



# PRE-CRUISE LAND PROGRAM - ROME, ITALY

(3 Complimentary Options to Choose From)

Option 1: Best of Rome - The Marquee Attractions | 3 Days/2 Nights

Option 2: The Wine Aficionado's Tour of Tuscany's Finest Wineries | 3 Days/2 Nights

Option 3: The Many Facets of Lake Como (boating, hiking, canyoning) | 4 Days/3 Nights

#### Truly destination-immersive and all-inclusive:

- Deluxe accommodation
- All Transfers are included
- Most meals and beverages
- All tours and entrance fees to sites
- Gratuities for the guides and drivers
- Dedicated Tour Manager who will be with you for the entire Program

# **Option 1:**

**Best of Rome - The Marquee Attractions** 

**Duration: 3 Days / 2 nights** 

Meals: Yes

Start your holiday early with a pre-cruise program that allows you to see and experience the best of Rome's iconic attractions.

### <u>Day 1</u>

After your flight touches down at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to The Regency Marriott Tribute Hotel or similar. After check-in, the remainder of the day is at your leisure and dinner this night is in the hotel.

Day 2

Following breakfast in the hotel, meet your guide in the lobby and commence your full-day VIP tour of Rome. Begin with a Behind-the-Scenes tour of the Vatican that starts with exclusive VIP access to a limited area – The Vatican City Gardens. The gardens are spread over nearly 57 acres and contain a variety of medieval fortifications and monuments set amongst vibrant flower beds, green lawns, topiary and patches of forest. You will also see the Pope Emerito House, the Vatican Radio Station, the Academy of Science and be able to view St. Peter's Basilica from the back (a unique position to see the Cupola) and also see the Sistine Chapel.

Continue on with interior visits to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel with its world-famous works of art and Michelangelo's fresco 'The Creation of Adam.' Step inside St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world where many fine pieces of art and mosaics are on display including Michelangelo's "Pieta" and the beautifully carved Bernini Pulpit.

After a pizza tasting lunch at a local restaurant, continue your guided tour with a stop at the Roman Forum and a VIP visit at the Roman Coliseum that brings you from the Emperor's door directly to the arena floor. Following your time at the Coliseum, stop at the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps before returning to the hotel where you will have dinner and then the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

### **Day 3**

Following breakfast in the hotel, meet your driver in the lobby for your transfer to Civitavecchia where you will board the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes moderate physical activity that includes steps, inclines, natural and cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not considered suitable for wheelchair guests and those with other physical limitations or health concerns should carefully evaluate their personal abilities. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes with a closed toe that can get wet, a sun cap, sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

# **Option 2:**

The Wine Aficionado's Tour of Tuscany's Finest Wineries

**Duration: 3 Days / 2 nights** 

Meals: Yes

Geared toward wine lovers, this tour allows you to have an early start to your time in Italy as you visit four of the best wineries in the region.

### <u>Day 1</u>

After arriving in Rome, you will be greeted at the airport and transfer to your luxury hotel for check-in. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore the city on your own and then have dinner in the hotel.

#### Day 2

Following breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the train station and travel to Florence via fast-train. On arrival, drive by private car to your first winery for the day, Capezzana winery, another excellent family-owned winery that has been producing wine here for centuries. One of the oldest in the region, it also is the largest wine producer here. The winery's name list of past ownership reads like a who's who, with names such as Medici, Bonaccorsi, Bourbon, Cantucci and Rothschild. Since 1920 when it was purchased by Conte Alessandro Contini Bonacossi, it has been operated by successive generations of his family. Wine varieties produced here include Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Canaiolo, Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay, Trebbiano and San Colombano. The elegant estate, which is worth a visit itself, is also a notable producer of olive oil.

Following your winery visits, drive to Badia a Coltibuono and check-in to your accommodations for the night, where you will have dinner and then the rest of the evening at your leisure.

## <u>Day 3</u>

After an early breakfast, check-out and start your exploration of two more outstanding wineries in the region, which include Badia a Coltibuono where you have just spent the night, and the Avignonesi Winery.

Located on the hillside of Monti del Chianti, outstanding Badia a Coltibuono has belonged to the Stucchi Prinetti family since 1846. Considered the pioneers of Chianti, the family has successfully nurtured their grapes over the years and produce a number of notable wines, including excellent Sangiovese varietals and of course, Chianti. They are also known for producing olive oil. The villa that was once a monastery, is open to guests and is a popular destination for those on holiday.

Your final winery visit is to Avignonesi Winery, the leading winery in the Montepulciano area of Tuscany. The winery was founded in 1974 and purchased in 2009 by Virginie Saverys who made significant changes, namely working to convert the property to organic and biodynamic viticulture and it received its organic certification in 2015.

Varieties produced here include a Vino Nobile that is 100% Sangiovese, a Merlot blend, a Chardonnay and most recently, a blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon.

When your tour concludes, transfer directly to the ship in Civitavecchia for embarkation.

Special Note: The activities on this tour includes a significant amount of walking/standing and some steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with other physical limitations. Participants under the age of 18 years old will not be permitted to take part in the wine tastings. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

# **Option 3:**

The Many Facets of Lake Como (boating, hiking, canyoning)

**Duration: 4 Days / 3 nights** 

Meals: Most

Get an early start to your holiday by spending a few days at fabled Lake Como. Nestled in the foothills of the Italian Alps, Italy's third largest lake has gained a reputation as a retreat for the rich and famous, but it is so much more than that as you will discover.

# <u>Day 1</u>

Upon arrival at the airport in Rome, be greeted by our representative and transfer to your luxury hotel for check-in. The balance of the day is at your leisure and enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening.

# Day 2

Following an early breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the train station and travel via fast-train to Milan's Central Railway Station. Upon arrival, it's a picturesque 90-minute drive by private vehicle to Lake Como. The beautiful passing scenery is just a hint at what awaits you. Arriving in the charming town of Bellagio, check-in to your hotel, have lunch, and later in the afternoon, enjoy a relaxing boat ride around the lake. Palatial homes rim the shores of this sapphire blue lake and majestic mountains form a dramatic backdrop. It's easy to see why it attracts so many to either visit or make this their vacation home.

Following your boat ride, enjoy dinner at the hotel and then have the rest of the evening at leisure.

### <u>Day 3</u>

It's an early start to the day and after breakfast at the hotel, drive the short distance to Lenno where you will enjoy a morning hike to Villa Balbianello. It's approximately 2-miles of moderate hiking to reach this stunning villa that is perched on the tip of a headland that reaches out into the lake. From its wonderful terraced gardens, you are treated to stunning views across the lake, from Isola Comacina to the western shores.

After lunch, you will have the choice of spending the afternoon exploring the exquisite town of Bellagio on your own or going canyoning in Lenno Canyon. The canyoning will offer up the physical challenges of climbing, rappelling, sliding down water cascades and dependent on water levels, short swims in the refreshing mountain waters. Either choice is sure to enhance your visit.

On this final evening in Lake Como, enjoy dinner at the hotel and spend the remainder of your last night as you wish.

#### Day 4

Start the day with breakfast in the hotel and after checking-out, travel by private vehicle to the Milan train station to catch the fast-train to Rome where upon arrival, you will be transferred to the ship in Civitavecchia for embarkation.

Special Note: This tour includes a mixture of moderate to strenuous physical activity that can include steep inclines, natural and uneven surfaces. Some of the activities such as hiking and canyoning are not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns such as heart, respiratory, back or neck issues or pregnant women, and may not be suitable for those with a fear of heights. Guests participating in those activities should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. All safety equipment will be provided where needed. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in some activities. Dependent upon weather conditions in Lenno Canyon, the canyoning activity may be substituted for a Via Ferrata experience around the lake.