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*Art, Food & Fashion
Through Rome, Umbria & Tuscany
15 days/14 nights*

**This is a sample itinerary.
All itineraries are customized to your Travel Dreams & Wishes**

DAY 1: WELCOME TO ITALY



journey.

Welcome to Rome!

Upon arrival into Rome Airport, clear entry formalities and proceed to the arrivals hall where our tour escort will be waiting for you.

You will then transfer by private minibus to downtown Rome where you will check in to the reserved 4-star hotel.

You will then have the rest of the day at leisure to settle in and freshen up from your

DAY 2: THROUGH THE FLAVORS OF ROME



Today we will enjoy a food walking tour lasting about three hours. Walk through the most famous squares of the Eternal City, admire Baroque landmarks and learn more about the city's great past and culinary traditions. Our tour includes several stops that will give you the chance to sip one of Rome's best *espressos* at either Caffè Sant'Eustacchio or Tazza d'Oro, taste

tozzetti cookies, fresh focaccia with *mortadella*, fried rice balls and other Roman delicacies.

After the tour, enjoy some time at leisure before your tour inside the Colosseum, where you'll start your journey into Ancient Rome, led by our passionate and entertaining tour guide. Your Colosseum tour will teach about more than just gladiators. You'll learn about everyday life in Ancient Rome too.

Evening and dinner at leisure.

DAY 3: SHOPPING AND OPERA DINNER



Meet our local guide at the hotel for an exclusive shopping tour including the newest fashion trends in the city.

You will then go back to the hotel in the afternoon to relax and get ready for a wonderful dinner experience in Trastevere, one of the liveliest districts of the city.

Dinner will marry opera, food, and wine. While you dine, you will have the chance to discover the world of opera - a renowned

Italian artform, alongside food, fashion and art. Return to the hotel and overnight.

DAY 4: VATICAN AND CASTELLI ROMANI



After breakfast, our tour guide will lead you inside the Vatican Museums, one of the most interesting and beautiful sites in the world. You will receive a broad base for understanding the remarkable history, architecture, and politics of the Vatican.

Enter into the Sistine Chapel and feel the magic of this place where everything is priceless and rich in history, from the floor to the amazing frescoed ceiling by Michelangelo.

You will receive an exhaustive explanation of what you can see in the Chapel before entering. You will have some time on your own inside the world-famous room to pick out the details you have heard about and better

understand Michelangelo's genius.

After the Sistine Chapel, exiting through a special door that leads straight into St. Peter's Basilica, you will enjoy a guided tour of the holiest place in Christendom. See the incredible altar and marvel at Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture, *La Pietà*, before heading outside to St. Peter's Square.

After lunch on your own in the area, we'll leave for our journey through the authentic flavors of the Castelli Romani area. We will stop in Ariccia, Castel Gandolfo and Frascati.



The last stop will be at an authentic *trattoria* in Castel Gandolfo, whose owner strives to honor the region's ancient culinary traditions.

Another special feature of the restaurant is the unique atmosphere that you experience inside the beautiful caves connecting all the rooms that are filled with many old farming tools, bottles of wine and the wheels of cheese. You'll enjoy dinner here

and return to Rome around 10:00 pm.

DAY 5: ART, WINE AND FASHION IN UMBRIA



After breakfast and check out, transfer to Umbria.

We will enjoy light lunch in Bevagna at a famous winery that boasts Arnaldo Pomodoro's artwork. During lunch you'll also have the chance to taste the most famous wine of Umbria, namely Sagrantino.

After Bevagna, we will visit a family dress-making business, founded and led by four cousins who carry on the region's sartorial traditions. They are skilled dressmakers and represent a small enterprise in the heart of Umbria, with their 8 employees. An extended family that is proud to operate in high fashion apparel industry.

The company works for Narciso Rodriguez (who designed some of Michelle Obama's outfits), Prada, Louis Vuitton, Cucinelli, Céline, Bally and many others.

You will be welcomed by the owners themselves who will tell you about their history and offer a welcome drink.

Arrival at the accommodation and overnight. *Dinner at leisure.*

DAY 6 : PERUGIA AND FASHION



In the morning we will drive to Perugia for a 2-hour guided tour of the charming town. The monumental center of Perugia is the Piazza IV Novembre, an important focal point of the city since ancient Etruscan and Roman times, the piazza is still the center of city life today. Your guide will show you the beautiful medieval fountain, Fontana Maggiore, in the center of the Piazza. It faces the wonderful Palazzo dei Priori, once the residence of the chief political authorities of the city and your next stop.

After the tour, we will have lunch with Federica Spagnoli, one of the grandsons of Luisa Spagnoli, who will tell the whole story of her famous grandmother founder of the Perugina, and creator of Bacio Perugina, as well as one of the most famous fashion houses in the world. Federica will guide us to the *Spagnoli Museum*, where the whole life of this "unique" woman is represented (Please note that the museum is currently under restoration).

We'll then leave Perugia and head to a former beautiful Dominican monastery that houses a high-quality cashmere laboratory. The setting is simply unique... This beautiful and historic structure was bought in the 70's by a couple and a few years later the place was turned into a workshop. The owner's ideals are closely linked to those of the authentic artisan activity and its revival, as this is the only true essence of Made in Italy.

Return to Assisi and overnight. Dinner at leisure.



DAY 7: PERUGINA AND ASSISI

Today we will spend another day in Umbria between art, food and fashion.

After breakfast, we'll head toward the Perugina factory where we will have the chance to learn about the company's development during the years thanks to the invention and the work of Luisa Spagnoli

After the visit to the factory and the chocolate tasting, we'll visit a luxury leather goods workshop that manufactures bags for an important brand, whose bags are sold worldwide. The laboratory is located close to the Perugina.

The owners will greet us with a nice *aperitivo* and will explain how a piece of leather becomes a beautiful Made in Italy bag. The atmosphere here is authentic, customers will see a real workshop with all the chaos related to a working place.

After the visit we return to Assisi for a guided tour of the beautiful town, with the impressive St. Francis Basilica and many other landmarks.

Free dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 8: CORTONA



After breakfast, leave for Cortona where we will enjoy a guided tour of the famous Tuscan town. You'll then have some free time to visit the shops in the main street of the village and enjoy lunch at leisure.

We will then head to the next accommodation, located in the countryside of Cortona.

Afternoon and evening on your own. You might relax by the hotel pool.

DAY 9: CHIANTI AND CASHMERE GOATS



After breakfast, departure for Chianti to visit a cashmere goat farm with a unique history. The creator and founder left the States in the 70's and never looked back. You'll understand the basics of cashmere goats, what they are, how they are raised, how we harvest their lovely fiber and how it is processed into a finished garment.

Depending on the season, it is possible to comb the goats and watch a baby goat being

born.

The group of Cashmere Goats of the farm produce the raw material for a unique line of exclusive, hand-woven Italian Cashmere accessories, home textiles and sustainable cashmere yarn for the knitter who knows and wants quality yarn.

During the day we will also enjoy wine tasting at a wine cellar of a castle...

On the way back to Cortona, we will take a walk through the vineyards and olive groves

of an important winery, reaching the cellar and the "champagneria" to learn about the wine-making and wine aging techniques. Here the owners will guide us through the world of these great wines...

The winery is located at the foot of Cortona and is very close to the accommodation.

Return back to the hotel. Dinner on own and overnight stay.

DAY 10: VAL D'ORCIA, BEER AND CHEESE



After breakfast, we'll head towards the Val d'Orcia (UNESCO site).

We will visit the charming towns of Pienza and San Quirico d'Orcia. Our light lunch today will be at a small brewery producing a delicious craft beer in a land almost exclusively dedicated to wine.

After the tasting we move to a cheese farm where a cheesemaker will tell us how cheese is made. Our visit ends with a wonderful

tasting.

Return to the hotel and overnight.

DAY 11: ART IN TUSCANY AND MONTALCINO



After breakfast we will start our journey through the Tuscan art with a tour of Daniel Spoerri's garden.

This sculpture garden is modern art at its finest and most organic. It was founded by Daniel Spoerri in 1991 and includes works by more than 40 national and internationally renowned contemporary artists.

Swiss artist Daniel Spoerri is perhaps best known for his Eat Art Gallery in Dusseldorf, and the artist dedicated much of his career

exploring sculpture art through non conventional mediums.

Stone sculptures of men, animals and other figures are almost hidden between olive groves and chestnut trees, and the effect is astounding. Spoerri deliberately wanted to weave botany and art together to demonstrate that the two forms are inseparable.

At the end of our visit, we'll have lunch in the restaurant of the Garden.

After lunch we'll continue with a visit to the town of Montalcino, famous for its magnificent view over the Tuscan countryside and its wine, the "Brunello di Montalcino"!

In Montalcino we will visit a winery presenting a new concept for wine making. The vines are all supplied with a music system and classical music is played to the plants. It is an experiment carried out by the University of Firenze and has given excellent results.

As you walk around the vineyards of this property, you will feel completely immersed in the harmonies of Mozart, resonating gently along the vine rows and across the hills before you. We'll then have the chance to taste the sublime wines of this winery.

Return to the hotel near Cortona and overnight.

DAY 12: SAN GALGANO AND SIENA



After breakfast and check out, we will leave for San Galgano.

About forty kilometers (25 miles) south-east of Siena towards Grosseto in an isolated valley among Siena's hills, lies an antique Medieval Cistercense Abbey, now desecrated and partly in ruins.

About ten minute walking up the hill of Montesiepi there is a small, circular chapel where one of the most fascinating and mysterious relics of the entire region of Tuscany is kept: the sword in the stone

of Saint Galgano. A jagged piece of rock protrudes from the center of the tile floor of the chapel and in it lies the famous sword. The cross-shaped sword has been proven to date back to 1170. In the chapel there are even some frescos from the 1300's which depict the chapel itself. The sight, to say the least, is evocative and immediately brings to mind the well-known legend of King Arthur and his sword in the stone.

We will then continue towards the medieval town of Siena where you will have lunch on your own.

In the afternoon you will enjoy guided tour of Siena with its narrow picturesque streets. During this walking tour you'll learn more about the town's history and admire the most remarkable monuments

We'll then head to Florence, our next destination where we'll arrive in the early evening.

DAY 13: FLORENCE



In the morning we will meet with our guide at the hotel and start our street food tour that ends at the Central Market. Feel the beat of the local streets, taste what locals eat, and stroll through the historical heart of San Lorenzo, one of the most genuine and "Florentine" neighbourhoods of the city. This will be a real journey through the flavors and culinary tradition of the Cradle of the Renaissance, accompanied by several tastings.

In the afternoon our expert guide will lead you through the main landmarks of the city, including skip the line access to the Uffizi and Accademia Gallery. Learn about the famous Renaissance artists of Italy and see highlights like Michelangelo's David and Slaves at the Accademia and Leonardo da Vinci's Annunciation together with Botticelli's Birth of Venus at the Uffizi.

Evening and dinner at leisure.

DAY 14: SILK, LEATHER AND GOLD



After breakfast, meet our guide at the hotel and be ready for a beautiful experience among Florence artisans.

In the morning we'll visit the Silk Art Foundation, a very charming place with ancient looms. Its hand-operated and semi-mechanical looms weave dreams, embellished by a wondrous warper

designed by Leonardo Da Vinci. This is the home of magnificence, where the Masters Weavers of the town create the finest silks.

We will visit the famous "Leather school" located in Santa Croce, founded by the Gori family after the WWII. The Gori family still owns this amazing place, at the school they teach the old techniques to international students and in the workshop they have a prestigious production of leather handbags, jackets, wallets.

We will then visit a particular goldsmith, with his Renaissance workshop located at just a few steps from the Duomo, that creates unique, handmade jewelry personalized with the ancient techniques of the Florentine goldsmithing and sacred decorations for Santa Maria del Fiore.

Free afternoon for shopping. Dinner at leisure and overnight.

DAY 15: ARRIVEDERCI

Check out and transfer to Florence Airport for your onward travel arrangements.