



***TOMS TRAVEL ASSISI & NORTHERN LAKES
ITALY PROGRAM
Sept 30 - October 15, 2017***



Draft itinerary

Day 1

Depart the USA for your trip to Italy.

Day 2 - Rome/ Assisi

Upon arrival your escort will welcome you to Italy and transfer to your hotel in Assisi. Enjoy a free afternoon for rest, relaxation, or exploration. Your tour escort can suggest sights or walks for you to enjoy. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner with wine pairings (D)



Day 3 - Assisi

Enjoy a visit of Assisi with a wine-tasting. Assisi is a paradise for lovers of cold meats such as **salami and porchetta**, and an absolute must for **pecorino cheese** fans as well - irrespectively of whether they prefer their **ewes cheese with or without the famous Assisi truffle**. **Vineyards** occupy great part of Umbria's rolling hillsides, the grapes here are transformed into some of the **country's finest wines**. This afternoon, there will be a **cooking lesson** in the restaurant of our hotel with a professional chef. The menu will consist of one *primo* (entrée) (such as a pasta dish or gnocchi) and one main course (such as braised veal in *Rosso di Montefalco* wine sauce). Following an *aperitivo*, dinner will consist mainly of the food prepared at the cooking lesson. Dinner and overnight **(B, D)**

Day 4 - Full Day Excursion to Deruta and Perugia

A full day tour to 2 of Italy's most interesting cities, Deruta and Perugia, known worldwide for their Ceramics and Chocolates. As is true of most Umbrian and Tuscan walled hill towns, one of the best things to do is to wander through the narrow streets and along the walls at the edge of town for views of the valley. Dinner on your own and overnight in Assisi (B).

Deruta

Deruta is a hill town and *commune* in the Province of Perugia in the Umbria region of central Italy. Long known as a center of refined maiolica manufacture, Deruta remains known for its ceramics, which are exported worldwide.



Deruta ceramics are a typical product of Deruta, a medieval hill town in Umbria, Italy. Production began in the early Middle Ages, and found its artistic peak in the 15th and early 16th century, with highly characteristic local styles, such as the Deruta trademark "Raffaellesco" dragon design said to be inspired by the murals of Raphael. An example of this style dragon in the face and head in Raphael's work can be seen in the painting "St Michael Trampling the Dragon"

In 1553, Leandro Alberti wrote "... the terracotta vases made in Deruta are often mentioned for how well they are made and beautifully decorated. And it is believed that



there are no other craftsmen in Italy that can match the work even though there have been attempts to do so..."

Town of Deruta

Deruta has over 200 ceramic workshops, most of which retail their own goods along with other retail shops which display and sell pottery products. The town also serves as a center for local farming and various agricultural industries. There are a number of ruins of very old ceramic kilns throughout Deruta. In addition to housing the usual governmental offices, the municipal hall houses a museum of ceramics. Along the Tiberina road, at the foot of the old town, yet another church - the Madonna delle Piagge - is clad in ceramic tiles.

Perugia

Perugia, home to the famous Baci chocolates, is often called the Chocolate City. Perugia also has the world's first hotel dedicated to chocolate, the Hotel di Perugia Etruscan Chocohotel. Of course, Perugia has much more to offer than just chocolate with history going back to the ninth century BC. Today Perugia, the capital of Umbria, is a lively walled hill town with plenty of modern culture making a good base for central Italy travel.



Perugia Attractions:

As is true of most Umbrian and Tuscan walled hill towns, one of the best things to do is to wander through the narrow streets and along the walls at the edge of town for views of the valley. Here are some of Perugia's top attractions:

- *Piazza IV Novembre* is the heart of Perugia. It's a large, open square where locals and visitors congregate. In the center is a beautiful fountain, the *Fontana Maggiore*, surrounded by the *Duomo* (said to hold the virgin's wedding ring), the *Palazzo dei Priori*, and medieval buildings with shops and bars.
- The *Fontana Maggiore*, made of pink and white stone, is decorated with intricately carved panels showing the months of the year, astrological signs, Aesop's fables, mythical monsters, and more.



- The *Palazzo dei Priori*, where the town councillors used to meet, has some beautiful 13th century frescoes and wooden furniture. It houses the National Art Gallery of Umbria and three other museums.
- The *Corso Vannucci* is the main pedestrian street and is lined with elegant shops, bars, and eating places.
- The *Rocca Paolina* is a fortress built by Pope Paul III over the houses and buildings he destroyed. You can wander through the underground remains of the streets and houses. There are also art exhibits held in the building.
- Etruscan remains include the 3rd century BC Etruscan well, the Etruscan Arch (one of the city gates), and remains of the massive Etruscan wall around the city. There are also remains of the Roman wall and Roman city gates and the *Tempio di Sant' Angelo*, a 5th century Roman temple.

Day 5 - Assisi to San Marino

Depart Assisi after breakfast for San Marino. Upon arrival in San Marino, you will check into your hotel. There will be an orientation tour of the city after checking into your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure to wander around San Marino to make your own discoveries.

San Marino is sited on the boundary between Romagna and the Marche, in a terrain which is predominantly rocky. This independent Republic, in the heart of Italy, has over 1700 years of history. It is one of the smallest states in the world and the oldest European Republic. San Marino's economy relies primarily on its tourist industry and the production of postage stamps. The Republic has a number of Nature Reserves including Pineta di Montecerreto, Parco Zona Ca Lentino, Parco Aiala and the Parco Naturale di Montecchio.





The architecture of San Marino is of great historical and artistic importance with buildings such as Palazzo del Governo, the Castle of Guaita, the Museum of the Immigrant, the Museum of Torture, the Ferrari e Abart Museum, the Church of St Francesco, the Church of the Cappuccini, the Basilica del Santo, the Modern Weapon Museum, the Classic Car Museum, the Wax Museum, and the Curiosity Museum. Events of note include the harquebus and crossbow competition held on the Founding Saint's day. Local cuisine uses the Republics own DOC oil and wine. Dinner in San Marino at local Restaurant.

Day 6 - San Marino to Parma

Today, after breakfast and checking out of the hotel, you will travel to the Medieval town of Dozza to see the Enoteca of all of the wines of the province of Emilia Romagna. After a tasting in the Castello we will travel to Langhorne and a visit to the Salumificio La Perla: guided visit to the factory in order to show all the steps of the production of the Prosciutto di Parma. Parma is known worldwide for this production. After the visit a rich buffet with typical local products. From there, we will move to Parma for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 7 - Parma - Sirmione



Wake up in Parma and have the opportunity to view the process of making Parmigiano Cheese. We will arrive at Consorzio Del Parmigiano Reggiano in Parma. During the visit, we will see the processing phases for the production of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese - processing of milk in the vats, molding of the curd, salting and maturation of cheese wheels. Depart around noon and arrive in the afternoon to Sirmione. Have a half day tour of the area with local guide: *Time permitting, take an optional Boat ride on the lake to admire the banks of the lake and the beautiful cities facing on the lake.* Dinner on your own. Overnight in Sirmione (B)

Sirmione is a peninsula facing on Garda Lake also called the pearl of the lake. It is also famous as Spa resort. Many famous people of the past were attracted by this charming city. You will walk through the narrow streets of this beautiful city; you will see the Castle and the remains of the ancient Villa of Catullus, the Roman Poet.



Day 8

After breakfast, leave for a full day tour to Venice. Transfer from the main land to the Piazza San Marco for your walking tour of the city. **Visit of St. Mark Square, the Basilica of St. Mark, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the Prisons.**

Inside Venice - The Palazzo Ducale represented for centuries the seat of the Venetian political power. In his splendid rooms, plastered and immersed in hundreds of masterpieces of painting, the Duke and his Council controlled the fate of a thousand-year history republic. You'll live it together with a Guide that will show you the halls of power, plunging you in a very particular historical context: the European Middle Ages and the immediately following centuries. You'll be surprised of the rich details of the gold staircase, of the realism of the scenes depicted by many artists who have decorated this building, you will relive the anguish of the prisoners crossing the famous Bridge of Sighs, and entering the Venetian prisons, famous for hosting Giacomo Casanova. An unforgettable tour not to be missed!



A guided tour in one of the most majestic cathedrals of the world! On this tour, escorted by a Tour Guide prepared in accordance with the Curia of Venice, enjoy a full visit of this masterpiece of byzantine art, unique of its kind in Italy, you'll have the pleasure to savour beautiful gold mosaics and marble inlays of the floors, sitting comfortably while our guide will show you the represented biblical scenes, the history and the particularities of this ancient basilica. Admire The Pala d'oro, exquisite example of the byzantine art with its thousands of gems and precious stones; enjoy the view of the Treasury, a splendor of the religious art collected along the centuries.

Lunch on your own and time to explore Venice.
Return in the evening to Sirmione

Day 9

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel and depart Sirmione to Stresa on Maggiore Lake with private bus and Tour Escort. Stop and Lunch at a local Restaurant in Milan.



Afternoon orientation tour of Milan with local guide: **View of the Gothic Cathedral, the famous and elegant Galleria, La Scala Opera House Square, the**



Sforza Castle and the famous streets of the fashion and the most famous Griffes.

Check in at Hotel and balance of the day at leisure.

Maggiore Lake is the second largest Italian lake; it is situated in Piedmont Region and close to the Alps. Stresa is a breathless place. A superb window of the lake front, delineated with lines of palm trees and flourishing gardens.

Overnight in Stresa



Day 10

Morning orientation tour of Stresa with local guide: **Stresa is a breathtaking place. A superb window of the lake front, delineated with lines of palm trees and flourishing gardens.**

Lunch and Dinner on your own

Pm at leisure

Overnight in Stresa

Day 11

Morning excursion to the Borromean Islands with private boat Visit Isola Bella and Isola Madre with local guide: **You will admire the Borromean Palace and its beautiful gardens on Isola Bella;**



The most wide island of the Borromean archipelago is Isola Madre, a botanical garden on water; Isola dei Pescatori, the fishermen island , charming village typical Italian with narrow streets and old shops.

Lunch on your own

Dinner in typical Restaurant of the area Overnight in Stresa

Day 12

Today depart for a visit to Lake Como. **You will take a funicular to upper Como in order to have an enchanting view over the Lake, boat ride on the Lake reaching the romantic Bellagio, also called the pearl of the lake. Strolling through the narrow streets of the ancient city centre with its fascinating shops. Your guide will show you the most beautiful and famous Villas facing the lake during your boat ride.**



Inclusions: Bus full day, Funicular, Tour Escort for the day, public boat trip on the Lake, Entrance fee to Villa Carlotta

Overnight in Stresa



Day 13

A day to relax and enjoy the beauty of Stresa and to prepare for your journey back to the United States. There will be a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight in Stresa

Day 14

Morning transfer from Hotel in Stresa to Milan for the return flight home. Departure to USA

End of Services

Accommodations:

Assisi: Hotel Grotta Azzurra/similar 3*

San Marino: Best Western Palace/similar 4*

Parma: Hotel Savoy/similar 4*

Sirmione: Hotel Flaminia/similar 4*

Stresa: Hotel La Palma/similar 4*

The quote includes:

- 12 nights accommodation
- Continental buffet breakfast daily; 7 dinners
- English Tour escort for the whole tour
- English speaking local guides: 1 HD Assisi, 1 FD Perugia/Deruta, 1 HD San Marino, 1 HD Sirmione, 1 HD Venice, 1 HD Stresa, 1 FD Borromee Islands, 1 HD Milan, 1 HD Como
- Entrance fees: St Mark's Basilica and Doge Palace in Venice, Duomo in Milan, Villa Carlotta in Como
- Cooking lesson in Assisi
- Wine Tasting at Il Castello of Dozza
- Demonstration and Tasting of Langhirano ham
- Demonstration and tasting of Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese
- Ferryboat both ways Tronchetto - Venice
- Ferryboat Borromean Island tour
- Boat Trip on Como Lake
- Deluxe fully equipped motor-coach as per program

Estimated cost \$3000 per person for land Single supplement \$1125

Cost may vary due to size of group and the value of the Euro

