

FALL 2023 RIDER UNIVERSITY TRIP OUTLINE: NORTHERN ITALY: SEPT 2023 - 12 NIGHTS

24 TRAVELERS

-Depart US 19 SEPT

-Arrive VCE (Venice, Italy) 20 SEPT in the AM

MILAN & LAKE COMO: 3 NIGHTS, 20-23 SEPT

-On arrival at MXP airport you will meet your private driver and escort who will assist you to a waiting vehicle for the ride into Milano center with the Duomo, Galleria and all the most important sights, boutiques, best food and shops all around you

MILAN ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Spadari al Duomo: 4-star

This is an excellent property located right in the heart near the duomo (two blocks) with great style and décor and an elegance other options in this range do not have and the ideal location.

TWELVE- STANDARD/CLASSIC ROOMS, 215SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://www.spadarihotel.com/en/hotel-milan-city-centre/1-0.html>

THINGS TO SEE AND DO ON THE LAKE

DAY ONE-

*Today a chance to check in and refresh, then...

-**Private Milan Tour:** my native Milanese guide will collect you at the hotel to explore the best of Milan including the Duomo, Galleria, historical center and skip line entrance to the Last Supper –half day seeing the city's best features and local culture – a great start

DAY TWO-

*Today we head outside the city for a...

-**Private Lake Como Day:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for the ride north to Lake Como where your native guides will take you to the traditional market in Como town for authentic local products and goods with no modern or tourist aspects – then north again to the beautiful town of Bellagio which sits on the tip of a peninsula jutting out into the lake with views on all sides. Here you will have some tastings of local foods, and a walk through the old town – independent time to enjoy a bit before departing for a ride along the coast road to view some of the most beautiful lakeside villas in the region. Return to Milan at conclusion

DAY THREE-

*Today as your last day I thought the group might really enjoy a chance to shop the high end Italian brands at discount so I will arrange...

-**Private Day Trip to the Asti/Barolo region.** You will be collected in the AM by your private driver and taken to two vineyards for tastings, lunch and a bit of exploration in what is one of Italy's great wine regions and the heart of Piemonte. A return to Milan at conclusion

-This evening a farewell dinner as requested

>All the local insight and guidance you wish from food to wandering to independent time as always – there is great

DEPART MILAN BY PRIVATE LUXURY VEHICLE TO BOLOGNA (2.5 HOURS) – EN ROUTE I WILL HAVE YOUR DRIVER STOP IN THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF CREMONA – WHICH IS THE HOME OF STRADIVARIUS, HIS INSTRUMENTS AND THE GREATEST VIOLINMAKERS IN THE WORLD. I WILL ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE VIOLINMAKER SCHOOL AND THE VIOLIN MUSEUM TO SEE HOW THE INSTRUMENTS ARE MADE AND THE PRICELESS STRADIVARIUS THEMSELVES. A LOCAL LUNCH, THEN ON TO BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA & EMILIA-ROMAGNA: 3 NIGHTS, 23-26 SEPT

-Arrive afternoon

BOLOGNA ACCOMMODATIONS

-Hotel Corona d' Oro: 4-star

Another standout deluxe property on a great block in the medieval quarter of the city with period décor and styling and a great overall experience.

TWELVE CLASSIC AND DELUXE ROOMS, 225-300SQFT, CITY VIEW, BREAKFAST DAILY

<http://www.hco.it/>

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION

DAY ONE-

*With your stop en route and a late morning departure from Milan I will leave today open for settle-in time and some independent wandering. In the evening I will arrange a dinner for the group at a wonderful Bolognese restaurant in the old center

DAY TWO-

*Today we focus on the city with its wonderful food culture, beautiful squares and artistic heritage and local ways – very different from the rest of Italy...

-Private Medieval Center and Tastings Walk: you will be collected at the hotel by your native guides for an exploration of the central market, merchants and producers where you will sample local products like cheeses, cured meats, oil, and vinegars with a local food expert for an entry into the local food culture. You will also explore the old town center for its medieval architecture from the Basilica to the Due Torri to the main square to get oriented in the city – extended tour with an organized lunch during the day

DAY THREE-

*Today we head out to the Emilia-Romagna region for its small towns and world class ingredients which are such a huge part of Italian cuisine around the world...

-Private Emilia-Romagna Day Trip: you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for the ride north into the Emilia-Romagna where you will visit local producers. You will sample prosciutto, balsamico di Modena, cheeses from Parma and all the regional products with the producers who make them. A very nice day spent in beautiful places tasting great local foods with a return to Bologna at conclusion
>All the local insight and guidance you wish to explore the town, see the best of Bologna, shop, great food spots...I am leaving one day open here for independent time – it is a great city to visit small churches and galleries, sample Italian food that is unique to the region and experience a less visited part of the country

DEPART BOLOGNA BY PRIVATE VEHICLE TO THE CINQUE TERRE (3 HOURS OR SO)

CINQUE TERRE/PORTOFINO: 3 NIGHTS, 26-29 SEPT

-Arrive afternoon

SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE ACCOMMODATIONS

-LHP Santa Margherita Palace & Spa: 5-star

This is a modern design luxury property set right in the town of Santa Margherita with spa, restaurant, and easy access to all.

TWELVE- SUPERIOR ROOMS, 250SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://www.santamargheritapalace.com/>

THINGS TO SEE AND DO ON THE COAST

DAY ONE-

*Today with your travel from Bologna I will leave the afternoon open for check in, relax, and independent exploration of the town and nearby Rapallo and the waterfront

-This evening time on the water with a **sunset cruise** for the group from Santa Margherita along the Rapallo and Portofino coast

DAY TWO-

-Cinque Terre Private Tour: you will travel from Santa Margherita south to the Cinque Terre towns by direct coastal rail where you will meet your expert local guides on arrival. You will then explore the five towns (Monterosso, Vernazza, Riomaggiore, Manarola and Corniglia) using the walking paths, local rail and boats between. A very local and authentic experience in a corner of Italy that remains unchanged for centuries. Return to Santa Margherita at conclusion

DAY THREE-

-Portofino Visit: you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for an exploration of one of the most famous Italian seaside towns. It is a very beautiful spot at the tip of the peninsula with a bay and waterfront made famous in countless postcards and paintings. Here your guide will introduce you to the town and the most important sights, the local culture and hidden spots – then provide free time for you to wander, have lunch, enjoy the sea and the setting. A return to Santa Margherita in the afternoon

-This evening a farewell dinner for those returning home

>*All the local insight you wish, food, restaurants, beaches...*

DEPART SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE BY PRIVATE VEHICLE TO FLORENCE (2 HOURS+)

FLORENCE & TUSCANY: 3 NIGHTS, 29 SEPT-2 OCT

-Arrive midday

FLORENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

-Hotel Laurus al Duomo: 4-star

This is an excellent deluxe property located about two blocks from the Duomo in the historic center. It has comfortable accommodations, and views of the Duomo in some rooms and the breakfast area terrace.

TWELVE- CLASSIC ROOMS, 215SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<http://www.florencehotellaurusalduomo.com/en/>

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE TUSCANY REGION

DAY ONE-

*Today after time to check in and refresh I will arrange...

-Private Introduction to Florence: with my local expert guide to view sites like the Duomo, Santa Croce, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio in a very personal and relaxed way with a local escort native to Florence – I will include entrance to the Accademia to see the David and other Renaissance masterworks as well
-In the evening a *passaggiata* with your escort to the most beautiful parts of the city in darkness when they come alive – a Florentine and really overall Italian tradition

DAY TWO-

*Today we head into the Tuscany region for a blend of wine and beautiful towns, views and the real heart of Italy...

-Private Vineyard Tasting and Medieval Towns Exploration: you will be collected at the hotel in the AM by your native wine and regional experts who will take you to local vineyards, medieval towns and sights from the ancient to the medieval to the Renaissance - and provide the most local and personal of experiences. Very local and very real with an ever-changing plan based on what is best at the time of

your visit – I will focus around the Siena/San Gimignano region – one of the prettiest in all of Tuscany. I will include tastings and a local lunch in the experience

DAY THREE-

*Today I will allow for some free time in Florence where the shopping, art, crafts and beauty of the center demands it. I will arrange one organized event...

-Tuscan Cooking Course: time with a local chef to create a traditional Tuscan meal and enjoy it together for a great Italian experience with a nice social aspect as well – at a professional kitchen in the center with a market visit for ingredients as well

>All the local insight, guidance, restaurant ideas you wish for food, wandering, art, shops, markets and independent time. Florence is a wealth of art and culture and this free time is important so that your group can touch on the local element and find all manner of local treasure – I will advise with a list of ideas and suggestions of course so people can pursue their individual interests

DEPART FLORENCE BY PRIVATE VEHICLE TO FLR OR PSA AIRPORT FOR YOUR FLIGHT HOME – 2 OCT

THE TOTAL RATE FOR ALL LISTED ABOVE AS OF NOW (LAND ONLY) IS:

\$4725 per person for everything you see including US tax (based on 24 travelers)

THE SINGLE RATE IS A BIT HIGHER AT \$5175 pp

OPTIONAL ADD-ON:

VENICE: 3 NIGHTS, 2-5 OCT

-For those staying longer I will arrange a private luxury

-On arrival at Venice Piazzale Roma you will be met by your private escorts and assisted to waiting private boats for the ride to your boutique palazzo property in the San Marco district with all the most important sights and the Grand Canal all right outside the door

VENICE ACCOMMODATIONS

-Sina Palazzo Sant'Angelo: 4-star

This is an excellent property set right on the Grand Canal at the northern edge of the San Marco within a short walk of Rialto and Piazza San Marco and with very nice accommodations as well.

TWELVE- CLASSIC AND SUPERIOR ROOMS, 200SQFT+ PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://www.sinahotels.com/en/>

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN VENICE

DAY ONE-

*On arrival day we will leave things open for check in, adjustment to the new time zone and recovery from the long flight. In the afternoon I will arrange...

-Private Introduction to Venice: begin at your hotel on the day of arrival after time to check in and freshen up. My native guide will take you through the city for an introduction to Venetian sights, culture, language basics, explanations of the ways and methods, local knowledge and practical matters, ancient history, modern events and an overall explanation of the ties between east and west, the hidden corners and lesser-known elements of the city hidden all around you (San Marco and Rialto)

-This evening the welcome dinner as requested at a traditional Venetian restaurant in the Castello district

DAY TWO-

*Today we explore a bit of the lagoon with a...

-Private Murano, Burano, Torcello by Boat: you will be collected from your hotel by a private guide and taken by private boat to Murano for a visit to a working glass furnace and glass blowing demonstration. You will visit Burano and see the lace makers, visit the shops and view the back canals where homes are painted pastels -On to Torcello where you will view an ancient 5th century basilica and ruins which mark the start of Venetian civilization - three completely distinct settings and locations – return to Venice at conclusion

-This evening a **Private Gondola Ride:** About 35 minutes in a private gondola on a secondary canal route that takes you into the hidden parts of the city from the water side which provides a completely new perspective and a setting unchanged since the 15th century

DAY THREE-

*Today I will arrange either the cruise in the evening, or the tasting experience in the morning – leaving the rest of the day for relaxed wandering, getting lost, exploring the far corners of the city and enjoying an incredible place where time is required to do so

-Grand Canal Cruise: your guide and private boat will meet you at the hotel in the evening for a 1.5-hour cruise of the Grand Canal end to end and an explanation of the city, the waterway, the palazzi that line it and an experience unique to Venice of course – **OR** – **Private Tasting Walk:** you will visit the markets and local Bacari to sample cicchetti (Venetian tapas) and local wines (if you like), for a real local setting and experience with my native guides

>All the local guidance you wish from where to eat, what to see and why. I will provide guidance to the Ghetto, the Cannaregio district, local Bacari and great food spots, hidden sights and locations during your free time which is a huge part of the experience here

DEPART VENICE BY PRIVATE BOAT TO VCE AIRPORT FOR YOUR FLIGHT HOME – 5 OCT

THE TOTAL RATE FOR EXTENSION AS OF NOW (LAND ONLY) IS:

\$1575 per person for everything you see including US tax (based on 24 travelers)

THE SINGLE TRAVELER RATE IS A BIT HIGHER AT: \$1925pp