

## The Greatest Italy Trip Ever March 18- April 1 2019

### +Cinque Terra post trip April 1-3 2019

**\$4799 Early Bird until July 1 2018 Then \$4999 Single Supplement: \$850 or ask for a share. Cinque Terra Extension: \$999 based on 10, \$899 based on 15. Single: \$200 and limited.**

**Our group is known for Italy, quality itineraries, excellent meals and charming helpful guides. Our meals are very generous and often in unusual places. The trip starts in Puglia- the boot- where movie stars get married and fashionistas have homes. We end in Florence/Cinque Terra, with a leisurely circle through Italy.**

**This is a unique trip for women new to Italy and returnees. Pre registration, taken NOW.**

**March 18 2019** Leave on overnight flights to Italy. (flights not included- ask us to book for you.)

**March 19 Puglia Martina Franca:** Arrive Bari Airport, meet our tour manager. **Group transfer for flights arriving by 4:00PM.** Our beautiful Hotel Martina Franca is home for 4 nights. Martina Franca is a baroque jewel like a balcony overlooking Trulli. Meet up- enjoy 'welcome to Puglia' dinner at the hotel, with local dishes. Puglia is famous for burrata with arugula and pomegranate, orecchiette with tomato, garlic, olive oils and many other dishes. **(Dinner)**

**March 20 Martina Franca / Ostuni / Alberobello / Martina Franca:** Depart for Ostuni: the white capita. Clinging to hills at the edge of Le Murge, the old center is a spiral of whitewashed houses with dramatic views over olive trees and blue Mediterranean. Continue to fortified Masseria, farm producing supreme quality olive oil, visit the farm and underground Roman mill. Enjoy traditional lunch. Discover the Trulli Valley and Alberobello a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for houses with conical roofs, visit the historical center. Evening at leisure to explore Martina Franca and enjoy dinner at one of the lovely restaurants. **(Breakfast, Lunch). Our group always meets for optional dinners so no one is left out-included meals are very generous.**

**March 21 Martina Franca / Lecce / Manduria Wine Region / Martina Franca:** Depart for Lecce, "Florence of the South". A gentle walk to visit the Basilica di Santa Croce with Roman ruins and Duomo in one of the loveliest piazzas in Italy. Free time to enjoy a restaurant and shopping. PM to Manduria, producer of the Primitivo wine. Visit the winery which houses an interesting museum. Country dinner at the winery with wines. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**March 22 Martina Franca / Bari & Polignano a Mare / Martina Franca:** Depart for Bari capital of Puglia, with elegant waterfront. The old city is a perfect example of medieval architecture. Guided visit to the Basilica of San Nicola which anchors the Old Town. Visit the Norman Castle and historic center. PM stop in Polignano a Mare, tiny town on a cliff, charming, white-washed

streets with old buildings ending on a terrace with views of Adriatic . A special dinner at the “Fornelli”,a butcher- choose your meat to enjoy with jugs of red wine. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**March 23 Martina Franca / Matera / Sorrento:** Depart for Sorrento. We stop for Matera of ancient stone houses. The area evokes ancient times, providing a backdrop for Mel Gibson’s, “The Passion of Christ”. Guided tour of the village. Our lunch is at the cave restaurant. Afternoon arrival Sorrento. The famed Amalfi Coast is a stunning coastline along rugged mountains on the western side from Sorrento to Salerno. There are spectacular vistas with changing landscapes,rocks plunging into the sea, flowering plants, and houses high in the rocks. Orientation tour of Sorrento. Evening at leisure. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

**March 24 Sorrento/Amalfi Coast/Sorrento:** Depart for a full-day excursion exploring enchanting towns along the picturesque Costiera Amalfitana. We see Positano from above, clinging to the rocks. The first view of Amalfi is unforgettable, with tightly packed villas and palaces seeming to tumble down the cliffs.Continue to Ravello, one of the most attractive destinations on the Amalfi Coast,overlooking the Mediterranean. Evening at leisure **(Breakfast)**

**March 25 Sorrento / Capri / Sorrento:** Full day Isle of Capri. Head up to the small village of Anacapri to enjoy views of the Bay of Naples with for lunch at a local trattoria. Then down the hill to the island’s main settlement. Enjoy short walking tour including the Cesare Augusto Gardens. Dinner in a local restaurant. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**March 26 Sorrento/Pompeii/Naples/Rome:** Depart for Rome. We visit Pompeii, frozen in time when buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79, Pompeii is a World Heritage site. Its excavation provides a picture of life during the height of the Roman Empire. We drive to Naples, known for history, art, culture and, gastronomy. Enjoy a fabulous pizza lunch in a typical pizzeria. After lunch, drive through the center: Old Town, Posillipo, Piazza del Plebiscito, San Carlo Theatre, and castles. Proceed to Rome, arrival in the evening. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

**March 27 Rome:** We take you on an exclusive tour of Rome. We reach the Circus Maximus, Rome’s largest for chariot races, enjoy the amazing view of the Palatine Hill. Proceed to the Aventine Hill with surprises and treasures hidden to average tourists. We visit the romantic Garden of Oranges, adorned with orange trees and a breathtaking view of Rome. We continue to the Church Santa Sabina and St Alexius with a mix of history, art, religion and legends. Enjoy an unexpected view from the “Buco di Roma” We walk through one of the largest and best preserved thermal complexes, Baths of Caracalla. Observe where Romans enjoyed purification. Traditional lunch at Trattoria with local dishes. Rest of afternoon at leisure. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

**March 28 Rome:** After breakfast, at leisure to discover Rome. We have a wide selection of guided tours to recommend and book for you. **(Breakfast)**

**March 29 Rome / Siena / Chianti / Florence:** Transfer to Tuscany through Chianti region, to Siena, in the most beautiful countryside of hills, vines,gray-green olive trees. Siena offers much, fine palaces on narrow cobbled streets and the superb Duomo, the celebrated Piazza del

Campo where the Palio horserace is run. Guided tour and visit Piazza del Campo, Salimbeni Square, Chigi Palace and Duomo. After lunch at a local farm house, we continue with a stop at Greve or similar small village. Arrival Florence in the afternoon. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

**March 30 Florence:** Visit Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance. The city is bursting with elegant squares, palaces, magnificent churches, and museums. Enjoy a guided tour; see the Cathedral, whose gigantic “cupola” is the symbol of Florence’s achievements, Baptistery (from outside) with bronze doors and famous Gates of Paradise and Piazza della Signoria. Our guided tour includes Galleria dell’Accademia and the famous “David” by Michelangelo. Enjoy free time, you will want to wander the gorgeous streets. Evening at leisure **(Breakfast)**

**March 31 Florence / Pisa and Lucca / Florence:** Pisa and Lucca, not to be missed. Lovely Lucca offers cobblestoned streets and elegant palaces, a ring of Renaissance-era fortification walls. The Guinigi Tower, Cathedral of Lucca, Amphitheatre Square, guided tour in Lucca is about the soul of the city through the old town. Early afternoon, Pisa. Yes, the Leaning Tower is spectacular. The medieval city boasts an 11th-century Duomo, elaborate Baptistery, and beautiful palaces. Enjoy guided tour. Farewell dinner at local restaurant **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**April 1 Florence/USA:** After breakfast, Bid a fond goodbye to Italy and transfer to the airport for return flights home. **Group transfer for flights leaving no earlier than 9:00AM (Breakfast)**

**NOTES:** This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days plus leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

**Price includes:** Services of professional tour director throughout •Deluxe coach for transfers, tours, excursions •13 nights first class hotel, buffet breakfast daily. 4 nights Martina Franca Hotel Villa San Martino 4\* or similar. 3 nights Hotel Vesuvio ,3 nights Rome Hotel Quirinale 4\* 3 nights Florence Hotel Astoria or similar • 5 Lunches and 5 dinners 1/2 mineral water and glass of wine included •Guided Tours per program •Entrance fees per program • Headsets on guided tours •All VAT and local service taxes including City tax • Baggage handling at hotel arrival and departure (one bag per person)

#### **EXTENSION CINQUE TERRE**

**Day 15 Florence/Sestri Levante:** Drive to Liguria,the Italian Riviera and stop in Carrara and visit marble quarries . This is where Michelangelo obtained the raw material to create masterpieces. Arrival Sestri Levante or nearest village check in and Dinner- **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Day 16 Cinque Terre:** Spend the day visiting Cinque Terre, explore villages moving by bus, boat (schedule permitting) and train. This is one of the most beautiful areas on the Mediterranean. These “five lands” are suspended between sea and earth, overlooking the sea and green hills. Developed in isolation, the small medieval fishing ports remain architecturally intact. They represent one of the best-preserved areas, and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are a National Park and Protected Marine Area. We reach Monterosso by bus for a

visit, proceed by train or boat to Vernazza or Riomaggiore. Our last stop is the charming town Portovenere. Overnight Portovenere. Evening at leisure. **(Breakfast)**

**Day 17 Departure:** After breakfast check out. Transfer to Pisa or Florence airport. **(Breakfast)**

**Price includes:** •Services of a professional tour director • Deluxe touring coach for all transfers, tours, and excursions •2 nights Sestri Levante or near, Hotel Vis a Vis or similar •Breakfast daily and 1 dinner •Guided tour as per program •Vat and local taxes • Baggage handling one bag at Hotel **DOES NOT include:** •International & Domestic Air Fare • Meals and beverage not mentioned in itinerary •Everything not mentioned under “Price includes” • Tips to porters, assistants, drivers, guides and tour manager. • Items of personal nature (Landry – dry cleaning – minibar etc...) Travel Insurance will be offered to you separately.