



Italy Dream Tour
September 26 – October 7, 2021



Private Tour of Italy

Brought to you by:

Susan Sheats
World Exposures
703-967-9336

Operated by:

ITINERARY

September 26 – Milan, Italy – Stresa

Arrival into Milan airport. Our driver will be waiting for the group outside the baggage area. Once everyone has claimed their luggage and cleared customs, the group will transfer by private motorcoach to our Stresa hotel in the Lake Maggiore area. En route to the hotel, we will make a stop in Arona for a 3-course lunch featuring local lake fish.

Arrive at the hotel to check in and enjoy a welcome drink and time to relax before dinner at the hotel. *Meals L+D*



2 nights Stresa at Regina Palace (or similar)

Room Type: Standard Rooms

Overlooking the shores of Lake Maggiore, centrally located in Stresa and directly facing the Borromean Islands, the four-star Regina Palace hotel opened in 1908. It still preserves its fin de siècle fascination, even though it has a renewed appearance as a result of a meticulous, albeit conservative refurbishment program. Regina Palace's unique combination of charm and modernity will render a stay in one of the 214 rooms or suites - all furnished with period pieces and equipped with every facility - totally unforgettable. The century-old park contains the open-air pool, a tennis court and a five-a-side football pitch. The indoor pool is heated and packed with invigorating water features. The multi-sensory showers and the different musical and color features provoke an instant feeling of wellbeing. Rounding it all off, there is a sauna, Turkish bath and gym. Beauty treatments are chargeable.

September 27 – Stresa: Lake Maggiore & Borromean Island

After breakfast, we'll meet our guide in the hotel lobby, then transfer by private boat to Borromean Island. The Borromean Islands are a group of three small islands and two islets in the Italian part of Lago Maggiore, located in the western arm of the lake, between Verbania to the north and Stresa to the south. Together totaling just 50 acres in area, they are a major local attraction for their picturesque setting.

We will also visit the Gardens of Villa Taranto for a privately guided tour. The gardens are landscaped in what is essentially the *English style*, though there is no lack of Italian features like statues, fountains, ponds, terraces, waterfalls – in short, all the ornamental elements that add some extra magic to this earthly paradise. Villa Taranto is one of the most important botanic gardens in the world, with thousands of species of trees and flowers from all over the world. We see eucalyptus, azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, port wine magnolias, maples, camellias, Dove Trees just to name a few. To conclude our day, dinner at Isola dei Pescatori with drinks included after which we return to our hotel for the evening. *Meals L+D*



September 28 – Stresa – Alba & Langhe Wine Region – Portofino – Sestri Levante

Enjoy breakfast before we meet our private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to Sestri Levante. On the way we will stop in the wine region of Langhe and Alba. We will have a guided tour of Alba, followed by a wine tasting with light lunch in a private family estate in Piobesi D'Alba.



After our visit to the winery, we will continue to Santa Margherita Ligure to board the public boat to beautiful Portofino (tickets to be purchased directly). Our motorcoach driver will deliver our luggage to our Sestri hotel, so we will be unencumbered to enjoy free time to explore this seaside town on our own.

Later in the evening, we will return to Sestri Levante by public boat (tickets to be purchased directly). Our luggage will be there to greet us as we check in at the lovely Hotel Vis a Vis, conveniently located just 300 meters from the pier. *Meals B+L*

1 nights Sestri Levante at Hotel Vis a Vis (or similar)

Room Type: Standard Rooms

With its amazing panoramic views, the Vis a Vis is one of the most extraordinary hotels in Liguria. It is managed by the third generation of the De Nicolai family who built the hotel in 1964. The architectural concept and the design of the building recalls a cruise ship on land. Centrally located in the city, to which it is connected by a lift carved into the rock, the hotel dominates the view of the Gulf of Tigullio from Portofino to the peninsula of Sestri Levante. Completely renovated, the Hotel has 48 rooms and junior suites, all with balcony or small private garden. Some of them offer a wonderful sea-view. The heated outdoor swimming pool surrounded by olive trees, the wi-fi connection covers all areas of the hotel including the outdoor ones, and bicycle rental is available to guests free of charge. Hotel Vis a Vis is the perfect place for those who seek and appreciate comfort, excellent service and informal elegance.



September 29 – Sestri – Cinque Terre – Tuscany

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel and transfer by private motorcoach to La Spezia, leaving our luggage for our private driver to collect for us later in the day. In La Spezia, we will meet our expert local guide for a full-day guided exploration to discover beautiful Cinque Terre, traveling by train and visiting Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza and Manarola.

After our visits, we will return to La Spezia, where our driver and private motorcoach will be waiting to transfer us to Villa Casagrande, our Tuscany accommodations in Figline Valdarno. Figline Valdarno a lovely town full of Italian spirit a picturesque town in Tuscany between many vineyards in the Chianti area of Florence and is one of the most artistically & economically interesting town around Florence. This ideal, tranquil town is within easy reach of cities of historical importance like Siena and Arezzo also allows visitors the possibility to explore the rare beauty of the Tuscan countryside which is close at hand.

After check in, enjoy some free time before we dine at the villa this evening; our meal includes 3 courses with local Chianti wines. Villa Casagrande has a professional team of chefs and culinary experts to make every dish as perfect as possible, and the staff constantly interacts with customers to know about their tastes and preference. After dinner, we retire for the evening at the villa. *Meals B+D*



3 nights Tuscany (Figline Valdarno) at Villa Casagrande (or similar)

Room Type: Comfort Rooms

Villa Casagrande is an elegant, superior category hotel, located in the old town center of Figline Valdarno, a little town strategically located in a central position between the cities of Florence, Arezzo and Siena. It is a large, distinctive building with a spacious, austere enclosure in pure Tuscan style. The staff of Villa Casagrande look forward to helping you to discover the beauty and the flavors of our "Tuscan Land."



September 30 – Tuscany: Truffle Hunting & Cooking Class

Breakfast at the villa and then we are off to the Val D'Orcia area. Here you will see such villages as Montepulciano, Montalcino, and Pienza. We'll start our adventures today with a truffle

hunting excursion, guided by our personal "trifulao" (truffle hunter) who will offer a general explanation about truffles, the various types of hunting, and the training methods and regulations. Once our hunting is over, we will enjoy a 4-course lunch on the premises.

In the afternoon, we return to the Villa Casagrande to delight in a hands-on cooking class to prepare a dinner of Focciana Toscana, Gnocchi al pesto, Pizza, and Cantuccini Toscana. After dining on courses that we've prepared together, the remainder of the evening is at leisure. *Meals B+L+D*



October 1 – Tuscany: San Gimignano & Siena

After breakfast and check out, our private motor coach takes us to Siena and San Gimignano. We will meet our English-speaking guide and our first stop will be Siena, the historic center of which has been declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site. Our English-speaking guide will go into detail about the town and its people, all the while showing us the fantastic scenery and historic sights.

Next, it is onward to San Gimignano. San Gimignano is an Italian hill town in Tuscany, southwest of Florence. Encircled by 13th-century walls, its old town centers on Piazza della Cisterna, a triangular square lined with medieval houses. It has a skyline of medieval towers, including the stone Torre Grossa. Our private guide will also show us the Duomo di San Gimignano, a 12th-century church with frescoes by Ghirlandaio in its Santa Fina Chapel.

After our sightseeing, we will visit a family-owned wine estate in San Gimignano to view the vineyard and delight in a wine tasting, followed by a 3-course lunch of typical Tuscan fare with wine. We'll then return to Villa Casagrande, where there will be time to relax before dining at the hotel this evening. *Meals B+L+D*



October 2 – Tuscany – Tivoli – Sorrento

Our last breakfast at the villa and then we travel from Tuscany to Sorrento on our private motorcoach. En route, we stop in Tivoli to meet our English-speaking local expert, who will provide a privately guided tour of Villa d'Este and Villa Adriana, both of which have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Villa d'Este is a 16th-century villa famous for its terraced hillside Italian Renaissance garden and especially for its profusion of fountains. Villa Adriana is an exceptional complex of classical buildings created in the 2nd century A.D. by the Roman emperor Hadrian. It combines the best elements of the architectural heritage of Egypt, Greece, and Rome in the form of an 'ideal city'. After our tour, we will sit down for a 3-course lunch with wine in Tivoli, before continuing to Sorrento.

Arriving at Hotel Antiche Mura in Sorrento's main square, Piazza Tasso, we will check-in and have

time to refresh before dinner. Tonight, we dine at Antica Trattoria, just 5-minutes by foot from our hotel; a 3-course dinner of southern Italian fare awaits, including wine. *Meals B+L+D*

3 nights Sorrento at Hotel Antiche Mura (or similar)

Room Type: Classic Rooms

Hotel Antiche Mura combines sophisticated and elegant traditional decor with comfort and innovative technologies to satisfy the most demanding customer. 52 beautiful rooms divide in double, triple, family, and interconnecting rooms. Located in the center of Sorrento and in walking distance from public transport and all amenities, the hotel features a citrus garden and swimming pool equipped with free sun loungers, umbrellas, and beach towels.



October 3 – Sorrento: Amalfi Coast

After breakfast, we meet our local expert in the hotel lobby, then board our two awaiting minibuses for an excursion along the beautiful Amalfi Coast. One look at the Amalfi Coast and you may believe that you have found heaven on earth. That is the kind of spellbinding effect this stretch of Italian coastline tends to have on the 5 million annual visitors who cross its mesmerizing paths. Located in the Campania region of Italy, this UNESCO World Heritage site covers 34 miles of majestic terrain; sky-high costal cliffs display vibrant vegetation and multicolored towns live side by side with the disarming turquoise waters of the Mediterranean, creating a scene that has the power to stop even the most seasoned of traveler's dead in their tracks. We will visit the villages of Positano and Amalfi, with privately guided walking tours and free time to explore in each village. Our guide will be happy to suggest locations for optional lunch today (meal cost to be paid directly), as desired.



Returning to Sorrento in the afternoon, we will follow Sorrento's Lemon Trail into the fairy tale that is the historic "Il Pizzo" estate. At the Il Pizzo estate, you can step back in time and into the history of Sorrento and the beauty of a secret garden that has a touch of royalty, whose original owner was a Count. Learn from experts about the cultivation and nurturing of lemon trees and their fruit. Relax in the lemon grove for a limoncello making demonstration and indulge yourself in generous tasting of homemade lemon delights like marmalade, liqueur, and lemonade made with fresh lemons. After the tastings, we'll return to our hotel in the early evening with the night free. *Meals B*



October 4 – Sorrento: Capri

After breakfast, we will depart for our full-day, relaxed excursion to the Island of Capri with our private guide. Today's tour starts with a private transfer to the Pizza pier to board the fast jetfoil to the Island. Once on Capri, your guide will take you on a driving tour of the island, including Anacapri, the town on the top of the Island where you will have time at disposal to enjoy the shops or to climb to Monte Solaro by chairlift. The tour will then continue to Capri town, where the guide will suggest a suitable venue for optional lunch (meal cost to be paid directly). Return to Sorrento in late afternoon by public jetfoil; our private driver will be waiting at the pier to greet us for return to our hotel.

After a break to relax and refresh, we'll take the 5-minute walk to Il Buco to delight in 4 courses with wine pairings at this intimate Michelin-starred restaurant. *Meals B+D*



October 5 – Sorrento – Pompeii – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel and then we check-out of our hotel in Sorrento and head towards Rome. On the way to Rome, we stop in Pompeii where we meet our local English-speaking guide. On this tour you will see an ancient Roman town frozen in time, thanks to a devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Explore houses from modest to majestic; see Roman shops, baths, and brothels; or apply your high-school Latin to the graffiti that is still visible on some of the walls. Once the tour is over, we continue to Rome where we check-in to the hotel, with remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. *Meals B*

2 nights Rome at Dei Mellini Hotel (or similar)

Room Type: Standard Rooms

The Dei Mellini is a perfect oasis with a roof garden, a solarium and a gym. With 80 tastefully appointed hotel guestrooms and suites, each offering an elegant design, we provide our guests with a colorful and comfortable experience. The rooms are spacious, acoustically protected, and creatively furnished in a bright, contemporary English motif, rich in warm tones and inspired by Art Deco.





October 6 – Rome: Villa Borghese & Jewish Ghetto

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart from the hotel lobby with our private driver for transfer to the Villa Borghese Museum. We will meet our English-speaking guide and learn about one of the most beautiful museums in Italy. Villa Borghese of Rome is one of the largest urban parks in Europe. The State acquired the gardens from the Borghese family in 1901 and opened them to the public on 12 July 1903. What differentiates Villa Borghese from other large parks such as Hyde Park or Central Park is the perfect combination between nature and Roman art. Villa Borghese is home to interesting architectural elements, sculptures, monuments, and fountains created at different times by famous artists. We will return to our hotel after the tour for a break to refresh and have time for optional lunch.

In early afternoon, we depart from the hotel by motorcoach with our private local expert to explore Rome's Jewish Ghetto. Hidden in the heart of the city, the Jewish Ghetto is one of the best attractions in Rome and one of its least known. As the oldest Jewish community in all of Europe, this beautiful, thriving neighborhood is as central to the history of the city as it is to the Jewish faith. We will tour the ghetto and the Trastevere neighborhood, then dine at Sabatini Restaurant in Trastevere restaurant (3 courses with wine), before returning to our hotel to prepare for our flights back home. *Meals B+D*

October 7 – Rome & Depart

After breakfast, check out and meet our private driver in the lobby at the appointed time. Our motor coach will take the group back to the airport 3 hours prior to departure for the return flight. *Meals B*

Arrivederci!!

2021 Private Tour includes:

- Accommodations:
 - 2 nights Stresa – Regina Palace (or similar) – Standard Rooms
 - 1 night Sestri Levante – Hotel Vis a Vis (or similar) – Standard Rooms
 - 3 nights Figline Valdarno – Villa Casagrade (or similar) – Comfort Rooms
 - 3 nights Sorrento – Hotel Antiche Mura (or similar) – Classic Rooms
 - 2 nights Rome – Dei Mellini Hotel (or similar) – Standard Rooms
- Transportation by 30-seat motorcoach with private local driver. Motorcoach destinations overview:
 - Sept 26: Milan airport-Arona-Stresa hotel
 - Sept 28: Stresa hotel-Langhe (Alba)-Santa Margherita Ligure (luggage continues to Sestri Levante hotel)
 - Sept 29: Sestri Levante hotel-La Spezia-Tuscany hotel
 - Sept 30: Tuscany hotel-Val D'Orcia-Tuscany hotel
 - Oct 1: Tuscany hotel-Siena-San Gimignano-Tuscany hotel
 - Oct 2: Tuscany hotel-Tivoli-Sorrento hotel
 - Oct 5: Sorrento hotel-Pompeii-Rome hotel
 - Oct 6: Rome hotel-Villa Borghese-Rome Hotel- Trastevere-Rome Hotel
 - Oct 7: Rome hotel-Rome airport
 - All ZTL and parking fees
- Transportation by two 19-seat minibuses with private local drivers (as required by limits on larger vehicles). Minibus destinations overview:
 - Oct 3: Sorrento hotel-Amalfi Coast-Sorrento (lemon tour)-Sorrento hotel
 - Oct 4: Sorrento hotel-Sorrento pier-Sorrento hotel
 - All ZTL and parking fees
- Sightseeing – all guides on private basis:
 - Sept 27: 8 hrs English-speaking guide: Private boat tour to visit Borromean Island & Gardens of Villa Taranto including admissions - Private boat round-trip transfers from Stresa to Isola dei Pescatori pm for dinner - Entrance fees to Isola Bella+Isola Madre+Villa Taranto - Disembarkation tax
 - Sept 28: English-speaking guide for Alba city tour and winery visit; winery tour by staff
 - Sept 29: 8 hrs English-speaking guide: Cinque Terre tour – Pass to Natural Park – Train access
 - Sept 30: Half-day truffle hunt – English-speaking trifolino - hunt with introductory lesson
 - Oct 1: English-speaking guide for Siena and S. Gimignano city tours – whispers included
 - Oct 2: English-speaking guide for tour of Villa D'Este & Villa Adriana – entrances included
 - Oct 3: 8 hrs English-speaking guide for Amalfi Coast drive with stops in Positano + Amalfi (1 guide; 2 minibuses – guide provides commentary at stops) – Lemon tour at “Il Pizzo” estate with tasting of lemon products and limoncello
 - Oct 4: 8 hrs English-speaking guide for Capri tour – Jetfoil tickets to/from Capri – private vehicle for island tour (pier-Anacapri-Blue Grotto-Capri-pier) – rowboat passage to/from Blue Grotto with entrance fees
 - Oct 5: English-speaking guide for Pompeii tour with entrance fees + whispers
 - Oct 6: English-speaking guide for Villa Borghese with entrances + whispers –

English-speaking guide for Jewish Ghetto/Trastevere with Synagogue and Jewish Museum entrances fees and whispers

- Meals:
 - 11 hotel breakfasts
 - 6 lunches:
 - Sept 26: Arona lake front restaurant – 3 courses with beverage
 - Sept 27: TBD – light lunch Borromean Islands
 - Sept 28: Alba winery – lunch based on local prosciutto/salumi, local cheeses + 4 wines (Roero, Roero Arneis, Barbaresco, Barolo)
 - Sept 30: Val D'Orcia – 4 courses with beverage
 - Oct 1: San Gimignano winery – 3 courses with wine
 - Oct 2: Tivoli restaurant – 3 courses with wine
 - 8 dinners
 - Sept 26: Regina Palace – 3 courses with beverage
 - Sept 27: Isola dei Pescatori – Imbarcadero or similar – 3 courses with beverage
 - Sept 29: Tuscany hotel – 3 courses with Chianti wines
 - Sept 30: Tuscany hotel (cooking class: Foccacia Toscana, Gnocchi al pesto, Pizza, Cantucci Toscana)
 - Oct 1: Tuscany hotel – 3 courses with Chianti wines
 - Oct 2: Sorrento restaurant – Antica Trattoria – 3 courses with wine
 - Oct 4: Sorrento – Il Buco (Michelin star) – set menu with wine
 - Oct 6: Rome/Trastevere – Sabatini restaurant – 3 courses with wine
 - Additional food and wine tastings, per program
 - Hotel porterage (1 piece per person)
 - All taxes

Not included:

- International airfare (quoted separately upon request)
- Passport/visa arrangements
- Gratuities
- COVID-19 testing arrangements or fees (unless pre-arranged with A+R)
- Early check in/late check-out
- Meals other than breakfast, unless specified

Price: \$7,159 per person based on double occupancy

\$ 900 single supplement

Custom Payment Schedule:

- Deposit: \$500 per person
- Balance payment due: Thursday, August 5, 2021

(We will be keeping an eagle eye on the situation in Italy and will make a final decision by August 3rd as to whether we will proceed with the trip this September or move to next spring 2022)

Terms & Conditions:

Must follow the Italian Covid Green Certification guidelines:

- that you have been fully **vaccinated** against COVID-19 (carry US card)
- that you have **recovered** from COVID-19 infection (medical verification)
- that you have **tested negative** in a rapid molecular or antigen test (within past 72 hours)

Must abide by all airline, regional and country rules and regulations throughout the trip

Must carry full travel insurance.

Travel Insurance:

You may use any travel insurance company you wish; however, World Exposures will need a copy of the insurance policy. Travel Guard is our preferred insurance company (as you know, Jim works for Travel Guard and we honestly believe they offer the most comprehensive coverage). We recommend that you cover just the deposit within 14 days of booking (to make sure any pre-existing conditions are covered) and subsequently, increase the coverage when you pay the balance due.

Follow this links to get an idea of insurance cost.

World Exposures Insurance Options: Travel Guard Deluxe/Preferred

https://buy.travelguard.com/tgi2/pct/default.aspx?header=off&footer=off&br=agentlink&sk=agentlink&st=&arc=137786&pc=PCTUSASLG&s2q=&agencye-mail=suesheats@comcast.net&ta_initials=k

Travel Insurance has become a vital component of any trip purchase.

The two packages we recommend are Deluxe (most coverage) and Preferred (the most popular and offers plenty of coverage). Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) is available if you really, really want it, however, it is pricey and it only covers up to half of your investment.

There is new lodging coverage this year to help (a little) with quarantine should that, although less likely now, become an issue. (inexpensive). I am happy to speak with you when you get ready to book your insurance. I even have a cheat sheet that compares products.

Custom Cancellation Terms:

45 days or more prior to travel:	\$250 penalty per person
44 days or fewer prior to departure:	100% trip cost penalty per person

For full terms and conditions for your Custom journey, please visit the "[Terms & Conditions](#)" section on the Alexander & Roberts website.

Steps to move forward:

- 1) Let me know if you are interested – 703-967-9336 or sue@worldexposures.com
- 2) Complete, sign and scan the following attached forms to sue@worldexposures.com
 - World Exposures booking form
 - World Exposures Agreement (including World Exposures Privacy Policy)
- 3) Once these forms are received, I will send the tour operator's Guest Information Form, which also needs to be completed (lots of forms!!)