

Italian Intermezzo

Tour Pace - This is an evenly paced tour with two-night stays in Rome, Venice and Florence, allowing time for sightseeing and people-watching from the comfort of sidewalk cafés. The driving days are of a reasonable length with frequent stops for rest and photo opportunities.

Hotels - Both Roman hotels are of contemporary design with all modern comforts. The Cicerone is centrally located near the Vatican, while on the last night, the Sheraton has been selected for its easy access to the airport. The Petit Palace is situated in front of the Lido's famous Excelsior Beach.

Fellow Passengers - This tour attracts the first-time visitor to Italy but is also suitable for the returning traveller who wants to revisit three of the major Italian cities. It also appeals to passengers with limited vacation time and those with a passion for art, architecture and a love of Italian cuisine.

Highlights - Highlights are many: the Renaissance treasures of Florence (in particular Michelangelo's original statue of David); the unique waterscape of the Venetian Lagoon; the grandeur of St Peter's Basilica and the riches of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel.



A view of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City

DAY 1 – SAT – ROME AT LEISURE. Welcome to Italy! On arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport, your **airport shuttle service** leaves for the tour hotel at 09:30, 12:30, 15:30 & 18:45. Then this beautiful and historic city is yours to discover at leisure: stroll down the Via Veneto or perhaps spend some time wandering through the vast parklands of the Villa Borghese. Tonight, join your Tour Director and fellow passengers for a **Welcome Drink**. **Hotel: Cicerone.**

DAY 2 – SUN – ROME SIGHTSEEING. A **local guide** introduces the grandeur of the city: drive to the independent **Vatican State**, the richest community in the world. **Visit the vast St Peter's Basilica** where you can admire one of Michelangelo's early works, **the Pieta**, as well as the splendid **dome** completed after his death. **Hear tales of the glory of ancient Rome as you cross the River Tiber to visit the Colosseum.** **Here gladiators (and sometimes martyrs) fought to the death against armed warriors or wild beasts.** You also overlook the site of the Roman Forum, once the bustling centre of commerce, law and religion. The afternoon is free to enjoy Rome at your own pace. (BB)

DAY 3 – MON – ROME – VENICE. Depart the 'Eternal City' and follow the course of the River Tiber northwards. Traverse the wild **Apennine Mountains**, where the German Army formed its Gothic line in the closing stages of the last war. You cross the Rivers Adige and Po to reach magical **Venice**, glorious city of quaint bridges, ornate palaces, and gondolas - a complete step back in time to the 16th century. Stay on the fashionable Venice Lido. **Hotel: Petit Palace.** (BB,D)

DAY 4 – TUE – VENICE SIGHTSEEING. Appreciate the splendour of Venice as you cruise by Palladio's **San Giorgio Maggiore** to **St Mark's Square**. Your Tour Director will explain the glorious history of 'La Serenissima', once one of the greatest trading centres of the world which imported goods from the Orient - this wealth and power is echoed by the riches of **St Mark's Basilica**. See the **Doges' Palace** and its adjoining **Bridge of Sighs**, then visit one of the **glass showrooms** for a **demonstration** of traditional craftsmanship, unchanged for centuries. **Relax and enjoy the atmosphere as you cruise along the Venetian canals by gondola.** There is time to explore or browse through the shops on the Rialto Bridge in the afternoon. Don't miss the chance to try the delicious seafood, freshly caught in the lagoon. (BB)

DAY 5 – WED – VENICE – FLORENCE. Begin your day with a **scenic drive** along the famous **Brenta Riviera**. See the magnificent classical **villas** that were once the summer residences of the Venetian nobility. Your route takes you south, past the university city of Bologna and follows the river Reno high into the Apennines. Continue through the peaceful landscapes of **Tuscany** to the Renaissance city of **Florence**. **With a local guide, visit the Academy Museum to see Michelangelo's original 'Statue of David'.** Afterwards, walk to the marble clad **Cathedral** and **Baptistery**, where Ghiberti's **'Gates of Paradise'** have been recreated in all their glory. Next stop is **Signoria Square**, political heart of the city and still an open air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Finally, visit the **church of Santa Croce** to see the **tombs of Galileo** and **Michelangelo**. **Hotel: Villa Gabriele D'Annunzio.** (BB,D)

DAY 6 – THU – FLORENCE AT LEISURE. This morning enjoy a **demonstration** of traditional **Florentine leatherwork**. The rest of the day is yours to shop, explore or continue sightseeing at your own pace. Consider taking an optional excursion to the leaning tower of Pisa before sampling some fine Florentine cuisine and Chianti wine. (BB)

DAY 7 – FRI – FLORENCE – ROME. Take the smooth **autostrada** through the province of Umbria, past Orvieto, where the relics of the Miracle of Bolsena are kept, all the way back to Rome. **Your Intermezzo reaches its crescendo at the Vatican Museums. Admire the collection of ancient and Renaissance art gathered by Popes over the ages, before entering the Sistine Chapel, where the Popes are elected. This is where your audio headset comes into its own, providing clear, expert commentary from your local guide. Gaze up now and truly appreciate the significance of Michelangelo's famous painted ceiling.** Tonight, join your fellow travellers for a **last night celebration Highlight Dinner of pasta, wine and music.** **During the evening enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal.** **Hotel: Sheraton.** (BB,HD)

DAY 8 – SAT – ROME. Bid farewell to the glories of Italy this morning. **Departure transfers** arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 & 09:30. (BB)

8 DAYS ~ ITALY

Take time at leisure to see the stunning Duomo Cathedral



Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour
See Michelangelo's famous statue of 'David' in the Florence Academy Gallery



Key	
	PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
	HIGHLIGHT DINNERS
	PERSONAL INSIGHTS
	CENTRAL HOTELS & NIGHTS
	SCENIC HOTELS & NIGHTS
	Gateway hotel & nights

See hotel details on pages 175-179

Local Orientation Tour
Explore the hidden parts of Venice only accessible by traditional gondola



A guided tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
Celebrate the culmination of your tour with dinner and entertainment at a local Roman restaurant
Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal
Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour
Enter Rome's mighty Colosseum & overlook the Roman Forum



Enjoy Your Included Tour Features

Premium Highlights

Discover the wonders of ancient Rome as you overlook the Forum and visit the Colosseum
Cruise the romantic canals of Venice in a traditional gondola
Admire Michelangelo's 'Statue of David' at the Academy Museum in Florence
Tour the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, a masterpiece of Michelangelo's fresco skills

Personal Insights

Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal in Rome

Additional Excursions & Sights

Tour St Peter's Basilica, mother church of the Catholic faith
Cruise to St Mark's Square by private launch past San Giorgio Maggiore
See St Mark's Basilica, Doges' Palace and the Bridge of Sighs in Venice
Enjoy a scenic drive along the Brenta Riviera to see the Venetian summer palaces
See the Cathedral, 'Gates of Paradise' on the Baptistery and Signoria Square in Florence
Visit Santa Croce Church to see the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo
Demonstrations of traditional Florence leatherwork and Venetian glass-blowing

Insight's First Class Services

Escorted by a professional Tour Director
Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with onboard toilet
Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
Airport Shuttle arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 1 and Day 8

Quality Dining

Highlight Dinner of local cuisine with entertainment in Rome (HD)
7 Buffet Breakfasts (BB) and 2 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

8 days from US\$259 per day

Starts - Ends	Price	PD Jun 13 - Jun 20	\$2235	PD Jun 15 - Aug 22	\$2075
PD Apr 18 - Apr 25	\$2175	PD Jun 20 - Jun 27	\$2199	PD Aug 22 - Aug 29	\$2075
PD Apr 25 - May 02	\$2175	PD Jun 27 - Jul 04	\$2199	Aug 29 - Sep 05	\$2150
PD May 02 - May 09	\$2199	PD Jul 04 - Jul 11	\$2199	Sep 05 - Sep 12	\$2199
PD May 09 - May 16	\$2199	PD Jul 11 - Jul 18	\$2199	PD Sep 12 - Sep 19	\$2199
PD May 16 - May 23	\$2199	PD Jul 18 - Jul 25	\$2075	Sep 19 - Sep 26	\$2199
PD May 23 - May 30	\$2199	Jul 25 - Aug 01	\$2075	PD Sep 26 - Oct 03	\$2199
PD May 30 - Jun 06	\$2199	PD Aug 01 - Aug 08	\$2075	Oct 03 - Oct 10	\$2199
Jun 06 - Jun 13	\$2199	Aug 08 - Aug 15	\$2075	PD Oct 10 - Oct 17	\$2199

PD: Preferred Departures (details page 182) See www.insightvacations.com for updated lists

Supplements

Single room			
18 Jul - 29 Aug '09			\$520
All other departures			\$470
Pre & post tour accommodation in Rome			
Per person Per night	Twin	Single	Triple
Cicerone	\$215	\$308	\$185
Sheraton	\$175	\$255	\$159

Reductions (details & conditions page 182)

Triple Room Discount	SAVE \$110 p.p.	
Young Traveller Discount	SAVE \$220	
Early Payment Discount		
12mths \$220	10mths \$155	6mths \$110
Extra Tour Discount	SAVE up to \$111 p.p.	

Notes

REF: E971. Prices are per person sharing a twin.
Tours depart and return on Saturdays.
A similar tour also operates during low season, please see Insight's European Autumn, Winter & Spring brochure for departure dates.

Insight's Airport Shuttle Service

Transfers operate on the days and at the times shown in the itinerary. Passengers arriving outside these days and times have the option of either purchasing a transfer (see page 21) or making their own way from/to the airport.

Included are worth approximately US\$295