



SOLAZ
TRAVEL

Indulgent Italy

Join Jason & Jennifer of Solaz Travel for a small group trip discovering the best of Emilia Romagna, Florence and Tuscany

October 2020



Imagine yourself strolling through the old cobblestone-paved streets where Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Dante wandered. Explore the roads less traveled and learn fascinating tales from the city's rich history. Feast through Florence sampling Italy's traditional treats, and journey along the picture-perfect rolling hills of Tuscany tasting Italian wines along the way. Stay on a stunning Tuscan estate surrounded by landscapes and vineyards of Siena and Cortona. And naturally, we'll enjoy the tradition of the aperitivo!

Treat yourself to this journey and join us on an intimate small group experience (10-12 adult travelers total) to visit Emilia Romagna, Florence and Tuscany's treasures and explore its hidden gems. Together with our local contacts in Italy we have curated a one-of-a-kind adventure packed with the culinary, historical, and local traditions of the region.

We have visited and designed dozens of vacations to Italy and we'll be on-hand to take care of the details this time! All you have to do is enjoy Italy with us and a select group of like-minded travelers. Our small group tour is the ideal getaway for friends, solo travelers, and couples, but this exclusive tour has very limited availability and is sure to sell out quickly, so reserve your spot today.

Indulgent Italy: Tour Itinerary



Day 1

WELCOME TO ITALY!

Arrive at Bologna Airport. After clearing customs, board your private transfer direct to our hotel. We'll check into a five star luxury hotel in Bologna city center. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the city. Bologna is the lively, historic capital of the Emilia-Romagna region. Visit Piazza Maggiore, a sprawling plaza lined with arched colonnades, cafes and medieval and Renaissance structures such as City Hall, the Fountain of Neptune and the Basilica di San Petronio. In the evening we'll gather for a 4 course welcome dinner to enjoy the regions specialties and meet your fellow travelers.



Day 2

PARMIGIANO REGGIANO, PARMA AND MICHELIN STARRED DINNER

Often referred to as “Italy’s Gastronomic Treasure,” we’ll be enjoying the best food experiences that Italy has to offer today! We begin the day with a visit to a Parmigiano Reggiano factory for a tour and tasting. We’ll then visit Parma, the birthplace of the world-famous prosciutto ham.

We’ll get to experience Parma’s culinary scene with a 3 hour guided tour. Taste local specialties for sweet and savory samples, including the famous Prosciutto di Parma and a Balsamic Vinegar tasting. We’ll end our day at a magical place to experience a Michelin Starred Dinner. We’ll begin with an exclusive welcome aperitivo by the warmth of the fireplace. Our group will then be given a tour of the Culatello cellars before enjoying an unforgettable dinner along the Po River.



Day 3

DOZZA IMOLESE AND BRISIGHELLA - THE HIDDEN GEMS

This morning we'll depart our hotel in Bologna and head to the medieval town of Dozza Imolese. In Dozza, art becomes urban landscape, through the decoration of houses' walls, streets and squares which fills the corners of the village with light and bright colours . It's a real open-air museum, where you can admire more than one hundred works by several contemporary prestigious artists. At the edge of the village, explore the medieval castle with sweeping views of the countryside. Don't miss a quick visit to the castle's wine cellar!

Next, we'll head to Brisighella. Travelling to Brisighella you will discover a village and its land, lost in a natural and still untouched scenery, a delight for the eyes, a place to love,

forever. After strolling through the charming town, enjoy lunch while tasting local wines and especially the famous olive oil of Brisighella.

This afternoon we'll check in at our beautiful accommodations in the Emilia countryside. An eighteenth-century villa, restored to its original splendour. We'll have some free time before dinner to enjoy the impressive spa complete with a Finnish sauna, steam baths, a pool with underwater music and Jacuzzi tubs. Bikes are also available to explore the extensive grounds.

Tonight, we'll enjoy a delicious 3-course dinner especially prepared for our group. Enjoy after dinner drinks in the chic lounge bar before calling it a night.



Day 4

MORNING AT LEISURE, TRANSFER TO FLORENCE

This morning, you can enjoy the beautiful sunrise and walking, biking, or trekking on one of the resorts 6 trails. Or, relax in the pool or spa and after breakfast and you'll have some time to enjoy the resorts expansive grounds and activities before departing Emilia Romagna. We'll have one last lunch at the resort before our private transfer to Florence.

Upon arrival in Florence we'll check in to our vibrant & elegant hotel in the city center located steps from the Ponte Vecchio on the Arno river. The rooftop bar offers 365 degree views of the city and is the perfect spot for an aperitivo before heading out to explore the city. This evening, enjoy some free time on your own or join us for dinner at L'Ortone where you can experience the famous florentine bistecca.



Day 5

THE BEST OF FLORENCE

After breakfast, explore historic Florence with an expert guide and marvel at its Renaissance monuments and landmarks. See major sights such as Piazza Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, and Ponte Vecchio. Visit the Accademia Gallery to admire Michaelangelo's David and other works by renowned artists. Enjoy some free time this afternoon and prepare for a delicious evening experiencing Florence's best culinary specialties. On this private guided tour you'll taste freshly baked breads, local cheeses, salumi, crostini, wine, sweets, balsamic vinegars, olive oils and seasonal specialties. You will not need dinner after!



Day 6

QUINTESSENTIAL TUSCANY

We'll check-out of the hotel and enjoy a leisurely private transfer from Florence to the charming village of Pienza. It is widely known as the "ideal city of the Renaissance", the creation of Enea Silvio Piccolomini who later became Pope Pius II.

Next we'll meet our guides, Sandra and Ulisse. They have been farming the land for decades. They'll share what life is like on an organic farm and we'll get to sample some of its farm-to-fork goodness. Our journey will take us through the rolling hills of Tuscany's Val d'Orcia and along a winding road flanked by stately cypress trees. The estate's hilltop setting offers commanding views of the patchwork fields, tidy rows of grapevines and distant mountains, and the storybook farm bustles with the sound of bleating goats, grunting cinta sinese pigs (a breed that dates back to the Etruscans!) and buzzing bees.

We'll explore the estate and learn about their cultivation techniques before moving to the wheat mill.

Back at the farmhouse kitchen, we'll grab an apron and start our Italian cooking class using the same flour to learn how to make pasta using Sandra's tried and true techniques. Dinner is a veritable farm-to-fork feast with 'zero-kilometer ingredients like vegetables and herbs from the orto; Ulisse's award-winning pecorino toscano cheese; spreads, honeys, wines and olive oil made right on the premises and your own homemade pasta, all served in the dining room at the former stables.

Before heading back to our accommodations in the Tuscan countryside, we'll make one last stop to visit the quaint town of Montepulciano.



Day 7
SAN GIMIGNANO AND WINE

Today we'll visit the epitome of Tuscan hill towns, San Gimignano. You'll love wandering through the ancient cobblestone lanes, visiting antique stores and art galleries, peeking into bottegas filled with local olive oils, wines and delicacies, and marveling at the amazing medieval art and architecture. Don't miss the stroll along the old city walls for those picture-postcard views!

After San Gimignano, we will reach the Tenuta Torciano estate for a special wine tasting and lunch. Whether you are a wine novice or expert, you will enjoy this intimate wine-tasting in an authentic Tuscan winery. Sample a range of Tuscan wine alongside local food. As you sip, you'll learn about the different areas of the wine-making region, the

secrets of Italian cuisine, learn about the combinations between wine & food, discover Tuscan wine making techniques and more.

This evening, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at the Michelin Starred Restaurant, La Torre. Dishes are made with the finest Tuscan ingredients, sourced from local farmers, or directly from the estate's organic garden. The cuisine showcases inventive Italian and seasonal inspiration, with an ever-changing menu ranging through spring's crisp greens and fragrant herbs, to autumn's rich truffles and wild boar.

ARRIVEDERCI!

Private transfer to Florence Airport or onward to your next destination.

The Indulgent Italy Tour includes:

- Services and VAT at current rate
- 7 nights luxury hotel accommodations (4 & 5 star)
- 7 Breakfasts
- 5 Lunches
- **4 Dinners**, including a welcome dinner, Michelin Starred dinner, evening food tour and 3 course dinner in Emilia Romagna
- Private driver and transfers in a Mercedes van or minibus
- Guided food tour in Parma
- Authentic Tuscan cooking class
- Guided visit to a Parmigiano Reggiano factory
- Guided visit and lunch and tasting at a winery in San Gimignano
- Winery visit and tasting in Montepulciano
- City tour in Florence including tickets to the Accademia Gallery
- On-Site Concierge provided by the Solaz Travel team throughout the whole trip, relax and enjoy as we will take care of the details!