



The Traveling Professor Presents

VENICE, FLORENCE and NORTHERN ITALY

FLORENCE • VENICE • PADUA • SAN GIMIGNANO • VICENZA • VERONA

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1 - Welcome to Florence

Arrive in Florence—the city of Michelangelo, the Médici, and Galileo. Check in to the perfectly located **Il Guelfo Bianco Hotel**, then meet your travel companions. This afternoon we kick things off in style with a **VIP visit to the Accademia Gallery** to see Michelangelo's *David*. How's that for a start? Tonight, slip into *la dolce vita* with an authentic Tuscan dinner. Afterward, do as the Italians do—enjoy a leisurely stroll along Florence's wide pedestrian streets to **Piazza della Signoria**, with a must-stop **gelato** along the way. Now this is Italy.

Day 2 - Florence with a Private Guide + Firenze Card

This morning our professional guide meets us at the hotel for a deeper dive into Florence's greatest sights: the **Duomo**, **Baptistry**, **Giotto's Bell Tower**, the famed **Gates of Paradise**, lively markets, and the world of the **Medici palaces and chapels**. The afternoon is yours—visit more museums, shop, or simply settle into a café in **Piazza della Repubblica** and watch the city go by. Every traveler receives a **3-day Firenze Card**, offering **VIP admission** to nearly every major museum and attraction.

Day 3 - Florence on Your Own

Today is all about freedom—Florence is yours to enjoy, and your **Firenze Card** is your golden ticket. Use it for **VIP entry** to favorites such as the **Uffizi** (reservations recommended), **Palazzo Pitti**, **Palazzo Vecchio**, the **Medici Chapels**, the **Brancacci Chapel**, and more. Want to venture out? You can take a quick trip to **Fiesole**, or even make a day outing to **Pisa** or **Siena** with our help and guidance.

Day 4 - Tuscany Excursion: Wine, Lunch, and San Gimignano

This morning a private van takes us into the Tuscan countryside for a truly spectacular day. We begin with a deluxe tasting at **Tenuta Torciano Winery**, sampling celebrated wines such as **Brunello di Montalcino**, cabernet, merlot, Super Tuscan, rosé, and Sangiovese—plus tastings of olive oils and gold-reserve balsamic vinegars. A true Tuscan lunch follows: cheeses, artisan salamis, and bruschetta to start, then main courses like **truffle lasagna** or local **ribollita**, finished with dessert wine and classic **cantuccini**. Then it's off to nearby **San Gimignano**, one of Tuscany's most beautiful hill towns. Enjoy about **two hours at leisure** before returning to Florence.

Day 5 - To Padua (Padova) by High-Speed Train

After breakfast, transfer to **Santa Maria Novella Station** and board a high-speed train northeast to the Veneto region and the charming university city of **Padua (Padova)**. After check-in at the **Majestic Hotel Toscanelli**, take time to relax, grab lunch, and settle in. Later, we enjoy a walking tour of the city, including the breathtaking **Scrovegni Chapel**—a masterpiece many consider as historically significant as the Sistine Chapel.

Day 6 - Venice Day Trip: Grand Canal Arrival + Guided Highlights

Today we head to **Venice**, just a quick and easy **25-minute train ride** away. There's simply nothing like it: no cars, only canals, water taxis, and palaces rising right from the water. We arrive in unforgettable fashion with a **private water taxi cruise down the Grand Canal to St. Mark's Square**—camera ready! Our guide meets us for a tour of the legendary **Doge's Palace** and **St. Mark's Basilica**. Afterward, enjoy free time to explore: the **Rialto Bridge**, the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection**, the **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, a stroll along the **Zattere**, or simply soak up the magic of St. Mark's.

Day 7 - Vicenza: Palladio, UNESCO Beauty, and "Real Italy"

This morning we take a short **20-minute train ride to Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the home of famed architect **Andrea Palladio**. Often overlooked by visitors, Vicenza is beloved by Italians as a refined retreat—and it's easy to see why. During our tour we'll admire Palladio's masterpieces, including the **Basilica Palladiana** and the remarkable **Teatro Olimpico**. Afterward, enjoy lunch in the shade of Renaissance palaces, stroll along the river, or relax in **Querini Park**.

Day 8 - Padua: Saints, Scholars, and Galileo

This morning we enjoy a professionally guided tour of Padua, including the **Basilica of Saint Anthony**, one of Europe's most important pilgrimage sites. We'll also have a special guided visit to **Palazzo Bo** and the historic **University of Padua**, among the oldest universities in the world. See **Galileo's lectern** and the famed **anatomical theater**, where the first medical human dissections were performed. The afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Favorites include the UNESCO-listed **Botanical Gardens**, **Palazzo della Ragione**, the **Padua Duomo**, **Prato della Valle**, the **Diocesan Museum**, or simply enjoying one of the lively squares near our hotel.

Day 9 - Verona: Roman Glory and Romeo & Juliet

This morning we travel about **75 minutes by train** to the Roman city of **Verona**. With our professional guide, we walk through centuries of history—starting at **Piazza Bra** and the magnificent **Verona Arena**, still used for performances today. We'll visit **Juliet's balcony**, explore **Piazza delle Erbe**, and pass highlights such as the **Scaliger Tombs**, **Torre dei Lamberti**, and the **Old Castle**, along with markets, churches, and monuments. And yes—"O Romeo, Romeo..."—we'll visit Juliet's lover's house too.

Day 10 - Departure Day

It's time to say **arrivederci** to new friends and unforgettable places. We'll help you reach your next destination, and if you're departing via **Venice Airport**, we provide a **group transfer**.

Ciao!

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

We travel with a small group of 8-15 active adults. This offers the flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner, cost not included with the tour. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.