



**VITORITALY®**  
Italy with Italians

## ITALY IN 10 DAYS - LUXURY TOUR

Venice, Florence, Rome & the Amalfi Coast

### PROGRAM





From magic Venice to Florence, the cradle of Renaissance, then Rome, the Eternal City and finally the charming Amalfi Coast, to relax and enjoy stunning views! Ten days around Italy, to admire the extraordinary beauty of its most beautiful cities and be seduced by its enchanting landscape!!



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Venice, when merchants ruled the Mediterranean
- Florence, an open-air museum
- Pisa, how can it stand?
- San Gimignano and Siena, power in the Middle Ages
- Val d'Orcia, where Man and Nature blend in harmony
- Rome with the Coliseum and Imperial Fora, Caesars and gladiators
- The Vatican, Popes and power
- The Amalfi Coast, where divas were at home
- Pompei, the Roman city fixed in lava

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM
Day 1 <b>Venice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival at Venice Airport</li> <li>- Meet and Greet at Venice Airport</li> <li>- Transfer to your accommodation in Venice</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Venice city centre</i>
Day 2 <b>Venice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of Venice city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to Saint Mark's Basilica and Palazzo Ducale</li> <li>- Private visit of a "Squero" Gondola Boatyard</li> <li>- One-hour gondola ride</li> <li>- Dinner at a selected Restaurant with VITOR Founder and CEO</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Venice city centre</i>
Day 3 <b>Modena</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer to Venice Pier + Transfer to your accommodation in Florence - Stopovers in Modena and Maranello</li> <li>- Visit of a Balsamic Vinegar of Modena producer with tastings</li> <li>- Private Guided tour of Museo Ferrari in Maranello</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 4 <b>Florence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an <u>Authorised Art Historian Guide</u> - Admission to Galleria dell'Accademia (Michelangelo's David)</li> <li>- Customised Perfume Experience at a Perfume Atelier in Florence city centre</li> <li>- Transfer from your accommodation to the restaurant and back</li> <li>- Dinner at a selected restaurant in Florence</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 5 <b>Siena &amp; San Gimignano</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day excursion to Siena and San Gimignano</li> <li>- 2-hour private walking tour of Siena city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to the Duomo Cathedral in Siena</li> <li>- Drop off at your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 6 <b>Val d'Orcia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day excursion to Val d'Orcia area</li> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a <u>Sommelier Guide</u>, with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle</li> <li>- Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Val d'Orcia area</i>
Day 7 <b>Rome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer to your accommodation in Rome</li> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological Area with an <u>Authorised Archeological Guide</u> - Access to the Arena and Underground (<i>if available</i>)</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Rome city centre</i>
Day 8 <b>Vatican City</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer from your accommodation to the entrance of the Vatican Museums and back</li> <li>- 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel with an <u>Authorised Art Historian Tourist Guide</u></li> <li>- Transfer from your accommodation to the location of the Cooking Class and back</li> <li>- Roman Cooking Class at a Home Restaurant</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Rome city centre</i>
Day 9 <b>Amalfi Coast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer to Rome Railway Station + Transfer by high-speed train Executive 1<sup>st</sup> Class to Naples Railway Station + Transfer to your accommodation on the Amalfi Coast - Stopover in Tramonti - Visit of a Costa d'Amalfi Wine Cellar with tastings</li> </ul> <i>Overnight on the Amalfi Coast</i>
Day 9 <b>Amalfi Coast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-day excursion of the Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Ravello, Positano - Free time</li> </ul> <i>Overnight on the Amalfi Coast</i>
Day 10 <b>Pompei</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer to your accommodation in Naples - Stopover in Pompei</li> <li>- 2-hour private walking tour of Pompeii Archeological Area with an <u>Authorised Archaeological Guide</u></li> <li>- Transfer from your accommodation to the restaurant and back</li> <li>- Farewell dinner at a Michelin-starred Restaurant in Naples</li> </ul> <i>Overnight in Naples city centre</i>
Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer to Naples Airport</li> <li>- Departure from Naples Airport</li> </ul>

## DATES & PRICES

**April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> (Shoulder Season): from € 12,015.00 / pax (2-pax group) – from € 9,545.00 / pax (4-pax group)**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> (High Season): from € 13,645.00 / pax (2-pax group) – from € 11,175.00 / pax (4-pax group)**

**Larger Group, Single Occupancy, Rooms with a view: price upon request**

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Accommodations in Double Room with Continental Breakfast (\*):**

- Days 1 & 2: **5\* Hotel Metropole** - Riva degli Schiavoni 4149, Venezia - <http://www.hotelmetropole.com/en/> - Ph. +39 041 5205044
- Days 3 & 4: **5\* Golden Tower Hotel & SPA** - Piazza Strozzi 11/r, Firenze <http://www.goldentowerhotel.it/en/index.html> - Ph. +39 055 287860
- Days 5 & 6: **5\* Precise Tale Poggio Alla Sala** - Via Poggio Alla Sala 10, Montepulciano (SI) - <https://www.precisehotels.com/en/poggio-alla-sala> - +39 0578820050
- Days 7 & 8: **5\* Pantheon Iconic Hotel** - Via di Santa Chiara 4/A, Roma - <https://www.thepantheonhotel.com/en/hotel/> - Ph. +39 06 87807070
- Days 9 & 10: **5\* Anantara Convento Amalfi Hotel** - **Via Annunziatella 46, Amalfi (SA)** - <https://www.anantara.com/en/convento-di-amalfi> - Ph. +39 089 8736711
- Day 11: **5\* Grand Hotel Vesuvio** - Via Partenope 45, Napoli - <https://www.vesuvio.it/en/> - Ph +39 081 7640044

(\*) The Hotel list is indicative and subject to room availability – During High Season, one or more rooms may be unavailable; if so, we will propose a suitable alternative - To check the Hotel position, please click on its name

- **Transfers (\*\*):**

- Day 1: Transfer from Venice Airport to your accommodation in Venice
- Day 3: Transfer to Venice Pier + Transfer to your accommodation in Florence - Stopovers in Modena and Maranello
- Day 4: Transfer from your accommodation to the restaurant and back
- Day 7: Transfer to your accommodation in Rome city centre
- Day 8: Transfer from your accommodation to the entrance of the Vatican Museums and back
- Transfer from your accommodation to the location of the Cooking Class and back
- Day 9: Transfer to Rome Railway Station + Transfer by high-speed train Executive 1<sup>st</sup> Class to Naples Railway Station + Transfer to your accommodation on the Amalfi Coast
- Day 11: Transfer to your accommodation in Naples – Stopovers in Pompei - Transfer from your accommodation to the restaurant and back

(\*\*) All transfers by private Water Cab / Luxury Sedan (2 pax ) / Minivan (3 to 6 pax) / Minibus (7 to 14 pax)

- **Private Guided Visits / Tours / Activities (\*\*\*):**

- Day 2: 3-hour private walking tour of Venice city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide - One-hour gondola ride - Private visit of a "Squero" Gondola Boatyard
- Day 3: Visit of a Balsamic Vinegar of Modena producer with tastings - Private Guided tour of Museo Ferrari in Maranello
- Day 4: 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an Authorised Art Historian Guide - Customised Perfume Experience at a Perfume Atelier in Florence city centre
- Day 5: Full-day excursion to Siena and San Gimignano - 2-hour private walking tour of Siena city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide - Drop off at your accommodation in Val d'Orcia area
- Day 6: Full-day excursion to Val d'Orcia area - 3-hour private walking tour of Montepulciano city centre with a Sommelier Guide, with tastings of Vino Nobile, Pecorino cheese and truffle - Visit of a Supertuscan Brunello di Montalcino wine cellar with tastings
- Day 7: 3-hour private walking tour of the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological Area with an Authorised Archeological Guide
- Day 8: 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel with an Authorised Art Historian Guide –Roman Cooking class at a Home Restaurant
- Day 8: Visit of a Costa d'Amalfi Wine Cellar with tastings
- Day 9: Full-day excursion of the Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Ravello, Positano
- Day 10: 2-hour private walking tour of Pompeii Archeological Area with an Authorised Archaeological Guide

(\*\*\*) All tours by private Luxury Sedan (2 pax ) / Minivan (3 to 6 pax) / Minibus (7 to 14 pax)

- **Admission Tickets to:**
  - Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice
  - Palazzo Ducale in Venice
  - Museo Ferrari in Maranello
  - Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence
  - Duomo Cathedral in Siena
  - Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological Area with access to the Arena and the Underground (*if available*) in Rome
  - Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel in Rome
  - Pompei Archeological Area
- **Meals**
  - Dinner at a selected restaurant in Venice with VITOR Founder and CEO
  - Dinner at a selected restaurant in Florence
  - Farewell dinner at a Michelin-starred Restaurant in Naples
- **Other**
  - Meet and Greet at Venice Airport
- **Full emergency assistance 24 hours/day by our Back Office**
- **List of recommended restaurants along the itinerary**
- **All taxes**

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All transfers and other services not specifically mentioned in the above program
- Meals, wine and beverages
- Porterage fees at every accommodation
- Camera or Video fees
- Tipping for local guides and drivers
- Laundry, telephone calls and other expenditures of personal nature
- Travel / Vacation insurance

## OPTIONS

- Pick up at Venice VCE Airport or Venice Railway Station
- Accommodation in Venice the night before the start of the tour
- Drop off at Naples Airport or Naples Railway Station
- Other activities upon request



## TOUR MAIN FEATURES

### VENICE

Benvenuti in Italia, welcome to the “unique” Venice, the “city on the lagoon”!

You will be astonished by its beauty and charm!

You will start your visit with **Piazza San Marco** (St. Mark’s Square) and the Basilica interior, a 900-year-old marvel of architecture! The church is unique in Italy for its golden Byzantine and Medieval mosaics, intricate stone and marble trceries and exuberant Middle Eastern domes. Near St. Mark’s Basilica is **Palazzo Ducale**, the most impressive secular



building in Venice and once the official residence of the supreme authority of Venice, the “Doge”. A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, the Doge’s Palace is an impressive structure composed of layers of building elements and ornamentation, from its 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>-century original foundations to the significant Renaissance and opulent Mannerist adjunctions.

Then, you may visit **Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari** (Saint Mary’s of Friars), striking for its colossal size and the quality of its works of art, including masterpieces by Titian, Giovanni Bellini and Donatello, and several splendid tombs. Also, you may explore the streets and savour everyday life in

an intricate maze of ancient narrow alleyways, lively squares with magnificent buildings and meandering canals, and finally, walk on the Rialto Bridge, Venice’s busy “heart”. Last but not least, you will enjoy a Gondola ride on the city’s canals: a jump back in time when Venetians moved only on the water.

At lunch, you may savour Venice’s finger food, the famous “cicheti”. There is tremendous variety, and options include anything from simple cheese or salami to almost any kind of seafood, fried and grilled vegetables, sweet and sour sardines, creamy codfish and much more!

Beyond the touristy path, we’ll take you at the discovery of the most authentic soul of Venice. Here you are at a “Squero”, the typical Venetian shipyard; here, you will learn how the Venetian “Maestri D’Ascia” build Gondolas, the famous Venetian boat, entirely by hand, respecting ancient traditional techniques and using eight different qualities of wood.

Rich in traditions, Venice offers a wide selection of unique artisan products. In the city of the Italian carnival, the typical Venetian masks are a must. The cost of the original ones is relatively high, but it is really worth it! Also, don’t miss an authentic Murano glass object: each product is made and painted by hand, but be sure you buy an original product from Murano, guaranteed by a label or a signature (and the seller), not a Chinese copy!

Finally, at dinner, you will be delighted by the flavours of the regional cuisine of Veneto, boasting delicious recipes such as “Sarde in saor” (marinated sardines), Risotto with seafood, or the typical “Baccala’ mantecato” to finish with a fantastic “Bussolà”, the ring-shaped and cinnamon-flavoured cake! (read more about Venetian cuisine in our [BLOG](#)).

## MODENA AND THE MOTOR VALLEY

Modena is renowned worldwide for the famous people - Enzo Ferrari and Luciano Pavarotti above all - who were born and lived here, and for some of its gastronomical products. The city is the capital of the so-called “Motor Valley”: actually, the factories of the famous Italian sports car makers Ferrari, De Tomaso, Lamborghini and Maserati are located here.

In Maranello, you will visit **Museo Ferrari**, not just a collection of the past but an extraordinary experience of the world of Ferrari and sports car racing! How exciting to see the most beautiful cars in the world, exceptional artworks made by modern mechanic artisan masters.

Afterwards, you will move to the estate of a **Balsamic Vinegar of Modena** Producer, to delight in the unique, enticing taste of traditional balsamic vinegar. Balsamic Vinegar of Modena is obtained from partially fermented, cooked and concentrated grape must. The grapes come exclusively from the area's vines, and the most critical processing phase is refinement inside containers of fine wood, such as oak, chestnut, oak, mulberry and juniper. Want to know more about this unique delicacy? Read the [article](#) in our **BLOG**.



## FLORENCE

Welcome to Florence, the land of Giotto and Dante!

Despite its international fame and greatness, Florence is also a small city whose history has been interwoven with that of its passionate citizens for more than one thousand years

In Piazza Duomo, you will be astonished by the **Duomo** with the incredible Brunelleschi's dome, a masterpiece of art and architecture whose building techniques are still covered by a veil of mystery. Beside it, Giotto's Campanile (Belltower) and the Baptistery, one of the oldest buildings in the city, with its famous bronze doors made by no and Ghiberti in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Piazza della Signoria, you will walk in the middle of bronze and marble masterpieces by Giambologna and Cellini inside the marvellous **Loggia dei Lanzi**, and will admire the imposing **Palazzo Vecchio**, one of the symbols of Florence and still the seat of government of the city. You may also spare some time to relax, visiting a typical market for shopping, strolling through the city's pedestrian streets, and crossing the oldest bridge in Florence, "**Ponte Vecchio**" (Old Bridge), rich in jewellery shops.

Your itinerary will include **Galleria dell'Accademia**, hosting Michelangelo's David, the most famous sculpture in the world. The David was uncovered and shown to the Florentines on September 8, 1504, and with its height of 4 meters, the impeccable physical features and the political significance that the iconography of David had taken over the

previous century left the Florentines of the time speechless and has done the same ever since with visitors from all over the world.



Florence boasts an important, ancient and deep-rooted art of perfumery, deriving from the customs of the Renaissance court and nobility. In the 16th century, Caterina de' Medici, the wife of the King of France Henry 2nd, gave further impulse to the Florentine perfume industry, leading Florence to earn the nickname of "**Capital of perfume**", increasingly specialized in research and experimentation. At a professional Perfume Laboratory, "il Maestro Profumiere" (the Master Profumoir), starting from a set of 198 notes declined in bases,

primary notes and carefully selected raw materials, will lead you along an educational path of self-discovery through a wide selection of scents, to create your exclusive, personal fragrance.

Florence is also the main Italian centre for the production of **high-quality leather goods**. Florentine artisans are so famous that many fashion brands have opened factories in the city or close to it due to their high skill and the continuous inspiration designers take from the town's masterpieces. The area around Piazza Santa Croce, in particular, hosts numerous leather shops and workshops.

Thanks to the tradition of Tuscan tanneries, there is no better place to find **shoes for all tastes** than Florence: from the creations, designed and produced by hand by skilled craftsmen, to the extensive collections available in stores, renewed every season. Above all, Ferragamo (also worth seeing the museum), Gucci and Prada for refinement and elegance. If you prefer a simpler style, many shops specialise in handmade shoes and sandals across the river Arno.

At lunch, you may enjoy "**Panino con Lampredotto**" in a typical Florentine market. At dinner, taste the simple yet unforgettable recipes of the Tuscan tradition, such as "**Crostini**", "**Panzanella**", and "**Peposo**". And remember, Florence is the home of "**Fiorentina**" steak! In case you are a vegetarian, don't worry: Tuscan cuisine offers tasty alternatives like "**Pappa al Pomodoro**" or "**Ribollita**" (read the article in our BLOG to know more about Tuscan Cuisine).



## SIENA AND SAN GIMIGNANO

In Siena, the city of the Palio, you will walk on the famous **Piazza del Campo**, the concave square where horses run twice a year in a dangerous race that symbolizes the city's freedom. On the days of the Palio, the whole town goes crazy; read about it in our [BLOG](#).

Indeed, you will not forget the colour of frontages and roofs, the renowned colour "**Sienna**", a pigment first produced during the Renaissance, that makes the city lovely and warm. And don't forget to taste the **Senese sweets**: "*cantucci*" (biscuits with toasted almonds), "*ricciarelli*" (soft biscuits with icing sugar), "*panforte*" (cake with fruit nuts and spices) and "*cavallucci*" (biscuits with honey, walnut, candied fruits and spices. Travellers who love dessert will be delighted!

In the afternoon, you will stroll with your head upwards along the streets of one of the most beautiful cities in Tuscany, **San Gimignano**, also known as the "Medieval Manhattan", thanks to its old and impressive 14 towers that dominate the town skyline. Originally the towers were 72, built by patrician families probably to demonstrate their wealth and power. Seven of San Gimignano's towers are around Piazza del Duomo; the tallest one is **Torre Grossa**, 54 meters high, dating back to 1298.



## VAL D'ORCIA

Val d'Orcia is one of the most fascinating places in Italy, included by UNESCO in the list of World Heritage Sites. Its landscape is a part of the agricultural hinterland of Siena, redrawn and developed when it was integrated into the city-state's territory in the 14th and 15th centuries to reflect an idealized model of good governance and create an aesthetically pleasing picture. The landscape's distinctive aesthetics, flat chalk plains with almost conical hills and

fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Their images have come to exemplify the beauty of well-managed Renaissance agricultural landscapes.



In **Montepulciano**, our friend Francesca will lead you to discover this beautiful town full of stories, legends and thousand flavours, introducing you to the excellent products of this unique land: olive oil, pecorino cheese and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.

Then, you will get to **Montalcino**, one of the prettiest hill towns in Tuscany. Around the village, rows of olive trees, precious grapevines and yellow fields create an enchanting landscape. Here you may visit a Brunello winery to taste the most famous Supertuscan wine, probably the best Italian red!

Here you are in Rome, where ancient history, excellent art and religious icons mix uniquely! Start from the 2,000-year-old **Colosseum**, the most famous amphitheatre in the world, and the Imperial Fora, the administrative and monumental centre of the Roman Empire. On the Palatine Hill, the majestic ruins of the Palaces of Augusto, Tiberius and Domiziano still dominate the **Circus Maximus** valley, 50-meter-high structures giving a unique view of the city.

Close to the Colosseum, inside the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, you may see the famous Michelangelo sculpture of "Moses". Supposedly, Michelangelo, admiring his *Moses*, enraptured by the so realistic shapes of the imposing statue, was struck by a violent outburst of anger and exclaimed the famous phrase "Perchè non parli?" (Why don't you speak!?)

From Piazza Venezia, you will head inside "Baroque" Rome, starting with the **Pantheon**, dedicated to worshipping every god (Pan-every Theon-divinity), now the memorial chapel of great Italian people of the past. After that, don't miss the Church of St. Louis of the French, famous for the cycle of paintings of the great Caravaggio at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Then **Piazza Navona**, the splendid oval area corresponding to the underground Domitianus' Stadium, with the gorgeous Fountain of the Four Rivers by Lorenzo Bernini in the centre of the Piazza. And finally, **Fontana di Trevi**, the city's biggest and most famous fountain, a Rome icon renowned worldwide: here, statues of travertine marble stand over the cliff and the broad basin in an epic representation of the Kingdom of the Oceans.



At the end of the day, sit down at a local "**trattoria**" or "**fiaschetteria**", the typical home-style restaurant, to taste authentic Roman cuisine in a popular and cheerful atmosphere (for an overview of Roman cuisine, see our [BLOG](#)).

## VATICAN CITY

On the other side of River Tevere, Vatican Hill is the home of the tiny state of Vatican City. The immense St. Peter's Basilica dominates the extraordinary Piazza framed by the magnificent four-column-deep colonnades designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The Basilica is an extraordinary casket for some of the world's most beautiful works of art, such as Michelangelo's "La Pietà" and Bernini's "Baldacchino", along with works of the most important artists of the Renaissance, from Raphael to Canova.

Inside the Vatican Museums, you will be astonished by the exquisite and unique **Sistine Chapel**, the "Sancta Sanctorum" ("Holy among the Holiest" in Latin) of the Roman Catholic Church, where cardinals gather to elect the new Pope! The



Sistine Chapel takes its name from Pope Sixtus IV della Rovere (pontiff from 1471 to 1484), who had the old Cappella Magna restored between 1477 and 1480. The decoration of the walls was executed by a team of painters, Pietro Perugino, Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Cosimo Rosselli, assisted by their respective shops.

Julius II della Rovere (pontiff from 1503 to 1513), the nephew of Sixtus IV, decided to partly alter the decoration, entrusting the work in 1508 to Michelangelo Buonarroti, who painted the Ceiling and, on the upper part of the walls, the lunettes. The nine central panels show the Stories of Genesis, from the Creation to the Fall of Man, to

the Flood and the subsequent rebirth of humanity with the family of Noah. Again, towards the end of 1533, Clement VII de' Medici (pontiff from 1523 to 1534) asked Michelangelo to paint the Last Judgement on the altar wall. How could he refuse? And, in fact, he did not, but painted his vision of the Judgement, with a powerful and furious Jesus Christ.



## THE AMALFI COAST

Welcome to the Amalfi Coast!

Costiera Amalfitana is Italy's most scenic stretch of coastline, a landscape of pastel-coloured villages terraced into hillsides, steep panoramic roads, luxuriant gardens and enchanting vistas over turquoise waters and green mountains. Considered by UNESCO "an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape, with exceptional cultural and natural scenic values," the coast has been a World Heritage Site since 1997. You may go from town to town at the discovery of Amalfi, Positano, and Ravello, three of the most beautiful villages in Southern Italy, world-famous for their charm and colourful architecture.

**Amalfi** typically has Mediterranean architecture with lanes and characteristic white houses piled one upon the other. In the Middle Ages, it was one of Italy's four powerful maritime republics (with Venice, Pisa, and Genoa). All sea trade in the Mediterranean was once governed by the 12<sup>th</sup> century "Tavole Amalfitane", one of the world's oldest maritime codes. A must-see in Amalfi is the Duomo di Sant'Andrea, fronted by an intricately patterned façade, redone in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Cathedral's subsequent alterations have spared its principal



glory, the main portal's 11<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantine bronze doors. Next to the church lies the Chiostro del Paradiso (1268), or Cloister of Paradise, whose serious Romanesque tone is animated by the Arab elements in its sinuous columns. To escape the bustle of Amalfi, let's take the famous walk along the "Valle dei Mulini", a steep-sided valley dotted with ruined watermills – "i mulini" - once used to make paper, an industry for which Amalfi was, and still is, famous.

**Positano** sits in a splendid panoramic position on one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline. Its enchanting town centre of delightful pastel-coloured houses surrounds the parish church of Santa Maria Assunta; its streets are lined with quaint, colourful shops, and its numerous beaches are world-famous.

**Ravello** is more elevated than the other pearls of the Amalfi Coast, boasting exceptional views of the coast and its marvellous villas and gardens. French novelist André Gide said they are "closer to the sky than the sea". Here you may visit Villa Rufolo, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which hosted popes and kings, and Richard Wagner, who composed part of his opera Parsifal here in 1880. Views from its idyllic gardens are magnificent!

A trip to **Cetara** is an absolute must. The village is renowned for a particular gourmet speciality, "colatura di acciughe" (anchovy sauce), produced according to an ancient procedure for generations. Spaghetti with colatura di alici is the area's typical recipe, a dish you will remember forever. Discover the secrets of the liquid gold of the Coast in the [article](#) in our BLOG.

The cultivation of vines and the production of wine on the Amalfi Coast dates back to ancient times, even before the Roman Empire. For centuries, the vineyards were arranged on terraces following the course of the underlying rock. In ancient times, the vines were planted on the "macère", i.e. the retaining walls, to optimize the cultivable space, intended for seasonal fruit and vegetables; later, they were arranged in rows. The most famous and renowned wines are produced on the slopes of Tramonti, Ravello and Furore, under the DOC "**Costa d'Amalfi**" appellation. Here, you will visit a local winery, where you will taste some of the most renowned wines produced by this "heroic" viticulture: the white "*Ravello Bianco*" and "*Furore Bianco*", the red "*Costa d'Amalfi Rosso*" and the renowned "*E'Iss*".

At dinner, don't miss Spaghetti with clams in olive oil and garlic sauce, or Seafood Risotto, with a glass of excellent Greco di Tufo white wine.

## POMPEII

Pompeii, the Roman city excavated from the ashes of Vesuvius, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997!

In 62 AD, the city was partially destroyed by an earthquake. As its reconstruction was still ongoing, on August 24, 79 AD, the eruption of Vesuvius covered the city and its suburban villas with a thick layer of stones, ashes and lapilli (thick, glassy lava). On the other hand, Herculaneum disappeared beneath a flood of volcanic mud.



The ruins of the ancient Roman cities offer an unparalleled window into the quotidian life of classical antiquity. Here you can understand how the Romans of the 1st century AD lived: from brothels and lavatories to posh dining rooms and bathing establishments, including modern spas, health clubs and gyms. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroyed the town in 79 AD, and the debris ejected by the volcano covered more than 3,000 people from the volcano.

Due to its healthy climate and pleasant scenery, Pompeii was a holiday resort for wealthy Romans. It is now famous for its civic buildings lining the streets, which are still intact today. The **Surgeon's House**, the House of the Faun and the

House of Chaste Lovers are exceptional examples of the epoch's architecture. Another unique building is the **House of Mysteries**, deriving its name from the murals depicting the Dionysian cult's initiation rites (i.e., the mysteries).

A peculiar characteristic of Pompeii is the florid graffiti covering the walls in just about every building; when the volcanic eruption happened, Pompeii was set to carry out elections in the days ahead – hence the writings and ideograms, which feature both political and sexual content.

The tour is over, but the memories of a fantastic journey will accompany you for a lifetime!

See more about your destinations on our website at <https://vitoritalytours.com/video.html>

Arrivederci for another tour with **VITOR, Visit Italy on the Road**.

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when you dream it,  
when you live it,  
and when you remember it

*Ciao da Vitor*



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VITOR s.r.l. - Via A. Moro 16 - 25124 Brescia - Italy  
Tel +39 030 2055874 - [info@vitor.it](mailto:info@vitor.it)