

# Classico Italia

*Venice, Tuscany: Florence, Greve in Chianti,  
Montefioralle and San Gimignano, Rome, Vatican  
City, Positano, the Island of Capri  
and ruins of Pompeii*



AN ELEVEN ADVENTURE

**October 16<sup>th</sup> – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**KEYROW TOURS**

60 Georgia Road - Trumansburg, NY - 14886 Tel: 315.491.3711 [www.keyrowtours.com](http://www.keyrowtours.com)

# Day#1: Classic Italy

**Monday: October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

In conjunction with AAA Travel (Ithaca, NY), Keyrow Tours is pleased to make all flight arrangements, including primary flights originating from anywhere in the United States. We will depart from a major airport on the East Coast of the United States, usually Philadelphia or New York. Transportation to and from your primary airport of departure is each person's responsibility.

**Important:** Please plan on sleeping on the plane as much as possible. This will help avoid jet lag, and enable us to "hit Italy running" on our first day... *Buon viaggio!*



***"You may have the universe, if I may have Italy."***

~ Giuseppe Verdi

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# Day #2: “Venetian Wonders”

**Tuesday: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **Morning arrival at Marco Polo Airport, Venice Italy**

After clearing passport control and collecting our luggage, both minivans and private boats will carry us to our hotel destination.

## **Time to shower and unpack**

### **Pranzo! (Light lunch)**

#### **A.) Departure for St. Mark’s Square**

St. Mark’s Square is the center-stage of Venetian life, and is crowned by St. Mark’s Basilica. While it is large in size and grandeur, the Piazza San Marco maintains a feeling of coziness with its cafes, dueling musicians, and children of all ages chasing pigeons. While we are in Piazza San Marco we will see...

#### **B.) St. Mark’s Basilica – exterior**

This is a real blend of world culture: Byzantine mosaics, Romanesque archways, French Gothic pinnacles, Muslim-shaped onion domes, columns from Alexandria, capitals from Sicily, and carvings from Constantinople.

#### **C.) The Clock Tower (Torre dell’ Orologio)**

Two bronze African Muslims stand high above the tower, with their mechanical mallets that swing every hour. The clock dial shows 24 hours, and above the dial is the world’s first digital clock that changes every 5 minutes.

#### **D.) The Campanile**

Originally dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, this is Venice’s original lighthouse and bell tower. In 1902 it toppled to the center of the square but was rebuilt 10 years later.

#### **E.) The Bridge of Sighs**

The Venetian government meted out its justice from the Doge’s Palace. Prisoners that were sentenced crossed this covered bridge to the prison: A final view of sunny, glorious Venice! Tradition says that you could hear the prisoners sighing along the way...

#### **F.) St. Mark’s Basilica: A church, a cathedral, and a basilica in one!**

One of Europe’s most celebrated churches and the final resting place of St. Mark the Evangelist. Its riot of domes, columns, statues, gold mosaics, colored marbles and oriental treasures will bedazzle our eyes.

#### **G.) The Doge’s Palace – exterior**

Originally built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, today the palace is a fusion of Italian Gothic with an Islamic flair. Each Doge (or duke) left his mark on history by supplying new decorations for this awe-inspiring work of architecture.

**Back to hotel**

**Day’s recap**

**Cena! (DINNER)**

*“It is the city of mirrors, the city of mirages, at once solid and liquid, at once air and stone.”*

~ Erica Jong

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# Day #3 “Adriatic Islands”

**Wednesday: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **Continental breakfast**

### **A.) Morning excursion to Venice’s Pescheria (Seafood Market)**

Venice's **Pescheria** (pronounced "Peskaria"), the **Rialto Fish Market**, is an authentic food market where you'll find restaurant chefs and homemakers selecting from an array of freshly-caught fish, crustaceans, and other seafood every morning except Monday. There's no better show in town: fishermen unload crates of fish from their barges; vendors hawk their wares; chefs examine the daily supply of fish, crustaceans, and bivalves; delivery men push handcarts laden with fruit and vegetables... it is a feast for the eyes!

### **B.) Morning private boat departure for island-hopping, Venetian style**

Enjoy a trip to the island of Murano. A private chartered boat will take us from our hotel to a Venetian glass factory for a tour and glass blowing demonstration. Afterward, Paolo will lead an excursion to the Island of Burano on public boat transportation. Burano is a colorful Adriatic gem that features panoramic views of the Venetian seacoast. Visit the shops or sit at a café, and watch the world go by...

### **PRANZO (Lunch included) on the Island of Burano**

Located on the water in a secluded neighborhood, Ristorante Da Forner will provide an exceptional meal that highlights the local bounty from both land and sea.

### **C.) Return to Venice for free time**

Venice is beauty itself...the kind of place to enjoy by just walking around, visiting shops and soaking in the atmosphere.

### **Day’s recap and CENA! (Dinner on your own)**



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# Day#4: “Florence...Fantastico!”

**Thursday: October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Continental breakfast**

**Train departure for Florence**

**Pranzo! (Light lunch after hotel check-in)**

**A.) The Ponte Vecchio**

Ponte Vecchio, translated, means “The Old Bridge.” This historic bridge that crosses the Arno River is laden with gold and diamond shops. Conveniently located just around the corner from our hotel, shoppers...this one’s for you!

**B.) Piazza Signoria**

This is Florence’s central square. See the Palazzo Signoria (Florence’s City Hall since the reign of the Medicis), the outdoor Loggia contains ancient Roman, Greek and Renaissance statuary, including Celini’s famous bronze of Persius holding Medusa’s severed head.

**C.) Santa Croce Church**

This wonderful medieval church is the parish church of Michelangelo, Leonardo DaVinci, Machiavelli, Galileo, Rossini, Dante Alighieri and others. Many of these Florentine masters, including Michelangelo, have been interred here.

**D.) Florence’s Academia Museum**

Enjoy incredible Renaissance artwork including Michelangelo’s monolithic statue of David and his famous series of “Prisoners” designed for Pope Julius II’s tomb in Rome.

**Dinner and gelato making demonstration in private Tuscan villa**

Tonight we dine outside the city of Florence in a private Tuscan villa. Paolo has been friends with our host family for many years, and Signora Ranichini will prepare a multi-course feast served with local wine that features homemade pasta, local meats, potatoes roasted in an outdoor oven, and her son Roberto’s famous gelato which he will make before our eyes. Mama mia!



*“In every block of marble I see a statue as plain as though it stood before me, shaped and perfect in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to other eyes as mine see it.” ~ Michelangelo*

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# Day#5: A Di-Vine Day in Tuscany

Friday: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Continental breakfast

### A.) **Departure for World War II American Cemetery**

Just outside Florence, we will offer our respects to over 4,000 American service men and women who paid the ultimate price during the Second World War.

### B.) **The Tuscan villages of Greve in Chianti and Montefioralle**

### C.) **Tenuta Torciano wine tasting school and lunch**

*Tenuta Torciano* is about 30 minutes away, and has been producing wine and olive oil since 1720. Featuring panoramic views with hillsides, vineyards, and olive groves, Tenuta Torciano has been in the Giachi family since its inception. Pierluigi, the vineyard owner, will offer us an in depth explanation of his wines, how they are made, and the science of wine tasting and wine pairing. His mother will prepare an incredible luncheon for us using local, organic foods.  
*Bravissima!!!*

### D.) **Departure for San Gimignano**

San Gimignano is known as the “Manhattan of Tuscany” because of its many medieval towers that look like skyscrapers from a distance. 15 minutes from Tenuta Torciano, this is a charming town. Visit its central square, stroll into numerous shops, or dare to walk into the Medieval Torture Museum... we will have about two hours to enjoy this gem in the heart of Tuscany. Sample some wild boar meat while you're here!

## Return to hotel

## Day's recap

## *Cena!* (Dinner is on your own)

***“For us to go to Italy and to penetrate into Italy is like a most fascinating act of self-discovery – back, back down the old ways of time. Strange and wonderful chords awake in us, and vibrate again after many hundreds of years of complete forgetfulness.”***

~ D.H. Lawrence

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# Day #6: “Treasures of the Vatican”

**Saturday: October 21<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Departure by train for Rome**

**Pranzo: (Lunch!)**

**A.) The Vatican’s Scavi Tour**

This exclusive trip is not open to the general public. Two stories beneath St. Peter’s basilica, we will visit a 2<sup>nd</sup> century Pagan necropolis. Many wonderful Roman and early Christian glimpses into the past. The highlight is standing 5 feet away from the final resting-place of St. Peter himself. *Permission to attend this exclusive tour, not open to the general public, is dependent on Vatican permission...*

**B.) St. Peter’s Basilica**

Paul will give a one hour tour of St. Peter’s Basilica, originally built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by the Emperor Constantine. See Michelangelo’s *Pieta*, a significant number of other masterpieces, the body of Pope John XXIII, and the tombs of many Popes.

**Back to hotel**

**Day’s Recap**

**Cena! (Dinner on your own)**



***“You may have the universe, if I may have Italy.” Giuseppe Verde***

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# Day #7: From Pagan Temples to Patrimonial Churches

Sunday: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Continental breakfast

**The Centro Storico (Historic Center)**

**A.) Campo Dei Fiori**

Rome's daily farmer's market, a five minute walk from our hotel: fresh vegetables and fruits, cheese, meats and fish. Sit at a café and drink a real cappuccino!

**B.) Piazza Navona**

One of Rome's most magnificent piazzas, or squares. See Bernini's famous Fountain of Four Rivers. Once the site of an ancient charioteer stadium, today it is a romantic location filled with artisans, gelato ice cream shops, restaurants, and a variety of performers.

**C.) Church of San Luigi Francese**

See three priceless Caravaggio paintings depicting scenes from the life of St. Matthew.

**D.) The Pantheon**

The best-preserved monument of ancient Rome which outdates Christianity. Once the site where Romans worshiped all of the gods, today it is a beautiful Christian basilica.

**E.) Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva**

This church is built over a pagan temple to the goddess Minerva. See "The Resurrected Christ," a marble statue by Michelangelo. Visit the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena, as well as that of Fra Angelico...the same monk who made the liquor? Cheers!

**PRANZO (Lunch!)**

**F.) The Coliseum**

Gladiator fighting, anyone? Visit the greatest monument of ancient Rome, and the bloodiest. Built in the 2nd century AD, the Flavian Amphitheatre seated 50,000 spectators and featured games pitting man against man, and man against wild beasts from around the known world.

**G.) The Roman Forum**

Visit Rome's ancient ruins, including the Senate Building, the temples of Saturn, Jupiter, the Vestals, and Julius Caesar.

**Back to Hotel**

**Day's Recap**

**Cena! (Dinner on your own)**

*It's not only the physical beauty of the place...It's the smell of it, the aura of great history in the stones of every street and every building. To be in Rome is to be in touch with everything in life that really matters. ~ William Murray in "City of the Soul"*

# Day #8: “Escape into Paradise”

**Monday: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Continental breakfast**

**Train departure for Naples**

The high speed train from Rome to Naples takes less than 1.5 hours.

**Tour of Pompeii under Mount Vesuvius**

From the Naples train station a private minivan will take us to Pompeii, which was first occupied in the 8th century BC. The Etruscans originally dominated the surrounding region... later came the Saminites who turned Pompeii into a Greek town.... finally the Romans gained control over Pompeii until its end... that fateful day in 79 AD when Mt. Vesuvius unleashed its fury on the 20,000 inhabitants of this thriving Roman city.

Although this tragic event ended the lives of 20,000 Pompeian residents, the ash that buried the town served as a sort of *mummification* for the entire city. The eruption of 79 AD which buried the city in ash actually captured a special moment in time. Under the ash everything remained as it was at the time of the eruption. Artwork was preserved. Buildings were preserved. Several important clues were left behind. These clues give us a glimpse into the past that will not be soon forgotten.

**Pranzo (Optional picnic lunch)**

**From Pompeii to Positano**

The Amalfi Coastline itself winds its way along scenic cliffs, following the Mediterranean Sea. For many, this is “*Paradiso in Terra*” or “Paradise on Earth!” Enjoy the panoramic views...

**Arrival in Positano**

Hotel Pupetto is an absolute treat: a beachside resort with black volcanic sand that runs into the turquoise-blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Stroll the winding roads of Positano. Take a walk on the beach. There are great ceramic shops, high fashion clothing, and hiking. Positano is not a place to be “busy” seeing things. It is place to relax and allow nature’s beauty to touch us in positive and happy ways. Don’t forget to try a little *limoncello* along the way ☺.

**Orientation stroll and free afternoon**

**Cena (Dinner included)**

*“Sail away from the safe harbor: Catch the trade winds in your sails.*

*Explore. Dream. Discover.”*

*~ Mark Twain*

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# Day #9: "Amazing Amalfi"

Tuesday: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Continental breakfast

### **A.) Exploring Amalfi in style by private boat**

Enjoy a day on the Mediterranean Sea! A private chartered boat will take us from Positano along the southern coastline, providing breathtaking views along the way. Take a swim off the boat along the way...the water will be perfect!

### **B.) The Emerald Grotto**

Along the way, we will disembark at the "Grotto Smeraldo" or "Emerald Grotto". This is a natural cave in the side of the mainland. Once inside, a smaller boat will navigate us through the cave itself. As the Mediterranean sun shines through the grotto's mouth, it illuminates the water in an incredible display of emerald-blue light.

### **Pranzo (Lunch included)**

Dine like the locals at this family-run restaurant that is only accessible by private boat! As our boat is too large to dock, smaller boats will pick us up to bring us to shore. While the restaurant features local seafood (and is usually filled with local fishermen!), it offers everything edible from both land and sea. Personally, I have never seen English-speaking tourists dining here, as few tourists have a private boat for a day...

### **C.) The City of Amalfi**

After lunch we will boat to the City of Amalfi. Enjoy free time to explore this beautiful medieval seaside village with its beautiful cathedral... the final resting place of the Apostle Saint Andrew. Amalfi has cute shops and café's. Enjoy a gelato and watch the world go by...

### **D.) Free afternoon to enjoy the great outdoors, walk the beach, and explore this little slice of paradise. Enjoy your time on the Mediterranean Sea.**

## **Cena! (Included group dinner)**

The *Ristorante Lo Guarancino* is where I proposed marriage to my wife Heather: lemon angel hair pasta and Puttanesca with linguini, fresh swordfish or veal al limone, plus dessert...

*"Life for the Italians was what it was, no more and no less,  
an interlude between meals."*

~ Abraham Verghese in "Cutting for Stone"

# Day #10: “Rome Sweet Home”

**Wednesday: October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Continental breakfast**

**Free morning to explore Positano: hit the shops or hit the beach!**

**Pranzo! (Light lunch on your own) and mid-day departure for the Naples train station**

**Late afternoon arrival to Rome and hotel check-in**

***L’ultima Cena* or “The Last Supper” closing banquet in Rome**

Brace yourselves for a truly magnificent multi-course Roman feast that will be the culmination of many happy memories!!!! *The Cucina Antica Romana* prepares everything from the owner’s local farm: fresh vegetable antipasto and cheeses, homemade pasta, local organic meats, and of course, vino. Buonappetito!!!

**After dinner, Paul will offer an optional nighttime walking tour to the Trevi Fountain**



***“Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go. But no matter, the road is life.”***

*~ Jack Kerouac*

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# Day#11: “Arrivederci, Roma!”

**Thursday: October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **Continental Breakfast**

- A.) Morning departure for Rome’s airport
- B.) Departure for the United States
- C.) Arrival in U.S.A



*“Travel does what good novelists also do to the life of the everyday, placing it like a picture in a frame or a gem in its setting, so that the intrinsic qualities are made more clear. Travel does this with the very stuff that everyday life is made of, giving to it the sharp contour and meaning of art.”*

~ Freya Stark

# Italy in 2017

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

### Centrally Located Hotels

Double room occupancy with private bath in our centrally located historic three-star hotels in Venice, Florence, Rome and Positano. 2 nights in Venice, 2 nights in Florence, 3 nights in Rome, and 2 nights in Positano.

### Meals

Daily continental breakfast  
Daily exquisite traditional main meal with local wine (lunch or supper)  
Two light meals (lunch or supper)  
Plus “The Last Supper”...a closing banquet extravaganza!

### All Ground and Sea Transportation

Private chartered minivan and boat from the Marco Polo Airport in Venice to our hotel  
Private chartered boat throughout our time in Venice, including the islands  
Round trip train fares: Venice to Florence, Florence to Rome, Rome to Naples  
Mini-van service in Tuscany to hilltop villages and the Torciano Winery  
Mini-van service from Naples to Positano and the ruins of Pompeii  
Private chartered boat on the Amalfi Coast  
Round trip ground transportation from hotels to train stations

### All Entrance Tickets

Venice: Glass blowing factory tour and demonstration on the Island of Murano  
Florence: Santa Croce Church, the Academia Museum, and  
Torciano wine tasting school  
Rome: The Coliseum, the ruins of the Roman Forum, and Vatican’s Scavi Tour  
Positano: The Emerald Grotto and ruins of Pompeii

### Keyrow’s Services

Paolo will serve as your personal full time director. Together with local expert-guides, he will offer daily walking tours and share his knowledge of each site and region visited.  
Please make known any special needs well in advance of the trip.

*“All journeys have destinations of which the traveler is unaware.” ~ Martin Buber*

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