



## Itinerary

Italy's Treasures Art, Food & Wine of Italy

Mar 15, 2020 - Mar 25, 2020

### Pre Night: Regina Palace Hotel



The Regina Palace is a charming first class hotel embedded in beautiful gardens and situated right on the lake promenade facing the Borromean Islands. All 170 guestrooms' decor is precious with fine stuccos, antique furniture and beautiful crystal chandeliers.

### Day 1: Stresa, Italy - Tour Begins



Along magical landscapes and inside metropolitan meccas ripe with culture and history, discover Italy on an unforgettable journey of its most cherished treasures. Begin on the arresting shores of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by the peaceful beauty of the Alpine lakes region. Visit a wine shop and enjoy a tasting of local speciality with some prima di cena snacks. Cruise to Isola dei Pescatori,\* the most picturesque of the Borromean Islands, where you'll engage with new friends at a dinner welcoming you to Italy.

#### Hotel

Regina Palace Hotel  
Stresa

#### Culinary

Dinner

#### Weather

High 13°  
Low 1°  
Rain 3"

### Day 2: Stresa



In an ancient village nestled in the mountains, a local family welcomes you to sample their very own artisanal cheeses, paired with the region's best wines. The remainder of the day in Stresa is at your leisure. Explore the piazzas, flower-lined cobblestone streets, and lakeside promenades. Or, relax and enjoy the breathtaking surroundings during an optional cruise of this scenic lake region.

#### Hotel

Regina Palace Hotel  
Stresa

#### Culinary

Breakfast

#### Weather

High 13°  
Low 1°  
Rain 3"

### Day 3: Stresa - Orta - Italian Riviera



Witness picture-perfect views of the lakes region from Lake Orta, the ancient glacial lake in the Alpine foothills. A boat delivers you to Isola di San Giulio, dominated by its working convent. Journey next to discover the myriad glories of the Italian Riviera as the Liguria coast calls you to the town of Sestri Levante.

**Hotel**  
Grand Hotel Dei Castelli  
Italian Riviera

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Dinner

**Weather**  
High 6°  
Low 1°  
Rain 2"

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## Day 4: Italian Riviera - Cinque Terre



Spend your day discovering the colourful Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Travel by rail through the medieval villages of the Cinque Terre, perched on the edge of the sea. Traverse the rugged coastal area dotted with terraced vineyards, arriving at this nearly inaccessible string of fishing villages tucked between the mountains and the Mediterranean. Feel like you have stepped back in time. Spend an afternoon independently exploring this magical place.

**Hotel**  
Grand Hotel Dei Castelli  
Italian Riviera

**Culinary**  
Breakfast

**Weather**  
High 6°  
Low 1°  
Rain 2"

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## Day 5: Italian Riviera - Lucca - Tuscan Villa



Encircled by 16th-century Renaissance walls, the medieval city of Lucca's appeal lies in the old-world ambience contained within its ramparts. Old storefronts offer a glimpse into the city's elegant past, while Lucca's cultural scene thrives in the busy piazzas – local gathering spots for more than 2,000 years. This afternoon, it's your choice! Discover Lucca on foot -OR- pedal the city circuit via bicycle. Whatever you choose, you'll see historic marvels including the Cathedral of San Martino and the Piazza dell'Anfiteatro. On a tour of Lucca's speciality food shops, sample the region's seasonal delicacies. Stop at a family-owned leather shop and learn the traditional Italian techniques of leather making. End the day in a historic Tuscan villa where you'll begin a rejuvenating 4-night stay.\*\*

**Hotel**  
Hotel Villa Lecchi  
Tuscany

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Dinner

**Weather**  
High 16°  
Low 6°  
Rain 1"

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## Day 6: Florence



Florence. Birthplace of the Renaissance. Home of the Medici family, Galilei, Botticelli and da Vinci. Set out on a walking tour and see medieval Florence's treasures and monuments, including the Piazza del Duomo, the centre of religious life in medieval Florence, and the Piazza della Signoria. Visit the world-famous Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's incredible statue of David. Florence is yours to explore independently before returning to your villa.

**Hotel**  
Hotel Villa Lecchi  
Tuscany

**Culinary**  
Breakfast

**Weather**  
High 16°  
Low 6°  
Rain 1"

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## Day 7: Siena



Travel south to Siena, where Romanesque and Gothic architecture surround you, and history ignites the culture inside this UNESCO World Heritage site. Walk the medieval streets through narrow passageways on a guided tour and visit the Gothic cathedral, a dramatic architectural marvel rich in frescoes by Pinturicchio and masterpieces by Pisano, Donatello, and Michelangelo. Retreat to your Tuscan villa for a relaxing afternoon.

**Hotel**  
Hotel Villa Lecchi  
Tuscany

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Dinner

**Weather**  
High 16°  
Low 6°  
Rain 1"

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## Day 8: Tuscan Countryside



Tuscany's landscape is a magical colour wheel, where the rays of a pure, sharp sun electrify its vineyards and groves. In the heart of the countryside, a family wine estate welcomes you. After a tour that showcases the wine cellar, the estate, vineyards and olive groves, engage in a lunchtime cooking lesson with the estate's own chef. Break bread during an authentic Tuscan lunch and toast with wines produced on-site. Return to the villa for some leisure time this afternoon. Continue your culinary journey tonight at one of Tuscany's traditional restaurants. Buona digestione!

**Hotel**  
Hotel Villa Lecchi  
Tuscany

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Lunch

**Weather**  
High 16°  
Low 6°  
Rain 1"

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## Day 9: Tuscany - Bologna - Venice



On the way to Venice, discover the virtues of Bologna. A city barely changed since the Renaissance, the vivacious capital of the Emilia-Romagna region entralls you during a walking tour of its medieval grid. Browse the city's speciality food shops, ripe with the smells and sights of epicurean fantasy, and sample local delicacies along the way. Arrive later in Venice, the "Queen of the Adriatic," and settle in for a 2-night stay in one of the most romantic cities in the world.

### Hotel

Ca' Dei Conti Hotel  
Venice

### Culinary

Breakfast

### Weather

High 12°  
Low 4°  
Rain 2"

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## Day 10: Venice



Welcome to Venezia, the floating city that's home to magnificent art collections, wonders of architecture, and where marbled palaces belonging to the Gothic and Renaissance periods tower over gondola-laden canals. Embark on a boat journey to Murano\*\*\* for an expert glass-blowing demonstration on an island that's renowned for its long tradition of glass making. Journey back to Venice's St. Mark's Square, where a local guide takes you on a tour of its incredible sites, from the Bridge of Sighs and the Clock Tower, to St. Mark's Basilica. Addio, Italia! Join friends tonight for a spectacular farewell dinner.

### Hotel

Ca' Dei Conti Hotel  
Venice

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

### Weather

High 12°  
Low 4°  
Rain 2"

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## Day 11: Venice - Tour Ends



Wake up in Venice and depart for home.

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## Post Night: Ca' dei Conti Hotel



Would you like to end your vacation with an additional Hotel in Venice?

