



True Italy. At Home With Diana

Day 1 Sunday September 4, 2011

Depart USA

Day 2 Monday September 5, 2011

Arrive Roma

Welcome to the Eternal City? Private transfer to hotel in Roma. Time at leisure and then afternoon visit to the Basilica of Saint Peter, the largest Christian place in the World. In addition to all the detailed embellishment which dominates the interior of this important structure, we will see the magnificent Pieta by Michelangelo, Bernini's bronze Baldacchino (canopy), and the throne of St. Peter. Dinner and then Overnight in Roma. **D/H**

Day 3 Tuesday September 6, 2011

Roma

Breakfast at hotel. Morning guided tour with our private certified bi lingual guide of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. This tour will begin with a visit to the Pio-Clementino Museum and will then move on to the visitation of The Vatican, The Sistine Chapel and The Vatican Museums (entrance fee is 19 euro). The journey through the Vatican Museums will proceed through the Gallery of the Candelabre, the Gallery of Tapestries and the Gallery of Maps and from these Galleries, we will enter directly into the Raphael Rooms, where we will observe the extraordinary frescoes executed by Raphael and the Sistine Chapel. After a short break we will visit Roma Antica. Early afternoon will be devoted to the tour of Ancient Rome and all its glory. As we plunge into the vivacious traffic of Rome, our senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern day society. We will feel the heart beat of the city as we drive through the Piazza Venezia where we will admire the huge monument to the first Italian King Vittorio Emmanuelle II. Today, this has been dedicated to the memory of the unknown soldiers with the eternal flame. We will pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, the site of many chariot races. We will take a stroll through the Roman Forum, rich with antiquity. Through the main square of Rome, crossing the Via Sacra (the Sacred Way), the most important street in ancient Rome where many triumphant processions took place. We will see the ruins of some ancient monuments as well as the Triumphal Arches of Titus and Septimius Severus, the Curia, seat of the Roman Senate, the Basilica Emilia and the Basilica Julia which were both used for business transactions. We will also see The Vesta Temple with the house of the Vestal Virgins, and finally the Temples of Antoninus and Faustina, Vespasian and Saturn. Included are the Piazza Navona which is the most important Piazza of Baroque Rome, The Pantheon, and The Piazza di Spagna. We will enter The Coliseum (entrance fee is 14 euro), the magnificent Flavian Amphitheatre where we will envision the gladiator duels, wild beast fights and naval battles which were arranged for the entertainment of the Roman people. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Roma. **B/D/G/H**

Day 4 Wednesday September 7, 2011 Roma/Palermo/Agrigento/Taormina

Breakfast at hotel. Early morning flight to Palermo. Transfer to Agrigento. By late morning we will meet with our certified bi lingual guide for a tour of Agrigento which is home to some of the oldest and most significant archeological ruins in the world. Agrigento is a city on the southern coast of Sicily and it is the capital of the province of Agrigento. It is the site of the ancient Greek city of Akragas, which was one of the predominant cities of Magna Graecia during the golden age of Ancient Greece. We will be guided back to the glory of this modern day ruin as we stroll through the famous Valley of the Temples. Early evening transfer to Taormina for dinner and overnight. B /D/G/H/Flight

Day 5 Thursday, September 8th, 2011 Taormina, Mt. Etna

Breakfast at hotel. Continued exploration of the Island of Sicily as well as a special Visit to Mt. Etna and the surrounding countryside. Mt. Etna is one of the world's most active volcanoes and it is Europe's highest as it stands at 3350 meters. The volcano has more than 400 craters, split all over the Catania country side. On our journey up to Mount Etna, we will see actual old lava flow while driving through several Sicilian towns such as Santa Venerina and Zafferana. We will have a taste of the local wines, natural honey, almond pastries, olives and extra virgin olive oil special to this area. As well, we will take the time to rest and have an authentic Sicilian country style lunch. On our voyage down from the mountain, we will pass through a stunning pine tree forest and we will end the day with free time to explore the beautiful upscale resort town of Taormina itself. During your free time in Taormina you may wish to visit the Teatro Greco. Built in 300 BC by the Ancient Greeks, the theatre was expanded and further detailed by the Romans upon their arrival centuries later. Always a very lively and attractive spot in town, the Teatro offers its modern day visitors a simultaneously spectacular view of sea, coastline and smoking volcano. To get there, Stroll through Corso Umberto, the main street which snakes through the elegant city center. Overnight in Taormina.

B /L/H

Day 6 Friday September 9, 2011 Taormina/Catania/Napoli/Sorrento/Pompeii

Breakfast at hotel. Early morning transfer to Catania airport for flight to Naples. Transfer to Pompeii for early afternoon visit to Ancient Pompeii. Guided tour of Pompeii with a certified bi lingual guide. As we stroll through the stone streets of a city built over 2,000 years ago we are magically transported in to antiquity. We will view homes in which mosaics and frescoes have been preserved despite the treacherous devastation sustained during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on August 24th in the year 79 AD. As well we will visit the once busy commercial centers in order to gain a thorough knowledge of life in Ancient Pompeii. Brief stop at the church of The Madonna of Pompeii and then dinner of authentic Neapolitan Pizza. Overnight in Sorrento. B/ D/G/H/Flight

**Day 7 Saturday September 10, 2011****Sorrento , Capri**

Breakfast at hotel. Weather permitting, mid morning departure from Sorrento for leisurely boat ride to the upscale island of Capri. (fee for private boat not included in package due to variances with weather, price will be calculated based upon number of participants at time of departure) We circumnavigate the entire island during our private island boat tour and visit the most spectacular grottoes characteristic of the island, such as the Blue Grotto, Green Grotto, White Grotto, and around the famous Faraglioni Rock formations. Provided the seas are calm, we will be able to go into the Blue Grotto and to climb up into the White Grotto. There is time for swimming during our boat tour as well. Lunch and beverages will be provided for you on board. By early afternoon we will dock at Capri and you will have time to independently visit the island. Late afternoon return to Sorrento. Free time and then dinner and overnight in Sorrento.*

B/D/H**Day 8 Sunday September 11, 2011
Del Sannio****Sorrento, Positano, San Giuliano**

Breakfast at hotel and then we depart for one of the most spectacular drives you will ever experience along the length of the Amalfi Coast. Our first stop will be the actual city of Amalfi, a hustling and bustling seaport town with a character typically reflective of the Neapolitan Bravado. As well, we will stop in Positano to stroll through one of the most upscale areas of the coast. You will have plenty of time at leisure to wander through the winding streets and take in the beauty of this elegant seaside town. Our final destination today is San Giuliano del Sannio. Welcome to San Giuliano, a genuine Italian "paese," untouched by tourism and home to my family and past ancestors. This is a scenic little place with charm and grace that of course is near and dear to my heart. I trust that you too will walk away with fond memories of a beautiful place off the "beaten track." We will be staying in an agriturismo or bed and breakfast. At night the stars are significantly within reach as the evening sky is just pristine. Dinner and overnight in San Giuliano del Sannio.

B/D/H**Day 9 Monday September 12, 2011****San Giuliano Del Sannio**

Today is a relaxing day. Sleep in, have breakfast and then join me for a cooking instruction which will indulge our senses in the freshest ingredients available. Instruction begins at 11am. Lunch will be served at 1:30 in the dining room of my family home (a large centuries old dwelling rich in history). We will have a traditional Italian lunch which includes aperitivo (a light before dinner beverage which provokes ones appetite), antipasto, first course, second course, fruit, dessert, coffee and of course wine from the region. After lunch we will do as the Italians and take a "riposo" or rest or as the Spanish say "siesta" and dream the afternoon away. In the evening we will visit my favorite Enoteca or wine bar in Campobasso the province of the Molise region and a small modern/antique city with a population of approximately 50,000. The Enoteca is housed in a building dating back to the 1400's. Its stone walls and arches and different levels create an ambiance unlike any other. Tasting with dinner and overnight in San Giuliano.

B/L/tasting w/D/H/cooking Instruction.



**Day 10 Tuesday September 13, 2011 San Giuliano Del Sannio,
Orvieto**

Breakfast at Agriturismo. Morning departure for Orvieto. The origins of Orvieto date back to the Etruscan Civilization. The first Etruscan settlements, going back to the 9th century B.C., in fact were found inside the turfaceous caves in the bedrock upon which today rises the city itself. Mid afternoon arrival with time for independent exploration. During your free time, you may choose to visit the Duomo as it is the most famous Cathedral of the city. Construction of this Italian Gothic style structure took 100 years to complete and dates back to 1263. The Duomo houses the blood soaked cloth which is the relic related to the miracle at Lake Bolsena which occurred in the same year. The modern day Roman Catholic Festival of Corpus Christi is a result of this miracle. Another possible sight could be Saint Patrick's Well or you may simply enjoy sitting and sipping a cold glass of local white wine as you observe the local color of the town. If shopping is your goal, there are many beautiful shops to explore as well. One of my favorite things to do is to sit back and observe the Orvietani (citizens of Orvieto) themselves as Orvieto is a very tranquil and contained city and independent exploration is a pleasure. Dinner and overnight in Orvieto.
B/D/H

**Day 11 Wednesday September 14, 2011 Orvieto, Montalcino, Sant'Antimo,
Pienza, San Gimignano**

Mid Morning departure from Orvieto for journey north into Tuscany. Today we will enjoy a leisurely drive through Tuscany, one of the most lush and romantic regions of Italy. Our first destination today is the majestic Abbey of St. Antimo which is located about 10 kilometers outside of Montalcino. This abbey is one of my personal favorites as it is truly a spiritual place in perfect harmony with the nature that surrounds it. The Benedictine Abbey was constructed in 770 by the Lombards and over the centuries fell into disrepair. Thanks to local residents, a complete renovation was recently conducted and the Abbey with its superb acoustics and original beauty can be enjoyed. Following our visit to St. Antimo, we will enjoy a stop in the small Hamlet of Pienza located in Southern Tuscany. Pienza is a small town located about halfway between Florence and Roma. It clings to a scenic hill overlooking the countryside about 500 meters above sea level. It is a perfect example of Renaissance urban planning and has been designated by UNESCO as part of the world cultural heritage belonging to all of mankind. Finally, we will enjoy a wine tasting of Brunello di Montalcino, the regal queen of Italian Reds. Our tasting will include a visit to an antique museum dedicated to the perfection of this prestigious red wine over the last several centuries. Light dinner/snack served with tasting. Our final destination today is San Gimignano. Overnight in San Gimignano.
B/tasting w/D/H

Day 12 Thursday September 15, 2011 San Gimignano

Breakfast at hotel. Independent exploration of this beautiful and genuine Tuscan town. This tiny city has remained intact over the centuries and is situated on top of the rolling hillside. It is famous for its numerous medieval bell towers, frescoes and other art treasures. Leisurely exploration of San Gimignano. Dinner and overnight in San Gimignano.
B/D/H



Day 13 Friday September 16, 2011 San Gimignano, Florence, Milano

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Our destination today is Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Morning guided tour of Florence. We begin our tour with a visit to the lovely Santa Maria Novella. Then onto the Galleria Academia to view the beautiful sculptures by Michelangelo, the slaves or prisoners of the rocks and the unforgettable statue of David (entrance fee is 15.00 euro). The Academia houses some of the most important sculptures of Florence. Then we are on to the famous Duomo of Florence (the fourth largest church in the world), with its grandiose cupola by Brunelleschi, Giotto's bell tower, and the Baptistery with its famous bronze doors. Afternoon time at leisure. At this point, you may choose to rest at a local trattoria or visit the open air markets of the San Lorenzo or the Mercato Del Pulcinello for some genuine Florentine artifacts, leather goods and souvenirs. If you wish to visit an authentic Florentine Cantina, I have a great recommendation! Our visit to Florence will end with a visit to the Viale dei Colli up to the Piazzale Michelangelo where a wonderful panoramic view of the city will be awaiting us. Late afternoon departure from Florence for Roma or Milano. Overnight in Milano

B/D/G/H

Day 14 Saturday September 17, 2011

Breakfast at hotel and then private transfer to Fiumicino or Linate Airport for overseas flight. Arrivederci Italia!

B

Your customized Land Tour includes:

*Private driver in Italy and Sicily (this is our own bus at our disposal)
Airfare from Roma to Palermo and Catania to Napoli
All transfers and ferry services on land and water
All guided sightseeing with bilingual guides
All Hotel stays (12 nights)
All breakfasts
2 full course lunches with wine
1 pizza dinner in Pompeii with wine or beer
8 full course dinners with wine
2 wine tastings with a light dinner
1 cooking instruction
Kick off reception prior to departure hosted by me, Diana Maiola to include a lesson in the Italian Language
Guidance of Diana Maiola 24/7
Restaurant Gratuities
Partial Guide Gratuities
Partial Driver Gratuities*

Land Tour does not include:

Entrance fees to museums and Pompeii and to the grotto in Capri (a total of \$50.00 - \$65.00 total us dollars per person)



Baggage handlers and Porter tips (\$10.00- \$15.00 total per couple)

Some lunches (\$5.00-\$10.00 per person per lunch)

Dinner on days which include a large lunch. On these days, most participants opt for a light snack or a gelato. The exception will be in my home town where someone is always ready to feed you.

Extra tip to driver (\$30.00-\$50.00 total per couple)

Extra tip to guides (\$3.00-\$6.00 per couple per guide) (4-5 different guides total)

Usage of mini bar in the room

Any extra alcoholic beverages ordered at mealtime apart from wine which is included

Land Tour Price per person based upon double occupancy is as follows:

<i>8 participants</i>	<i>\$5086.00 + air</i>
<i>10 participants</i>	<i>\$4830.00 + air</i>
<i>12 participants</i>	<i>\$4657.00 + air</i>
<i>14 participants</i>	<i>\$4459.00 + air</i>
<i>16 participants</i>	<i>\$4311.00 + air</i>

Travel Insurance is encouraged and can be purchased through Dionne Daugenti of Italian Tours by Diana at 216 521 3700

Thank you for the opportunity to design a trip of a lifetime for you! I look forward to creating lasting memories with you in the Land of Sunshine and Olives.

Best Regards,

*Diana E. Maiola
President and Owner*

Italian Tours by Diana

216 521 3700