



Moama Grammar

Italy Tour

Departure Date: 19 September 2018

Quote Itinerary: MOAITA18

(B) – Breakfast

(L) – Lunch

(D) – Dinner

DAY 1:

Depart Melbourne

Meet at Tullamarine airport and depart for Rome, Italy.

DAY 2:

Arrive Rome

On arrival into Rome, be met by a local assistant and be transferred by coach to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free for independent sightseeing. Be prepared to step into the world's biggest open air museum, and be dazzled by what this city has to offer. If you dare test your honesty in the presence of the Bocca della Verità - the Mouth of Truth, just as Audrey Hepburn did in Roman Holiday; stroll through Piazza Navona, a vast and beautiful square lined with baroque palaces and Bernini's masterpiece the 'Fountain Of Rivers'. If you love Rome, throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return visit.

DAY 3:

Rome

B

Admire Michelangelo's famous carving 'The Pieta' and his painting 'The Touch' on a **half day guided tour** of the **Vatican City** and its museums including the **Sistine Chapel** and **St Peter's Basilica**. The afternoon is free for further exploration of The Eternal City; for a spot of window shopping, walk along Via del Corso and end up at the iconic Spanish Steps or visit the Capuchin Crypt and ossuary to experience the Capuchin Friars burial of their dead.

DAY 4:

Rome

B

Using the included **metro pass**, make your way to the Colosseum, for a **half-day guided** tour of the city's ancient sites. With a capacity to seat more than 50,000 people, the **Colosseum** is the largest amphitheatre in the world and is considered to be one of the greatest works of Roman architecture and engineering. The tour also includes the **Arch of Constantine** and the **Roman Forum**. This afternoon board a coach to the **Catacombs** for a guided tour. The catacombs are the ancient underground cemeteries used by the Christian and Jewish communities. Upon completion of the tour return to the hotel and enjoy the evening free for teacher supervised activities.

DAY 5:

Rome – Pompeii – Sorrento

B

Board the coach to Sorrento with an en-route stop in **Pompeii** for a **guided tour** of the excavation site. Pompeii was destroyed by a volcanic eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79AD. The volcano buried the city under many feet of ash and was lost for 1,600 years before its accidental rediscovery. Since then, its excavation has provided an extraordinarily detailed insight into the life of a city at the height of the Roman Empire. Most of the ancient city has now been unearthed but work continues and new finds are still being made. After the tour continue to the seaside town of Sorrento, a picturesque village that clings to the cliffs overlooking the Bay of Naples.

**DAY 6:****Sorrento****B**

Today travel by public ferry to the Isle of **Capri**. Capri is an enchanting and picturesque island made of limestone rock. A favorite with Roman emperors, the rich and famous, artists and writers, it's still one of the Mediterranean's must-see places. The island's top attraction is the famous Blue Grotto, *Grotta Azzurra*. Return to Sorrento by ferry.

DAY 7:**Sorrento – Il Grand Prato****B, D**

Board the coach and transfer to Castelfiorentino, home to **Il Grande Prato**, a spacious centuries old farm complex, is located in the beautiful Tuscan countryside. The original three story barn has been converted into a friendly open house, with an array of activities for its guests. In the afternoon be immersed in the Italian culture by participating in an **Italian cooking class**.

DAY 8:**Il Grand Prato – Lucca – Il Grand Prato****B, D**

Depart by coach to the charming medieval town of **Lucca**. Lucca is famous for its Renaissance-era city walls that have remained intact while so many other Tuscan towns saw theirs destroyed in past centuries. As the walls lost their military importance they were used as a race track in the 20th century. Today however they are used for recreation and a favourite pastime of the locals is to walk along the top of the walls that encircle the old town below, especially at sunrise and sunset. The day in Lucca is free to explore the town with your teacher. Return to Il Grand Prato by coach.

DAY 9:**Il Grand Prato – Florence****B**

Travel by coach to the city of Florence; birthplace of the Renaissance and home to some of the world's greatest artistic treasures. Busy with magnificent architectural achievements, works of art and was once the home of many household names. It is situated on the river Arno which is crossed by the famous Ponte Vecchio, the only Florentine bridge to not be destroyed in World War Two.

DAY 10:**Florence****B**

Enjoy participating in your first **3 hour language/art class**. A welcome lunch will also be provided today before an afternoon excursion by public transport to the town of **Fiesole**. Fiesole is located on a hilltop offering a very scenic view and has the remains of a Roman theatre, Roman baths and Etruscan Tombs. (Students/Staff will need to purchase their own bus tickets to Fiesole EUR2.40 each way).

DAY 11:**Florence – Pisa - Florence****B**

Enjoy your second **3 hour language/art class**. This afternoon travel by local train to **Pisa**. View the remarkable Leaning Tower of Pisa which leans at an angle of about 4 degrees making the top of the tower about 4 meters off centre. Return to Florence by train.

DAY 12:**Florence****B**

Partake in your final **3 hour language/art class**, before enjoying an independent visit to **Uffizi Gallery**. The Uffizi Gallery is one of the most famous Art Galleries not only in Europe but the World. The joys of Florence are varied so the remainder of the afternoon is free for personal exploration, you may wish to visit the San Lorenzo Markets.

**DAY 13:****Florence – Bassano del Grappa****B**

Make your way to Florence station for the journey to Bassano Del Grappa. The town is famous for being the home of the spirit Grappa, a drink traditionally consumed after dinner and its notable landmarks the wooden Ponte degli Aplini and its Upper Castle.

DAY 14:**Bassano del Grappa****B**

The day is free for teacher organized activities.

DAY 15:**Bassano del Grappa - Venice****B**

This morning make your way to the station for the train journey to Venice. Venice is a dazzling blend of waterways, bridges, land and glorious architecture. This afternoon you may wish to visit St Mark's Square where the city's former wealth and power is evidenced by the riches of St Mark's Basilica. Admire also the Doges' Palace and its adjoining Bridge of Sighs.

DAY 16:**Venice****B**

Today is free for independent sightseeing with the use of a **24 vaporetto pass**. Perhaps visit the islands of Murano and Burano to view the glass blowing and lace making demonstrations for which the islands are renowned. Or for art lovers, visit the Guggenheim Museum to admire Peggy's large personal collection of 20th century art containing masterpieces from the Gianni Mattoli collection.

DAY 17:**Depart Venice****B**

Board the private boat to the airport and say "arrivederci" to Italy. Travel to Abu Dhabi on an Etihad code share flight with Alitalia. On arrival, transfer through the departure terminal to the connecting flight to Melbourne.

DAY 18:**Arrive Melbourne**

On arrival into Melbourne, collect your luggage and clear customs and immigration.