

Full Itinerary

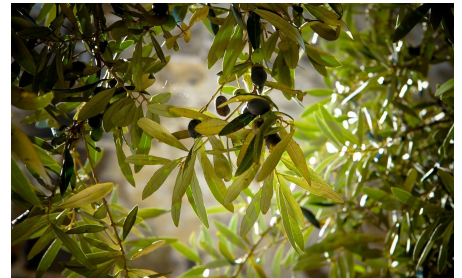
EXPERIENCE ITALY: MEMBER EVENT IN THE HEART OF ITALY



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

+44(0) 844 3350
197

Monday - Thursday 9:00am -
8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm
(London time)



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Experience Italy

Member Event

DURATION:

7 days / 6 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive into Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO] on Day 1 and to depart from Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO] on Day 7

PICKUP LOCATION:

Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO]

OVERVIEW

Oct 04 - 10, 2024 - SOLD OUT!

History, wine, olives and cooking, ornate gardens, hilltop towns, rolling landscapes and the splendour of Rome: discover the real heart of Italy on this new Member Event!

Join us on this new Member Event to the heart of Italy to discover the real Italy. Based in the quaint, traditional hillside town of Soriano nel Cimino, in the Viterbese region just north of Rome, we head out to explore the hidden gems of this picturesque region.

We discover glorious gardens and ornate villas, whilst passing through the picture postcard scenery of mountains and lakes. The fertile countryside produces fantastic produce, which we not only get to learn about but taste too. From the famous olive oils, to hams, cheeses and the wine of nearby Orvieto, in the neighbouring Umbria region. What's more, we get to don our aprons and make our own real Italian lunch in a cooking class! me1033

And what visit to the region could not include Rome - the Eternal City. A full day excursion takes us to Italy's vibrant and historic capital, where we'll discover the iconic sites and enter the historic Vatican Museums.

With something for all, it is an ideal way to learn about the real 'dolce vita'.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Benvenuto in Italia

DAY 2 - Glorious Gardens of the Viterbese

DAY 3 - Outstanding Orvieto

DAY 4 - Est! Est! Est! - The Story of the best wine

DAY 5 - To Rome - the Eternal City

DAY 6 - The Flavours of Italy

DAY 7 - Ciao for now, Italia

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - BENVENUTO IN ITALIA

On arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport there will be three complimentary scheduled transfers to the resort.

At the resort, the rest of the day at leisure to familiarise yourself with the resort and facilities.

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 2 - GLORIOUS GARDENS OF THE VITERBESE

This morning, we head south of the resort into the Italian Viterbese region. This historic central Italian region lies just north of Rome and south of Tuscany. It is packed with history, palaces and gardens. With many areas dating back to the Etruscans, you are never far away from touching the past.

The temperate climate and lush countryside make it an ideal location for country villas and gardens, and today we will visit two of the best in the area, and some say Italy. The first stop will be Villa Farnese, also known as the Villa Caparola, which sits above the small town of Caprarola. Around a pentagonal shaped mansion lie exquisite gardens, which are a fine example of an Italian Renaissance garden. There will be time to wander through the gardens and take in their fine design before we have time for lunch at leisure.

Today's excursion takes us through the area of an inactive volcanic crater that houses Lake Vico within the Cimini Mountains. This afternoon, we travel north again skirting the shores of Lake Vico to Bagnaia, near Viterbo to visit the second glorious gardens of the day. Villa Lante, apart from its two attractive houses, is characterised by its harmonious water-gardens – they feature cascades, ascending terraces, several fountains on different levels and dripping grottoes. Whilst the villa and garden origins date back to the 1500s, both were heavily damaged during WW2 and carefully restored in the years after.

In the evening, we return to our resort for an evening at leisure.

Included meals: none

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 3 - OUTSTANDING ORVIETO

The central Italian region of Umbria lies beside the Viterbo region. The historic town of Orvieto, sited on the top of a distinct mound of volcanic rock, is one of the region's main towns. Orvieto is famous world-wide for its excellent white wines, as well as nationally for its Etruscan grottos and cuisine.

We head off this morning first for Orvieto Scalo, the upper, historic town atop the volcanic mound. Here we will meet our guide and ascend to Orvieto's historic hill-top centre via funicular. Upon reaching the old town, our Orvieto guide will lead us on a walking tour including Orvieto's famous, ornate Duomo Cathedral with its Renaissance centre-piece frescoes by Signorelli.

Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at the famous Ristorante Pasticceria Adriano. This unique restaurant sits atop a labyrinth of ancient Etruscan caves and galleries. Here we will have lunch on a tasting menu of local Orvieto food and wine specialities, explained by the owner before an underground tour of the caves and grottoes.

Afterwards, enjoy some time at leisure in Orvieto to wander the narrow streets and visit the local shops selling woodcrafts, wines and pottery before we take the funicular back down to the coach and return to resort.

Included meals: Lunch

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 4 - EST! EST! EST! - THE STORY OF THE BEST WINE

The Tuscia region is located in the northern part of the province of Viterbo and derives its name from the Etruscans who settled there thousands of years ago. The area is today famous for the good quality local produce that it offers.

This morning we after breakfast and, skirting the southern end of Lake Bolsena to discover one of Italy's most famous products – wine! The hill-town of Montefiascone is famous as being the summer home of the Pope's, with many residing there over hundreds of years. But it is also

famous for its DOCG wine, a light white wine - Est! Est! Est!

We will visit a local wine producer and enjoy a tasting of numerous wines, as well as their olive oil, and enjoy a tour of their cellars, There'll be time of course to purchase a few bottles for you to take with you.

We'll then enjoy some time to explore the historic village. And make sure to see the dome of Sta Margherita Cathedral - architects from Rome used the dome of Montefiascone's cathedral as the basis for that at St Peter's in Rome!

If time allows, we'll head down to one of the water-side towns at Lake Bolsena for time at leisure before we return to the resort for an evening at leisure.

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 5 - TO ROME - THE ETERNAL CITY

A bright and early start awaits us as we head to one of the highlights of the tour – Rome! On a full day excursion, we visit Italy's capital, the Eternal City.

This morning, we head to one of the most important sites in the world, the Vatican. The seat of the Catholic Church, with entrance to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, we will discover the Holy See and its multiple treasures.

After lunch at leisure, we start a walking tour of major sights on foot. We'll stroll past the Pantheon, through Piazza Navona, pass by the Quirinale, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Via del Corso, and many more famous sights.

In the evening, we head to the lively warren of streets of Rome's Trastevere district for a traditional 4 course dinner of Roman dishes before we head back to Soriano.

Included meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 6 - THE FLAVOURS OF ITALY

This morning, we head off to the countryside between Viterbo and Montefiascone to see where the sumptuous food of the region comes from - a local bio farm.

Here, we'll see as fresh ricotta cheese is made before our eyes, as well as learn about the local cinta senese pigs, renowned as producing some of the best salamis and hams in Italy.

Afterwards, we head to a nearby country house for a cooking class, where we will get the chance to make our own lunch and enjoy other local rustic dishes made by the chef. There's time to enjoy a glass of wine afterwards in the vineyard that surrounds the house and learn about the grapes and wine production, all whilst enjoying stunning views of Lake Bolsena.

In the late afternoon, we return back to Soriano for a final evening at leisure.

Included meals: Tasting & Lunch

Accommodation: Palazzo Catalini & Palazzo at Soriano, Soriano Nel Cimino, Viterbo, Italy

DAY 7 - CIAO FOR NOW, ITALIA

Sadly, it's the end of our Italian adventure. There will be three scheduled departures from the resort to Rome Fiumicino Airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- There will be three scheduled transfers from Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO] to the resort on Day 1, departing the airport at 10am, 1pm and 3pm
- There will be three scheduled transfers from the resort to Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO] on Day 7, departing the resort at 6am, 8am and 10am
- Self Catering accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Transportation to and from all events and activities as detailed in the itinerary
- All activities, visits, guides and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Services of a Big Journey Company Tour Director

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International return flights into Rome Fiumicino Airport [FCO]
- Airport transfers outside the tour dates
- Visas, travel or medical insurance
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any food and beverage not detailed in itinerary
- Entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions
- Any optional activities offered
- Gratuities

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Hilton Grand Vacations Member Events Terms Apply
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant tour.
- Check in is after 2-3pm and check out is before 10am unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- N.B. - The Palazzo Catalani and the Palazzo at Soriano Resorts are positioned on the slope of a hill with steep gradients and inclines around the resort. A short walk will be required from the resort to the transport vehicles as the road is not accessible for larger vehicles. Elevators are only located in the Palazzo at Soriano building. The tour is not suited to those with mobility problems.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

Call to Book

+44(0) 844 3350 197

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm (London time)