



## **THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL GROUP**

### **THE MOST FABULOUS SWEEP THROUGH ITALY**

**15 Days:** Alberobello, Ostuni, Polignano, Matera, Sorrento, Amalfi, Ravello, Positano, Pompeii, Rome, Florence, Siena, Chianti & Cinque Terre Option

#### **Tour Overview**

*Experience the tour of a lifetime. This tour is arranged to cover more than most trips to Italy ; yet we will not rush. Our escort joins for the full 15 days. We stay 3 nights in many choice stops to allow for this perfect pace. Start in the most popular 'new/old' area of Italy: Puglia: Alberobello and then on to Locorotondo to explore villages, vineyards, and olive trees. Next up—Cisternino, a small charming old town center that has remained intact for centuries. Visit Ostuni, Polignano, and Monopoli, more commonly known as the “White Town”, to see the fifteenth-century Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral. Travel to the third oldest city in the world, Matera, with its vast water systems and underground dwellings. Visit the town of Pompeii where the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius sealed its fate, the Amalfi Coast, Sorrento and Cinque Terra. Spend days in Rome, visiting the Vatican in all its glory. Travel to picturesque Tuscany, home to vineyards and enchanting hill top villages. Stop in the walled city of Siena. Continue to the Renaissance city of Florence. Finally, travel on canals to explore Venice.*

#### **Day 01: Friday, Oct 7 2022– Arrival Bari (D)**

Arrive at Bari airport and transfer to our hotel. Welcome briefing and overnight in Alberobello. Flights arrive in the morning or mid-afternoon; there will be two transfers if needed. Welcome dinner with our guide (tour briefing before dinner if flight arrival times permit) Accommodation: Trulli Holiday Resort

*Nestled in the magic scenery of **Trulli**, **Trulli Holiday** offers the opportunity to stay in historic homes. Our Trulli are carefully restored and furnished according to tradition without neglecting comfort. Alberobello is a small and unique town located in the hills of **Valle d'Itria**, set among the Pinnacles and living stone of magical Trulli.*

#### **Day 02: Saturday Oct8 22 – Alberobello, Locorotondo & Cisternino (BL)**

After breakfast, start our exploration of Val d'Itria. We visit Locorotondo and Cisternino and pass beautiful villages, vineyards, and olive trees. Locorotondo is considered one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Here, the town is the main sight. It is a pleasant place for wandering, taking photographs, and sitting at cafe tables. The historic part of town is circular perched on top of a hill. It's a whitewashed maze of little lanes lined with historic buildings, some humble and faded, others rather grand with baroque archways and architectural details. Cisternino is a small charming old town intact for centuries with white houses, narrow streets, little churches, and an elegant central piazza and panoramic viewpoints to appreciate the countryside, rolling hills, dry stone walls and Trulli roofs piercing green fields. We have a wine and cheese tasting followed by a farmer lunch in a beautiful Masseria, from here we see the green olives and the blue of the Adriatic sea. Return to Alberobello where there is time to explore on our own. Alberobello is a fascinating place to visit, above all because of the Trulli, the traditional dome-shaped buildings made from local stone. The town is surrounded by olive groves and vineyards typical of the Puglia region. Trulli is a word that derives from the Greek “tholos” (“dome”).



Each whitewashed “trullo” is built without lime or cement and has a conical roof on the outside, which is dome-shaped inside and consists of a square central compartment that connects through arcades with the kitchen and other rooms. Overnight in Alberobello.

### **Day 03: Sunday, Oct 9 22 – Ostuni, Polignano & Monopoli (B L)**

Today, visit Ostuni, Polignano & Monopoli. Ostuni, perched on three hills 700 feet above sea level, is known as the “White Town”, thanks to characteristic whitewashed houses of its historic center, a tradition kept. The fifteenth-century Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral dominates, with a façade sporting a 24-ray rose window of rare beauty. The small town of Polignano enjoys a spectacular position. Placed approximately 50 miles south of Bari and erected on the edge of a rocky gorge, the town is one of the most ancient establishments in Puglia and was populated by serial invaders from the Huns to the Normans. People come to view the crashing waves, visit the caves, and check out the panifici (bakery) in the atmospheric historical center. In Monopoli, we experience the “PaeseVecchio” as the locals call the heart of the town, where we find an unusual concentration of cultural heritage and churches, one next to another. We find small and charming homes, once inhabited by heroic fishermen and farmers, whose children are still dedicated to producing great wines. Walking among the narrow streets, between arches and alleys, feel the sea air and fragrances of fresh tomato sauce cooked for hours. **Overnight in Alberobello**

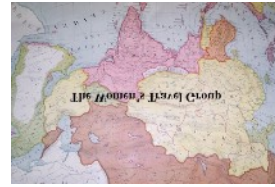
### **Day 04: Monday, Oct 10 22 – Matera - Sorrento (BD)**

Transfer to Sorrento with stop in Matera where we have time to explore with our Tour Escort. Matera is an ancient city that seems to have existed forever. It is the third oldest city in the world, after Aleppo and Jericho, with over 10,000 years of history. From natural cavities carved by wind and rain to the first man-made caves, we discover how easy it was to shape the limestone of the Sassi rock. Hence there are real underground dwellings, in the belly of Mother Earth. A woven structure that has intrigued experts has also discovered how it was possible to live in the absence of running water. Matera is a World Heritage Site. We walk through the beautiful streets and traffic-free squares and enjoy the most picturesque alleys. We have free time for lunch before continuing to Sorrento, arriving by late afternoon. Overnight in Sorrento. Enjoy a 3-course dinner with wine in a local restaurant. Accommodation: Hotel Regina

*Hotel Regina is in a residential area of the historical center of Sorrento. It is an oasis, steps from the city center, with its bars shops, and restaurants. In the garden of the hotel, with citrus trees, at the edge of its swimming pool, we can enjoy the "light snack" prepared by our Chef with typical local products while a reading room and a lounge bar are available for tranquility. Enjoy spectacular views with a glass of white wine or cocktail. The splendid panorama sweeps 360 ° from the green hills and the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius.*

### **Day 05: Tuesday, Oct 11 22 – Amalfi Drive (B)**

The beauty of the Amalfi Coast is legendary and has inspired artists, writers, and musicians over centuries. Widely considered Italy’s most scenic coastline, deemed by UNESCO “an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape, with exceptional cultural and natural scenic values”. These delicate fishing villages embrace the hillsides or stretch in deep green valleys, along a dramatic coastline, challenging gravity. Our guide will lead us to the town of Amalfi where we have time to explore the medieval part of the city with the imposing Dome of St. Andrew and ancient buildings dating from when



Amalfi was a the maritime power in the Mediterranean. We stop in Minori for a sweet-tasting at Sal de Riso, one of the most celebrated pastry chefs in Italy Later, we ascend to Ravello, considered the most beautiful small town in southern Italy. Perched on severe, terraced slopes, the French novelist André Gide said Ravello was closer to the sky than the sea. Covered with luxuriant gardens, peaceful roads, we find unforgettable views over the sky-blue coast below. **Return to Sorrento** late afternoon and overnight.

#### **Day 06: Wednesday, Oct 12 22 – Pompeii Excursion (BD)**

Today we visit ancient Pompeii. Pompeii is not a time machine but the closest thing to learn about everyday life in an ancient Roman city. Once a vibrant town, Pompeii's fate was sealed with the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Today, Pompeii is a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world. Pompeii was a major port for the Roman empire, which dominated the Mediterranean. As a classic port, the town was filled with sailor's hotels, bars, public baths, taverns, and brothels. The archeological site and continuous excavations give visitors the best look of ancient Roman days. Visit the Roman Forum; the theatre, whose acoustics are so good we won't need microphones to be heard from the stage (70 A.D), the Anfiteatro the oldest-known Roman amphitheater in existence. Now covered in grass, it originally held 20,000 spectators. Return to Sorrento for lunch (not included) and enjoy an afternoon of relaxation or continue your exploration of the city. Tonight, enjoy a candlelight dinner in Sorrento with a sea view. **Overnight in Sorrento.**

#### **Day 07: Thursday, Oct 13 22 – Naples to Rome (BD)**

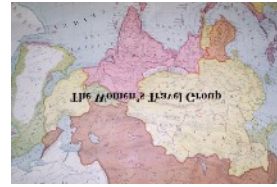
Transfer to the Railway Station in Naples to catch the high-speed train to Rome. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. Later, walk to the restaurant and enjoy a tasty dinner. Overnight in Rome Accommodation: Hotel San Giovanni  
*The Hotel San Giovanni is located in the heart of one of the most authentic and appealing neighborhoods, just outside the ancient Aurelian Walls. The building once housed a monastery and was renovated and converted to an 82-room hotel.*

#### **Day 08: Friday, Oct 14 22 – Vatican & Heart of Rome (BD)**

After breakfast, We enjoy a unique visit to the Vatican Museum. Access the Museum easily with your skip-the-line tickets. Our visit will be memorable: our guides have drawn up a route to include all major sights as well as surprises. See the Belvedere Courtyard with Apollo Belvedere & Laocoön & His Sons, Raphael Rooms, Galleries of the Candelabra, of the Maps and of the Tapestries, Sistine Chapel, Pinecone Courtyard, St. Peter's Basilica, and exit on St. Peter's Square to enjoy the magnificent view of the imposing Cathedral. We return to our hotel to relax. Late this afternoon meet our tour leader for a walking tour of the Baroque Town with Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Piazza di Spagna, Italian Parliament, and fascinating narrow streets of ancient Rome. Return to the hotel with our tour leader. Enjoy a dinner in the very heart of the eternal city. **Overnight in Rome.**

#### **Day 09: Saturday, Oct 15 22 – Rome (B)**

Today is at leisure. This tour has been designed to offer the best of each city visited combined with some free time to customize a experience as well as take time to relax. See below for extra tours to see more of Rome. **Overnight in Rome.**



### **Day 10: Sunday, Oct 16 22 – Rome – Florence - Experience True Tuscany (B L )**

Today we continue to Tuscany. Meet our tour guide and transfer to Florence by coach with an en-route stop in Siena. The ride itself is a magnificent opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Tuscan hills, the view of small, enchanting villages as well as vineyards and castles typical of the region. Upon arrival in Siena, enjoy a wine & food experience in the heart of old town. In ancient times, there was only one city that competed against Florence for power, wealth, and artistic beauties: Siena. Here we enjoy a walking tour to discover Piazza del Campo, the main central square where the famous Palio horse race takes place every year, as well as exploring quieter backstreets and learning about the Contrade, the 17 medieval city districts that compete against each other. Continue to Florence, arrive in the late afternoon. Time permitting, en route stop in Monteriggioni. Overnight in Florence

Accommodation: Hotel Croce Di Malta Florence

*Hotel Croce di Malta is located a few steps from the Arno River and Santa Maria Novella. The church makes up one of the corners of a triangle of works of art linking Piazza Santa Maria Novella, Pont Vecchio, and Piazza Duomo, all of which are only minutes' walk away. From the rooftop terrace take in a sweeping 360-degree vista of the elegant, sophisticated shape of the Duomo against the backdrop of the Florentine hills, red cupola by Brunelleschi whiteness of the marble with the green of the glorious Santa Maria Novella façade and its soaring Romantic-Gothic bell tower. At sunset, this view lights up with all the nuances of red, yellow, and gold springing forth from rooftops and buildings.*

### **Day 11: Monday, Oct 17 22 – Magnificent Florence - Food & Arts (BD)**

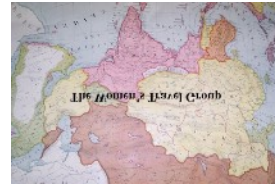
We start exploration of Florence from the unknown and most picturesque side of the city: visit the market of San Lorenzo where it is possible to see food arriving from the Tuscan countryside. Our tour leader will guide us through Mercado Centrale is a chance to taste cheeses, fruits, vegetables, and bread. If you're still hungry, there's free time for lunch. In the afternoon, meet our guide in the hotel and get ready to explore the heart of the town. Lorenzo de Medici transformed Florence into the cradle of the Renaissance by attracting the best artists, architects, and writers of the time; Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Botticelli who he commissioned to produce various works of art and architecture. We visit Piazza della Signoria, walk by the Palazzo Vecchio, the Duomo with Giotto's bell tower (from outside), and Ponte Vecchio. Our walk through Florence ends with a visit to the Accademia to admire, among the masterpieces, the jewel of Michelangelo: the statue of David. Overnight in Florence Enjoy a 3-course dinner with wine in a local restaurant

### **Day 12: Tuesday, Oct 18 22 – Optional Cinque Terre (B)**

Today is at leisure. Why not join a small group tour to Cinque Terre? You will discover the most beautiful villages of Cinque Terre, enjoy the luxuriant panoramic seaside vineyards, and savor a delicious fresh seafood typical lunch including Cinque Terre wine, and experience an amazing boat trip. Take the most beautiful pictures of Cinque Terre from the sea. (Full description below) Overnight in Florence

### **Day 13: Wednesday, Oct 19 22 – Welcome to Venice (BD)**





After breakfast, transfer to Florence's train station. Enjoy the high-speed train to Venice. The city has no roads and cars but only boats and canals. It is built on several small islands linked by hundreds of bridges. Arrive late morning and transfer to our hotel in the Laguna. Free time to explore Venice on our own. Overnight in Venice Enjoy a 3-course dinner with wine in a local restaurant. Accommodation: Hotel Carlton on The Grand Canal *Elegant and welcoming, the Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal has been run with passion for 30 years by a Venetian family which loves to pay its guests attention, by providing them with valuable advice on how to capture the city's true essence. Pastel shades, Venetian stuccoes, glass wall lamps made in Murano, furnishings which, while being functional, recall the glorious Serenissima epoch: these are the elements of the new hall and bar, completely mirrored on marvelous Istria stone. Right at the center of the hotel is an original glass cupola creating light effects that highlight its sophistication*

**Day 14: Thursday, Oct 20 22 – Enjoy “La Serenissima” Venezia (BD)**

In the afternoon, a guided visit of Venice followed by a gondola tour. The afternoon is the best moment to enjoy Venice when most visitors leave the city, and the narrow streets become fascinating and mysterious, a secret path to the Past. Our guide will help us visit the main sights of the city but also discover the real soul of Venice spending some time outside of the main tourist areas, places that you can reach by yourself only if you get lost. The tour will end with a Gondola ride. In the evening, enjoy a Venetian Dinner. Farewell Dinner with wine Overnight in Venice.

**Day 15: Friday, Oct 21 22 – Departure Venice (B)**

After Breakfast, transfer to the Airport for your flight home.

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**Optional Tours In Rome – Oct 14 & Oct 15**

**Colosseum and Ancient Rome Tour with Forum and Palatine Hill Small-Group – Skip the line (3:00 PM- 6:00 PM Oct 14 ) (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Oct 15)**

**Highlights** Explore the ancient remains of the Roman Forum one of the birthplaces of modern democracy - Climb Palatine Hill to soak up the emperors' view of old and new buildings. From the time you meet your expert English-speaking guide outside the Colosseum to when they leave you at the top of Palatine Hill 3 hours later, you travel in a small group of 25 through the ruins of Ancient Rome. The crowds will disappear as you skip the lines to walk beneath the giant arches of the Colosseum.

The Colosseum is vast. It is easy to see why it was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The scale of the double amphitheater with its stands, arches, and an arena makes visitors feel small. You'll dig into the detail of the arena, seating arrangements, and spectacles, to discover life in the past. You leave with a completely different picture of ancient Roman society. By the time you exit the Colosseum, you'll be familiar with gladiators, emperors, and Roman citizens. Your guide will take you to the Roman Forum where you'll skip the lines once again to explore the ruins of Rome's political center. You'll walk along centuries of cobblestones on the Via Sacra, through the temples of the Vestal Virgins and triumphal arches up to Palatine Hill. This is where legend has it that the city was founded and where the emperors built palaces. Looking over the monuments of ancient Rome from Palatine Hill, you'll understand how fascinating the city is. After your



3-hour exploration with an expert guide and headsets, you'll be enthralled by the story of how this city conquered the world.

**Villa Borghese Park Walking Tour (4:00P – 6:00P – Oct 14 & Oct 15) (10:00A – 12:00N – Oct 15)** Visit Villa Borghese “the green heart” of Rome and third largest park in the city. Highlights - Visit the green park in Rome - Discover with your guide the three fences and the secret gardens - Relax in the park with timeless plants and evergreen trees - Breathe the Villa Borghese history - Immerse yourself in the history of rich families and artists and secret gardens! You discover the three "fences" that divide the Villa: the dark enclosure with its fountain and the ancient "Loggia dei Vini" connected by an underground tunnel to the Casina Nobile, now the famous Borghese Gallery: the enclosure of the perspectives that is the present park of the fallow deer, where are periodically exhibited works of artists of our day, and the largest enclosure called the Barco initially uncultivated forest for walking and where then Marco Antonio Borghese built the lake and the temple. You also discover history of the Casina Nobile, commissioned by the Borghese family and container of works by artists such as Caravaggio and Bernini, considered at the time a museum of contemporary art and therefore the first museum in Rome to deal not only with antiquities.

**Morning: Cooking class in the Roman Countryside (08:30 AM – 3:30 PM – Oct 15)**

There is nothing more authentic than visiting an ancient village off the beaten track, especially if you add cooking and eating. We chose Mazzano Romano, a special location 35 km north of Rome: this Medieval town is right inside the protected area of the Veio Regional Park. Reach our meeting point: in a group of 2 - 8 people, you travel to Mazzano Romano by car. Wear comfortable clothes and avoid your best shoes, because you'll join our trusted chef to either go grocery shopping at a farmer's market or, according to season, you'll reach a lavish farm! Here you pick by hand the ingredients required for lunch: seasonal veggies, fragrant herbs, and freshly laid eggs. Once in the kitchen, you learn how to prepare every item on the menu: antipasti, several kinds of hand-made fresh pasta, a second course, and a lovely dessert. This step-by-step class that employs easy techniques is suitable for cooks of all ages as you become a pasta pro, and replicate the whole menu once you're back home. You'll lunch on your preparation, paired with some good wine and maybe you'll find out that you have a real talent for Italian cuisine! Then, enjoy the countryside and relax: in the afternoon we'll take you back to Rome

**Optional tour – Cinque Terre – Oct 18**

**Experience the magic of Cinque Terre: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Vernazza and Monterosso. Highlights-** Enjoy the colors of fishermen's houses and a boat ride - Marvel at the spectacular Mediterranean coastline- Enjoy a delicious lunch, served in a restaurant with views of the hills and the sea (depending on option selected) Walking from village to village admiring the cultivated terraces and the pastel-colored villages between the sky and the sea: this is the best and only way to experience the unique magic of Cinque Terre. On this tour we will walk through the villages of the Cinque Terre in one day, admiring and exploring these picturesque small towns. The Cinque Terre is a beautiful stretch of rugged coast and the only unspoiled part left of the lovely Italian Riviera. It takes



its name from five picturesque fishing villages of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza, and Monterosso. Cinque Terre has been inaccessible from the land for centuries, isolated by steep mountains and valleys on one side and by the sea on the other. Thanks to its isolation, the charm is a protected World Heritage Site and a National Park. Led by our knowledgeable tour guides, we discover the spectacular coastline. We first visit the Cinque Terre village of Manarola and continue with a lovely boat journey (weather permitting) to Monterosso renowned for beautiful beach and small craftsmen's shops. We reach with a short train ride, Vernazza, one of the prettiest of all, where we have free time to sit in one of the cheerful bars and cafés. By train, we arrive at Riomaggiore for some free time for a refreshing swim in the Mediterranean or shopping in some of the picturesque shops. Here a delicious local lunch is served in a typical restaurant with a perfect view of the sea and the hills descending to rocky coves. From Riomaggiore, a train takes us back to La Spezia concluding our Cinque Terre visit, before returning to Florence by coach. Please note that the order of the visits may change. **Inclusions:** Staff Assistance at the Meeting Point, Transport by air-conditioned bus with wi-fi onboard, Tour Escort, Lunch and Drinks, Train Tickets, Boat (weather permitting).

#### **LAND ARRANGEMENTS**

**10 – 15 travelers \$5999 PER PERSON**

**16+ travelers \$5499 PER PERSON**

#### **SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT**

**\$900 PER PERSON**

**Deposit \$600 per person of which \$350 is refundable. Please review our Booking Form.**

**UPON REQUEST**

#### **Optional Tours**

##### **Rome Options**

**Colosseum & Ancient Rome With Forum & Palatine Hill – Small Group, Skip The Line \$93 per person**

**Villa Borghese & Park Walking Tour \$36 per person**

**Cooking Class in the Roman Countryside \$215**

**Cinque Terre option \$86 per person**

#### **Inclusions:**

**Accommodation – 14 Nights at 4 Star hotels specified in the program**

3 x BB with international breakfast buffet in Alberobello

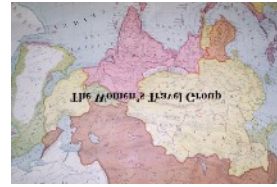
3 x BB with international breakfast buffet in Sorrento

3 x BB with international breakfast buffet in Rome

3 x BB with international breakfast buffet in Firenze

2 x BB with international breakfast buffet in Venice

**English speaking tour escort at the group's disposal from Day 1 – Day 15**



Whisper Headsets throughout your trip

Porterage in & out at the hotels listed above

Deluxe Luxury coach services throughout for all transfers, tours, and intercity travel

Welcome Dinner with wine in Bari

Other Meals – 3 Lunches & 5 Dinners with wine. Water on the bus.

Farewell Dinner with wine in Venice

Entrance Fees to Monuments, Museums, Archaeological sites

Accommodation for Tour Escort

Train Tickets – Naples – Rome & Florence to Venice in Comfort Class

**Not included:**

Hotel City taxes need to be paid directly – An average of € 3.5 per person per night

Meals other than those mentioned in the program

Personal expenses Optional Tours

Gratuities for driver or escort: please estimate \$5 per person per day for the driver,

\$10 per person for tour guide, based on level of satisfaction