

# VENICE, FLORENCE, TUSCANY & ROME: Culinary Tour

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Depart today on your flight to Venice.

**Day 2:** Arrive **Venice**, a completely unique city rising in the middle of a lagoon with water flowing between streets and in front of houses and shops. It was as strange a thousand years ago as it seems today.

**Day 3:** Full day in Venice. Meet guide for a guided orientation walking tour. Later, lose yourself in the ambiance of this glorious city. See the **Clock Tower, Piazza San Marco, the Grand Canal** and the graceful **Rialto Bridge**. Perhaps you would like to arrange a ride on an authentic Venetian gondola.



**Day 4:** Travel to **Florence** Italy. The Renaissance began in Florence and the city has more sights to visit within one square kilometer than any other city in Europe. Meet guide for a guided orientation culinary walking tour. See the gorgeous **Duomo, the Bell Tower, Pont Vecchio** the medieval district, and a central bustling food market. Your guide will also explain some of the traditional Tuscan foods.

**Day 5:** Enjoy a **Tuscan cooking class**. This cooking class will teach the basics of Italian food preparation. Your chef will lead you through the creative process and everyone will actively participate. Later discover Pont Vecchio, the Petti Palace, Piazza Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria and Mercato Nuovo.

**Day 6:** This morning transfer to **Pisa** for a look at the architectural project gone terribly wrong, the Leaning Tower. Return to Florence enjoy a second cooking class. Evening to shop and enjoy the city by dark.



**Day 7:** Full day tour visiting the beautiful countryside of **Tuscany**. Stop in **San Gimignano**, a spectacular medieval city. Then visit a working organic farm. Taste salumi products. See rare breed animals, organic artisan meat production and the typical salumi (saltcured meats) that they create! Also stop at a villa built in the 17th century and tour the gardens, the ancient cellars and the oil press. Taste the olive oil.

**Day 8:** Visit The **Uffizi Gallery**. This afternoon transfer to **Rome**.

**Day 9:** Meet guide at the **Vatican** for your visit to **St. Peter's Basilica** and Square, the **Vatican Museum** and the **Sistine Chapel** to admire Michelangelo's wonderful frescoes on the ceiling. Visit the Spanish Steps, Piazza del Popolo and walk along Via del Corso, the main shopping street.

**Day 10:** Today visit along with your guide, the **Colosseum**, the most famous building in Rome and the Forum. 50,000 people could be seated with enviable efficiency. The games were organized carefully; gladiators were recruited from the ranks of those condemned to death and war prisoners. The **Forum** was once the city's religious, political and commercial center in the days of Caesar. Later see the Pantheon, with its original doors and ancient granite columns. You also do not want to miss Trevi Fountain or Piazza Navona. The piazza was originally built as a stadium in the first century for athletic contests and chariot races. Now it is lined with luxurious cafes and is the home to three lavish Baroque fountains.



**Day 11: Pompeii** visit, the sumptuous town that was buried under lava during a volcanic eruption of Vesuvius that started in August 24, AD 79. The city tells the story clearly; the tragic figures caught under the ash, crouching under tables, struggling to get upstairs, a mother holding a baby, a horribly contorted dog on a leash. In Pompeii, the fascination lies in the glimpses of everyday life frozen in time. In addition, you will make a short stop at Cassino War Cemetery to pay your respects to the 855 fallen Canadian soldiers who died fighting Germans during the during WW11. Return to Rome for your overnight.

**Day 12:** Today, you bid Arrivederci to Italy. Your coach will pick you up for your airport transfer. You depart Rome and arrive home in Vancouver the same day.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare to Venice return Rome
- 10 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Coach transfers
  - o Venice airport transfer
  - o Venice to Florence
  - o Full day visit to Tuscan countryside with visits according to itinerary
  - o Half day visit to Pisa
  - o Florence to Rome
  - o Full day visit to Pompeii
  - o Rome airport transfer
- Guided walking tours
  - o Venice
  - o Culinary and orientation Florence
  - o 2 half days Rome – Vatican, Roman Forum and Coliseum
  - o Pompeii
- Entrances/ visits
  - o Vaporetto transfer in Venice
  - o Visit to Uffizi Gallery
  - o 2 cooking classes
  - o Vatican
  - o Coliseum and Forum
  - o Pompeii

