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16 Days Itinerary

A Trip to Italy in The Spring

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Weather in Italy

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/it/italy-weather>

[Lake Como, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

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Currency Conversion EUR

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[Click Here For Conversion Calculator](#)

USD/EUR



Tipping Recommendations in Italy

Gratuities in Italy, while extremely welcome and appreciated, are not as much ‘expected’ as they are in other countries and are totally optional.

If you are happy with the service you have enjoyed and would like to show your gratitude to the people who made it a very special experience for you here below you can find the amounts we recommend for Tour Guides, Drivers and other special services:

- Tour Guide Half Day Euro 30.00
- Tour Guide Full Day Euro 50.00
- Short Transfer (Driver) Euro 15.00
- Long Transfer (Driver) Euro 30.00
- Driver Half Day Euro 30.00
- Driver Full Day Euro 60.00
- Housekeeping Staff Euro 2.00 /day
- Hotel Staff, such as porters, should be tipped about 50 cents per bag for taking your bags to/from your room

The above amounts are to be considered per service and not per person. Fiscal laws in Italy are extremely tough on this matter and this is the reason why these amounts cannot be included in the service costs and have to be paid in cash directly to the suppliers. If you would like to ‘tip like a local’ at bars and restaurants then we suggest just leaving the change ie if your meal costs Euro 56 then just leave Euro 4; if the meal costs Euro 92 then just leave the Euro 8 change.

A scenic photograph of Es Vedrà, a small, rocky island off the coast of Ibiza. The water is a vibrant blue, and a few sailboats are visible. The text "BOUTIQUE TRAVEL ADVISORS" is overlaid in a white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

About Boutique Travel Advisors

<https://travelbta.com/>

At Boutique Travel Advisors, we believe luxury travel goes beyond welcome chocolates on pillows & first-class seats. Luxury travel can be subjective. To us, the definition of luxury travel embodies having the privilege to explore & experience the

infinitely possible wonderments the world has to offer when we decide to mindfully venture outside of our comfort zone in our home environment.

From booking bespoke safaris in South Africa, serenely scenic river cruises through France's waterways, to private wine (+ pasta) tastings on the Amalfi Coast... BTA strives to curate each personalized itinerary with credible expertise, dedicated service & the whole-hearted intention for each traveler to exceed their travel goals and expectations while on the adventure of a lifetime.

Your BTA travel itinerary is more than a document of scheduled flights, tours, and dinner reservations. It is the motherboard, the holy grail, the backbone of a transformational journey that turns your individual, subjective experiences into heart-warming, thought-provoking, jaw-dropping, life-changing memories that are worthy of being cherished for a lifetime.

Our purpose is to make your travel dreams come true... We are here to make your every step along the way uncomplicated, stress-free, and wildly exciting. All we ask is, ***where will your journey take you?***

To ensure your travels are smooth, please carefully review [BTA's Terms and Conditions](#) and of course, reach out with questions.



Covid-19 Related Disclaimer & General Risks of Travel

Cancellations due to fear of travel or restrictions such as the requirement to quarantine due to Covid-19 are not covered reasons for cancellation.

Rules and regulations are changing on a daily basis. While Boutique Travel Advisors is doing our best to stay attuned to the requirements for travel to your travel destinations, the traveler is responsible for knowing and following the travel protocols.

Travelers are responsible for scheduling all Covid-19 related testing and completing all paperwork to allow for entry into the country of travel and also for the return to the US.

Flight Preparation:

Boutique Travel Advisors highly recommends that you check your flight for any changes at least 48 hours prior to departure and that you check in before arrival to the airport when possible. We recommend that you arrive at the airport ***3 hours before your international flights*** and at least ***2 hours before flying domestically***.

Boutique Travel Advisors is not liable for any travel interruption or disruption.

Risks of Travel and Release: Boutique Travel Advisors assumes no responsibility for and shall not be liable for the acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under our control or any acts of God, unsafe conditions, terrorism, health hazards including pandemics, illness, weather hazards, or the suitability for a disabled person of any portion of any trip. We have no special knowledge of dangers during travel or at destinations. For information related to such dangers, we recommend going to the State Department travel website at www.travel.state.gov, click on "Find International travel Information" then click on "Country Information", and fill in the name of the destination country. For medical and health information, we recommend

going to the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov/travel, then click on “Destinations” and scroll to the name of the destination country. It is your personal decision to travel, and you are doing so with full knowledge of current travel recommendations and travel restrictions with regards to the risks of COVID-19.

YOU HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL OF THESE RISKS AND DANGERS, AND YOU HEREBY EXPRESSLY AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD US, AND OUR AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ASSOCIATES, AFFILIATED COMPANIES, GUIDES, GROUP LEADERS, AND SUBCONTRACTORS HARMLESS AGAINST ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTIONS, SUITS, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS OF ANY AND EVERY KIND AND NATURE WHATSOEVER WHICH YOU NOW HAVE OR WHICH MAY HEREAFTER ARISE OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THESE RISKS AND DANGERS.

Day 4



Private Boat Tour of Lake Como

Lake Como discovery on board a private water limo boat with an English-speaking captain (up to 4 Hrs), guide at disposal for up to 4 hours

Enjoy a relaxing cruise and discover the most beautiful villas, gardens, fishermen, lake-side villages, and beautiful alpine sceneries that make Lake Como unique.

During the cruise, you will be passing along the shores of the Lake, admiring picturesque fishermen's villages, sceneries, and hidden natural spots.

During the tour, you could stop and visit some of the famous and impressive Villas around the lake, such as:

- Villa Carlotta houses one of the most beautiful Neoclassical art collections and original furniture dating back to the mid of the 19th century. Beside, you can walk along the magnificent botanical gardens;
- Villa del Balbianello, with its elaborated and panoramic terraced gardens, is dominated by elegant loggia affording on both sides a beautiful view of the lake.
-

This amazing place has also been used in a number of movies as location shooting, including “A Month by the Lake” (1995), “Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones” (2002), and “Casino Royale” (2006)

Day 5



Discovering Bellagio - Unique Walking Tour

Private Expert Guide at disposal for up to 3 hours in Bellagio, 2 Entrance tickets to Villa Melzi, private water limo boat with an English-speaking captain at disposal for 5 hours.

During this unique walking tour, you will explore Bellagio's historic center and its marvelous and characteristic surroundings.

Once you're here, it's impossible not to be smitten by the waterfront of bobbing boats, the maze of steep stone staircases, red-roofed and green-shuttered buildings, and the dark cypress groves and rhododendron-filled gardens. Like the prow of a beautiful vessel, Bellagio sits at the crux of the inverted Y that is Lake Como; the Como and Lecco arms of the lake wash off to port and starboard.

Wander out of the old town centre to Punta Spartivento and gaze north up the third arm towards the Alps.

The tour continues with another highlight: the romantic gardens of Villa Melzi where our guide will introduce you to the history of the gardens and of the villa.

Day 7



Transfer · Private Transfer

Vehicle

Private Transfer

Notes

Private transfer from Hotel Villa D'Este to your Hotel in Portofino (approx. 3 hours' drive, 225 km)

Mercedes V-class* with English-speaking driver

*Baggage allowance: up to 7 pieces of luggage



Splendido Mare, A Belmond Hotel, Portofino

Salita Baratta 16 Portofino Liguria 16034 Italy

4:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

3 Nights

Duration

Welcoming the stars to the elegant village of Portofino for over 100 years. Standing amid verdant woodlands overlooking a ravishing seascape, Splendido is a unique blend of beauty and comfort. A rare escape on the Ligurian Coast, the Splendido is connected to sister property Splendido Mare by a scenic walking path and a shuttle service. Most of the elegantly furnished rooms and suites have stunning views of Portofino Bay. Guests can relax by the heated seawater swimming pool, or enjoy an open-air massage in a secluded corner of the hotel's tropical garden. This year, from June 1st until September 30th, the hotel's serene tiered gardens overlooking the shimmering Portofino bay will be the setting for two Dior spa gazebos, offering skincare treatments and especially-designed techniques.



Tour Suggestion - EBIKE Tour in the National Park of 5 Terre

Full-day experience (up to 7 hours). Includes n.2 E-MTB, services of a licensed local English-speaking guide, bottle of water, taste of focaccia and Sciacchetrà wine, Support Van, with pick-up and drop-off at hotel.

Pedal along easy roads almost effortlessly and take in all the beauty of the landscape the slow way! Together with your guide, and starting off from Vernazza, reach the hills between Levanto and Monterosso, around 500 mt. above sea level, within the National Park of Cinque Terre, an UNESCO Heritage Site from 1999.

Your ride will unfold between the azure of the sky and the intense blue of the Mediterranean Sea, through the 5 Villages, admiring the scenery from a different and unusual perspective.

The E-Bikes offer the opportunity to move uphill and downhill between the burgs almost effortlessly, giving you a unique chance to enjoy the area, avoiding the throngs you are bound to find in towns.

Pedal along asphalt and dirt roads with no traffic, and appreciate the beautiful landscape. Admire the laborious and long work of maintenance of the territory, operated by locals over the centuries in keeping thousands of miles of typical dry-walls and terraces. Such toiling allowed for the fine production of the precious “Gold of 5 Terre”, the amber dessert wine called Sciacchetrà. At the end of the biking tour, we will recover our energy by tasting focaccia and the famous wine!



Tour Suggestion - Picnic and Farm Experience at Cala Degli Inglesi

Private picnic aperitif experience with a view in a brand-new Eco-farm.

We are sure you will enjoy this guided tour of the Eco-farm: a self-sustainable, organic farm perched on top of Portofino Natural Park

The visit unfolds through the Hops' plantation on the hills of Portofino, the birthplace of the first beer of the territory, followed by a tour of the vineyards, olive trees, and apiary, ending with an unforgettable Picnic with the products of the farm, overlooking the famous "Cala degli Inglesi".

The agronomist accompanying you will explain the history of the farm project, including the process of recovery and redevelopment of abandoned lands. The beekeeper comes next, he will guide you through a most interesting journey of the mysterious world of bees and honey-making.

All this will be followed by a delicious tasting of the farm's honey and beer and other local products, allowing you to discover the flavors and essence of an extraordinary land between the sea and the mountains. A wonderful day in nature, tasting some natural products grown with care and attention.



Tour Suggestion - Focaccia Experience

Private cooking experience Pizza and Focaccia, including transfers and lunch (or early dinner), guided visit of the local farm, and local wine produced within the estate.

You'll be welcomed by a Ligurian culinary expert and will have the great opportunity to learn the secrets of these old delicious Italian recipes.

Learn how to prepare the focaccia dough by choosing the right flour, giving it its peculiar scent. At the end of your class, you'll taste what you have prepared accompanied by local wine

You will enjoy this cooking class immersed in a local Eco-farm, overlooking the amazing Cala degli Inglesi and amazing views on the bay.

Day 9



A Day in the Cinque Terre - Tour

Professional English-speaking environmental guide at disposal up to 6/7 hours in the Cinque Terre, private gozzo boat in Manarola, roundtrip train tickets Portofino - Cinque Terre, Cinque Terre card, and lunch at a local restaurant.

Cinque Terre are five small towns built in the Middle Ages along the very steep and craggy coastline of the Eastern Ligurian Riviera. It has been a Unesco World Heritage site since 1997 and a National Park since 1999. There are only 5000 inhabitants connected to the rest of the world by a national railway which passes through tunnels under the mountains and a very scenic road was built in the 1960s on top of the hills.

You will meet your personal guide in Santa Margherita she will introduce you to the enchanting Cinque Terre. You will walk through cozy villages and you will discover the story of this pearl of Italy, where people have built terraces on the rugged, steep landscape right up to the cliffs that overlook the sea.

Paths, trains, and boats connect the villages and cars cannot reach them from the outside. You will visit Riomaggiore, known for its historic character and its wine, produced by the town's vineyards; Manarola, probably the oldest towns in the Cinque Terre; Vernazza, which remains one of the truest "fishing villages" on the Italian Riviera. It is the only natural port of Cinque Terre and is famous for its elegant houses.

Day 10



Transfer · Private Transfer

Vehicle

Private Transfer

Notes

Private transfer from Hotel in Portofino to Genoa Airport (approx. 1 hour's drive, 53 km)

Mercedes V-class* with English-speaking driver

*Baggage allowance: up to 7 pieces of luggage

Private transfer from Bari Airport to Borgo Egnazia (approx. 1 hour's drive, 75 km)

Mercedes V-class* with English-speaking driver

*Baggage allowance: up to 7 pieces of luggage

Check in at Borgo Egnazia.



3:00 PM	12:00 PM	4 Nights
Check In	Check Out	Duration

Built in the green belt of San Domenico Golf and a few steps away from the sea, Borgo Egnazia stands out for its style made out of local stone, quicklime and dry wall and atmosphere created by the olive trees, the flowers, the jasmines, the prickly pears and the lemon trees. All combined, those are the ingredients that make Borgo Egnazia a timeless place to spend memorable holidays. The narrow alleys of the Borgo Village are reproduced according to the traditions of the most characteristic Apulian historical centers with a magic stretch stolen by the most enchanting Arabian landscapes. Borgo Egnazia is a visionary interpretation of a Puglian village, a "nowhere else" place embodying the true essence of Puglia. Located in Savelletri di Fasano, among millennial olive groves beside the blue Adriatic Sea, it is open all year and offers a beguiling portfolio of rooms, casettas, and villas. It features Vair, the tradition-based spa, and San Domenico Golf Club, one of the best courses in Italy. With four sparkling pools (two heated), nearby beaches, paddle and tennis courts, cookery school, kids' and teens' clubs, and "nowhere else" experiences, this hotel offers something for all types of travelers.

Day 11



Cheese Farm Tour + Discover Alberobello

Private English-speaking guide at disposal for 2 hours, Mercedes V-class with English-speaking driver at disposal for up to 8 hours, Cheese farm tour and lunch.

Meet your driver before lunch and start your day with an authentic Cheese Farm tour, near Alberobello. This is a unique occasion, for all cheese lovers, to discover the secrets of the sustainable and local cheese farm that produces mozzarella, burrata, stracciatella, scamorza, and ricotta. After that you have the chance to learn about the different types of cheeses and about the production process, the experience will finish with a traditional lunch.

After lunch, you will meet your guide and visit Alberobello.

Get lost amongst the unique streets of this village, where the typical Trulli houses, UNESCO World Heritage, have made this town famous all over the world.

A Trullo is a small dwelling built from the local limestone, with dry-stone walls and a characteristic conical roof. With its narrow pedestrianized streets, little shops selling local produce, and a few nice cafés and *trattorie* offering al fresco dining, Alberobello is the perfect location to spend the afternoon and get amazed by the atmosphere.

Day 12



Discover Ostuni + Extra Virgin Olive Oil Tasting

Meet your driver in the morning and start with a visit to Ostuni, the White City. The "Old Town" is Ostuni's citadel built on a hill summit and still fortified by the ancient walls. It is called "La Città Bianca" for its white walls and its typically white-painted buildings. Your walking tour, together with your guide, will lead you through the ancient part of the town, facing the wonderful sea.

After lunch, on your way back to the hotel, you will visit an ancient Masseria for an olive oil-tasting tour. Experience how extra virgin olive oil, known as "Apulian gold", is grown and produced. Visit the old Masseria with an ancient mill and press, set on 50 hectares of olive groves. Find out how the cultivation of olives has changed over the centuries, what olive oil was used for decades ago, what biological cultivation really means, and what we can produce from the "wastes" of oil. The tour also includes a tasting of different types of oils.

Day 13



Tour Suggestion - Bike Experience

Private guided bike tour up to 3-hour. Equipment: e-bike and helmet are included.

Over the years, bicycle touring has become an increasingly popular alternative for tourists who want to travel in Puglia and the Region allows for admiring one of the most enchanting coasts and authentic mainland sceneries in Italy.

Enjoy a fabulous bike tour through the stunning, olive-tree covered countryside of Puglia, accompanied by your English-speaking guide! You will ride through the history & the secrets of what is known as the "the Apulian gold", from ancient times up to our days, through olive groves, underground olive oil factories, and new olive farms.

You will reach Monopoli, this wonderful village on the coast, and will visit its historical center. At the end of it, you will enjoy a wonderful local aperitivo!



Tour Suggestion - Wine Tasting in an Organic Winery

Image credits: Pixabay

Wine experience and tasting private tour, lunch with local products, Mercedes V-class with English-speaking driver at disposal half day (up to 5 hours).

If you want fruit-forward, ripe, red wine, Apulia is the perfect region to find it! Most Puglia wines are red and full-bodied, and they pair very well with a wide variety of foods. Producers in Puglia have focused on making great red wines using local grapes like Negroamaro, Primitivo, and Bombino Nero.

During your visit, you will learn the secrets that hide behind a local organic winery run by the same family for 5 generations, discover its vineyard, and the production of its organic wines, and visit the cellar.

You will learn what makes organic wines different, you will discover how the winemaking activity is conducted here in the heart of the Itria Valley and how wine is stored.

At the end of the visit, you will have the opportunity to try 3 different Apulian wines and make a comparison between them to better understand the features of these excellent products and will enjoy a nice lunch prepared using local and fresh ingredients.

Day 14



Transfer · Private Transfer

Vehicle
Private Transfer

Notes

Italian National Holiday!

Private transfer from your hotel in the Fasano area to Bari Airport (approx. 1 hour's drive, 75 km)

Mercedes V-class* with English-speaking driver

*Baggage allowance: up to 7 pieces of luggage

*Includes holiday surcharge

Private transfer from Rome Airport to Hotel Hassler

Mercedes V-class* with English-speaking driver

*Baggage allowance: up to 7 pieces of luggage

Check-in at Hotel Hassler



2:00 PM	12:00 PM	2 Nights
Check In	Check Out	Duration

Sitting atop of famed Spanish Steps with the glory of ancient Rome below it, the Hassler Roma artfully blends Swiss elegance and service with the best of warm Italia hospitality. Rome's legendary five-star luxury hotel, the residence of choice for those wishing for a memorable experience in The Eternal City. Owned and managed by Roberto B. Jr. and Veruschka Wirth, who represent the sixth generation of a famous Swiss hotelier family, Hotel Hassler Roma stands at the top of the Spanish Steps as the epitome of "la dolce vita." In the hotel's 87 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, you'll find walk-in closets and classic or contemporary decor. The Hassler's sixth-floor, Michelin-starred restaurant, Imàgo, is a city icon serving creative fare as delectable as the views. Equally enjoyable: a relaxing massage followed by a refreshing juice on the Amorvero SPA's terrace.



Tour Suggestion - Catacombs and San Clemente Basilica

3-hour tour with a Private English-speaking guide, entrance tickets to the Catacombs, entrance tickets to Basilica of San Clemente, and 3-hour Mercedes V-class with English-speaking driver at disposal.

In a veritable trip, back through time from the Colosseum, drive past the monumental remains of the most impressive bath complex of the ancient world. On the Appian Way, head towards the Roman aqueducts amid some of the remains of temples, tombs, towers, bas-reliefs, poppies, and cypresses.

Reach then some of the most interesting Catacombs in the entire city: this Christian cemetery is situated underground and spans kilometers in distance.

Catacombs were actively used as a cemetery from around the first through the fifth centuries and were rediscovered in 1593. They include more than 26,000 tombs. More recently they have been restored using lasers giving a much clearer view of the images on the walls.

You will then uncover the three underground levels of the Basilica of San Clemente, a 12th-century church- home to breathtaking mosaics and frescoes dating back to the 4th century. Its deepest level reveals homes as old as 1st century BC that would have been on street level.



Tour Suggestion - Restauro Experience

Private art conservator at your disposal for 90 minutes & Aperitif.

Access one of the most famous restoration laboratories in Rome, where you will immerse yourselves in the art of Restauro. During this behind-the-scenes tour of the laboratory, an art conservator will explain the differences between paintings and frescoes and the various materials involved in their execution.

You will discover the several phases of restoration, the pigments and the techniques for the creation of the colors used by the Great Masters, the use of X-ray analysis on paintings as well as how to clean the surface of 500-year-old masterpieces.

Remarks

At the end of this exclusive artistic experience, which lasts about 90 minutes, a small aperitif will be offered to the guests, which includes a glass of prosecco or wine and a few traditional Italian snacks.



Tour Suggestion - Rome Street Art Tour

Mercedes V-Class at disposal for up to 4 hours, Private Expert Guide at disposal for up to 4 hours, Food tasting in Mercato del Testaccio.

Rome is much more than meets the eye: this very peculiar Tour will show yet another facet of the Capital, a very exclusive one indeed. In the company of a very knowledgeable guide, you will be shown along the streets of Testaccio and Ostiense, two of the post-industrial quarters of the Eternal City, where a large number of murals are present.

The murals, in the shape of enormous graffiti and depicted with the aim of urban regeneration, described in very different ways several stories and social conflicts, often with harsh criticism. Accompanied by your professional guide, you will appreciate the works of the most popular artists such as Momo, Sten and Lex, Carlos Atoche, Herbert Baglione, and many others. The Tor Marancia Project is another way to requalify a suburb district of Rome, giving surprising and bright colors to the essential geometry of the residential condominiums.

The municipality of Rome involved 22 of the most famous “writers” of Europe, so each artist with their proper vision, painted a monumental façade to give to local dwellers a new “life” in the everyday routine. The result is overwhelming. The district is now a popular stop for tourists in search of that urban culture that grew exponentially in Rome in the last few years.