

FAMILY

# VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME

La Dolce Vita for Your Family



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## The "Big 3" Cities in One Remarkable Week

Join us in these three must-see cities...to see them like most families never get the chance! In one perfectly timed week, you'll discover the best of Italy without feeling like you're in a rush. Our local guides know how to get you a ride in the best gondolas, find the creamiest gelato and pull strings to get kid friendly access to Michelangelo's David and the Sistine Chapel. Near Florence, you'll live and play like a Tuscan *famiglia* at a countryside hotel with swimming pool, easy access to bicycles and walking paths, and a treasure hunt in Siena. We bring sprawling Rome down to size from the Trevi Fountain to the Colosseum. Best of all, you'll meet pizza-makers, art experts and gladiator trainers who all give Italy a happy personal spin for your family.

## DAY 1

## VENICE

- See the best sites on a personally guided walk
- Visit Piazza San Marco, the Rialto Bridge and more
- Climb aboard a gondola for a ride on the canals

No matter how old you are you've probably seen plenty of pictures of Venice. Now you're really here, and today you'll see it in style. The city is small, so you don't have to cover much ground to take in the sights. Our guided afternoon walk starts in Piazza San Marco. The Cathedral is encrusted with gold and mosaics, the campanile (bell tower) is where medieval priests were suspended in cages to repent their sins, and the flocks of pigeons are legendary. Right next door is the Palazzo Ducale, the palace of the Doge, which was once the title given to Venice's ruler. We'll also get a look at the Bridge of Sighs. The high-up enclosed bridge was where convicts used to sigh as they caught their last glimpse of Venice before going to prison. It's just one of the tons of stories you'll hear from your local guide on our walk.

The Grand Canal is the major waterway in Venice. Only four bridges cross it, and the most famous is the Rialto. So you know where we're headed next! The people-watching is great, and you'll be surprised at how many boats – and how many different kinds of boats – use the Grand Canal as a street. Until now, we've been on dry land. But no Venice visit is complete without a gondola ride. We'll board the famous boats, skinny enough to make their way through the narrowest canals, to get a look at the city from sea level. Another surprise? How water laps on the steps of the houses...and sometimes inside them.

For dinner, we'll head back to one of the restaurants that ring the perimeter of Piazza San Marco. As we enjoy our welcome dinner, part of the fun is hearing how the various orchestras in the square have a sort of "battle of the bands", filling the air with lots of music.

**OVERNIGHT: VENICE**

**MEALS: D**

## DAY 2

## FLORENCE/CHIANTI

- Zip to Florence on a high-speed train
- Enjoy an insider's view of Florence on a guided walking tour
- Check into your Tuscan villa hotel

After breakfast, we take care of hailing a water taxi that takes us to the Venice train station. There we board the high-speed train to Florence. If there's a city with more famous art and buildings per square inch, we've never seen it. Like Venice, it's an easy city to explore on foot without wearing out. Our local guide brings it all to life with personal stories and the colorful history of the Medici family. We'll see the Ponte Vecchio – the most famous bridge across the Arno River, the Duomo and bustling Piazza Signoria.

Later in the afternoon, we head south across the Arno River into Chianti and our home for the next three nights. Our villa hotel is constructed as a palatial family home in the 16th century. You'll have time to stroll the manicured estate with our hosts—the count and countess—before dinner on the terrace.

**OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI**

**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 3

## SAN GIMIGNANO

- Bike ride towards Monteriggioni
- Pizza making with our friend Massimo
- Explore the towers of San Gimignano

Fuel up on breakfast because we're off on a morning bike ride into the Tuscan countryside. A dirt road path takes us to the medieval village of Strove, and then to *Badia a Isola*, where there is an old church and abbey where pilgrims on their way to Rome used to stay overnight. We might even feel the atmosphere of those old medieval travelers. Along the way, according to what grows in the season, we can discover fields of wheat, poppies, sunflowers or fava beans. We continue on the country road to Monteriggioni...and if we feel up to it, we can pay a short visit to this medieval fortified village. Afterward, we go by vehicle along a road that leads through the legendary landscape to the grounds of a 15th century castle. Our friend, Massimo, who resides there, greets us for a pizza making session. Over lunch, the adults are invited to taste the estate's wine from our host's cellar. We promise you: a young Chianti Classico will never taste better than it does when you drink it amid the hills where it was born.

Mid-afternoon, we return to our hotel to relax before we explore San Gimignano, while its 14 medieval towers shimmer in the afternoon sun. Parents and children enjoy guided explorations of the walled hill town. A mere 650 years ago, when the town competed with Florence and Siena for supremacy, San Gimignano boasted over 70 towers. A local expert and friend describes for us how the towers were used both for defensive purposes, as well as for ego building. (Kids love when our guides talk about how the towers were really good lookouts and great for pouring boiling oil over enemies!) This evening, we dine together at one of our favorite restaurants.

*Please note: the biking activity is recommended for children age 12 years and older. The bike route is roughly 20% uphill, 30% downhill and 50% flat. The terrain is partly white road, dirt road and paved country road. Option for E-bikes is possible.*

**OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI**

**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 4

## SIENA

- Explore Siena on a guided walk
- Taste the gelato and do a little shopping
- Meet shepherds and see how they make cheese

Our morning visit today is great for everyone—it's the cinnamon-colored town of Siena, the true heart of the Tuscan hill towns and a work of art in itself. Still encircled by brick walls, Siena has been an elegant cultural landmark for centuries. Here we'll join our friend Elena for a scenic and historic walk around the town—into the sloping, scallop-shaped Piazza del Campo, through the maze of streets lined with gothic and medieval houses, towers and palazzos, to the zebra-striped cathedral. Along the way, our guide tells us how fiercely teams from the local districts have competed in the Palio horse race run in Piazza del Campo every year for centuries.

## DAILY ITINERARY

VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME | LA DOLCE VITA FOR YOUR FAMILY | FAMILY

If you like, your guide will challenge you to a fun scavenger hunt—a great way to discover the city together. The reward is gelato, everybody's favorite treat in these parts. You'll also have some time for a little shopping. Your kids will also love the collectible flags and scarves that represent the local districts and feature animals from owls and caterpillars to snails, unicorns and dragons. This afternoon, we stop at the family farm of our friends Franco and Sara who tend a flock of 800 sheep in the Tuscan hills. If it happens to be milking day, we may get to see how they milk the ewes. And we'll definitely have a cheese feast as we taste the various fresh and aged varieties that they make right there on their farm.

**OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI**

**MEALS: B, D**

### DAY 5

#### ROME/COLOSSEUM

- Jump to the head of the line to see Michelangelo's *David*
- Relax on the train to Rome
- See the ruins of the Colosseum and Forum

This morning is a special treat, we'll head back into Florence as we've made arrangements at the Galleria dell'Accademia. We'll skip the long lines so you can see Michelangelo's statue of David. Be prepared: He's 14 feet tall!

This afternoon's high-speed train trip is a great chance to rest up and compare notes about your favorite moments of the trip so far. Our late afternoon arrival to Rome leaves us with plenty of time to explore the Colosseum. It's huge, and with our guide's help it's easy to imagine the stadium full of spectators for gladiator fights, lion hunts and even mock naval battles. We'll also walk through the ruins of the Roman Forum with its ancient columns, the Arch of Constantine and the stone streets that Emperors used to travel.

The balance of the evening is all yours. Make time for some shopping, wander the scenic streets at your own pace, or settle in at a piazza for a glass of something cold. For dinner, choose a nearby ristorante, make it a pizza evening, or ask for a recommendation for fine dining. It's almost impossible to have anything but a wonderful meal in Rome, no matter what your family's tastes may be.

**OVERNIGHT: ROME**

**MEALS: B**

### DAY 6

#### ROME/VATICAN

- Make a wish at the Trevi Fountain
- Enjoy a guided visit to the Vatican and Sistine Chapel
- Thrill to the excitement of a lively gladiator training session

Italian breakfasts are amazing – hot chocolate, fruits, fresh rolls, cheese, yogurt, and a whole range of delicious things that aren't usual back home. Everybody will want to fuel up because it's an exciting day. First, our local Roman guide plots out a route that includes the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. Today's highlight: St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. If you think Michelangelo's dome is mind-boggling, wait until you stand under it. This is truly one of the world's most awesome structures for its size, the incredible variety of art and colored stone, and its history – all of which you'll learn about from your guide. It's difficult to get tickets to the Sistine Chapel, but don't worry. We've arranged them so you can all marvel at the artistic treasures without the hassle of planning your own visit.

Afterward, we'll grab lunch at one of the lively trattorias. Yesterday at the Colosseum, you all saw where the gladiators fought. Today, you get a firsthand look at how the fighters trained for the arena. At a two-hour lesson, we'll dress in traditional tunics. Under the guidance of experts, you learn to wield a training sword and imagine fighting off wild animals and spear-wielding warriors. It's a fun and fascinating experience whether you're in the fray...or on the sidelines cheering on your favorite competitor.

Later, we'll celebrate the end to an amazing week with a festive farewell dinner together.

**OVERNIGHT: ROME**

**MEALS: B, D**

### DAY 7

#### ROME/DEPART

- Part company at your Rome hotel
- Return home with great memories of your family's *dolce vita*

After breakfast, you'll transfer independently to the Rome airport for onward travel with fun memories and shared experiences of our time in Italy.

**MEALS: B**



## DAILY ITINERARY

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# Tour Hotels



### Hotel Saturnia

This historic 4-star hotel is just a three-minute walk from Piazza San Marco, about as perfectly located as you can be in Venice! Parts of it date back to the 14th century, and the same family has owned it for over 100 years.

**OVERNIGHT: VENICE | NIGHTS: 1**



### Villa Le Barone

This historic home dates to the 16th century, and your hosts are a count and countess. Its rooms have wood-beamed ceilings and antiques. The property boasts lovely gardens, a new saltwater infinity pool, and a terrace for sunning and Chianti sipping.

**OVERNIGHT: PANZANO | NIGHTS: 3**



### Rome Times Hotel

A perfect example of modern Italian design, this sleek hotel is just a few minutes' walk from Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. The spacious, bright rooms offer extra-plush beds, elegant bathrooms, and double soundproof windows.

**OVERNIGHT: ROME | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Apr 26-May 2, 2020	\$4,995	\$5,790
June 7-13, 2020	\$5,295	\$6,090
Jun 28-Jul 4, 2020	\$5,295	\$6,090
July 12-18, 2020	\$5,295	\$6,090
Jul 26-Aug 1, 2020	\$5,295	\$6,090
Dec 27, 2020-Jan 2, 2021	\$5,295	\$6,090
April 11-17, 2021	\$5,095	\$5,890
June 20-26, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,190
Jun 27-Jul 3, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,190
July 11-17, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,190
July 25-31, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,190
Dec 27, 2021-Jan 2, 2022	\$5,395	\$6,190

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 7 Days, 6 Nights

**START:** 2:00 PM Lobby of Hotel Saturnia, Venice, Italy

**END:** 9:00 AM Lobby of Rome Times Hotel, Rome, Italy

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails, with a mini-van in close support. Biking terrain is partly white/gravel road, dirt road and paved road.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**
- **Wine on Us**

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

## Or give us a call

**1-833-387-1210**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

**Kids GET A PRICE BREAK**

When sharing a room with two full-paying guests, kids and teens ages 11-16 receive a \$500 discount; ages 7-10 receive a \$750 discount; ages 3-6 receive a \$1250 discount, and ages 2 and younger receive a \$1750 discount. When sharing a room with one full-paying guest, kids receive a \$250 discount.

## TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

## AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

## ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Italy...

- Riding a gondola on Venice's canals and then enjoying a privately guided visit to St. Mark's Square
- Biking amid olive groves and vineyards towards Monteriggioni in Chianti
- Tasting gelato in Siena and exploring the medieval towers of San Gimignano
- Learning how to milk goats, make cheese, and toss pizza dough with our friend Massimo
- Accepting invitations into privately guided visits to the Sistine Chapel and a Roman gladiator training session that's fun for everybody

*"We loved that we didn't have to plan anything and our days were filled with fun activities, opportunities for learning and quality time spent together every day."*

—Leslie N.

Let's Go!

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You might also enjoy...



## Amalfi Coast

Capri, Positano & Pompeii

Family

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii
- Exploring the cobalt blue waters of the Amalfi Coast
- Boating through the famed Blue Grotto in Capri

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/amalfifamily/>.



## Croatia

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast

Family

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Sea kayaking on waters clear to depths of 30 feet
- Playing "capture the flag" while the adults go wine-tasting
- Exploring the city walls of Dubrovnik

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/croatiafamily/>.



## Ireland

Killarney Lakes & Dingle Peninsula

Family

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Visiting a working sheep farm
- Sea kayaking on Kenmare Bay
- A cart ride through the Gap of Dunloe

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/irelandfamily/>.



You might also enjoy...



## Morocco

### Marrakesh, Sahara & Fès

Family

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Sand surfing on the world's highest dunes
- Playing drums around a Berber campfire
- Riding a camel at sunset

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/moroccofamily/>.



## Norway

### Oslo, Jostedal & Bergen

Family

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Gliding through awesome fjords
- Going for a guided walk on a glacier
- Oohing at the views from the tram to the top of Mt. Ulriken

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/norway-family-adventure/>.



## Provence

### A Week in the South of France

Family

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring prehistoric caves
- A pottery class in a local village
- A game of boules followed by ice cream

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/provencefamily/>.



# Italy

## — Famiglia-Style

HOW TO DISH UP A WEEK OF MEMORABLE FUN IN VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME

By Steve Snapp

**My first memory of Rome as a lucky teenage traveler is** standing on a sidewalk with the Colosseum looming ahead. But to get there meant crossing a broad, fast-flowing avenue. No crosswalks or traffic signals (or at least none that the traffic paid attention to). And then up strolls a no-nonsense woman of Rome who scoped out our plight in a nano-second. She moved to the front of our little knot of pedestrians, gave us a don't-worry-my-friends smile, and crooked her finger in an unmistakable command to follow the leader. Into the traffic she stepped and, miraculously, it all stopped or zagged to miss us. She never deigned to look at a driver or even to pause. She just knew what to do. Oh yes, it's good to hang out with the locals.

Italy — and the wonderful Italians I've been lucky enough to know — taught me so much as an impressionable young traveler. There were the obvious lessons in history and Renaissance art and, well, pizza without tomato sauce. They taught me to laugh at the world rushing around me, how to linger at the dinner table, and that if you want to grab a shield and pretend you're a gladiator, you absolutely must.

You'll be delighted how our handcrafted and carefully curated family trip to Venice, Florence and Rome recaptures all of that and more. It's a kick to watch your kids encounter three of the world's most famous cities. Our local guides give you that peaceful, easy feeling that you only get when you trust yourself to a friend who lives in the neighborhood.

The adventure begins in Venice. As huge as La Serenissima is in everyone's imagination, the floating city is quite small and easy to cover. Your time here will be a just-right blend of iconic sights like Piazza San Marco and the Bridge of Sighs and a gondola ride into some of the narrowest canals. Then, before "palazzo fatigue" sets in, you take a water taxi to the station for a high-speed train ride to Florence.

Many tourists think they need days in Florence, but that's because they do things like wait four hours to see Michelangelo's David. You, on the other hand, will come into near-magical possession of tickets that let you skip the line. From 20+ years of traveling with kids, we know that this is the right moment to break out of city mode and retreat to a Tuscan village where your hosts are a count and countess and the infinity edge pool overlooks vineyards and olive groves. Your country interlude is a great way to let off steam walking in vineyards, making pizzas, biking in Siena, and ogling the towers of San Gimignano.

By the time you de-train in Rome, you'll all feel like Italian pros. You know the walks to the Colosseum and the Forum will last just long enough. The Sistine Chapel? Of course we score rare tickets in advance. While the turisti shuffle off to another monument, your family goes for a cool gladiator training session. Rome unfolds for you all without overwhelming anyone.

If you love to treat and inspire the young travelers in your family, you can't find a better way to do it than with a week in Venice, Florence and Rome. In a world that moves too fast, it's good to be the one who knows how to crook your finger and say, "Come with me, and let's have some unforgettable fun."

