



*Tours For Women*



# ITALY – The Original Tour



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**ORIGINAL TOUR – ITALY:** This is our flagship tour. It was the first tour offered by our then fledgling company in 2005. Each part of the program has been especially chosen to provide a relaxed, meaningful, small group 21 day experience in this wonderful country.

Our guides are all local women with a passion for life, art and history. With our small groups we like to think that we travel under the radar. We travel between each region by first class train. In Venice we use local water buses as well as private boat and of course, a gondola. Wherever we are, our transport is a mix of walking and private transport.

**WHAT WE DO:** We visit both the 'must see' sights and also many 'off the tourist trail' places. We never rush. Time to wander and enjoy the sights and sounds of a place. Always allowed in the programme, are times to do your own thing. Hotels are close to the centre to enable you to explore – or sit with an aperitif and watch the world go by. And – we never queue!

You always have your own double room with bathroom. No single supplement.

Our tour is a mix of experiences. It includes: *Secret Rome walk* with our private guide, *skip the crowds entry* to museums and galleries, *market tastings*, private visit to our guide's family *Palazzo Colonna*, personal introductions to *artisans* and their crafts, *rustic Sunday lunch* in the country, *wine tasting* in Tuscany, wandering in *walled hilltop towns*, hearing the *stories of Venice*, boating across the Venice lagoon, the best of *Opera in a Palazzo* on the Grand Canal....

**Tour cost and payment:** The tour cost is *TBA (Double room/single use)*  
It is payable by deposit and monthly payments.  
Payment is all made to our registered Travel Agent where by law, it is retained in trust.

**Flights:** Want to arrange different flights or business class? We can help with this – and if you do choose a different option, then we will deduct \$1200 from the tour cost.

**Tour cost includes:**

- *Economy return international flights*
- *2 meals/day*
- *Double room/single use- always*
- *Group transfers*
- *Private guides – and Tour manager*
- *All transport & tips*
- *Entrance fees*
- *Train fares (first class)*
- *Special events: concerts, cooking class, private visits ...etc*
- *Artisan visits: eg mask makers, silversmiths, perfume makers, glass maker*
- *Art historian talks*
- *Personal photo album of tour*

**Tour cost does not include:** mandatory insurance, wines etc, personal expenses, extra meals, room service.

**NB\*\*** *this is a walking tour – which means we generally walk everywhere to see the sights and experience the best. Sometimes we may take a taxi when feet get tired – approx cost to you €2-3 p/p (4 in a taxi). Otherwise all transportation is included in your payment*



## ~ An Italian Experience ~

### FULL ITINERARY \*\* subject to minor changes

\*\*\* \$ denotes included in your tour price

**Day 1: Saturday 18 March 2023** - Leave Australia for Rome:

#### ROME Hotel Marcella Royal

**Day 2: Sunday 19 March – ARRIVE ROME -**

**Orientation walk \$** of our area with Penny

- **Welcome Drinks** on the rooftop terrace \$
- **Basic Italian Lesson** will be conducted on the rooftop over lunch \$  
(just the words you will need to buy coffee and ask for the bathroom, etc)
- **Wander around Rome \$** - Walk down the famous Via Veneto: see:
  - Café de Paris & Doney made famous by La Dolce Vita
  - Santa Maria Della Conzezione - Capuchin monks' burial church
  - Piazza Barberini where the beautiful Tritone fountain is a landmark.
  - the Trevi Fountain
  - the Pantheon
  - Hadrian's temple
  - coffee in Campo di5Fiori
- **Dinner** - evening at Piazza Navona, by the fountains \$

**Day 3: Monday 20 March:**

- **9.30 am – 12.30 pm** - First half day **Discover Ancient Rome walk \$**  
We take a personalised walk through Ancient Rome with Ginevra to see:
  - The Colosseum
  - The Forum
  - The Capitoline
  - Piazza Farnese
  - Vittorio Emmanuelle monument
  - Piazza Venezia
  - The Ghetto
- **Lunch - Hostaria Costanza \$** (set in the ancient theatre of Pompey)
- **Afternoon free**
- **Dinner – your choice**
  - Relax at the hotel, and have a meal on the rooftop, OR
  - Join Penny for a casual meal at La Lampada (famous for its truffle dishes)

**Day 4: Tuesday 21 March:**

- **Morning free** - time to relax in your own way
- **Lunch - your choice**
- **5.00 pm -7.30 pm - Secret Rome walk \$**  
We get right away from the tourist hotspots with Ginevra- Private visit to her uncle's Palazzo Colonna and experience the back streets of ancient Rome.
- **7.30 pm - Dinner** - at **Café Margutta** (near Piazza del Popolo) \$  
We walk to the Piazza where all big Roman events are based.

### Day 5: Wednesday 22 March:

- **7.50 am** - Train to **Naples** \$ and on to
- **POMPEII** – guided tour \$ - back to AD 79 and the day time stood still – to see
  - The homes of the nobles
  - Wonderful murals
  - Shops
  - Amphitheatre
  - Temples
- **Lunch** - We drive to Amalfi for lunch and a wander around this iconic town. Then return to Rome for the evening.
- **7.30 pm** – Dinner at **Vincenzo's Restaurant** \$

### Day 6: Thursday 23 March:

- **8.30 am -12.30 pm - Vatican museums** \$ with Ginevra a private entrance with no queue. You will see:
  - the treasures of the Vatican museums
    - the Raphael rooms
    - the Sistine Chapel
    - the famous double Bernini royal staircase
    - St Peters Basilica
- **Fabulous lunch at Casa Bleve** \$
- **Afternoon free**
- **Dinner – your choice**

## VENICE Hotel Ala

### Day 7: Friday 24 March:

- **8:45 am** - meet in lobby
- **9.45 am** - First class **Eurostar train to Venice** \$
- **1:33 pm** - arrive **Venice**. Transfer to Hotel \$ by **private boat**
- **2.20 pm** - meet in lobby for **Orientation walk**
- **Leisure time** to explore the streets and shops
- **7.30 pm** - meet in the Bar for a drink before dinner
- **8.00 pm** - **Dinner** together at **La Feluca**

### Day 8: Saturday 25 March:

- **Morning free** to sleep in, or wander the narrow streets
- **Lunch your choice**
- **2.00 pm – 5.00 pm** - **First guided Walk with Luisella, visiting the:**
  - Doges Palace
  - Bridge of Sighs
  - Basilica of Saint Mark
  - and learn more about the Piazza San Marco
- **7.30 pm** - **Dinner at Vino Vino** - near la Fenice \$
- **8.30 pm** - **Opera \$ Barber of Seville** at **Palazzo Barbarigo Minotto** on the Grand Canal

**Day 9: Sunday 26 March:**

**Optional:**

Boat trip to Burano Island  
small canals and different life style on the lagoon. (Lace making was the principal cottage industry here - an almost disappeared craft)  
Afternoon return to Hotel  
Rest of day at leisure

**OR - Leisure time for the day to explore the markets, etc**

- **6.00 pm** - meet in lobby to catch water bus to early  
**Dinner** at Ristorante Terrazzo Sommariva in Rialto district \$
- **8.30 pm** - **Concerto di Quattro Stagione (4 Seasons)** at Scuola SanTeodoro \$

**Day 10: Monday 27 March:**

- **8.30 am – 12.30pm** - **Second guided walks inside Venice with Luisella \$:**  
Bevilacqua fabric makers  
boat trip to Murano and Seguso Glass makers.  
Return by private water taxi \$.
- **After lunch**  
explore the glass, paper, jewellery and antique shops in our vicinity  
OR...Enjoy a book, or snooze in the sun on the rooftop...People-watch  
in one of the piazzas nearby
- **7.30 pm** - **Dinner at Al Ponte** (a local favourite) \$

**Day 11: Tuesday 28 March:**

- **8.30 am – 12 noon** - **Final guided walk with Luisella, \$ visiting:**  
Mondo Nuovo mask makers  
Gondola maker  
Museum of Costume
- **Lunch your choice**
- **2.30 pm** - **Tour of La Fenice Opera House \$**  
We learn about this famous theatre and the rebuilding following fires in the last decade
- **7.30 pm** – meet in lobby for **Farewell Dinner at Il Sempione \$**

**FLORENCE                      Hotel Degli Orafi**

**Day 12: Wednesday 29 March:**

- **Mid-morning – Fast Train from Venice to Florence \$**  
**Taxis to our hotel on arrival.** Welcome drinks on the rooftop.
  - **Orientation walk** of Florence with Penny \$ - getting our bearings  
Browsing the leather markets  
the tassel shops and  
the glove makers
- Visit to **Ferragamo shoe museum \$**  
(see the shoes specially made for Audrey Hepburn, shoes from Hollywood movies etc...)
- **Dinner at Osteria del Cinghiale Bianco \$**

**Day 13: Thursday 30 March:**

- **Morning at leisure**
- **Lunch – own arrangements**
- After lunch, we drive up to the **Piazza Michelangelo \$** where we can see all over Florence. Visit the old suburb of San Niccolo as we walk back down the hill to the Santa Croce and Michelangelo's tomb
- **Visit to the Scuola di Cuio** (school of leather) \$
- **7.00 pm - Dinner at sunset – Golden view \$** - overlooking the Ponte Vecchio

**Day 14: Friday 31 March:**

- **Morning at leisure**
- **Lunch – own arrangements**
- **1.30 pm – 5.30 pm - Artisans walking tour with Emma \$**  
mosaic makers  
the gilders & silver smiths  
paper makers  
exclusive perfumier
- **6.00 pm – 7.00 pm - Before dinner - Art Historian Talk - art in Florence** (what you will see at the Uffizi, tomorrow) \$
- **8.00 pm - Dinner at Paoli Restaurant \$** (vaulted ceilings, 400 yr old frescoes on the walls and a fabulous menu)

**Day 15: Saturday 1 April:**

**Taste of Tuscany Villa Maiano**

- **11.00 am - 3.30 pm –**
  - **A guided tour through the lovely villa** (featured in films *Room with a View* and *Lunch with Mussolini*.)\$
  - relax and eat *al fresco* at the adjoining 'fattoria/farm' in the hills above Florence. \$
- **Rest of day free**
- **Dinner – your choice**

**Day 16: Sunday 2 April:**

**Walking tour of Florence \$**

- **9.00 am – 12.30 pm –with Paola**  
Statue of David  
truffle & cheese tastings at the wonderful Mercato Centrale  
Duomo  
Piazza Signoria  
Palazzo Vecchio  
Piazza Repubblica (stop for gelato)
- **Lunch on walk**
- **Rest of afternoon at leisure**, until...
- **4.00 pm – 6.00 pm Visit the Uffizi Gallery \$** with Emma  
skim past the crowds...
- **8.00 pm - Dinner at Gilda's \$** (*where everything is gilded!*)

**Day 17: Monday 3 April:**

Meet Stefano our driver – drive \$ through the countryside to...

**Villa Pitiana for anti pasti lunch**

Visit to the famous wine cellar with wine and oil tastings \$

**Leisure time**

Enjoy the villa OR

Walk/explore the towns nearby

**Meet in the lounge for pre-dinner drinks**

**Welcome Dinner in the Villa Dining room \$**

**Day 18: Tuesday 4 April:**

**Leisurely day**

**10.30 am - Cooking class** at the Villa Pitiana - culminating in lunch \$

**Afternoon free**

can organise with Penny to sightsee in the area OR

read in the library AND/OR

relax in the sun in the huge garden

**Dinner at the Villa \$**

**Day 19: Wednesday 5 April:**

**Day trip - 9.00 am – 5.00 pm –**

Tour, in a leisurely manner, around **Tuscany and Chianti**, \$: visit:

- Greve – wine tasting
- The Badia di Passignano ""
- San Gimignano
- Monteriggioni
- Montefioralle
- More....
- **Lunch at own cost**
- **Dinner at the Villa \$**

**ROME**

**Hotel Marcella Royal**

**Day 20: Thursday 6 April**

**Transfer to Rome- by Eurostar train \$**

- Arrive in time for lunch.
- **Afternoon free**
- OR - come to the **Villa / Gallery Borghese** with Penny
- **Farewell to Rome – Dinner with a view of the city – wow!! \$**
- Taxi drive around the **city monuments by night...**

**Day 21: Friday 7 April**

**Our last** Breakfast together on the rooftop

Transfers to airport and then

Leave Rome Leonardo Da Vinci Airport for Australia...

**HOME: April 8th**

