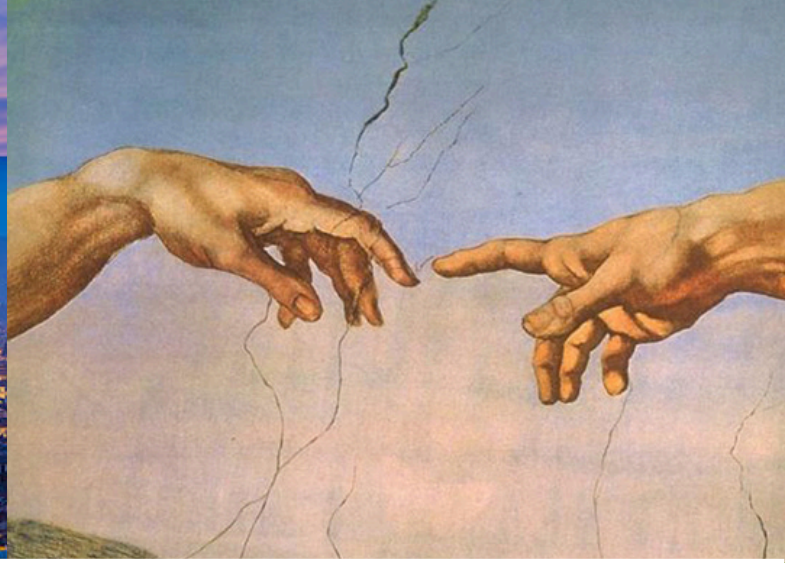


VITORITALY®
Italy with Italians

BERNINI TOUR

Rome, Pompei, the Amalfi Coast & Naples in 5 days

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

From Rome, the Eternal City, to petrified yet alive Pompei and the coast of Amalfi, magically suspended between the sky and the sea, and finally lively Naples.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Rome, walking in the shade of history
- Vatican City, Popes and power
- Castelli Romani, where Romans enjoy life
- Pompeii, the Roman city fixed in lava
- The Amalfi Coast, where divas are at home

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM
Day 1 **Rome**	- 3-hour private walking tour of Imperial Rome with an Authorised Tourist Guide - Admission to the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological Area - Free time in Rome – **Optional 3-hour private tour of Rome city centre with an Electric Golf Cart** *Overnight in Rome city centre*
Day 2 **Vatican City & Castelli Romani**	- 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums with an Authorised Tourist Guide - Admission to Vatican Museums with the Sistine Chapel – **Optional Admission to Saint Peter's Basilica** - Transfer to your accommodation in Castelli Romani area - Visit of a Frascati wine cellar with tastings *Overnight in Castelli Romani area*
Day 3 **Pompei**	- Transfer to your accommodation on the Amalfi Coast – Stopover in Pompei - 2-hour private walking tour of Pompei Archeological Area with an Authorised Tourist Guide *Overnight on the Amalfi Coast*
Day 4 **Amalfi Coast**	- Full-day excursion on the Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Positano and Ravello – Free time *Overnight on the Amalfi Coast*
Day 5 **Amalfi Coast**	- Visit to a lemon orchard with tastings and lemon-based lunch in Amalfi - Transfer to your accommodation in Naples *Overnight in Naples city centre*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Accommodations at 3* to 5* Hotels, Country Houses and Historical Palaces (when available), City Apartments**:
  - Day 1 in Rome city centre
  - Day 2 in Castelli Romani area
  - Days 3 & 4 on the Amalfi Coast
  - Day 5 in Naples city centre
- **Transfers (*)**:
  - Day 2: Transfer to your accommodation in the Castelli Romani area
  - Day 3: Transfer to your accommodation on the Amalfi Coast – Stopover in Pompei
  - Day 5: Transfer to your accommodation in Naples

(*) All transfers by private car/minivan/minibus

- **Private Guided Visits / Tours (**) / Activities**:
  - Day 1: 3-hour private walking tour of Imperial Rome with an Authorised Tourist Guide
  - Day 2: 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums with an Authorised Tourist Guide - Visit of a Frascati wine cellar with tastings
  - Day 3: 2-hour private walking tour of Pompei Archeological Area with an Authorised Tourist Guide
  - Day 4: Full-day excursion on the Amalfi Coast: Amalfi, Positano and Ravello
  - Day 5: Lemon experience with lunch in AmalfiVisit to a lemon orchard with tastings and lemon-based lunch in Amalfi

(**) All tours by private car/minivan/minibus

- **Admission Tickets to**:
  - Colosseum and Imperial Fora in Rome
  - Vatican Museums with the Sistine Chapel in Rome
  - Pompei Archeological Area
- **Full emergency assistance 24 hours/day by our Back Office**
- **List of recommended restaurants and deli shops 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 a personal nature
- Travel / Vacation insurance

CUSTOMIZATIONS & OPTIONS

- Pick up at Rome Airport /Railway Station on the day before the start of the tour
- Accommodation in Rome the night before the start of the tour
- 3-hour private tour of Rome city centre with an Electric Golf Cart
- Admission to Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome
- Drop off at Naples Airport /Railway Station at the end of the tour
- Other options upon request

TOUR MAIN FEATURES

ROME

Benvenuti in Italia, welcome to Rome!

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 16th 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.

Your itinerary may also include the magnificent **Villa Borghese**. Built at the beginning of the 17th century, it houses the Borghese Gallery Museum, a collection of sculptures, bas-reliefs, ancient mosaics, and paintings and sculptures from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Among the masterpieces in the collection are works by Caravaggio, Raphael, Titian, Correggio, Antonello da Messina, Giovanni Bellini and sculptures by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Canova.

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

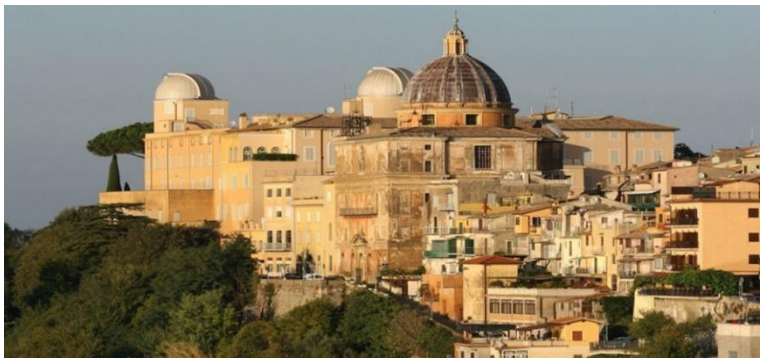
On the other side of River Tevere, Vatican Hill is the home of the tiny state of Vatican City. The immense **St. Peter's Basilica** dominates the extraordinary Piazza framed by the magnificent four-column-deep colonnades designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The Basilica is an extraordinary casket for some 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 restored the old Cappella Magna 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.

CASTELLI ROMANI

The area south of Rome is known as "Castelli Romani" (Roman Castles). The entire area originated from a series of volcanic eruptions that shook an original crater, creating some lakes. The area, a traditional destination for the out-of-town excursions of the Romans, is dotted with several pretty hill towns famous for their ancient history and highly regarded wine: **Castelgandolfo**, the summer residence of the pope, **Rocca di Papa** and **Grottaferrata**, known for their culture and gastronomic delicacies, **Frascati**, famous for its breathtaking views and its sweet and refreshing white wine named after the city, are only some of them.



POMPEI

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 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 12th 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 19th century. Founded in the 9th century, the Cathedral's subsequent alterations have spared its principal glory, the main portal's 11th-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. Here, you will visit Salvatore's lemon orchard, the biggest farm in Amalfi: Salvatore will introduce you to all the secrets of **lemons and limoncello**, and at the end of the visit, you'll sit down and enjoy a tasty lemon-based lunch.

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 13th 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.

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.

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

See more about your destinations on our YouTube channel.

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

You experience every journey three times:
when you dream it,
when you live it,
and when you remember it

Ciao da Vitor

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