



## Tuscany & Italian Riviera

Sep 2025

### Sun 31 Aug ARRIVE IN FLORENCE

Arrive in Florence today where you will be met at the airport or train station and transferred to our hotel. Nothing specific is planned for today, but if you arrive early or are coming from our Croatia adventure there will be the opportunity to spend some time in the many art galleries, museums, and gardens this city is famous for.

**Accommodation: Florence – boutique hotel 4\* - 1 night**

### Mon 01 Sep FLORENCE (B,L,D)

This morning we will be joined by our local guide and head out on foot to explore Tuscany's capital. The city is blessed with many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. You will also visit one of its most iconic sights - the **Duomo**, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The **Galleria dell'Accademia** displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation. If you're in the market for some genuine Italian leather or gold, you'll be in heaven here.

Late afternoon, we will drive to the Tuscan village where we will be based for the next week. **Vicopisano** is perfectly located just 15 km from Pisa and 50 km from Florence. In medieval times it was a flourishing fortified town with a castle built by Brunelleschi in 1434 – today it is a lovely little village with a great choice of restaurants and bars, and best of all is very untouristy! It's an easy walk down a handsome tree-line avenue to the village square - a place we will frequent often to soak up the local atmosphere, sit outside sipping refreshments, and dining out at tasty local restaurants. Aperitivo and welcome dinner tonight.

**Accommodation: Vicopisano Holiday Home - 6 nights**



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**Tue 02 Sep**

**CALCI MONASTERY & COOKING CLASS**

**B,L,D**

After breakfast we travel to **Calci** for a special tour of the **monastery**. The complex was built in 1366 at the base of Mt Pisano and is known as one of the greatest architectural accomplishments of Tuscany. A guardian will guide us through the complex where we'll learn about the most important aspects of the monks' lives.

In the afternoon, pull on an apron and roll up your sleeves to engage in an enjoyable Tuscan cooking session in a local home on the outskirts of Vicopisano. Afterwards, relax and relish a classic meal that you've contributed to creating.

**Wed 03 Sep**

**PISA & LUCCA**

**B**

Just a short drive away, is the popular town of **Pisa** where we will have a walking tour and view the **Leaning Tower** and impressive neighbouring **Cathedral**. If you're feeling energetic, you can climb up the steep marble steps inside the tower and take in the sweeping city views from the top – well worth the effort.

In the afternoon, we roam the cobbled streets of **Lucca** known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic centre. A broad tree-lined pathway runs along the top of the massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts and is popular for walking and cycling (you'll have time to walk right around or hire a bike). Or you might prefer to enjoy a refreshment as you people-watch from one of the many outdoor bars lining the squares or do some retail therapy.

**Thu 04 Sep**

**TRUFFLE HUNTING**

**B,L**

This morning you will go hunting for the mysterious truffle. Together with a master truffle dog and guide, venture into the woods of **Savaia** following the dog on an exciting ramble. After this exertion, you will no doubt be ready for a delicious lunch topped with our freshly dug truffle and washed down with a selection of wines from the area.

Free afternoon to relax around the pool or explore the village.

**Fri 05 Sep**

**VOLTERRA & VINEYARD LUNCH**

**B,L**

This morning we set off for a day-out in the countryside. Along the way, visit the **Teatro del Silenzio** near Lajatico, the hometown of **Andrea Bocelli**. This open-air amphitheatre is surrounded by typical Tuscan scenery and a wonderful setting for outdoor concerts. Enjoy a leisurely lunch accompanied by wine from the surrounding vines at a **Tuscan vineyard**. Later, visit the walled town of **Volterra** and admire the Roman, Etruscan and medieval structures, along with the fabulous **Palazzo dei Priori** with its medieval frescoes and impressive bell tower. Explore the extraordinary **Palazzo of the Viti family** where you'll come face-to-face with unique sculptures and art. Free time to wander the cobbled lanes, shop for alabaster or just sit and enjoy a coffee or aperitif.

**Sat 06 Sep**

**MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL**

B,D

Enjoy a lazy morning and conserve energy before an exciting afternoon & evening. We'll stroll into the village for a late lunch and then have free time to take in the festivities. The village has been transformed into a **medieval wonderland!** Roam along the cobbled streets and take in the free entertainment – musicians, dancers, acrobats and storytellers. There are outdoor taverns to sit and sip a refreshment – fantastic for people-watching.

This evening we are special guests at the **Castle**. Following a parade of Lords, Ladies and Flag throwers, we wind our way up to the 14<sup>th</sup> century castle and are seated at long tables under the stars. A sumptuous medieval feast is served by the village waifs and maids, and between courses we are entertained by a variety of artists. A truly unforgettable experience!

**Sun 07 Sep**

**MARBLE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA**

B,L

We say *arrivederci* to Tuscany and make our way by private vehicle across to Liguria. Enroute we will stop at the **marble quarries** for a tour. Marble has been mined in this region for centuries and on our tour we will learn about the history, the blood sweat & tears of the past, and how modern technology is now used. By 4WD, we'll ascend steep roads stopping enroute to view active quarries and see the different systems of excavation. On reaching the highest quarry at 1000 mt. altitude we'll toast this amazing industry with a glass of Prosecco inside a cave.

By mid-afternoon we will be arriving in the **Italian Riviera** and check-in to our eco-friendly boutique hotel located in the hills above Levanto. Unpack and relax – we're here for 5 blissful nights. Close enough to town but far enough away for some peace. The hotel offers complimentary transport to/from Levanto or you can walk downhill and catch a lift back.

Levanto is the gateway to the Cinque Terre but is far more "local" than its touristy neighbours. A pebble beach fronts an old part of town which is mostly car-free and flat. Colourful houses grace attractive small streets and there are plenty of bars and authentic restaurants to choose from.

**Accommodation: Levanto 4\* boutique hotel – 5 nights**

**Mon 08 Sep**

**CAMOGLI & PORTOFINO**

B,L

After breakfast, we'll head down to the train station and meet our local guide. By train we travel to the picturesque town of **Camogli**. Roam through the beautiful promenade facing the Ligurian sea and admire the tall, thin houses. This colourful fishing village is part of the area called **Golfo Paradiso** (Paradise Gulf). We'll indulge in a **true Italian cappuccino** in the Piazzetta before we reach the little harbour. By ferry we embark on a public boat to get to the small cove of **San Fruttuoso** which can only be reached by sea



or on foot. Here we'll have time to visit **the ancient abbey** which has an interesting history from monastery to pirate's den to the residence of Princess of Doria. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious lunch in a local restaurant overlooking the bay.

In the afternoon, we take a scenic boat journey to **Portofino** – a chance to admire the much photographed Portofino Promontory from the sea. We'll make a stop in the famous Piazzetta where the international jet set meets during summertime, before heading to the tiny **San Giorgio Church** to admire the breathtaking panorama and on to the **Portofino lighthouse** where your climbing efforts will be rewarded with a drink in the small bar right on the cliff facing the sea. Later we take the ferry to Santa Margherita and train back to Levanto.

**Tue 09 Sep**

**CINQUE TERRE WALKING**

**B,L**

**Cinque Terre** means Five Lands, and comprises the five small coastal villages of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso. After breakfast, we'll journey by train from Levanto and meet our guide in Riomaggiore.

The hiking trail **Via dell'Amore - the Path of Love**, is the most famous and romantic stretch of the Cinque Terre coastline - a 1 km paved path connecting the picturesque villages of **Riomaggiore and Manarola**. With spectacular views of the cliffs and the sea, the trail has a magical atmosphere and winds along the rock-face overhanging the sea.

From Manarola, we take a local bus to **Volastra**, a small village located at 350 meters above sea level. At a family-run winery that has been following the tradition of winemaking for seven generations, we'll admire the typical cultivation methods of the Cinque Terre that have shaped the area over the last 2000 years. In the middle of the vineyard overlooking the sea, taste the family's wine accompanied by a dish of bruschette with pesto, tomatoes and anchovies.

We return to **Manarola** on foot along a 2 km panoramic path and enjoy a light lunch in the village before boarding a boat to **Vernazza**. Acclaimed as one of Liguria's most picturesque villages, Vernazza is a gem nestled between the sea and the rugged cliffs. It offers a unique landscape made up of dry-stone walls and fields overlooking the sea which characterize its beauty. The town is crossed by steep and narrow streets, full of valuable architectural elements such as loggias, porticoes, and portals, that descend towards the main road and end in a small square in front of the marina. Free time in Vernazza, before returning to Levanto by train.

**Wed 10 Sep**

**LEVANTO TO MONTEROSSO ON FOOT**

**B,D**

Today's walk is along a 7 km easy undulating path. It is a wonderful walk away from the busy villages and crosses stony paths, remote farmhouses, olive and fig trees, cacti and typical Mediterranean vegetation. Free time in bustling Monterosso for lunch.



In the afternoon we visit a farmhouse producing **olive oil, wine, and honey**, and meet a local winemaker to discover the vineyard and cellar of this family run estate. Time to **taste these unique Cinque Terre wines** together with a meal of local **fish specialities**. After the dinner, we train back to Levanto.

**Thu 11 Sep**

### **THE ART OF MAKING PESTO**

**B**

Free morning to relax around the hotel pool and gardens. If you're feeling energetic, you might like to **walk or cycle** the 6 km carless trail from Levanto to **Bonassola** through disused rail tunnels and along the sea edge to the gorgeous little village of **Framura**. Train or walk/cycle back.

A **Pesto Making Workshop** is planned for later this afternoon. Delve into the essence of preparing pesto the old-fashioned way with a mortar and pestle and lots of love. Afterwards, taste your own homemade pesto together with a glass of white wine and some tasty local products such as olives, bruschetta with anchovies.

**Fri 12 Sep**

### **GOLDEN GENOA**

**B,L**

After checking out of our hotel, we journey by train to **Genoa**. With a local guide, we roam along the narrow alleys of the historical centre and discover the real heart of the city with its old shops, Noble palaces and Churches from the XVIII C that preserve incredible works of art. Learn about flavours and traditions woven into the vast heritage of Genoa's historic shops and immerse yourself in the world of *botteghe storiche* - longstanding establishments and artisan workshops with roots stretching back centuries. The oldest is **Antica Farmacia Sant' Anna**, an ancient pharmacy inside a monastic complex that dates to 1650. Here we will meet Frate Ezio - the friar & herbalist who keeps the recipes dating back to the XVI century and learn about the traditional plant-based remedies produced at the pharmacy.

For lunch you will taste the most **authentic Ligurian cuisine** in one of the oldest *osteria* of the city. Farinata, focaccia, vegetable pie and the famous *pansotti* together with a glass of local white wine *il bianchetto*.

In the afternoon, visit the last **Gold Leaf Laboratory** remaining in the city for an exclusive visit. Master Craftsman Pozzo Marco continues a long family tradition and will show us the ancient techniques of gilding and lacquering. Then, under Pozzo's guidance, it will be your turn to create your own gold frame to take home as a very special souvenir.

Enjoy one last meal with your new friends to celebrate a memorable adventure.

**Accommodation Genoa 4\* hotel - 1 night**

**Sat 13 Sep**

### **END GENOA**

**B**

Check out after breakfast. Transfer available to Genoa airport or station anytime today.

## Date

Departs | Florence Sun 31 Aug 2025

Ends | Genoa Sat 13 Sep 2025

## Price

NZ\$12,900 per person twin share

NZ\$14,950 single

If you are travelling solo and would like to twin share, let us know and we'll find you a room-mate (subject to availability)

## Includes

- Arrival & Departure transfer
- Transportation by minivan, boat, train
- 13 nights accommodation
- Meals as specified (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Sightseeing entry and local guides as specified
- Truffle Hunt and speciality lunch
- Medieval Festival and speciality dinner
- Tuscan cooking lesson
- Marble Quarry tour
- Ligurian pesto making lesson
- Wine tasting
- Gold gild lesson
- Escorted by Marie from Roam Travel Adventures (minimum 6 guests)

## Excludes

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Personal spending
- Refreshments & any meals not included
- Optional tours

## Group Size

Minimum 6, maximum 10

## Important Notes

Daily itinerary may change due to availability or local conditions. Price is subject to change until confirmed and paid in full. \$700 non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place. Travel Insurance is compulsory and should be taken out at the time of booking to cover you for cancellation leading up to the tour, and to cover you whilst you are travelling in Europe.



