

Berkeley College Alumni presents...

Best of Italy

March 10 – 21, 2024

Hand Crafted, Small Group Experience



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



ALUMNI

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Please refer to booking #1187798

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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 Sailing, Choices 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, March 10, 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, March 11, 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, March 12, 2024 Venice - Gondola Ride - Classical Music Concert 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, March 13, 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 the 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, March 14, 2024 Romagna Countryside - Choice on Tour 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, March 15, 2024 Romagna Countryside - San Marino - 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)



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$5,099; Single \$6,099; Triple \$5,049

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

****Please call for air pricing from your local gateway!**

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

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Business Class \$4,290

† 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 subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, 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.)

Day 7: Saturday, March 16, 2024 Romagna Countryside - Emilia Food Valley - Florence Today, travel to the Emilia region, Italy's foodie haven. 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, March 17, 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, March 18, 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, March 19, 2024 Rome This morning, it's your choice! Explore Rome your way: 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 **-OR-** explore Rome's Christian heritage on a panoramic tour featuring the Catacombs and the medieval basilica of St. Sabina on the Aventine Hill. The afternoon is yours to explore more of Italy's capital city. Perhaps you'll join an optional tour for an in depth visit of the Colosseum and the Capitol Hill with its monumental piazza designed by Michelangelo. (B)

Day 11: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 Rome Make the most of a free day in the Eternal City. Perhaps you'll stroll through the Borghese Gardens for views of the city's skyline or join an early morning "Breakfast with Michelangelo" option***** to the Vatican Museums. Your visit begins with a buffet breakfast in the Pinecone

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.

Courtyard with views of Michelangelo's cupola – the dome sheltering St. Peter's Basilica. Then, 1 hour ahead of the Vatican Museums' opening to the general public, enjoy the ability to roam freely through one of the world's greatest Art collections. With the aid of an audio guide, you'll be able to independently explore the Museums' highlights, including Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. 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, March 21, 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 a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that our clients traveling abroad 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 2024, 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.

Days of features are interchangeable.

*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 *Breakfast with Michelangelo* option must be purchased no later than 60 days prior to tour departure date. Once purchased any cancellation within 60 days of tour departure will be nonrefundable. Due to the very limited number of tickets available, this option is not available for purchase on tour.

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

*****The Colosseum and Vatican Museum optional tours must be purchased at a minimum of 60 days prior to departure. The Vatican Museums and Colosseum dates and times are all subject to change based on availability of reservations. 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 (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. 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 a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may not be able to access some of these areas and may want to consider an alternate program with us. Our Client Care team can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.

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 August 04, 2023 are based upon availability. Final payment due by January 10, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until August 11, 2023.

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

**For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1187798>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**



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If paying by credit card, please complete this form and return to Collette. We can only charge your credit card for the amount noted if the signature, address and phone number are listed below. Thank you!

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

BOOKING NUMBER: 1187798
DEPARTURE DATE: March 10, 2024

TOUR: Best of Italy
GROUP NAME: Berkeley College Alumni

Name of Passenger:

Salutation: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____
(Mr., Mrs., Rev.) (Please print as it appears on Passport) (Jr., Sr.)

Cardholder Name: _____
(Please print as it appears on your Credit Card)

Cardholder Address: _____
(as it appears on your credit card statement)

Cardholder Phone: _____

Credit Card Type: ___American Express ___Discover ___MasterCard ___Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

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 DEPARTURE DATE: March 10, 2024

TOUR: Best of Italy
 GROUP NAME: Berkeley College Alumni

Available Options

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Rome

Majestic Rome: from the Colosseum to the Capitol \$99 USD

On a compelling tour of its most famous antiquities, discover why Rome has been known through the ages as the “Eternal City.” The city’s ancient remnants serve as an undisputed testimony to its former glory as the seat of an empire. Hear the distant echoes of 45,000 cheering spectators when you visit the Colosseum, the site of legendary gladiator contests. Walk up the steps like millions have before you, marveling at the ingenuity and scale of this world-famous structure. Your tour continues with a guided visit to the Campidoglio – Rome’s Capitol Hill. Once a temple dedicated to Jupiter, the area was redesigned by Michelangelo during the Renaissance. From the Campidoglio, admire expansive views of the Roman Forum, the social space that once was the beating heart of the Empire. *Duration: Approximately 4 hours.* Please note a minimum of 10 passengers is required. Transportation is not included.

Vatican Museums: Breakfast with Michelangelo \$150 USD

In the early hours of the morning, journey to the world’s smallest independent State for a “pre-opening” visit of the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel. Your visit begins in the Pinecone Courtyard, a space that juxtaposes antique marble statuary and contemporary bronze sculptures. Here enjoy an al fresco* buffet breakfast prepared with fresh produce from the Papal Farm in Castel Gandolfo. In the tranquility of the early morning, enjoy your coffee and take in the view over the cupola of St. Peter’s Basilica, designed by Michelangelo. Then, 1 hour ahead of the Vatican Museums’ opening to the general public, enjoy the ability to roam freely through one of the world’s greatest Art collections. With the aid of an audio guide, you’ll be able to independently explore the Museums’ highlights, such as 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, while his brilliant Last Judgment, resting on the altar wall, was a topic of controversy for centuries. This option must be booked no later than 60 days prior to tour departure date. Cancellations within 60 days of tour departure will be nonrefundable. Due to the very limited number of tickets available, this option is not available for purchase on tour. *Duration: Approximately 5 hours.* Please note a minimum of 12 passengers is required. Transportation is included.

PASSENGERS NAME: (Please submit a separate form for each passenger)

Salutation: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____ Suffix: _____ Nickname: _____
(Mr., Mrs., Rev.) (Please print EXACTLY as it appears on Passport) (Jr., Sr.)

✓	Option	Price Per Person (USD)
	Majestic Rome: from the Colosseum to the Capitol	99.00
	Vatican Museums: Breakfast with Michelangelo <i>This option must be booked no later than 60 days prior to tour departure date. Cancellations within 60 days of tour departure will be nonrefundable. Due to the very limited number of tickets available, this option is not available for purchase on tour.</i>	150.00

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