

*Heart of the Valley Travel Inc presents...*

# **Best of Italy**

October 27 – November 7, 2024



Upgrade to **Elite Airfare!** see inside for details



For more information contact  
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**Small Group Travel** rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

**12 Days • 17 Meals:** 10 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Venice, Gondola Ride, Classical Music Concert, Po River Delta Wetlands, Choice on Tour, Republic of San Marino, Impact Moment: Culinary Arts & Agriculture Vocational School Visit, Florence, Chiusi Etruscan Museum, Labyrinth of Porsenna, Rome, *Trastevere* Food Tour Dinner

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Maison Venezia UNA Esperienze, Venice
Days 4 – 6	Borgo Conde Wine Resort , Forli
Days 7, 8	Grand Hotel Cavour Florence, Florence
Days 9 – 11	Ponte Sisto Hotel, Rome

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Day 1: Sunday, October 27, 2024 Overnight Flight** Join us for a fabulous Italian adventure featuring the magic of Venice, Florence and Rome. Journey to the wine-producing Romagna countryside for a 3-night stay in a wine resort, and visit the Republic of San Marino, an enclave state of Italy. Come along with us and embrace the history, culture, art and romance of this incredible country.

**Day 2: Monday, October 28, 2024 Venice, Italy - Tour Begins** Welcome to enchanting Venice (UNESCO) with its 117 tiny islands surrounded by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. This evening, meet your fellow travelers over a welcome dinner. (D)

**Day 3: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 Venice** This morning, explore the traditional Venetian craftsmanship behind one of the city's symbols: the sleek, iconic gondola boats. Visit a local *Remèr* oar-making workshop, one of only a handful still active in the city. Then, join a local guide for a walking tour of the Venice's most iconic sights. Pause for the perfect view over the Bridge of Sighs and take in St. Mark's Square, adorned with marbled palaces and gilded basilicas. Travel by boat to Murano for an expert glass-blowing demonstration, a renowned tradition on the island. This evening, glide along the canals during a gondola ride\* before delving into Venice's classical music heritage while attending a live performance of the *Four Seasons*\*\* composed by the great Venetian Antonio Vivaldi. (B)

**Day 4: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 Venice - Po River Sailing - Romagna Countryside** Say "Ciao" to Venice as you journey towards the Romagna region, famous for its epicurean lifestyle and its *joie de vivre*. Along the way, visit the Po Delta (UNESCO). Since ancient times, this delta has been the border between the Venice and Ravenna regions, once two independent states. These wetlands will give you a glimpse into what Venice and Ravenna looked like to ancient Roman settlers making their way here from the south. You'll explore these wetlands by pontoon boat,\* learning about how the ecosystem here actually aided the Romans in escaping the barbarians that harried them. You'll also learn about the lives of fisherman and farmers whose lives have changed very little over the last 1000 years. Take in the tranquil scenery before stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, continue to your hotel nestled among vineyards in the Romagna countryside and settle in for your 3-night stay. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Thursday, October 31, 2024 Romagna Countryside** Today, **it's your choice!** Bask in the bucolic landscape at your wine resort hotel and pamper yourself with an organic wine-infused mud treatment in the onsite spa **-OR-** spend the day exploring Ravenna (UNESCO). During the darkness that enveloped the last days of the Roman Empire, Ravenna emerged as a center of power thanks to its strategic position. The city's rulers – the Byzantines, the Goths – adorned its churches with dazzling mosaics. During a guided walking tour, discover the city's most illustrious monuments including the mosaics that inspired Cole Porter's *Night and Day*. This evening, join the local chef for a hands-on cooking class centered on Romagna's most typical pasta dishes with colorful names such as *garganelli* or *strozzapreti* (priest-stranglers), and enjoy the results of your work for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 6: Friday, November 1, 2024 Romagna Countryside** Grab your passport\*\*\* and journey to the landlocked Republic of San Marino, the fifth-smallest country in the world. Perched at the top of Mount Titano, the old town of San Marino (UNESCO) gives visitors sweeping views over the Adriatic Riviera and the gentle rolling hills of the Romagna countryside. Explore the Old Town's intricate system of fortification towers, walls, gates and bastions during time at leisure. This evening, wrap up your stay in the Romagna Countryside with a wine-pairing dinner at your wine resort hotel. (B, D)

**Day 7: Saturday, November 2, 2024 Romagna Countryside - Florence** Today, travel to the Emilia region, Italy's foodie haven.



## Per Person Rates\*:

**Double \$5,798; Single \$6,798; Triple \$5,748**

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from OHare Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

**Not included in price:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$449 per person

### Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$1,590; Business Class \$4,190

- \* Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:** Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

Meet students and teachers at a vocational high school\*\*\*\* for an **Impact Moment** dedicated to the Culinary Arts and Agriculture. Here, Italy's future chefs and farmers learn how to make *Parmigiano-Reggiano* cheese according to traditional codes, dating back to the 1300s. Students also try their hand aging Balsamic vinegar, a generational process taking anything from 12 to 25 years. Enjoy a farm-to-table light lunch prepared by the culinary students using ingredients from the School's farm. Later, continue to Florence (UNESCO), the "Cradle of the Renaissance" and your home for the next 2 nights. (B, L)

**Day 8: Sunday, November 3, 2024 Florence** This morning, meet a local expert for a walking tour of a city that is a work of art all on its own. Your guide will highlight the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Baptistery. You'll also visit the Piazza della Signoria with its impressive Palazzo Vecchio. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Florence's cultural riches independently. Perhaps you'll visit to one of the city's many museums,\*\*\*\*\* such as the Uffizi or Academy Gallery, where Michelangelo's *David* is kept. (B)

**Day 9: Monday, November 4, 2024 Florence - Chiusi - Rome** This morning traverse southern Tuscany, the ancient land of the Etruscans. This mysterious civilization predated the Romans, who assimilated them, erasing most of their way of life, even though many early kings

of Rome were Etruscans. By all accounts, they were an advanced society and culture. On a guided walking tour of Chiusi, once part of the Etruscan Dodecapolis, you explore the town's underground water system – which has so many twists and turns that it was nicknamed *Labyrinth of King Porsenna*. You'll also visit the small archeological museum housing some of the most interesting artifacts archeologists found in the surrounding hills. Arrive in Rome (UNESCO) in the afternoon and settle in for a 3-night stay. (B)

**Day 10: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Rome** This morning, explore Rome's early Christian legacy during a visit of the Catacombs. Then, delve into Rome's second Golden Age on a walking tour exploring its Renaissance and Baroque heritage and featuring Caravaggio's paintings, alongside the Pantheon and Navona Square. The afternoon is yours to explore more of Italy's capital city. Perhaps you'll stroll down the monumental avenue of the Imperial Forums for views of the Colosseum, or climb the Capitol Hill with its monumental piazza designed by Michelangelo. (B)

**Day 11: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Rome** Make the most of your day visiting the Vatican City. The Vatican Museums are not only home to one of the world's greatest collections of art, but also to the world-famous Sistine Chapel. Priceless artifacts from ancient Egypt, Etruscan Italy and cultures around the world are preserved in the Vatican's palaces, galleries, halls and rooms. Follow a local

### Experience It! The Independent Republic of San Marino

This tiny country is the fifth smallest in the entire world, and the third smallest in all of Europe. At 23.6 square miles, only Monaco and Vatican City are smaller countries than San Marino. Set like a tiny jewel in Italy, surrounded on all sides, it only has a population of just over 30,000 residents. Here, they speak Sanmarinese, Italian, and *Romagnol*, the oldest dialect of the region. It was founded in 301 A.D. by its namesake, St. Marino, making it the oldest Republic in the world. Its Historic Centre and Mount Titano are beautifully preserved areas that look much like they did during the medieval era, which is why UNESCO declared them a heritage site in 2008, protecting them for future generations.

**For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1231230>**

expert guide on a three hour, in-depth visit through this vast collection. Highlights include the Gallery of Maps, the Gallery of Tapestries and, of course, a visit to the Sistine Chapel. The chapel's famous ceiling frescoes took Michelangelo four years to complete. His brilliant Last Judgment, which rests on the altar wall, was a topic of controversy for centuries. Other walls feature paintings by Pietro Perugino, Sandro Botticelli, Cosimo Rosselli and Domenico Ghirlandaio. Your final stop will be at St. Peter's Basilica, one of the most important churches in Christendom, and until recently, the largest in the world.\*\*\*\*\* Gather tonight to toast the end of your Italian adventure during a food tour\* in Rome's bohemian Trastevere district. (B, D)

**Day 12: Thursday, November 7, 2024 Rome - Tour Ends** Your tour comes to a close today, leaving you with many fond memories of incredible Italy. (B)

**PLEASE NOTE:  
IDENTIFICATION**

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

*Effective for travel in May 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>*

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

Days of features are interchangeable.

Most shops and businesses in Italy are closed on Sundays and on national/religious holidays.

\*On occasion, due to inclement weather: your gondola boat ride in Venice may be substituted with a motorboat transfer; your pontoon boat ride on the Po Delta may be replaced with an enclosed motorboat ride or for a tour of the local River Museum; and your farewell dinner in Rome may be served in a local restaurant instead.

\*\*Exact concert program is confirmed 6 months ahead of your tour departure date and is subject to change. Occasionally the orchestra may be on tour and unavailable.

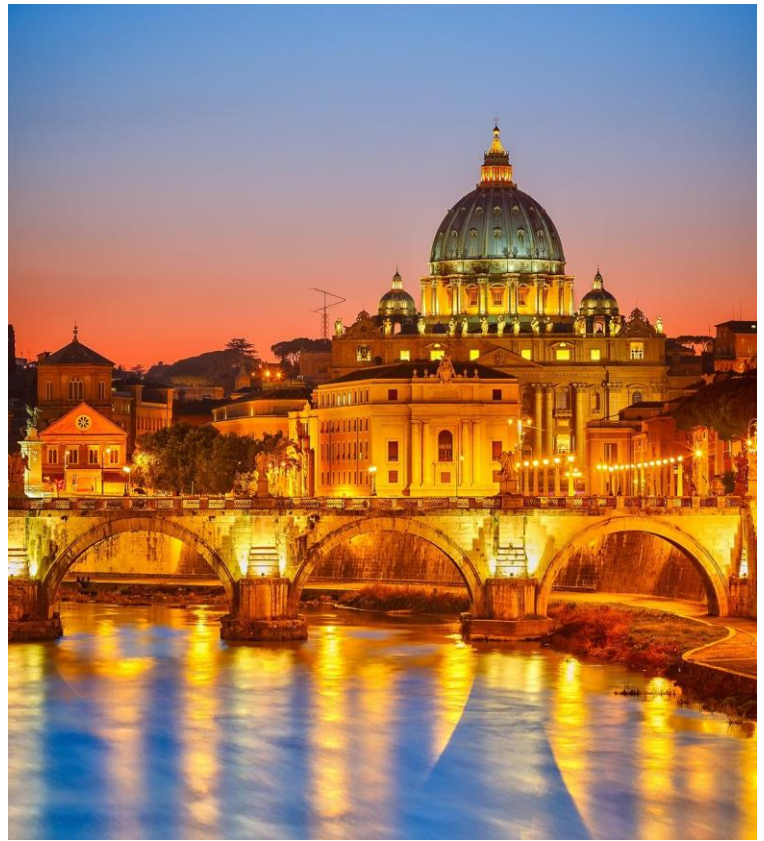
\*\*\*Bring your passport to San Marino if you would like to have it stamped with the country's entry visa.

\*\*\*\*During school holidays the visit to the culinary vocational school will be replaced by a visit to a local farm producing Parmigiano-Reggiano, and lunch will take place at a local Balsamic vinegar producer.

\*\*\*\*\*Most museums in Florence are closed on Mondays, including the Academy Gallery and the Uffizi, as are other state museums. Most state museums in Florence require reservations to access. In order to avoid standing in long lines, we suggest you reserve your ticket online prior to departure if you plan to visit the Academy Gallery or the Uffizi during your free time in Florence.

\*\*\*\*\*The Vatican Museum tour must be purchased at a minimum of 90 days prior to departure. The Vatican Museums date and time is subject to change based on availability of reservations. The Vatican Museums are not available on Sundays and Catholic holidays.

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking



tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

In Italy, some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motor coaches, especially in the historic areas of Venice, Ravenna, San Marino, Florence and Rome. For your comfort, we recommend bringing walking shoes. Agility is required for boarding the gondola boats in Venice and the pontoon boat in the Po Delta. The visits to the underground Labyrinth of Porsenna in Chiusi and to the Catacombs in Rome require negotiating 3 to 4 flights of steps and may not be suitable for people suffering from claustrophobia.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

**A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of March 21, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by August 28, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until March 28, 2024.**

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

**For important reservation information visit  
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1231230>.  
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**



TRAVEL DATE: 10/27/2024 TERRITORY: M5  
RES#: 1231230

Best of Italy

**For Reservations Contact:** Christine Jansen (920) 734-3929 email: Christine@HeartoftheValleyTravel.com  
Heart of the Valley Travel Inc, N120 Main St, Appleton, WI 54915-9436

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**YOUR INFORMATION:**

Clearly print your full name (first/middle/last) **as it appears on your government issued travel documentation.**

**IMPORTANT:** In order to avoid any unnecessary change fees, it is imperative that all guest names are entered correctly from the start. The information below must be the legal name and be 100% identical to the ID being used to travel <passport/driver's license> including middle names or suffixes <Jr, Sr>.

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: ( ) Male ( ) Female Date of Birth: month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Issuance: (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country of Issuance: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Should you become ill or injured, whom should we contact (not traveling with you):** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOMING WITH:**  Check if address is the same as Passenger #1

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

**AIR GATEWAY:** Departure airport for this tour: \_\_\_\_\_

Air Seat Request: ( ) Aisle ( ) Window ( ) Next To Traveling Companion

Collette cannot guarantee your seat preference. If you have not purchased air through Collette and wish to purchase transfers, you must transfer at our pre-scheduled times. Please be advised, when travelling as part of a group, many airlines do not provide seat assignments. Preferred seating may be available for an additional charge.

Please reserve an upgrade to Elite Airfare for an additional rate of:  Premium Economy \$1,590  Business Class \$4,190

**Service is limited and not available on all flights or carriers. Other restrictions may apply. Please note: if you purchase an upgrade, we cannot guarantee the same flight schedule as the group. Upgraded class of service is for the international portion of the journey only.**

**Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class, or First Class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.**

Are you willing to separate from the group air schedule to accommodate your upgrade request? ( ) Yes ( ) No

"Federal law forbids carriage of hazardous materials such as aerosols, fireworks, lithium batteries & flammable liquids aboard the aircraft in your checked or carry-on baggage. A violation can result in 5 years' imprisonment and penalties of \$250,000 or more. Details on prohibited items may be found on TSA's "prohibited items" web page: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>."

**TRAVEL PROTECTION:** ( ) Yes, I wish to purchase travel protection \$449 ( ) No, I decline

If you choose not to purchase Collette's Waiver Insurance Plan, you will incur penalties for changes and cancellations. Travel Protection Payment is due with first deposit. The Waiver Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. The single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. (There is coverage under Part B which includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons. See Part B for details.)

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Heart of the Valley Travel Inc ( ) Check ( ) Credit Card

Waiver/Insurance Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name (if paying by Credit Card): \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Billing Address:  Check if address is the same as above \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
M M Y Y

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED** for acceptance of the below conditions and agreement to credit card use:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

I agree to pay according to the card issuer agreement. I understand and accept the cancellation policy, terms and conditions. See <http://www.gocollette.com/about-collette/terms-and-conditions> for full terms and conditions of your purchase.

**Important Conditions:** Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees.