

Tour FANTASIA NORTH ITALY 8 days/7 nights

Departure from Rome, 3 meals

Day 1 >Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence

Departing at 7:15am from the Hotel Diana by a deluxe coach, you will arrive in Assisi, where you can explore this tiny town, surrounded by walls built in the Middle Ages, at your own leisure. Make time to visit the Basilica of St. Francis, where you will see masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue, and to have lunch (not included). Board the bus for Siena, a Medieval town surrounded by ancient walls that is known for the Palio, an annual summertime horse race around the shell-shaped town square, Piazza del Campo. Next, you will continue on to Florence, where you will check in to your hotel before enjoying dinner and a well-earned night of rest.

Day 2 >Florence

After breakfast, you will spend the day venturing around beautiful Florence, where, with the help of Michelangelo, Italian art reached its pinnacle. Based on Etruscan-Roman origins, the city flourished in the Middle Ages as a free commune and was further refined by the Renaissance. Because of its numerous monuments, churches, and buildings, Florence is known as the “cradle of Renaissance,” the crowning architectural jewel being the domed cathedral: Santa Maria del Fiore, more commonly referred to as The Duomo. On your visit, you will be amazed by its magnificent dome built by Filippo Brunelleschi. Cross a small piazza to see the Campanile tower (partly designed by Giotto) and the Baptistery, with its bronze doors that Michelangelo dubbed the “Gates of Paradise.” In the heart of the city, you will see the Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo della Signoria (also known as Palazzo Vecchio), and the Santa Croce basilica. Spend the afternoon strolling the cobblestone streets of Florence on your own or take a short trip to Pisa Pisa(Optional), one of the four main historical Marine Republics of Italy. There, you will tour the Square of Miracles, which houses the Duomo, the Leaning Tower, and the Baptistery. Florence dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 >Florence, Bologna, Padova, Venice

Depart for Bologna after breakfast in Florence. There, you will wander through the city’s 38 kilometers worth of elegant arcades (or porticos), for which Bologna is famous. From Piazza Malpighi, we will walk to Piazza del Nettuno and Piazza Maggiore (Neptune Square and Major Square) in the heart of the city, where you will find Neptune Fountain; King Renzo Palace; Podestà Palace; and the basilica of San Petronio, one of the biggest in the world. In the afternoon, continue toward Padova, with its original Sant’Antonio Basilica. Later, you will arrive in Venice, world-renowned for its classic gondola boats and its elegant, refined art. Check in to your hotel and enjoy your first Venetian dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4 >Venice, Milan*

It’s on to Milano after breakfast at your hotel. Once there, you’ll have the day to explore this metropolitan city before checking in to your hotel for some rest.

Day 5 >Milan, Stresa, Lugano, Como

At 8:30am, you will be picked up at the Jolly Hotel Machiavelli in Milan and taken to Lake Maggiore, one of the largest lakes in Italy. The most westerly of the three lakes of the prealpine region, the lower section of Lake Maggiore is framed by the soft hills of the “Novarese” region and the upper section by the high mountain peaks of Piedmont and Lombardy, some of which have perennial snow. This geography provides for a temperate, mild winter and a breezy, comfortable summer. This weather allows a variety of unique flowers and plants typical of a sub-tropical climate to grow, making this region even more beautiful. Upon arriving in Stresa, a quaint town on the shores of Lake Maggiore, across from the Borromeo Islands, you will board a boat for Pescatori Island. Though

the island has been known for centuries as a major fishing spot, hence its name, few families still continue with the activity. However, the identity of this small community has stayed intact. With its simple houses, narrow lanes, stone portals, and attractive underpasses, you will surely be charmed by this little island. Next, continue on to Bella Island to visit the Borromeo Palace and its magnificent gardens. Return to Stresa, where you will have free time to roam the village and have lunch (not included). In the afternoon, after a panoramic tour of Lake Maggiore, you will reach Lugano in the Italian-speaking frontier of Switzerland. Rich with shops and art galleries, this city is an ideal place to purchase luxury goods. In the early evening, you will depart for Como, where you will arrive at your new hotel for a some well-earned relaxation.

Day 6 >Como, Bellagio, Varenna, Bergamo, Brescia

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before setting off on a short visit of Como, a small town with amazing natural panoramas of mountains, Lake Como, and wild alpine valleys. You’ll also see the industrialized Brianzola Hill, downtown Como, and the small houses in the village. The lake itself, sometimes called Lario, has long been famous for its Y-shape, its three branches intersecting at Bellagio, where you will visit via boat. Separating the lake’s two southern arms with the Alps dominating the horizon to the north, Bellagio is home to the most renowned beach in Italy. Spend some time strolling this picturesque village with its small streets, luxury hotels, villas, and gardens, stopping for lunch in one of the many cafés in town (not included). Back on the boat, you will make your way to Varenna that afternoon, where you will have a panoramic tour before moving on to Bergamo, a truly historic and artistic jewel characterized by its division of urban structure: the “Lower town” (Città bassa) is modern and dynamic, while the famous “Upper town” (Città alta) houses the city’s Medieval history. After a short walking tour of in the city center, depart to Brescia, where you will settle in to your new hotel for the night.

Day 7 >Brescia, Sirmione, Riva del Garda, Verona

Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy, is the next destination. After breakfast at your hotel, you will have a panoramic tour of the lake’s west coast, taking in the splendid natural scenery: brilliant colors, the Dolomites of Brenta, and the gentle slopes of the Morainic Hills. Enjoy the area’s rich vegetation, including lemon trees, oleanders, magnolias, and bouganville, that flourishes thanks to the Mediterranean climate. So be sure to taste some of the olive oil and wines made locally. Next, you will move on to Sirmione, where you will see the Lake Garda and its surroundings at their finest. See the sun shining off of the lake’s blue waters and tree-lined shores, the Sirmione Cape, the castle, and the Catullo’s ruins during a boat tour. Back on land, you will have free time for lunch before departing for Riva del Garda on the north side of the lake, where you will see its Venetian-style historic center. Verona will be your final stop of the day, where you will check in to your hotel for the night.

Day 8 >Verona, Milan

Fuel up on breakfast at your hotel before setting out to see the famous city of Verona, a work of art in itself. This fascinating cross-road of historical periods and cultures (both classical and Germanic) is a blend of both Nordic and Mediterranean influences that is both ancient and modern. A walk through its narrow streets will allow you to get in touch with Verona’s varied and fascinating past: traces of its splendid Roman origins, its Medieval structures, its magnificent Renaissance palaces, as well as the impressive fortifications protecting it. The combination of art and history will fascinate you. Spend some time eating lunch before departing for Milan, where your tour will come to an end.

*From Venice to Milan, up to five people will be transferred by train.

DEPARTURE DATES HIGH SEASON 2011			
APRIL	11	25	
MAY	09	23	
JUNE	06	20	
JULY	04	18	
SEPTEMBER	12	26	
OCTOBER	10	24	
During trade fairs in milan supl. € 103 overnight outside milan (not comm)			

GROSS RATES PER PERSON in B/B in €uro

DBL/TPL	1.840,00pp
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SGL	2.270,00pp
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DEPARTURE DATES SHOULDER SEASON 2011			
AUGUST	01	15	29

GROSS RATES PER PERSON in B/B in €uro

DBL/TPL	1.825,00pp
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SGL	2.254,00pp
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CHILD FROM 1 TO 6 YEARS OLD FREE IF SHARING THE ROOM WITH PARENTS