



THE LANDS OF THE SERENISSIMA

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MOST SERENE
VENETO

9 - 22 JUNE 2024





OVERVIEW

AUD 9,970 P.P. (TWIN
OR DOUBLE SHARE)

AUD 10,970 P.P. (SOLO
TRAVELLER)

Nestled in northeastern Italy, Veneto offers a picturesque escape with enchanting landscapes and rich history. The Republic of Venice, known as "*La Serenissima*", was a sovereign state that existed for over a thousand years. This tour explores some territories ruled by the republic on mainland Italy that correspond to today's Veneto region. Explore the city of Venice, boasting stunning canals and marvellous architecture. Visit the charming small cities like Verona, Vicenza and Padua, famous for their romantic ambience and exceptional cultural heritage. Discover the rich agricultural heritage and typical products, including rice, cheese, Prosecco and sweets. Indulge in the region's renowned cuisine and world-class wines, making Veneto a truly captivating destination.

We stay in just four bases on the tour, with three nights in Venice, three nights in Verona, three nights in the Prosecco Hills and four nights in Vicenza.

"I have been on many big bus tours in the past- I will never go back to that! This trip has opened my eyes to this new way of travelling – it is great!!

The places we visited on this trip were truly beautiful and breathtaking vistas. There was a great balance of guided tours vs free time. The hotels were nice as well – and the location couldn't be better!!."

Nadia (2023)

Since 2007, we've been designing itineraries for people who are fascinated by Italy and believe that a holiday is best experienced in good company. Our small groups (maximum of 12 people) and carefully chosen itineraries ensure you will have a delightful and authentic Italian holiday.

We travel at a relaxed pace so you can make the most of your time in Italy without racing from one city to another. There is plenty of free time to explore that museum that really interests you, indulge in some shopping or just put your feet up and enjoy the view.

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ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN VENICE

Our tour begins with three nights based in Venice, the capital of the Veneto and, historically, the centre of the vast Venetian maritime republic, a leading power in medieval and Renaissance Europe.

Arrive at our hotel and check in. We meet in the evening for aperitivi and welcome dinner.

Overnight: Venice

DAY 2 - VENICE - DORSODURO AND SAN POLO

On our first morning, we'll set off on a casual exploration of Venice, starting with the charming maze of Dorsoduro. With our expert Venetian guide, we stroll through its quaint streets, discovering artistic gems and soaking up the lively local culture. Moving on to San Polo, we'll visit notable churches and admire the celebrated artwork that defines Venice.

The morning promises a delightful mix of history, art, and the unique charm of this canal-filled city. Following our morning guided tour, the afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure, allowing you to discover Venice's hidden treasures at your own pace.

Overnight: Venice



DAY 3 - CROSSING CANALS - DISCOVERING SAN MARCO'S CHARMS

Today, we're taking a stroll into the heart of Venice's San Marco area, crossing the famous Grand Canal. Our guide will share exciting stories about the history of each corner and charming campo we come across. As we head towards the iconic Ponte di Rialto, you'll hear about the historical marvels and unique quirks that make Venetian life so special.

The morning focuses on gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for this extraordinary city. The afternoon is for taking a breather and enjoying some downtime. Venice can be bustling, so taking a moment to relax and recharge is a great idea. This time is ideal for exploring the city following your personal tastes. We will be present to assist if you need us.

Overnight: Venice

DAY 4 - THE VENETIAN LAGOON

Today, we're taking a relaxed journey into the heart of the Venetian Lagoon aboard a private boat. Burano greets you with its vibrant colours, pretty houses, and lanes; Torcello, with its ancient church, offers a window into the lagoon's beginnings, with dazzling mosaics and weathered stones. It's a day to sense the daily rhythms, where history isn't distant but right there in the peeling paint and aged bricks.

After our boat adventure, our transfer will take us to Verona, our new base. You'll have time to settle in and gear up for the aperitivo hour. It's a great chance to soak in the local vibe and start this leg of our journey in a relaxed and stylish way. Get ready for a delightful Verona experience!

Overnight: Verona

DAY 5 - VERONA

Today, our exploration of Verona with a local guide unveils more than Juliet's balcony. Amidst the historic charm, we discover architectural

wonders, cultural gems, and Roman ruins scattered throughout the city. Beautiful churches adorned with frescoes and stunning piazzas contribute to Verona's rich tapestry. After our guided tour, the afternoon is yours to savour, immersing yourself in the unique atmosphere that defines this city.

Overnight: Verona

DAY 6 - A RURAL RETREAT AND RICE FIELDS

This morning, our journey takes us to the delightful area south of Verona, a rural area of rice fields. Our day begins with a visit to a local rice producer, where you'll delve into the centuries-old tradition of rice cultivation. Discover the unique characteristics of the rice produced in this fertile region, gaining insights into its flavours and uses. Witness history in action as we observe an ancient husking machine still operational today, connecting us to the rich agricultural heritage. Our day winds down at a cosy osteria for a simple taste test. Escape the tourist bustle and savour the unhurried pace of rural life on this easygoing day in the heart of the countryside.

Overnight: Verona

DAY 7 - MAROSTICA AND ON TO THE PROSECCO HILLS

Today, we move to our new base nestled amid the vineyards of the Prosecco Hills, stopping first at Marostica. There will be time for a leisurely coffee and stroll to explore this quaint town's centre, including its castle and the famed checkered piazza where living chess matches come to life.

Then, we will take a private tour of a Palladian villa near Bassano del Grappa, where we'll also try their wine. It's a day of history, culture, and the flavours of Northern Italy before we settle into our Prosecco countryside retreat.

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)





DAY 8 - PROSECCO HILLS

Our travelling companion today is the Prosecco countryside. It is a unique world with a perfect symbiosis between nature and agriculture. The land and its contours decide how the vineyards that produce its famous wines are set out, not vice versa. This, among other reasons, earned the Prosecco Hills UNESCO recognition.

The area boasts century-old mills, castles, churches for the illiterate farmers, and abbeys for the passing pilgrims. We will spend our day discovering this world

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)

DAY 9 - A CHEESE PRODUCER

Although this area is known for its wine production, it also produces other remarkable agricultural products, like cheese, grappa, corn and chestnuts. Today, we drive to a secluded agriturismo, set in the hills above Valdobbiadene, where you can learn how the local cheeses are made and have a delicious lunch.

After lunch, we'll drive back through the countryside to our hotel, where there will be some downtime to relax.

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)

DAY 10 - A MEDIEVAL BOROUGH AND ON TO VICENZA

On this day, we will leave our base in the stunning Prosecco hills and travel towards Vicenza. Our journey will take us through the picturesque countryside before we stop in the medieval borough of Cittadella. This town is still surrounded by its original medieval walls, making it an impressive sight. There are several things to see, so we will spend the morning exploring before stopping for lunch.

After lunch, we will continue our journey towards Vicenza and check into our new hotel. With its rich history and cultural attractions, Vicenza is a spectacular destination, and it promises to be an exciting base for the rest of the tour.

Overnight: Vicenza



DAY 11 - VICENZA AND PALLADIO

We will start our day by discovering our new base with our local guide. Walking through the city, we will discover its rich history, the importance of Palladio, and how he contributed to and influenced how the city looks today. We will look at one of his works in the Teatro Olimpico, a theatre with perfect proportions and an optical illusion that has been used in performances staged here for over 500 years.

After the theatre, we will have some free time in the afternoon for people to explore, shop, or relax. Vicenza is a beautiful city, and we encourage everyone to take some time to walk around and enjoy its beauty.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 12 - PADOVA AND THE SCROVEGNI CHAPEL

Our itinerary for the day is to explore Padova, a delightful city that has been integral to Veneto's history since pre-Roman times. Accompanied by our guide, we will marvel at this city: the interconnecting piazze, the beautiful urban fabric, and one of the oldest universities in the world, all of which helped earn the city's historical centre UNESCO World Heritage status. The highlight of the day will be the Scrovegni Chapel. Giotto's fresco cycle is one of the most significant pieces of early Renaissance work to have reached us today. The artist used techniques and introduced aspects into his work (human emotions, realism) that were groundbreaking then and awe-inspiring to this day.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 13 - A LOCAL SWEET AND A PALLADIAN VILLA

When Venice decided to expand its dominance inland, one of its motives was the need for agricultural produce. For them, it was a practical necessity; for us, it resulted in a wide variety of products that are still sought after today. Whole areas and towns specialised in a particular wine or food. Cologna Veneta still today specialises in a sweet traditionally consumed around Christmas, but nowadays, it's perfect for every moment.

We will visit one of the historic producers of Mandorlato, a nougat-type sweet, before continuing towards Villa La Rotonda through the pretty Berici hills, home to many Venetian villas and their estates.

Villa La Rotonda is arguably the most famous of Palladio's works. It's undoubtedly the most striking. We will take a tour to discover why this has become one of the artist's most celebrated works and appreciate its beauty and symmetry in its idyllic setting.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 14 - FAREWELLS

On the last morning of the tour, we provide a group transfer back to Venice Mestre train station and Venice Marco Polo airport.

Overnight: NA (B)





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

STAY

- ❖ 3 nights in Venice in a lovely quiet hotel off the tourist track
- ❖ 3 nights in a hotel in the centre of Verona, just moments from the Arena and Piazza Bra
- ❖ 3 nights in Rolle in the Prosecco Hills in an agriturismo immersed in the vineyards
- ❖ 4 nights in a hotel in the centre of Vicenza

INCLUSIONS

- ❖ A dedicated tour leader will be on hand for the duration of the tour
- ❖ Breakfast daily and 5 lunches and 5 dinners (wine, or something softer if you would prefer, included with all lunches and dinners)
- ❖ All land travel in Italy in private, air-conditioned mini-coach
- ❖ Entry fees to all attractions listed in the itinerary
- ❖ Expert, local guides at many of the attractions
- ❖ All gratuities and local taxes
- ❖ Group transfer to Venice airport and train station (Mestre) at the end of the tour

WEATHER

June is a beautiful time to visit this part of Italy, with warm days and slightly cooler nights.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

We don't place any age limits on clients and welcome anyone with good physical fitness. Specifically, you should be comfortable on your feet for up to 3 hours with short breaks and confident on the cobblestones and uneven surfaces.

BOOKING

If you would like to book a place on this or any other tour or have questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

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