



Product Details



Europe-Italy



Updated by: **CD/04.25.12**

Italian Romance and Renaissance

With Jason & Molly Mesnick

Trip Type

Escorted

No. of Days

9 days

Rate

From \$2999pp, twin

Start Date

November 3, 2012

Trip Location Start and Finish

Start: Venice, Italy Finish: Rome, Italy

Highlights

- Travel with celebrity hosts Jason and Molly Mesnick from TV's "The Bachelor"!
- Savor the flavors of Tuscany while learning local culinary techniques from a Chef at the cooking school of Florence.
- Explore the Chianti region enjoying various local epicurean specialties
- Be serenaded on the famous gondolas of Venice.
- Enjoy a guided visit to the Vatican Museums.

Inclusions

- Two nights Venice, Three nights Florence, Two Nights Rome
- Four-star accommodations in all cities
- Twelve meals including breakfast daily
- English-speaking tour guide throughout
- All group admissions
- Tips for baggage handling and hotel gratuities
- Transfers, excursions and round-trips as per itinerary

Day by Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. (November 3, 2012)

DAY 2: Arrive in Venice (November 4, 2012)

Arrive at Venice Airport, meet your local Tour manager and transfer with private boat to the reserved Hotel. (D)

DAY 3: Highlights of Venice (November 5, 2012)

After breakfast departure to St. Mark's Square, meet your guide and visit the historical center St. Mark's square, the Basilica and the Doge's Palace. Lunch is on your own. After some free time in the early afternoon, experience the famous Gondola ride of Venice. Gondolas have been a tradition in Venice for centuries. Taking a gondola ride in Venice gives you a completely different perspective of the city than exploring it on foot. At the end, experience a gourmet discovery tour in the bustling Rialto area. We'll drink wine and eat "cicheti" (as to say, snacks) at the local wine-bars, or "bàcari". Wandering from place to place we'll stop and read the "nizioleti" (literaly "small sheets" = street signs), that tell much about the story and people of old Venice. (B, Late Afternoon Snack)

DAY 4: Venice – Florence (November 6, 2012)

After breakfast, transfer to Venice railway station for our journey to Florence via high-speed rail. Arrive in Florence and transfer to the Hotel with private minibus. Lunch on your own. In the afternoon, enjoy a hands-on cooking class in Florence. Our local Chef offers his expertise with lessons based on local Tuscan dishes. You will prepare a three course seasonal menu using the finest ingredients on the market. This intimate experience is specially prepared for our group, so you can experience what it is like to be chef for a day. After, you will enjoy an aperitif before sitting down to savor the delicious menu you had prepared together. (B, D)

DAY 5: Florence (November 7, 2012)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Then depart on a historical city tour of Florence. We start with the Mercato Centrale, the bustling central market of FLORENCE in the S. Lorenzo quarter. Experience how the locals shop for the regional and seasonal best food and wines. A walking tour of this market is really a full immersion in the culinary products of Tuscany. Continue to the Cathedral with the famous Dome by Brunelleschi and the gold Paradise door of the Baptistry. From there we continue to Piazza Signoria, the political heart of Florence since the 1300's when Florence was considered the richest city in Europe. We are beckoned to Ponte Vecchio, the bridge which attracts so much curiosity not only to its unique charming appearance but also to the fabulous jewelers shops lining the bridge. We finish at Santa Croce Church, one of the most important in Florence containing the tombs of the most famous Florentine citizens. Afterward, the remainder of the day is free to experience Florence on your own. Your guide can give you recommendations based on your desires. (B)

DAY 6: Chianti Tour with tasting (November 8, 2012)

After breakfast, depart Florence to Greve in Chianti. Stop to taste the famous “**Finocchiona**” (Typical Tuscany Salami) by the historical Macelleria Falorni. Continue to Gaiole in Chianti for guided visit to Ricasoli wine cellar housed in Brolio Castle which dates back to the 10th century. This unique experience allows the visitor to learn a great deal about the Ricasoli family history. After the Castle, the tour continues in the spacious wineries, where the famed Barone Ricasoli wines are produced. Here it is possible to admire the huge rooms where the wines are aged in barriques, and then continue on to the tasting area. At the end of the visit you will taste the local Oil in the “Osteria”, where we will be served a typical Tuscan lunch. Return to Florence enjoying the remainder of the day on your own. (B, L)

DAY 7: Florence – Rome (November 9, 2012)

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Florence Railway Station for your high-speed rail trip to Rome. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel via motorcoach. Lunch is on your own. This afternoon, we will visit the sites of Ancient Rome. We will visit the Campidoglio, most sacred of Rome seven hills for a breath taking panoramic view of the Forum. Stop by Caesar's cremation site and see The Via Sacra, the temple of Vesta and much more. Climb Palatine hill with its imperial memories. Ancient Rome's most outstanding landmark, the Colosseum, is the site of spectacular gladiators combats and gruesome executions. Our extensive visit includes both the ground and upper structures. A short stroll along the Avenue of Imperial Fora with remains of Augustus, Caesar and Trajan fora ends a memorable journey through history. Dinner tonight is in a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 8: Rome (November 10, 2012)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then depart for a guided visit of the Vatican Museums. This tour takes us through the Vatican palaces, the Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Pinecone Courtyard, Candelabras Gallery with its many sculptures from Roman and Greek periods. The amazing ceiling with the "Creation" and dramatic "Judgement's Day" on the altar wall, have overwhelmed visitors since their unveiling in the 16th century. From the Sistine Chapel, to the world largest church, St Peter's Vatican basilica with Michelangelo's Pieta and Bernini's spectacular baroque monuments. St Peter's Square, overlooked by Michelangelo's imposing dome and embraced by Bernini's elegant colonnade bring your Vatican experience to an end. Lunch and the remainder of the afternoon is on your own. Tonight, say farewell to your fellow sojourners at our special farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 9: Rome (November 11, 2012)

Coach transfer to Rome Airport. (B)

Detailed Pricing Information				
	Twin	Single	Triple	Quad
Tour	\$2999	\$3799	N/A	N/A

Disclaimer

Please hold off on purchasing airfare until this departure is guaranteed. AAA Sojourns will protect airfare when the tour is guaranteed.

NOTE - This itinerary is subject to changes due to road, weather, or traffic conditions, industrial action, operational conditions/requirements, water level hazards, excessive winds, and other hazards outside of our control.

Air Transportation

Airfare is not included.

Transfer

Transfers are included.

Payment Information

Deposit

\$450 per person

Final payment

August 1, 2012

Cancellation penalties

Up to 92 days prior to departure	\$50 per person
91 to 71 days prior to departure	20% of the total booking
70 to 46 days prior to departure	50% of the total booking
Within 45 days prior to departure	100% of the total booking

>>Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended<<

Passport & visa information

For US citizens, a passport valid for six months after your return date is required. Non-US citizens are advised to contact the appropriate consulate office for entry requirements pertaining to the tour.

Optional Extension

Add an optional 4-day **independent** stay in the Amalfi Coast.

DAY 8 continued: Rome – Naples – Pompeii - Sorrento (November 11, 2012)

Transfer to Rome railway station, and with high-speed Train transfer to Naples.

Arrive in Naples, with private Car and driver transfer to Sorrento.

Dinner and Overnight

DAY 9: Capri (November 12, 2012)

This morning we will board a boat for the island of Capri, where--weather permitting--our first stop will be the legendary Grotta Azzura (**OPTION**). With the funicular, we will then proceed up the mountain to the town of Capri, Walk with your tour guide through narrow streets and the central square, La Piazzetta, which is surrounded by intriguing old buildings and filled with sidewalk cafes. Popular with tourists and local alike, Capri is always crowded and bustling with activity. Independent lunch.After lunch, a guided tour to have the opportunity to explore the Gardens of Augustus.

The gardens are filled with many species of plants and you can take in the views of the Faraglioni, a famed offshore rock outcropping, and the Bay of Marina Piccola. Explore Capri's fabled plaza, La Piazzetta, with its many chic boutiques and gift shops before taking the funicular back down to Marina Grande, where you will board your watercraft for the return trip. Overnight.

DAY 10: Free day in the Amalfi Coast (November 13, 2012)

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy the region on your own taking in the sites, adding an additional tour or exploring the beautiful coast line.

DAY 11: Naples – Departure (November 14, 2012)

Coach transfer to Naples airport.

Optional Independent Extension Pricing Information				
	Twin	Single	Triple	Quad
Tour	\$737	On Request	N/A	N/A