



Italy's Classic Cities

Savor art, history, culture, and cuisine in this captivating small group journey to a collection of Italy's classic cities: cosmopolitan Milan; Verona, the "little Rome;" Bologna, with its medieval charm and culinary delights; Renaissance-tinged Florence, and the Eternal City of Rome. Add a pleasing combination of guided touring and ample free time – and it's magnifico!

**With an Post-Tour Extension:
Rome – On Your Own**

Itinerary

Created on Apr 30, 2024

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Milan, Italy

DAY 2: Milan

We arrive in Milan and transfer to our hotel. As guests' arrival times vary, we have no group activities planned during the day. This evening, we meet our Odysseys Tour Director and fellow travelers for a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Accommodations: NH Collection Milano Touring

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3: Milan

We discover this world capital of design and fashion, and Italy's center of commerce and finance, on today's tour that features the multi-spired Milan Cathedral (*Duomo*), the world's third largest; the historic La Scala opera house; and the landmark Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the city's grand arcaded shopping mall. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Brera Picture gallery, housing works by Caravaggio, Tiepolo, Tintoretto, and other great masters.

Accommodations: NH Collection Milano Touring

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: Milan/Lake Como

A tour highlight today as we travel to Italy's celebrated Lake District, where we enjoy a cruise on stunning Lake Como in the foothills of the Alps. Flanked by grand villas, palm trees, and wooded mountainsides, the lake and its surroundings have drawn visitors since Roman times. Following our cruise, we have free time for lunch and to explore on our own in this beautiful setting.

Accommodations: NH Collection Milano Touring

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5: Milan/Bergamo/Verona

En route to Verona today, we stop in historic, and beloved, Bergamo. Here we ride a funicular to the Città Alta (Upper Town), with its fortified city walls, cobblestone alleys, Renaissance architecture, and dramatic views that stretch to the Alps. After lunch together, we continue to Verona, arriving late afternoon.

Accommodations: Hotel Indigo Verona – Grand Hotel des Arts

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6: Verona

Rich in history, art, and culture – and of course, Shakespearean connections – Verona retains monuments from its 1st-century CE Roman era, as well as from its thriving medieval period. Highlights of our morning tour here include the austere Castelvecchio, the ancient Roman gate of Porta Borsari, Piazza delle Erbe, the 14th-century Scaliger Tombs, and Verona Arena, built in 30 CE and still used today. We also see Juliet's balcony on the 13th-century home of the Del Capello family said to be the inspiration for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Late this afternoon we take a guided tour of the Teatro Filarmonico, among Europe's leading opera houses, then dine together at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Hotel Indigo Verona – Grand Hotel des Arts

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Verona

A free morning for independent exploration. Later today, we embark on an immersive wine experience at the historic estate of the Gaetano Bertani family, pioneers of Verona winemaking. We tour the frescoed rooms and romantic gardens of the neo-classical manor house and walk through the vineyards lush with ancient grape varieties for Amarone and Valpolicella Classico. Our tour concludes with a tasting that showcases the region's unique terroir.

Accommodations: Hotel Indigo Verona – Grand Hotel des Arts

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8: Verona/Modena/Bologna

We leave Italy's Veneto region today for Emilia-Romagna, stopping first in Modena, known especially for its culinary heritage – and as the birthplace of the Ferrari. We visit the Museo Casa Enzo Ferrari; take a guided walking tour; and visit a family-run *acetaia*, where we learn about the making of balsamic vinegar, a Modena specialty. Then we travel on to Bologna and dine tonight at our hotel.

Accommodations: Hotel Internazionale Bologna

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9: Bologna

We get our first taste of this lively historic capital and largest city of Emilia-Romagna on a morning walking tour of grand Piazza Maggiore and its highlights: Basilica of San Petronio, with its half-finished marble façade; 12th-century Asinelli Tower, and the Fountain of Neptune. We also see the Teatro Comunale opera house and stroll through Quadrilatero Market, abounding with fresh local foods of all kinds – and some of Italy's best street food. The remainder of the day is free to explore as we wish, and for lunch and dinner on our own in this city renowned for its fine cuisine.

Accommodations: Hotel Internazionale Bologna

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10: Bologna

Today is free for independent exploration, perhaps to explore some of the nearly 25 miles of porticoes (a UNESCO site) dating to the Middle Ages that start in the well-preserved city center; to see the Michelangelo sculptures in San Domenico Basilica; or to explore more of Bologna's impressive food scene. Tonight, we savor a small group highlight as we attend a private cooking class where we make Bologna's traditional tortellini, tagliatelle, and ragu – then enjoy our handiwork for dinner.

Accommodations: Hotel Internazionale Bologna

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11: Bologna/Florence

We travel today to Florence, “cradle of the Renaissance” and storied city of arts and culture. Our first stop: San Lorenzo Market, where we can browse the outdoor stalls and have lunch on our own at the indoor Central Market. This afternoon's touring takes in the historic city center (a UNESCO site): the Baptistry, Giotto's Bell Tower, and Santa Maria del Fiore – the fabled *Duomo* of Brunelleschi's dome. Then, we visit the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's *David* and his sculptures for the papal tombs.

Accommodations: Hotel Rivoli Boutique

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12: Florence

On this morning's excursion to Scuola del Cuioio, we learn about Florence's time-honored leather-making process and watch artisans as they craft fine bags, jackets, and other items. This afternoon is free for independent exploration; tonight, we dine together at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Hotel Rivoli Boutique

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 13: Florence

Another tour highlight today as we visit the world-renowned Uffizzi Gallery of paintings and sculpture, home to Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and *La Primavera*, da Vinci's *Annunciation*, and other masterpieces by Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Fra Angelico, among others. Then we have the rest of the day to explore Florence as we wish.

Accommodations: Hotel Rivoli Boutique

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14: Florence/Rome

We travel through the gentle scenery of the Italian countryside en route to Rome today. After our mid-day arrival, we join our Tour Director for an informal walking tour of the neighborhood surrounding our hotel.

Accommodations: Monti Palace Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15: Rome

More outstanding art is on tap as we tour the famed Borghese Gallery, with its collection of masterworks by Raphael, Titian, Correggio, Bernini, and more. From here, we're free for independent exploration in this city brimming with history. Tonight, we celebrate our adventure and bid *arrivederci* to Italy at a farewell dinner.

Accommodations: Monti Palace Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 16: Depart for U.S.

We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flight to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Italy's Classic Cities on Apr 30, 2024. Please visit the Italy's Classic Cities page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/europe/italys-classic-cities/> for the latest and most accurate information.