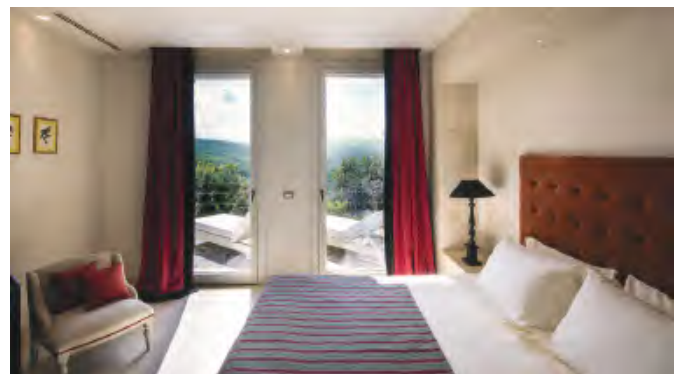
Sports nearby Cycle hire, Horse riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast

Holiday prices From about £1469 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Castello di Velona



A guestroom at Castello di Velona.



Swimming pool area



Relais Villa Belpoggio



Guestroom interior

“Highly recommended for a charming ambience and high levels of service and comfort”



Relais Villa Belpoggio

Relais Villa Belpoggio Loro Ciuffenna

A charming boutique hotel in the Chianti region, Relais Villa Belpoggio boasts an authentic Tuscan style within refined landscaped gardens. Surrounded by olive groves, these gardens are characterised by pristine lawns and rose bushes, while expansive views typify the region, looking over the Pratomagno woods, the Chianti Mountains and the Arno Valley. The elegant mansion itself dates back to the 17th century and its rich history is evident in the antiques that decorate the interior. Guest accommodation is certainly boutique, with each of the mere 10 guestrooms individually decorated to reflect the uniqueness of each room's dimensions. Some feature exposed stone floors and walls and others offer a distinctly Tuscan feel, with terracotta floor tiles, dark wood furniture, log fires and wrought iron bedsteads. Of the nine double rooms and one Junior Suite, certain room configurations make up apartments suitable for up to six people. This makes Relais Villa Belpoggio an excellent option for families. The restaurant is as authentic as it gets, with exposed stone walls and an arched, red-brick ceiling in a carriage shape. Evening meals can be served for you at the hotel by prior arrangement and spend your other evenings exploring a number of rustic dining venues in the vicinity. Also within the grounds is a small swimming pool, which is a wonderful place to take in the spectacular

scenery. The natural environment beyond the estate promises an array of outdoor pursuits to help you get to know the landscape, including horse-riding, mountain biking and trekking. More subdued options include golf and visits to the thermal spa. On-site cookery courses are also offered by the hotel, which allow you to learn more about Tuscan techniques and flavours through hands on tutorials. Relais Villa Belpoggio is an intimate base for experiencing rural Tuscany, whilst Florence and Siena are just a daytrip away.

RELAIS VILLA BELPOGGIO EXH1018
Official category Country house. No official category.
Open 1 April to 31 October.
Location Loro Ciuffenna
Distances in miles Florence 37, Pisa 86, Siena 42, Rome 150, Milan 221.
Nearest airport Florence.
At hotel Swimming pool, Chapel, Buffet breakfast, Reception, 24-hour concierge, Cookery classes, Hydromassage facilities, Afternoon tea and biscuits. Cooking courses are available.
Bedrooms The Relais Villa Belpoggio offers nine double rooms, one Junior Suite and two independent apartments. In-room facilities include tea- and coffee-making facilities, air conditioning, minibar fridge, phone, television, safe and hairdryer.

Local interest The hotel is equidistant from Florence and Arezzo, while Siena is over an hour's drive away.
Sports nearby Horse-riding, Trekking, Mountain biking, Golf.
Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.
Holiday prices From about £825 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights with British Airways from London Heathrow to Pisa and car hire for the duration of your stay. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A revitalising wellbeing experience”

Terme di Saturnia Spa & Golf Resort Saturnia

Terme di Saturnia promises a unique experience of restoration and well-being in the midst of the rolling Maremma landscape near the hamlet of Manciano. The structure boasts rough-hewn limestone walls and intimate dining terraces surrounded by pristine lawns, all fronted by a one-of-a-kind thermal spring swimming pool. At the original spring guests can take a revitalising dip in its 37-degree waters and receive the benefits of its health-giving properties. These waters are also fed into three additional swimming pools, Jacuzzis and the atmospheric waterfalls and waterways. The concept of the resort is based on its affinity with its privileged setting and an ethos of providing a well-rounded lifestyle experience. This extends to the dining venues, which emphasise indulgence and nutrition. Restaurant Aqualuce and All'Aquacotta serve Tuscan flavours and healthier options using strictly local produce; the latter boasts one Michelin star, while the spa menus at Aqualuce are specifically designed by dietitians to offer low-calorie options. The interior design here, as with the 140 guest rooms and suites, is sleek, sophisticated and comfortable. Activities include golfing pastimes at the 18-hole golf course, guided morning hikes, tennis, mountain biking and fitness classes.

TERME DI SATURNIA IE190

Open All year

Star rating No star rating

Location Saturnia, Grosseto province

At hotel Two restaurants, Juice bar, Piano bar, Spa, Spa café, Four thermal swimming pools, Jacuzzi, Roman bath, Turkish bath, Golf course, Driving Range, Gym, Art gallery, Spa Boutique, Hair stylist, Car valet, Parking, Tennis, Mountain bikes, Fitness classes, Airport transfers.

Bedrooms 140 rooms and suites with air conditioning, minibar, safety box, LCD TV, pay TV, swimming pool kit and free Wi-Fi. Views overlook the gardens or the Tuscan landscape.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1980 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car hire. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Pool, exterior of hotel and juice bar



Deluxe room at Saturnia

“An elegant hotel with excellent spa facilities including its very own natural thermal grotto”

Grotta Giusti Resort Golf & Spa Monsummano Terme

The Grotta Giusti Resort Golf & Spa offers a pleasant stay in an idyllic refined setting in the Tuscan hills. The hotel is a typical Florentine Palace and the original villa dates back some 500 years. One unique feature is that it has its very own natural underground cave network that forms an integral part of the spa. There is also an underground lake where scuba divers can experience a unique session. 2010 saw the opening of a second open-air thermal pool at the hotel featuring underwater hydromassage. Beauty and mud treatments are just some of the programmes that can be enjoyed as well as a therapeutic thermal pool with a waterfall. Spa packages are also available. Activities comprise of an outdoor fitness programme, reduced green fees on the local course and the attractive outdoor swimming pool (also thermal). The charming restaurant offers a variety of Tuscan specialities including a light menu for guests on a special diet. Bedrooms are plush and elegant, decorated in typical Tuscan colours of yellow and brown and overlooking either the park or the mountain. Superior and Deluxe rooms are quite unique in that there is an additional tap in the bathroom where thermal water is pumped straight to your bath.

GROTTA GIUSTI RESORT IE752

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location About 40 minutes to Florence, Pisa and Lucca.

Distances in miles Florence 28, Pisa 33, Lucca 19, Rome 198, Siena 72, San Gimignano 62, Montecatini Terme 2.

Nearest airport Pisa and Florence.

At hotel Restaurant, Outdoor summer swimming pool, Two therapeutic thermal pools, Cosmetology consultation, Spa, Natural grotto, Gym, Tennis, Cycle hire, Guided morning walks (Mon to Sat), Complimentary Wi-Fi, Parking.

Bedrooms 58 rooms each with bath and wc, 6 junior suites, some with thermal water in the bathroom, telephone, satellite TV,

safe, mini-bar, free internet connection and air-conditioning.

Local interest Montecatini, Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Chianti, Vinci (native town of Leonardo). Colodi.

Sports nearby Horse riding, Golf.

Minimum stay 3 nights from 25-27 March, 22-24 April, 2-4 June, 28-31 October and 8-10 December. 4 nights from 12-20 August and 5 nights from 28 December-7 January.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1160 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior View



Open air thermal pool



Hotel exterior of Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa



Spa at Fonteverde

Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa San Casciano dei Bagni, Siena

The Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa is a luxurious five star hotel situated just outside the small town of San Casciano dei Bagni, within just a few miles of the Tuscany and Umbria border. A long driveway and grand entrance invites guests to the hotel. The grounds are very expansive; the landscape surrounding the hotel offers some spectacular views of the nearby mountains, and the sun setting over these in the evening is stunning. The natural spa is a particularly attractive feature of this hotel, as its facilities are extremely impressive and top-of-the-range. The spa is set behind the hotel so guests can enjoy the beautiful landscape whilst indulging in a wide range of exclusive treatments. As well as a very large spa therapeutic pool there are also smaller spa pools for different types of treatments; and there is also a swimming pool. The bar area has a wide terrace which overlooks the hills, great for enjoying a drink in the warm summer months. Bedrooms are of a good size and are very comfortable. It is worth upgrading to a valley-view room for the terrace as these afford marvellous views of the surrounding countryside. Highly recommended.

“An exclusive spa hotel set within the beautiful Tuscan countryside”

Fonteverde Tuscan Resort & Spa
IE753

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location San Casciano dei Bagni, Siena.

Distances in miles Florence 91, Rome 98, Orvieto 31, Perugia 36, Assisi 48, Grosseto 60, Viterbo 48.

Nearest airport Rome or Florence.

At hotel Two restaurants, Therapeutic spa swimming pools with waterfall and hydromassage, Summer pool, Etruscan circuit, Wide range of health programmes, Cosmetology consultation, Facial and body treatments, Gym, Sauna, Hot plate, Turkish bath, Guided morning hike (Mon to Sat), Cycle hire, Complimentary Wi-Fi, Babysitting.

Spa holidays This hotel is also featured in our separate programme of Spa holidays

Bedrooms 78 bedrooms, each with bath and

wc, air-conditioning, telephone, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe.

Local interest Walking, Wine tasting, Historic towns.

Sports nearby Horse riding, Tennis.

Minimum stay 3 nights from 25-27 March, 22-24 April, 2-4 June, 28-31 October and 8-10 December. 4 nights from 12-20 August and 5 nights from 28 December-7 January.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1215 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of the Bagni di Pisa



Bar Shelley at the Bagni di Pisa



Indoor pool at Bagni di Pisa

Bagni di Pisa Palace & Spa San Giuliano Terme, near Pisa

The Bagni di Pisa is an elegant 18th Century mansion, situated on the edge of a very small town. This graceful pale yellow building was originally the summer spa residence of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, where he made use of the area's restorative thermal waters. The hotel has a serene setting with views of the Mediterranean in the distance. The spa and wellness centre is undoubtedly the highlight of the hotel, drawing from its own heritage alongside traditions from around the world to offer an exquisite range of treatments. The thermal pools and cave add unique character to the hotel and allow guests to experience the revitalising effects of thermal water and the mud formed by it. The hotel's restaurant reflects the culinary traditions of Tuscany and has views of the Tower of Pisa in the distance. Low-calorie menus are also available to complement the spa treatments. The guestrooms reflect the history of the hotel and many enjoy period features such as frescos, marble floors and traditional Tuscan terracotta work. As a result they exude the same classic elegance and enchanting ambience seen throughout the hotel. The hotel's excellent position makes it ideal for experiencing the thermal waters as well as for visiting the area.

“An elegant retreat with an exquisite spa heritage”

BAGNI DI PISA EXH242

Official category 5 Star.

Open All year.

Location About 20 minutes drive from Pisa airport.

Distances in miles Pisa 4, Lucca 6, Florence 48

Nearest airport Pisa.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Wellness Centre with complimentary access to Indoor and outdoor thermal pools with hydromassage, Sauna, Steam Bath, Hot spring and Fitness centre. Limited room service, Games room, Gift shop, Laundry service, Private parking, Free Wi-Fi.

Bedrooms 61 rooms, each with bath and wc, air conditioning, telephone, hairdryer, television, complimentary internet and minibar.

Local interest Pisa, Lucca, Florence, historic villages, Presidential Park of St. Rossore, The Versilia Riviera, Tirrena Golf Club, the Etruscan

settlement of Volterra.

Sports nearby From Monday-Saturday the hotel has a morning hike. Walking, Horse riding, Mountain bike hire and car tours.

Minimum stay 3 nights from 25 to 27 March, 22 to 24 April, 1 May to 4 June, 28 to 31 October and 8 to 10 December. 4 nights from 12 to 20 August and 5 nights from 28 December to 7 January.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1160 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Luxurious and elegant, just the hotel Siena needs”



A balcony at the Grand Hotel Continental



The 'Salone delle Feste'

Grand Hotel Continental Siena

The Grand Hotel Continental in Siena has proven to be the answer to our wishes over the years for a 5-star luxury hotel in the historic centre of the town. The Grand Hotel Continental is housed in a 17th-century palazzo designed by the Baroque architect Giovanni Fontana. Situated a few steps from the famous Piazza del Campo and the Duomo and opposite the Rocca Salimbeni, the Grand Hotel Continental combines the historic flavour of the original architectural features of this ancient palace and an elegance and refinement entirely appropriate to a contemporary 5-star hotel and its discerning clientele. The hotel offers truly luxurious accommodation in its rooms and suites and a superb level of service, from 24-hour room service to a complimentary overnight shoeshine. The hotel bar and brasserie are housed in a delightful winter garden and SaporDivino restaurant serves Tuscan cuisine with a contemporary twist. The wide selection of Italian and international wines are to be found and enjoyed in the hotel's 15th-century cellar. The hotel is perfectly placed for exploring this fascinating city on foot.

GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL IE84
Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location In the old town of Siena.

Distances in miles Florence 42, Pisa 60, Rome 143, Bologna 100.

Nearest airport Pisa, Bologna, Florence.

At hotel Restaurant, Wine cellar, Bar & brasserie, 24-hour room service, Garage service charged, Laundry service, Baby-sitting.

Bedrooms 51 rooms and suites with private bath or shower and wc, television, internet access, air-conditioning, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Historic Siena with its Piazza del Campo, Duomo and Palio (1 and 2 July and 15 and 16 August), Southern Tuscany with the rolling hills of the Siena countryside, the Wine regions of Chianti, Montalcino and even Montepulciano, San Gimignano with its towers and turrets, Buonconvento amid the Sieneese Clay hills, the city of Florence.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf, Tennis.
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast
Holiday prices From about £1315 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 60 days prior to arrival to save 15% on stays between 1 May–30 June 2017 and 8 September–31 October 2017. Book 45 days before arrival to save 15% on stays in April 2017 and between 1 July–7 September 2017. Book at least 25 days prior to arrival to save 15% on stays between 2 January–31 March 2017.

Stay at least 2 nights and save 10% for stays before 30 April 2017 and between 1 July–7 September 2017.

“Historic town house in centre of the city”

Hotel Relais dell’Orologio Pisa

The Relais dell’Orologio is a tasteful and small hotel full of historic character with just 19 rooms. It opened in 2003 after being completely refurbished and restored from a 14th Century fortified tower house. The hotel is named after the clock set on the arch between the hotel and the adjoining house by the architect Vasari who was instrumental in the development of much of Pisa including the Piazza delle Sette Strade. The position of the hotel is superb; in the heart of the old town, a few minutes’ walk from the Leaning Tower and the two beautiful squares, the Piazza dei Miracoli and the Piazza dei Cavalieri. The structure of the building has been preserved and traditional but comfortable furnishings added. To the rear of the hotel is a charming garden, where breakfast can be taken in fine weather.

HOTEL RELAIS DELL'OROLOGIO IE743

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location In centre of Pisa, about 5 minutes’ walk from the Leaning Tower.

At hotel Garden, Breakfast room, Lift, Plunge pool, Bar, Parking.

Bedrooms 19 rooms and suites each with private bath or shower and wc, telephone, television, mini-bar, internet facilities, safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.
Holiday prices From about £480 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights. Private transfer or hire-car can be arranged. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Breakfast in the courtyard



Entrance to Hotel Relais dell'Orologio



Swimming pool at Borgo Santo Pietro



Gardens at Borgo Santo Pietro



Maggioriana suite

“Luxury and charm in beautiful grounds not far from Siena with amazing activities”



View of Borgo Santo Pietro

Borgo Santo Pietro Palazzetto

Borgo Santo Pietro is a five-star luxury hotel in the heart of the stunning rural landscapes of Tuscany, amid rolling hills and farmland. A Relais and Chateaux property, it is a grand house and garden about 20 miles from Siena, marooned in a luscious countryside setting which is surrounded on all sides by nature reserves. This is a nature lovers' paradise for ultimate countryside relaxation where you can take in the numerous delights of the glorious gardens, from the medicinal herb garden to the rose and fountain garden, apple orchard and cherry orchard. Not surprisingly, there is also a kitchen garden, from which the restaurant draws only the freshest produce such as vegetables and herbs on a daily basis. The dishes created using these ingredients are served either in an elegant dining room or on the intimate open-air veranda where views span across the manicured hotel lawns. Providing the utmost quality of service, the restaurant at Borgo Santo Pietro happily caters to specific dietary requirements, while food lovers benefit from the option to partake in cookery lessons and wine tasting on site. Also making the most of magnificent views is a curved infinity-edge swimming pool, around which rose buds blossom along shady trellises. This is the site for achieving true relaxation, though the indulgent spa also offers a wonderful service of treatments. Amid the pristine gardens dotted with cypresses, the hotel building itself is built from rough-hewn stone and

evokes the true essence of the rural Tuscan lifestyle. Reminiscent of a country manor house, the interiors have been exquisitely renovated to complement the evident history of the building. Decorated with gilded picture frames, chandeliers, wall murals, heavy drapery and four poster beds, the style is grand and opulent. What makes the Borgo Santo Pietro so different though is the range of activities available on-site from sports such as badminton and table tennis, to wine appreciation, cookery lessons, floristry and insight is provided into the craft of all sorts of local artisans through regular workshops. So not only do you stay in luxurious accommodation in truly elegantly maintained gardens and surroundings, but you also have the chance to benefit from incredible activities for rest, relaxation, exercise, and knowledge.

BORGHO SANTO PIETRO EXH1547

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 May to 31 October

Location About 40 minutes drive from Siena.

Distances in miles Florence 60 miles, Pisa 90 miles, Siena 25, Rome 170 miles

Nearest airport Florence and Pisa.

At hotel Restaurant, Outdoor swimming pool, Library, Lounge, Laundry, Parking, Playground, Spa, Jacuzzi, Tennis courts with lessons, Mountain bikes, Archery, Floristry, Cookery classes, Pizza making, Artisans' workshops, Painting, Falconry, Baby-sitting, Children's play area, Football ground, Badminton, Bocce, Table tennis, Wine tasting and appreciation, Hiking trails, Garden walks, Michelin starred

restaurant.

Bedrooms All rooms with en suite, phone line, safety deposit box, internet, satellite TV, DVD player, air conditioning, minibar, iPod docking station, hairdryer and Wi-Fi access.

Local interest Visit to San Galgano Abbey and Montesiepi Church, Siena.

Sports nearby Golf, Fishing, Rafting, Horse riding, Sailing, Hiking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1650 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A wonderful hotel with extensive grounds and facilities”



Bedroom at Borgo Pignano



View of the infinity pool and countryside



Lounge at Borgo Pignano



Exterior of Borgo Pignano

Borgo Pignano Volterra

Borgo Pignano is a palatial Tuscan hotel set amidst 750 acres of stunning parkland. This hotel is a living piece of history from its 13th Century walls to its 18th century architectural elegance and extravagance. Accommodation at the hotel is ample in size, and varies from rooms and suites, to self-catered apartments and cottages, ensuring that guests are provided with a choice between a hotel experience set in luxurious surrounds and a more secluded, self-sufficient space. Rooms at the Borgo Pignano are decorated to a very high standard, and all share the common importance of comfort and spaciousness. Painted frescoes and sumptuous fabrics complement the hotel's historical architecture. In addition to the luxurious decoration, a homely and relaxing ambience extends throughout communal areas, from the plush armchairs of the cosy library to the large fireplaces elsewhere. The restaurant serves food grown at the hotel's farm, and organic wines from their vineyard, followed by honey-laden treats from the onsite beekeeper and hive. The Borgo Pignano has a wealth of outdoor activities, from wandering around the vast parkland and relaxing by the outdoor infinity pool, to horse-riding with the onsite instructor. For families, there is a fantastic children's club with activities that put an emphasis on nature and local produce. For adults wanting to do more than

relax in this tranquil setting, painting and cookery classes are available, or tours to nearby wine villages for a delicious day out. Borgo Pignano offers an idyllic stay in the Tuscan countryside.

BORG PIGNANO EXH1786

Official category No category rating.

Open 18 March to 5 November.

Location Between the towns of Volterra and San Gimignano.

Distance in miles Volterra 9, San Gimignano 12, Siena 29, Florence 41, Pisa 50.

Nearest airport Pisa.

At hotel Restaurant, 750 acres of Parkland, Outdoor Swimming Pool open May to September, Poolside bar, Terrace, Library, Billiards room, Music Room, Lift. Yoga and pilates, Painting, Riding, and Cookery lessons, Tours of the Chianti, Brunello and San Gimignano wine regions all at a charge. Children's Nature School for 13 years and under including walks in the wood, arts and crafts courses in high season and pizza making lessons. Babysitting is available from 6pm-9.30pm.

Bedrooms 14 rooms and suites and 12 apartments and cottages with bathroom and bath or shower, Wi-Fi, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest Volterra has alabaster workshops, San Gimignano is a World Heritage Site with 15 Medieval towers.

Sports nearby Horse riding, **Italian Expressions include** Bed and breakfast with rooms and suites. Room only in apartments and cottages.

Holiday prices From about £1280 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Outdoor courtyard dining at Adler Thermae



View of the outdoor swimming pools and gardens



Outdoor relaxation and thermal pools at Adler Thermae

“Thermal pools and spa treatments in the beautiful Tuscan countryside”



Exterior of Adler Thermae Spa and Relax Resort

Adler Thermae Spa and Relax Resort Bagno Vignoni

Adler Thermae Spa and Relax Resort is a 5 star haven for well-being in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Situated in Bagno Vignoni, the hotel is surrounded by the countryside between the two wine regions of Montepulciano and Montalcino, with the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pienza around 9km away. Accommodation is comprised of rooms ideal for couples, and suites which accommodate families of 3 or 4. Comfort and well-being are at the forefront of the hotel, as can be seen in the calming, neutral colour scheme of the rooms, each of which comes with a balcony or terrace that ensures rooms are light and airy. The hotel makes a conscious effort to incorporate nature and natural products, especially in the restaurant, where the sky and stars, visible through the glass ceiling, accompany the locally-sourced food. The hotel's cocktail bar and reading room are perfect for relaxing with a good book. The hotel revives the area's spa tradition with a modern well-being centre where over 1000 feet of thermal pools are a definite highlight of the hotel. There are thermal pools both indoors and out, fed by naturally heated water, with one situated in the grotto of St Christopher. Massages, thalassotherapy, and other treatments use organic products and are available for adults and children alike. Adler Thermae Spa and Relax Resort offers amazing health and well-being facilities for maximum relaxation in the beautiful Tuscan sunshine, with golf, hiking and biking pursuits nearby.

ADLER THERMAE SPA AND RELAX RESORT
EXH1631

Official category 5 Star.

Open 4 February to 21 December.

Location Bagno Vignoni, Tuscany.

Distance in miles Pienza 9, Siena 33, Florence 73, Pisa 113, Rome 118.

Nearest airports Florence 93, Pisa 110.

At hotel Restaurant, Wine cellar, Outdoor swimming pool, Adler Spa with 2 steam rooms, sauna, Adler Aqua area with thermal baths, Fitness Centre and fitness programme, Yoga, Aqua Pilates and Hydro Bike, Reading room, Wine cellar, Hairdressers, Garage, Complimentary mountain bike hire and Daily children's club for ages 4 to 11 years.

Bedrooms 89 rooms with bathroom, sitting area with tea-table, sofa, writing desk, armchair, Wi-Fi, safe, minibar, satellite TV, terrace or balcony.

Local interest The Renaissance village of Pienza is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Close to the wine regions of Montepulciano and Montalcino.

Sports nearby Cycling trails, hiking and golf.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From around £1395 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights with car hire. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

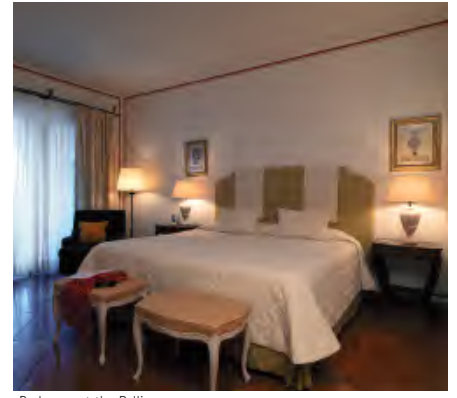
"One of our personal all-time favourites. Elegant and charming in a truly privileged location. Experience it for yourself"



View of the hotel from the pool



Swimming pool with spectacular views



Bedroom at the Pellicano



Il Pellicano and the surrounding area

SPECIAL OFFERS

Guests staying at least 3 nights receive a complimentary 3 course lunch or dinner (excluding drinks). Valid for up to two guests arriving Sunday to Wednesday between 13 April-18 May 2017 and 18 September-15 October 2017.

Il Pellicano Porto Ercole, Tuscan Coast

The dramatic approach to the Pellicano along the coastal road from Porto Ercole with the sparkling azure Tyrrhenian on one side and the craggy cliffside on the other sets the scene for this superb hotel, nestling in its own vast hilly grounds between pines and olive trees, leading down to the sea itself. The Pellicano consists of the main house and six other low houses, where some of the bedrooms are situated, terracotta-coloured with dark green shutters positioned amid luxuriant vegetation of olive trees, pines, oleander, jasmine and lavender. The main building houses the reception, Pelliclub health & beauty centre, fitness room, boutique, bar and restaurant as well as several bedrooms. There is an open fireplace where logs burn in cool evenings, plush sofas and armchairs and ample cushions, small tables with hand-carved chess boards and draughts. Aperitifs are served on the terrace with views down through the gardens planted with tall pines to the swimming pool and the sea beyond. The 2 Michelin star Il Pellicano restaurant is elegant yet cosy, the cuisine excellent in choice and quality with dining inside or outside on the terrace in warm weather. The bedrooms number 50 among which there are 16 deluxe and junior suites. All the rooms vary in size and aspect, with some having partial sea view and others having a garden view. All are furnished very comfortably in a contemporary Mediterranean style. The hotel's swimming pool is situated

on a charming terrace above the sea enjoying stunning views. A lift descends to the man-made beach and sea below or you can use the steps. The service by the pool and beach combines charm and efficiency. Light lunches are served by the pool and beach or on the bar terrace whilst several times a week in the high season lunchtime grills are served at the terrace restaurant. Il Pellicano is a peaceful haven, enjoying an outstanding natural location, superbly comfortable and intensely relaxing. Elegant, sophisticated, charming and welcoming.

HOTEL IL PELLICANO IE40

Official category 5 Star.

Open 13 April to 15 October.

Location About 2 hours' drive north of Rome.

Distances in miles Rome 100, Siena 113,

Florence 120, Pisa 120, Lake Como 288.

Nearest airport Rome.

At hotel Outdoor heated sea water swimming pool (usually open from the end of March until October), Bar service at pool, 2 Restaurants ('Pelliclub' is only open during the summer months), complimentary use of the Tennis court (lessons available), Private man-made rocky beach (reached by lift or stairs) with chairs, umbrella, towels included, Calidarium and gym at the Pelliclub health & beauty center, Massage, Boutique, Room service, Private garage (parking free of charge). The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 50 rooms all with private bath and wc, balcony or terrace, air-conditioning, heating, telephone, television, safe, mini-bar and Wi-Fi.

Local interest Seascapes, Fishing, Sailing, Market Porto Ercole Monday, Orbetello Saturday, Porto San Stefano Tuesday, Hilltop towns of the Maremma, Giglio island.

Sports nearby 18-hole golf course, Fishing and pleasure port of Porto Ercole, Boat trips, Cycle hire, Riding, Water sports.

Child policy Children under 10 not accepted. **Italian Expressions include** Bed and buffet breakfast. Soft drinks and snacks from minibar as well as Wi-Fi are included.

Holiday prices From about **£1690** per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Bedroom at L'Andana



Hotel exterior and garden at L'Andana



The elegant pool at L'Andana

“Set within a magnificent landscape this luxurious hotel offers the ultimate in relaxation”



The main villa with gardens in front

L'Andana Castiglione della Pescaia

L'Andana is located in the heart of the Maremma region in southern Tuscany, just a few kilometres from the coast and charming seaside resort of Castiglione della Pescaia with its fine sandy beach and small mediaeval township. The extensive hotel grounds are spread out across beautiful sweeping hills, covered in parts by pine forests, wildlife reserves, tranquil lakes and the famous Maremma National Park. The hotel itself is approached along a driveway lined by cypress trees from the main entrance right up to the hotel. Bedrooms are situated in two buildings: the original old villa dating back 200 years and a new building linked to the villa by a grand reception area with lounge and bar, set in a magnificent Florentine glass house, complete with a charming interior courtyard and shady garden. The bedrooms themselves are spacious, adorned in warm colours and decorated with furniture from Italian designers, offering a fine balance of rustic and contemporary styles. The Maremma region is particularly renowned for its high quality cuisine, and the hotel has put a strong emphasis on the quality of its food, attracting world-renowned chef Alain Ducasse to manage its main restaurant, La Trattoria Toscana, with one Michelin star, a short walk through the grounds in the old granary. Here guests have the opportunity to sample traditional, country-style products, choice game and fresh seafood, and have the unique experience of being able to watch the

chefs preparing the meals. La Villa, the hotel's other, less formal, dining area serves a variety of Tuscan cuisine - including an outstanding breakfast - on its delightful terrace. There is also a Kids' Club and a very impressive spa, ESPA, which offers a range of therapies using many ingredients grown on the estate.

L'ANDANA IE756

Official category 5 star.

Open 14 April to 1 November.

Location About a 2-hour drive from Rome or Pisa.

Distances in miles Siena 65, Pisa 95, Florence 110, Rome 140, Porto Ercole 45.

Nearest airport Pisa, Rome and Florence.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, Outdoor Jacuzzi, La Trattoria Toscana Restaurant (open for dinner only, May to September, closed Mondays), La Villa restaurant (open only when La Trattoria Toscana is closed). Reservations requested for both restaurants. Kids' Club, Cooking courses, Wine cellar and tasting, Bicycles, Hydro-pool, Tennis court, Spa (ESPA), Gym, Golf driving range and putting green, Parking.

Bedrooms 33 rooms each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, telephone, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe.

Local interest The seaside resort of Castiglione della Pescaia, the historical centre of Grosseto.

Sports nearby Tennis, Trekking, Horse riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and Tuscan breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1690 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 60 days prior to arrival to receive 15% off the nightly rate for stays between 14 April-1 November 2017. Not combinable with other offers, blackout dates apply. Stay 3 nights for the price of 2, 4 nights for the price of 3 or 7 nights for the price of 5 between 14 April-1 November 2017. Not combinable with other offers, blackout dates apply.

“A luxury boutique hotel in this stylish resort”



View over the pool to the seafront



Pool with view



Bedroom



Hotel and pool at the Hotel Cala del Porto

Hotel Cala del Porto Punta Ala

The Hotel Cala del Porto is a charming, luxury boutique hotel and member of Relais Et Chateaux and one we have been sending clients to over the years. The building is modern but elegant and enjoys an elevated position overlooking the sea and the harbour with its multitude of boats and luxury cruisers. From the terraces you can see the islands of Elba, Montecristo and Cerboli. Terracotta floors and modern as well as antique furniture combine to create a cool, chic interior. Bedrooms are both with and without sea view. To be sure of a sea view and a balcony or terrace we recommend the deluxe rooms. About 150 metres from the hotel is the sandy beach of Punta Ala, where the hotel has a private concession with the Residence Alleluja. You can enjoy pagoda-shaped cabins, beach umbrellas, loungers, and deck chairs, at a small charge. A bar and restaurant are available on the beach, which is accessible on foot or by private shuttle. Back at the hotel there is the refined Belvedere restaurant and a poolside bar. Early booking for this luxury small hotel of just 40 rooms is highly recommended.

HOTEL CALA DEL PORTO EXH256

Official category 5 star.

Open 24 April to 30 September.

Location In the resort of Punta Ala, about one and a half hour's from Pisa.

Distances in miles Castiglione della Pescaia 13, Massa Marittima 25, Grosseto 27, Scansano 45, Siena 74, Pisa 85, Florence 114, Rome 135.

Nearest airport Pisa, Rome.

At hotel Two restaurants (one at the hotel and one on the beach), Indoor and poolside bars, Swimming pool, Gardens, Private beach facility, Parking at the hotel and on the beach, Sauna, Fitness room, Beauty centre, Tennis court.

Important note on beach facility: There is a daily charge for use of the private beach facility to include one cabin, one umbrella, two chairs and one lounger. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Bedrooms 40 with private bath or shower and WC, air conditioning, satellite TV and safe. Classic rooms are without balcony or terrace and have garden view. Deluxe rooms are with sea view, balcony or terrace. Children under 16 sharing with 2 adults are free of charge.

A third bed can only be accommodated in a junior suite or above. Small pets are permitted.

Minimum stay 3 nights from 25 July to 23 August.

Local interest Port of Punta Ala, the Maremma

region, Porto Ercole, Montalcino.

Sports nearby Golf (there is an 18-hole, par-72 course 5 minutes away by car. Guests at the hotel receive a reduction of approximately 30% off green fees), Walking, Riding, Water sports.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1215 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

Augustus Hotel & Resort Forte dei Marmi

The Augustus occupies a prime position in an elegant residential area just a short walk from the centre of one of Italy's most exclusive beach resorts, Forte dei Marmi. The hotel comprises several individual villas and our rooms can be found in the three main buildings, the Villa, the Nave and the Lido. The main villa retains the air and furnishings of an exclusive private residence, each room enjoying its own style, and the atmosphere is one of informal elegance. The Nave (the ship) is the more modern wing of the hotel and rooms here offer balconies overlooking the park. The Augustus Lido is situated closest to the sea and is linked to the hotel's private beach by an underground passageway. The rooms are a clever mix of cheerful decoration and antique furniture. Buffet breakfast is served on the outdoor terrace, shaded by the tall pines and just a few metres away from the large swimming pool with its pretty garden setting.

AUGUSTUS HOTEL & RESORT IE330

Official category 5 star.

Open 13 April to 8 October.

Location 10 minutes' walk from the centre of Forte dei Marmi and about 30 minutes' drive from Pisa.

Distances in miles Pisa 22, Florence 65, Lucca 21, Viareggio 9.

Nearest airport Pisa, Florence, Bologna.

At hotel 2 swimming pools, Bar service at the pool, Private beach club with heated saltwater swimming pool (charged locally from 15 June to 31 August), Three restaurants, Lounge, Bar, Room service, Gym, Massage, Cycle hire, Lift, Parking.

Bedrooms 75 rooms, each with air conditioning, bath or shower and wc, satellite television, telephone, safe, mini-bar and hairdryer.

Local interest Forte dei Marmi (market on Wednesday mornings) with its sandy beaches, Spa town of Montecatini, the Arno valley, San Gimignano, Lucca, Pisa, Florence, the Cinque Terre of Liguria.

Sports nearby Tennis, Horse riding, Fishing, Sailing, Versilia golf course is two miles away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Minimum stay 3 nights, except 7 Jul to 25 Aug, when it's 7 nights.

Holiday prices From about £1560 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Entrance to the Augustus



Swimming pool at the Augustus



Private beach at the Augustus

"A characterful hotel, set in tranquil grounds with excellent beach facilities"

Hotel Byron Forte dei Marmi

Hotel Byron's gracious low buildings are slightly set back from Forte dei Marmi's coastal road and promenade and lie just ten minutes' walk from the centre of the resort. The hotel was a private family residence in the 19th Century and has been converted carefully to provide the comforts and ambience of a five star hotel whilst retaining an unmistakable air of its predeceasing purpose as a patrician villa. Public rooms are simply yet elegantly furnished and include inviting sitting areas, a reading room and a pretty terrace where breakfast can be taken. The twenty-nine bedrooms are situated in the main villa and each room is different in terms of style, size and aspect. The Michelin-starred restaurant, La Magnolia is housed on two floors in a separate building by the swimming pool. Dining is also possible outside on the poolside terrace in summer months. Hotel guests use the nearby beach in Forte dei Marmi but payment for the use of the beach is direct and not to the hotel. Charges start at about Euros 50 a day for the use of the beach. This is a relaxing and charming hotel within easy access of the smart shops and bars of the resort of Forte dei Marmi.

HOTEL BYRON EXH903

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 April to 15 October.

Location 10 minutes' walk from the centre of Forte dei Marmi and about 30 minutes' drive from Pisa.

Distances in miles Pisa 22, Florence 65, Lucca 21, Viareggio 9.

Nearest airport Pisa

At hotel Restaurant, Swimming pool, Terrace, Garden, Bar, Lift, Private parking, Room service, Lounge with television, Bicycles, Babysitting is available at a charge.

Bedrooms 29 rooms with private bathrooms, air conditioning, heating, television, telephone, mini-bar, in room safe and Wi-Fi.

Local interest Market on Wednesdays, Montecatini, Arno valley, San Gimignano, Lucca, Pisa, Florence.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf (Versilia 2 miles away), Tennis, Water sports.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast except from 1 July to 31 August when dinner, bed and breakfast is included.

Holiday prices From about £1320 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 1 April-15 May 2017 and 26 August-14 October 2017.

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 between 13 May-10 June 2017 and 19 August-23 September 2017.



Hotel Byron



Bedroom at the Byron



Pool at the Hotel Byron

"Distinctive, stylish, patrician villa on the promenade"

“A classic hotel right on the sea front of this elegant resort”



Exterior view of Hotel Plaza e de Russie



Lounge interior at Hotel Plaza e de Russie

Hotel Plaza e de Russie Viareggio

This beautiful, Liberty-style villa was constructed in 1871 and was one of the first hotels in Viareggio, when the fishing village was becoming popular with wealthy aristocrats. The hotel was completely renovated in 1994 and retains its grand splendour with majestic marble bathrooms, the finest fabrics and furnishings and hand blown chandeliers from Murano. All the public rooms are elegantly furnished with the original hard wood floors and traditional furniture and antiques. The 50 bedrooms are tastefully decorated with cherry-wood furniture and delicate coloured fabrics. Some rooms overlook the internal courtyard, whilst others look out over the boulevard below or out to sea. The hotel's restaurant, La Terrazza, is situated on the top floor and has magnificent panoramic views of the sea and the Apuan Alps behind Viareggio. It is a short walk to Viareggio's smart shops, bars and restaurants and the sandy beach is just across the road. The hotel allows guests complimentary use of the beach swimming pool, as well as sun loungers and a sun umbrella in peak season.

HOTEL PLAZA E DE RUSSIE IE754

Official category 4 star superior.

Open All year.

Location About 45 minutes' drive from Pisa.

Distances in miles Pisa 16, Lucca 19, Florence 50, Torre del Lago 3.

Nearest airport Pisa, 16 miles.

At hotel Bar, La Terrazza restaurant, lift, room service 7am to midnight.

Bedrooms 51 bedrooms with ensuite bathroom and WC, air conditioning, satellite TV, hairdryer, mini-bar, safe and telephone.

Special interest Beach (1 Jul to 30 Sep), Cultural cities, Puccini Festival at Torre del Lago.

Sports nearby Swimming pool on the beach open from 15 June to 31 August, Golf, Riding, Tennis, Fishing, Sailing.

Minimum stay 4 nights from 14 July to 18 August, 2 nights at all other times.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 1 January–14 April 2017, 17 April–31 May 2017 and 1 October–31 December 2017. Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 or 5 nights for the price of 4 during June and September 2017. Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 during July and August 2017

“A relaxing hotel perfectly situated for exploring Lucca and the surrounding towns”

San Luca Palace Lucca

Situated within the ancient walls of Lucca, in a square dating back to 1540, this charming hotel is the perfect base from which to explore this mediaeval city on foot. All the major monuments from the Duomo di San Martino to the Museo Nazionale di Villa Guinigi are within striking distance and even the train station is only a short walk away, meaning that Florence is very easy to get to without having to hire a car. The hotel is modern inside, but retains the elegance of the Palazzo in which it is housed. There are 26 rooms and suites arranged over 4 floors and each room is decorated in a comfortable style with all modern amenities. There is an attractive breakfast room and the hotel is especially proud of the delicious buffet it lays on each morning. The comfortable bar serves snacks throughout the day and there are numerous restaurants within easy walking distance, from a local pizzeria to a more gourmet a la carte restaurant. This is a comfortable hotel with friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere, perfect for anyone who wishes to explore the area. There is even car parking at the hotel should you wish to hire a car.

SAN LUCA PALACE EXH969

Official category 4 Star Superior.

Open All Year.

Location About half an hour's drive from Pisa

Distances in miles Viareggio 19, Florence 44, Pisa 10, Montecatini 12.

Nearest airport Pisa.

At hotel Breakfast room, bar serving snacks, parking, lift, 24-hour room service

Bedrooms 26 rooms and suites with private bathrooms and WC, satellite TV, telephone, air conditioning, mini-bar, safe, hairdryer, internet connection.

Local interest Cycle hire, Apuan Alps, Walking, Thermal Baths at Montecatini Terme.

Sports nearby Tennis, Golf, Beach at Viareggio.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior view of San Luca Palace



Dining at San Luca Palace



Umbria

Umbria is a gentle, undulating land of hills, river valleys, a patchwork of fields, vines and olives similar in many ways to her better-known neighbour, Tuscany, yet in other ways so very different. Umbria evokes a deeper rusticity, a less 'polished' feel than Tuscany, the secrecy and mysticism of the Middle Ages and yet because of this holds a charm and fascination for the visitor. The hill towns are superb in their own right; steep, narrow cobbled streets with overhanging arches, the grey stone enlivened here and there by pots of geraniums. Ancient crafts remain very much alive, with ceramics and woodwork in particular. The region abounds in Roman architecture with Gubbio and Spoleto being noteworthy and there are Etruscan remains too. The food is hearty and earthy too with truffles and porcini, sausages and salami being regional specialities. Yet Umbria also has some of the most important religious sites in Europe, such as the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi and throughout the region are to be discovered outstanding works of art by Perugino, Giotto, Pinturicchio and Gozzoli. An intriguing region that awaits further discovery.



Umbrian countryside near Assisi

General information

Ceramics in Gubbio, Truffles and cooked meats from Norcia. Dramatic landscapes of the Monte Sibillini and one of Europe's highest waterfalls called the Cascate delle Marmore near Terni. One of Italy's beauty spots is the Fonti del Clitunno south of Trevi. Carpentry and woodworking in Todi, a wine museum in Torgiano. Forests of holm oak near Spoleto. Antique fair in April and a national craft fair in August and September in Todi.

Cultural highlights

Mixture of religious and secular art and architecture makes Umbria fascinating. The cities of Perugia and Assisi are great centres but the smaller towns of Gubbio, Todi, Spoleto and Spello are also of outstanding interest. Highlights of the region include the Fontana Maggiore in the Piazza IV Novembre in Perugia. Perugia's Galleria Nazionale containing works by Perugino and Pinturicchio. Gattapone's Palazzo dei Consoli in Gubbio and his Ponte delle Torri in Spoleto. The 'Adoration of the Magi' by Perugino in the church of the Madonna della Lacrime in Trevi. Frescoes by Matteo da Gualdo in the Pinacoteca of Gualdo Tadino. 'San Sebastiano' by Luca Signorelli in the Pinacoteca at Citta di Castello. Frescoes by Giotto and Lorenzetti in the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi.

Festivals

Perugia has a jazz festival in the summer and the Sagra Musicale music festival held in its churches in September. Orvieto holds concerts in August and has a firework display on the 15th. Spoleto's Festival of the Two Worlds, a world-class cultural event, takes place June and July. Spello holds its Infiorata in June when the streets are decked with flowers. Foligno holds jousting in September during its Giostra della Quintane.

Gastronomic highlights

Umbria's gastronomy is very much a product of its earth and waters: Mushrooms and truffles flavour many dishes, Game and wild boar, Trevi produces black celery, olive oil and black truffles, Pecorino cheese from Torgiano, Todi offers Panzanella, dried bread soaked and marinated in sliced tomato, basil, onion and olive oil, Sweet macheroni with walnuts, Salami and sausages are a regional speciality, Trout from the rivers and perch from Lake Trasimeno, Strangozzi and Bici are local pasta, often flavoured with porcini and truffles. Umbria produces some high quality robust red wines near Torgiano (Rubesco produced by Lungarotti for example) and Orvieto is known for its white wine.

Our two centre recommendations

A few popular suggestions: Umbria and Tuscany. Umbria and Lazio. Umbria and the Italian Lakes, perhaps stopping in Tuscany en route.

How you get there

By air Rome is the recommended airport (numerous flights by British Airways from London) with Perugia, Pisa, Florence and Bologna also being possible with a mixture of scheduled (British Airways) and 'No-frills' or charter airlines.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car will all our holidays in Umbria as you really do need a car to make the most of your holiday in this region. If you just want to stay in Perugia or Assisi we can take out the hire-car and you can make your way from Rome, Pisa or Florence by train.

With your own car Umbria can be reached comfortably with two overnight stops from the UK if you want to take your own car. For example you could overnight in Alsace and then the Italian Lakes and then return via Lake Geneva and the Champagne region. Ask us for advice and let us make these arrangements for you.

A day out in Umbria

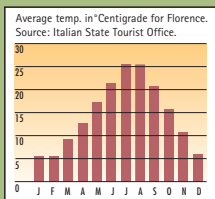
An interesting itinerary for a day's excursion into the countryside if you're based at the Villa di Monte Solare in Colle San Paolo

From Colle San Paolo head eastwards across country to Torgiano, an important centre for wine production in Umbria. Stop to taste and purchase the Lungarotti wines including the famous Umbrian Rubesco. Continue southeast to Bettona, which lies south of Perugia. Bettona is surrounded by low hills of olives trees and is famous for its Etruscan wall. In Deruta, your next stop, you should make time for the Ceramics Museum. Production of majolica was started here in the 13th Century and continues today in workshops throughout the town. Deruta is an excellent place to stop for lunch. From Deruta you could take a detour a few miles east to the village of Castellone where there are frescoes by Matteo da Gualdo in the parish church.

Alternatively, you might want to take the fast dual carriageway south from Deruta to Todi, a hill town surrounded by expanses of rolling hills and woods of oak, beech and chestnut. In the afternoon, you can head back northwards across country via the village of Montecastello di Vibio. The walled mediaeval town high above the Tiber valley is famous for the Teatro della Concordia, a miniature replica of La Scala. Continue north to Cerqueto pausing to see part of a fresco of St Sebastian and the Plague Saints by Perugino in the parish church. Then continue back to the Villa di Monte Solare.



A gentle, rustic land of river valleys, undulating hills, fascinating towns and important religious sites





Aerial view at the Villa di Monte Solare



Bedroom at the Villa di Monte Solare



The Casa dei Gelsi

“One of the most charming, romantic and characterful hotels we have found in Italy”



Exterior of the main villa at the Villa di Monte Solare

Villa di Monte Solare Colle San Paolo

Clients continue to be very impressed by the Villa di Monte Solare, a small privately owned country house run as an hotel of just 25 rooms set in its own grounds of formal gardens, wooded hills, vines and olive groves. Its location is stunning as it sits upon a low hill which affords views of the gently rolling landscape of northern Umbria and across to Lake Trasimeno a few miles away. The hotel exudes warmth, charm and quality of service and accommodation. It consists of five buildings: the main villa has seven rooms and four renovated stone cottages nearby, the Limonaia, a former lemon house of the estate, the Casa dei Gelsi, a farmhouse, the Olivaia, an ancient olive mill, and the Olivi building adjacent to the Olivaia, house the other rooms and suites. The rooms in the villa are a true delight, with beautiful decorations and antique and original furniture: heavy, wooden and utterly in keeping with the regional flavour. Floors are terracotta, and there are murals and original fireplaces. The rooms in the four houses offer the same degree of comfort, service and charm with beamed ceilings and terracotta floors. Terracotta pots overflowing with flowers or shrubs are abundant throughout the grounds, where two swimming pools and a clay tennis court are situated. There are two breakfast rooms, and the restaurant in the main villa has a refined ambience. Weather

permitting, all meals are served in the garden. Umbro-Tuscan cuisine is served and there is an excellent cellar of Umbrian wine. The Villa Monte Solare offers an enticing combination of beautiful natural location and scenery, historic and well-maintained buildings, carefully looked after grounds and pools and a charming welcome. We recommend it very highly. An ideal place in Umbria for long stays in particular or as part of a two centre holiday with other regions.

VILLA DI MONTE SOLARE IE738

Official category Country house. Not categorised officially as an hotel but it compares well to four star hotels.

Open 19 March to 2 November.

Location About 12 miles from Lake Trasimeno and about 12 miles to the west of Perugia.

Distances in miles Rome 105, Perugia 20, Florence 94, Siena 60, Assisi 28, Orvieto 35.

Nearest airport Perugia, Florence and Rome (Pisa and Bologna are also possible).

At hotel Two outdoor swimming pools (in operation from May to October), Spa, Large grounds, Tennis court, Restaurant, Safe, Lounge, Bar, Parking (free), Cycle hire (limited availability), Room service. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Special interest The hotel can organise walking and cycling tours, Italian wine appreciation and Italian cooking courses.

Bedrooms 25 each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, heating, telephone, Wi-Fi internet access, in-room entertainment system with satellite television, mini-bar, safe.

Local interest Lake Trasimeno, Perugia, Assisi, Umbrian vineyards.

Sports nearby Marked walks, Riding, Golf, Fishing, Sailing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1090 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Highly recommended for a wine-associated visit and local sightseeing as well as for a gastronomic interlude”



Terrace at Le Tre Vaselle



Swimming pool at Le Tre Vaselle

Le Tre Vaselle Torgiano

The Tre Vaselle occupies a building dating from the 17th Century in the heart of the historic hill-top town of Torgiano, famous today for its wine production. The hotel has the appearance and feel of an old Umbrian village house, with thick stone walls, wooden beams, terracotta floors and stone fireplaces. The furnishings complement the architecture of the original house, but mixed with antique Umbrian furniture are comfortable armchairs and sofas in the lounge and bar and throughout the building are etchings, oil paintings, tapestries and prints on a viticultural theme, all painstakingly collected by the Lungarotti family who have made the local wine world-famous and who also own the Tre Vaselle. The Tre Vaselle is a 5 star hotel with 60 bedrooms and some very spacious apartments. They are simply but comfortably furnished. The hotel has a bar, large breakfast room and a gourmet restaurant, where meals are served based on the fresh produce from the Lungarotti farms, including their own label olive oils and honey and of course an extensive wine list, which includes a great choice of some of the best Lungarotti vintages. Visit the BellaUve wellness centre to pamper yourself with some vinotherapy treatments. The hotel is to be highly recommended as a stopover for a couple of days as part of a touring holiday or as a 'food and wine' break in its own right, giving you the chance to sample the local vintages, visit the wine museum, buy wine, buy local crafts and products and of course enjoy the gastronomic delights of the restaurant. The hotel can arrange a wine appreciation and a visit to the Lungarotti winery.

HOTEL LE TRE VASELLE IE37

Official category 5 Star.

Open 1 April to 31 October

Location About 20 minutes south-east of Perugia.

Distances in miles Rome 100, Assisi 17, Perugia 10, Porto Ercole 115, Punta Ala 133, Siena 80, Florence 105, Pisa 155, Orvieto 38, Todi 18.

Nearest airport Rome.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool open seasonally, BellaUve Spa with complimentary access to the indoor heated swimming pool, whirlpool, Turkish bath, Gym and relaxation area. Vinotherapy treatments are available.

Viticulture memorabilia, Wine and Olive Oil museum linked to the hotel, Wine-tastings and vineyard visits possible, Parking.

Bedrooms 61 rooms, each with air conditioning, bath, TV, telephone, internet, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Vineyards, Perugia and Assisi, Orvieto and Lake Bolseno, Todi.

Sports nearby Walking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1095 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An atmospheric property of exceptional charm located in the heart of Orvieto”



The Palazzo Piccolomini



Hallway at the Palazzo Piccolomini

Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini Orvieto

Former home of the wealthy Piccolomini pontificate family, Palazzo Piccolomini is a remarkable 16th Century edifice where a combination of Renaissance, medieval and Etruscan architectural elements come together to create a refined and atmospheric property of exceptional heritage and character. Situated in the heart of hilltop Orvieto, just steps from the cathedral and shopping area of Piazza della Repubblica and facing Piazza Ranieri, the palazzo has undergone extensive renovation and restorative works to bring it back to its original historical splendour, yet with a nod to the contemporary, too. Serving a delicious breakfast each morning, the breakfast room is full of authentic character with a giant stone pillar supporting a coved ceiling, an ancient well and medieval stone staircase, whilst the frescoed lounge bar pays homage to the hotel's opulent past. There are 32 rooms and suites, simply decorated in neutral tones with chestnut wood furnishings and terracotta tiled floors. Dining opportunities are plentiful in the many excellent and atmospheric restaurants and cafes surrounding the hotel.

HOTEL PALAZZO PICCOLOMINI EXH1155

Official category 4 star

Open All year

Location Orvieto, approximately 48 miles southwest of Perugia.

Distances in miles Todi 23, Montepulciano 41, Perugia 48, Rome 76.

Nearest airport Leonardo Da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport, Rome.

At hotel Breakfast room, bar, air-conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, private on site parking.

Bedrooms 32 rooms and suites comprised of 7 singles, 22 doubles, 3 suites, each featuring digital satellite TV, mini-bar and in-room safe.

Local interest The Duomo, Papal residence and Etruscan ruins of Orvieto, Todi, Spoleto, Perugia, the vineyards of Umbria and the Maremma.

Sports nearby Walking, golf.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £790 per person for 5 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Latium and Abruzzo

Latium (or Lazio in Italian) lies at the very cultural and historical heart of Italy, with Rome at its centre and is bordered by the Apennine mountains to the east and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west. The whole region holds countless treasures for the visitor and its very geography and history produce a wealth of varied scenery and sites. A journey through Latium is a journey back to the heart of European civilisation with important Etruscan and Roman remains in evidence throughout the region. Their ancient civilisations are to be found in the obvious and not so obvious places, from temples to stones, from arches to pavements. There are also numerous villas, gardens, abbeys, spas, lakes and hill towns. The countryside is rich and fertile, hilly inland and flat towards the coast. Palms, olives, vines and fruit abound. On the other side of Italy is the little-known region of Abruzzo, rich in beautiful coastline and mountains. It is easily combined with Latium and worth visiting for a more off-the-beaten-track region.



The Colosseum in Rome

General information

The hot springs at Tivoli and Fiuggi. The Alban Hills and the 13 hilltop towns surrounded by vineyards and elegant villas of the Roman aristocracy over the years, including the summer palace of the Pope at Castel Gandolfo. Visit mediaeval Anguillara on Lake Bracciano north of Rome. Explore the countryside of the Ciociaria region near Anagni (the name of the region comes from the bark clogs worn by the locals until about twenty years ago). Ostia Antica now inland was once ancient Rome's trading port and the ruins offer a fascinating insight into the Roman way of life. The region north of Rome is very rich in Etruscan remains -visit the necropoli at Tarquinia and Cerveteri. Great monasteries were founded around Rome, especially at Subiaco and Montecassino. The best beaches on the Lazio coast are to be found between Sabaudia and Gaeta. From the town of Bolsena take boat trips to the islands of Bisentina and Martana on Lake Bolseno. Visit the Island of Ponza off the coast near San Felice Circeo.

Cultural highlights

The gardens of the Villa d'Este at Tivoli. Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli. Villa Lante near Viterbo. Palazzo Barberini in Palestrina which houses a 1st Century BC mosaic depicting the Nile in flood. The Byzantine frescoes in the crypt of the 11th Century Basilica of Santa Maria in Anagni. The Palazzo Farnese by Vignola at Caprarola. The 13th Century Italian Gothic church of Santa Maria Maggiore at Ferentino. 17th Century frescoes by Domenichino in the chapel at Grottaferrata.

Gastronomic highlights

The influence of Rome is obvious in this area, supplemented by either proximity to coast or country. Sage, rosemary and bay are used extensively to season. Specialities of the region include Spaghetti

alla carbonara, Suppli (croquettes made with rice, meat and mozzarella), Carciofi alla giudia (artichokes fried crisp in olive oil and sprinkled with lemon juice), Saltimbocca alla romana (veal with ham and sage), Torta di ricotta. Frascati is the best known white wine of the region although similar wines made from the Trebbiano grape include Colli Albani and Castelli Romani. Very few red wines are produced, but the best is Torre Ercolana.

Festivals

Spring is the main season for festivals in Latium. Genzano holds the 'Infiorata', Marta has the 'Barabbata'. In the autumn there is the 'Sagra dell'uva' grape festival in Marino.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include Latium and the Amalfi Coast, Latium and Tuscany, Latium and Umbria and Latium and Rome.

How you get there

By air Airport at Rome. Daily flights with British Airways from London. 'No-frills' airlines into Pescara.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to Latium and Abruzzo. Private car transfers can be arranged instead although for Abruzzo and the more countrified areas of Latium the use of a car is essential.

By rail Take the Eurostar to Paris, the overnight sleeper to Milan then change for Rome the next morning. Perhaps stay in Rome first and then collect your hire-car (or have a private transfer) for your stay in Latium, on the coast or in the country.

With your own car We recommend at least two overnight stops in each direction, possibly three one way at least, perhaps in Alsace, the Italian Lakes and Tuscany. Let us advise you on an itinerary and make the arrangements for you.

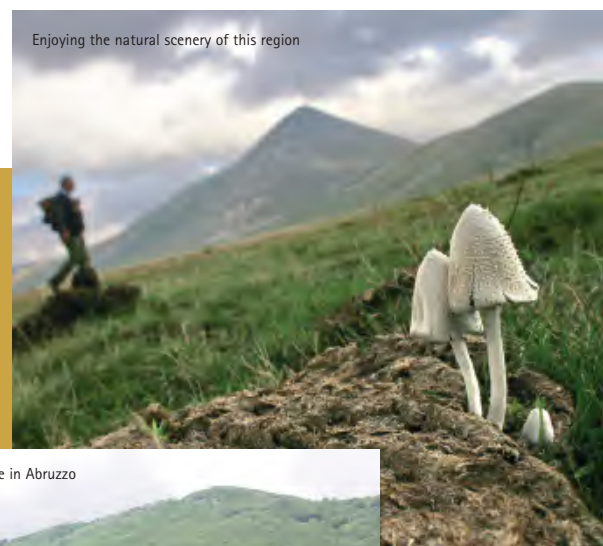
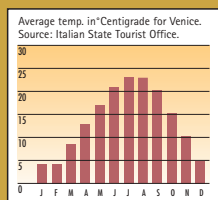
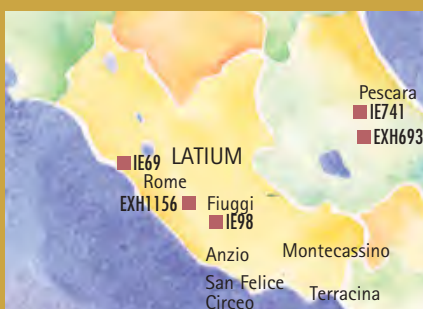
A day out in Latium

A day's excursion in Latium along the coast near Sabaudia

Start at San Felice Circeo on the coast and then drive along the sandy beach to the Torre Olevola before continuing along the coast to the attractive seaside town of Terracina, a fashionable resort since Roman times. Stop to see the Roman arch and a Temple of Jupiter a few kilometres from the town. Turn inland across the flat, fertile, drained marshland in the direction of Frosinone but stopping en route to visit the Abbey of Fossanova, an ancient Cistercian abbey.

A short distance from Fossanova is the town of Priverno worth halting at for its 13th Century cathedral and Gothic Palazzo Comunale. From Priverno follow the edge of the marsh northwards to visit the abandoned mediaeval gardens at Ninfa. Depending on inclination at this point, continue sightseeing by visiting Cori or turn back towards the coast past Latina, for a stroll along the beach at Fogliano or Sabaudia. Back through the protected natural area of the National Park of the Circeo.

Two fascinating regions with coast and mountains, culture and history. Very easy to reach and ideal for long stays and short breaks





View of the village



Typical bedroom at Sextantio



Exterior of the village

Sextantio Albergo Diffuso Santo Stefano di Sessanio

Set at 1250m above sea level in the heart of the Gran Sasso National Park, the village of Santo Stefano di Sessanio was once a decayed and deserted village but thanks to its new owner, the village has been restored and resurrected in keeping with the owner's love and passion for the art and culture of this mountainous region. Sextantio – Albergo Diffuso now has 27 rooms which have been painstakingly restored keeping their historical features and wooden fireplaces with re-instated wooden ceilings. Technology is present yet imperceptible for example in the under floor heating and low-tension electrical power. Stone and wood are softened by artisan fabrics, woollen mattresses and bedspreads woven on traditional looms. In striving to reflect Abruzzo's rural traditions, the hotel has rediscovered local gastronomy and has even bought land to produce its own food, served in a former cellar in the centre of the village. Artisan skills have been revived and a number of craft workshops have been set up in the village, with weavers for example producing hand made fabrics for the rooms and for sale direct to the public. Artistic and cultural events are an essential part of life in Santo Stefano and Sextantio will sponsor each season a series of concerts and events. The village and the region has something to offer visitors every season of the year from the wild flowers in Spring to the possible snow in the winter months. Numerous trips into the nearby countryside are possible on different means of transport; cycle, horse and foot. Picnics can be arranged for day excursions.

SEXTANTIO EXH693

Official category Albergo Diffuso.

Open All year.

Location The village is in the Gran Sasso National Park.

Distances in miles Pescara 60, Rome 100

Nearest airport Pescara, Rome

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Complimentary Wi-Fi in rooms and common areas, Massages, Free car park. Concierge service, Artisan craft shops on site, Babysitting, Mountain bikes and wine cellar.

Bedrooms 27 rooms each with private shower or bath and WC, heating, hairdryer, Artisan toiletries. Please note that there are no

televisions in the rooms.

Local interest National Park, Walking and hiking, Horse-riding, Wine tasting, Cookery workshops, Bread and cheese making lessons.

Sports nearby Walking, Riding, Skiing (sometimes possible in December and January). The closest sandy beach is 100 km away on the Adriatic.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £775 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An undiscovered secret richly restored in the traditional folk arts and crafts of the Abruzzo mountains”

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 for stays between January–May 2017 and October–December 2017. Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 in Suites between January–May 2017 and October–December 2017.



Elegant interiors at the Villa Grazioli

Park Hotel Villa Grazioli Frascati

Built by Cardinal Antonio Carafa in the 16th Century, the Park Hotel Villa Grazioli occupies a commanding hillside position below the slopes of Monte Tuscolo in over 15,000 square metres of arboreal parkland, overlooking Tivoli, the sea and the ancient city of Rome. Today a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, this refined establishment offers sumptuous elegance in abundance, with an ornate gallery, beautiful spiral staircase and wood-panelled and frescoed ceilings exuding an air of grandeur and opulence. A veritable museum of 16th and 17th Century artworks, Villa Grazioli is brim full of artistic masterpieces by renowned names such as Ciampelli, Carracci and Panninni. The 62 rooms are situated between the main villa and two 18th-century annexes located in the secular park, connected to the main house through two underground tunnels. The Paggeria plays host to Classic rooms which are decorated and furnished in a country style in hues of peach, burnt orange and cream. There are also a number of rooms with terrace overlooking the Hill of Tuscolo. The Limonaia meanwhile offers classically-decorated, garden-facing rooms, whilst Elite rooms are slightly larger and boast wood ceilings. With splendid views over the gardens and towards Rome, the Charme Deluxe rooms and suites are situated in the main building as are the elegant Acquaviva Restaurant, serving a menu of Mediterranean specialities, and the vaulted Eliseo Bar, decorated with reproduction monochromatic stuccos. In summer, the restaurant moves outdoors to the terrace, with wonderful panoramic vistas of the hanging gardens and Rome beyond. There's an inviting outdoor pool in the grounds, with golfing, water sports and a wellness centre all just a short distance away. The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle service to and from Frascati railway station, where direct services run to Rome Termini station, bringing the multitude of treasures of the Eternal City within easy touching distance. All in all, a traditional and historical hotel tranquilly situated amidst the Frascati winelands and Castelli Romani.

“An art-filled villa of traditional elegance set amongst the Castelli Romani, just a stone's throw from the capital”

PARK HOTEL VILLA GRAZIOLI EXH1156

Official category 4 star

Open All year.

Location Frascati, 15-20 minutes from Rome's Ciampino Airport or 35 minutes from Leonardo Da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport.

Distances in miles Castel Gandolfo 5, Nemi 9, Rome 15, Tivoli 19, Ostia Antica 23.

Nearest airport Ciampino, Rome.

At hotel Acquaviva Restaurant, Eliseo Bar, outdoor swimming pool (1 June to 30 September), laundry service, complimentary parking.

Bedrooms 62 rooms across three buildings, each featuring air-conditioning, satellite LCD TV, and Wi-Fi access.

Local interest Castelli Romani, rich in natural

and scenic beauty, Castel Gandolfo on Albano Lake, summer residence of the Pope, Ruspoli Palace in Nemi, Frascati's vineyards, the archaeological remains of Villa d'Este and Villa Adriana at Tivoli and Ostia Antica, the eternal city of Rome.

Sports nearby Golf, horse riding, water sports on the nearby lake, wellness centre 2km away with Turkish bath, sauna, swimming pool, hydro massage, gym and beauty centre.

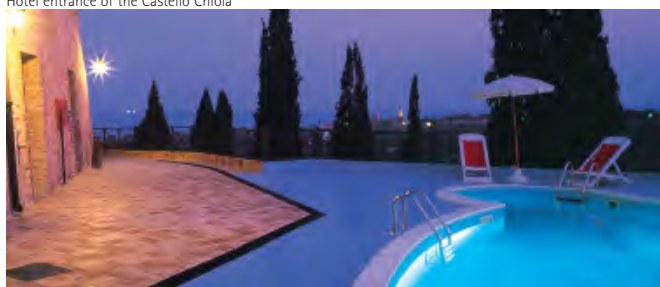
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £925 per person for 5 nights including flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An historic residence in an unexplored part of Italy”



Hotel entrance of the Castello Chiola



The swimming pool and terrace by night

Castello Chiola Loreto Aprutino, Abruzzo

The Castello Chiola is well worth visiting just for its stunning views alone! Enjoying a splendid hill-top position, this hotel that was once a mediaeval castle has views of the mountains of Abruzzo to the sea (in the distance) and with classically Italian rolling hills in between. The castle is today a 4 star hotel with just 36 rooms and combines its ancient exterior and framework with contemporary architectural features, its central courtyard now boasting a glass roof. The paintings by local artists that adorn the castle walls provide an individualistic feature. The bedrooms are a good size and with modern bathrooms. There is an attractive pool area, bar and restaurant. Like many others, this hotel does have some conference facilities and hosts conferences from time to time, usually out of high season. However, its original character and its appealing location in a very unexplored part of Italy make it well worth including in a touring holiday, perhaps of the eastern seaboard or combined with hotels in Lazio in the vicinity of Rome. Nearby the mountains of Abruzzo offer tremendous scenery and walks and some parts of the coast near here are exceptionally pretty.

CASTELLO CHIOLA IE741

Official category 4 star.

Open All year

Location In a village overlooking countryside a few miles inland.

Distances in miles Pescara 15, Rome 142.

Nearest airport Rome.

At hotel Outdoor pool (in operation from May to September), Bar service at the pool, Restaurant, Lift, Parking, Garden, Bar, Room service.

Bedrooms 36 each with private bathroom and wc, air-conditioning, heating, telephone, television, mini-bar.

Local interest Sandy beaches and coast about 12 miles away, Hill-top towns and countryside.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf, Fishing, Sailing, Tennis, Watersports.

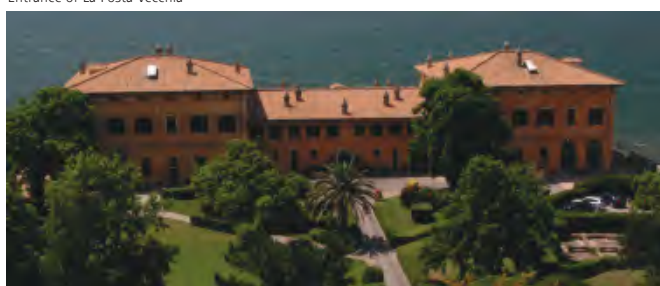
Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £765 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“One of the most luxurious hotels in Italy”



Entrance of La Posta Vecchia



View of La Posta Vecchia

La Posta Vecchia Palolaziale, Latium

Bought in the 1960s by John Paul Getty, the Posta Vecchia was restored over a period of almost five years. During the process of restoration previously undiscovered Roman villas were found and the mosaics and objects unearthed are today displayed in the substantial private museum at the Posta Vecchia. Over the years Getty acquired magnificent antiques and works of art and these items were left in place when the villa became a luxury hotel in 1990. The Posta Vecchia stands right on the Mediterranean sea front in six acres of its own spacious and verdant gardens. The hotel today is exquisitely cosy with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. There are two ground floor lounges with open fire places and views of the sea just beyond the windows. Outside is a terrace, almost directly on the sea, connecting to The Cesar - an extremely elegant Michelin-starred restaurant. There are just nineteen luxuriously furnished rooms which vary in size and are each individually decorated. The service here at the Posta Vecchia is personalised with the hotel being able to arrange private visits to local vineyards, private cookery classes and visits to places of interest nearby. Perfect for a long weekend, short break or as part of a touring holiday.

LA POSTA VECCHIA IE69

Official category 5 Star.

Open 13 April to 23 October.

Location About forty minutes' drive from Rome, about twenty minutes' drive from Fiumicino airport.

Distances in miles Ladispoli 2, Rome 50.

Nearest airport Rome Fiumicino.

At hotel Indoor heated seawater pool, Private beach, Tennis, Michelin-starred restaurant, Sun terrace with lounge chairs and light menu bar services, LPV health & beauty club (1km off site), Massage, Cycles, Cooking classes, Wine tasting, Babysitting service, Free parking, complimentary use of the tennis court. Heliport, Lift, Room service. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 11 rooms and 8 suites, with bath or shower, air-conditioning, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe, telephone and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Local interest Museum located in the hotel grounds, Excursions to Etruscan sites including museum and necropolis at Cerveteri.

Sports nearby Walks, Horseriding, Golf, Boat excursions, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1390 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Guests staying at least 3 nights receive a complimentary 3 course lunch or dinner (excluding drinks). Valid for up to two guests arriving Sunday to Wednesday between 13 April-25 May 2017 and 18 September-22 October 2017.



Veneto

ying south of the Dolomites and north of the Gulf of Venice on the Adriatic, the Veneto is a region of almost unsurpassed scenic variety as well as being outstandingly rich in cultural, particularly architectural, treasures. From the vine and orchard covered foothills in the north, with its wine-producing villages of alpine-style architecture and romanesque churches the land gives rise to small towns on canals and rivers, often with ancient cathedrals, arcaded squares and covered bridges. Tall, elegant campanile are a feature of the towns near the coast and nearby are a wealth of Palladian villas waiting to be discovered. On the coast there is not only the great, unique city of Venice but smaller gems such as the ancient Roman town of Aquileia. The smaller cities of Padua, Vicenza and Verona are also nearby and worth exploring. Explore the Veneto with Italian Expressions and experience another fascinating aspect of the diversity of Italy.



General information

Bassano del Grappa produces handpainted vases, plates and bowls. Venice is renowned for its glassware, carnival masks and jewellery. Textiles, particularly jeans and sweatshirts, are manufactured and sold at Thiene. Enjoy the vista of vines and cypresses, blossom and forsythia from picturesque Asolo in the spring. Drive along the Strada del Vino Bianco from Voldobbiadene to Conegliano. Visit the Museo degli Alpini in Bassano del Grappa where you can learn about the process of Grappa production.

Cultural highlights

Romanesque abbey church of San Pietro di Foletto in Follina. The 'Supper at Emmaus' painting by Bassano in the cathedral at Cittadella. Painting of the 'Madonna della Misericordia' by Il Pordenone in Pordenone cathedral. The Palladian villas of the region including Villa Barbaro, Villa Emo, La Rotonda, Villa Godi and Villa Valmarana. 'Virgin and Child with Saints' altarpiece by Cima in Conegliano cathedral.

Festivals

Carnival in Venice. Caorle holds the Adriatic Classic sailing regatta in June. Feltre holds a Palio in August with mediaeval games, horse racing and feasts. Terviso holds a nine-day festival of dance, poetry, music and cabaret in August. The grape harvest in the autumn brings with it numerous local wine festivals. The Partita a Scacchi (human chess game) takes place in Marostica in September every other year.

Gastronomic highlights

The region has a variety of gastronomic specialities based on the sea and the mountains. Bassano del Grappa is renowned for its asparagus and Treviso for its long red radicchio. Specialities might include Risotto alle Seppie (Cuttlefish risotto), Risi e Bisi (rice and peas), Spaghetti alle Vongole, Fegato alla

Veneziana (calf's liver on a bed of onion), Asiago and Montasio are local cheeses. Prosecco, the Veneto's sparkling wine from Conegliano is a refreshing aperitif. Mixed with peach juice it becomes a Bellini cocktail. Valpolicella is one of the most famous red wines of the region and Soave is the white.

Our two centre recommendations

The Veneto works particularly well with the Italian Lakes, Venice and Tuscany.

How you get there

By air Airports at Verona (British Airways daily flights from Gatwick) and Venice (British Airways daily flights from Gatwick). Most of the hotels in the Veneto and this region are no more than a couple of hours' drive from one of the airports. 'No-frills' airlines also fly into Verona, Venice and Bergamo.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car will all our holidays the Veneto as you really do need a car to make the most of your holiday in this region. However, if you want to combine a stay in the countryside here with perhaps a few days in Venice then we can arrange for you to pick up or drop off the car after or before your stay in the city.

With your own car The Veneto can be reached easily with two overnight stops from the UK, perhaps in Alsace and then the Italian Lakes. We can make the hotel reservations for you in France as well.

A day out in the Veneto

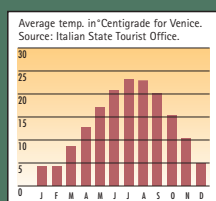
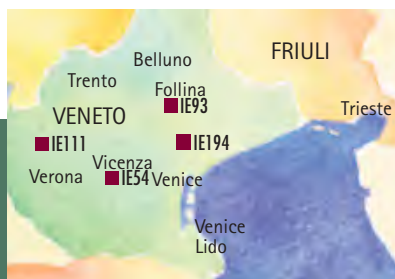
A day's excursion taking in some of the scenic and cultural highlights of the Veneto.

From Portobuffole we suggest you drive first to the wine-producing centre of Conegliano and start of the wine road. From here the countryside becomes much more undulating, the hills higher and covered in vines and fruit trees.

Continue north to the town called Vittorio Veneto (in fact two towns called Ceneda and Serravalle renamed to honour the unification of Italy). In the Serravalle part of the town stop to admire the pretty arcaded streets and the 15th Century palaces. From here cut across country and through the hills to Follina, a pretty town in a valley where you should visit the abbey church and perhaps enjoy a morning cappuccino in the coffee shop of the Hotel Abbazia. Continue along the meandering wine road through beautiful scenery, particularly impressive in spring when the fruit trees are in blossom to Valdobbiadene. From here follow the course of the River Piave northwards to the town of Feltre. Stop here for lunch perhaps and admire the architecture of the Via Mezzaterra and the Piazza Maggiore.

Then continue southwards skirting Monte Grappa to Bassano del Grappa and on to Asolo, a picturesque hill town with views over cultivated, gentle countryside around. Finally stop at the famous Palladian villa at Maser, the Villa Barbero before returning to Portobuffole.

A land rich in history and diverse in scenery. Great architectural treasures and attractive vineyards inland and mighty Venice on the coast





An aerial view of the Villa del Quar

Villa del Quar Pedemonte, Verona

This delightful hotel is excellently managed by the Montesor family, who have owned the property for many generations. The Villa del Quar is situated in its own seven-acre estate, in the fertile wine-growing plains of Valpolicella. The hotel's gracious buildings, dating from the 16th Century, are arranged in a U-shape around a little garden. The charming Leopoldo and Evelina Montesor, who occupy one wing of the estate, have lovingly and carefully restored each room to create an atmosphere of warmth and elegance. As you enter the hotel, you are welcomed by an inviting lounge area which features wonderful wooden 18th Century choir stalls and finely upholstered armchairs and sofas. This leads to the Restaurant Arquade restaurant with beamed ceilings, where gourmet meals are served, accompanied by the excellent wines of the region, some of which come from the Villa del Quar's own winery. There is also a lovely new orangerie, facing the garden, where guests can dine all year round. The 25 bedrooms and suites are each individually furnished in rich shades of yellow and pink and contain items of antique furniture. In the grounds you will find a jogging course, a gazebo for shady relaxation and a delightful swimming pool in a meadow adjacent to the vineyards. The hotel is just three miles from the beautiful and vibrant city of Verona. Early booking advisable.

"A property of charm and elegance and within easy reach of Verona"



The historic reception and lounge



A bedroom at the Villa del Quar

HOTEL VILLA DEL QUAR IE111

Official category 5 star.

Open 9 April to 31 October.

Location 3 miles north of Verona and 15 miles east of Lake Garda.

Distances in miles Verona 5, Lake Garda 15, Brescia 48, Venice 70, Milan 100, Rome 320.

Nearest airport Verona.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool (May to September), Restaurant, Breakfast room, Fitness room, Sauna, Gym, Massage, Wine cellar, Spacious grounds, Jogging track, Room service, Parking, Helipad, Tea Room, Baby-sitting.

Special interest The hotel can organise wine tasting and visits to the Palladian villas.

Bedrooms 25 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, wireless broadband, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Verona (Piazza delle Erbe, The Arena, Piazza dei Signori, Castelvecchio and the Opera Festival), The eastern shores of Lake Garda, especially the picturesque village of Malcesine, Vineyards of Valpolicella and Soave.

Sports nearby Walking, Golf course (18-holes) in Sommacampagna, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1395 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of Italian sparkling wine and fruit basket in room upon arrival.



Exterior and dining terrace, Villa Michelangelo

Hotel Villa Michelangelo Arcugnano, near Vicenza

Basking in glorious sunlight from its hilltop perch, the four-star Hotel Villa Michelangelo occupies a pretty rural spot outside Vicenza. Capped by terracotta roofing, its noble 18th century walls extend along the crest of a hill and take in picturesque views over refined lawns and across the rolling landscape. You can enjoy a meal on the terrace here, or seek the outdoor pool for a refreshing dip surrounded by age-old olive trees. A covered swimming pool is also available. The natural light provided by Hotel Villa Michelangelo's exposed position makes for bright and airy interiors, helped along by a vibrant colour scheme. In the lounge and library, effervescent yellows and oranges are featured in soft furnishings, while antique furniture and original ceiling beams speak of the property's age. Meanwhile, lofty ceilings are exploited in suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, while rooms offer a distinctly more traditional style. At La Loggia restaurant each guest is treated to a high standard of excellence. There are four elegant dining rooms to choose from for enjoying buffet breakfasts, snacks and lunches as well as evening meals including the sun-drenched conservatory-style Portico room and the more refined Melograno room with its grand piano. After-dinner beverages at the bar can help you recover from the day's exploration – perhaps Padua, Verona or Venice.

"Refined elegance and stunning countryside vistas outside Vicenza"



Deluxe Suite



Portico dining room

THE VILLA MICHELANGELO IE54

Official Category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location Arcugnano, under 15 minutes' drive from the centre of Vicenza.

Distances in miles Vicenza 4, Verona 30, Venice 42, Brescia 75, Lake Garda 85, Milan 129, Rome 328.

Nearest airport Verona.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Indoor pool, Outdoor pool, Lounge, Library, Gardens, Sauna, Massage, Beauty treatments, Tennis, Room service, Lift, Parking, Helicopter access.

Bedrooms 52 rooms and 6 suites with air conditioning, internet, satellite TV and minibar.

Sports nearby Golf (18 holes just 10 minutes away), Walks, Riding, Fishing, Sailing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast except in August when half board is included for the same price as bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £780 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Tradition and charm in a beautiful location”

Hotel Villa Cipriani Asolo

Enjoying an attractive location a few hundred yards from the main square of the picturesque hill town of Asolo, the Hotel Villa Cipriani affords beautiful views from its gardens, terrace and some rooms over the valley below Asolo. The panorama is one of fruit trees, vines and cypress, especially pretty in the spring months when the countryside appears to be a patchwork of white blossom, yellow forsythia and pink magnolias. The 30 roomed Hotel Villa Cipriani is quaint and traditional. Built as a villa in the style of the region, its charm lies in its slightly old-fashioned feel, with comfortable old sofas and armchairs, old prints and beamed ceilings. The restaurant too benefits from views of the valley, enjoyed through its arched picture windows. Bedrooms are situated in both the main villa and a garden house and are all decorated in the same cosy, traditional style as the rest of the hotel. A stay here is highly recommended as part of a touring holiday of the Veneto or as a short break in its own right.

HOTEL VILLA CIPRIANI IE194

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location About 90 minutes' drive from Venice.

Distances in miles Venice 42, Milan 160, Padua 42, Treviso 22, Verona 63.

Nearest airport Venice.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Terrace, Lift, Gardens, Gym, Beauty treatments, Parking. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 30 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest The picturesque town of Asolo, the Prosecco wine road, Palladian villas for example at Maser, Bassano del Grappa, Vicenza and Verona for day excursions, Padua and Venice.

Sports nearby Golf, Walking.

Minimum stay 3 nights for bookings including December 28 to 31.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £865 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The attractive Hotel Villa Cipriani



Relax on the terrace



A bedroom at the Hotel Villa Cipriani

“A delightful home from home in a pretty, quite undiscovered part of Italy”

Hotel Villa Abbazia Follina

In the country village of Follina, famous for its abbey, on the Prosecco wine road north of Venice but south of the mighty Dolomites, the family-run hotel Villa Abbazia with just eighteen rooms and some suites has the ambience of a family home, offering tastefully luxurious but cosy accommodation. The hotel was in fact a family home and is located just off the main square of the village of Follina with its own courtyard and garden. In spite of being in the village there is very much a country feel, with a stream at the back of the hotel and fields around the village. The bedrooms are all individually furnished with great attention to detail and the majority of them are non-smoking. The hotel has a small restaurant serving regional dishes and a coffee shop that is also open to the public. The local specialities in the restaurants in this area include chestnuts, mushrooms, homemade cakes, local cheeses and salamis. A great bonus is the charming garden where you can just sit and relax in the day-time and the terrace where breakfast can be taken in fine weather. The Hotel Villa Abbazia is a member of Relais Et Chateaux, and it's well worth venturing to this region for a stay here.

HOTEL VILLA ABBAZIA IE93

Official category 5 star.

Open 11 March to 6 January.

Location About one hour from Venice.

Distances in miles Venice 45, Cortina 66, Verona 98, Treviso 23.

Nearest airport Venice, Verona, Milan, Treviso.

At hotel Garden, Terrace, Coffee shop, Bicycle hire (Euro 15 per day), Parking, Restaurant (closed Sunday), Room service, Swimming pool and Jacuzzi in the garden, Small gym. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 18 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest Vineyards, Villages such as Asolo, Treviso, Palladian villas.

Sports nearby Riding, Walking, Fishing, Tennis,

Golf at Asolo Golf Club (discounted green fees for hotel guests).

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

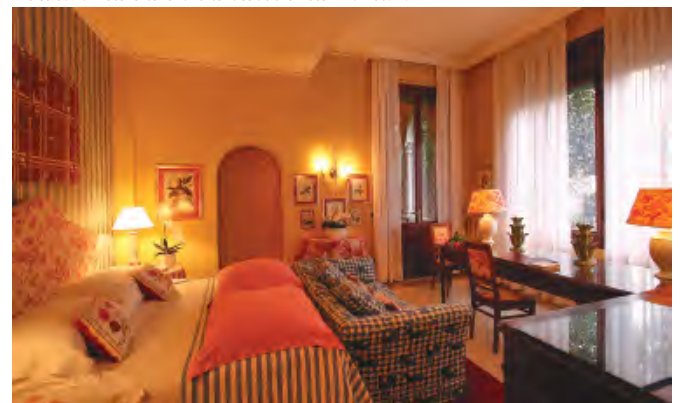
Holiday prices From about £950 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of Italian prosecco wine and fruit basket in room upon arrival.



The colourful hotel exterior and terrace at the Hotel Villa Abbazia



A suite at the Hotel Villa Abbazia



Alps and Dolomites

This is a thoroughly captivating region lying right on the borders of Austria to the North and Switzerland to the west. The scenery is breathtakingly beautiful with the steep and rugged mountain peaks sheltering gentle pastures, covered in gentian, edelweiss and crocus in the early summer months. The deep valleys that cut through the region are lined with terraced vineyards, fruit trees and romantic castles. The pretty towns and villages of the eastern region are graced with onion-domed Baroque churches, arcaded streets and frescoped houses of Habsburg yellow. In the more westerly region of the Alps, houses are pretty in chalet style similar to those in neighbouring Switzerland and France. Vegetation in the Alto Adige and Dolomites region is abundant and the year is a calendar of colour and fragrance from almond and magnolia in March to palms and pomegranates in June and July, roses in October still and chrysanthemum in November. These regions deserve to be explored and will welcome you with its cultural mix and Italian style.



Cable car to Vigilius mountain resort near Merano

General information

Merano with its attractive promenades, luxuriant vegetation and spa centre or take the Passegiata Tappeiner which winds 4km long above the town affording panoramic views. Take the cable-car to Merano 2000 and then walk in the mountains above the town. Drive along the Val Venosta to the Stelvio National Park, where mountain goats, deer and eagles survive. Visit the Romanesque church in Naturno with its remarkable murals. The spectacular scenery of the Val Gardena Val d'Ega and then on over the Dolomites to Cortina. Caldaro on the wine road, heart of the wine area of the region, with a wine museum. Turin and the Gran Paradiso National Park in the Alps region.

Cultural highlights

Castel Coira and Abbazia di Monte Maria near Malles Venosta. Art nouveau facade of the Kurhaus in Merano. Wood carvings by Hans Multscher in the Museo Multscher in Vipiteno. Altar reliefs of the Nativity in the church of St Ursula in Brunico. 15th Century frescoes in the cloisters of the Duomo of Bressanone. Museo Ladino in Vigo di Fassa, recording the history of this valley at the heart of the Dolomites. Wooden altarpiece by Hans Klocker in the church of San Francesco in Bolzano.

Gastronomic highlights

A curious mixture of Austrian and Italian. The fruits produced are very Mediterranean with peaches, figs, chestnuts and apricots growing alongside apples, pears and cherries. Tyrolean dumplings, 'Schlutzkrapfen' (Ravioli fried with spinach), Smoked fish groestl (fried fish and potatoes), Trout, Venison, Kaiser-schmarrn. Red and

white wines are produced locally (apparently about 20 million vines flourish in the region). The best known are the full bodied red 'Kalterer Auslese' and the white 'Gewuerztraminer'.

Festivals

Local festivals very much follow the church calendar in this region although they merge with pagan tradition too. There is a midsummer solstice festival in Vinschgau, the 'Egetmann Procession' at Tramin, Grape festival in Merano, Christkindl-Markt in Merano in December, Chamber music festival at Kastelruth in September, Flower market in Bolzano at the end of April beginning of May.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include the Alps and Piemonte, the Alps and the Lakes, the Dolomites and the Veneto-Friuli and the Alto Adige and the Italian Lakes.

How you get there

By air Airport at Verona for the Dolomites (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick). It might be preferable for you to fly from Heathrow direct to Milan. Airport at Turin for the Alps region (Non-daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick).

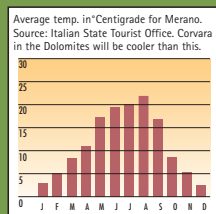
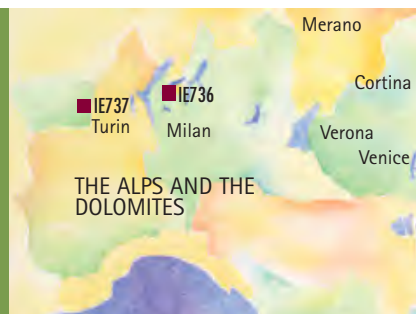
Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to the Alps and Dolomites.

A day out in the Alto Adige

A day's excursion from Hotel Vigilius near Merano

From Merano you will be heading northwards along the Passiria Valley and then over the Monte Giovo Pass (Jaufenpass) to Vipiteno (Sterzing). On leaving Merano you might want to take an immediate detour through vineyards and orchards to the pretty village of Tirolo dominated by its castle. An excellent base for walking. Then on northwards following the Passiria Valley stopping perhaps to visit the village museum in St Martin before continuing for a morning coffee in the attractive Tyrolean village of San Leonardo. Here the road divides with one way leading to the Passo del Rombo (Timmelsjoch Pass) and the other up through conifers to the Monte Giovo Pass at just over 2000 metres. As you descend the road affords beautiful views into Austria. Reach the pretty town of Vipiteno in time for a late lunch. The old town is attractive with battlements, arcaded streets and palaces. Return the same way or take the motorway south to Bolzano and then on to Merano.

A distinctive land of breathtaking scenery mountains, valleys and pretty towns. Excellent for sporting activities and sightseeing





Gourmet restaurant at the Hotel Bellevue



Relaxing living area



Typically styled bedroom

“Exquisitely charming, in the best tradition of luxury mountain hotels”



View from the rear of the hotel over gardens to the mountains in the distance

Hotel Bellevue Cogne, Alps

Cogne is a delightful mountain town at about 1500 metres above sea level, nestling in a valley under the shadow of the Gran Paradiso mountain and about 17 miles south from Aosta. The town has kept its original mountain character and is approached through stunning mountain scenery as you climb from the Aosta valley. The resort is an excellent base for holidays almost all year round. It does have some skiing in the winter but is not a predominantly ski resort. Its main attraction would be for a leisurely stay to enjoy the mountain scenery and to benefit from the leisure facilities of the Hotel Bellevue. The Bellevue is an exceptional find and a superb addition to our personal selection of hotels. A four star hotel and member of Relais Et Chateaux, the Bellevue has the external appearance of an alpine chalet, but as you enter the hotel its real magic becomes apparent. Combining an understated elegance with a warm, homely atmosphere, the feel is very much that of a private house, decorated with a stylish rusticity, family and local artifacts and original paintings. Great wooden ceilings and panelled walls feature in profusion throughout the building. The bedrooms vary in size and shape and are all furnished individually in the same cosy style as the rest of the hotel. Nearly all rooms have a balcony, some overlooking the town at the front and some overlooking the valley and Gran Paradiso to the rear. Six new rooms have been built, all with a fireplace, jacuzzi and balcony. The hotel has three restaurants; these include a gourmet

restaurant, a typical local restaurant, and the Brasserie du Bon Bec, located nearby in the main square of Cogne. There is a well stocked wine cellar with local wine and wines from all over the world. Lunch can be enjoyed, weather permitting, on an outside terrace with panoramic views. The garden has sun loungers where you can sunbathe amid glorious mountain scenery. Inside there is a swimming pool, sauna and beauty centre. The hotel is also particularly good for families and there are rooms that take a third and fourth bed. We recommend the Hotel Bellevue very highly and suggest it as a holiday in its own right for relaxing in the mountains or as a two centre combination perhaps with the Italian Lakes.

HOTEL BELLEVUE IE737

Official category 4 star.

Open 7 December to 7 October.

Location About a minute's walk from the main square of Cogne.

Distances in miles Milan 132, Turin 85, Gran San Bernardo pass 38, Aosta 17, Courmayeur 33, Rome 484.

Nearest airport Turin, Milan, Geneva.

At hotel Lift, Room service, Bar, Restaurant, Garden, Terrace with bar and restaurant service, Daily afternoon tea, Parking, Private garage (no charge), Heated indoor swimming pool, Sauna, Cycle hire, Beauty centre for massage and treatments, Baby-sitting.

Special interest The hotel can organise

walking tours and a tour in the national park by horse-drawn carriage.

Bedrooms 35 rooms and 3 chalets, with private bath or shower and wc, heating, telephone, radio, satellite television, mini-bar, safe.

Local interest The natural scenery of the Gran Paradiso national park with its mountains, lakes, walks.

Sports nearby Walks, Riding, Fishing, Tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1115 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A family owned hotel combining 5 star luxury and alpine charm”



Exterior view of Hotel Hermitage



Indoor Swimming pool



Bedroom at Hotel Hermitage



View of Hotel Hermitage's garden and surrounds

Hotel Hermitage Cervinia, Valle D'Aosta

Located around three kilometres from the Matterhorn, Hotel Hermitage is a 5 star chalet that combines alpine lodge seclusion with all the luxuries of hotel accommodation. As part of the Relais & Chateaux portfolio of hotels, the hotel is designed to world-class standards, from its culinary expertise to the emphasis on wellbeing. Still a family-owned hotel, there remains a personal aspect to the service. The 38 rooms and suites are decorated in the alpine style with wooden cladding and flooring, and furniture of rich earthy reds and greens set against crisp white bedding. Take in the panoramic mountain views from the balcony or terrace in your room, whilst sipping a hot drink and gazing at the snow-capped peaks. The Spa and H Wellness Centre adds another layer of luxury to the Hotel Hermitage. Guests can enjoy a dip in the indoor springwater pool or the jacuzzi whilst watching the world go by outside the stunning large windows. Massage, health, and beauty treatments are well-suited for the evenings after days on the slopes. Culinary delights fill the menu at the hotel's restaurant, where gourmet food delivers hearty yet sophisticated flavours. Over 600 labels of wine and a dedicated sommelier are always available at the hotel, and the opportunity to taste the hotel's wines in the cellar is unmissable. In warmer weather, the 18 hole golf course offers sensational views from the foot of the Matterhorn; trekking and free-climbing are also possible. Hotel Hermitage's luxury accommodation and facilities provide the ideal place to relax after your outdoor pursuits and enjoying the stunning surroundings.

HOTEL HERMITAGE IE736

Official category 5 stars.

Open 2 December to 23 April and 2 July to 27 April.

Location Cervinia, Valle d'Aosta.

Nearest airport Turin.

Distance in miles Aosta 33, Ivrea 45, Vercelli 78, Turin 74, Genoa 155, Geneva 116.

At hotel Restaurant with sommelier, Bar, Lounge, Smoking room, Spa and H Wellness centre with indoor heated swimming pool, spring water sauna, steam bath, gym, jacuzzi, valet parking, garage, lifts, garden, 18 hole golf course (open seasonally), and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Bedrooms 38 rooms and suites have either a balcony or terrace and include bathroom, mini bar, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe deposit box, Nespresso Coffee machine, air-conditioning and heating.

Local interest The Matterhorn, with its Alpine Cheese Factory. 3 Mediaeval Castles in Aosta and the archaeological ruins, including the Arch of Augustus and the Pretorian Dooroman Theatre.

Sports nearby Hiking, Free-Climbing, Mountain biking, Golf, Skiing and alpine pursuits in Winter.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From around £1240 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and car hire. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Italian Lakes

Our Italian Lakes span the northern Italian regions of Lombardy, Piedmont and the Veneto and placed as they are to the south of the Alps and to the north of the Po Valley they naturally possess a charming mixture of the vibrant coolness associated with the Alps but enlivened by the warmth of the South. The landscape is one of deep blue waters surrounded by greenish-blue tinged mountains, often snow-capped. On the shores of the lakes and the lower slopes of the hills you find a profusion of lemons and olives, chestnuts and palms, magnolias and camellias. Pretty villages with rustic stone and wood houses hug the sheltered bays and fishing boats still moor next to sailing boats. Wrought-iron balconies and colourful shutters adorn gaily-painted houses with terracotta roofs. Dining is usually al fresco in the summer months and a magical atmosphere is created with the lapping of the waters and the twinkling of the lights around the lake and in the hills above. We offer you the undisputedly beautiful lakes of Maggiore, Como and Garda and also offer the smaller, quieter lakes of Orta, Lugano and Iseo, well-worth exploring in their own right. Each lake has its own character and atmosphere, distinctive topography, architecture and style. The close proximity to Milan and Verona means that you can visit quite easily for just a weekend or short break as well as a longer holiday. The region boasts the two great cultural cities of Milan and Verona, both within easy reach of the Lakes but also several less well-known but artistically interesting cities such as Bergamo, Brescia, Pavia and Mantua, a little bit further afield but worth exploring.



Pallanza, Lake Maggiore

General information

Silk from Como, wind instruments in Quarna Sotto, macaroons from Saronno and high class fashion in Milan. Historic villas are to be found on every lake from the Grotte di Catullo Roman villa at Sirmione on Lake Garda to Villa Melzi and Villa Olmo on Lake Como and the Palazzo Estense in Varese. Most of these villas also have extraordinarily beautiful gardens such as the Villa Carlotta on Lake Como, the Isola Bella in Lake Maggiore and Villa Taranto at Punta della Castagnola on Lake Maggiore. Monte Mottarone above Stresa on Lake Maggiore and Monte Baldo above Lake Garda can both be reached by cable car and afford spectacular views. At Gargnano on Lake Garda you can see the stone pavilions where lemons were traditionally cultivated. Within the region there are national parks such as the Stelvio National Park north of Orta and the Parco Nazionale della Val Grande above Verbania on Lake Maggiore.

Cultural highlights

Much of the artistic and architectural cultural wealth is concentrated in the great cities such as Milan and Verona but also in the less well-known but culturally-rich centres of Bergamo, Brescia, Pavia, Mantova and Vicenza (not directly on the Lakes but within reach for a day's excursion). Highlights include the frescoes by Masolino at Castiglione Olona, the Rocca (castle) at Angera, the Flemish tapestries on the Isola Bella Lake Maggiore, the marble cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore at Como and the works of

art in the Galleria dell'Accademia Tadini at Lovere on Lake Iseo. Milan has La Scala, the Museo Poldi Pezzoli, the Brera Gallery (containing Raphael's 'Marriage of the Virgin' and the Montefeltro altarpiece by Piero della Francesca) and its Gothic cathedral. Verona has its annual opera festival from June until the end of August, the Romanesque church of San Zeno, the Renaissance Loggia del Consiglio and the Roman Arena.

Gastronomic highlights

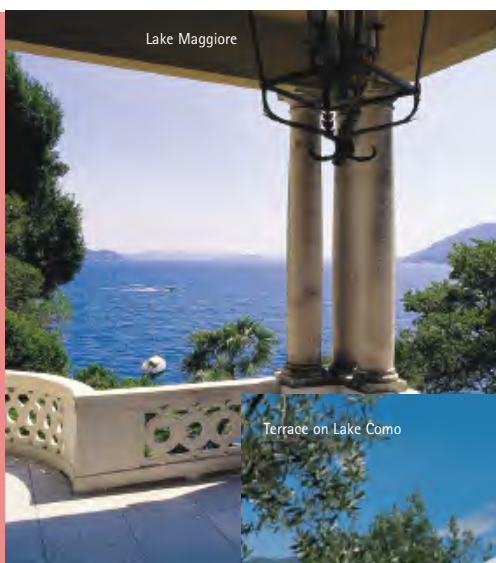
The cuisine of northern Italy tends to contain more meat and butter than further south and rice and polenta compete with pasta. Saffron is used extensively as in Risotto alla Milanese. Bresaola is cured raw beef served as an antipasta (now often with rocket and parmesan). Manzo al Barolo (beef in Barolo wine), Costolette alla Milanese (veal cutlets in breadcrumbs) and Ossobucco (veal in wine and tomatoes) are all popular dishes. Panettone cake and Zabaglione are two regional desserts. This region produces some of Italy's most famous cheeses such as Gorgonzola, Bel Paese, Fontina and Taleggio as well as some of Italy's most exportable wines such as Soave, Bardolino and Valpolicella. Less well known but interesting wines are produced in the Valtellina in the north of Lombardy and in Franciacorta near Lake Iseo.

A day out in the Italian Lakes

An interesting itinerary for a day's excursion if you're based at the Villa del Sogno on Lake Garda

North first to Gargnano and the lemon groves with their famous glass and stone cultivation houses passing the 18th Century Villa Bettoni in Bogliaco. Then perhaps a detour before reaching the resort of Toscolano to take the road to Gaino or to Monte Maderno. If you go into the resort of Toscolano-Maderno, visit the church of Sant'Andrea on the waterfront in Maderno. Continue south back towards Gardone Riviera where you might want to visit the Vittoriale degli Italiani, residence of the poet d'Annunzio. Nearby are privately owned Botanical Gardens. Continue to Salo and take one of the boats to Sirmione in time for lunch. Whilst in Sirmione it's worth visiting the Grotte di Catullo, Roman villa, and the Rocca Scaligera, the picturesque 13th Century fortress guarding the entrance to the town. Return to Salo by boat admiring the shore of the lake as you go.

Intoxicating mixture of the exotic and the alpine, of mountain coolness and Mediterranean warmth



Festivals

The Opera Festival in Verona (see page 20 for the programme) takes place in the Roman Arena every year with performances running from June until the end of August. Verona also celebrates Carnival every year culminating on the Friday before Shrove Tuesday. Como holds a flea market, the Fiera di Pasqua, over the Easter weekend. Music festivals take place in Bergamo throughout the year. The Mille Miglia veteran car race starts and ends in Brescia (via Ferrara to Rome in May each year).

Our two centre recommendations

Many regions in Italy are worth combining with the Lakes. A few popular suggestions: The Lakes and the Veneto, The Lakes and the Alto Adige, The Lakes followed by Verona and/or Venice. You might want to consider a night or two in Milan at the beginning or the end of a stay on the Lakes. Combine the Lakes with each other, for example, Maggiore and Iseo, or Garda and Orta.

How you get there

By air Airports at Milan with numerous flights a day with British Airways and Verona with daily flights with British Airways. Most of the hotels in the Lakes are no more than 90 minutes' drive from the airport.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to the Italian Lakes. However, you do not need to have a car in this area, particularly if you are going to stay at just one hotel on say Lake Como or Maggiore. We can arrange a taxi transfer for you instead of the hire-car. If you are going to combine a stay on the Lakes with say a stay in Verona or Venice, you can collect the car at the airport when you arrive, use it for your stay in the Lakes and then drop the car off when you arrive in the city.

With your own car You can reach the Lakes with just one overnight stop en route, perhaps in Burgundy or Alsace. We can book our French Expressions hotels for you.



Each lake in brief

Lake Orta Westerly-located small but very pretty lake, verdant vegetation with palms and chestnuts. Pretty lake-side harbours, San Giulio island and distinctive architecture.

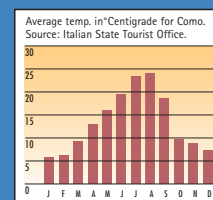
Lake Como Outstandingly beautiful, narrow and long with luxuriant vegetation of olives, figs, mulberries, walnuts and oleanders. Cheerful lake-side resorts, splendid villas and their gardens, mountainous backdrop. Architecture is quite rustic and alpine of stone and wood. Sophisticated feel. Famous villas and gardens.

Lake Garda The southern shores are wide and open, fringed by vines and orchards. The northern aspect resembles a fjord with steep cliffs dropping into deep water. Lemons and olives thrive flanked by woods of cypress trees. Lake Garda at it's southern end is the most 'Mediterranean' of the lakes. Wine is produced at Bardolino and Valpolicella nearby. Beautiful villas and gardens.

Lake Maggiore A famous lake of legendary beauty. Wide and open with mountains behind. Contrasting scenery. Extraordinary array of vegetation along the lake shores including verbena, magnolias, camellias, palms, azaleas and rhododendron. Ports, promenades, boat trips. Fascinating Borromean islands.

Lake Iseo Little known, small, quite unspoiled with natural 'wild' scenery. Attractive setting amid olive trees with mountains in the distance and waterlilies along the edge. The island of Monte Isola in the lake is six miles round and covered in chestnuts, broom and olives.

Lake Lugano Called Ceresio by the Italians, most of the lake is in Switzerland. It has a wild and rugged feel with dramatic, steep sides that appear to plunge into the water. Attractive Italian-Swiss town of Lugano enjoys a sheltered, south-facing position.



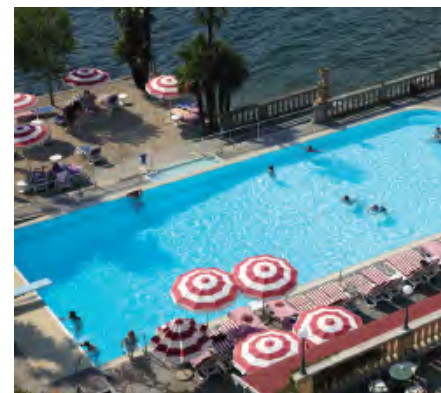
“A wonderful holiday hotel, suited to long stays, offering a relaxing environment with glorious natural beauty to appreciate”



Lakeside gardens



Exterior of Villa Serbelloni



Pool by the lake



Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni's magnificent position by the lake

Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni Bellagio, Lake Como

The Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni is famous for three things - its favourable position on the banks of Lake Como in the picturesque town of Bellagio, just at the point where all three fingers of Lake Como join, its lush gardens of palms and luxuriant shrubs and its extremely well preserved architecture and interior decoration. Today a 5 star hotel, the Villa Serbelloni consists of the elegant original villa and two wings where the majority of the bedrooms are located. The ornate interior is actually entirely in keeping with the character of the hotel; the feel of a very relaxed holiday hotel is emphasized by the comfortable armchairs in the lounge, the cosy American bar, the live music for dancing in the lounge every night, and the bedrooms, where the accent is firmly on traditional comfort rather than modern style. The views of the lake are quite magical, and can be enjoyed from the gardens and terrace, the lounge and those of the rooms which are fortunate enough to be at the front of the hotel. The gardens and private beach at the Villa Serbelloni give the impression that the hotel is actually in much larger grounds, and further out of town than it is; in fact it's just a couple of minutes' walk to the pretty squares and waterfront of Bellagio. The hotel has two restaurants: the elegant, Michelin-starred Mistral Restaurant and La Goletta, serving traditional Italian cuisine. Service is either inside or, in the summer months, on the veranda (gentlemen are required to

wear a jacket for dinner). Other facilities of the Villa Serbelloni include an outdoor and two indoor swimming pools, a private beach, water-sports and tennis, with golf nearby. Deluxe rooms have a lake view. We recommend this hotel as a real holiday hotel, perhaps for stays of seven or ten nights, so that you can really appreciate the beauty of the Villa Serbelloni, Bellagio and the surrounding area of Lake Como, with its numerous walks, villas and gardens to visit.

GRAND HOTEL VILLA SERBELLONI IE33
Official category 5 star deluxe.
Open 8 April to 29 October.
Location About 90 minutes' drive north of Milan.
Distances in miles Como 20, Milan 49, Lake Garda 90, Verona 100, Venice 200, Pisa 220, Florence 235.
Nearest airport Milan.
At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, Two indoor swimming pools, Private beach, Two restaurants, Tennis, Squash, Gym, Sauna, Turkish bath, Massage and beauty centre, Pilates, Lift, Room service, Car park, Private garage (pay locally).
Bedrooms 95 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, internet, telephone, satellite television, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Lake Como, Boat trips, Famous villas and gardens, Bergamo, Lugano and Milan.

Sports nearby Golf, Boat trips, Walking, Water-sports, Sailing, Riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Complimentary bottle of house wine and flowers for honeymoon stays.



Lakeside beach area



Restaurant by night



Entrance hall

Grand Hotel Tremezzo Tremezzo, Lake Como

Located on the western shore of Lake Como facing the pretty resort of Bellagio, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo was built in 1910 and is a charming example of turn-of-the-century Liberty-style architecture. Set above the lakeside road which runs between the hotel and the lake, it is a favoured for its particularly mild climate and beautiful gardens. This part of the lake is called the Riviera delle Azalee and the scenery is resplendent with whites and pinks when these flowers blossom in late winter and early spring. The hotel entrance is set above the road and reached by lift, meaning that the public rooms such as the T Bar terrace, La Terrazza restaurant, lobby and lounges enjoy magnificent panoramic views. The Grand Hotel has three heated swimming pools, one of which floats on the lake with sand 'beach', loungers and a T beach bar and restaurant. To the rear of the hotel is a well-maintained two-hectare park that is terraced into the hillside and an excellent spot to sit and relax. Guests also have the use of a clay tennis court and a jogging track that winds its way up the hillside. In the grounds there is a well-equipped gym overlooking the lake, and on the first floor, with amazing views of the lake, the panoramic T Spa has an indoor heated whirlpool with state-of-the-art hydro-massage and aqua fitness trail, a relaxation lounge and massage rooms for exclusive body and facial treatments. The rooms and suites are situated on five floors and provide high standards of comfort. The style is Liberty, colours are vivid and relaxing. The Grand Hotel Tremezzo offers luxurious accommodation at excellent value for money.

GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO IE41

Official category 5 star deluxe

Open 10 March to 29 October.

Location About 80 minutes from Milan Malpensa and Linate airports.

Distances in miles Milan 49, Como 18.

Nearest airport Milan.

At hotel 5 Restaurants and snack bars including a gourmet restaurant, Italian restaurants, Wine and Beach bars. Three outdoor swimming pools, including a floating pool in the lake, which are open seasonally. Tennis, Saunas, Fitness room, adults only T Spa, with indoor whirlpool and hydro massage, relaxation area, range of massage and beauty treatments. Lift, Covered parking, Room service. There is a private sandy beach across the road from the hotel.

Bedrooms 76 rooms and 14 suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, television, DVD player, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Golf, Boat trips, Villas and gardens of Lake Como including Villa Carlotta, Villa Balbianello, Villa d'Este and Villa Melzi

Sports nearby 18-hole Golf course, Water sports, Tennis and Walking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"A traditional grand hotel overlooking the lake, offering excellent value for money"



Grand Hotel Imperiale



Shady outdoor dining

Grand Hotel Imperiale Resort & Spa Moltrasio, Lake Como

The Grand Imperiale Resort Et Spa is a four-star hotel of great charm and historical character, set amidst a luxuriant garden looking directly on to glorious Lake Como. Dating back to 1926, the Imperiale – originally the Hotel Regina – was built in late Art Nouveau style and whilst it has been extended and refurbished over the years, it has retained its period atmosphere. The Imperiale has 102 rooms and suites including 11 deluxe rooms in the exclusive Villa Imperiale, a hotel within a hotel. Many of the rooms overlook the village of Moltrasio and Mount Bisbino, whilst a select few face directly on to the lake. Elegantly styled and furnished, the rooms feature a wide range of amenities and some are particularly spacious, rendering them ideal for families or longer stays. Rooms in the Villa Imperiale offer additional seclusion and privacy with the Regina Lakeside Bar situated on the ground floor offering views towards the pool. Imperialino Restaurant enjoys a refined gastronomic reputation serving innovative interpretations of traditional Italian dishes. The Garden Restaurant serves Italian cuisine with Mediterranean flavours whilst the Regina Bar boasts original period furnishings and overlooks the inner courtyard garden. As well as the seasonal outdoor swimming pool set in the middle of the garden, the Imperiale also features a tennis court, nine-hole putting green, two driving ranges and a variety of water sports available nearby.

GRAND HOTEL IMPERIALE EXH639

Official Category 4 star

Open 8 March to 2 January.

Location Moltrasio, 50 minutes from Milan's Linate and Malpensa airports.

Distances in miles Como 4, Lugano 23, Bellagio 26, Milan 37, Bergamo 62, Rome 395.

Nearest airport Milan.

At hotel Ristorante Imperialino (closed January and February), Garden restaurant, Regina Bar, Regina Lakeside Bar, Outdoor swimming pool (open May to September), I-Spa, Tennis court, Nine-hole putting green, Two driving ranges. **Bedrooms** 110 rooms and villa rooms each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning,

high-speed internet access, satellite flat screen TV, safe, mini-bar, hairdryer and direct-dial telephone.

Local interest The lakeside villas and gardens including Villa del Balbianello, Villa Melzi and Villa Carlotta, Como, Bellagio, Isola Comacina, picturesque boat trips and drives.

Sports nearby Water sports, golf, trekking to Bugone Refuge, Horse riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1090 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"Period Art Nouveau grandeur in a splendid lakeside setting"

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 45 days prior to arrival to receive 5% off for stays from 8 March-29 December 2017.

Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 between 3-7 April and 23 May-30 September 2017.

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 8 March-2 April, 8-13 April and 15 October-28 December 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 14 April-22 May, 1-14 October 2017 and 29 December 2017-2 January 2018.

For stays of at least 4 nights receive a complimentary bottle of Prosecco or Spumante upon arrival.

"Incomparable quality of service and surroundings, an unforgettable treat"



Junior Suite sitting room at Villa d'Este



Veranda restaurant at Villa d'Este



Gardens at Villa d'Este



General view of the Villa d'Este and the lake

SPECIAL OFFERS

Receive a complimentary upgrade from a Classic Double Room to an Executive Double Room for stays between 16 March-27 April 2017 and 13 October-12 November 2017. Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of Champagne and flowers in room upon arrival. For stays of at least 3 nights receive a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine in room upon arrival.

Villa d'Este Cernobbio, Lake Como

The exquisite Villa d'Este on the shores of Lake Como, in our opinion the most beautiful of the Italian Lakes, offers you an enchanted world of wonderful experiences. Today a luxury 5 star hotel, member of Leading Hotels of the World and considered to be one of the best hotels in Italy, the Villa d'Este had been a delightful summer residence for nobility and royalty, including Princess Caroline of Brunswick, for many years until becoming an hotel in 1873. The Villa d'Este exudes charm, a relaxed sophistication, a superb architectural and geographic environment and offers the ultimate in luxurious care and attention. The hotel grounds are justly famous and an outstanding feature of the Villa d'Este with their carefully tended flower beds, mosaics and romantic grottoes and the mock mediaeval castles that perch on the cliffs overlooking the lake. The terrace, floating swimming pool and sun-deck add to the charm of the waterfront and the air of relaxation. The rooms are in two buildings, one called the 'Queen's Pavilion' after Caroline of Brunswick. All rooms are of an exceptional quality, being individually furnished in great style and comfort and equipped with all the requisites of 5 star standards, achieving a clever balance of elegance without any hint of pomp or fussiness. The gastronomic restaurant enjoys a superb situation at one end of the villa, overlooking the gardens and the lake, aided

by its magnificent panoramic windows (removed in the summer) which give the impression of dining al fresco whatever the weather. Meals are also served on the lakeside terrace during the warmer months. The classic cuisine is of a standard to match the hotel but very in fact reasonably priced. In summer there are two less formal restaurants, the Grill and Il Platano. An enormous benefit for cooler months are the indoor swimming pool, squash court and covered tennis courts: use of these facilities is included in your stay. The beauty centre features a variety of health and beauty treatments. The small port and village centre of Cernobbio are about five minutes' walk from the hotel.

HOTEL VILLA D'ESTE IE32

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open 16 March to 12 November.

Location About 40 minutes drive north of Milan.

Distances in miles Como 3, Milan 33, Bellagio 20, Verona 130, Lake Garda 105, Venice 200, Portofino 140, Pisa 205, Florence 220, Lugano 20.

Nearest airport Milan.

At hotel 2 restaurants, bars, free access to the Sporting Club with a gym, 8 tennis courts with instructors available, 1 outdoor swimming pool with jacuzzi, an outdoor children's pool and indoor pool, sauna, Turkish bath, jogging track, bicycles, a putting green and water

sports. Beautiful gardens, Lift, Room service, Underground car park.

Bedrooms 152 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, television, telephone, radio, mini-bar, safe and Wi-Fi.

Sports nearby Several golf courses nearby, including Villa D'Este Golf course at Montorfano, Walking, Riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1870 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of L'Albereta



Interior of a bedroom at L'Albereta

L'Albereta Erbusco, near Lago d'Iseo

Set in gently rolling countryside of fields and vineyards in the attractive region of Franciacorta about seven miles south of the Lago d'Iseo. The Albereta is a 5-star hotel with 57 rooms, standing in its own grounds of lawns and flower beds with vineyards starting on the premises. The hotel has great charm and style in its decoration and ambience, with all rooms furnished individually and of a good size with private bathrooms; some bedrooms also have a balcony or direct access to the garden. The public areas are relaxing, with lounges, a terrace, a bar, an indoor swimming pool and sun terrace, fitness area, tennis court, sauna and Turkish bath. There is also an ultra-modern regenerative spa, Espace Vitalité Henri Chenot has been recently renovated and designed to maximise natural light, as well as Maty's Kids' Club, welcoming children from three years of age.

L'ALBERETA IE92

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About an hour from Milan Linete.

Distances in miles Milan 43, Bergamo 18, Brescia 14, Rome 362, Sirmione on Lake Garda 39, Venice 110, Como 53.

Nearest airports Milan, Verona, Bergamo.

At hotel Indoor swimming pool, Lift, Free car park or underground garage (Euro 15 per day), Tennis, Bicycle hire, Fitness room, recently renovated Espace Vitalité Henri Chenot Spa, Sauna, Massage, Turkish bath, Boutique, Kids' Club, Restaurant, Room service, Golf, Gardens, Jogging path. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Spa holidays This hotel is also featured in our separate programme of Spa holidays

Bedrooms 57 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Vineyards, Wineries, Lago d'Iseo, Historic Bergamo, Milan for shopping, Lake Garda and Verona for excursions, Ferrara and Mantua, Antiques market in Brescia.

Sports nearby Golf, Horseriding, Cycling, Sailing, Fishing, Canoeing.

Minimum stay 7 nights from 24 April to 8 May and 3 nights from 31 December to 3 January and 18 to 22 May.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1395 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book at least 45 days prior to arrival to receive 15% off the nightly rate for all stays from 1 January-31 December 2017.

Stay at least 3 nights to receive 15% off the nightly rate, stay at least 4 nights to receive 20% off the nightly rate or stay at least 5 nights for 25% off the nightly rate. Valid for all stays between 1 January- 31 December 2017.

"Outstanding wine and cuisine, charming ambience and great comfort"

Hotel San Rocco Orta San Giulio, Lake Orta

The Hotel San Rocco, a new Classic Hydrogen hotel, enjoys a splendid location in the glorious village of Orta San Giulio, on the banks of the small but picturesque and less well-known lake of Orta, the most westerly of the northern Italian lakes. The traffic-free centre of the village with its piazza, waterfront, cafés, restaurants and picturesque houses is about 5 minutes' walk from the hotel. Once a convent, the San Rocco is now a 4-star hotel and is open all year round. The hotel now consists of three interconnected buildings, with the most recent being the Villa Gippini, dating back to the 17th Century and now housing ten rooms and one suite. The superior rooms are the larger and newer ones with lake view and usually with balcony as well, and all rooms are comfortably furnished. The restaurant is light and airy and on the first floor of the hotel, affording marvellous views of the lake. On the ground floor, also overlooking the lake, is a lounge and bar. Other great features of the hotel are the garden terrace which leads right to the water's edge and the panoramic outdoor swimming pool. The hotel has quite extensive seminar facilities and does hold seminars at different times throughout the year as well as being popular as a wedding venue.

HOTEL SAN ROCCO IE31

Official category 4 star.

Open All year

Location About one and a half hour's drive north-west of Milan.

Distances in miles Milan 52, Como 75, Lake Garda 140, French border (Mont Blanc tunnel) 135, Portofino 170, Florence 240, Venice 220.

Nearest airport Milan Malpensa.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool (mid Jun to mid Sep), Bar service at the pool, Direct access to the lake for swimming, Bicycle hire, Sauna, Massage, Wellness roof garden, Lift, Parking available in hotel garage (chargeable), Room service.

Bedrooms 80 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, satellite television, radio, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Mediaeval town of Orta, Boat trips, Lake Maggiore, Monte Rosa massif, Sacro Monte of Orta (UNESCO World Heritage site), Isle of San Giulio, Markets.

Sports nearby Tennis, Fishing, Riding, Watersports.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £899 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Aerial view of the San Rocco

"A good quality hotel in a picturesque location"

“Uniquely luxurious boutique five star hotel”



Villa & Palazzo Aminta



Tapestry room



Deluxe lake view room at Villa & Palazzo Aminta



Villa & Palazzo Aminta exterior, with breathtaking views over Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands

Villa & Palazzo Aminta Stresa, Lake Maggiore

The Villa & Palazzo Aminta stands in its own gardens of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons and ancient trees in the resort of Stresa with majestic lake views overlooking the famous Borromean Islands. The concept of the villa from the turn of the century has been remodelled and embellished with antique furniture, stuccos, chandeliers, precious wallpaper, arabesques and oriental arches. It exudes ornate luxury and has quite a lavish feel. The 67 rooms and suites likewise are highly decorative, many having Murano lamps or chandeliers and handmade frescoes. They open out onto terraces or balconies with impressive views over Lake Maggiore and the garden. The suites and junior suites are on the top floor of the hotel. The Villa & Palazzo Aminta has two restaurants, an outdoor pool and a private beach on the lake. The Villa & Palazzo Aminta has opened a signature spa and beauty centre, adding to the range of leisurely facilities available here.

VILLA & PALAZZO AMINTA EXH695

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open 7 April to 29 October.

Location About 45 minutes from Milan Malpensa.

Distances in miles Milan – 50, Locarno – 20
Nearest airport Milan

At hotel Swimming pool (open air), Gym, Beauty centre, Cycle hire, Lift, Bar, Restaurant, Gardens, Terrace with bar and restaurant service, Private beach, Parking, 24-hour room service.

Bedrooms 67 rooms and suites with private bathroom, air conditioning and heating, television, mini-bar, in room safe and complimentary Wi-Fi

Local interest Botanical gardens of Villa Taranto, Monte Rosa, Market in Stresa on Fridays and Verbania on Saturdays, Lake Orta, Ascona and Locarno in Switzerland.

Sports nearby Riding, Golf, Tennis, Fishing, Sailing boats, Water sports.

Italian Expressions include Half board.

Holiday prices From about £1465 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine on arrival.

Book before 28 February 2017 to receive 10% off the nightly room rate.

Book before 31 March 2017 to receive 5% of the nightly room rate.
Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 or 14 nights for the price of 12 between 7–28 April 2017 and 24 September–29 October 2017.



Hotel Cannero



Pool at Hotel Cannero



Hotel Cannero

"This welcoming hotel reflects the quaint charm of its picturesque surroundings"



Overwater view of Hotel Cannero

Hotel Cannero Lakeside Resort Cannero Riviera

Cannero, with its winding cobbled streets, enchanting lake views and backdrop of wooded mountains, is undoubtedly one of the most unspoilt and tranquil spots on Lake Maggiore. The hotel is fortuitously situated at one end of the promenade that separates it from the lake, next to a charming miniature harbour. Signora Gallinotto and her family, who run the hotel, are excellent hosts and the atmosphere is relaxed and congenial. A pretty courtyard and an ancient well serve as vestiges of the 17th Century monastery that once stood on this site, but most of the original building has been restructured to make the most of its lakeside position. Public rooms have large picture windows and bedrooms are light and airy, many with beamed ceilings and balconies overlooking the serene lake, while rooms to the rear of the hotel enjoy a view of the quiet pool area. There is also a rooftop terrace for sunbathing. Marvellous regional and international meals are served in the restaurant, I Castelli, and from its delightful terraces one can see the two tiny islands after which it is named. Before dining, you can visit the ancient monastery's wine cellar to choose your preferred wine. Adjacent to the hotel is the Casa del Barone where you'll find a bar, lounge and an English library. Characteristic old world charm and attentive service ensure that guests feel relaxed and well looked after.

HOTEL CANNERO LAKESIDE RESORT IE155

Official category 4 star.

Open March to November.

Location Overlooking lake, about one and a half hours' drive north-west of Milan Airport.

Distances in miles Cannobio 4, Ascona 13, Locarno 15, Stresa 19, Milan 68, Turin 100, Lake Garda 160, Venice 240, Rome 427.

Nearest airport Milan Malpensa.

At hotel Outdoor heated swimming pool open Apr to Oct, Lakeside terrace, Rooftop sun terrace, Restaurant, Bar, Wine cellar, Lounge, Library, Lift, Cycle hire, Tennis, Table tennis, Parking, Room service.

Bedrooms 70 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower, wc, air-conditioning, satellite TV, safe and telephone; mini-bar in suites.

Local interest Boat trips to Borromean Islands as well as Stresa and Ascona, Locarno and southern Switzerland, Cable car to Mottarone (1500m), Markets in Verbania (Saturdays) and Cannobio (Sundays), Lake Orta.

Sports nearby Tennis, Walking, Water sports, Golf, Horse riding, Fishing, Sailing.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast (lunch can be substituted).

Holiday prices From about £1090 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“Elegant and luxurious in a lakeside position”



Bedroom at the Majestic



Jetty and access to the lake



Outdoor dining at the Majestic



General view of the Majestic and the lake

Grand Hotel Majestic Pallanza

The Grand Hotel Majestic enjoys an enviable lakeside position on a promontory that juts out into Lake Maggiore and is surrounded by well-kept gardens in the English style with lawns and trees. The hotel has a private waterfront, its own small beach on the lake and a private jetty. Just off shore is the tiny island of San Giovanni. The hotel dates from the 1870s, is privately owned and has been refurbished over recent years to extremely high standards. It is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World. The feel of the hotel combines that of the Belle Epoque with contemporary touches. There are 80 bright and elegant rooms, many with lake view. Some rooms interconnect. The hotel has two restaurants, La Beola, which is an indoor gourmet restaurant and Il Portico which is open air. The Grand Hotel Majestic is in an ideal location for relaxing and sightseeing. The hotel has an indoor pool with sliding doors onto the gardens and lakeside. The recently opened beauty and wellness centre offers a pampering array of treatments and massages as well as a fitness room and sauna. Outside you can play tennis or relax on the long, panoramic terrace. The hotel is only a few minutes on foot from the picturesque resort of Pallanza.

GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC EXH696

Official category 4 star deluxe.

Open 14 April to 7 October.

Location About 45 minutes from Milan Malpensa.

Distances in miles Stresa 10, Milan 55, Locarno 26

Nearest airport Milan

At hotel Restaurant (indoor and open air), Indoor swimming pool, Gardens, Small private beach on the lake, Private jetty, Private heliport, Tennis court, Gym, Sauna, Parking, Beauty centre.

Bedrooms 80 rooms and suites with private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, in room safe, mini-bar. Deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites have CD players and DVDs.

Local interest Botanical gardens of Villa Taranto, Monte Rosa, Market in Verbania on Saturdays, Lake Orta, Ascona and Locarno.

Sports nearby Walking, Climbing, Water sports, Golf, Fishing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £998 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 5 nights for the price of 4 or 10 nights for the price of 8 between 14 April-24 May 2017 and 27 August-7 October 2017. Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 or 14 nights for the price of 12 between 25 May-26 August 2017.

Book before 31 March 2016 to receive 10% off for stays between 14 April-7 October 2017.

Hotel Villa del Sogno Gardone Riviera, Lake Garda

The Hotel Villa del Sogno is another hotel which we found captivating from the moment we arrived and which our clients have enjoyed since. Perched above the lake in its own parkland of classic Italian vegetation of cypress, olive trees, palms and pines, and reached by a long winding drive, the Villa del Sogno offers accommodation of good quality in extremely attractive surroundings. The hotel consists of two buildings. Some of the bedrooms are in the original villa, built in the style of the region with a terracotta roof, abundant wooden panelling and a ceramic tiled fireplace; a newer extension has been built into the hillside beneath the villa where there are several more modern rooms with balcony. The rooms are all furnished comfortably and there are spacious public rooms; a cosy bar and lounge, terrace where drinks, breakfast and lunch are served in fine weather, and the elegant à la Carte restaurant. The swimming pool and the tennis court are set in the grounds a short distance away from the villa. Fasano can be reached on foot from the hotel but as the road winds upwards for several hundred metres, it is not a walk that we would recommend for everyone.

HOTEL VILLA DEL SOGNO IE91

Official category 5 star.

Open 13 April to 14 October.

Location About two hours from Milan airport (Linate), about 75 minutes from Verona airport.

Distances in miles Milan 81, Bergamo 55, Brescia 22, Rome 344, Sirmione on Lake Garda 23, Verona 42, Riva 26.

Nearest airports Verona and Milan.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool which is open seasonally, Restaurant, Poolside bar and restaurant, American Bar, Extensive parkland, Tennis court, Table tennis, Sun terrace, Car park, Room service at a charge, Sauna, Cycle hire, Baby-sitting, Parking, Laundry service, Wellness centre.

Bedrooms 35 rooms, with bath or shower and wc, hairdryer, safe, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar, Wi-Fi.

Local interest Il Vittoriale (house of d'Annunzio), Villas and Gardens of Lake Garda, Verona, Sirmione on Lake Garda, Site of the battle of Solferino.

Sports nearby Water-sports, Walking, Golf

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1160 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The Hotel Villa del Sogno and its beautiful grounds



The colourful terrace and the view beyond

"A charming hotel, restful, with beautiful views"



View of the Villa Feltrinelli



Villa Feltrinelli

Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli Gargnano

Tucked away on the western shores of Lake Garda, the Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli has a most exclusive and secluded position. A glorious neo-gothic building, the hotel was built in the 19th Century as a summer escape and has been beautifully restored to reflect its history, with sumptuous and warm interiors that incorporate exquisite features such as stained glass windows, antiques and carved wood ceiling panels. The painstaking restoration of the Villa Feltrinelli is a most impressive and outstanding success, and the beautiful Fresco ceilings are especially breathtaking. Lantern lit paths cross through the eight acres of historical parkland that surround the hotel. The Villa has a feel of a private residence, offering outstanding standards of service, including complimentary laundry, an unpacking service and a pantry stocked with beverages and snacks. In keeping with the hotel's dedication to service, guests can enjoy the luxury of eating at any time, anywhere, such as in the wine cellar or the garden, as well as in the dining room, which has breathtaking views of the lake. The Villa's twenty-one rooms and suites have been individually decorated to incorporate graceful period features, such as the Villa's original drapery and handcrafted Venetian bedside lamps, with modern touches to ensure a most luxurious stay. Attentive yet discreet service and a marvellous historical ambience create a most exceptional retreat.

GRAND HOTEL A VILLA FELTRINELLI EXH236

Official category 5 Star.

Open 14 April to 8 October.

Location About one hour and fifteen minutes drive from Verona airport and about two and a half hours drive from Milan airport.

Distances in miles Brescia 28, Rome 354, Verona 50, Venice 124, Bergamo 62.

Nearest airport Verona, Milan.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool, Dining room, Private dining, Pantry stocked with beverages and snacks, Parking, Wine cellar, Bar, Library, Salon boat, Massages, Croquet, Complimentary laundry.

Bedrooms 21 suites and cottages, each with bath, shower, central heating, air conditioning, satellite television, direct-dial telephones,

complimentary mini-bar, fresh flowers, safe, music panel with eight channels; DVD players.

Local interest Historic villas of Lake Garda that can be seen only from the lake, Il Vittoriale park and museum in Gardone, Verona's lovely gardens and opera festivals, the charming towns and villages of San Michele, Bergamo, Trento, Brescia and Mantova.

Sports nearby Tennis, Golfing, Sailing.

Children The hotel welcomes children over 12.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £3019 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"A glorious restored historical Villa with outstanding attention to detail and service"

SPECIAL OFFERS

Couples celebrating an anniversary and honeymooners staying more than 3 nights will receive a complimentary bottle of prosecco.

“A charming former villa set in spacious grounds with a privileged position on Lake Garda”



Exterior of Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo



Pool with views of Lake Garda

Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo Malcesine

The picturesque little town of Malcesine lies on the eastern shores of lake Garda at the foot of Monte Baldo, the highest mountain in the area. A cable car can take you to the top, where the views over the lake and surroundings are breathtaking. The Bellevue San Lorenzo, a villa which dates from the end of the 19th Century, is set above the lakeside road against a backdrop of green rolling hills. Original features such as the cloistered windows, the original hearth and a fresco of the saint after whom the hotel was named, maintain an atmosphere of period elegance in the public rooms of the main villa. The restaurant and piano bar are also to be found here, adjoined by terraces which are ideal for relaxing with a pre-dinner cocktail. The restaurant has a vegetarian menu available. The simply furnished bedrooms are situated in several buildings in the hotel's pretty gardens. The rooms we offer have lake view and you can upgrade to a terrace or balcony too. Similarly marvellous views can be enjoyed in the grounds and from the terraces surrounding the attractive swimming pool. Malcesine, with its colourful harbour and magnificent 13th Century castle, is about half a mile away and can be reached via some steps from the hotel's gardens.

HOTEL BELLEVUE SAN LORENZO IE265
Official category 4 star.

Open 19 April to 15 October.

Location Half a mile from the centre of Malcesine and about 90 minutes from Verona airport.

Distances in miles Trento 33, Verona 42, Brescia 58, Mantova 58, Milan 111, Venice 111.

Nearest airport Verona, Milan, Venice.

At hotel Swimming pool, Bar service at the pool, Gardens, Terraces, Restaurant, Bar, Parking on hotel grounds, Garage, Wellness centre, Bike rentals, Wi-Fi internet access.

Bedrooms 52 rooms. Italian Expressions has selected rooms with bath or shower and wc, side lake view or lake view and balcony or terrace, telephone, safe, mini-bar and satellite television.

Local interest Il Vittoriale (house of d'Annunzio), Villas and gardens of Lake Garda, Sirmione, Verona, Vicenza, The vineyards of Valpolicella.

Sports nearby Watersports on Lake Garda, Walking, Tennis, Sailing.

Children The hotel welcomes children from the age of 6 years.

Minimum stay 7 nights between 8 May-1 October, 3 nights rest of the year.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £919 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 28 February 2017 to receive reductions for stays of at least 7 nights between 20 April - 15 October 2017.

“A top-quality hotel combining a relaxing atmosphere and excellent service”

Palace Hotel Villa Cortine Sirmione, Lake Garda

The Palace Hotel Villa Cortine stands in its own magnificent gardens above Sirmione, with views of Lake Garda across both sides of the peninsula. Sirmione has been valued as an exceptional site since Roman times and the Villa Cortine, in a strict neo-classical style with great columns supporting the portico-façade, was started at the end of the 19th Century on the instructions of a German count who owned the land. Much of the present hotel was added on after the Second World War. Today the Villa Cortine benefits from years of careful planting and tending of the gardens, and the beautiful grounds are a great highlight, full of conifers, oleanders, pomegranates, rock garden and jasmine in season. In fine weather, guests dine outside on a terrace near the swimming pool. There is a private beach on the lake about 500 metres from the hotel where barbecue lunches are also served in the summer months. The bedrooms are spacious and elegantly but comfortably furnished, with balcony and usually views in the distance, through the trees, of the lake. There is a path from the hotel into Sirmione.

PALACE HOTEL VILLA CORTINE IE75
Official category 5 star.

Open 13 April to 14 October.

Location About two hours from Milan airport, about 45 minutes from Verona.

Distances in miles Milan 80, Rome 328, Verona 24, Riva 45, Venice 95, Como 93.

Nearest airport Verona, but Milan has more flights.

At hotel Extensive parkland, Outdoor swimming pool (usually in operation from April to October), Bar service at the pool, Restaurant, Private man-made beach on the lake, Tennis court, Massage, Lift, Car park, Room service, Babysitting.

Bedrooms 54 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, television, telephone, radio, mini-bar and safe.

Local interest Il Vittoriale (house of d'Annunzio), Villas and Gardens of Lake

Garda, Verona, Site of the battle of Solferino, Attractive lake side drives.

Sports nearby Water sports on Lake Garda, Walking, Golf.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1590 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book before 31 March 2017 to save 10% for stays between 29 April-24 September 2017.

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 12-28 April 2017 and 25 September-14 October 2017.



The exterior of the original villa at the Hotel Villa Cortine



Spa reception



Elegant dining



One of the junior suites

“Contemporary ultra-stylish five-star resort with excellent spa and dining and stunning natural landscapes overlooking Lake Garda.”



View of Lefay Resort with pools and gardens

Lefay Resort & Spa Gargano, Lake Garda

Situated amidst an 11-hectare park in the heart of the spectacular and fragrant Riviera dei Limoni, surrounded by gently rolling hills and natural terraces replete with olive trees and woodland, Lefay Resort and Spa enjoys a prominent position overlooking Lake Garda. Gargano is one of the most picturesque villages in the Parco dell'Alto Garda and boasts magnificent panoramic vistas. The resort has been built with eco-sustainability in mind, with individual units integrated into the sloping hillside setting, thus blending perfectly into the topography of the landscape. The bright and airy main building houses all the principal services and natural materials have been used throughout the resort to further enhance not only its charm but also its eco-credentials. Furnishings are crafted from Italian walnut, parquet floors from olive wood and the entrance and bathroom floors striking in red marble sourced from Verona. Bright and stylishly appointed, all rooms are at least a junior suite and have a terrace or balcony overlooking the lake, with two-bedroom family suites available if you are travelling with children. Dining opportunities come in the form of La Grande Limonaia, Lefay's main restaurant, set on the upper floor of the resort and serving a seasonal Mediterranean menu, in addition to Trattoria La Vigna, which features authentic and traditional Italian cuisine. The strikingly colourful bar is positioned with a wide ground-floor terrace to offer magnificent sunset views over the lake whilst La Sala Caminetto is a tranquil

and comfortable area in which to repose with a book. There's also a pool bar, cigar lounge and tisaneria, located in Lefay Spa, an extensive wellness area divided into three areas. World of Water and Fire connects the indoor and outdoor heated saltwater swimming pools, 25-metre training pool, whirlpool, five saunas, saltwater lake, cold water fountain and relaxation areas. Nature and Fitness meanwhile comprises a large gym and complimentary group classes (personal tuition also available at additional charge) whilst Trilogy in the Air is made up of all the spacious outdoor areas and trails equipped for sporting activities, wellness and relaxation. All in all, a stunning resort offering wellness and relaxation amidst exceptionally beautiful surroundings.

LEFAY RESORT & SPA EXH1060

Official Category 5 star.

Closed All year.

Location Gargano, 1 hour and 20 minutes from Verona airport, 1 hour and 45 minutes from Milan Linate Airport.

Distances in miles Brescia 35, Verona 65, Bergamo 66.5, Milan 95, Venice 133.

Nearest airport Verona.

At hotel Two restaurants, indoor and outdoor saltwater swimming pools, 25-metre training pool open April to October, whirlpool, five saunas, pool bar, lounge bar, complimentary Wi-Fi and access to Lefay spa, gym, spa shop, energy and therapeutic garden, running circuit, fitness path, complimentary valet parking, garage, complimentary shuttle service to

Gargano from 10am to 7pm, babysitting on request, bike rental, non-smoking throughout.

Bedrooms 90 suites each with bath or shower, dressing area, bio-climatisation, complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite flat screen TV, safe, mini-bar, DVD player on request. Suites accommodate 3 people whilst family suites accommodate 5.

Local interest Historic villas of Lake Garda, only visible from the lake, Villa Vittoriale.

Sports nearby Bogliaco Golf Club adjacent to the resort, tennis.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1390 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“A pleasant and comfortable hotel in a beautiful lakeside setting”

Hotel Olivi Sirmione, Lake Garda

Nestled amidst a tranquil garden surrounded by century-old olive trees, Hotel Olivi is an attractive four-star property situated in the delightful town of Sirmione on the banks of Lake Garda. There are 64 air-conditioned bedrooms and suites, warmly decorated in a modern style with pale wooden furniture and wooden floors. The hotel also offers single, triple and family rooms in addition to nine Premier Suites, each individually named and styled with marble floors, mezzanine living area and balcony overlooking the lake. Gli Olivi offers buffet-style dining throughout the year serving Italian and international cuisine, whilst in the summer months guests can also dine at Il Melograno, featuring the same cuisine as Gli Olivi but served on the panoramic terrace. Snacks, salads and ice-creams are also available at the poolside La Bissa Bar and Restaurant open from June to September and there is also a comfortable lounge bar with terrace overlooking the pool, Jacuzzi and massage and beauty treatments available.

HOTEL OLIVI EXH1065

Official Category 4 star

Open 1 March to 30 November.

Location Sirmione, 40 minutes from Verona, about two hours from Venice, Milan Linate and Malpensa airports.

Distances in miles Verona 24, Riva 45, Milan 80, Como 93, Venice 95, Rome 328.

Nearest airport Verona but Milan has more flights from the UK.

At hotel Gli Olivi restaurant, Il Melograno (open May to September), La Bissa bar and restaurant (open June to September), lounge bar, outdoor swimming pool (available 9am to 7pm), Jacuzzi, massage and beauty treatments, room service.

Bedrooms 64 rooms and suites each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, satellite flat screen TV, safe, mini-bar, hairdryer and telephone. Quality rooms have balconies and lake views. Premier suites have balconies plus Sky television, CD player and radio and tea and coffee-making facilities.

Local interest Aquaria wellness centre in Sirmione, Villa Vittoriale (house of d'Annunzio), villas and gardens of Lake Garda, Verona's lovely gardens and festivals, Site of the battle of Solferino, attractive lakeside drives.

Sports nearby Water sports, golf, walking.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1080 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Pool with hotel building behind



Room with lake view

“Classical elegance amidst an historic Lake Garda setting”

Grand Hotel Gardone Gardone Riviera, Lake Garda

The first hotel to be built on the shores of Lake Garda, the Grand Hotel Gardone dates back to 1884 and embodies the elegance and style of a bygone era. Boasting majestic views over the lake, this stunning property enjoys a prominent position in the centre of the Gardone Riviera. The majority benefitting from a private balcony, most of the 167 rooms overlook the lake, with just a handful facing on to the street or verdant gardens, shaded by palms and magnolia trees. Decorated in a style that reflects the heritage of the hotel, rooms are classically appointed with air conditioning, satellite TV and en-suite marble bathrooms. The elegance continues through to the main restaurant which is decorated in airy, neutral tones with a large veranda overlooking the lake. Here, you'll enjoy breakfast and an extensive dinner menu accompanied by buffet-style salads, cheeses and desserts. The poolside Lemon Garden meanwhile provides a romantic and atmospheric setting for dinner by candlelight, where the menu showcases the finest Italian and international cuisine, accompanied by a handpicked wine list of over 100 different vintages. For a more casual drinks and dining environment, the Pool Bar serves light lunches, snacks and cocktails whilst Winnie's Piano Bar pays homage to one of its most famous guests, with live music accompanying post-dinner drinks. The heated outdoor pool and sun terrace overlook the lake, with further relaxation opportunities available in the sauna, Turkish bath, whirlpool, not to mention a wealth of beauty, massage and wellness treatments. Or you might just simply like to stroll along the 300-metre private lakeside promenade, taking in the glorious vistas of the setting.

GRAND HOTEL GARDONE EXH490

Official Category 4 star

Open 16 April to 16 October.

Location Gardone Riviera, 48 miles/1 hour from Verona airport, 131 miles/1 hour 20 minutes from Milan Linate Airport.

Distances in miles Brescia 23, Verona 53, Bergamo 55, Milan 83, Venice 121, Rome 355.

Nearest airport Verona.

At hotel 2 Restaurants, pool bar, piano bar, 300-metre lakefront promenade, jetty, heated outdoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, steam bath, small wellness and beauty centre, laundry service, Wi-Fi, parking at a charge.

Bedrooms 167 rooms and suites each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, satellite TV, safe, mini-bar, telephone, bathrobes and slippers.

Local interest Historic villas of Lake Garda, Villa Vittoriale, Wine and olive mill tastings.

Sports nearby Numerous golf courses, tennis club (300 metres), windsurfing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of the hotel



Pool area with lake views



Ligurian Riviera

Otherwise known as the Italian Riviera, the stretch of coast from the French border in the west to La Spezia in the east has been long famed for its gloriously mild climate, its luxuriant vegetation of vines, olives, lemons, olives, cypress, pines, bougainvillea and roses, and its colourful fishing villages of gaily-painted shuttered houses nestling on cliff-sides and in coves. To the west of Genoa the road along the coast forms a corniche with fishing villages, resorts and fruit orchards, this part of the coast being known as the 'Riviera dei Fiori' as its mild climate encourages abundant flowers, notably roses and carnations. To the east of Genoa the coastline is more rugged with promontories such as the Portofino peninsula, renowned for its graceful beauty, sheltered coves, wide bays and larger resorts. Inland, seemingly a world removed from the coast are greenish-grey rugged mountains and hill towns, ruined castles and fast flowing streams. There are abundant chestnut woods and remote valleys, caverns and grottoes and interesting little churches. The Ligurian Riviera is a delightful holiday region where the emphasis is on stylish and tasteful rest and relaxation.



Rapallo

General information

Visit the resort of Nervi with the collection of clocks, fabrics, furniture and lace in the Villa Luxoro and its Galleria d'Arte Moderna. Genoa, a busy port and bustling city, also has fine palaces such as the Palazzo Reale and the Palazzo Bianco and the fascinating Steglieno Cemetery, full of elaborate tombs. The wild beauty of the Cinqueterre should be seen from the ancient footpath, the Sentiere Azzurro, which links the coastal villages. The Abbazia di San Fruttuoso on the Portofino Peninsula can be reached by boat or on foot. In Camogli sea shells adorn the house walls and the castle contains a display of sea creatures. Clockmaking in Recco west of Camogli. Flower market in Sanremo early mornings. Giardino Hanbury near Ventimiglia. Diano Marino known for its olives and sandy beaches. Visit Andora Castello, inland from Alassio, known as the finest mediaeval building on the western Riviera.

Cultural highlights

The 12th Century Church of San Matteo in Genoa, with its striped black and white Gothic facade. The 16th Century Via Garibaldi in Genoa, designed by Cantone. The 'Adoration of the Magi' by Joos van Cleve in the Church of San Donato in Genoa. Crucifixion by Van Dyck in the Church of San Michele di Pagana between Santa Margherita and Rapallo.

Festivals

Blessing of the Fish in Camogli in May and the Stella Maris procession of boats to the Punta della Chiappa in August. Procession at Montallegro, above Rapallo, beginning July. La Spezia holds a 'Festa del Mare' on first Sunday in August.

Gastronomic highlights

Influenced by the sea in particular and the mountains to the north. Local specialities include dishes made with pesto for example Trenette al Pesto and Farinata which is a flat bread of chickpea flour and oil, thin like a pancake and eaten as a snack. Pansoti with walnut sauce is a Ligurian speciality of spinach and egg filled pasta with a sauce of nuts, garlic, herbs, ricotta and olive oil.

Our two centre recommendations

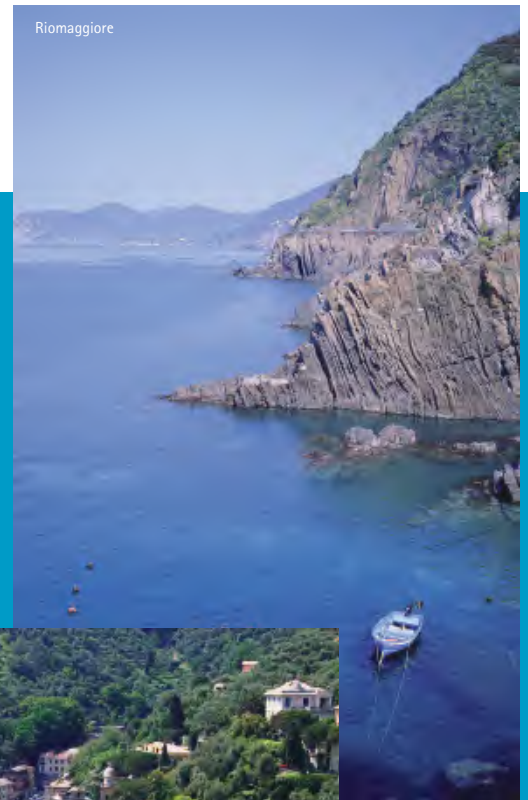
The Ligurian Riviera lends itself well to a combination with the Italian Lakes or Tuscany in particular. Our 'Romantic Interludes' touring holiday is a way of combining the Ligurian Riviera and both the coast and countryside of Tuscany.

How you get there

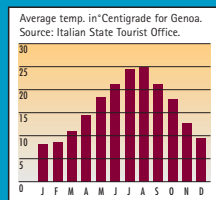
By air Fly into Genoa with British Airways. Milan and Turin are also possible. There are 'No-frills' airlines also flying into these airports.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all the holidays to the Ligurian Riviera although you may prefer us to arrange a private car transfer for you. Please contact us for the price differences.

With your own car You can reach the Ligurian Riviera from the French Riviera to the west or from the Mont Blanc and Frejus tunnels to the north and west of Turin respectively. If you take the route through the tunnels you can reach the Ligurian coast with just one overnight stop, perhaps in the French Alps although a second night makes the journey more comfortable. We can arrange overnight stops for you in France. You might want to consider combining the Ligurian Riviera with a stay on the Cote d'Azur.



A coastline of dramatic cliffs dropping towards the sea, sheltered coves and fishing harbours and stretches of sandy beach. The region is steeped in luxuriant, fragrant, colourful vegetation





Dining on the terrace at Excelsior Palace Hotel



Hotel and surrounding area, Excelsior Palace Hotel

Excelsior Palace Hotel Rapallo

The Excelsior Palace originated as Italy's first casino in 1901 and after it became a hotel it was often frequented by the high society of Europe. The hotel looks out to Rapallo's pretty marina with its 16th Century castle on one side and the chic resort of Portofino on the other. The interiors retain their early 20th Century splendour, resulting in an atmosphere which encompasses period elegance and modern touches of luxury. The well-appointed bedrooms, most of which have a balcony and glorious sea views, are furnished to a high standard and decorated in summery shades of coral, blue and yellow. The hotel has two distinguished restaurants which specialise in Mediterranean cuisine, one in the main palazzo and the other at the Beach Club, overlooking the coast and reached by a private interconnecting passage across the road. Here there is also a delightful panoramic pool where umbrellas, sunloungers and a full bar service are provided. Guests can spoil themselves (at no extra charge) in the Health and Beauty Centre, the facilities of which include a heated indoor pool, sauna and gym with views of the sea, and in the Beauty Farm there are tailor-made face and body treatments for which you can pay locally.

EXCELSIOR PALACE HOTEL IE262

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open All year.

Location Overlooking the sea, 500 metres uphill from the centre of Rapallo, about an hour's drive east of Genoa Airport.

Distances in miles Santa Margherita 2, Portofino 4, Genoa 20, La Spezia 49, Parma 88, Milan 101, Rome 296.

Nearest airports Milan and Genoa.

At hotel 2 Restaurants, 2 bars, Outdoor swimming pool with bar service, Beach and beach club with complimentary use of towels, 2 deckchairs and 1 sunshade. Complimentary entrance to the Health & fitness club where facilities include a heated indoor pool, Sauna, Steam bath, Gym, Beauty treatments. Room service, Bike hire, Watersports, Terraces, Lift, Parking is charged.

Bedrooms 130 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone,

radio, mini-bar and safe, most have a sea view.

Local interest Open-air market in Rapallo on Thursdays and Santa Margherita on Fridays, Abbey of San Fruttuoso di Camogli, Fishing villages and beaches of Italian Riviera, Cinque Terre, Historic city of Genoa.

Sports nearby Rapallo 18 hole Golf Course, Tennis, Walking, Fishing, Watersports, Riding, Sailing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

"A grand hotel with excellent facilities and beautiful views"



Terrace and sun loungers at Grand Hotel Miramare



Exterior of Grand Hotel Miramare

GRAND HOTEL MIRAMARE EXH445

Official category 4 star

Open 06 April to 6 January.

Location Around 45 minutes' drive to Genoa and 2 hours' drive from Milan and Parma.

Distance in miles Portofino 2, Genoa 22, Milan 106, Cinque Terre 27

Nearest airport Genoa.

At hotel Restaurant, 4 bars including a pool bar, outdoor seawater swimming pool open from April to October, Lounge, Mediterranean garden, Park, E'Spa'ce wellness centre, 24 Hour room service, Cookery classes at a charge,

Grand Hotel Miramare Santa Margherita Ligure

The 4 star Grand Hotel Miramare is a family run hotel with a historical air of elegance and splendour. Opened in 1903, the hotel occupies a privileged beachfront position in Santa Margherita Ligure on the Portofino Gulf, the views across which are mirrored in the hotel's blue shutters. The 83 rooms and suites maintain the original style of the hotel in everything from the wooden floors and chandeliers to the wrought iron beds. High windows open rooms out into the panoramas, whilst balconies and terraces allow guests to enjoy views of the sea or the hotel's lush gardens. From the lounge's plush velvet armchairs to the marble-topped tables, the communal areas are in-keeping with the hotel's history, though the muted colours of the wall add a contemporary edge. Three indoor bars offer ideal meeting and relaxing spaces and the piano bar adds an essence of exclusive luxury. The E'Spa'ce spa pampers guests in four treatment rooms and with a wide range of facilities, from floating beds to sensory showers. Culinary delights of traditional Ligurian cuisine with a contemporary twist are found in the hotel's restaurant; outdoor dining is set against the timeless backdrop of the sea. The outdoor swimming pool is accompanied by its own bar, sun loungers and umbrellas. A Mediterranean garden and parkland offer a further escape from the everyday, as does the beach opposite the hotel, ideal for sailing and bathing. The beach club, equipped with sun parasols and a children's club, is complimentary for hotel guests. A short distance from Portofino, the Grand Hotel Miramare is well-located for water sports, and exploring the shops, restaurants, and historical sites on the Ligurian Riviera.

Free access to beach club with towels and sun loungers on the public beach with a children's club.

Bedrooms 83 rooms and suites with air-conditioning, satellite TV, telephone, internet access, safe and hairdryer. Most double rooms and some suites may interconnect.

Local interest Historical gardens of Abbazia della Cervara lie around 1 mile away, an abbey which is around 1000 years old. The diving interest is a bronze statue which lies under the waters of San Fruttuoso. Portofino lies around 5km distant, Camogli is one of the

best preserved ancient ports in Italy and lies 9km away

Sports nearby Sailing and diving. Portofino has a Protected Marine Nature Reserve ideal for divers. 18-hole golf course and tennis courts about 15 minutes' drive away.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1135 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details

"A wonderful family run hotel with luxurious interiors"

“A stay here is an opportunity to enter another world, away from the hectic stresses of everyday life and to experience the restfulness and the romance of a haven of leisurely charm”



Dining at Splendido



Swimming pools at Splendido



The honey-coloured Splendido Mare building



The Belmond Hotel Splendido and the spectacular surrounding area

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 7-13 April 2017, 17 April-31 May 2017 and 1 October-5 November 2017.

Belmond Hotel Splendido and Belmond Splendido Mare Portofino

The Belmond Hotel Splendido enjoys a striking position on a hillside above the picturesque fishing village of Portofino. Once a monastery and then the private summer residence of a noble family, the Splendido became a hotel at the beginning of the 20th Century and has been added to most tastefully over the years. Today the hotel is one of the best in Italy. It is quite captivating due to its wonderful natural setting, its breathtaking sea views, its enchanting gardens abounding in olive trees, azaleas, peach trees, wild lavender, cactus and thyme. The hotel has a superb restaurant with sea views, where you can enjoy the light, natural recipes which make abundant use of the herbs and olive oil which the hotel grows. In summer months, there is also a more informal restaurant at the pool-side. Leisure facilities for guests include a large outdoor heated swimming pool, gymnasium, a tennis court, sauna and beauty salon and a motor launch that can be hired. The hotel also provides information on local walks, for example to the monastery of San Fruttuoso, accessible only by boat or on foot. Many an hour can be spent strolling in the gardens, where the flowers are particularly striking at the end of May and in June. Most of the hotel's bedrooms have balcony and sea view. All rooms are air-conditioned and are equipped to the expected deluxe standard with immense care and attention

to detail. Other striking features of the hotel are the numerous black and white photographs in the piano bar of famous visitors the hotel has had over the years. An outdoor restaurant has been created in Mediterranean-Ligurian style, from where you can enjoy the views of the bay of Portofino. There are also comfortable lounges and verandahs, a television room and a bar. An extension of the Splendido is the picturesque Belmond Splendido Mare, charmingly situated in the piazzetta on the waterfront in Portofino itself, ten minutes walk from the Splendido with sixteen beautifully decorated rooms and suites. The facilities of the main hotel are open to all guests of the Splendido Mare. Both buildings, quite different in character, are highly recommended.

BELMOND HOTEL SPLENDIDO IE35 and BELMOND SPLENDIDO MARE IE35A
Official category Splendido 5 star. Splendido Mare 4 star.

Open 7 April to 5 November.

Location Overlooking the sea in Portofino, about five minutes' drive from the resort of Santa Margherita and about an hour's drive east of Genoa airport.

Distances in miles Genoa 23, Santa Margherita 3, Milan 107, Como 135, Pisa 89, Florence 134.

Nearest airports Milan and Genoa.

At hotel Heated open-air swimming pool (usually in operation from Apr to Oct), Tennis court, Bar, Motor boat for hire, Health and Well-Being Centre with Sauna, Turkish bath, Massage, beauty treatments and hairdressing,

Gym, Solarium, Boutique, Car park or private garage payable locally, Shuttle service between the two hotels, Room service.

Bedrooms 69 rooms at the Splendido, 16 rooms at the Splendido Mare, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, safe, mini-bar.

Local interest Ligurian Riviera - numerous fishing villages, ports and beaches, Cinque Terre, Markets in Portofino and Santa Margherita.

Sports nearby Beaches, Riding (Rapallo), Golf at Rapallo, Walking, Water sports, Sailing.
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.
Holiday prices From about £2329 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Piemonte

Piemonte is essentially a country region of alpine peaks in the north, flat rice-producing river valleys further south, rolling vineyards with attractive villages, forested hills dotted with mediaeval castles and almost at its centre the city of Turin, known throughout the world as a great industrial centre but in fact, outstandingly rich in architectural gems, both modern and in particular Baroque. North of Turin is the Parco Nazionale del Gran Paradiso, with miles of unspoiled natural scenery of mountain peaks and meadows, of rare wildlife and flowers. The splendid palaces, parks and hunting lodges of the Princes of Savoy can be visited in the countryside near Turin. Our hotels are situated in the remarkable wine-producing regions of the Langhe and Asti, renowned for their beautiful scenery, magnificent wines and fine gastronomy. Piemonte beckons lovers of wine and food, art and architecture and dramatic, natural but also gloriously cultivated landscapes.

Scene from the Palio in Asti



General information

Turin, the regional capital, is a fascinating city of Baroque architecture and famous for its association with Fiat cars. Visit the car museum, the Mole Antonelli for a panoramic view. Visit some of the beautiful 18th Century House of Savoy palaces, many built by Filippo Juvarra, including Rivoli, Venaria reale and Mandria. North of Turin is the subalpine region of Canavese with numerous castles many of which have been opened to the public very recently such as the Castello di Masino, now carefully restored. Lace is produced in the Valsesia. Alba is the centre of the white truffle and of course the local wines (Barolo, Barbera etc) should be tasted and purchased. Cuneo holds a market in the Piazza Galimberti every Tuesday.

Cultural highlights

Turin is laden with architectural treasures including the Palazzo Madama by Filippo Juvarra (now home to the Museo Civico d'Arte Antica which contains the 15th Century Portrait of an Unknown Man by Antonello da Messina), Guarini's Palazzo Carignano, the Baroque buildings of the Piazza San Carlo. In Cuneo is the 18th Century Church of Santa Croce with a concave facade by Francesco Gallo. Vercelli had a school of art and its masterpieces can be seen in the Museo Civico Borgogna and in the Church of San Cristoforo are to be found frescoes and a 16th Century Madonna painted by Gaudenzio Ferrari. In the Palazzo Comunale of Alba is a painting of the Madonna and Child by the 16th Century artist Macrino d'Alba. The finest Romanesque buildings in Piemonte are to be found at the Abbey of Vezzolano at Albugnano.

Gastronomic highlights

The region is renowned for its gastronomy and wine. Beef, cheese, butter, red wine, rice and truffles (particularly the white truffles of Alba) are all basic

ingredients. Specialities include Manzo al Barolo (beef in red wine and garlic), Fonduta (hot dip of fontina cheese, milk, eggs, truffles and pepper), Bagna cauda (hot spicy sauce with garlic and anchovies), The wines of the region include Barolo, Barbaresco, Dolcetto.

Festivals

Many are linked to food and wine in this region. Asti holds an annual horse race in the Piazza del Campo del Palio, accompanied by mediaeval pageantry and coinciding with a local wine fair in September. Cuneo holds a cheese fair in November. Ivrea is famous for its Carnival celebrations including a Battle of Oranges.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include Piemonte and the Italian Lakes, Piemonte and the Ligurian Riviera, Piemonte and the Veneto or Piemonte and Tuscany (highly recommended for lovers of fine wine and beautiful vineyard scenery).

How you get there

By air Airport at Turin (Daily flights with British Airways from Gatwick) but Milan (Numerous daily flights with British Airways) and Genoa with British Airways are also possible and not much further in driving time but might make a more suitable option if you want to return from a different airport that is only served by British Airways.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with all our holidays to Piemonte. There is no additional charge for collecting your car from one place and returning it to another.

With your own car Piemonte is an ideal region to holiday in with your own car. You can reach the region easily with just one overnight stop in France if you want.

A day out in Piemonte

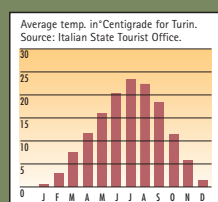
A day's excursion from the Villa Beccaris, Monforte d'Alba

This is a leisurely day of appreciation of the local scenery of low, rolling vineyards and woods of chestnut, oak and pine and pretty villages, hill towns and wine estates. From Monforte d'Alba we suggest you a tour eastwards across the undulating countryside to Serravalle Langhe and south to Bossolasco. On to Dogliani and back through the vineyards to Barolo itself, pausing here and there at your leisure to visit the wine producers and to taste the different vintages.

Visit the castle of Grinzane Cavour, dating from mediaeval times but very much enlarged in the 17th Century, where Cavour, one of the leading architects of the unification of Italy, spent part of his childhood. There is a wine cellar open to the public. Continue to the town of Alba, famous for its white truffles. There are interesting mediaeval buildings, a cathedral and churches with noteworthy frescoes. A highlight of your visit here should be lunch in one of several excellent restaurants.

After lunch journey southwards in the direction of Bossolasco again through the vineyards and then back across country to Monforte d'Alba.

Renowned for its fine wine, the countryside is a delight hiding castles, palaces and rare works of art in little-known but very pretty towns



Porcini mushrooms are typical of Piemonte



Castle in Piemonte



Exterior of the Relais Sant'Uffizio



Picturesque gardens

Relais Sant'Uffizio Cioccaro di Penango, near Asti

Cioccaro di Penango is a tiny village nestled in the hills of Monferrato and nearby is the delightful Relais Sant'Uffizio, whose low-lying 16th Century structure with terracotta roofs was originally a Benedictine monastery. The hotel has a wonderfully peaceful location, surrounded by extensive parkland covered with ancient trees and vine-covered hills. It is known throughout the region for its restaurant, where the very best in Piedmontese cuisine is served on pristine white tablecloths and complemented by fine regional wines, one variety of which is produced on the premises. The menu varies according to the season, and delicacies such as truffles, duck stuffed with honey and rum and home-made gnocchi are sometimes featured. The hotel has been decorated in period style with great taste; many of the comfortable bedrooms have antique wooden furniture, there are frescoes in the junior suites and glass ceilings in some of the bathrooms. A swimming pool is set in the inner courtyard and in warm weather breakfast is served on the charming poolside terrace, and the tennis court in the grounds is surrounded by tranquil vineyards.

RELAIS SANT'UFFIZIO IE16

Official category 4 star.

Open 1 February to 20 December.

Location Ten minutes' drive from Moncalvo and twenty minutes' drive north of Asti.

Distances in miles Moncalvo 3, Asti 10, Vercelli 38, Turin 46, Milan 64, Rome 390.

Nearest airports Turin, Milan.

At hotel Outdoor swimming pool (open May to September), Bar service at the pool, Restaurant, Parking, Room service, Babysitting.

Bedrooms 40 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, satellite television, telephone, safe and mini-bar.

Local interest Asti, Santuario di Crea, Walks in hills of Monferrato, Abbey of Vezzolano in Albrugnano, The vineyards of Piemonte, the Certosa di Pavia, Turin.

Sports nearby Walking, Horse riding, Golf courses (18 holes) in Margara, Fubine and Asti.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

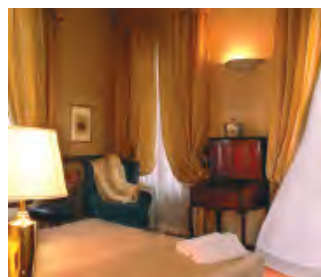
Holiday prices From about £850 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Hotel Villa Beccaris



Pool and hotel exterior



Double bedroom

Hotel Villa Beccaris Monforte d'Alba

Villa Beccaris is a gracious 18th Century mansion of ochre stone in the gentle and unspoilt countryside of Piemonte. One side of the hotel faces the historic hilltop village of Monforte d'Alba and on the other side is 2500 square metres of tranquil parkland, whose marked paths make it ideal for taking a stroll and admiring the uninterrupted beauty of the countryside. Beyond the park are the vineyards which provide the region's distinctive wine. Villa Beccaris has been expertly restored and refurbished. The interiors are decorated throughout in the style of the period in which the villa was built and many of the bedrooms have glorious views of the verdant landscape. The hotel is small, having just seventeen double rooms, five junior suites and one suite. Curtains, carpets and bedcovers are co-ordinated in rich tones of blue, burgundy and green. An added facility is the outdoor pool in the grounds, which makes a very peaceful spot to relax in warm weather. The hotel does not have a restaurant, but this is not a disadvantage since the immediate area boasts some of the best restaurants in Piemonte, where white truffles are a speciality. Villa Beccaris also has its own wine cellar, Enoteca Infernot, where guests can sample and purchase the local wines.

HOTEL VILLA BECCARIS IE263

Official category 4 star.

Open 1 January to 22 December and 27 to 31 December.

Location In historic centre of Monforte d'Alba, twenty minutes' drive from the town of Alba.

Distances in miles Asti 29, Cuneo 38, Turin 47, Savona 48, Milan 106, Rome 386.

Nearest airport Turin.

At hotel Swimming pool open April to October, Bar service at the pool, Bar and light lunch service, Wine cellar, Garden, Complimentary private garage.

Special interest The hotel can organise wine tasting, walking, mountain biking and cookery courses.

Bedrooms 23 rooms, each with shower and wc, hairdryer, mini-bar, air-conditioning,

satellite television, bathrobe, swimming pool towels, safe and telephone.

Local interest Alba (mediaeval centre and wine museums), Le Langhe Hills, Villages of Barolo and La Morra, the vineyard of Annunziata, Asti, Abbey of Vezzolano in Albrugnano, Ligurian Riviera.

Sports nearby Walking, Riding, Golf course (18-holes) in Cherasco and Cuneo.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1176 per person for 5 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

“An appealing blend of historic residence, beautiful scenery and interesting leisure activities”

Relais San Maurizio Santo Stefano Belbo

The Relais San Maurizio is a stunning 5 star boutique hotel which was once a monastery dating from the 17th Century located in a small village in the Langhe region, at the heart of Piemonte, renowned for its exceptional wine and cuisine. The region is home to the great reds such as Barolo and Barbaresco and also to the famous white truffle. The landscape is dotted with mediaeval towers and fortresses. The Relais San Maurizio sits amid its own parkland of ancient olive trees, spruce, larch and beech and close to the main building are landscaped gardens of lawn and flower beds. The former monks' cells and stables have been converted to 31 unique rooms and suites at the Relais San Maurizio, which overlook the gardens. The historic stone and brick of the building have been preserved and repaired and act as the foundation for luxurious, contemporary soft furnishings. The hotel boasts a fine Michelin starred restaurant, called 'Guido da Costigliole' located in the cellars of the monastery with exposed stonework where the owner Lidia Alciati and her son Andrea blend Piedmontese tradition with modern elements using rich white truffles from Alba and specially-reared local meat. Pre-dinner drinks can be enjoyed in the relaxing Hemingway bar, named after the author who travelled through the region in 1948 to taste the best vermouths of the region. In the fine summer months guests can take advantage of the outdoor pool and sun terrace, with its panoramic views of the surrounding hills and vineyards. For other seasons or times, there is an indoor heated pool too. This works well with the superb spa, La Via del Sale Medical and Beauty Spa, where the treatments are based around the beneficial properties of salt. A stay here at the Relais San Maurizio affords the best of all worlds with its fine dining, beautiful facilities and comfortable rooms. In addition, it is perfect as a base for exploring the region and soaking up new experiences from truffle hunting to wine tasting and cookery lessons. Let us arrange truffle hunting weekends for you.



Aerial view of the Relais San Maurizio

RELAIS SAN MAURIZIO EXH919

Official category 5 star.

Open 1 April to 31 December.

Location The hotel is about 3km from the village of Santo Stefano Belbo and about an hour by car from Turin.

Distances in miles Alba 15, Milan 112, Turin 55

Nearest airport Turin, Milan, Genoa

At hotel Michelin starred restaurant (make table reservations when you book your holiday, closed Tue/Wed and weekday lunchtimes), Wine cellar, Chapel for weddings, Spa, Heated indoor and outdoor pool, Hammam, Gym, Cookery classes, Truffle hunts, Laundry and dry cleaning, Babysitting, Free parking,

Bedrooms 31 rooms and suites with private bathroom (bath or shower and WC), air conditioning, heating, telephone, in room

safe, Wi-Fi(charges apply), Satellite television, Hairdryer, Bathrobes, Mini-bar.

Local interest Truffles, Vineyards with visits to wine cellars arranged by the hotel, Local festivals such as the Cheese festival in Bra, a donkey race in Alba and the Mangialonga, a food marathon plus the truffle fair in Alba, Hot air balloon trips, Vintage plane rides, Vintage car rallies, Gourmet tours can be arranged from the hotel, Shopping trips to Milan.

Sports nearby Golf (two 18-hole courses and one 9-hole course), Horse riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and continental breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1490 per person for 7 nights including scheduled flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

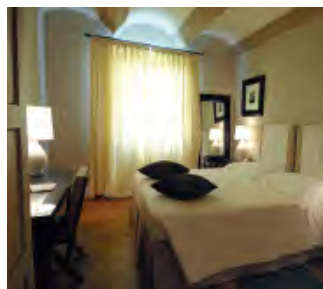
“An emphasis on tranquillity, wellness and gastronomy are found at Relais Villa d'Amelia”



Outdoor dining and courtyard at Relais Villa d'Amelia



View of the outdoor swimming pool



Bedroom at Relais Villa d'Amelia

Relais Villa D'Amelia Benevello

Nestled among 7 acres of hazelnut groves and parkland, the 4 star Relais Villa d'Amelia is a charming renovation of an 18th century estate which offers seclusion, tranquillity, and breath-taking views of the Monviso Alps. In its transformation from estate to hotel, Villa d'Amelia has not lost its traditional features, so communal areas have exposed beams and tiled floors, offset by contemporary furnishings and amenities. The hotel's 37 rooms and suites are individually decorated in warm, yet neutral colours but with striking charcoal accents. Four poster beds in most suites add an extra element of luxury and romance, while families may be best-suited to the interconnecting superior rooms. The hotel's Wellness Centre has a fitness area, Turkish bath, Finnish Sauna, whirlpool, and heated outdoor swimming pool. Guests will find gastronomic bliss in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, which serves modern interpretations of local cuisine. The bar offers a taste of the region through its selection of delicious wines and cocktails. From the borders of Relais Villa d'Amelia's extensive gardens, guests can easily reach the nearby town of Alba, known for its mediaeval towers, museums, and art galleries. In the autumn, search for white truffles in the wooded landscape, or, all year round, wander through Piemonte's wine cellars.

RELAIS VILLA D'AMELIA EXH1763

Official category 4 star.

Open 7 April to 27 November.

Location Benevello.

Distances in miles Alba 9, Turin 54, Milan 101.

Nearest airport Turin, Milan.

At hotel Michelin-starred restaurant, Bistro restaurant, Bar, Lounge, Wellness area, 7 Acre park, Courtyard, and Private wine-tasting with sommelier can be arranged.

Bedrooms 37 rooms and suites, each with marble bathroom with bath or shower. Rooms offer a king or twin bed and most suites offer a king four-poster bed. Superior rooms may interconnect.

Local interest Alba hosts local events such as music festivals throughout the year, a cheese

festival in September, and a white truffle festival during October and November. Barolo village is about 16 miles away, and is home to many local wine merchants and tasting cellars. Truffle hunting is possible, as well as excursions around the countryside in classic cars. The Serravalle Designer Outlet is about an hour's drive from the hotel.

Sports nearby Mountain biking, trekking, and horse riding.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1185 per person for 7 nights, including scheduled flights and car-hire. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 from 8 April-9 May 2017 and 12-27 November 2017.

Stay 5 nights for the price of 4 from 23 June-21 September 2017.

Receive 25% off the nightly rate for stays of at least 3 nights from 10 May-22 June 2017.

Honeymooners receive a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine on arrival.



Sardinia

Sardinia was long regarded as a remote and wild island, inhabited by shepherds and a shy people, who had little to do with the Italian mainland. Once a melting pot of diverse European and North African cultures, Sardinia still bears witness to its colourful past with echoes of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Spanish and Tuscans being clearly apparent in its traditions, language and architecture today. The coastline is startling with its coves, long sandy beaches, inlets, rocky outcrops and clear, turquoise sea. Inland the macchia grassland with myrtle, thyme, prickly pears and dwarf oaks stretches towards the wild peaks of the Gennargentu mountains. Sardinia offers a delightful mixture, combining the sophistication of the resorts and hotels of the Costa Smeralda and its stunning beaches with the remote, rural hinterland, where shepherds still tend their sheep in the mountains and traditional costume is worn with pride. A fascinating holiday island.

Cala Goloritze in Sardinia



General information

Local crafts such as carpets, tapestries and fabrics. Visit Sassari on the west coast of the island, a town with a mediaeval quarter, cathedral and Renaissance Fonte Rosello. Alghero has a very Spanish feel and from here you can take a boat trip to the Grotta di Nettuno, a spectacular, deep, natural cave. Tour the interior of the island, dotted with about 7,000 nuraghe, truncated stone structures built from basalt blocks. In the centre of the island are the dramatic Gennargentu mountains, whose highest point is Punta la Marmora at just over 6,000 ft (local traditions are keenly preserved in this region). To the north of the Costa Smeralda is the Maddalena Archipelago, of about 14 rocky islands and islets, beautifully scenic and with a rugged coastline. The Costa Smeralda itself consists of pink granite headlands, sandy creeks and bays with wooded hills and mountain ridges behind.

Cultural highlights

Visit the church of Santissima Trinita di Saccargia near Sassari for its 13th Century frescoes. The Catalan-Gothic 16th Century Cathedral on Alghero. Nuoro has been the home of some of Sardinia's most important literary figures including Grazia Deledda who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1926. The Museo Nazionale Archeologico in Cagliari houses bronze votive statuettes of the nuraghic people.

Gastronomic highlights

The gastronomy of Sardinia is based very much on produce from the land, especially milk products and meat. Ewe's milk produces Sardinian pecorino cheese, used to flavour many regional dishes. Meat is often cooked over hot embers or roasted on a spit. Specialities include 'Prosciutto di cinghiale' (wild boar ham) and 'Succutundu' (strong meat stock with semolina balls). Roast lamb with rosemary and thyme features regularly on menus. Nougat is a local speciality. Sardinia produces its own red and white wines, with Nuragus and Vernaccia being the best known.

Festivals

Cavalcata Sarda festival in Sassari on Ascension Day. Sagra del Redentore festival in Nuoro illustrates traditional dancing and dialects of the region. Feast of the Mamuthones in Mamoiada includes a ritual dance full of the fierce folkloric tradition of the Gennargentu mountains.

Our two centre recommendations

Our recommended suggestions include Sardinia and Florence, Sardinia and Rome and Sardinia and Tuscany.

How you get there

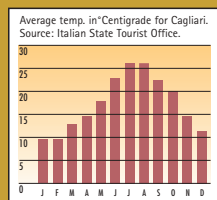
By air Airport at Cagliari with charter flights with British Airways and from the 'No-frills' carriers or charter airlines. Airport at Olbia with charter flights from British Airways and the 'No-frills' carriers or charter airlines.

Hire-cars We include a hire-car with our holidays to Sardinia and a private car transfer with our holidays to the Forte Village, although private transfers can be organised for you for all holidays instead of the hire-car.



Mediterranean vegetation

A dramatic island of clear emerald seas, rugged scenery and beautiful coastline



Old town centre in Sardinia



Sardinian scene





Reception at Hotel le Ginestre



Restaurant at Hotel le Ginestre



Swimming pool at Hotel le Ginestre

"A charming hotel in a very evocative setting"



Aerial view of Hotel le Ginestre

Hotel Le Ginestre Porto Cervo

Looking at the wealth of lush greenery next to the white sands and deep blue sea along this stretch of coast, you can easily understand why it is called the 'Emerald Coast'. The setting of Le Ginestre makes the most of the natural beauty here and its classical Sardinian low buildings of pale terracotta and ochre complement the verdant landscape and look out over the Gulf of Pevero. The charming bedrooms, most of which have balcony or terrace, are situated in several small houses at the edge of a pine forest and afford guests privacy and tranquillity. The decoration throughout the hotel is fresh and summery, and the airy communal rooms feature wicker furniture, lush potted plants and delicate, pretty fabrics. Le Ginestre's fine restaurant is on a terrace shaded by a thatched roof and here you can choose between local specialities, such as the excellent seafood, and international cuisine. In the grounds in front of the hotel, amongst brightly coloured flowers and Mediterranean bushes, is the tennis court and the fresh water swimming pool where there is a full bar service. The small but pretty beach is three hundred metres away and the chic cafes and shops of Porto Cervo are just a mile down the road.

HOTEL LE GINESTRE IE225

Official category 4 star.

Open 22 April to 29 September.

Location One mile from Porto Cervo and about forty minutes drive north of Olbia airport.

Distances in miles Olbia 27.

Nearest airport Olbia.

At hotel Swimming pool (May to October), Tennis, Water sports, Bike hire, Health and Beauty treatments, Gardens, Bar, Free parking. The hotel is not equipped for disabled guests.

Bedrooms 83 rooms, each with shower and wc, air-conditioning, safe, television, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest Costa Smeralda, The Giants' Tombs, Ancient city of Li Muri, San Pantaleo, Numerous sandy bays and dramatic countryside of northern Sardinia.

Sports nearby Pevero Golf Course (18 holes), Swimming and Watersports on the Costa Smeralda.

Italian Expressions include Bed and Breakfast
Holiday prices From about £1250 per person for 7 nights including charter flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

Book before 16 May 2017 and receive a reductions worth 10%.

Stay 14 nights for the price of 12 between 1 May-30 June 2017 and 1-30 September 2017.

For families staying in 2 interconnecting Class Double Rooms, the second child stays free of charge.

"Colourful, charming, fun and friendly. Very Sardinian"

Hotel Rocce Sarde Near San Pantaleo

The Hotel Rocce Sarde occupies a vantage point high amongst the rocky hills of Northern Sardinia, enjoying views in all directions of the surrounding countryside and out towards the turquoise sea. Designed in keeping with traditional architecture, the hotel has been built in the style of an Italian villa, with colourful shutters and abundant greenery decorating the building. One of the highlights of this hotel is its beautiful flower-filled garden, where guests are served an aperitif on the immaculate lawn terrace, so they can enjoy the breathtaking sunset seated amongst the fragrant lavender bushes. The pool is situated down a short path to the side of the hotel. Sardinian evenings are also organised, where guests can enjoy tasting traditional Sardinian dishes cooked on an open wood fire among the illuminated pink-tinged granite rocks. The interiors are decorated with traditional designs in reds, oranges and yellows. The majority of the bedrooms have a balcony or a terrace leading on to the hotel's lawns, although an ample sun terrace is available for guests in rooms without a balcony. Many of the terraces are extremely large and most enjoy spectacular views in every direction. The Hotel Rocce Sarde is highly recommended for a relaxed stay in a stunning location. Families are welcome.

HOTEL ROCCE SARDE IE297

Official category 4 star.

Open 16 April to 10 October.

Location 5 minutes drive from San Pantaleo, 10 minutes drive to beach.

Distances in miles Olbia 13.

Nearest airport Olbia.

At hotel Swimming pool, Bar service at the pool, Terrace, Restaurant, Complimentary shuttle bus to San Pantaleo (on request) and to nearby beach of Portisco (every hour), Parking, Piano bar, Gardens, Poolside Bar, Organised Boat Trips (payable locally), Mountain bikes, Room service, Massage, Tennis, Table tennis, Babysitting.

Bedrooms 80 rooms each with shower and wc, satellite television, air-conditioning, telephone and mini-bar.

Local interest Costa Smeralda, San Pantaleo, Numerous white sand beaches, Dramatic Sardinian countryside.

Sports nearby Mountain Bikes, Walking (with guide if required), Swimming and Watersports on Costa Smeralda, Pevero Golf Course (18 holes) in Porto Cervo, Sailing, Diving, Horse riding, Fishing.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1070 per person for 7 nights including charter flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Hotel exterior and pool



Hotel Rocce Sarde

"A charming rural hotel which offers a wonderful introduction to Sardinian culture and cuisine"

Hotel Su Gologone Oliena

Sardinia is known for its stunning beaches, but the dramatic beauty of its inland countryside is also well worth experiencing. Hotel Su Gologone is located at the foot of the rugged Supramonte mountains, overlooking a silent landscape of olive trees, oaks and wild flowers. Designed in keeping with the local architecture, its whitewashed exterior is set off by a terracotta roof and bright blue shutters on the windows. Set amongst flower-filled gardens and a lawned terrace is the large, spring-fed swimming pool, or for sea swimming guests can travel twelve miles to the coastal village of Dorgali. Local materials and craftsmanship have been used in decorating the welcoming interiors, as illustrated in the slanting beamed ceilings, in the hand-made fabrics and antique wooden furniture and in the paintings by Biasi, a talented Sardinian artist. Many of the individually decorated bedrooms are situated in separate cottages in the gardens and several have a balcony or terrace looking out over the magnificent mountain scenery. The Su Gologone's restaurant is deservedly famous for its exceptional regional cuisine; secret recipes handed down from generation to generation are used to make delicacies such as aromatic meat slowly roasted over a spit and home-made pasta in deliciously rich sauces, all accompanied by the full-bodied wine of Oliena. The friendly and helpful staff can organise local excursions by Landrover during which you can enjoy a picnic lunch in the midst of the rural scenery. The Su Gologone exudes traditional Sardinian charm and would be a great property to combine with one of our hotels on the coast.

HOTEL SU GOLOGONE IE269

Official category 4 star.

Open 1 April to 31 October.

Location Fifteen minutes' drive south-east of Nuoro and about an hour and a half south of Olbia Airport.

Distances in miles Olbia 77.

Nearest airport Olbia.

At hotel Swimming pool, Restaurants, Bars, Gardens, Artisan village - Botteghe d'arte, Terrace, Tennis courts, Table tennis, Cycles, Minigolf, Bowling, Landrover Excursions, Parking, Gym, Spa, Children's playground.

Bedrooms 63 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe,

television and telephone.

Local interest Sorgente Su Gologone, Oliena (chapel of San Lussargiu), Barbagia Mountains, The Grotta di Ispinigoli at Dorgali, Cala Gonone and the bays of Cala Luna.

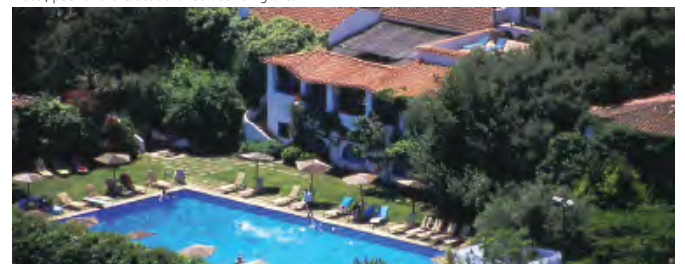
Sports nearby Pevero Golf Course (18 holes) in Porto Cervo, Swimming (coast is 12 miles away), Walking, Mountain bikes.

Italian Expressions include Dinner, bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1380 per person for 7 nights including charter flights and hire-car. Private transfer possible. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Hotel, pool and the beautiful surrounding area



Aerial view of the pool



Cities

Italian cities are incomparable. Venice is truly magical and is best described by some of the highlights of the city; arriving at St Mark's by water-bus from the lagoon to be struck by its kaleidoscope of colours and images, sitting in St Mark's Square at one of the cafés with a piano playing in the background and marvelling at the confusion of the architecture all around with the lagoon in the distance and the shimmering of light on the façade of the Doge's Palace, the relaxing atmosphere created by the lapping of water wherever you go, the breathtaking glory of the palaces lining the Grand Canal and the wealth of architectural treasures yet to be restored hiding along backwater canals and in off-the-beaten-track squares. Florence is a treasure trove of art and architecture and worthy of its cherished place in the hearts and minds of the northern European traveller. The Italian capital, Rome offers almost endless sightseeing treats from the extensive Roman sites such as the Coliseum and the Forum, to St Peter's and the Vatican, and the Baroque monuments of the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. Naples is an astoundingly attractive city, full of interest and with beautiful, historic buildings. Milan is an energetic, dynamic city with superb shops, architecture and the opera. We also offer you the smaller but fascinating cities of Bologna, Verona and Parma all featured in the pages of this Cities section. We also offer hotels in Pisa and Siena which you can find in the Tuscany section of this brochure. All the cities make excellent combinations with rail travel in between for which we provide you with tickets.

Browse in an antiques market



Highlights

Venice the carnival in Venice in February, shopping for glassware and jewellery, a ride along the Grand Canal with its elegant palaces, the food markets of the San Polo district. Florence concerts, opera and ballet in Florence in May, jewellery and paper in Florence, the splendours of the Uffizi, the serenity of the Boboli gardens, a view of the city and the Arno valley from Fiesole.

Rome the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, clothes and shoes in Rome, the Coliseum and Forum, the marvellous Baroque architecture, sites of religious significance.

Naples waterfront and baroque palaces.

Milan the Galleria, La Scala opera house, the cathedral and designer shops.

Verona its opera, Roman arena and tombs of the Scaligeri.

Parma gastronomy, home to hams and cheeses.

Bologna the church of San Petronio, mediaeval palaces and the elegant city centre with its porticoed buildings.

Travel pointers

By scheduled air from London to Venice, Pisa (for Florence), Florence (with Meridiana from Gatwick), Rome, Milan, Naples, Verona and Bologna for Parma.

Transfers from the airports to the hotels are included in our prices for hotels in Rome and Venice (although hire-cars are included for Parma) but for the other cities either private transfers can be prebooked by us or details of public transport (cheaper option) are provided with your tickets and holiday documentation.

From Venice airport to St Mark's there is a public water-bus, costing about €15 per person each way.

From Rome airport to the city centre you can take the train service and then a taxi.

From Florence airport there is a bus service or taxis are available. From Pisa to Florence there is a regular train service from the airport to Florence city centre.

From Naples airport to the city centre it is only a 15 minute taxi ride (costing about €30).

From Milan airport a bus takes you to the railway station or it is just a 30 minute ride in a taxi (about €60).

Opera and cultural events in Italy

We can book opera, ballet and concerts for you at any Italian city to co-incide with your stay. Likewise entrance tickets to museums and exhibitions can be arranged by us for you in advance.

Private sightseeing in Italy

Let us book you a private guide for an Italian city so that you can learn more about the aspects of the city that really interest you.

Restaurant reservations

Let us make restaurant reservations for you in advance of your arrival.



The cities of Italy
are some of the
most magical in
Europe



Venice

Hotel Danieli Venice

The Danieli is a world-famous hotel occupying a wonderful location right on the lagoon waterfront, just a couple of minutes' walk from St Mark's. Consisting now of several connected buildings, the original Danieli is a 14th Century neo-Gothic palace, an architectural treasure in its own right. An immense inner covered courtyard in Venetian neo-Gothic style creates a breathtaking impression as you enter the hotel. You can marvel at the splendid architecture from the lounge and bar below. The rooms are spacious and comfortable, and are decorated in a variety of styles, including Venetian and Imperial. From the rooftop restaurant at the Danieli you can enjoy at your leisure local and Mediterranean cuisine as well as the panorama of the Grand Canal, the Lagoon and towards the Adriatic in the distance.

HOTEL DANIELI IE15

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location On the Lagoon waterfront, a couple of minutes' from St Mark's.

At hotel Rooftop restaurant, Bar, Lift, Room service.

Bedrooms 231 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, safe and mini-bar.

Minimum Stay 2 nights on weekends (Friday

and Saturday) between 1 April and 31 October, over New Year (30 and 31 December) and during Carnival weekends.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £990 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Hotel exterior and canal

"A unique hotel, a mixture of glamour and historical tradition"



View from restaurant terrace at the Danieli

Belmond Hotel Cipriani Venice

Situated amid its own beautiful gardens on the island of Giudecca, the Belmond Hotel Cipriani is considered to be one of the world's greatest hotels with its elegantly decorated bedrooms overlooking San Giorgio island, the Casanova garden or the lagoon. A private motorboat service is on call to guests for the five minute crossing to and from St Mark's Square, 24 hours a day. Completed in 1958 by Giuseppe Cipriani, the hotel quickly started to distinguish itself in all respects, with its olympic size swimming pool, the only swimming pool in the centre of Venice, its beautifully located bedrooms, its gastronomic restaurant and its high standards of service. Amongst the facilities of the hotel much appreciated by guests are the Fortuny restaurant, serving Venetian specialities on its terrace overlooking the lagoon, the poolside lunchtime buffet and Gabbiano Poolside Bar - a popular rendezvous for Venetians and hotel guests alike - and Cip's restaurant which has views towards St. Mark's Square. The suites in the Palazzo Vendramin and connecting Palazzetto, two 15th Century buildings linked to the Hotel Cipriani through an ancient courtyard and flowered passageway, are ideal for guests seeking greater privacy and butler service. These splendid annexes are at the disposal of those guests for whom privacy is an essential requirement.

BELMOND HOTEL CIPRIANI IE67

Official category 5 star deluxe.

Open Cipriani: 20 March to 12 November

Location On the Giudecca island about a five-minute journey from St Mark's Square by private hotel launch.

At hotel Outdoor heated swimming pool, 2 Bars, 3 Restaurants: the Fortuny, the Cip's Club and the Porticciolo Pool Restaurant, Children under the age of 5 years are welcome in all indoor restaurants (reservation required). Tennis court, Casanova Wellness Centre with spa and beauty treatments, Boutique, 24-hour room service, Boat service, Laundry service, Gym, Terrace, Lift, Garden, Kids Club with qualified supervisor, Babysitting (available on request).

Bedrooms 95 rooms and suites, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, hairdryer, satellite television, DVD player, telephone, wireless/wired internet, mini-bar and safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and American buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £1598 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 from 20 March-27 April 2017 and 1-12 November 2017.



Belmond Hotel Cipriani

"A legendary hotel in an exquisite location"

“A character and history-filled hotel in an excellent central location”

Hotel Bisanzio Venice

Less than 300 metres from St Mark's Square, the Hotel Bisanzio occupies an ancient 16th-century palazzo in a prime location close to the Riva degli Schiavoni, right in the heart of the oldest and most romantic part of Venice. A Best Western property, Bisanzio has operated as a small hotel since 1969 although it dates back a further 400 years, when the world-famous sculptor, Alessandro Vittoria, purchased and used the building as his home and workshop. Today it offers a warm, family atmosphere with a welcoming and attentive staff, two reading rooms and a bar decorated with the art of early 20th Century Venetian painters, together with 40 rooms situated over three floors all accessible by lift. The rooms are decorated in a traditional 18th-century Venetian style with parquet floors, Murano glass lamps, walnut wainscoting, antique furnishings and open beams adding character and authenticity. Superior rooms are more spacious with a corner seating area and views over a private courtyard or the narrow streets beneath, rooms with private terrace provide enviable views over the city rooftops whilst the duplex two-bedroom loft suites are perfect for families.

HOTEL BISANZIO EXH1027

Official Category 3 Star superior.

Location Calle della Pietà, 150 metres from the San Marco – Zaccaria vaporetto stop and less than 300 metres from Piazza San Marco.

At hotel Bar, two reading rooms, 24-hour reception desk, Wi-Fi, luggage storage.

Bedrooms 40 rooms and suites each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, LCD TV, safe, mini-bar and hairdryer.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast

Holiday prices From about £750 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Welcoming reception at the Bisanzio



Cosy lounge - typical of the style of the hotel

“A very comfortable hotel in an outstandingly convenient yet charming location”



Hotel exterior of the Luna Hotel Baglioni



The lobby at Baglioni Hotel Luna



Deluxe Double Room at Baglioni Hotel Luna

Baglioni Hotel Luna Venice

This popular 5 star hotel enjoys a splendid location a few yards from the western edge of St Mark's Square and about one hundred yards to the lagoon at the mouth of the Grand Canal. From the landing stage at St Mark's where the water bus from the airport arrives, the hotel can be reached on foot in less than five minutes. The hotel has its own landing stage for private water taxis. Built on a site that has been a hotel since the Middle Ages, the present building has been elegantly refurbished. As you enter the hotel, the marble floors and wall panelling as well as the galleried, air-conditioned reception area create a feeling of calm, space and coolness. As you move upstairs the marbled flooring gives way to plush carpets that extend to all the bedrooms. The bedrooms vary in size but are all a good size with larger ones being exceptionally spacious. However, they are all consistent in their level of quality furnishing, elegant and tasteful decoration and general comfort. The bathrooms are equipped with hair-dryer, shaving mirror, telephone and such attractive extras as sewing kits etc which you would expect in an hotel of this quality. Non-smoking bedrooms are available on request. Breakfast can be enjoyed as an American-style buffet in the grand, 18th Century breakfast room or continental-style in your room. On an ecological point, the hotel treats its own waste before it enters the canal system.

BAGLIONI HOTEL LUNA IE10

Official category 5 Star deluxe.

Open All year.

Location Just off St Mark's Square - about two minutes from the waterfront.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Lift, Room service.

Bedrooms 104 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, radio, mini-bar, safe and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Nearest water bus stop St Mark's.

Minimum stay 3 nights at New Year, Carnival weekends, Easter and La Biennale; 2 nights over Friday and Saturday, 14 March to 31 October.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £949 per person

for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 of 8 nights for the price of 6 from 1 November-28 December 2016, 2 January-23 February, 28 February-12 April and 28 July-28 August 2017.



The courtyard at the Hotel Flora

Hotel Flora Venice

“An oasis of charm
and character.
Very special”

The 3 star Hotel Flora is an oasis of Venetian charm and character, situated along a short narrow alleyway just off a stylish street in a less bustling part of the city between St Mark's and the Accademia, yet only a short distance from the Grand Canal. The Flora, with only 41 rooms, has the feel of a family home full of charming ornaments and decorated in a cosy style, a feeling enhanced by the fact that the owner, Signor Romanelli has owned the hotel for the last forty years. In the 20 years or so that we have worked with the Flora, the hotel continues to impress and charm and actually even improves with age! The pretty reception area opens onto a shady courtyard, bordered by the creeper-clad, shuttered hotel building. Here you can enjoy a refreshing drink after a day's sightseeing and in the morning breakfast is served from 7 am. The courtyard, dotted with potted shrubs and flowers is a real bonus and is the perfect accompaniment to the rest of the hotel. The bedrooms are located on 3 floors, with a couple on the ground floor at the rear of the shady courtyard. The rooms vary in size and style, some of the larger ones being ornately furnished in a Venetian style and others being smaller and more typical of a traditional cosy hotel. Rooms are allocated strictly in accordance with availability at the time of booking. The ambience is friendly and quaint yet everything is of a good standard, with many of the bathrooms having been refurbished to a very high standard. Some rooms overlook the courtyard and some overlook a side street. As the Flora is very special, very popular and has limited capacity, booking as early as possible in the year is strongly advised.

HOTEL FLORA IE09

Official category 3 star.

Open All year.

Location 5 minutes walk to St Mark's.

Nearest water bus stop St Mark's Vallaresso.

At hotel Bar, Courtyard Garden, Lift, Room service, Gym, Sauna.

Bedrooms 41 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, Wi-Fi and safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and

continental buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £690 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

Ca'Sagredo Venice

The Ca'Sagredo Venice sits majestically on the banks of the Grand Canal in Venice. This 14th century palazzo has been declared a National Monument and still preserves the untouched beauty of an ancient noble residence. The renovation of Ca'Sagredo enhanced its original architectural features and, inside, artworks from some of the greatest 17th and 18th century Venetian painters adorn the walls. With only 42 rooms and suites, the grand public areas of Ca'Sagredo make up a large proportion of the hotel and include marble staircases and beautiful frescoed halls. The elegant guest rooms at Ca'Sagredo are each unique and combine traditional Venetian decoration with some contemporary touches. Each has delightful views over the Grand Canal, rooftops or squares of Venice. Enjoy Venetian cuisine and local wines while whilst overlooking the Grand Canal from the panoramic terrace at the L'Alcova Restaurant or a drink in L'Incontro, the atmospheric bar. The Ca'Sagredo hotel is in an ideal location for exploring the city and faces the Rialto Market, between Ca' D'Oro and Rialto Bridge. It is just a short walk away from St Mark's Square, the main museums and the best fashion boutiques.



Ca'Sagredo

“Elegance and
luxury, Venetian
style and charm,
on an island
location”

CA'SAGREDO EXH1073

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location On the Grand Canal not far from Rialto.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Lift, Private water-entrance from landing stage

Bedrooms 42 rooms and suites all with a bath and overhead shower, hairdrying, air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV, telephone, minibar and safe.

Minimum nights 2 nights minimum stay applies from 17-18, 24-25 February, 14-16 April, 14-16 July. 3 night minimum stay applies from 29 December-2 January.

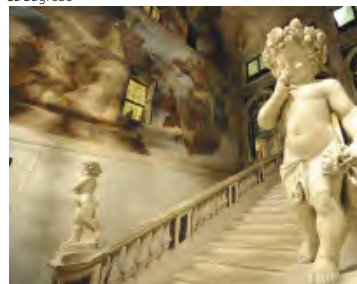
Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £820 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

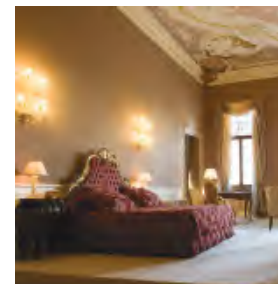
SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 or 4 nights for the price of 3 for stays between 1 November-22 December 2016, 4 January-23 February, 1 March-30 April and 1-31 August 2017.

To save 10% off the nightly rate book 30 days prior to arrival for stays between 13 November-22 December 2016, 4 January-23 February and 1-31 March 2017, or book 45 days prior to arrival for stays between 1-12 November 2016, 1 March-30 April and 1-31 August 2017 or book 60 days prior to arrival for stays between 23 December 2016-3 January 2017, 24-28 February and 1 April-31 October 2017.



Ca'Sagredo main staircase



Ca'Sagredo a suite

“A luxurious and elegant hotel affording spectacular views over the lagoon”

Bauer Palazzo Venice

The Bauer Palazzo is one of the most famous hotels in Venice, combining an elegant 18th Century wing which over looks the Grand Canal and a more contemporary structure with an art-deco inspired and unmistakably Venetian style. Offering the highest levels of service and luxury, the historic wing gives the impression of a boutique property that caters for the most discerning guests. Most of the 72 rooms and suites of this part of the hotel have large terraces or balconies and many look out onto the Canal. The more contemporary area of the hotel contains a further 119 rooms are all comfortably and traditionally furnished with all of the amenities you would expect of a hotel of this quality. Bauer Palazzo has three bars and two restaurants where guests may choose from stunning blend of innovative international and Mediterranean dishes created by chef, Giovanni Ciresa, or watching gondolas gliding down the Grand Canal in the other. The hotel has a private dock and guests may take advantage of the spa at Bauer's Palladio Hotel on nearby Giudecca Island. Bauer Palazzo is situated about five minutes' walk from St Mark's Square and guests enjoy its central location and high levels of service. An outstanding hotel that combines luxurious modern amenities with traditional Venetian style.

HOTEL BAUER IL PALAZZO IE331

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About five minutes' walk from St Mark's Square.

Nearest water bus stop San Marco.

At hotel 2 Restaurants, 3 Bars, Fitness Centre, Sauna, Jacuzzi, Massage, Health spa, Terrace, 24-hour room service, Boutique, Hairdresser and Private dock.

Bedrooms 72 rooms and suites in the historic wing and 119 rooms in the contemporary structure, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, telephone, satellite television, safe and mini-bar.

Minimum stay 2 nights during Redentore; 3 nights over New Year and during Carnival weekends.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £809 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private water taxi transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



View of the Palazzo from the Grand Canal



Deluxe Suite at the Bauer Palazzo



The elegant De Pisis Terrace

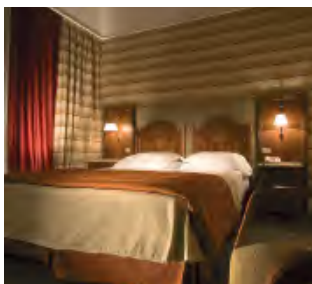
“A small and cosy hotel, close to the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps”



The exterior of the Mascagni



The cosy breakfast room



Bedroom at the Mascagni

Hotel Mascagni Rome

The Hotel Mascagni is a small and welcoming hotel of just 40 rooms, located off the Via Nazionale, close to the Trevi Fountain, Via Veneto and the Spanish Steps. The hotel is housed in an early 20th Century palazzo and is decorated throughout in a traditional style. All rooms have air-conditioning, satellite television, radio and mini-bar. As there are no more than six rooms per floor, there is a real sense of a personal and intimate atmosphere. The hotel also has a new American bar and small restaurant, where a buffet breakfast is served in the morning and Italian dishes in the evening. Hotel Mascagni offers a traditional and comfortable base for a sightseeing visit to the city.

HOTEL MASCAGNI IE349

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location Close to Via Veneto, about 5 minutes' walk from the Trevi Fountain and 10 minutes' walk from the Spanish Steps.

At hotel Bar, Garage, Lounge, Lift, Room service, Breakfast room.

Bedrooms 40 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar and safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast

Holiday prices From about £690 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price detail

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book 45 days prior to arrival and save 10% off the nightly price.
Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 for stays between 1 February–9 March 2017.
Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 8–31 January 2017.
Receive a complimentary bottle of wine upon arrival.

The Inn at the Roman Forum Rome

Located less than one mile from the Colosseum and the Trevi Fountain, the Inn at the Roman Forum is a 5 star hotel set in the very heart of Rome. Taking its name from the ancient Roman Forum and state buildings that surround it, the hotel offers an important historical setting and luxurious comfort. The hotel's interior is a blend of elegance, opulence, and subtle contemporary touches. The 14 bedrooms are individually decorated, but maintain the same theme of jewel colours, sumptuous brocade wallpapers, and exposed wooden flooring throughout. Jewelled chandeliers hang from some ceilings, whilst warm lamps give off an inviting glow. Stone statues and wall carvings give an artistic nod to the historical setting. The roof terrace offers indoor and outdoor space where guests can enjoy their breakfast while looking over the historical rooftops and streets below. Rich fabrics and a stone fireplace add a sense of grandeur inside, while outside, the lush green trailing plants vein the walls and shape a cosmopolitan garden above the city. Guests may venture down from Rome's skyline, onto the lowest floor of the hotel, to witness a hidden piece of history. Reminiscent of a catacomb, the hotel's foundations contain a passageway lined with ancient carvings and frescos: the Crypto Porticus. The Inn at the Roman Forum's close proximity to some of Rome's most celebrated landmarks, and the comfort of luxurious 5 star accommodation is the perfect combination for our clients staying in Italy's capital.

THE INN AT THE ROMAN FORUM EXH1689

Official category 5 Star

Open All year

Location 800m from The Colosseum, 900m from the Trevi Fountain

At hotel Roof garden terrace, Lounge, Crypto Porticus Roman ruins, Concierge and limousine service, 24 Hour reception, Room service from 6am-11pm, Safe deposit at the front desk.

Bedrooms 14 rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi, Air-conditioning, Bathroom, Flat screen

TV with Sky, iPod docking station, Mini bar, Safe deposit box, Tea and coffee making facilities.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and Breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £770 per person for 3 nights, including scheduled flights and private transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Rooftop terrace at the Inn at the Roman Forum



Bedroom at the Inn at the Roman Forum



Lounge area at the hotel

"Luxurious rooms at a very short distance from Rome's historical attractions"

The Inn at the Spanish Steps Rome

The Inn at the Spanish Steps is a 4 star hotel, situated metres away from its namesake in the heart of Rome. Built in the 19th century, the hotel has been fully renovated to display a balance between historical and contemporary Rome. Rooms and suites are individually decorated, yet maintain a consistent standard of comfort and decoration, with rich colours, authentic artwork, and original features, such as painted frescos and beamed ceilings. The intimacy of the hotel's soft lighting and beautiful surroundings have a universal appeal, and the practical solution of interconnecting rooms makes the hotel ideal for families of those travelling in groups. A highlight of the hotel is the garden, unusual in capital city locations, with olive and lemon trees, under which guests can share an evening aperitivo amongst the greenery. Breakfast is served on the rooftop terrace, against the backdrop of the city emerging from behind the trees. There is both an indoor and outdoor space to the roof, where guests may gaze over Rome's rooftops. The Inn at the Spanish Steps is ideally situated for days spent exploring the cultural monuments, shops, and restaurants of central Rome.

THE INN AT THE SPANISH STEPS EXH1775

Official category 4 Star.

Open All year.

Location Metres away from the Spanish Steps, the hotel is 700m from the Trevi Fountain.

At hotel Terrace, Rooftop lounge, Garden, 24 Hour reception, Concierge service, Laundry service, Limousine transfers.

Bedrooms 30 rooms and suites with air-conditioning, bathroom, flat screen TV with Sky, iPod docking station, mini bar, safe deposit box, and tea and coffee making facilities.

Local interest The Spanish Steps are close to the hotel and the Trevi Fountain lies 700m away. Next door to the hotel is the Antico Caffè Greco, a historic coffee shop dating back to 1760.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

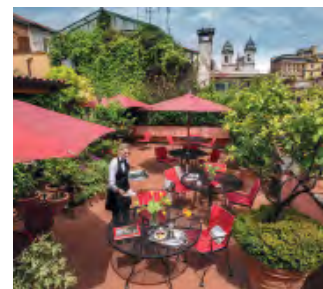
Holiday prices From about £780 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Balcony and view of The Spanish Steps



Exterior of the Inn at the Spanish Steps



Outdoor terrace at the Inn at the Spanish Steps

"A luxurious property suitable for families and couples"

"A charming hotel, of elegance, quality, and character in one of the best locations in Rome"

Hotel d'Inghilterra Rome

The Hotel d'Inghilterra enjoys a favourable position in the pedestrianised heart of the old town of Rome a couple of hundred yards from the famous Spanish Steps. The street it occupies lies between the Via Condotti and the Via Borgognona, two of the most famous shopping streets in the world and certainly two that must contain the highest concentration of designer clothes, shoes, bags and other accessories (Valentino, Gucci, Fendi etc., etc.) The whole quarter is a sheer delight in its own right, with numerous restaurants and cafes as well, although most of the rest of the famous monuments of Rome are also within walking distance from the d'Inghilterra, including the Roman Forum and Colosseum, Piazza Navona and St Peter's Square. The d'Inghilterra occupies a historic palace and today is a 5-star hotel with 88 rooms. The hotel has a tremendous Roman feel to it, with its bar and luncheon room full with local business people during the week. The hotel prides itself on being comfortable and discreet in an unpretentious way; it has very much the comfort and style of its sister hotel, the Helvetia and Bristol in Florence, and we have been extremely impressed with the atmosphere in the public rooms, the quality of the service and the high levels of comfort and decoration in the bedrooms. The rooms are on a total of six floors reached by lift, and are all air-conditioned. The public areas of lounges, comfortable panelled bar and luncheon/tea room ooze charm and cosiness with their decoration, art (there is for example an original collection of 16th Century Neapolitan gouaches in one of the lounges) and exquisite displays of fresh flowers. There is also a restaurant boasting a beautiful fresco dining area. One note: due to the location of the Inghilterra it is not advisable to drive to the hotel; we recommend that you allow for either picking up your hire car after your stay in Rome or dropping it off beforehand.

HOTEL D'INGHILTERRA IE12

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About 5 minutes' walk from the Spanish Steps.

At hotel Bar, Restaurant, Lounge, Room service, Lift, Babysitting on request.

Bedrooms 88 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, satellite

television, telephone, radio, high-speed internet access, mini-bar and safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about €690 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Outdoor restaurant at the Inghilterra



Junior suite at the Inghilterra

"A tranquil Roman retreat"

Aldrovandi Villa Borghese Rome

The Aldrovandi Villa Borghese is for those who wish to experience the beauty of Rome without staying amidst the hustle and bustle of this stunning yet chaotic city. A former convent, this grand 19th-century ivory villas is situated in a peaceful and exclusive residential area next to the lovely Villa Borghese gardens. The complimentary private shuttle whisks guests to Piazza di Spagna in just 5 minutes or guests can walk through the gardens for about 20 minutes. Elegantly furnished and decorated in traditional style, the hotel offers comfortable, recently refurbished bedrooms offering the amenities of an urban resort. There is an attractive outdoor swimming pool set amongst pines and Mediterranean greenery and during the summer months cocktails, ice-creams and light meals are available in the Garden Bar. The Grill and American Bar serve delightful meals and drinks in a cosy atmosphere. The two-Michelin-star restaurant, Oliver Glowig, proposes a unique dining experience overlooking the hotel's magnificent gardens. The Aldrovandi is a relaxing and welcoming hotel to return to after a day spent wandering the awe-inspiring city of Rome.

ALDROVANDI VILLA BORGHESE IE164

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Next to Villa Borghese Gardens, 20 minutes' walk from Piazza di Spagna, or 5 minutes by the courtesy shuttle.

At hotel Two-Michelin-starred restaurant, Grill restaurant, American bar, Garden bar, Outdoor swimming pool open seasonally, Fitness room, Gardens, Terrace, Lift, Complimentary private parking, Valet parking service, 24-hour room service, Complimentary Wi-Fi, iPad courtesy service, Shuttle to the Spanish Steps, Laundry service.

Bedrooms 108 rooms, each with bath and wc, TV system, complimentary wireless internet, mini-bar and personal safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about €790 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay at least 3 nights in Premium, Prestige Villa Borghese, Prestige Pool View and Deluxe room categories before 31 March 2017 to receive 25% off the nightly rate. Stay at least 3 nights in Junior and Deluxe Suites during the same period and receive 15% off the nightly rate.

Stay at least 4 nights in Premium and Prestige Villa Borghese room categories between 1-30 April 2017 to receive 20% off the nightly rate. Stay at least 4 nights in Prestige Garden View, Deluxe, Junior Suite and Deluxe Suite room categories during the same period and receive 15% off the nightly rate. Offers not combinable.

Children under the age of 10 stay free of charge in a Deluxe, Junior Suite and Classic Suite room categories before 31 March 2017.



The hotel lobby at the Aldrovandi Villa Borghese



Bedroom at the Aldrovandi Villa Borghese

Rocco Forte Hotel de Russie Rome

“A highly desirable place to stay at the heart of fashionable Rome”

The Rocco Forte Hotel de Russie acquired its name in the 19th Century when it was frequented by Russian dignitaries visiting the city. The original palazzo was designed in 1816 by Valadier whose idea it was to incorporate the external courtyard at the entrance to the building; during the rest of the century extra floors were added and the extensive terraced gardens landscaped. Its location at the heart of the most fashionable part of the Roman capital, with the Spanish Steps a few minutes away, is highly desirable. Today, its terraced gardens are a real feature of the hotel providing a shady oasis amidst the vibrancy of the city. The Le Jardin du Russie restaurant opens onto them, so they can be enjoyed as you dine al fresco. The Hotel de Russie, owned by Sir Rocco Forte, is a luxurious hotel where classical style blends comfortably with a cosy, contemporary feel. The 122 bedrooms offer elegantly luxurious accommodation where attention to detail is paramount. An added bonus at the hotel is the health spa and beauty salon where you can treat yourself to a facial, a massage or hydrotherapy after the exertions of a day's exploring.

ROCCO FORTE HOTEL DE RUSSIE IE299
Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Via del Babuino, facing the Piazza del Popolo, 5 mins from the Spanish Steps.

At hotel Bar, Restaurant, Lift, 24-hour room service, Same-day laundry service, Valeting and pressing service on arrival if required, Health spa and beauty salon, Gym, Sauna, Garage (Euro 44), Gardens.

Bedrooms 122 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, two 2-line telephones, radio, fax machine, dataport, mini-bar, safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and continental buffet breakfast.

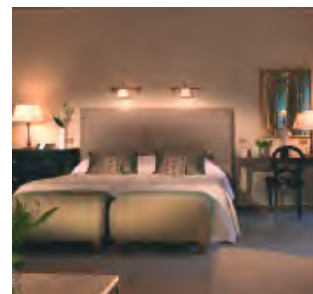
Holiday prices From about £1025 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and private car transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Gardens at Hotel de Russie



Guestroom at the Hotel de Russie



Junior suite at the Hotel de Russie

Hotel Savoy Florence

The Hotel Savoy dates from 1893 and is located in one of the most central positions in the Piazza della Repubblica in the heart of historic Florence. The Savoy was acquired by Sir Rocco Forte before it was opened in 2000. Olga Polizzi worked with the Italian architect and interior designer Lorenzo Bellini to restore the hotel and to create an all-pervasive atmosphere of elegant sumptuousness. The 102 rooms include 14 suites, many of which overlook the Piazza. All rooms magnificently combine supreme comfort and style with the latest technological requirements such as voice messaging and broadband connection. Service is of the highest standards with valeting and pressing if required on arrival, parking arranged and a full concierge service. On the ground floor the L'Incontro restaurant offers dining inside throughout the year and outside on the square in the summer months, and you can savour the magic of Florence from the refined bar. A gym with panoramic views completes the facilities at this hotel. The Savoy is a luxurious hotel that enjoys an excellent position on one of the most stylish Piazzas in Florence.

HOTEL SAVOY IE300
Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location On the Piazza della Repubblica in the city centre.

At hotel Bar, Indoor restaurant, Outdoor restaurant, Lift, Parking service, Room service, Same-day laundry service, Valeting and pressing service on arrival if required, Gym.

Bedrooms 102 rooms including 14 suites, each with bath, air-conditioning, satellite television, two 2-line telephones, radio, machine, broadband internet, mini-bar, safe.

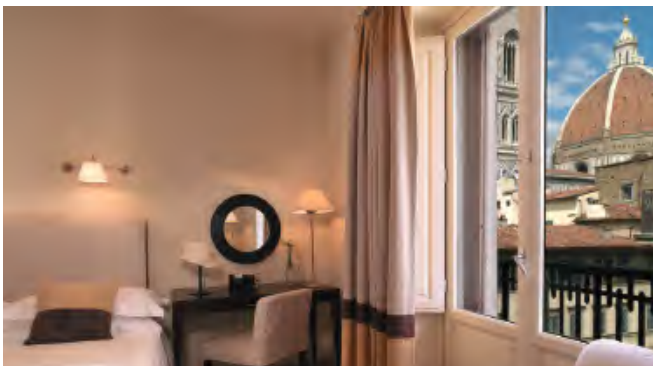
Italian Expressions include Bed and continental buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £810 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights. Private car transfer optional.



View of the Hotel Savoy

“Stylish, attractive, classically contemporary - an excellent hotel”



Bedroom interior at the Hotel Savoy

“Thoroughly captivating as a small de-luxe hotel with charm and character and a personal service. Ideal for a stay whatever the season, its central location making it extremely convenient during the day’s sight-seeing. We recommend it very highly”

Hotel Helvetia and Bristol Florence

Situated just off the most important street for 'haute couture' in Florence and a couple of minutes' walk from the Piazza della Repubblica in the centre of the city, the 5 star Helvetia and Bristol is an enchanting hotel, with the charm, character and personal service of a small hotel but with the first-class services and standards of luxury you would expect from a hotel of this category. The hotel was built at the end of the 19th Century and its popularity first peaked in the Twenties and Thirties. The building combines a comfortable and historic feel and boasts luxurious furnishings. The ambience is city centre but very relaxing - its aim is to be a luxurious 'home away from home' with potted plants, huge displays of flowers, paintings, ornaments and books and antique furniture everywhere. The lounge area very much typifies this with its open fireplace, comfortable chairs, library corner, lamps and coffee tables. The 65 bedrooms and two spacious and panoramic suites are comfortably furnished and decorated in an individual and traditional style. The sound-proofed and air-conditioned rooms are of a good size and all enjoy the comforts of marble bathrooms with towelling robes and hair-dryer. A special feature of the hotel is the Winter Garden; under a stained glass roof, there are wicker-backed chairs, wrought-iron railings, wooden tables with marble tops and huge palms. The hotel also features a delightful new bar and restaurant, the Hostaria Bibendum which boasts a relaxing alfresco terrace.

HOTEL HELVETIA AND BRISTOL IE07

Official category 5 Star.

Open All year.

Location About two minutes' walk from the Piazza della Repubblica.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Terrace, Lift, Room service, Baby-sitting, Parking is charged.

Bedrooms 67 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, radio, mini-bar and safe.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £690 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights. Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Receive a complimentary room upgrade subject to availability between 3 January-31 March 2017.

Book at least 60 days prior to arrival to save 10% for stays between 1 May-8 July 2017 and 8 September-31 October 2017. Book at least 45 days prior to arrival to save 15% for stays between 1-30 April 2017 and 9 July-7 September 2017. Book at least 20 days prior to arrival to save 15% for stays between 3 January-31 March 2017.



Bedroom of a suite at the Helvetia and Bristol



Lobby at the Helvetia and Bristol

“18th Century Florentine opulence with contemporary touches in this 5 star hotel”

Relais Santa Croce Florence

Relais Santa Croce, formerly the Ciofi Jacometti Palace, is a 5 star hotel with exquisite furnishings, decoration and original 18th Century features. The hotel earned its name due to its close proximity to the historical Basilica Santa Croce, which can be admired through the hotel's long windows. Florentine opulence is in abundance throughout the hotel, evident in the gilt mirrors, frescos, and high-quality wooden flooring. The 24 rooms and suites are individually decorated and many contain antique pieces. The colour scheme is rich with golds, and sumptuous fabrics are inviting and comfortable. Grand Deluxe Rooms sometimes offer views across Florence's skyline, and the larger suites hark back to the building's palatial originals with separate living areas, original frescos, and, in the case of the Da Verrazzano Suite, a private gym. The hotel's careful renovation involved installing contemporary touches and comforts, including the leather armchairs in the lounge and the monochromatic table settings in the restaurant; there is now the distinct feeling that the Santa Croce is both a stately home and a hotel. The hotel houses a triple-Michelin-starred restaurant, which offers an exquisite menu, and the other, gourmet restaurant continues the thematic balance between contemporary and traditional. The bar and music room offer ideal spaces in which to relax, and the hotel's close proximity to the Teatro Verdi and the Museum of Basilica di Santa Croce di Firenze make it the ideal place to immerse yourself in Florentine culture.

RELAIS SANTA CROCE IE359

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Around two minutes' walk from Basilica di Santa Croce di Firenze and ten minutes' walk from the Ponte Vecchio.

At hotel 2 Restaurants, 1 in hotel, other with 3 Michelin stars in the same building, Bar, Music room, Garage, Valet, Lifts and disabled access.

Bedrooms 24 rooms and suites with air-conditioning, king size beds, Wi-Fi, TV, iPod docking station, Safe deposit box, Minibar and bathroom.

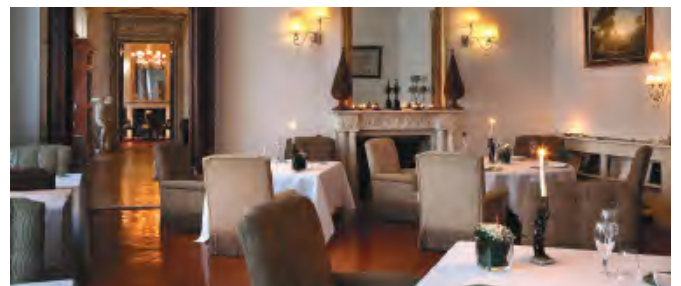
Minimum stay A minimum stay of 2 nights is required from 14 April-8 July, 1 September-28 October and 29 December-1 January.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £925 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights and transfer. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Music hall at Relais Santa Croce



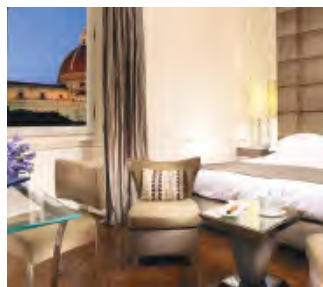
Restaurant of Relais Santa Croce



Entrance to the Hotel Brunelleschi



Osteria della Pagliazza



Bedroom with view of the Duomo

Hotel Brunelleschi Florence

Amid the narrow streets of Florence, wonder at Hotel Brunelleschi's proximity to the city's exquisite Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore. This four star hotel boasts all the amenities you might care for in a city centre base, while guests benefit from access to a sizeable outdoor pool nearby. The charm of the original building remains in tact thanks to sympathetic restorations over the centuries, and a sense of history is particularly evident in the 6th-7th century Pagliazza Tower, which is the oldest structure in the area and a one-time prison. Step inside and a more modern influence can be seen in the interior decoration, where wooden beams and exposed brickwork sit alongside contemporary furnishings. The effect is glamorous, elegant and serene. Views over the ancient rooftops and of the Duomo are never too far away, including in some of the guestrooms and suites, where you can be greeted by this magnificent sight. Family rooms consist of two spacious interconnecting deluxe rooms and can accommodate up to six people. You can dine the intimate setting of the byzantine tower at Restaurant Santa Elisabetta. Meanwhile, traditional Tuscan fare is served at Osteria della Pagliazza, which invites guests to dine under the night sky in the charming square during the summer months.

HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI EXH1563

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location Near Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio.

At hotel 2 restaurants, Bar, Room service, Free Wi-Fi, Transfers, parking, Workout room.

Bedrooms 192 rooms and suites with air conditioning, satellite LCD TV, two telephones, safe, minibar, iPod docking station, tea and coffee facilities, turndown service and daily newspapers.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £620 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 between 1-22 March, 26-31 March, 19 November-25 December 2017 and 7 January-28 February 2018.

Receive a complimentary 3 course dinner for stays of at least 3 nights on a bed and breakfast basis (excluding beverages)

Stay at least 2 nights to save 25% for stays between 1-22 March, 26-31 March, 19 November-25 December 2017 an 7 January-28 February 2018 or to save 10% for stays between 1-13 April, 16 July-1 September, 22 October-18 November 2017 and 26 December 2017-6 January 2018.

"Character, style, great location and tremendous value from a 4 star hotel in Florence"

Bernini Palace Hotel Florence

The Bernini Palace is a good quality hotel to base oneself for a sightseeing visit to Florence. It enjoys an excellent location next to the atmospheric Piazza della Signoria, one of the most famous squares in the historic centre of Florence, and is within a few minutes' walk of the River Arno, Cathedral and other major sights. Between 1865 and 1870 the hotel was the seat of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Italy. The building was originally a 15th Century palazzo built in the classical Florentine style with cornices and wooden shutters and is sumptuously decorated in period pieces, paintings and antique prints. Rooms and suites are elegantly furnished and all are air-conditioned and have satellite television. Breakfast is served in the Sala Parlamento, a historic room with a glorious frescoed ceiling. Drinks and cocktails are also taken here at the hotel's bar in the evenings.

BERNINI PALACE HOTEL IE334

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location Just behind Piazza della Signoria, about 10 minutes' walk from the Cathedral.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Panoramic terrace, Parking, Concierge service.

Bedrooms 74 rooms and suites, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone and mini-bar.

Italian Expressions includes Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £559 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Reception area at the Bernini Palace



Bedroom at the Bernini Palace

"An elegant and historic hotel in the heart of Florence"

“A classic hotel in the heart of Turin with a refined early-20th century style”

Grand Hotel Sitea Turin

In the centre of Turin, near the Piazza Castello, the Grand Hotel Sitea is a four star property that was originally built at the beginning of the 1900s. Perfectly situated for exploration of the Old Town, shopping, and leisurely strolls, this location appeals to all clients. The refined style of the lobby introduces guests to the signature class of the hotel, with marble floors, half pillars, a grandfather clock, and tastefully upholstered wooden chairs. An extensive menu of exclusive dishes is served in the gourmet Carignano restaurant, alongside a specially-designed Piedmont tasting menu. 'Empire' decoration blends the sense of tradition with the innovative flavours of the food. While you dine, you can admire the views over the pretty internal garden. After dinner, enjoy a drink in the relaxed ambience of the American Bar, in one of the leather armchairs, or on a stool beside the wooden bar. Guestrooms at the hotel are comfortable, colourful, and spacious. Rich reds and blues compliment the crisp white bedlinens, and the large windows. The higher the category of your room, the grander its style. Double-layered curtains and antique writing desks add sophistication, while thick rugs add cosiness. Suites at the Grand Hotel Sitea adopt a neutral, minimalist colour palette, which emphasises their size. A few nights in these comfortable rooms will sit perfectly as part of a rail or fly-drive tour of Italy, giving you freedom to explore Turin and the wine towns beyond.

GRAND HOTEL SITEA EXH427

Official category 4 star

Open All year

Location Central Turin

Distances in miles Asti 35, Alba 39, Casale Monferrato 64, Milan 91, Genoa 106, Florence 260

Nearest airport Turin, 12 miles away

At hotel Carignano Gourmet Restaurant, valet garage parking, fitness area, wifi.

Bedrooms 120 rooms with air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, wifi, radio, hairdryer, and minibar.

Local interest Wine towns of Asti, Alba,

Monforte d'Alba, Cherasco, Barbaresco, and Barolo; historic monuments of Turin, such as the Piazza Castello, the Royal Palace, Palazzo Carignano, Church of San Lorenzo, Mole Antonelliana, the Turin Shroud, and the Cathedral.

Sport nearby Walking and cycling through the vineyards and wine villages.

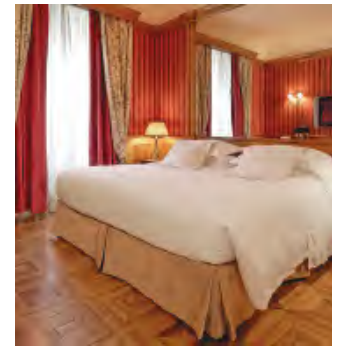
Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast
Holiday prices From €1030 per person for 7 nights in a standard classic room including scheduled flights and Group A hire car. Please ask our sale consultants for full price details.



Outside dining terrace



Hotel lobby lounge



Guestroom at the Grand Hotel Sitea

“A family-run property in a quiet back street of Padua's centre”

Hotel Majestic Toscanelli Padua

A four-star property run by the Morosi family for over half a century, discover the Hotel Majestic Toscanelli tucked away on a cobbled street in a quiet corner at the heart of Padua. The setting is as characteristic of the city as the hotel's architecture, which dates back to the 1500s and comprises red-tile roofing, a lemon yellow exterior and green-shuttered windows framed by Juliet balconies. Delicate pink blossoms decorate the façade quite romantically. Enter the building through an entrance awning into an intimate reception, where elegant interiors feature marble floors, columns and a grand décor. An American Bar, Bar Bistrot offers light meals, and buffet breakfasts are served daily in the breakfast room. Rooms are comfortable and boast unassuming views over a little square at the front or over a quiet courtyard at the rear of the building Yet just a short distance away is the central attraction of the Piazza della Frutta and Piazza dell'Erbe, with their market stalls and the grand Palazzo della Ragione.

HOTEL MAJESTIC TOSCANELLI EXH1463

Official category 4 star.

Open All year.

Location On a quiet street at the heart of Padua.

At hotel Bar, Breakfast room, 24-hour reception, Room service, Complimentary Wi-Fi, Valet parking, Private taxi service, Laundry, Babysitting, Excursions, Garage, Afternoon room tidying service.

Bedrooms Standard Room, Junior Suite or Suites with air conditioning, telephone and direct line, satellite TV, safe, minibar, coffee- and tea-making facilities, hairdryer.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

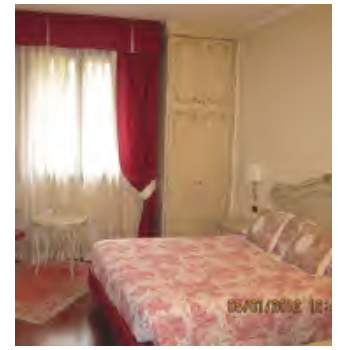
Holiday prices From about £725 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights, car hire and bed and breakfast. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Exterior of Hotel Majestic Toscanelli



Hotel entrance



Bedroom

Due Torri Hotel Verona

The rather elegant and grand hotel Due Torri is centrally situated in Verona opposite the historic church of Sant'Anastasia. The hotel was rebuilt in 1958 on the site of an old hotel that had closed at the end of the 19th Century although originally dating from the 14th Century when it had been used by the ruling Scaligeri family as their guest house. During the 19th Century the hotel was host to a number of illustrious visitors, including the Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, Vittorio Emanuele II and Garibaldi. When the hotel was refurbished this century, it was to the style of the 19th Century that the designers turned and today the furniture of the hotel, particularly that of the bedrooms, reflects the various styles of the 19th Century being furnished with many pieces of authentic Veronese furniture. Today this style sits happily with comfortable modern bathrooms. The hotel has a comfortable, rather lived-in feel as well as being an historic and grand building. There is a restaurant, All' Aquila, and a bar and lounge. It is the grandest hotel in Verona, and is highly recommended.

DUE TORRI HOTEL IE171

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About five minutes' walk from the Piazza delle Erbe, about ten minutes' walk from the Arena.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Lift, Room service, Car park or private garage (at a charge).

Bedrooms 90 rooms, each with bath and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, radio, mini-bar and safe.

Minimum Stay 2 nights during Opera Premieres and Special dates; 3 nights during Fair periods.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £620 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The restaurant at the Due Torri



Exterior of the Due Torri Hotel

"An elegant and characterful hotel of quality"

Palazzo Victoria Verona

Built at the turn of the 14th century, this stunning palazzo sits in the heart of historic Verona, just steps from the Arena amphitheatre and the chic shopper's paradise of Via Mazzini. Facing Corso di Porta Borsari, a charming street filled with traditional trattorias and artisan boutiques, the hotel boasts authentic architectural grandeur outside, whilst inside the history and heritage of the Victoria is intertwined with fresh, contemporary luxury. Where there are Roman ruins, Ionic pillars and original frescoes, the hotel brings the ambience and character right up to date with white leather sofas, a film projection screen and a bold statement lime green contrasting the neutral whites and beiges of the walls. The modern vibe extends through to the Victoria Club Bar, a popular venue with local Veronians as well as tourists and hotel guests, where cocktails and fine wines can be enjoyed in the company of live jazz musicians. Borsari 36 restaurant meanwhile centres around the show kitchen in the middle of the floor, where Michelin-starred executive chef, Carmine Calo and his team create a traditional Italian dishes with a contemporary twist, designed to be a unique, multisensory experience. Individually decorated in a sumptuous style to reflect the feel of the Veneto region and overlooking the vibrant shopping area, the 71 rooms and suites are fresh, bright and well appointed, many boasting original frescoes and a traditional parquet floor. Sister hotel to Il Salviatino in Tuscany.

PALAZZO VICTORIA EXH1203

Official Category 4 star

Open All year.

Location Just a few steps from the Arena.

At hotel Borsari 36 restaurant, Victoria Club bar, projection screen, pool table, gym, complimentary Wi-Fi, air conditioning, charged parking and laundry service..

Bedrooms 71 rooms and suites each with bath or shower and wc, air conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite flat screen TV, safe, mini-bar and hairdryer.

Italian Expressions include Bed and breakfast

Holiday prices From about £598 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 from 3 January-31 March and 1 November-28 December 2017. Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 1 April-30 June and 3 September-31 October 2017.

To receive 15% off the nightly rate, book 20 days prior to arrival for stays between 3 January-31 March and 1 November-28 December 2017, book 30 days prior for stays between 1 April-30 June and 2 September-31 October 2017 or book 45 days prior to arrival for stays between 1 July-2 September 2017 and 29 December 2017-2 January 2018.



Historic exterior of the Palazzo Victoria



Modern public areas inside the Palazzo Victoria

"Blending classic with contemporary, a central hotel with character"

“A charming hotel in a superb, central position”



The Hotel Giulietta e Romeo

Hotel Giulietta e Romeo Verona

The Giulietta e Romeo is a small, charming 3 star hotel with just thirty-eight rooms, in an excellent position a few steps from the Arena. It offers exceptional value for money and as such becomes very heavily booked for the Opera Festival - so early booking is essential. The hotel is small and simply furnished. As you enter the hotel there is a bar, cosy lounge and a breakfast room. There is a lift to the bedrooms which are small but comfortable and furnished in a contemporary style with strongly coloured fabrics and cherry wood. There are numerous restaurants within easy walking distance of the hotel.

HOTEL GIULIETTA E ROMEO IE162

Official category 3 star.

Open All year.

Location About 30 metres from the Arena.

At hotel Bar, Small terrace, Lift, Cycle hire, Garage (Euros 20 per day), Wi-Fi, Gym, 24-hour Room service, Laundry service.

Bedrooms 38 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, Wi-Fi, safe and mini-bar.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about **£385** per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. . Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 between 1 November 2017 - 28 February 2018.

“Very comfortable, very central and with a superb restaurant”

Grand Hotel Vesuvio Naples

This is a beautiful 5 star deluxe hotel in an enviable waterfront position in Naples on the main promenade and just a few steps from the San Carlo theatre and the Royal Palace. There are restaurants and bars at the yacht harbour just opposite although one highlight of the Vesuvio is its own rooftop restaurant, where the food is excellent. Rooms are air-conditioned and very comfortable. The hotel also has the Echia Club with its indoor swimming pool, fitness area and spa. Naples is a relatively unexplored treasure trove of art and architectural interest - well worth investigating.

GRAND HOTEL VESUVIO IE82

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location About 15 minutes' by taxi from the airport, on the waterfront, just a few steps from S. Carlo theatre and the Royal Palace.

At hotel Indoor swimming pool, Restaurant, Bar, Gym with complimentary access, Sauna, Massage, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi, 24-hour Room service, Lift, Private garage at a charge, Private cabin cruise, Private limousine service. Complimentary Wi-Fi.

Bedrooms 160 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, radio, safe and mini-bar.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about **£640** per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



Breakfast on the terrace



The Grand Hotel Vesuvio by night

Baglioni Hotel Carlton Milan

Located on Milan's most stylish street, the Via della Spiga, the 5 star Baglioni Hotel Carlton is well-placed for a city break in one of the world's most influential fashion capitals. Discover its discreet entranceway tucked away on this narrow street, lit by the subtle glow of atmospheric lighting that flickers through the windows. A boutique hotel, the immaculate marble floors and dark wood wall panels suit refined tastes, whilst the other décor is somewhat eclectic. Classical fittings meet traditional furnishings, art deco features, and unique, ultra-modern design pieces to engineer an elegant and dynamic atmosphere. Guestrooms blend luxury and elegance, with plush and cosy furnishings set against a deep and heady colour palette. Some rooms are quite modern, featuring contemporary pieces and top quality fittings, and others are quite opulent. The historic Il Baretto al Baglioni Restaurant is famed for national dishes infused with Mediterranean influences, and the modern artwork brings freshness and life to the minimalist space. The Café Baglioni Terrace is a more relaxed space for dining, and is beside a small garden terrace. The aptly titled Spiga 8 Spa offers an indulgent pampering experience in a light and airy environment, where soothing neutral hues promote relaxation and restoration. Here, wellbeing treatments aim to restore natural beauty through harmony of body and mind after a day exploring the city.

BAGLIONI HOTEL CARLTON IE732

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location On the Via della Spiga, in Milan's fashion district.

At hotel Restaurant, Spa, Boutique.

Bedrooms 68 rooms and suites with flatscreen TV and high speed Wi-Fi.

Italian Expressions Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £730 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book 7 days prior to arrival and save

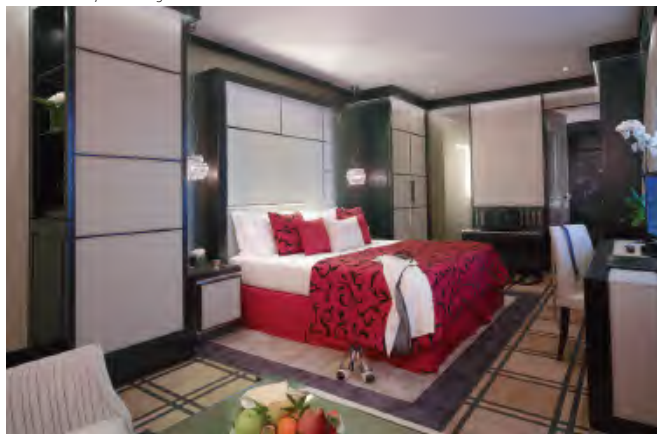
15% on stays between 1 November 2016-15 January 2017 and 1 April-1 May 2017.

Book 21 days prior to arrival and save

15% on stays of at least 2 nights between 16 January-31 March and 2 May-31 October 2017.



Outdoor courtyard at Baglioni Hotel Carlton



Grand Deluxe Room at Baglioni Hotel Carlton

"A traditional and elegant luxury hotel with some very contemporary bedrooms within Milan's historic centre and fashion district"

Grand Hotel Majestic 'Già Baglioni' Bologna

Bologna, with its striking mediaeval centre, porticoed squares and vibrant cafes and bars, is one of the most picturesque cities in Italy. The Grand Hotel Majestic "Già Baglioni" is situated in the heart of the old city between Via Manzoni and Via Indipendenza, just a short walk from Piazza Maggiore and the famous Due Torri. Its historical palazzo was built in the first half of the 18th Century and transformed into a hotel in 1911. The hotel is classical in style and there is a harmonious blend of antique furniture, period decoration and all the modern amenities one would expect of a five star city hotel. The air-conditioned bedrooms are spacious, elegant and quiet, as each room is soundproofed. The hotel's fine restaurant, 'Il Carracci', serves traditional Italian cuisine, with a good selection of typical regional dishes too. The Grand Majestic "Già Baglioni" is a sophisticated and stylish hotel, perfectly positioned for visiting Bologna.

GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC 'GIÀ BAGLIONI'

IE278

Official category 5 star.

Open All year.

Location In Bologna's historic centre, a short walk from Piazza Maggiore and the Due Torri.

At hotel Restaurant, Bar, Lift, Room service, Gym, Health & wellness centre, Sauna, Turkish bath and Emotional shower, 24-hour business centre, Wi-Fi, Private garage (payable locally).

Bedrooms 109 rooms, each with bath or shower and wc, air-conditioning, satellite television, telephone, Wi-Fi, radio, safe and mini-bar.

Italian Expressions include Bed and buffet breakfast.

Holiday prices From about £679 per person for 3 nights including scheduled flights.

Private car transfer optional. Ask our sales consultants for full price details.



The elegant hall at the Grand Hotel Majestic "Già Baglioni"



Exterior view of Grand Hotel Majestic "Già Baglioni"

"Elegant and traditional grand hotel in this city of gourmets"

Holidays by air

Travelling to Italy by air is the most obvious and popular way to travel. With scheduled flights from London and some regional airports on a daily basis to major Italian cities, with flying time being about two hours and with flights throughout the day on some routes, flying to Italy is a quick and easy way to start your holiday. Charter flights from UK regional airports offer convenient alternatives albeit without the frequency.

An Italian Expressions holiday by air offers you a number of outstanding benefits.

Choice of hire-car or private car transfer

A hire-car is included with almost all our holidays (except for example with most cities, Ischia, Capri and the Aeolian Islands - pre-bookable private transfers are available for these hotels) and in many cases you do need the use of the car to reach our hotels and to be able to enjoy your holiday to the full. However, a hire-car is not always required and where this is the case, we give you the option of having a private transfer instead. Depending on the location of the hotel and its distance from the airport and the duration of your holiday, either a supplement or a reduction would apply. We will give you the exact options when we price your holiday for you.

Regional departures

We can offer you a British Airways connecting flight from your regional airport to London. Prices will be quoted for the best available fare at the time of booking. Alternatively we can book you onto any regional flights with airlines such as Jet 2, Easyjet, Flybe and Monarch.

Into one airport, out of another

A very popular arrangement that makes good sense, especially if you want a touring holiday or a two centre arrangement. We book your flights into one airport and back from another. Most of these are at no additional charge.

Flexibility

We tailor your holiday to suit your requirements. You can stay for as many nights as you want in as many places as you want. Our holidays mean you can construct your own itinerary allowing you as much flexibility, freedom and independence as you want.

Flexible car hire to match

You can collect your hire-car in one place and return it to another, at no additional cost for most car groups.

Car hire up-grades

We include a basic group A car with Avis with all our fly-drive holidays to Italy. This is usually a Peugeot 107 or similar with air-conditioning which is adequate for just two people, a short break or if you don't intend to do much driving. However, you might want to up-grade to something larger or more powerful.

Lower prices for four per hire-car

All our fly-drive holiday prices are based on two people sharing the basic groups of hire-car. So if four people travel together you can either have a reduction for sharing this basic group (although space for luggage will be tight) or we will automatically up-grade you to a group D car (Fiat Bravo 1.6 or equivalent).

No Saturday night requirement

If you fly with British Airways you do not have to stay a Saturday night in Italy, so long as you stay away for at least two nights.

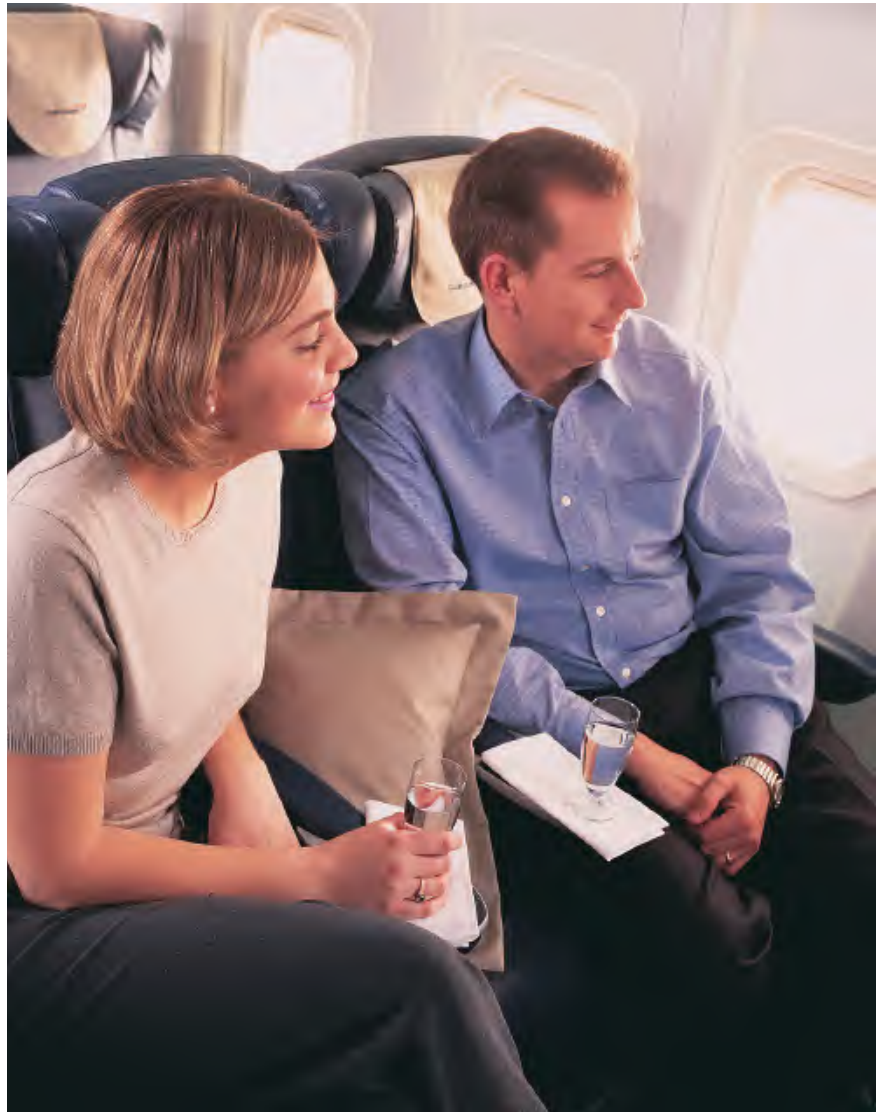
Club Europe with British Airways

Flying Club Europe with British Airways is an excellent way to travel with all the additional on-board benefits this reputable world-famous service offers. The business lounges offer a comfortable respite from the hurly-burly of the airport with refreshments and newspapers to help you pass the time. On board you can enjoy the widest-ever Club Europe business class seat for added comfort and the extra flexibility of inflight meals.

All in all, a great way to travel.

We can arrange for British Airways to fly you in Club Europe just one way if you prefer.

Please bear in mind that the very advantageous supplements we offer for Club Europe is for the check-in and on-board services associated with that class. The Club Europe supplements on this page do not allow you the full flexibility for changes and refunds normally associated with a Club Europe ticket.



Car hire

We work with Avis in Italy as they offer an excellent range of cars: small, medium and large, manual and automatic, saloons and estates and all with air-conditioning. Avis has a very wide range of offices throughout the country, at the airports, at railway stations and in city centre locations, catering for the flexibility our clients demand.

The points made below are for cars hired in Italy only. These conditions are subject to change – countries do change their conditions throughout the year so this information is based on what is available at the time of going to press.

What's included

Unlimited Mileage, Collision Damage Waiver, Theft Protection, Airport service charge at 17% or Railway service charge at 12% (as appropriate), Road tax, Tax at 22%, payment of any applicable drop-off charges for all groups (excluding to/from Sardinia), rental for the number of days specified (these are in blocks of 24 hours).

Hire-cars are included in units of 24 hours and co-incide with the number of nights included in your holiday. For example if you book a 7 night holiday we have included 7 units of 24 hours. The hours are calculated from the time you collect the car. However, if you choose an early morning flight out and an evening flight back you will have to pay us in advance for an additional day's car hire at €30 per car (Group A Avis) plus the applicable supplement if you choose a larger car group.

If you return the car later than the time we have confirmed, Avis will bill you in full at the public rate plus VAT for an additional day).

What's not included

Personal accident insurance (PAI)

This is optional. We recommend that you are properly covered for personal accident whilst driving the car. Holiday personal insurance policies usually cover this – please check before you leave home. If in doubt, you may purchase personal accident insurance from Avis on arrival.

Additional Driver

The cost of adding an additional driver is Euros 7 per day plus tax, Euros 49 per week plus tax. Maximum charge 15 days rental at Euros 150.00

Petrol

We strongly recommend that you return the car with a full tank of petrol. The car should have a full tank when you collect it. If this is not the case, please raise it with Avis at the point of collection. If Avis need to refuel the car they will bill you a service charge of Euros 15 in addition to the cost of the petrol plus Italian VAT (IVA). It is well worth keeping your final petrol station receipt so as to have proof that the car was returned with a full tank.

Administration fee

An administration fee of Euros 42.00 plus tax will be applied in case of non-payment of the highway toll, Highway Code transgressions, fines and faulty accidents without third party.

GPS

The cost of renting a GPS unit is Euros 12.00 per day plus tax. Maximum charge 10 days at Euros 120.00. Please request at the time of making the reservation.

Child seat and child booster seat

The cost of renting a child safety seat is Euros 20.50 per day plus tax. Maximum charge 3 days at Euros 61.50 (car seats are compulsory up to 4 years of age). There is a Euro 103.00 fee if damaged or lost. The cost of a child booster seat is Euros 6.00 per day plus tax. Maximum charge 3 days at Euros 18.00. There is a Euros 25.00 fee if damaged or lost.

Collision Damage Waiver excess

GROUPS A-B-C € 850 + TAX, GROUPS D-E-J-N € 900 + TAX, GROUPS F-G-I € 1400 + TAX, GROUPS H-L-K-M € 1600 + TAX.

Theft protection excess

GROUPS A-B-C € 1700 + TAX, GROUPS D-E-J-N € 1800 + TAX, GROUPS

F-G-I € 2200 + TAX, GROUPS H-L-K-M € 2800 + TAX.

In Puglia, Campania and Sicily it is not possible to reduce to zero the excess in case of theft even if you buy the full insurance cover which is optional.

The excess is Euros 500 plus tax for A, B and C groups and Euros 750 plus tax for other groups.

Avis will offer you such things as Super Theft Protection and Super Collision Damage Waiver. WDW (Windscreen Damage Waiver) is not included in Super Cover but can be bought extra to cover rear view mirrors, wing mirrors, sun roofs or Panasonic mirrors on the roof of vehicle. Fee €1.50 per day plus tax. Max charge 15 days. Road side Safety Net can also be bought for an additional local charge to cover tyres assistance, flat battery, lock out service and on the road fuel delivery. Once signed for these charges are non-refundable. Please ensure you require these extras before signing for them.

Additional information

International One Way Rental

The additional charge for one-way international rental is available on request and is only for certain vehicle groups.

Minimum Renting Age The minimum age for renting most car groups in Italy is 23. You must have held your licence for a minimum of 1 year. The minimum age for renting groups H, L and O is 25 years and you must have held your licence for a minimum of 2 years.

Young Driver There is an additional charge of Euros 16.53 per day plus tax.

Maximum charge of 15 days for renters aged between 23–25 years.

Maximum age The maximum age for renting any vehicle is 85.

AVIS TABLE OF CARS

The supplement is per day per car (not per person).

Group	Sample	M/A	3-5	6-13 plus	14 days plus
A	Peugeot 107 1.0	M	Incl	Incl	Incl
B	New Lancia Y 1.2	M	£8	£8	£8
C	Fiat Punto 1.3	M	£10	£10	£10
D	Fiat Bravo 1.6 MJT	M	£18	£18	£18
E	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCI	M	£22	£22	£22
F	Alfa Giulietta 2.0 JTD	M	£32	£32	£30
G	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI	A	£34	£34	£32
H	Audi A4 2.0 TDI	M	£48	£48	£46
I	VW Golf Plus 2.0 TDI	A	£36	£36	£34
J	Nissan Micra 1.4 Active	A	£20	£20	£18
K	Ford New Galaxy 1.9	M	£74	£74	£70
L	Mercedes Class E220 CDI	A	£48	£48	£46
M	Renault Trafic 2.0 D 9 seats	M	£78	£78	£76
N	Fiat 500 Lounge Convertible	M	£34	£34	£32
O	Mercedes Vito Combi 115 CDI	A	£94	£94	£92

All these car groups have air-conditioning.

M = Manual, A = Automatic

CAR GROUP L not available in: Campania, Calabria, Sicilia, Puglia and Basilicata regions. CAR GROUP N available only in: Firenze, Pisa, Bologna, Naples, Lamezia, Palermo, Catania, Roma, Sorrento, Taormina. CAR GROUP O available only in: Milan Malpensa Venice apt, Florence and Pisa apts, Rome Fiumicino apt.

The makes and models given are just samples of cars in each group, and whilst certain models can be requested, they cannot be guaranteed.

The terms and conditions may be changed by Avis in the course of the year as can the cost of the extra items.

We can offer you cars from different hire-car companies on request.

General information

Most of this is just practical, much of it is self-evident but it is important that you read it and are comfortable with all the details. It combines straightforward facts and figures with extra hints we think you should have.

Hotels

Our brochure descriptions

The details provided in this brochure are to our knowledge correct at the time of going to press and information about local events, local sports facilities etc is usually based on information supplied by the hotel. Changes can take place in the course of the year, bearing in mind that the brochure can be written up to a year before you go on holiday. It is our intention to provide you with the most comprehensive information possible and as and when we are advised of changes we do our best to advise you in turn.

Hotel opening and closing dates

These are correct at the time of going to press. However, hotels do change their opening and closing dates as well as the closing day of their restaurant at short notice. They are meant to advise us if any detail in our brochure changes in the course of the season. Most of the time they do provide us with the information as soon as possible. If we know of a change at any point we will do our best to advise you.

Categories of hotels

Hotels in Italy are classified officially by local government in Italy and they have to conform to the standards required by their particular class of hotel. The 'star rating' we state is the official rating of the hotel; it is not our own classification. Even so, you may find that the electric fittings, plumbing, bath and shower units and door locks etc are unfamiliar. Staircases too can be steep particularly in old buildings and smaller hotels. Family rooms sometimes consist of a room with a mezzanine level for the children reached by a staircase, which can be steep and unprotected. Hotels of the same star rating can vary in quality from region to region and even within the same star rating in the same region.

Hotel facilities

All are correct at the time of going to press. Outdoor swimming pools are usually operational from May until October but it does vary according to the weather. Seasonal closing times can change and certain facilities are subject to mechanical problems or changes in the weather. Maintenance work may have to take place in the course of the season. Again, if we are notified in advance, we will pass this information on to you. If sports facilities are mentioned as being 'nearby', this usually means in the case of tennis courts or cycle hire, in the nearest village or town and with golf, riding and water-sports usually within driving distance. Hotels' own swimming pools and tennis courts can vary in size and quality. The hotels do not usually have lifeguards at swimming pools and care should be taken when using them, particularly with children. You are advised to be cautious before diving into swimming pools - please use common sense and be sure you know how deep the pool is first.

Breakfast in Italy

Breakfast is still often continental consisting (at the discretion of the hotel) of bread, croissants and 'biscotti', jam, butter, coffee or tea. Orange juice is being provided free of charge more and more in Italy as are little extras such as cake and fruit. However, you should not expect to have orange juice included and if you request extras

such as cheese or ham or eggs you should expect to have to pay for these items. Buffet breakfasts are becoming more and more usual throughout Italy. If we state that a buffet breakfast is included this will mean the usual items of continental breakfast plus additional items you help yourself to, such as cereals, yoghurt, fruit, cheese and cold meats. However, these are only suggestions and the actual ingredients may change from day to day and are in any case at the discretion of the hotel. Buffets in Italy may or may not offer eggs as included in the buffet. This is at the discretion of the hotel. It is the usual case in Italian hotels that offer a buffet breakfast that this is only available in the main dining room and not for service to your room. If you request breakfast in your room this will be continental. There is usually also a supplement to pay for room service.

Dinner

Where we include dinner in the price of the holiday, this is usually a menu of the day with a choice at each course of usually three different courses, sometimes a choice of a number of courses from the A la Carte menu or, albeit rarely, a fixed menu of the day.

Drinks at hotels

The only drinks included are tea or coffee with breakfast. Coffee, aperitifs, wines and other drinks with meals are extra and must be paid direct to the hotel, unless we say that certain drinks are included at a particular hotel. We should have details on file of the cost of a bottle of house wine at our hotels if you particularly want to know in advance. Prices of drinks at hotels are regulated by the government and reflect the category of the hotel. So, usually, the higher the category the hotel is, the more expensive the drinks. It's not unusual for a glass of spumante or prosecco to cost about Euro 10 or a gin and tonic to cost about Euro 15.

Vegetarian meals

If you are a vegetarian you should let us know at the time of booking and we will advise the hotels accordingly

Other extras

You must pay direct to the hotel before departure for any items of personal expenditure including drinks, telephone, meals, garage costs etc, other than the items that are included in your holiday.

Check-in and check-out

Rooms will not usually be ready for you until after 3pm and most hotels require you to leave your room before 11am. We advise that you should aim to arrive at the hotel no later than 6pm to allow time to settle in before dinner. If you are going to be late unexpectedly you should phone the hotel direct en route to advise them. If you do not check-out in time, hotels may charge you for an extra day.

Building work

If building work is to take place at the hotel during your stay we do ask the hotels to advise us in advance so that we can warn you. Sometimes work extends beyond the expected timescale for completion. Obviously things do go wrong with buildings in the course of the year and emergency repairs sometimes have to be done without notice. This sort of work is of course unavoidable and would probably cause more inconvenience if not dealt with. If building work is taking place nearby (perhaps

even next door or in the street outside) but not actually on the hotel's own property, it is beyond their and our control and the hotel is not obliged to advise us in advance (although many do).

Rooms

We give you a choice of rooms at many of our hotels, usually reflecting differences in size. The actual size of a standard type A room varies from hotel to hotel, often reflecting the star rating of the hotel, but even within 4 star hotels you can find a wide discrepancy in the size of the smallest and largest rooms in the hotel. Please note that Italian hotel rooms do not have tea/coffee-making facilities.

Bed types

Italian hotels have rooms with double beds and twin beds. Twins can be two single beds or two single mattresses within one large frame made as two beds. Twins are quite common in Italy. Doubles can also be two single mattresses within one large frame and made as one bed. If you have a particular preference you should communicate this to us at the time of booking and we will pass on your request to the hotel. If, once we have confirmed your booking, you want us to change the room type or beds booked, an amendment fee may be levied, and the change will be subject to availability of the room types you want.

Room descriptions

When we refer to a superior room, a deluxe room, a suite or junior suite in this brochure, it is usually the exact way the hotel describes the room. It is not our interpretation of the rooms. In Italy a suite is not necessarily a suite of rooms separated by doors but is more often a large bedroom with a sitting area, sometimes through an alcove but not always. A junior suite is usually a large bedroom with a sitting area.

Extra beds

An extra bed in Italy can be a proper single bed that is a permanent fixture in a double or twin room or it can be a folding bed that is placed in your room for the duration of your stay. They can vary in comfort and are most suitable for small children rather than adults.

Views

When a client requests a 'view' at a particular hotel, this can lead to difficulties. Unless a 'View' is qualified such as sea view, garden view, courtyard view etc, a 'view' as in 'pretty view' is subjective and we cannot request this for you.

Bathrooms

In Italy showers rather than bath are quite common even in a 4 or 5 star hotel. Hotels sometimes have a mixture of rooms with bath or shower or both. Sometimes the bathtub is only a small tub or a half-sized bath. If you have a preference then this must be communicated to us at the time of booking and we will advise the hotel (although we will not be able to reconfirm it before the departure of your holiday and you should expect either type).

Air-conditioning

If we state that an hotel has air-conditioning, this can be a fully integrated unit or sometimes just a portable unit placed in your room. Air-conditioning is sometimes only in use from June to September.

Street life, local events, weddings and banquets

The Italian way of life is different in that, because of the climate, work can start early in the morning, stop over the lunch-time and afternoon period and restart in the evening. Italians tend to dine late and stay up quite late. This can result in a different pattern of local noise from the pattern you're used to at home. In towns and cities traffic can be noisy. Even in the country, animals and agricultural machinery can be noisy. Local events such as processions, fairs and festivals take place throughout Italy in towns and villages. Such events are integral to local life and do provide local colour. Weddings and banquets can be held at our hotels, especially as so many are held in such high esteem by the hotels. Some of our hotels do hold conferences, particularly out of high season. It is possible that you can be staying at an hotel when they're hosting such a party. Some hotels do advise us at the time of booking if they know at that point what's been planned. Others don't necessarily advise us. Even though you are on holiday, local life has to continue and therefore rubbish has to be collected, deliveries have to be made. These things may take place early in the morning.

Parking

Most of our hotels have a car park of their own. Most do not charge for use of an open-air car park but if they have a garage or a secure car park they will probably charge for it. Charges can vary from about Euro 5 to Euro 30 per day. Charges are highest in the cities. Charges for parking are not included in the price of your holiday unless specifically stated as such.

Credit cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Italy, from hotels to petrol stations, motorway tolls and supermarkets. Mastercard and Visa are accepted almost without exception with American Express less readily welcomed. However, some places may not accept credit cards.

Administration

We understand that efficient administration is important to you.

Your holiday documentation

We aim to send you your holiday documentation about 3 weeks before the departure date of your holiday. Your holiday documentation will include: ferry ticket (one per car) or flight tickets (one per person and either a paper ticket or an E-ticket), car hire voucher and notes about car hire in Italy (for fly-drive holidays), a voucher to be given to each hotel on arrival, a set of helpful hints per region and hotel, hotel leaflets if available. It may be the case that, for administration purposes, your flight tickets will be sent to you after the rest of your holiday documentation.

Check-in times

For flights you should check-in at least 60 minutes

before the scheduled departure time of your flight. For ferries and Eurotunnel, we are advised about 20 minutes at least for Dover or Folkestone with the other ports requiring 45 minutes to one hour.

Names on flight tickets

The name in your passport is the name that must appear on the flight ticket. The names you provide us with at the time of booking are those in which we will make your flight booking. We are not allowed to make name changes to flight bookings once the booking has been made. Even a change of initial is not allowed. If we have to change a name, a new booking has to be made, the old booking is lost and perhaps a charge has to be levied to secure new space (at an additional cost or to cover cancellation charges on the original booking). This is particularly important with clients who are taking a honeymoon. You must advise us of the correct names at the time of booking.

Passports and Visas

Adults require a full 10 year passport to travel to countries featured in this brochure. Children require their own passports. For further information please refer to the Passport Office. EU citizens do not require visas to travel to countries in this brochure. Non-EU passport holders are responsible themselves for checking passport and visa regulations applicable for entry to countries featured in this brochure. The Company bears no responsibility for passport and/or visa regulations for non EU passport holders. This also applies to holders of British passports issued in some overseas places.

Driving Licences

The Italian State Tourist Office advises us that to drive in Italy you need to be in possession of a European Community model driving licence (usually pink or pink and green in colour). If you only have an old-style green UK driving licence you should endeavour to change this in good time for your holiday to a new European Community model or take an International Driving Permit with you to use in conjunction with your current driving licence.

Changes to your booking

We work very hard to arrange your holiday. If, once we have made the arrangements, you want to make changes, then we will of course do our best to accommodate you. However, changes do cost time and money and therefore charges do have to be made. The level of charges is detailed in our booking conditions.

Executive Club number

If you have a BA executive club number or a Hertz no 1 club number, we are happy to advise the supplier at the time of making the booking. In any case, the acceptance of your executive numbers in connection with an Italian Expressions holiday is at the discretion of the suppliers concerned.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant at the time of travelling on holiday, you should advise us. Airlines have restrictions about carrying passengers who are pregnant, so it is imperative that you advise us, at the time of booking if you are already pregnant or as soon as you can.

Insurance

We are concerned that all our clients are adequately insured (in case of illness abroad or cancellation or curtailment due to unforeseen circumstances). Please remember that we cannot be liable for any costs, losses and liabilities which may be incurred and which are not our liability under the terms of the contract governing these holidays if you have not taken out adequate insurance.

Health requirements

If you are suffering from any disability or illness, this should be communicated to us before you make a booking. Health regulations for overseas travel may change from time to time. A leaflet is available (T4) 'Health Advice to Travellers' from the Department of Health by telephoning Freephone 0800-555777. You should also make yourself aware of the associated risks of DVT from air travel.

Government information

The UK government has an excellent website www.fco.gov.uk from which you can obtain up-to-date information about worldwide destinations. This site gives details about trouble spots but also general advice about most countries. We advise most strongly that you visit the site to check notices about your intended destination before you book your holiday and travel.

Extra information

Crime

Precautions to prevent crime are often a matter of common sense. We would like to remind you when on holiday to take care, remember to lock possessions away from sight, be careful of handbags, wallets and purses in public and especially in crowded places, keep car doors locked, keep valuables out of sight even when you're in the car, use the room or hotel safe for valuables - just a few examples.

National holidays in Italy

Some tourist attractions as well as banks etc may close on the following days:

- 1 January
- 6 January (Epiphany)
- Easter Monday
- 25 April (Liberation Day)
- 1 May (Labour Day)
- 15 August (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- 1 November (All Saints)
- 8 December (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day

There are a number of local feast days that can affect conditions locally. In addition to the above days, museums are often closed on Mondays in Italy.

Government advice

Visit www.fco.gov.uk for up-to-date information about general travel advice and trouble spots worldwide.

Booking conditions

Please read these conditions carefully

- 1 Your holiday contract and financial protection** Your holiday contract is with Garland Hoff Ltd of Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5JL registered in England no 2328857 ("the Company"). We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 3076). When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday* from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.*The flights and flight-inclusive holidays we arrange are ATOL protected providing they are made available in the UK. For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. We are also members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) and of ABTA (ABTA number W1080). We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint (see clause 13), contact ABTA at 30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ or see www.abta.com. The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for Expressions Holidays, and in the event of our insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; and 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provide for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Expressions Holidays. All bookings with the Company incorporate the Booking Conditions set out below and are deemed to have been accepted in full by you and all members of your party on whose behalf a booking is made. A contract is made when we send confirmation of your booking to you. We may not be able to confirm some arrangements immediately (e.g. Spa treatments). Although, we may issue a Confirmation Invoice, a contract for any arrangements which have not been confirmed on that invoice will only be made when we confirm that those additional arrangements have been completed. If there are any changes to details discussed at the time of booking, before the Confirmation Invoice is issued, we will notify you. If anything on your Confirmation Invoice is incorrect you must immediately tell us or your travel agent. If there is an obvious error on the Confirmation Invoice we reserve the right to correct it as soon as we become aware of it. If this is unacceptable to you, you will be entitled to cancel your arrangements and receive a full refund provided you have not yet travelled. Your contract with the Company and any matters arising from it will be governed by English law and subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales, unless you are resident in Scotland or Northern Ireland, in which case you may choose to bring your claim in those respective jurisdictions and be governed by their respective laws (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).
- 2 Payment** Your deposit payment (usually 10% with a minimum of £300 per person for bookings with a total sales value of £6000 or less) must be received by the Company within 5 days of the booking application but if a booking is made within ten weeks of departure the total cost of the holiday must be sent to the Company. The person making the booking warrants that he/she has the authority of all other persons included in the holiday to make the booking on their behalf. Holidays including flights with advance ticketing deadlines and holidays to some hotels for certain times of the year may require a higher initial deposit level or staggered deposits or even an earlier date for the balance payment - this will be made known to you before you book. The deposit is accepted as part payment and the balance is due to the Company at least ten weeks before the date of your departure from the United Kingdom. However, before your balance payment is due you may receive a revised invoice taking into account any variations (such as an increase) in transportation costs or local dues or taxes. (See Clause 11 below). If, for any reason, the balance is not received by us by the date due, we reserve the right to cancel your holiday at that date, in which case you will forfeit your deposit payment. If you ask us to hold the booking pending payment and then you fail to pay, higher cancellation charges will apply, as the date of cancellation will be the date requested by you as the revised date for payment. All monies which you pay to a travel agent in respect of your holiday arrangements with the Company are held by the agent on behalf of the Company. Except for flight inclusive bookings, all monies you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday with us will be held by the agent on your behalf until a contract between us comes into existence. After that point, your agent will hold the monies on our behalf until they are paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us. Please note that all payments made by credit card (deposits and balances) are subject to a handling fee of 2% (3% for American Express cards) except that we will absorb the 2% charge for a credit card on deposit payments only of an amount up to £1000 in total.
- 3 Changes and cancellations made by you** Any cancellation by you of your holiday can be notified to us by telephone but must be followed in writing and signed by the person who made the booking. For your peace of mind you should use pre-paid recorded delivery or registered post. Cancellation will take effect from the date it is received at the Company's offices. Cancellation only by telephone or e-mail is not acceptable. All cancellations are subject to cancellation charges as follows:

Amount of notice you give the Company the scheduled departure date:

- More than 70 days
- 69-49 days
- 48-31 days
- 30-15 days
- 14 days and less

Amount of cancellation fee expressed before as a % of total holiday price:

- Deposit monies paid
- 50% or loss of deposit monies paid (whichever is greater)
- 60% or loss of deposit monies paid (whichever is greater)
- 90% or loss of deposit monies paid (whichever is greater)
- 100% or loss of deposit monies paid (whichever is greater)

- If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation or transfer of your booking to another person, we will do our utmost to make these changes but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes must be in writing from the person who made the booking or your travel agent. You will be asked to pay an administrative charge of £50 per person, and any further cost we incur in making this alteration. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Certain arrangements (eg some flight tickets) cannot be changed after a reservation has been made and any alteration, even a name change, may incur a 100% cancellation charge of the cost of the flight. Subject to this, if you are prevented from taking the holiday you have booked, you may transfer it to another person provided you authorise us in writing to make the transfer and the person to whom it is transferred agrees to comply with the terms of the existing booking and you remain liable for making payment to us of all monies due. No transfer can be made within 14 days of departure.
- 4 Abandonment of your holiday** If you choose, in the course of your holiday, to abandon the arrangements made by us on your behalf and instead to make your own arrangements, the Company accepts no liability and no refunds will be made for the services you choose not to take unless the Company is at fault. Abandonment of your holiday may also be deemed to have taken place if you miss your outward means of transportation through no fault of the Company although the Company will assist in whatever way it can to make new arrangements for you. You would have to pay for any costs incurred. Travel tickets and hotel or car-hire vouchers are only valid for the dates shown and cannot be transferred to different dates.
- 5 Our commitments to you for Package Holidays** The following clause applies where you buy a package holiday as defined by The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992.
- (i) Where you do not suffer personal injury or death, the Company accepts liability should any part of your package booked with us not be as described in the brochure or not be of a reasonable standard. Subject to (iii) below, the Company will pay you compensation. Our liability in all cases shall be limited to a maximum of 3 times the original cost of your travel arrangements.
 - (ii) Where you suffer death or personal injury as a result of an activity forming part of your package booked with us and paid for in the UK, we accept responsibility, subject to (iii) below, but where such death or personal injury arises in the course of air travel, sea travel, rail travel or hotel accommodation, the Company's liability and/or the amount of compensation you will receive will be limited in accordance with the provisions of any relevant International Conventions, and the Company will have the benefit of any limitation of compensation and/or liability contained in these conventions as if it were the carrier in question, including, for example, the Warsaw Convention 1929 (as amended) and the Montreal Convention for travel by air and/or for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the EC Regulation on Air Carrier Liability No 889/2002 for national and international travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea (as amended by the 2002 protocol where applicable), COTIF, the Convention on International Travel by Rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation. Further, your journey will be subject to the carrier's conditions of carriage, some of which may exclude or limit liability. Copies of the International Conventions and Conditions of Carriage are available on request.
 - (iii) The Company accepts liability in accordance with (i) and (ii) above except where the cause of the failure in your holiday arrangements or any death or personal injury you may suffer is not due to any failure on the part of the Company or its servants, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing, or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements, or was your own fault, or is attributable to the actions of someone unconnected with your holiday arrangements or due to unusual or unforeseeable circumstances or events which could not have been anticipated or avoided by the Company or its servants, agents or suppliers even with the exercise of all due care. These events include, for example: war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, political unrest, terrorist activity, industrial disputes, alteration to the schedules of flights by airlines, natural disaster, fire, weather conditions such as hurricanes and floods, acts of any port, airport, governmental or public authority, technical problems to transport, aircraft grounding, nuclear disaster, epidemic or outbreaks of illness. Please note it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us.
 - (iv) It should be noted that acceptance of liability on the part of the Company referred to in (i), (ii) and (iii) above is subject to assignment by you of your rights against any individual or Company which is in any way responsible for the failure of your holiday arrangements or any death or personal injury you may suffer.
- 6 Our responsibility for arrangements not forming part of a Package** Where you do not buy a package holiday from us but book only one element of your holiday arrangements, such as accommodation or transport, our responsibility is solely to ensure that the element booked with us is as described by us and is of a reasonable standard. We shall have no responsibility for any arrangements which you make yourself.
- 7 Excursions and Activities not forming part of a Package** Where you book an optional excursion or activity whilst on your holiday, or where the Company makes excursion or activity arrangements as agent on your behalf, whether before departure or whilst in resort, and you make payment for this directly to the relevant supplier, your contract will be with that supplier subject to its terms and conditions and will be subject to the law and jurisdiction of the country where the supplier is situated. The Company accepts no liability for any negligence or breach of contract on the part of the excursion/activity supplier, nor for any failure in your excursion or activity arrangements, or any death or personal injury you may suffer. Some excursions/activities may contain an element of risk or require a good level of physical fitness and, if in doubt, you should make direct enquiries of the local supplier before deciding to buy and check that you are covered by your travel insurance policy. If you, or any member of your party, suffer death, illness or injury whilst overseas arising out of an

activity which does not form part of your package travel arrangements, we shall at our discretion, offer advice, guidance and assistance. Where legal action is contemplated and you want our assistance, or any member of your party, suffer death, illness or injury whilst overseas arising out of an activity which does not form part of your package travel arrangements, we shall at our discretion, offer advice, guidance and assistance. Where legal action is contemplated and you want our assistance, you must obtain our written consent prior to commencement of proceedings. We limit the cost of our assistance to you or any member of your party to £5,000.

8 Our Brochure and Website The Company confirms that information contained in this brochure and on our website is given in good faith and believed correct at the time it is given. If any facilities referred to are withdrawn, altered or restricted we will advise you before you book or as soon as the Company is notified by the supplier of the changes. Facilities may be withdrawn for maintenance purposes or because of public holidays or adverse weather conditions, without notice to us, and the Company does not accept liability for this.

9 Changes made by us When you have made your contract with the Company, the Company will use its best endeavours to ensure that none of the components of your holiday arrangements has to be altered. However as the arrangements are planned many months in advance, sometimes changes may have to be made and we reserve the right to do so. Where a significant change (see below) is made, you will be informed as soon as reasonably possible, if there is time before your departure. You may then cancel and receive a refund of all monies paid, or accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). In addition, the Company will pay following minimum amounts of compensation:

Notification period before departure	Compensation per person
More than 10 weeks	Nil
Between 4 and 10 weeks	£50
Between 2 and 4 weeks	£75
Less than 2 weeks	£100

Compensation will not be paid where the change is caused because the minimum number of persons, on the basis of which your holiday arrangements are costed, fail to make bookings and the Company advises you in writing 70 days before your intended departure or where the company is forced to make changes because of unusual and unforeseeable events beyond the Company's control. Infants (under 2 years of age) do not receive compensation. A significant change includes a change of departure time by more than 12 hours for holidays of 13 nights or less and more than 24 hours (but not flight delay) for holidays of 14 nights or more or a change of accommodation to a lower grade than that booked.

You are obliged to inform the Company within 48 hours of receiving notification of the proposed changes of your decision. Your holiday may include the services of air carriers not owned or operated by the Company. Sometimes these services are delayed or re-scheduled. Responsibility for such delays or changes of schedule rests with the actual carrier and are subject to the terms and conditions of the carrier which may limit or exclude liability - see Clause 13 below.

10 Cancellations made by us The Company reserves the right to cancel your holiday arrangements but will not do so less than ten weeks before your departure date except for reasons beyond our control or failure by you to pay the final balance. Should the Company cancel it will give you as early notification as possible and you will then be entitled to a refund of all monies paid or accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value)

Compensation will be paid as in Clause 9, with exceptions also being as in Clause 9.

The Company reserves the right to terminate your holiday without any obligation to refund or make alternative arrangements where, in our reasonable opinion or that of someone in authority such as the captain of your aircraft, your behaviour is likely to cause danger or annoyance to others or where the Company does not receive your payment in accordance with Clause 2.

11 Our prices All prices in this brochure and on our website are per person in £ sterling unless otherwise stated. We reserve the right to alter our prices and/or other particulars shown in our brochure or on our website. You will be advised of the current price of the holiday that you wish to take before you book. The prices of our holidays may go down or up. However, once you have paid your deposit there will be no changes in the price of your holiday except that, changes in transportation costs, including the cost of fuel, dues, taxes or fees chargeable for services such as landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports and fluctuating exchange rates may cause the price of your travel arrangements to change after you have booked. There will be no change within 30 days of your departure. We will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. You will be charged for the amount over and above that, plus an administration charge of £1.00 per person together with an amount to cover agents' commission. If this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 10% of the price of your travel arrangements, you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of equivalent or higher quality you will not have to pay more but if it is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid, except for any amendment charges. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, by more than 2% of your holiday cost, then any refund due will be paid to you. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

The price of your holiday was calculated using exchange rates quoted in the Financial Times on 1 October 2016.

12 If you have a complaint Any complaint regarding the holiday should in the first instance be reported to the owner or manager of the hotel or premises or the supplier of the services concerned immediately and should also be reported to the Company at the same time so that all reasonable steps can be taken to resolve the matter during your holiday. (Please note that overseas representatives are not employees of the Company and you should not merely report your complaint to them without informing the Company in London at the same time). The Company's right to be able to try to remedy the situation and put things right during your holiday forms part of this contract and it is therefore your obligation to inform us of any problem during your holiday and to continue to inform us so that we can remedy the situation for you. If you fail to follow this simple procedure we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were in resort and this may affect your rights under this contract. If your complaint is still not resolved locally, notification should be made to the Company in writing and for your own peace of mind by pre-paid recorded delivery within 28 days of the date scheduled for the end of your holiday. Disputes arising out of, or in connection with your booking which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to arbitration if you so wish under a special scheme arranged by ABTA Ltd and administered independently. The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on the customer in respect of costs. Full details will be provided on request or can be obtained from the ABTA website (www.abta.com). The scheme does not apply to claims for an amount greater than £5,000 per person. There is also a limit of £25,000 per

booking. Neither does it apply to claims which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness or their consequences. The scheme can however deal with compensation claims which include an element of minor injury or illness subject to a limit of £1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element. Your application for arbitration and other required documents must be received by ABTA within 18 months of your return from the holiday. Outside this time limit arbitration under the scheme may still be available if we agree, although the ABTA Code does not require such agreement. For injury and illness claims, you can request the ABTA mediation procedure and we have the option to agree to this. Where we act as agent, please bear in mind that your contract is with the supplier of the arrangements concerned. Unless the supplier is also a member of ABTA, only disputes relating to our actions as agent can be dealt with by the arbitration scheme or mediation procedure and not complaints about the arrangements themselves or the acts / omissions of the supplier.

13 Flights In accordance with EU Regulation 2111/2005 we are required to advise you of the actual carrier operating your flight/connecting flight/transfer. We do this by listing carriers to be used or likely to be used in our brochure and/or on our website. Any changes to the actual airline after you have received your tickets will be notified to you as soon as possible and in all cases at check-in or at the boarding gate. Such a change is deemed to be a minor change. Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Where applicable, you must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation or any other payment arising from such cancellation, delay, downgrading or denied boarding. This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the Denied Boarding Regulations. If, for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If your airline does not comply with these rules you may complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 020 7453 6888 or by e-mail to passengercomplaints@caa.co.uk or see www.caa.co.uk - Referring Your Complaint to the CAA. This brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements. Please note that in accordance with Air Navigation Orders in order to qualify for infant status, a child must be under 2 years of age on the date of its return flight. Check in and flight times are local times based on the 24-hour system. They are for guidance only and may change, especially with regard to the individual country's daylight saving time policy. Your invoice will show the proposed flight details, and your flight tickets will show the actual details. Please check your flight details when you receive your tickets. It is recommended that you check in 3 hours before and a minimum of 2 hours before departure. Your initials and the spelling of your name must be identical on your ticket and in your passport.

14 Data Protection To ensure that your holiday runs smoothly, we need to use information about you and members of your party such as names and addresses, special needs, dietary requirements, etc. We will apply appropriate security measures to protect this data. However, we must pass it to suppliers of your travel arrangements, including airlines, transport companies and hotels. We may also supply it to security companies, and to public authorities such as customs and immigration. If your flight is outside the European Economic Area (EEA), controls on data protection in your destination may not be as strict as in the UK. We will only pass data, including sensitive information regarding disabilities or dietary and religious requirements, to people responsible for your travel arrangements. If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, in the EEA or elsewhere, we cannot provide your holiday. When you make this booking, you and all members of your party consent to this information being passed to the relevant people. We can supply a copy of your information held by us; there is a small charge for providing this.

Please note that some or all of the Caricom States listed below have entered into an agreement with the USA whereby advance passenger data, required by and provided to Caricom States for border security purposes, will be passed to the USA Department for Homeland Security for processing on behalf of those Caricom States listed as follows: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, collectively members or associate members of 'Caricom'. The UK Information Commissioner's Office has accepted that this will not breach the Data Protection Act but we are required to bring this to your attention.

15 Special Requests If you have any special requests, (e.g. vegetarian meals) please let us know at the time of booking. We will pass these on to the relevant supplier(s) but cannot guarantee your special request will be met as we do not have any direct control over the manner in which services are provided.

16 Passport, Visa and Health requirements You require a valid 10 year passport to travel to countries featured in this brochure. Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements, are your sole responsibility and you should contact the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates before you book. You should also consult your doctor for advice on health precautions in good time before you travel. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended vaccinations and health precautions in good time before departure. Details are available from your GP surgery and from the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac.org. Information on health abroad is also available on www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Travelhealth. At the time of publication of this brochure, we are not aware of any compulsory health requirements applicable to British citizens taking any of the holidays featured in this brochure. For holidays in the EU/EEA you should obtain an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) prior to departure from www.ehic.org.uk. An EHIC is not a substitute for travel insurance. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic not less than six weeks prior to departure to ensure that you have met the necessary requirements and have the applicable information. It is the party leader's responsibility to ensure that all members of the party are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry all required documentation. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes regularly updated travel information on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure.

17 Travel Insurance It is absolutely essential that you and all members of your party are adequately insured (in case of illness abroad or cancellation/curtailment). If, however, you choose not to be insured you agree to indemnify the Company against all costs, losses and liabilities which the Company may incur and which are not the Company's liability under this contract and which would have been avoided had suitable insurance cover been taken by you.

18 Publication The prices in this brochure replace all prices in previous brochures and price leaflets. Date of publication: December 2016. Copyright Garland Hoff Limited

Book with confidence

The AITO quality charter

AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Exclusive membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial security

AITO members are required to protect money paid by customers to the member for any holiday sold under the AITO logo and to comply with UK Government Regulations in this respect. Members submit details of their bonding and guarantee arrangements to the Association on a regular basis.

Accurate brochures and websites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional service and continual improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

Responsible tourism

All members acknowledge the importance of AITO's Responsible Tourism guidelines, which recognise the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating. Those demonstrating their achievements beyond the pure acceptance of this principle are recognised by the award of 2 or 3 star status.

Customer relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, AITO's low-cost Independent Dispute Settlement Service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

The Association of Independent Tour Operators



Peace of mind

With Italian Expressions you are buying peace of mind in all aspects of your holiday.

Full financial protection

Full financial protection is offered when you book a holiday with us. Our air holidays are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 3076. As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Expressions Holidays has provided a bond (licence number 5263) to protect non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK and other non-flight packages excluding pre-arranged travel to and from your destination. Please refer to our booking conditions for full details. We are also members of ABTA (W1080) and AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators), an organisation of some of Britain's best specialist tour operators.

Confirmed arrangements

When you book an Italian Expressions holiday, you know that you are not leaving your holiday to chance. Your arrangements are made in advance, so that you know when and where you're going to be day by day.

Help is at hand

In the unlikely event of your requiring assistance when you're abroad (unfortunately, unforeseen events do mean that sometimes clients have to return home for example), we are just a phone call away and can be relied upon to offer advice and help.

MALVERN

WORLD TRAVEL

Lee & Hilary Harrison
Your Travel Specialists

Any questions?
If you have any questions
please phone us on

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

Tuscan scenery

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Date of publication: December 2016

We specialise in tailor-made holidays to outstanding destinations around the world.

To request more information call the numbers below.



Caribbean Expressions



Expressions Indian Ocean

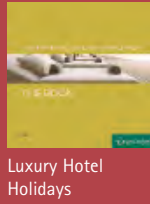


French Expressions

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New Zealand and Australia

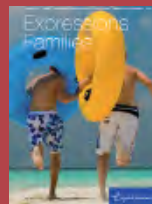


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ITALIAN Expressions

Expressions Holidays is all about personal choice and practical advice, conveyed with a character and flavour that are our own. Owned and run by Marcelle Hoff and Martin Garland, we are a truly independent, specialist tour operator whose aim is to provide you with choice, flexibility, personal service, professional solutions and value for money.

The flavour of Italy - just a phone call away

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