

# Classico Italia

*Venice, the islands of Murano and Burano, Tuscany:  
Florence, Greve in Chianti, Montefioralle and San  
Gimignano, Rome, Vatican City, the ruins of Pompeii,  
Positano, Amalfi and Naples*



AN ELEVEN ADVENTURE

**July 7<sup>th</sup> - July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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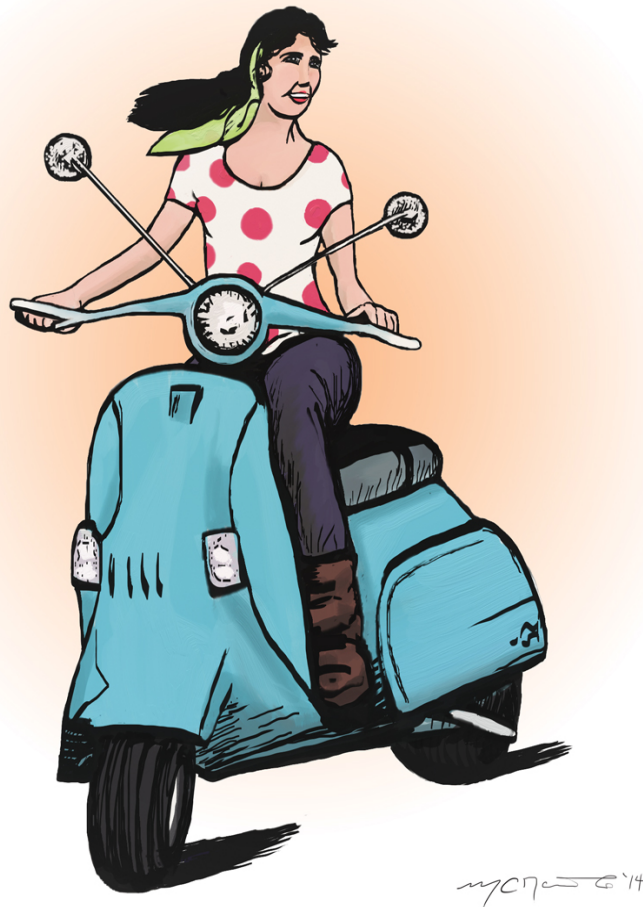
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# Day#1: Classic Italy

**Saturday: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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, and fly directly to Venice. 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”

**Sunday: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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

After collecting our luggage and going through customs, we will wind our way through the majestic water canals of Venice by private boat. The trip to our hotel is a scenic orientation to this magical city built upon water. Generally speaking, hotel check in time is at noon.

## **Time to shower and unpack**

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

#### **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

## Day #3 “Adriatic Islands”

**Monday: July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Continental breakfast**

#### **A.) Morning 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.

### **Day’s recap**

#### **B.) Return by public water transport to Venice early evening of free time**

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

#### **CENA! (Dinner on your own)**



# Day#4: “Florence...Fantastico!”

**Tuesday: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Continental breakfast**

**Train departure for Florence**

**Pranzo! (Optional 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 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

**Wednesday: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **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.) Departure for 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

# Day #6: From Pagan Temples to Patrimonial Churches

Thursday: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Continental breakfast and train departure for Rome**

**Pranzo (optional light lunch!)**

## **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!



**Day's recap and cena! (dinner)**

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



# Day #7: “Ancient Rome and Treasures of the Vatican”

Friday: July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Continental Breakfast

### A.) The Roman Forum

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

### B.) The Coliseum

Gladiator fighting, anyone? Visit the greatest monument of ancient Rome, and the bloodiest. Built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Pranzo! (Lunch!)

### C.) 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...*

### D.) 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

Happy hour and 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”*

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# Day #8: “Escape into Paradise”

**Saturday: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Continental breakfast**

## **Morning train departure for Pompeii and Positano**

We will train from Florence to Naples, and a private minivan will carry us for the rest of the journey to Pompeii and Positano. The Amalfi Coastline itself winds its way along scenic cliffs, following the Tyrrhenian Sea. For many, this is “*Paradiso in Terra*” or “Paradise on Earth!” Enjoy the panoramic views...

## **Pranzo (Light lunch included)**

### **A.) The Ruins of Pompeii**

A private mini-van will take us to Pompeii, which was first occupied in the 8th century BC. A local guide will explain how the Etruscans first dominated the surrounding region, followed by 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. 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 and capture a special moment in time.

### **B.) Afternoon arrival in Positano**

Hotel Pupetto is an absolute treat: a beachside resort with black volcanic stone 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**

**Day’s recap**

**Cena (Dinner!)**

*“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!”

**Sunday: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **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 on your own)**

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"

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# Day #10: Happily in Napoli

**Monday: July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Continental breakfast**

**Free day to explore, shop and relax in Positano**

**Pranzo (Lunch on your own)**

**Mid-afternoon hotel departure for Naples**

Our hotel in Naples is situated on the waterfront bay of Naples, offering breathtaking views of Mount Vesuvius and the Castle dell 'Ovo. After check-in, enjoy a two hour guided walk through the historic district that will include the Cathedral of San Gennaro, the *Via San Gregorio Armeno* (famous for its stalls selling Christmas Nativity scenes), a visit to one of Naples' great shopping districts and couple of other surprises...

**Closing Dinner Pizza Night**

*“When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie,  
that’s amore!”*

The natives of Naples claim that their city is the original home to authentic pizza. The world's first pizzeria opened its doors in Naples and still remains in business today. Using the simplest of ingredients, Pizza Margherita is a triumph of Neapolitan cuisine... the humble ingredients of fresh San Marzano pomodori (tomatoes), fresh aromatic basil and mozzarella (di bufala) on char-marked dough is all that is required to make this highly-praised and delicious pizza. The colors of red, white, and green represent the official colors of the Italian flag. Fresh, and bubbly-hot straight out of a wood-fired oven... pizza in Naples might change your life!

*“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: “Ciao, Italia!”

**Tuesday: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **Continental Breakfast**

- A.) Morning departure for Naples 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 2018

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

### Centrally Located Hotels

Double room occupancy with private bath in our centrally located historic three-star hotels in Venice, Florence, Rome, Positano and Naples 2 nights in Venice, 2 nights in Florence, 2 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Positano, 1 night in Naples

### 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 boats from the Marco Polo Airport in Venice to our hotel  
Private chartered boats to the Island of Murano  
Water transportation in Venice  
Round trip train fares: Venice to Florence, Florence to Rome, Rome to Naples  
Mini-van service in Tuscany to three 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 (weather permitting) and ruins of Pompeii

### Keyrow's Services

Paolo will serve as your personal full time director, offering daily walking tours and sharing 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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