



NORTHERN ITALY WITH CINQUE TERRE & GOURMET ITALY

MAY 21 - JUNE 6, 2021

Day 1 ARRIVE IN MILAN, ITALY: At 5 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions and leave the hotel for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (Dinner)

Day 2 MILAN-BUSSETO-PARMA: Follow your Local Guide for a walking tour. Visit the SFORZESCO CASTLE GROUNDS and MUSEUM. Then, visit PIAZZA DUOMO with its magnificent gothic cathedral, the glass-domed GALLERIA, and admire the famous La Scala Opera House. Leave Milan and stop at Busseto to see Giuseppe Verdi's birthplace. On your way to Parma, world-famous for its ham and parmesan cheese, stop for a PARMESAN CHEESE TASTING at a local caseificio. (Breakfast)

Day 3 PARMA. EXCURSION TO MODENA & MARANELLO: Your guided sightseeing will focus on the romanesque cathedral, the bell tower, and the octagonal baptistry, made of pink Verona marble. Next, in Modena, enjoy a BALSAMIC VINEGAR TASTING, and learn all about this traditional Italian product. Continue to nearby Maranello, birthplace of the Ferrari automobile, for a visit to the FERRARI MUSEUM. Balance of the day at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day 4 PARMA-LUCCA: In Lucca, enjoy a walk through this quaint medieval town with its ramparts, and explore the pretty center at your own pace. To enhance your stay, an optional dinner outing to an agriturismo is available to try out Tuscan specialties. (Breakfast)

Day 5 LUCCA-CINQUE TERRE-RAPALLO: A scenic day! Drive to La Spezia on the Mediterranean Coast for an exciting excursion to CINQUE TERRE, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including a BOAT RIDE (weather permitting) with a Local Guide. The name dates back to the 15th century and is derived from five medieval little villages standing on stony spurs along five miles of the rocky coastline: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza, and Monterosso. From here, enjoy a TRAIN RIDE to the beautiful seaside resort of Rapallo. (Breakfast)

Day 6 RAPALLO. EXCURSION TO PORTOFINO: Today's highlight is a BOAT CRUISE to nearby Portofino, a small fishing village with brightly colored houses that became home to the "rich and famous." Later, back in Rapallo, time to relax and to browse through the attractive little shops (Breakfast)

Day 7 RAPALLO-GABIANO-TURIN: Enter the Langhe area and drive through the vineyards to Gabiano, where a WINE TASTING, followed by lunch, awaits at Castello di Gabiano. Continue to Turin, capital of Piedmont and birthplace of the Fiat automobile. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 8 TURIN: Admire the amazing 548-foot-high Mole Antonelliana, symbol of Turin, during your guided sightseeing, and walk through the historic center to visit the CATHEDRAL that houses the Holy Shroud. (Breakfast)

Day 9 TURIN-VERCELLI-MILAN: Stop in Vercelli to visit an original RICE FACTORY, followed by a traditional risotto lunch,

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before returning to Milan. This evening, a farewell dinner has been prepared at a local restaurant to celebrate your Italian vacation. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 10 MILAN-MONTECATINI: Your Northern Italy vacation ends. Transfer to Montecatini and check into your hotel. Tonight, meet your Tour Director for Gourmet Tuscany and fellow travelers and enjoy a special welcome dinner. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 11 MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO VINCI: This morning, head out into the lush, rolling landscape of the Montalbano hills, where you will see many Italian cuisine ingredients growing in their native environment. Pass terraced grape vineyards, olive groves, and chestnut trees on your way to the quaint village of Vinci, birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, you will learn all about the Renaissance master at the MUSEUM dedicated to his life and many areas of interest, from painting, sculpting, and inventing to anatomy, music, and cartography! Later, visit a bakery in a local village to learn the secrets of ITALIAN BREAD MAKING, followed by a generous tasting of fresh bread, local cheese, cold cuts and a glass of local wine. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 12 MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO THE CHIANTI VALLEY: Cradled between the provinces of Florence and Siena, the Chianti Valley is the heart of Old Tuscany, and has been hailed for its exceptional wines since the 13th century. Your journey today takes you to Greve, where you'll spend some time visiting the village and you'll enjoy lunch at a charming wine shop, and visit a HISTORIC TUSCAN ESTATE known for its Chianti and Supertuscan wine production. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 13 MONTECATINI: Enjoy a leisurely morning in Montecatini, maybe go for a walk in the Parco delle Terme with its huge shady trees. Most of the afternoon will be dedicated to the Italian cooking lesson at a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. Once you arrive at the farm, enjoy a welcome drink, explore the orchard to pick some fresh ingredients, learn about Italy's most famous delicacies, and then roll up your sleeves for a fun, hands-on COOKING EXPERIENCE. This evening, relax with your traveling companions and savor the delectable dinner you prepared—maybe your team will win the master chef prize! (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 14 MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO LUCCA: Visit Lucca, a stunning showcase of medieval architecture and layer upon layer of rich history and culture. Marvel at the beautiful art and tapestry collections at the baroque PALAZZO MANSI NATIONAL MUSEUM, then take a guided walking tour around the Old Town with its fine, intact Renaissance-era wall, cobblestone streets, and café-lined piazzas. A lively CAFÉ-CRAWL snack brunch is included, followed by a main course at a local restaurant. Then, your Local Guide introduces you to the stunning ornamental gardens and grand arched ceilings of PALAZZO PFANNER (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 15 MONTECATINI. EXCURSION TO BOLGHERI: Travel through the vineyard-dotted countryside and along cypress-lined Viale dei Cipressi for your fascinating entrance into enchanting Bolgheri. With its red-brick castle and atmospheric Old Town, it's not hard to imagine that Bolgheri jumped right off the pages of a storybook. There's time here to visit one of the WINE CELLARS that produce Bolgheri's celebrated reds. First created in the 1980s, many wine experts believe these now rival French Bordeaux. Later, stop at nearby Castagneto Carducci, known for its splendid panoramic views of the Etruscan Coast. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and the chance to sample the local LIQUOR. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 16 MONTECATINI: This morning is yours to do as you please. You could choose to explore more of the city on your own, to relax and shop for souvenirs, or to join an exciting optional excursion. This afternoon is dedicated to a COOKING CLASS at your hotel, focusing on the creation of cakes and desserts. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 17 MONTECATINI: Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)

PRICING: (per person land only rates. Price doesn't include transfer from Milan-Montecatini - transfer cost TBD))

\$4358 double occupancy

\$5098 single occupancy

Transfer cost from Milan to Montecatini TBD

DEPOSIT: \$500pp

FINAL PAYMENT: March 17, 2021

**PROMOTION: save \$319 if you book and deposit by December 7, 2020

To book a reservation or for more information contact

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