



Moama Grammar Italy

Tour

Departure Date: 16 September 2020

Proposed Itinerary .1

(B) – Breakfast

(L) – Lunch

(D) – Dinner

DAY 1:

Depart Melbourne

B

Meet at the airport for your flight to Rome, Italy.

DAY 2:

Arrive Rome

B

Ciao, Italy! On arrival into Rome, meet with your Tour Director and check into your hotel. Use your **Rome Metro Card** and head out on a **Rome City Walk**. Take a walk past Rome's most beautiful and unusual Baroque fountains. At the foot of the Spanish Steps, elegant cafes surround the central fountain. The water pressure here was so low that the artist had to sink the fountain into the ground to get any water going through it, so he went ahead and designed the fountain to look like a sinking ship. There's no shortage of water pressure at the nearby Trevi Fountain, a Baroque extravagance designed by master sculptor Bernini.

DAY 3:

Rome

B

This morning head out on a **Vatican City guided walking sightseeing tour with Whisper Headsets**. Outside the church, four rows of columns radiate out like welcoming arms; inside, the church seems enormous enough to embrace the entire world. The dome, partially designed by Michelangelo, rises 452 feet above the ground. Michelangelo's mark is everywhere here, from the costumes worn by the Swiss Guards to his exquisite "Pietà" sculpture (the only sculpture he ever signed) to the amazing frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. Because he considered himself a sculptor and not a painter, Michelangelo hated working on these paintings, now considered masterpieces.

DAY 4:

Rome

B

Today, enjoy an **Ancient Rome guided walking sightseeing tour with Whisper Headsets**. The ultimate symbol of Ancient Rome, the Colosseum still dominates the modern city. Tour the amphitheatre with your local licensed guide. Built by the emperor Vespasian in A.D. 72, the structure held almost 50,000 spectators but was so well organized that the entire place could be emptied within 15 minutes. Inside, the spectacles varied from gladiator battles to immense naval contests to wild beast shows, in which thousands of exotic animals like giraffes and ostriches were popped into the stadium through trap doors and left to fight Roman hunters. See the system beneath the floor that operated the trap doors and housed the animals, then continue on to the relative calm of the Forum. Ancient Rome's commercial, religious and political center, the Forum held markets, temples and the Senate House. Near the Rostra, or speaker's platform, you can still see game boards scratched into the marble by bored politicians. This afternoon make your way to the **Catacombs** where you will enjoy a self-day guided tour. The catacombs are the ancient underground cemeteries used by the Christian and Jewish communities.

DAY 5:

Rome – Pompeii - Sorrento

B, D

Board the coach and travel to **Sorrento**. On the way, stop and partake in a **Pompeii guided excursion**. Once an important Roman city with 20,000 residents, Pompeii was frozen in time nearly 2000 years ago,



when Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city under 30 feet of mud and volcanic ash. Forgotten for centuries after the eruption, Pompeii was discovered in the 1600's and is now completely excavated. On your tour you will learn how Romans of all classes lived their lives--not only from large public structures, but from details like political graffiti, bars, and street signs. Then board the coach again. From the Bay of Naples the island of **Capri** is less than an hour away by boat, stop for a brief excursion.

DAY 6:

Sorrento – Capri - Sorrento

B, D

Board the transfer coach to Sorrento Port and from there take the ferry across to the resort island of Capri. Spend the day exploring the beautiful island. Perhaps **take the chairlift** to the top of the island before walking back down to Anacapri. Take the ferry back to Sorrento in the afternoon and meet the coach to transfer to the hotel.

DAY 7:

Sorrento – Farm Stay

B, D

Travel by coach to the beautiful region of Tuscany or Umbria for your Farm Stay. On the way, stop in **Orvieto**. Ride the funicular to up to the town and marvel at the gold mosaics and intricate stone architecture. Then **travel to a family-owned farm house to begin your Farm stay**. Two nights will be spent at a local Farm Stay, showcasing Italian hospitality at its finest. Traditionally owned by local families for centuries, these beautiful farms are surrounded by sweeping views of fields dotted with vineyards and olive groves.

DAY 8:

Farm Stay

B, D

Today is free to soak in the ambiance of the farm and surrounding countryside. Then discover the secrets of homemade Italian cuisine as you participate in a hands-on **cooking class**, producing regional specialty dishes. The remainder of the day is free to soak in the ambiance of the farm and surrounding countryside.

DAY 9:

Farm Stay - Florence

B

Today, board the coach and travel to Florence via **San Gimignano**, a town famous for its fourteen fortified, crumbling towers.

DAY 10:

Florence

B

This morning enjoy a **Florence guided walking sightseeing tour with Whisper Headsets**. The birthplace and focal point of the Italian Renaissance, Florence still has the masterpieces to prove it. Brunelleschi's monumental cupola (dome) atop the city's renowned Duomo dominates the skyline. Your local licensed guide will take you to Giotto's Bell Tower and the aptly named Gates of Paradise, the bronze east doors of the Baptistery that spurred the burgeoning Renaissance. Don't overlook the tombs of Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli at the Chiesa di Santa Croce, or Florence's amazing leather goods. You can check them out when you visit one of the area's famed workshops! This afternoon, partake in your first **Language and Art class**.

DAY 11:

Florence

B

Today visit the **Uffizi Gallery**. It is said that half of the world's art is found in Italy and half of that is found in Florence. The art work on display in the Uffizi Gallery includes Primavera and The Birth of Venus by Botticelli, as well as works by Giotto, da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. Then partake in your second **Language and Art class**.

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

This morning, enjoy a **Pisa Guided Excursion**. It was already partly finished when builders realized that -- surprise! -- the ground beneath was too soft to support it. They tried to correct the tilt by putting a slight bend in the structure, but the extra weight just made it tilt more. Famous as it is, the leaning tower is just one component of Pisa's Campo dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles). Rising from an immaculate green lawn, the baptistery, duomo, and tower are fine examples of Pisan Romanesque architecture. All three are clad in intricately carved black and white marble, and on bright summer days their brilliance can be blinding. Then partake in your third and final **Language and Art class**.

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

This morning transfer by coach to Bassano del Grappa.

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

Today, is free for independent sightseeing in Bassano del Grappa. You can visit the Ponte degli Alpini covered bridge that crosses the Brenta River and the cathedral and castle.

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

Travel to Venice via Verona - In fair Verona shall we lay our scene. The setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" still glows with romance. See Juliet's balcony, tenderly draped with climbing ivy and overlooking a golden-hued statue of the young mistress herself. As you gaze out and contemplate the power of love, don't get too swept away -- remember that while Shakespeare based his characters on Verona's real-life feuding families, both Romeo and Juliet were, in fact, fictional. On arrival, head out on a **Tour Director-led sightseeing of Verona**. Brush up on your Shakespeare before heading to Casa de Giuletta to gaze up (or down from, for a few euros more) the famed balcony that set the stage for star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet. Hear about the many versions of this tragic story that existed long before Shakespeare put his pen to it. Go from this battleground of love to a real gladiator's Roman Arena. Theatre performances still take place in this third largest amphitheater in all of Italy, built in the 1st century B.C. Continue onto the hotel in Venice.

DAY 16:**Venice****B, D**

Using your **Vaporetto pass** head out on a **Venice guided sightseeing tour with Whisper Headsets**. Step into Piazza San Marco, an airy expanse of arches, sunlight, and pigeons. The multi-domed Basilica on one end, completed in 1094 but decorated for centuries afterward, is the final resting place of the apostle St. Mark, Venice's patron saint. The mosaics beneath the basilica's outside arches depict the arrival of St. Mark's body, stolen from Egypt in 828 by Venetian traders. The frothy Venetian Gothic Doge's Palace stands next door. Continue on to a glass-blowing demonstration. Venetian glass has long been considered the best in the world, and its production was such a state secret that during the Middle Ages, any Venetian glassblower who attempted to ply his trade outside the city was immediately arrested.

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

Transfer by coach to the airport for your flight home.



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DAY 18:

Arrive Melbourne

Arrival time is subject to flight schedule. On arrival into Melbourne, collect your luggage and clear customs and immigration.

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