

# Italy Travel & Accommodation Guide

*Experience a personal Renaissance on a journey through Italy.*



## Numerous picturesque cities and towns speak with soft, earthy tones of Italy's colourful history and culture.

The many ruins of the Roman Empire littered throughout Italy are the primary lure for thousands of tourists visiting the country each year. But the beauty of Italy is its diversity of offerings. The country's delicious food, stunningly beautiful countryside, high-class fashion, majestic Alps and Mediterranean coastline and islands, are equally compelling. And Byzantine Cities, the Ancient Greeks, the Renaissance and, of course, Christianity have all left their fascinating and indelible marks.

A visit to Italy is never wanting of lessons in history and gargantuan ruins, like the Colosseum in Rome, deliver them forcefully, but a great many picturesque cities and towns speak with soft, earthy tones of the county's colourful times and cultures.

Italy has the most UNESCO World Heritage sites in the world, and they spread from top-to-bottom. Roman life is preserved in eerie detail in southern Pompeii; Greek rule is represented beautifully in the temples of Agrigento in the southwest of Sicily; Venice is a living, breathing reminder of the style, pomp and glamour of its once opulent empire; Florence is resplendent with all the accomplishments of the Renaissance, the place from which that momentous cultural flowering sprang; and the Vatican in Rome, which has ruled over the hearts, bodies and minds of men for so many centuries, is a place of beauty, filled with some of the most famous art in the world.

If history and art lose their appeal, however, there is certain to be something to keep you occupied. Like, perhaps, getting inebriated. Italy is famous for its wines and the vineyards of Italy are generally situated in extraordinarily attractive countryside. Those of a different ilk might prefer cycling in Tuscany, diving off the coast of Sardinia, skiing the Alps or hiking the wild and wonderful dolomites. Or perhaps sailing the Mediterranean coast to the country's many islands is more your style.

Italian festivals also provide a nice segue. The Stresa Festival, for example, is a dynamic music event on spectacular Lake Maggiore in late July, featuring exceptional local and international artists.

Ladies and metrosexuals will delight in the many offerings of Milan, the fashion capital of the world where many big labels have their headquarters and the fashion districts of Florence and Rome.

But the food, ah the food! Italians take great pride in their food and the results are more than pleasing to all concerned. Italian staples hardly need a mention, but there is significantly more variety in Italian food in Italy, so seek it out, and if you really want to experience the best that Italy has to offer, head to the northern city of Bologna, home to the country's best restaurants, or Naples for the ultimate pizza.

A constant stream of pleasing stimulation to eyes, ears, nose and tastebuds, Italy is known, for good reason, as the beautiful country.

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