



Italy, that's Amore

The Belpaese is home to the greatest classical art, fashion most sought and best food: **Italy is a dream destination**. Land of vineyards and pasta, Roman ruins, gothic structures, Byzantine temples, medieval castles and Renaissance palazzos, Italy is a country brimming over with cultural gems and deep-rooted history. Featuring some of the most romantic cities on earth including Rome, Florence and Venice as well as Tuscan vineyards, snow-capped Alps and beautiful beaches of the Mediterranean, Italy has it all. An Italy vacation will satisfy your senses on every level.

Rome, Italy's capital, offers a wealth of history. You can admire Michelangelo's St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel miraculous. Cross the River Tiber to the Forum and the Circus Maximus, where chariot races were held. Here you can see the Coliseum where the gladiators were the glory and death! And the Trevi Fountain from where sprang Fellini's La Dolce Vita!

Beyond Rome, Italy has many different towns and cities, all with unique attractions. Alberobello and its strange white dry-stone, the Trulli, structures with conical roofs; Siena is a beautiful medieval city. Also stop at sun drenched Sorrento, where you can saunter through Piazza Tasso and Corso Italia with its glamorous boutiques and cafés.

To Venice, enjoy the sights and sounds of St. Mark's Square before floating under the Bridge of Sighs and past Doge's Palace on a cruise along the Grand Canal to the Rialto Bridge.

Genova, the birthplace of Christopher Columbus and Paganini, Italy's biggest port and as Charles Dickens remarked in 1844, a city of the strangest contrasts. Genova is made for exploring and getting lost in the medieval quarter – one of Europe's largest – and is all part of the experience.

Pisa is just as incredible as you'd imagine; the famous Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles will beat any photos you may have seen. For more Italian history, the excavations of Pompei, which was literally petrified by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, will keep you busy all day. Also visit Assisi for its basilicas with their Giotto frescoes, and in pretty Florence explore the Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery, Signoria Square and the statue of David.

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Beyond Italy's prosperous realms of history and art, there's plenty to keep you busy in the great outdoors too. The grand Abruzzi Mountains, Brenta Canal lined with Palladian villas and the rolling hills of Umbria will all leave you spellbound as will the Adriatic coast, Amalfi Coast and the Apennines which are staggering in beauty.

Ham, Parmesan cheese and Verdi. These three names encapsulate Parma - a city associated both in Italy and abroad with savoir faire and the good life. The capital of the Duchy of Parma for centuries, the city boasts a series of magnificent art works and a splendid historic city centre, packed with beautiful civil and religious buildings.

Visit the exotic Isle of Capri for the dramatic Faraglioni Rocks, as well as the quaint village of Anacapri and busy Capri Town, where the rich and famous sip cappuccinos. Tuscany is the queen of Italy for food and wine though, especially in the charming towns of Montalcino, Greve and San Gimignano where you can taste a plethora of excellent Chiantis and visit the finest food shops in Europe. Sit back and relax in rural Tuscany where you can really appreciate Italy's sensuous surroundings.

In whichever direction you look, the Neapolitan terrain is a dynamic, interconnection of old and new. Situated along the exquisite blue waters of the Bay of Naples, flanked by Vesuvio, a massive volcano on one side and the Flegrean fields on the other, Napoli's physical, cultural and historical character is at times unsettling, but always beguiling.

Naples prides itself on its gastronomy – traditionally known as the home of the pizza, any pizza (or pasta dish) served is the essence of many stories. Founded by the Greeks, enhanced by the Romans, in Naples you can breath past overtime. Discover the "Museo Archeologico Nazionale Napoli", grand palaces in the old city centre and so much more...

Sicily is a hidden gem! After years of mafia rule the region has reclaimed its place among Europe's cultural places. Palermo is full of sights and treasures, from baroque churches to modern Sicilian restaurants. On the eastern side of the island of Sicily, the medieval town of Taormina perches high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the gorgeous blue of the Mediterranean sea and facing the volcanic peak of Mount Etna. Most of the year is perfect sunbathing weather, but you'll have to take a cable car to get down to the pebble beach.

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