

AZURE

Italy



Venice Rome Florence Tuscany The Lakes, Verona & Milan The Dolomites & Alps Portofino Amalfi Coast, Sorrento, Capri & Ischia Puglia & Basilicata Sicily & Sardinia Weddings Private Villas Venice Simplon-Orient-Express



AZURE

journey our world of luxury

Dear Italian Traveller,

I'm so excited to welcome you to this new brochure, dedicated to glorious Italy.

'You may have the universe, if I may have Italy.' So said the celebrated Italian opera composer, Giuseppe Verdi. The Azure Collection embraces most of the world now, yet Italy continues to retain a very special place in all our hearts. It's the only country that has its very own Azure brochure and we're proud to be recognised as specialists in luxury Italian travel.

There are so many wonders to enjoy, it can be difficult to decide how best to spend your precious time in this most wondrous of countries, so to make things a little easier for you, we've designed this brochure a little differently. On each of the introduction pages you'll find a series of highlights, carefully chosen by us to make your Italian adventure even more magical and memorable. We've also increased our selection of itineraries to cover everywhere from Tuscany to The Lakes and featuring sporting and cultural events. With our in-depth knowledge of Italy and all it has to offer, the itineraries, allow us to almost act as your tour guide while you are there, as well as organising your travel and accommodation.

Of course we've also increased our selection of gorgeous new hotels. Finding them for you gives us a perfect excuse to return to Italy – not that we need an excuse! This year we are thrilled to introduce you to new hotels in all the most beautiful destinations – Rome, Tuscany, The Lakes, Milan & Verona, Amalfi Coast, Puglia and Sicily & Sardinia. You'll find historic villas, resorts with beautiful private beaches, destinations steeped in myth and magic, beloved by poets and artists. So even if you've visited these cities, peninsulars and islands before, this is your own excuse to return.

You'll be spoilt for choice, so if you need a little help making up your mind, our travel experts will be delighted to share their huge knowledge and enormous love of Italy with you, to help you plan your perfect holiday.

Love from Jayne.



Jayne O'Gorman, *Managing Director*

CONTENTS

VENICE	Pages 6-13
ROME	Pages 14-19
FLORENCE	Pages 20-25
TUSCANY	Pages 26-33
THE LAKES, VERONA & MILAN	Pages 34-39
THE DOLOMITES & ALPS	Pages 40-43
PORTOFINO	Pages 44-45
AMALFI COAST, SORRENTO, CAPRI & ISCHIA	Pages 46-53
PUGLIA & BASILICATA	Pages 54-59
SICILY & SARDINIA	Pages 60-67
WEDDINGS	Pages 68-69
PRIVATE VILLAS	Page 70

CLUB EUROPE

Club Europe offers the high levels of comfort and excellent service you expect from British Airways. You will speed through the airport procedures and relax before your flight in their lounge. On board, you'll enjoy good food, wine and more personal space in the comfort of their separate Club Europe cabin.



Your personal concierge

As personal and tailored to you as your holiday itself down to the finest detail; let us take care of it. From pre-booking spa treatments, restaurant reservations, golf tee times to a wide range of exclusive excursions, private tours and handpicked activities. Discuss your request with the reservations team or e-mail concierge@azurecollection.com

OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

SPA

Borgo Egnazia, Puglia	Page 56
Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily	Page 62
Monastero Santa Rosa, Amalfi Coast	Page 52
Forte Village Resort, Sardinia	Page 67
Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como	Page 36
Borgo Santo Pietro, Tuscany	Page 29

FOOD

Forte Village Resort, Sardinia	Page 67
Palazzo Avino, Amalfi Coast	Page 48
Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria, Sorrento	Page 49
Four Seasons Hotel Firenze, Florence	Page 25
Hotel Lungarno, Florence	Page 23
Belmond Hotel Cipriani, Venice	Page 9

COOKERY SCHOOLS

The Gritti Palace, Venice	Page 10
Belmond Villa San Michele, Florence	Page 22
Rosewood Castiglion Del Bosco, Tuscany	Page 29
Hotel Il Pellicano, Tuscany	Page 31
Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily	Page 62
Masseria Torre Coccaro, Puglia	Page 57



GOLF

Borgo Egnazia, Puglia	Page 56
Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily	Page 62
Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco, Tuscany	Page 29
Masseria San Domenico, Puglia	Page 57
Hotel Cala di Volpe, Sardinia	Page 65
L'Andana, Tuscany	Page 33

HONEYMOON/ESCAPE

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express	Page 8
Aman Venice, Venice	Page 12
Palazzo Avino, Amalfi Coast	Page 48
Villa Cordevigo, Lake Garda	Page 38
Rosewood Castiglion Del Bosco, Tuscany	Page 29
Relais La Corte dei Papi, Tuscany	Page 28

FAMILY

Forte Village Resort, Sardinia	Page 67
Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily	Page 62
Masseria Torre Coccaro, Puglia	Page 57
Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea, Sicily	Page 63
Belmond Hotel Splendido, Portofino	Page 45
Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria, Sorrento	Page 49

SOMETHING SPECIAL...



Make your Italian adventure a real trip to remember by including a special event in your bespoke itinerary.

The **Italian Grand Prix** at Monza is one of the longest running fixtures on the Formula One calendar, when Milan, the global capital of fashion and design in Lombardy, goes wild with race fever.



Monza is also the home race of **Ferrari**, and what better way to see Italy than behind the wheel of one of these supercars, whether for a day or a whole week. Explore Florence and the beautiful surrounding countryside, sleep in luxurious hotels, dine in fine restaurants and enjoy a driver's **VIP experience** that would make Jeremy Clarkson jealous.



A different kind of car that also has bags of style is the **vintage Cinquecento**, so why not take a tour round Tuscany in one of these classic little cars. Yet another vehicle that's also become an icon of Italian style is the **Vespa** (Italian for wasp). It was unveiled in a Golf Club in Rome in 1946 and this chic little scooter is still one of the best ways to see the sights of the eternal city. Rent one for a whole day or half day.



There's plenty to see in Italy on your own two feet, with **gastronomic walking tours** in Sicily and Sardinia lasting half a day to a full walking itinerary, stopping off at markets and farms and learning how to **make authentic pasta**. You can also tour the vineyards of Tuscany and attend **cooking classes** at hotels and other venues, picking your own ingredients with the chef, and then learning how to turn them into delicious dishes.



If you're looking for the freedom of Ferrari hire at your own pace, please contact us for details on our hire-only options

A **cultural itinerary** might include Andrea Bocelli's hometown concert, with private transfers and lavish accommodation, and visits to Renaissance Florence, Taormina's ancient Greco-Roman theatre and medieval Verona, famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Make your Italian adventure a real trip to remember by including a special event in your **bespoke itinerary**.

VENICE

Venice or 'La Serenissima', as she was known for thousands of years, is truly one of the most seductive and beguiling places anywhere in the world. Built on more than 117 low-lying islands, this unique city is a water wonderland divided by over 100 canals and spanned by more than 400 bridges. Wonder at the audacity of Casanova, delve into the secrets of the Council of Ten or marvel at the talent of incredible painters like Canaletto and Paolo Veneziano. Whatever you decide to do, just like it did with Goethe, Mann and Browning before you, Venice can't fail to capture your imagination and seduce you with her beauty.



HOTEL KEY 1. BELMOND HOTEL CIPRIANI 2. THE GRITTI PALACE 3. HOTEL DANIELI
4. PALAZZO GIOVANELLI 5. BAGLIONI HOTEL LUNA 6. CA' SAGREDO 7. AMAN VENICE
8. BAUER PALAZZO 9. SINA CENTURION PALACE 10. L'OROLOGIO

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly to Venice daily from London with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures including from Gatwick, Luton, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds Bradford, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

November through to **January** is quieter though the chilly Adriatic winter means you'll need to wrap up warm, and **February** is carnival season. **March to June** is a nice temperature (but can be busier than usual thanks to the Bieniale), whereas **July to August** are the hottest months. **September to October** is a little cooler and a little quieter, ideal.



Venice & The Carnival

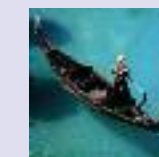
The watery city of Venice is the most romantic and atmospheric city in the world and it is at its' most wondrous during the fabled **Venice Carnival**. This annual festival of fantasy is steeped in extravagant colour and history. It takes place during the ten days leading up to Shrove Tuesday and was first held in the 11th Century when it consisted of over two months of revelry. Carnival in the 18th Century opened with grand masquerade balls in St. Mark's Square, with tourists flocking to the gambling dens and courtesans. The Carnival fell out of favour but was revived in 1979 and nowadays



it's a splendid open-air festival with live music in the main squares. Sit in the sunshine outside one of the famous cafés in St. Mark's Square and enjoy a light lunch as you take in the display of elaborate costumes and indulge in the most colourful form of people-watching. **The Flight of the Angel**, when a beauty queen in extravagant carnival costume abseils into St. Mark's Square, is one of the most popular spectacles of the Carnival. You can join in and don a vintage mask and cloak, and attend one of the Carnival balls, which include dinner and lavish entertainment.

A Secret Tour of Doge's Palace in Venice

The Doge's Palace is one of Venice's most famous landmarks. Near St. Mark's Square, it's a Venetian Gothic fantasy, housing wonderful art, historic prison cells and the fabled Bridge of Sighs. And this is your chance to discover it's hidden corners and secrets.



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VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS



LONDON TO VENICE • VENICE TO LONDON • *Other routes available on request*

Can there be a better way to arrive to Venice than aboard this luxury train? The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is quite simply a legend, an Art Deco icon where romance, adventure and style combine to create a rail journey unlike any other.

The moment you step on board you'll be transported to a more elegant age of travel, the vintage mood enhanced by the spectacular scenery of the Swiss Alps and Italian Dolomites. Your private cabin will take you right back to the glamour of the 1920s and 30s, your comfortable sofa converted into cosy upper and lower berths whilst you're enjoying a delicious dinner. For that extra indulgence a Cabin Suite (two interconnecting Twin Cabins) or one of the three Grand Suites, provide you the space of a bedroom and a sitting room for the whole journey. Meanwhile the talented French chefs will prepare gourmet delicacies complemented by sparkling crystal and crisp white linens served in one of the three restaurant cars. Enjoy cocktails and the sound of the baby grand being played by the resident pianist in the *Bar Car '3674'*, bringing your day to a suitably glamorous end.

And remember, you can never be overdressed aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express; black tie for dinner and during the day, smart casual is the norm, excluding jeans and sport shoes.

THE ESSENTIALS

11 Sleeping Cars with Twin Cabins and Cabin Suites / 3 Grand Suites / 3 Restaurant Cars / Bar Car '3674' / Boutique / Champagne Bar / Children Welcome (conditions apply, please speak to your travel advisor)

PRICES

Train only supplement from £2,110pp one way including full-board.

TIMETABLE

Depart: London Victoria 10:45am.

Arrive: Venice 6:25pm the next day.

Depart: Venice 11:05am.

Arrive: London Victoria 5:45pm the next day.

Please note all timings are provisional and subject to change.

• Board its sister train, **Belmond British Pullman** for any arrival or departure journeys of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express into/from London Victoria. Settle into your comfortable armchair and admire the intricate art deco details of your carriage. Enjoy the silver service and sumptuous dining experience.

BELMOND HOTEL CIPRIANI



No self-respecting brochure on Italy would be complete without Belmond Hotel Cipriani, one of the most famous hotels in the world, not just in Venice. Its tranquil location on Giudecca Island is stunningly beautiful, yet it lies only 4-minutes away from St. Mark's Square by private launch and has the breathtaking views to prove it.

And as you would expect, the service is seamless and the 96 guest rooms and suites are superbly appointed in the Venetian style, adorned with local artefacts and curios. The gardens are also outstanding and include a tennis court, a wellness centre and an enormous heated sea-water swimming pool. Don't leave without experiencing a waterside lunch in *Cip's Club* or a glamorous dinner in *ORO restaurant*, recently awarded with a Michelin-star. And in high season why not bring the children, as they will be thoroughly entertained in the aptly named *Smile Club*. At the Belmond Hotel Cipriani, you do not have to go far from the bustle of Venice to find a slice of luxurious escapism.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 30 minutes by private car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 96 Rooms & Suites / 4 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre & Tennis / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome With Club

PRICES

4 nights from £1,960pp including flights, transfers and breakfast. Half-board and full-board optional.



THE GRITTI PALACE

The Gritti Palace is an icon of grace, elegance and opulence in a city sinking under the weight of hotels boasting such charms. The hotel is the perfect location where you can enjoy the Grand Canal view from the terrace; the design of the hotel's restored interiors was inspired by its historical role as a private residence, a centre for celebration, and a patron of the arts.

The rooms are opulent with Venetian décor, glass chandeliers, and some with Grand Canal views. The Suites meanwhile, are sensational, generous and range from the Grand Tour inspired Sestriere to the Hemingway Presidential, the latter featuring the famed former resident's own club chair and gargantuan floor to ceiling windows with views out over the Grand Canal. Yet it is the Terrazza Redentore Suite, reached by its own private lift, which holds the greatest surprise. Climb the wrought iron spiral staircase (or take the lift) from this cosy loft apartment and you emerge to an expansive roof top terrace with views stretching along the Grand Canal, making this one of the most exclusive private venues in Venice. Here, dining is of the highest order, with the canal-side *Restaurant Club del Doge* offering the finest of Venetian culinary traditions to tempt international gourmands. For those who wish to learn the skills of such culinary artists, the highly regarded *Gritti Epicurean School* offers private, half- and three-day classes. Whether visiting for Carnival, for the Biennale or just because you can, the Gritti Palace will gild your trip with truly memorable luxury.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 35 minutes by private car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 82 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 1 Bar / Spa / The Gritti Epicurean Cooking School / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,145pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

HOTEL DANIELI

Three former palaces make up the Hotel Danieli, ensuring guests are swept up in a grand, aristocratic, Italian embrace. With panoramic views overlooking the lagoon and with St. Mark's Square literally around the corner, you are in the historic thick of it.

The hotel's 204 rooms offer a rich choice from elegant doubles and lagoon views, with classic Venetian styling, to opulent suites awash with marble, baroque flourishes and choice antiques. Steps away from the Bridge of Sighs and the famous monuments of Piazza San Marco, the grandiose Hotel Danieli, a *Luxury Collection Hotel* welcomes its guests with its palatial atmosphere and its unique suites collection rich of precious art and antiques that play witness to the city's history, artfully blended with contemporary comforts. Essential to the Danieli experience is its rooftop restaurant *Terrazza Danieli* with its spectacular views of the Grand Canal where the Executive Chef Alberto Fol surprises you with the finest flavours of Venetian cuisine. *Terrazza Danieli* is also the perfect setting for many glamorous and fashionable events.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 40 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 204 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 2 Bars / In-room Spa Treatment / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £860pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



PALAZZO GIOVANELLI

This glorious hotel could not be more perfectly located. Overlooking the Grand Canal in the wonderfully historic and romantic centre of Venice, it dates from the sixteenth century and former tenants include the Mozart family and the King of Denmark, Frederick Christian IV. And in the 18th century it has been home to the fourth last Venice Doge Marco Foscarini.

Adorned with mythological figures by Zelotti, huge carved doors, amazing Venetian Chandeliers, decorated ceiling beams, original frescoes and stuccos, its tranquil rooms and enchanting ambience perfectly encapsulate the magic of this most magical of cities. It's quietly hidden away from the bustle of tourists and yet it stands beside the Church of San Stae, a temple of Venetian art dating from the 1700s, and it's just a short stroll to the lively inns and famous market of the Mercerie and Rialto district. Opposite is the Venice Casino, an historic gambling house adorned with paintings from the 1400s. Be serenaded by gondolas floating past the hotel's waterside door. The vaporetto, or water taxis, stop practically outside the hotel so you can glide effortlessly past centuries-old palaces to the iconic St. Mark's Square to see the fabled St. Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace and bell tower of El Paron de Casa.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 50 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 41 Rooms & Suites / 1 Lounge & Bar

PRICES 4 nights from £760pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



BAGLIONI HOTEL LUNA

Situated just moments from the Piazza San Marco and with picture perfect views over the San Marco basin, this former magnificent 12th century Venetian palazzo is the oldest hotel in Venice and is reputed to have played host to the Knights Templar. Cloaked in Venetian history dating back to 1118, today the hotel has been transformed from an aristocratic palace to a home from home that is the very definition of Italianate grandeur.

Each of the lavish 92 rooms and suites are beautifully appointed with Italian silks, marble baths and glass chandeliers from neighbouring Murano while the most exclusive suites feature terraces with panoramic views over the lagoon and San Giorgio Island. Excellent in-hotel fine dining includes authentic local cuisine complimented by national and international fine wines from the hotel's very own cellar. Boasting a private mooring dock for boats and gondolas, the wonderfully-situated hotel puts the best of Venice on your doorstep.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 92 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £875pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



CA' SAGREDO

Another example of Venice's living history, The Ca' Sagredo lies in a 15th century palace on the Grand Canal between Ca D'Oro and the Rialto Bridge. It opened as a hotel in 2007 after a painstaking restoration which uncovered a host of architectural treasures. The Ca' Sagredo has been declared a national monument and still preserves the untouched beauty of an ancient noble residence.

The frescoes, public areas and marble staircases are all quite breathtaking, as are the 42 rooms and suites which are a combination of traditional Venetian décor with a contemporary twist. Some have stunning views over the canal while the historical Grand Suites boast 18th century stuccoed ceilings, bas reliefs and elaborately painted wall friezes. The elegant restaurant not only takes full advantage of its romantic canalside location, but also its proximity to the Rialto market with its fresh produce and seafood.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 30 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 22 Rooms & 20 Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £760pp including flights, transfers and breakfast. Half-board optional.



AMAN VENICE

Water-fronted directly onto the Grand Canal, Aman promises unparalleled luxury set in the heart of Venice, just steps from the Rialto Bridge. This regal, 16th century Palazzo is home to museum-quality treasures from gilded ceilings to the leather wall coverings, creating a setting just as romantic as the city itself.

Upon arrival, you step ashore into the lofty Reception Hall and up two levels of sweeping stairs until you arrive at the grandest floor of the Palazzo, the Piano Nobile. It is truly a sight to behold, full of rococo-richness adorned with the likes of tall gilt mirrors, intricate frescos, delicate Murano chandeliers and full length windows overlooking the Grand Canal. Sip on a cocktail from the roof terrace, overlooking Venice's terracotta rooftops or retreat in the private canal-side garden. A second private garden, an intimate spa (well, it is an Aman hotel after all), impressive library, a grand bar and an Italian fine-dining restaurant complete the line-up of A-List amenities here. This hotel is a work of art, and one that can only fully be appreciated by residing a while.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 30 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 24 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants / Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / 2 Private Gardens / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £2,340pp including flights, mini-bar and breakfast.



BAUER PALAZZO

Bauer Palazzo, located on the Grand Canal, a short distance from the city's main attractions and designer shops, is a luxurious hotel housed in a 19th century Venetian building. Behind arched lancet windows and a Gothic façade, the hotel's spacious 135 guest rooms and 56 suites, many of which feature private balconies or terraces, are exquisitely decorated in the Venetian style, with fine fabrics, gilded mirrors, carved stucco ceilings and Murano glass chandeliers. Features of the hotel include *Settimo Cielo*, a breakfast lounge and terrace that offers breathtaking views of Venice, the *De Pisis* gourmet restaurant facing the Grand Canal, a rooftop scenic Jacuzzi and a fully-equipped fitness room with personal trainer. As well as access to the facilities of *Palladio Hotel & SPA* on the Giudecca Island, including a holistic Spa, which offers a variety of first-class treatment and a three-acres garden.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 135 Rooms & 56 Suites / 1 Restaurant & 2 Bars / Fitness Centre / Rooftop Jacuzzi / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £995pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



SINA CENTURION PALACE

Behind its gorgeously neo-gothic façade, the Sina Centurion Palace features a surprisingly contemporary and fashionable interior with stunning views across the Grand Canal. Classical Venetian gothic touches add to the unique décor, from silk-lined walls and rich colours to shimmering gold bathrooms. The Sina Centurion Palace is a fashionable sanctuary that boasts a prime waterfront location blended with contemporary elegance and traditional Venetian touches. This former monastery comprises 50 rooms and suites, all of which feature highly individual décors of rich fabrics, cutting edge Italian-designed furniture and high-tech details in the rooms with exquisite moulded ceilings in the suites, some of which are arranged over two floors. The courtyard provides a perfect setting for a cocktail before dining in *Antinoo's Lounge and Restaurant* which offers fine-dining cuisine. If traditional luxury and chic modernity were ever to be found under one roof, it is here at the Sina Centurion Palace.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 30 minutes by car and water taxi from Venice Airport / 50 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £725pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



L'OROLOGIO

This lovely boutique hotel on the Grand Canal, close to the Rialto Bridge and Piazza San Marco, features quirky modern decor and design which takes its inspiration from collectible watches, with real clock mechanisms creatively used as art. It's certainly a place where you'll spend the most magical time. Luxury meets stylish minimalism in the rooms, where there are beamed ceilings, white and French red marbles, Venetian red quartz cement, and daring colour schemes of lime and mint green. The Deluxe Apartment provides the privacy of your own home with the convenience of a stay in a luxury hotel. Relax on vintage leathers sofas in the *L'O Bar*, as you enjoy sandwiches, Venetian cicchetti, cocktails and a stunning view of the Grand Canal.

THE ESSENTIALS Private water taxi is 20 minutes from Venice Airport / 50 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Children Welcome - Family Rooms Available

PRICES 4 nights from £690pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

ROME

Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply looking for la dolce vita, Rome is the city for you. It's an in-your-face mix of the ancient past and the stylish present, its fashion-conscious citizens getting on with their ordinary lives against the extraordinary backdrop of the Colosseum, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Square. This city is a living museum for those of you who don't really like museums, and after you've climbed the Spanish Steps, gasped at Michelangelo's frescoes and tossed a coin into the Trevi Fountain, there are plenty of relaxing alternatives. So why not enjoy a pizza in a pavement café and watch the priests on their way to the Vatican? Give your plastic an outing and make a beeline for the Ferragamo, Gucci and Prada stores along the Via Condotti. And, of course, you simply have to stay up very late and mingle with the glitterati...



HOTEL KEY: 1. HOTEL DE RUSSIE, a Rocco Forte Hotel 2. HOTEL EDEN 3. GRAND HOTEL PLAZA 4. THE INN AT THE ROMAN FORUM 5. ALDROVANDI VILLA BORGHESE 6. HOTEL DE LA VILLE 7. BAGLIONI HOTEL REGINA 8. VILLA SPALLETTI TRIVELLI

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly to Rome (Fiumicino airport) daily from London with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures from Gatwick, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester. Low cost carriers also fly to Rome's Ciampino airport from Stansted, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winters are relatively mild in the city, however, **November** and **December** are traditionally the wettest months. In the summer, **July** and **August** are the hottest, whereas spring and autumn, **March to June** and **September to October** respectively, are ideal with blue skies and a lovely climate.



Three Cities by Train

Three of the most famous, historic and beautiful cities in Italy – Venice, Florence and Rome – are conveniently linked by high speed trains, meaning it's easy to visit all of them in one trip and in great style. Begin in **Venice**, where you can soak up the unique atmosphere and history of this city on the water, with a stay at *The Gritti Palace*. Filled with priceless antiques and frescoes, it occupies the most prestigious location on the iconic Grand Canal, looking across to the water to the great church of Santa Maria della Salute. Sheltered by a tranquil square, it's close to Calle Largo XXII Marzo, with water taxis transporting



you from the hotel jetty to St. Mark's in five minutes. From here to **Florence**, where you can stay at the romantic *Hotel Brunelleschi*, once owned by Filippo Brunelleschi, Renaissance artist and author.

With origins in the Byzantine Pagliazza Tower, where the Santa Elisabetta restaurant is now located, this famous downtown hotel is a short stroll from the Uffizi Gallery, Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchi. Last stop, **Rome**, and perhaps the *Hotel De Russie*, the city's design hotel, with rooms and suites individually designed by Olga Polizzi in collaboration with the architect Tommaso Ziffer. Located in the former artists quarter, between the Spanish Steps

and Piazza del Popolo, the hotel features a show-stopping courtyard, housing a stylish cocktail bar and restaurant. It's the perfect place to relax after a day visiting the city's highlights – from the Colosseum to the Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes.



A Vespa Tour in Rome (Half/Full Day Rental)

When in Rome... whizz through the busy maze of streets like a Roman, on a Vespa, the iconic Italian scooter. Vespa means wasp in Italian, and you'll fly from landmark to landmark, hopping off to explore the Trevi Fountain and Colosseum, and to sip espresso at a pavement café.





HOTEL DE RUSSIE, a Rocco Forte Hotel

This people-watchers' paradise lies between the Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo in the heart of the city's most fashionable area. Home to a beautiful secret garden with extensive terraces, this is where many locals come to enjoy an aperitivo. Hotel de Russie offers a tranquil oasis amid the surrounding bustle of central Rome with its perfect combination of picturesque gardens, spa facility and impeccable service.

The 120 bedrooms are classic yet chic, all of them appointed in restful shades, with speciality suites boasting private long terraces and romantic city views. *De Russie Spa* offers an escape from the city's busy streets, where guests can immerse themselves in pampering treatments, the hydro pool, steam room or fitness centre. Culinary options include the gourmet Mediterranean delights of Chef Fulvio Pierangelini at *Le Jardin de Russie* restaurant which overlooks the "secret garden". Whilst *The Stravinskij Bar* serves light lunches and signature cocktails, drawing an eclectic crowd.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 30 minutes from Rome Airport / 120 Rooms & Suites / Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,565pp including flights and transfers.

HOTEL EDEN

Hotel Eden has played host to royalty and celebrities since it first opened its doors 130 years ago, and it's marking this anniversary with a multi-million dollar facelift. After being closed for almost 17 months, it's reopening in 2017 with 98 guestrooms and suites that feature interiors which combine the elegance of classic Rome, complete with rich fabrics, mosaics and marble bathrooms, with modern, home-from-home comforts and cutting edge technology.

There's a playful side to this fresh new look too, including a secret library bar and laid-back restaurant with stunning views and open air terrace. What hasn't changed is Hotel Eden's fantastic location – in the heart of Rome – and the panoramic city views. Executive Chef, Fabio Ciervo, is taking Italian cuisine to new heights with a philosophy based on 'innovation, wellbeing, ingredients, taste and art' and dishes that combine innovation with tradition. Gourmet 'panoramic cuisine' from a Mediterranean menu is served at Michelin-starred restaurant *La Terrazza* accompanied by iconic views of Rome, while *Il Giardino Ristorante* offers an oasis of calm where to enjoy Italian dishes and at *Il Giardino Bar* you can savour signature drinks and cicchetti. An exciting addition to the restored Hotel Eden is a *The Eden Spa*, with a luxuriant range of treatments.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 40 minutes from Rome Airport / 98 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,140pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



GRAND HOTEL PLAZA

The Grand Hotel Plaza, Rome is a very grand hotel indeed. It's stood for over a century and a half and not only does it enjoy the best location in Rome, amidst the shopping district in Via del Corso, it also boasts an illustrious and glamorous history as a location for countless movies.

Brad Pitt and George Clooney came here to film, *Ocean's 12*, Martin Scorsese chose it for his 'Gangs of New York' and eminent director Federico Fellini came often, finding endless inspiration within these walls. The original revolving door takes you in to a world of magnificent ballrooms and terraces scented by lemons and overlooking rooftops and cupolas of the Eternal City. Outside, there's also plenty to inspire. A short walk takes you to fabled monuments such as Trevi Fountain, Colosseum and Papal Basilica of Saint Peter. Breakfast in the liberty-styled *Salone Mascagni* and look forward to drinks in the sophisticated *Mascagni* bar, adorned with chestnut and cherry woodwork. Stay in a Deluxe room or palatial Presidential Suite and step back into an era of decorative stuccos, parquet floors, original Mongiardino furnishings and period floor to ceiling paintings.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 40 minutes from Rome Airport / 190 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 2 Bars / Fitness Room / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £685pp including flights and transfers.

THE INN AT THE ROMAN FORUM

Dating back to the 15th century and once a private residence, the family-run *The Inn at the Roman Forum* is located just a few steps from some of the most ancient and fabled ruins in Rome but it also houses remarkable Roman ruins within its own walls.

The enchanting 20 rooms and apartments are the perfect blend of contemporary style with ancient Roman touches, featuring striking walls covered in silk moire, heavy bronze drapes and parquet floors. Some with canopied beds and two top floor suites boasting a private patio and garden. Climb the marble staircase up four floors to the rooftop terrace where you can pass some time taking in the city views. After a day of exploring all of the sights, return for cocktails in the lounge or discover the ancient Roman Ruins, dating back 2,000 years, which are hidden in the cellars beneath the hotel.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Rome Airport / 20 Rooms & Apartments / 1 Bar Lounge / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £805pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



ALDROVANDI VILLA BORGHESE

A stylish retreat amidst the bustle of Rome. With its private exotic pool garden, its stunning location opposite the Borghese Gardens and just a five-minute chauffeur drive to the Spanish Steps, the Aldrovandi Villa Borghese is in every sense an urban resort.

Beautiful and elegant, refined and luxurious, and charming and sophisticated are but a few fitting adjectives we could use. When all your needs and wishes as a modern traveller are met, your time is released to precious moments. An enchanting city is at your fingertips and a rich experience awaits. As a former convent, it is a natural oasis in the Eternal City and its pristine gardens, *Mytha Spa* and heated outdoor pool draw from this tranquil inspiration. Within, lies opulently appointed rooms and suites that celebrate the traditional Italian style. All year long, surrounded by magnificent flowers under the delicate shade of beautiful trees, enjoy an unforgettable dinner in the one Michelin Star restaurant, *Assaje*, or enjoy a lift to the Spanish Steps in five minutes. Be sure to make it back in time to enjoy an aperitif with signature cocktails in the jubilant *Garden Bar* or *casy American Bar*.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 40 minutes from Rome Airport / 103 Rooms & Suites / 5 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Outdoor Pool / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £685pp including flights, transfers and breakfast. Half-board optional.



HOTEL DE LA VILLE

Be among the first to experience Rome's most extraordinary new destination. Hotel De La Ville opens in May 2019 and astonishingly positioned in the heart of the city, atop the splendid 18th century Spanish Steps, with stunning views over the Piazza di Spagna, it's sure to become a gilded honeypot for the most cultured and discerning.

Inspired by the era of the Grand Tour, when aristocratic youngsters set out to sample the cultural highlights of Europe, the hotel seamlessly merges the rarefied elegance of 18th-century architecture with modern luxury, cutting edge technology and sublime service. Your own Grand Tour will surely take in the Trevi Fountain, cobblestoned Via dei Condotti and the Renaissance magnificence of the Villa Medici, which are all close by. The 104 rooms and suites are designed with artistic flair, adorned with opulent fabrics and decadent furnishings, also influenced by the Grand Tour. Menus tantalise with Michelin-starred chef Fulvio Pierangelini's fresh take on Roman gastronomy. Choose from rustic fare in the *Lobby Lounge & Bistro* and Mediterranean-infused dishes in the main restaurant, looking out on the hotel's tranquil courtyard. The wonderful 550m² spa is scented with orange blossom and treatments embrace Sicilian botanics to leave you revitalised and refreshed.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 40 minutes from Rome Airport / 104 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £1,175pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



BAGLIONI HOTEL REGINA

Situated on the strategic Via Veneto, renowned as the meeting place of artists, writers and actors during the Dolce Vita period, the Baglioni Hotel Regina is just a stone's throw from the gardens of Villa Borghese, Piazza di Spagna and the famous fashion street, Via Condotti.

Housed in a Liberty-style building that reflects the spirit of Italy at the beginning of the 20th century, the hotel was once the home of Queen Margherita of Savoy. Antique furnishings, silk tapestries and a pure Classic or Art Déco soul distinguish the 117 rooms and suites, some of which boast their own private balconies overlooking stunning views of the rooftops of Rome. Authentic Mediterranean cuisine can be sampled at the *Brunello Lounge & Restaurant*, with its exclusive entrance on the Via Veneto. The exclusive *Baglioni SPA* by *Caschera SPA* provides a tranquil oasis in the heart of the city with massage rooms, fitness centre and Turkish bath.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 30 minutes from Rome Airport / 117 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome with Babysitting Facility

PRICES

4 nights from £855pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

VILLA SPALLETTI TRIVELLI

This historic 20th century residence is all about privacy and discretion, the mood definitely more 'country estate' than 'urban retreat'. Central in its location, just a 5-minute walk from the Trevi Fountain, you'll be protected from the masses by the kind of walled Italian garden that comes with gazebos, fountains and manicured lawns.

Tapestries, oil paintings and period furnishings define the public spaces, everything sourced from the private collection of the Spalletti Trivelli family. Even the 14 rooms and suites are individually appointed as in a private house. And this homely appeal extends to the hotel's addition of two garden suites. These are actually beautifully appointed, self-contained apartments with their own private terrace and connected via the gardens to the hotel. Exclusive like the historic home that houses it, the wellness centre in Villa Spalletti Trivelli ensures unique treatments and therapies, guaranteeing unrivalled relaxation in the historic centre of Rome.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 40 minutes from Rome Airport / 14 Rooms / 1 Restaurant / Roof Top Bar / Jacuzzi / Wellness Centre / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome with Babysitting Facility

PRICES

4 nights from £985pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

FLORENCE

Tuscany's most famous city, Florence is the cradle of the Renaissance and a treasure trove of palaces, monuments, churches, palazzos and galleries. Begin a tour at the Piazza del Duomo, presided over by the majestic Duomo, or Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, a breathtaking landmark with its pink, white and green marble facade and famous red-tiled dome by Brunelleschi. In the echoing interior are frescoes by Vasari and Zuccari and dozens of stunning stained-glass windows. Climb the four hundred steps to Giotto's bell tower and admire the mesmerising view of the city. The Uffizi Gallery is one of the most famous museums in the world, exhibiting works such as Botticelli's 'The Birth of Venus' and da Vinci's 'Annunciation', while the Accademia Gallery houses 'David' the masterpiece by Michelangelo. The enormous Pitti Palace is one of Florence's largest architectural monuments, built in the fifteenth century and now home to more important museums. Behind it are the Boboli gardens where you can wander through centuries-old oak trees, sculptures and fountains.



HOTEL KEY: 1. BELMOND VILLA SAN MICHELE 2. HOTEL SAVOY, a Rocco Forte Hotel 3. RELAIS SANTA CROCE 4. HOTEL LUNGARNO 5. HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI 6. L'OROLOGIO 7. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FIRENZE 8. IL SALVIATINO 9. VILLA CORA

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly to Pisa and Florence from London. Other scheduled airlines offer alternative timings and direct departures to Florence from London City and Gatwick; and to Pisa from Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Bristol, East Midlands, Manchester, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winter months are traditionally cool and wet and the summer hot and dry. Meaning the best months to visit are *March to June* and *September to October* which also tend to be quieter.



Andrea Bocelli Opera Package

The annual homecoming event of celebrated Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli** takes place on 25th and 27th July 2019, when Bocelli will perform two special concerts in Latjatio at the stunning *Teatro del Silenzio* (Theatre of Silence), the magnificent open air amphitheatre which he was instrumental in creating. As well as flights and tickets to the concert, this exclusive VIP package includes private airport to hotel transfers and three nights accommodation as well as a Private E-Class Mercedes hotel to concert return transfers. Enjoy pre-show drinks and dinner at *La Mandriola*, a traditional Tuscan farm



nestled in fertile olive groves and vineyards, then take the executive VIP option and enter the theatre from La Mandriola, or from through the dramatic *Poggio al Lupo* (Hill of the Wolf) entrance, for VIP area ticket holders. And after a magical musical event, return to your luxury hotel; Perhaps the romantic *Brunelleschi*, in the shadow of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, or *Il Salviatino*, a luxury Palazzo with award-winning Thai Spa Devarana. Or perhaps you'll choose the *Gallery Art Hotel* where visual cultural treats await.

A One Day Ferrari Tour in Florence

Explore Florence and the Tuscan countryside for one day or more in the most glamorous supercar of them all. Ferrari is synonymous with Italian style, and accompanied by an expert guide, it's the ideal way to tour Tuscany and the Florentine hills, stopping off to sip a glass of Chianti en route.



Your personal concierge

As personal and tailored to you as your holiday itself down to the finest detail; let us take care of it. From pre-booking spa treatments, restaurant reservations, golf tee times to a wide range of exclusive excursions, private tours and handpicked activities. Discuss your request with the reservations team or e-mail: concierge@azurecollection.com



BELMOND VILLA SAN MICHELE

Nestled on a hilltop amid lush trees and terraced gardens, Belmond Villa San Michele was formerly a 15th century monastery which has been carefully transformed into a magnificent retreat cloaked in history – the hotel's facade is attributed to none other than Michelangelo – and stunning views over Florence and the Arno Valley.

Nowadays it offers 45 guest quarters, some of them secluded suites in the gardens and a few of them the cosy hideaways of former monks, yet others are 'named' suites with anything from private gardens to pool-like bathtubs. The Tuscan cuisine of the 16th century *Loggia* restaurant and umbrella cocktails beside the hilltop swimming pool are perfectly enhanced by the spellbinding views while culinary classes are held in the *Buono Buonissimo!* cookery school where the Executive Chef teaches "hands on" lessons for all ages.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 15 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 45 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Complimentary Shuttle to/from Florence / Cookery School / Children Welcome with Kid's Concierge

PRICES 4 nights from £1,505pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL SAVOY, a Rocco Forte Hotel

A Rocco Forte spellbinder, the recently refurbished Hotel Savoy is a fashion-conscious yet family-friendly boutique hotel with a delightfully central location, built on the site of the old church of San Tommaso just moments away from the Duomo and Uffizi gallery. "Contemporary" is the underlying theme here thanks to the elegant and contemporary interiors courtesy of the ever-stylish Olga Polizzi; tonal colours, bold artwork and fun fabrics combine to create a refined statement in the heart of the city.

Its 80 rooms and suites have all been styled in a soothing blend of muted earth tones and its artwork is appropriately inspired by the city's obsession with shoes and hats. In spring the new retro-chic, Florentine-inspired bar and restaurant, called *Irene*, will serve refreshingly light reinterpretations of classic Tuscan dishes using the finest local, seasonal ingredients. Whilst there's also a fitness centre on-site, you'll be so busy hitting the city's boutiques that a work-out will hardly be necessary.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 15 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 80 Rooms & Suites / Restaurant & Bar / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,395pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



RELAIS SANTA CROCE

The dreamy Relais Santa Croce can be found in an 18th century palazzo that lies at the historic heart of Florence. There's an air of enchantment here, created by hand-sculpted reliefs and original frescoes, a majestic ballroom, large sunlit windows and imposing fireplaces.

The atmosphere is timeless and magical and to stay here is to be surrounded by art and beauty. The charming rooms feature four poster beds, exposed beams, earthy terracotta, parquet and wood trim, while suites are among the grandest in Florence, defined by original 18th century frescoes. The Presidential Suite boasts a Turkish bath with chromotherapy and Jacuzzi. Cuisine is designed to offer a sensory journey and flavour of local tradition. Dine on classic Tuscan dishes at the stylish *Guelfi & Ghibellini Restaurant*, sheltered in the dramatic 18th century halls. Tea is a daily ritual as well as a refreshing beverage and there's a choice of 250 types, all served in little works of art: cups made by Italy's most important porcelain maker, Richard Ginori. What better place to enjoy the finest infusions than in a space steeped in aristocratic grandeur. Afternoon tea is complete with delicious cakes, sandwiches, artisanal biscuits, and musicians from Florence's most prestigious academies.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 20 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 24 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £860pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

HOTEL LUNGARNO

Having undergone a complete refurbishment in 2017, this elegant yet unpretentious affair is romantically located right on the south bank of the Arno River, just to the west of the Ponte Vecchio. Watch the river flow from your private balcony with a glass of Chianti and immerse in the breathtaking views in this serene and stylish retreat.

Stay in one of its terraced guest rooms overlooking the water and you can almost conjure up 'Room with a View'; another quintessential Florentine experience awaits you in the *Borgo San Jacopo* restaurant, awarded with a Michelin Star. Art, antiques and charming staff endow the Hotel Lungarno with a classic, friendly ambience, but if you fancy something a little more cutting-edge opt for one of its sister hotels: *The Continentale* evokes all the glamour of the 50s, the *Gallery Hotel Art* is an innovative urban getaway. All of which belong to the Salvatore Ferragamo Family, meaning you are in the same fashionable hands as the many celebrities who have adorned the red carpet in one of their exclusive creations.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 20 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 73 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 1 Bar / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,045pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI

With an enviable position for any Florence goer, emerge from its doors in to the charming quiet piazza and in just a few footsteps find yourself aside the wonder of the Duomo. In fact it is so close that many of its rooms and suites frame the cathedral through their windows.

For something really special, choose the Pagliazza Tower Suite, spread over two floors in the historical tower, boasting charm, history and spectacular views. Looking inward, you find contemporary furnishings sitting elegantly within this historical building. Style and substance are in abundance here with service matching the décor for its high quality. Book well in advance to relish an exquisite meal at its intimate *Restaurant Santa Elisabetta*, listed in the 2019 Michelin Guide: with just 7 tables you know the talented chef is focusing his attention on every plate. As a base from which to explore or as a cosy retreat, you won't be disappointed.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 20 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 96 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Private Museum / Fitness Room / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £605pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

L'OROLOGIO

L'Orologio looks out over the Santa Maria Novella, one of the most lovely ancient squares of Florence, and the breakfast room here, in an authentic Renaissance loggia, has views of the Basilica. In the heart of the city, this boutique gem is close to the Duomo and Ponte Vecchio.

The interiors are magical, with décor inspired by the world of vintage luxury watches – door handles are shaped like watch hands and sink taps resemble winding crowns. Sophisticated superior rooms boast mahogany furniture, rich drapery, parquet floors, and marble bathrooms while the family room overlooks the courtyards of ancient Florentine palaces. Stop by at the *LO Bar* for coffee and a menu of sweet and savoury dishes inspired by Tuscan cuisine. For added wellbeing, visit the Finnish sauna with chromotherapy.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 20 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 58 Rooms & Suites / Fitness Centre / Sauna / Lounge Bar & Cigar Room / Children Welcome - Family Rooms Available

PRICES

4 nights from £630pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FIRENZE

This former convent and Renaissance palazzo might now be part of the world's finest hotel company, but its meticulous 7-year restoration means that the 15th century frescoes and hand-painted ceilings still take centre stage. And, as it boasts the city's finest spa, as well as its largest private garden (11 acres), it certainly lives up to its billing as a 'city sanctuary'. The 116-room hotel lies in a quiet street in the historic centre of Florence just 10 minutes' walk to all the sights. The rooms are found in either the 500 year old Palazzo della Gherardesca or in the Sixteenth Century *La Villa*.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 20 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 116 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants (1 Michelin-Starred) / 2 Bars / Spa / 11 Acre Private Park / Fitness Centre / Outdoor Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,285pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



IL SALVIATINO

Proudly set on the hillside of Fiesole, this perfectly restored villa dates back to the 15th century and still has the handpainted frescoes and centuries-old mosaics as evidence. With stunning views of Florence and the rolling Tuscan landscape, Il Salviatino's beautifully manicured gardens, intimate style and luxuriate Spa, make it an ideal place for seclusion with the vibrant city of Florence within easy reach. The 44 rooms and suites are all individual works of art, yet the comfortable lounges, cordial ambience and friendly 'service ambassadors' contribute more than enough warmth.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 25 minutes from Florence Airport or 60 minutes from Pisa Airport / 44 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Swimming Pool / Fitness Room / 12-Acre Private Park / Shuttle Service to the City Centre / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £795pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



VILLA CORA

Located in a centuries-old park minutes away from the city, Villa Cora was built for Baron Oppenheim and the fabulously eclectic interiors reflect both this aristocratic heritage and the spectacular décor of a period when Florence was the capital of the Kingdom of Italy. Each floor is characterised by a distinct style, from the Empress Eugénie and her passion for roses, to an Oriental style, to 1950s America. *The Bellevue* roof terrace on the fifth floor offers wonderful scenic views of the city and surrounding hills and is the perfect spot for an aperitif prior to dining at *Le Bistrot*, serving traditional dishes with contemporary influences.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 25 minutes from Florence Airport / 44 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Open Outdoor All-Year Round Heated Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £780pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

TUSCANY

In Tuscany there are Renaissance palaces and Romanesque churches to explore and masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo to marvel at. There are also the beautiful mountain paths and hills of Chianti to walk or cycle along, and restaurants, cafés and pizzerias to delight the most discerning diners and wine buffs. Pisa is most famous for its Leaning Tower, part of the Cathedral of Santa Maria in The Square of Miracles. Built in 1173 on shifting ground, the Leaning Tower is 55 metres high and is inclined 5° southward. Climb up 294 steps through galleries and arcades and you'll reach the seven bells at the very top. The Camposanto, Opera del Duomo Museum and Museum of the Sinopie outside the Square are less famous but just as fascinating. Cortona is also a must see. This small and charming town in the Chiana Valley in southern Tuscany is enclosed by stone walls dating back to Etruscan and Roman times and sits on the top of a hill about 600 metres above sea level, with spectacular views of the surrounding valley.



HOTEL KEY: 1. RELAIS LA CORTE DEI PAPI 2. ROSEWOOD CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO 3. BORGO SANTO PIETRO 4. BELMOND CASTELLO DI CASOLE 5. COMO CASTELLO DEL NERO 6. PRINCIPE FORTE DEI MARMI 7. HOTEL IL PELLICANO 8. MONTEVERDI TUSCANY 9. CASTEL MONASTERO 10. GRAND HOTEL PRINCIPE DI PIEMONTE 11. L'ANDANA

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly to Pisa and Florence from London. Other scheduled airlines offer alternative timings and direct departures to Florence from London City and Gatwick; and to Pisa from Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Bristol, East Midlands, Manchester, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winter months are traditionally cool and wet and the summer hot and dry. Meaning the best months to visit are *March to June* and *September to October* which also tend to be quieter.



Tuscany Wine & Culture

Close to the ancient Etruscan city of Cortona, you'll spend two nights at **Relais Le Corte Dei Papi**, which boasts a restaurant located in the old wine cellar. This atmospheric space is defined by stone walls, timber roof and terracotta floor tiles while the menu offers a wide selection of Tuscan specialities. Meanwhile, the hotel's current wine cellar is stocked with about 700 labels of the best wines from different regions of Italy, with a particular preference for the famous named red wines of Tuscany, including Sassicaia, Ornellaia, Masseto, Solaia and Tignanello. **COMO Castello Del Nero** is a boutique hotel that was once the historic home of Florentine noble families and to spend two nights



here is to be immersed in the famed beauty of the lush Chianti wine region. The ancient Etruscans tended their vineyards here around 2,500 years ago and Chianti is one of the oldest wines in the world. An ancient staircase leads to two stone cellars which were part of the original 12th century castle. In this evocative haven, you'll experience wine pairings and extra virgin olive oil tastings devised by the resort's sommelier. This hotel is equally renowned for cooking classes and guests of all ages will learn to cook pasta, ravioli and tagliatelle with Italian flair. The concierge can also arrange tastings at the best wineries. Your final two nights will be spent at **Villa Cora**. Russian composer Tchaikovsky once stayed in these glorious room, considered the most beautiful residence in Florence.

It overlooks the magnificent green expanse of the Boboli Gardens, established by the Medici family who created the Italian garden style that would become a model for many European courts. This outdoor museum is home to ancient and Renaissance statues that complete your Italian cultural and wine journey.



A Cinquecento Tour in Tuscany (Half/Full Day Rental)

Get behind the wheel of a classic Fiat Cinquecento, for a panoramic tour through the Tuscan countryside. Rent this vintage vehicle for a half day or whole day and cruise cypress tree lined avenues, passing historic villas, castles and olive groves.



RELAIS LA CORTE DEI PAPI - Cortana

In a small valley close to Cortona in the Tuscan countryside, Relais La Corte dei Papi is an elegant 'Vintage house' that has been passed down through generations of the Papi family and now offers ancient traditions and wonderful wellness suites. David Papi and his mother Gabriella have restored the house with love and respect for its heritage, creating an intimate romantic and luxurious hotel rich in history.

The spacious and individually designed Spa Suites are really special, each featuring a Jacuzzi, Turkish bath and steam room, multi-sensory showers with aromatherapy, chromotherapy and music therapy – a high-tech sound and lighting system so you can listen to Italian opera while you relax. You can also enjoy spa treatments in the privacy of your suite. Tear yourself away to explore the ancient Etruscan city of Cortona and return for dinner in the restaurant in the old cellar, a romantic retreat characterised by stone walls, timber roof and terracotta floor and a menu of Tuscan specialties. In summertime, dine by the pool, surrounded by the park full of flowers, pines and olive trees.



Weddings at Relais La Corte dei Papi

This romantic and historic Tuscan villa, surrounded by fragrant flowers, olive and pine trees, is an idyllic place to tie the knot. The villa, pool and picturesque outdoor restaurant are stunning backdrops and you can enjoy complete privacy by reserving the entire hotel.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 90 minutes from Florence Airport or 120 minutes from Pisa Airport / 15 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Golf / Swimming Pool / Cooking Classes / Wine Tours / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £975pp including flights, car hire and breakfast. Half-board optional.



ROSEWOOD CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO

Imagine waking to gaze on your own private Tuscan estate, surrounded by vineyard cloaked hills dotted with ancient farmhouses? Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco, in the UNESCO-listed Val d'Orcia National Park and in the Brunello di Montalcino wine producing region, offers just that. The skilful blend of authentically restored 17th- and 18th-century villas and suites, and 21st-century refinements make up the estate that dates back around eight-hundred years.

The 23 spacious suites are in the heart of the estate, in a film-set-perfect hilltop 'village' of shuttered buildings, tall cypresses and stone-flagged streets. Spread across the estate, the 11 lovingly restored villas (three to six bedrooms) offering every refinement from walk-in closets to private pools, plus a curated list of dining experiences. With a spa, cooking school, winery, restaurants, private golf course, tennis courts, infinity pool and hiking trails, you may never need to leave the estate.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 110 minutes from Florence Airport or 150 minutes from Pisa Airport / 23 Suites / 11 Villas / 2 Restaurants & Bars / On-site Winery / Spa / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Private Golf / Children Welcome / On-site Helipad

PRICES 4 nights from £1,995pp including flights, car hire and breakfast. Half-board optional.

BORGO SANTO PIETRO

A thirteenth century villa set on a working farm in the rich and fertile Tuscan countryside, Borgo Santo Pietro is a luxury spa hotel and haven of tranquility.

Guests are welcomed to the historic villa with a huge open fire and suites made stylishly comfortable by antiques, hand-painted frescoes, fresh flowers and worn leather armchairs. Relax in the music room and library, or on a lounge in the courtyard sheltered by citrus trees. Wander the 230-acre estate, which includes vineyards and oak forest where Borgo's pigs forage for the nutritious acorns that enhance the flavour of the prosciutto. There's a 'farm to plate' philosophy here, with Michelin-starred chefs turning homegrown biodynamic vegetables, herbs and honey into the most delightful and healthful dishes. A shepherd brings fresh sheep's milk to the *Meo Modo* kitchen, where it's made into fresh cheese and your visit to the Borgo spa begins with a purifying tisana, made from freshly picked aromatic herbs. Most of the suites have private gardens and for the ultimate in ultimate seclusion, take a suite with a private 36 square metre saltwater pool fitted with a jacuzzi and cascade. In every way, this is the perfect destination for the most romantic of honeymoons.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 1 hour from Florence Airport / 20 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Organic Working Farm / Cooking School / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £1,645pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



BELMOND CASTELLO DI CASOLE

Set on an estate of 4,200 acres, the stunning centre piece is a restored 10th century hilltop castle surrounded by beautifully manicured grounds. The boutique, all-suite hotel intertwines perfectly old world charm with modern luxury.

Today the estate is still very much a working farm and game reserve which you are invited to explore by foot, and enjoy the beauty which surrounds you.

The authentic restoration has resulted in a stunning all-suite property, from Double Deluxe in the main building to the enticing apartment-style Oliveto Suites just a short stroll away. Back at the main hotel, the restaurants and bars will treat your palette, whilst the *Essere Spa* and pool will treat your body and soul.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes from Florence Airport or 110 minutes from Pisa Airport / 39 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome with Babysitting Facility

PRICES

4 nights from £1,580pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.

COMO CASTELLO DEL NERO

Dating back to the 12th century, this converted castle is surrounded by an idyllic setting in the heart of the famous Chianti wine region within easy reach of Florence and Siena. Over 700 acres of rolling hills, vineyards and lakes surround the estate with stunning views over the dramatic countryside making it the prime location for a Tuscan retreat complete with Michelin-starred dining and one of the most prestigious Spas in Tuscany.

Many of the 12th century features are still evident in the 50 rooms and suites with vivid frescoes, charming vaulted ceilings and original Tuscan furnishings. And after a day exploring, the Michelin-starred *La Torre* restaurant will treat you to a real gourmet experience. The stunning backdrop of the surrounding hills can be enjoyed from their Tuscan restaurant *La Taverna*, set in the beautifully restored former kitchens of the castle and by the pool during summer, while the Spa offers a vast range of treatments using estate-produced extra virgin olive oil from the surrounding olive groves.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 35 minutes from Florence Airport or 90 minutes from Pisa Airport / 50 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants (1 Michelin-Starred) & 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,145pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



PRINCIPE FORTE DEI MARMI - Tuscan Riviera

Principe Forte dei Marmi is a stylish luxury Boutique Hotel by the sea where design embraces food tastings and innovative Spa treatments, and is part of the 'Leading Hotels of the World', 'Fine Hotel Resort' and 'Virtuoso'. 28 sophisticated rooms, of which are 15 suites, furnished by renowned Italian designers. Rooms with floor to ceiling French windows, parquet flooring, marble bathroom with glass walls and walk-in shower, suites in an open-air concept and *The Spatio*, one of a kind suite, with a private lodge, bathtub and walk-in shower.

Egoista Spa is a place where you can discover a new extraordinary wellness experience made of colours, sounds and unforgettable fragrances, guided by the passion of the therapists through specialized programs created to Rebalance, Energize and Regenerate body and mind. At the Michelin-starred *Lux Lucis Restaurant*, creativity is in every detail. Contemporary Tuscan cuisine for an unforgettable experience, overlooking the Mediterranean shore. One of the most exclusive rooftops around the area, where thanks to the wide glass walls, the internal space merges into the external to form an unique space, between the sky, the sea and the imposing Apuan Alps.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 30 minutes from Pisa Airport / 28 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 3 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Beach Club with Surf School / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £1,495pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



HOTEL IL PELLICANO - Argentario Coast

Situated in Porto Ercole on the Argentario coast this elegant property resembles a small charming village thanks to its cluster of cottages that form the hotel, and which cling to the rugged hillside above the azure blue waters that lap its beach club – think more Amalfi coastline than Sardinian beach – with its classic Tuscan-styled rooms reflecting the style and beauty of the region.

There are many reasons why you should visit this southern part of the Tuscan coastline, but two of them are Hotel Il Pellicano and a Michelin Star. The latter is held thanks to the impressive talents of the chef Michelino Gioia and you can sample his craftsmanship in *Il Pellicano* restaurant and then learn some of his skills during a cooking class, just one of the many activities devised to keep you as entertained as you want to be. And when you don't want to be active, head to either the *Beach Club* or the *Pelliclub* for some much deserved R and R – you will be in great hands.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 90 minutes from Rome Airport / 50 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars (1 Michelin-Starred) / Spa / Fitness Centre / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Private Beach / Children Welcome from 8 years and above
PRICES 4 nights from £1,365pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



MONTEVERDI TUSCANY

Monteverdi is a secluded boutique retreat nestled in Val d'Orcia, one of the loveliest areas of Tuscany, which is not just pretty in the summer. In fact winter is the perfect time to bask in the newly restored spa, enjoy concerts by world-class musicians, a feast of visual art and fine-tuning your Tuscan cooking skills.

Monteverdi comprises a variety of charmingly romantic rooms and suites. The five Luxury Rooms, seven Village Suites and six Luxury View Suites in the medieval village of Castiglioncello del Trinoro, have been expertly restored using Tuscan limestone, granite and Travertine. Art, food and beauty go together at Monteverdi. This is quintessential Tuscany, with spellbinding views of gold and green fields, cypress trees and vineyards, and throughout the year there's also a programme of curated arts in the art gallery as well as musical events in the 14th-century Romanesque church, featuring performing artists. Meanwhile the renovated Spa, featuring a new underground heated pool with views of the Tuscan countryside, sensory shower and cold plunge pool, will leave you feeling beautiful on the inside too. The informal fine-dining restaurant, *Oreade* pays homage to this great agricultural and wine region and opened in the spring of 2018, the Culinary Academy, in the former village school, boasts a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen so you can take a taste of Tuscany home with you.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 100 minutes from Florence Airport, 2 hours from Rome airport and 2 hours 30 minutes from Pisa / 18 Rooms & Suites including 3 Villas / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Gym / Outdoor Swimming Pool / Indoor Underground Heated Pool / Cooking Classes / Wine Tasting / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,730pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



CASTEL MONASTERO

Live like a King in this beautifully and authentically restored castle and former 11th century monastery close to Siena. This ancient walled hamlet is redolent of ancient Tuscany and the perfect base for a Renaissance retreat.

The rooms, suites and detached villa are all furnished with timeless Tuscan charm and modern conveniences, while outside their windows are vineyards, woods, fields and picturesque piazza with a café, restaurant and quaint little church. The spa resides in two traditional Tuscan villas, and offers slimming, detox and anti age treatments. The 'Aqua Monasterii' course, with high saline density sea oil pool, was designed exclusively for this spa by the medical team of Thalasso del Forte. Facing the piazza, *Contrada*, the charming gourmet restaurant serves classic dishes with modern flourishes. *La Cantina Restaurant* is hidden in the medieval wine cellars, with high vaulted ceilings and exposed stone walls that will transport you to a bygone time. Enjoy a tasting of typical wines, oils and cheeses, swim in the spectacular black basalt pool, go truffle hunting in the woods and soar in a hot air balloon flight over the Chianti hills.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 75 minutes from Florence Airport and 2 hours from Pisa Airport / 74 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Tennis / Swimming Pool / Wine Tasting / Cooking Courses / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,215pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



GRAND HOTEL PRINCIPE DI PIEMONTE Tuscan Riviera

This hotel on Viareggio's seafloor is noted for being the only hotel in Tuscany with two Michelin stars, but that's not all that makes it stand out from the crowd. It is also one of the world's most historic and elegant hotels. First opening its doors in the early twenties, it was renamed the Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte in 1938 and restored to its former splendour just over ten years ago. The grandeur of its magnificent façade has made it a star of various prestigious movie productions.

Luxurious rooms and suites look out over the Apuan Alps, the Tyrrhenian Sea, or the Art Nouveau buildings and historic cafés of the lovely Viareggio promenade. The refined and splendid *Piccolo Principe* and *Regina* restaurants have brought the Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte Viareggio even more fame, attracting connoisseurs of fine Tuscan and Versilian cuisine. Enjoy the dishes in the two Michelin-star *Piccolo Principe's* exclusive dining room or bright roof garden and in *Regina* restaurant's exclusive ground-floor room or the veranda overlooking the Promenade.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 35 minutes from Pisa Airport / 106 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Pool with Hydromassage Zones & Cascades / Fitness Centre

PRICES

4 nights from £805pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

L'ANDANA - Tuscany

This Tuscan escape benefits from being close to the sea and surrounded by 500 hectares of park, with a complimentary driving range. L'Andana's name derives from its long, storybook driveway, lined with cypresses and maritime pines. It leads to a former villa, the summer residence of the Grand Duke Leopold II and his court. L'Andana has two main buildings, separated by a magical Winter Garden, made of wrought-iron and glass. From the heated outdoor pool there are sublime views of the ancient town of Castiglione della Pescaia.

The thirty-three sun-lit rooms and suites embrace the beauty of Maremma in tones of earth, beiges, ochre-yellow and purple, highlighted with crimson and white. Nuances of velvet and traditional Tuscan stone fireplaces create an atmosphere that's enchantingly warm and inviting. Indigent rituals at *ESPA SPA* at *L'Andana* also harness the beauty of the Maremma landscape, through the essences of lavender and rosemary. Tear yourself away to explore the ancient Etruscan city of Pitigliano (the little Jerusalem) and return for dinner in the restaurant in the granary characterised by stone walls, timber roof and terracotta floor and a menu of Tuscan specialties. In summertime, dine by the pool, surrounded by the park full of flowers, pines and olive trees.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 2 hours from Florence Airport or 90 minutes from Pisa Airport / 33 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants (1 Michelin-Starred) / Spa / Golf / Swimming Pool / Tennis

PRICES

4 nights from £1,195pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

THE LAKES, VERONA & MILAN

All deserving of your discovery in their own right, these are the gems of Northern Italy. Since Roman times LAKE COMO has been popular with the rich and famous, an appeal that still remains today as it is widely regarded as one of Italy's most beautiful lakes. Whilst the largest of the lakes, and one of the most popular, is LAKE GARDA and for good reason. LAKE ISEO is often referred to as 'Italy's secret gem'. Smaller than some of the more famous lakes, it's also quieter. In the heart of Lombardy's wine-growing region it's surrounded by vineyards, medieval castles and charming cafés and convents. It also inspired James Bond's boats! Meanwhile, if fair VERONA was in any other country it would be flooded with tourists thanks to its architecture, boutique shops and of course the annual Opera Festival. Meanwhile the bustling metropolis of MILAN is a global capital of fashion, business and opera in the northern Lombardy region. Home to centuries of art and culture, it's wonderful destination for a city break.



HOTEL KEY 1. GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO 2. MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAGO DI COMO 3. CASTELLO DAL POZZO 4. LEFAY RESORT & SPA LAGO DI GARDA 5. VILLA CORDEVIGO 6. BYBLOS ART HOTEL 7. HOTEL CHÂTEAU MONFORT 8. HOTEL PALAZZO PARIGI

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways offers direct departures from London to Milan and Verona, with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures to Milan from Gatwick, Luton, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow; and to Verona from Gatwick, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winter is much colder and less predictable until *March*. *April* can be lovely with spring flowers blooming. *May*, *June* and *September* offer great temperatures and are a little quieter as Italians' traditional holiday is *July* and *August* when temperatures are at their peak.



The Lakes Itinerary

Three lovely Italian lakes, three stunning hotels, and three blissful nights in each. What the Italian lakes all have in common is a balmy Mediterranean climate, with sky blue water cradled by the snow-custed Alps, but Lake Maggiore is especially known for its botanical gardens. On the south side of the Alps, it's the second largest lake in Italy and here, in the western hills, stands the boutique palace hotel of **Castello Dal Pozzo**, a romantic, historic eighteenth century castle, adorned with glittering chandeliers and luxurious drapes and nestled in a park of flowered avenues, meadows and ponds. After three days here, you'll head to Italy's most fabled lake, Lake Como, which has earned fame as home to Hollywood



stars like George Clooney. Sheltered by snow-covered Rhaetian Alps and surrounded by steep wooded hills, its winding shoreline is dotted with beautiful small towns and exquisite villas. One of the loveliest buildings is the **Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como**, reopened in 2019 after a refurbishment. Its style effortlessly combines Italian chic with timeless Oriental charm with a destination spa. Lake Garda is Italy's largest lake and it's no wonder it's inspired great poets. Its wider south end is surrounded by glacial hills while the narrow northern part is like a dramatic fjord, but with a gentle climate that's nurtured olives and lemon groves, palms, cypresses, oleanders and orange trees. They fringe the extraordinary transparent water, inviting sports, relaxation and fun.

Here, the **Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda** is an oasis of wellness which harnesses the calming tranquility of water. Together with the omnipresent lake there's an infinity pool, internal and external salt-water pool, "Source Roccolino" whirlpool and thalassotherapy pool, plus 11 hectares of park, with natural terraces overlooking the beauty of the lake.



Formula 1 at Monza

The Italian Grand Prix is one of the flagship events on the Formula One calendar. The royal park of Monza is on the outskirts of Europe's fashion capital of Milan, a short drive from stunning Lake Como, and you're guaranteed a grandstand VIP experience full of glamour and speed.





GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO - Lake Como

This historic Art Nouveau palace offers the most beautiful view of Lake Como, facing Bellagio with the rose-tinted Grigne mountains as a backdrop. The hotel is nestled within a beautiful century-old park teeming with ancient magnolias, clouds of azaleas, tulips and geraniums.

The 90 elegant rooms and suites reflect the surrounding paradise of clear waters, blue skies and ancient trees, warmed by early 20th-century furnishings and flooded with Italian light that shines through wide windows filled with enchanting views. Historical Suites, ultra luxe Rooftop Suites with panoramic terraces and outdoor Jacuzzis, 2-hectares secluded park, the romantic setting of *La Terrazza Marchesi* restaurant, all make the most of the spectacular natural surroundings. There's even a floating pool resting on the lake's surface for an unforgettable bathing experience. There are now two exclusive villas where you'll live like royalty, surrounded by the most extraordinary history and art. Villa Sola Cabiati, one of the most beautiful mansions on the Lake, is distinguished by interior stuccos and frescoes created by master craftsmen. The villa contains an astonishing collection of tapestries, vases and majolica and it even houses the bed slept in by Napoleon and his wife Joséphine in the museum area of the villa. New for 2019 is Villa Passalacqua, which also offers ultra privacy and luxury, with dedicated staff to cater to your every wish and whim.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 70 minutes from Milan Malpensa Airport / 90 Rooms & Suites / 5 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / 3 Swimming Pools / Private Lakeside Beach Club / Private Boats / Century-Old Park / Floodlit Clay Tennis Court / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,255pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAGO DI COMO

With a breathtaking setting on the shores of Italy's most famous lake, Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como offers a seductive blend of Italian style, Oriental charm and natural beauty. Rich in history and incredibly private, the resort features 75 elegantly-appointed guestrooms and suites with two secluded private villas, all nestled between a luxuriant botanical park and the placid waters of Lake Como.

Nestled between 6.5-acre luxuriant botanical park and the placid waters of Lake Como, Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como's selection of dining venues include a fine dining restaurant, with romantic lake views, a bar bistro and a Pool Bar. Its wide variety of venues makes Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como perfect for gatherings large or small, for celebrations of many kinds, especially weddings, and for unforgettable events. The *Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como* is the largest of the area, with four private spa suites, two treatment rooms and a holistic heat and water experience area. The resort's wellness facilities include a heated outdoor pool with Jacuzzi floating on the lake and a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre. Whether it's for total relaxation or spending special moments with family and loved ones, the resort is an excellent starting point for exploring the charming towns and villages that dot Lake Como's shoreline and for discovering the area's many beautiful nature trails – making for a truly memorable Lake Como Experience.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 50 minutes from Milan Malpensa Airport / 75 Rooms & Suites including 2 Private Villas / Fine Dining Restaurant & Bar Bistro / Pool Bar / 1300 sqm Spa / Floating Pool / Fitness Centre / Botanical Garden / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,585pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



CASTELLO DAL POZZO - Lake Maggiore

In the nineteenth century Lake Maggiore was frequented by the European aristocracy and even today you can perceive the romantic charm of its past. The style of Castello Dal Pozzo reflects the elegance of the Arts and Crafts era and guests are catapulted into a historic atmosphere with all modern amenities.

Historic elegance meets modern luxury in the tranquil 45 room boutique hotel, furnished with authentic antiques from the Dal Pozzo family. It occupies three distinctive buildings each one with its unique style: an elegant 18th century Palace, with its classical rooms overlooking the lake, the magnificent Castle, with its luxurious drapes and four-poster beds and the newly renovated Stables have a contemporary touch and wonderful garden views. Enjoy a healthy organic dish or a juice by the pool at *Folia Life* or soak up the ambience while drinking a Negroni at the *American Bar*, lulled by the cascading waters of the fountain. *Le Fief* restaurant, wonderfully intimate, creates unique gourmet dishes, while *Dan Garden Lounge* is laid back and informal, surrounded by parklands and nature.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 30 minutes from Milan Malpensa Airport / 45 Rooms & Suites / 3 Bars & Restaurants / Swimming Pool / Golf / Watersports / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,070pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



LEFAY RESORT & SPA LAGO DI GARDA

Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda boasts a spectacular location that's inspired poets and writers. With breathtaking views of the Lake, it lies on the 'Riviera dei Limoni', nestled amid eleven acres of natural park sheltered by rolling hills and natural terraces clad in trees and olive groves.

For the ultimate in luxury, the Royal Pool & SPA Suite boasts a private infinity pool and private SPA area, but all visitors to Lefay can enjoy a SPA that's sheltered by ancient trees and Mediterranean shrubs and abounds with advanced technologies as well as more mystical ones. Try the therapeutic energy garden, based around ancient symbols, and the internal and external pool which reaches out into the park with views across the lake. Gourmet food is also focused on health and wellbeing. The philosophy of *Lefay Vital Gourmet* is inspired by the Mediterranean diet and in particular extra virgin olive oils which are produced on Lefay's farms. The beautifully lit *La Grande Limonaia*, the resort's main restaurant, conjures the refreshing exoticism of citrus groves and you're also invited to experience traditional Italian flavours at *Trattoria La Vigna*, where the magic recipes for age old dishes are passed down to the next generation. The Pool Bar makes the most of the spectacular natural scenery of water and sky while live piano, cocktails and mood lighting create a laid back vibe in the Lounge Bar, where you can sip cocktails on the terrace and watch the sun set over the lake. Explore the lake by sail or aboard the resort's own customised speed boat. Or trek into Upper Garda Park and visit 'Le Sincette' estate to sample unique biodynamic wines.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 1 hr 30 minutes from Verona Airport / 93 Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre

PRICES 4 nights from £860pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.





VILLA CORDEVIGO, Lake Garda

Surrounded by sublime Italian countryside and reached by a long drive lined with picturesque ancient cypress trees, Villa Cordevigo is an opulent 18th century Renaissance mansion close to the Valpolicella wine region. The villa is steeped in history, the noble families who've made their home here over the years having left their mark on the gorgeous rooms, adding stunning frescoes and works of art.

A recent extensive yet sympathetic restoration project has only embellished the historic charm, creating one of Italy's most magical hotels. Rich fabrics and classic furnishings with a contemporary touch, wooden-beamed ceilings and stone fireplaces all create a delightful period ambience, allowing you to step back into a more gracious era whilst also enjoying more modern luxuries. Begin your day with a lazy breakfast at the *Bistro on the Terrace* before you relax by the outdoor pool and find romance and tranquility among the olive trees, statues, fountains, fragrant fruit trees and flowers of the Italianate gardens. Explore the ancient chapel of St. Martin's with its impressive collection of reliques and bones of saints and treat yourself to some serious pampering at the Villa Cordevigo's elegant *Essentia Spa*, which will leave you glowing both inside and out. Prepare for a truly holistic relaxing and rebalancing experience as you bask in the Finnish sauna, infra-red sauna, Turkish bath, hydromassage pools and sensorial showers. Treat yourself to an Ayurveda massage or herbal infusion. Then, when evening falls, you'll want to sample the impressive wine cellar, stocked with fine international and Italian wines, classics from the Verona area and the estate's own Villa Cordevigo wines. Liqueurs and cocktails are also on offer, as well as innovative yet traditional gourmet dishes from the Michelin-starred restaurant. This is definitely a haven for those who appreciate the finer things in life.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 25 minutes from Verona Airport / 34 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Wine Tasting / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £710pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



BYBLOS ART HOTEL - Verona

A luxury hotel, museum of contemporary art and design and 16th century Venetian villa all rolled into one, the Byblos Art Hotel oozes originality. It hosts an impressive permanent exhibition of contemporary art and the reimagined architecture and interior design is a work of art itself, thanks to the inventiveness of Alessandro Mendini.

The Byblos fashion label has always signified innovative use of fabrics and colour and the hotel stays true to this identity. In the 17th century rooms, brightly coloured plastic shapes sit perfectly alongside classic paintings and marble, showcasing work by some of the world's best artists and designers, including Philippe Starck, Marcel Wanders, Ettore Sottsass and many more. The concept of the project was to create an atmosphere that's rich in remembrance and yet looks forward to the future. There are 59 unique art design rooms, furnished with Byblos furniture and design accessories. The park features fountains made from Verona marble and an elegant deck level swimming pool. There's a beautiful designer spa and *Amistà Restaurant* which pays homage to rare and forgotten vegetables cultivated in the hotel's organic garden. Even the signature cocktail, enjoyed in funky *Peter's Bar*, takes as it's theme the idea that 'Art is living, living is art.'

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 20 minutes from Verona Airport / 59 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £790pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



HOTEL CHÂTEAU MONFORT - Milan

The splendid and singular Hotel Château Monfort occupies an original Art Nouveau building in the heart of Milan, and if that does not promise enough magic, it also draws inspiration from fairytales and stories from the opera. To step through the doors is to enter a world of romance and enchantment.

There are 77 retro guest rooms, with Junior Suites and Suites transporting you to scenes from classic operas and ballets. Even the names are evocative: Butterfly, Traviata, Turandot, Bohème and Cenerentola. Some of the rooms have skylights that are just perfect for stargazing. Pretty pastel shaded walls are adorned with floral patterns and butterflies and this atmosphere of dreamy, refined serenity extends to the sublime *Rubacuori* restaurant, *Mezzanotte* lounge bar and *Amore & Psiche SPA*. Wine aficionados will be spoilt for choice in the arty environment of the *Rubacuori*, where fine wines are on offer, together with a menu of traditional and classic Italian cuisine. Savour red prawns carpaccio from Sicily, with vanilla cauliflower cream, calvisius caviar and saffron crumble, or the five or six course tasting menu. Step outside the hotel, and the world-famous fashion quadrangle, museums and commercial streets are on the doorstep.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 20 minutes from Milan Linate Airport / 77 Rooms & Suites / Restaurant & Bar / Afternoon Tea & Milanese Aperitif Served Daily / Spa / Fitness Centre / Pool / Children Welcome / Pets Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,015pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

HOTEL PALAZZO PARIGI - Milan

The Hotel Palazzo Parigi is home to the Gourmet Restaurant, one of the most beautiful restaurants in Milan, where dining is theatre, and waiters make a dramatic entrance through a glass tunnel and dishes are presented as if on an altar.

A hand painted ceiling and works of art create a rarefied atmosphere that's the perfect stage for the artful Italian cuisine. But there's so much else that makes this hotel special. Some of the 88 rooms and suites boast two romantic balconies. Look one way for lovely views of the garden or courtyard, and in the other direction to feast your eyes on memorable views of the historic city streets. A magnificent Afternoon Tea is served at *Caffè Parigi*, with the most delectably pretty macarons, signature teas and a glass of champagne or unwind in the *The Grand Spa* which lives up to its name. Try out the countercurrent swimming pool, Icefall and Emotional Shower.



THE ESSENTIALS

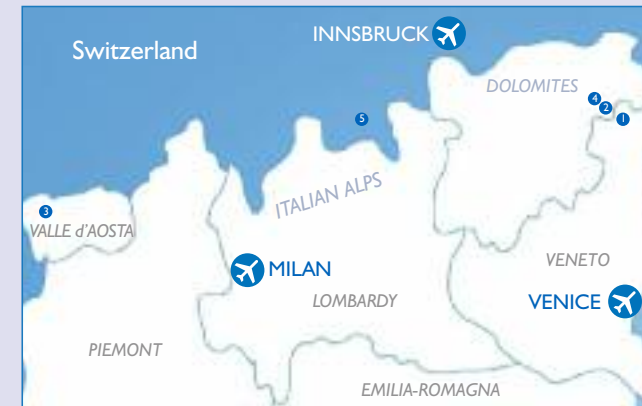
Private transfers are 25 minutes from Milan Linate Airport / 88 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 1 Bar & 1 Healthy Bar / Afternoon Tea Served Daily / Spa & Fitness / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,385pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

THE DOLOMITES & ALPS

The Dolomites are an idyllic holiday destination all year round. Their majestic mountain peaks and lakes and are just as spellbinding in sunshine as it in snow and the range of recreational activities is endless, whatever the season. This is also a place where nature meets culture in the pretty towns and villages, from Chiusa or Klausen, surrounded by chestnut groves and wineries, to the winding streets and beautiful arcades of the pretty cathedral town of Brixen, the oldest town in Tyrol, which basks in a Mediterranean climate. One of the most popular towns is Cortina d'Ampezzo, known as the 'Pearl of the Dolomites' thanks to its majestic mountains and wide range of events, restaurants, elegant shops and boutiques. Of course the Dolomites has some of the best ski resorts in the world, whether you're looking for black runs, exciting snow parks, or gentle family slopes. With charming, rustic huts, sun terraces, cool après-ski, a season that extends well into the spring, breathtaking views and a chance to witness the FIS Ski World Cup up close, it's hard to beat skiing in the Dolomites. But come spring and summer, the gentle alpine pastures and three-thousand-metre peaks offer walking holidays that can be anything you want them to be, from leisurely strolls through wildflower meadows to a challenging climb. The Brenta Dolomites are part of the Adamello-Brenta Natural Park and the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites and boasts one of the most famous alpine highways in the Alps. For the adventurous, the Dolomites offer sparkling white water rides, from flowing streams ideal for newcomers and families, to thundering rivers and falls to give the most experienced paddlers a thrill. And when winter returns, the enchanting Christmas markets twinkle with fairy lights and snowy trees, and the air is scented with roasted chestnuts, sweet cinnamon, and mulled wine.



HOTEL KEY 1. CRISTALLO, a LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT & SPA 2. HOTEL CIASA SALARES 3. MONTANA LODGE & SPA 4. HOTEL & SPA ROSA ALPINA 5. NIRA ALPINA

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways offer direct departures from London to Venice and Verona, with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures to Venice from Gatwick, Luton, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds Bradford, Newcastle and Edinburgh; and to Verona from Gatwick, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

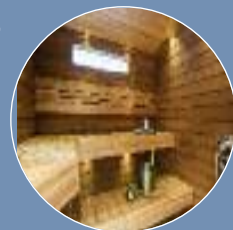
There's no best time to visit the Dolomites; the region delights all year. July to September are the warmest months but temperatures are cool enough for an active summer break. There's snow December-April and temperatures can drop to -10°C, but the dry air makes this surprisingly comfortable.

To avoid the crowds, visit in May, June or Autumn.



Dolomites Itinerary

Seven summer nights at the elegantly refined and luxurious Rosa Alpina hotel in the Italian Dolomites offers the best of all worlds. This is a land steeped in ancient stories and legends passed down from father to son, and this is your chance to create your own epic adventure or fairytale. In the village of San Cassiano in Badia, 1,537 metres above sea level, you are perfectly placed to enjoy action packed activities and adventures, wondrous natural surroundings, and deep relaxation in the groundbreaking spa and stylish new wellness wing. The ambience in the wellness wing is both warm and cool, thanks to the chic handpicked designer pieces, gorgeous swimming pool overlooking the garden and



mountains and relaxation area located on a mezzanine enhanced with natural stone and spruce wood. As well as a Finnish sauna, hammam and cold plunge pool, there's a bio sauna sheltered by woodland, and a yoga and pilates studio with huge windows overlooking the trees.

Experience sunrise yoga or moonlight yoga, mind stretching meditation, and mountain star gazing. Benefit from a bespoke wellness programme developed after a holistic lifestyle consultation session and enjoy treatments ranging from Indian head massage to sand bundle massage. Bicycle through the awe-inspiring beauty of forest and meadows and the most majestic mountain ranges. There are challenging climbs and relaxing nature hikes, and an entertaining mountain golf course.

Explore glaciers adorned with vivid alpine flowers and valleys of beautiful meadow flowers. From June until August the mountain slopes are made even more beautiful by red rhododendrons and the countryside is alive with birdsong and wildlife. You'll be in the company of roe-deer, eagles and chamois.



Private Guided Hike and Lunch high up in the Dolomites or Italian Alps

Explore alpine flower meadows, glaciers and the dramatic peaks of the Dolomites or Italian Alps, in the summer, with an exclusive half day or full day hike. Your private guide will show you spectacular sights plus a memorable place to break for lunch, high in the majestic mountains.



Skiing - The Dolomites & Alps

Though perhaps not as well known for skiing as France, Switzerland and Austria, Italy has some wonderful ski resorts. The atmosphere is laid back and the emphasis is on fun and enjoyment, so with most chic hotels and restaurants welcoming young children, Italy is an ideal destination for family skiing holidays. Intense blue skies and mild winter sunshine paint the perfect picture of skiers with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. But there's plenty to appeal to all ages and abilities.

For stunning mountain scenery and a wide choice of terrain, the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites are very hard to beat. Romantic and stylish, they offer sublime ski slopes for everyone, from beginners with instructors, through to the most daring. The famous Sella Ronda, a circular network of lifts and pistes around a majestic limestone massif, takes in a host of resorts and offers an exciting challenge. The social life off piste in Italy also has plenty to appeal – with elegant boutiques, welcoming mountain huts in which to kick back and sip espresso, lively clubs and bars.

Cortina d'Ampezzo in the Ampezzo Valley, is the Queen of the Dolomites. An ancient mountain town surrounded by soaring cathedrals, it's nature reserves, national parks, great tradition of warm hospitality and art has attracted elite skiers for centuries,

The South Tyrol is a quintessential winter wonderland, with the Italian Alps boasting 30 resorts and 1,200km of slopes, and 1,520 ski lifts. Enjoy the awe-inspiring mountain backdrop of the Matterhorn and the buzz of Val Gardena which has hosted many champions over the years, with the World Cup held on the legendary Saslong slope. On the sunny side of the Alps is the popular Alta Badia, ideal for families and with plenty of opportunities to discover the good things in life – Italian 'Dolce Vita' in the snow.



CRISTALLO, a LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT & SPA Cortina d'Ampezzo

Cristallo, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, has presided over the verdant valley and meadows for over a century and has the most illustrious history. Opened in 1901, its glittering white walls inspired by art nouveau and Viennese traditions, have attracted guests including Leo Tolstoy, and was the first Italian mountain resort to host the Olympic Games in 1956. It became one of the most fashionable destinations throughout the 1960s and 70s and has been used as a set for films such as 'The Pink Panther' starring David Niven and Peter Sellers and 'Von Ryan's Express' with Frank Sinatra. It reopened after a decade with the *Cristallo Ultimate Spa* and four wonderful restaurants, one of which is *La Stube 1872*, the fine dining restaurant where tradition reigns and ingredients are selected from small local farms that still operate in the 'old way', preserving the charm of Cortina while authentic Italian dishes are served in the dreamy *Cristallo's Veranda*, framed by white drapes. Luxuriate in the panoramic swimming pool and emotional showers. **THE ESSENTIALS** Private transfers are 90 minutes from Venice Airport / 74 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Gym / Indoor Pool / Children Welcome **PRICES** 7 nights from £1,215pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL CIASA SALARES - Italian Dolomites

Surrounded by verdant pastures and woods and the majestic peaks, at Ciasa Salares you can enjoy views of the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites from your balcony and relax in modern South Tyrolean styled rooms, suites and special Penthouse, cocooned with fir tree cladding. Ciasa Salares is a very special place, its warm hospitality and culinary magnificence shaped by generations of the Wieser family. The hotel offers an array of restaurants, all proposing diverse, luxurious sensorial journeys. Ranging from a double Michelin-starred restaurant, *La Siroia*, led by Matteo Metulio, Europe's youngest double-starred-chef, to a sumptuous *Cheese and Chocolate Room* (with more than 70 types of chocolate). An alluring wine bar, the house restaurant and the magic wine cellar where you'll be pleased with cheese and chineoise fondue surrounded by more than 1800 labels of wine. Breakfast features 140 different taste sensations and other delicacies include home-made jams and non-pasteurised mountain honey. Enthusiasm, passion and tireless research mean guests are not merely welcome all year round, but become part of history. **THE ESSENTIALS** Private transfers are 2hr from Venice & 2hr 30 mins from Innsbruck / 47 Rooms & Suites / 5 Restaurants / 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Pool / Children Welcome **PRICES** 7 nights from £1,085pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



MONTANA LODGE & SPA - Italian Alps

Awarded Italy's Best Ski Hotel 2018 and Top 3 World Best Ski Hotels, Montana Lodge & Spa is hidden away within Europe's highest mountain range, part of the Aosta Valley, and is sheltered by the towering form of Mont Blanc. Family suites and kids menus make it a family favourite, and the charming Alpine ski village of La Thuile is right on the doorstep, with baby slopes and sports galore. Spend the day on the slopes and then return to the cosy sanctuary of your room at Montana Lodge & Spa, where wooden floors and forest patterned wallpaper keep you in touch with the natural beauty outside your window, together with modern flourishes that include white designer chairs and super comfortable Hästens beds. Ease aching muscles in the spa and satisfy your appetite with the fine Italian cuisine on offer at *Chaveur Restaurant*. Enjoy Neapolitan pizza baked in a Florentine pizza oven, cocktails as crisp as the mountain air and vintages from the cellar. **THE ESSENTIALS** Private transfers are 2 hours from Geneva Airport or 2 hours 30 minutes from Milan Malpensa Airport / 55 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Wellness & Beauty Centre / Swimming Pool / Private Spa / Kids Club / Children Welcome **PRICES** 7 nights from £1,165pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL & SPA ROSA ALPINA - Italian Dolomites

Perfectly placed for you to enjoy the San Cassiano ski resort, in the heart of the Italian Dolomites, this luxury hotel in Alta Badia is equally lovely for hiking and biking in the warmer months, when the Alpine flowers are spectacular. Timeless refinement and gentle glamour define the Hotel & Spa Rosa Alpina, together with a comfortable informality and warm local hospitality that makes this a wonderful hotel for family adventures. The 52 rooms and suites and exclusive Penthouse Suite are individually designed and feature a distinctive contemporary mountain style. Dine at the three Michelin-starred restaurant or on a family cheese or meat fondue in the Stube after a day in the snow. The friendly, luxury spa is the place to go for pampering, a Finnish Sauna and a dip in the swimming pool that looks out on the picturesque garden and mountains. **THE ESSENTIALS** Private transfers are 2 hours 30 minutes from Venice Airport or 2 hours from Innsbruck Airport / 52 Rooms & Suites / 4 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Swimming Pool for Families & Swimming Pool for Adults / Children Welcome **PRICES** 7 nights from £1,765pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

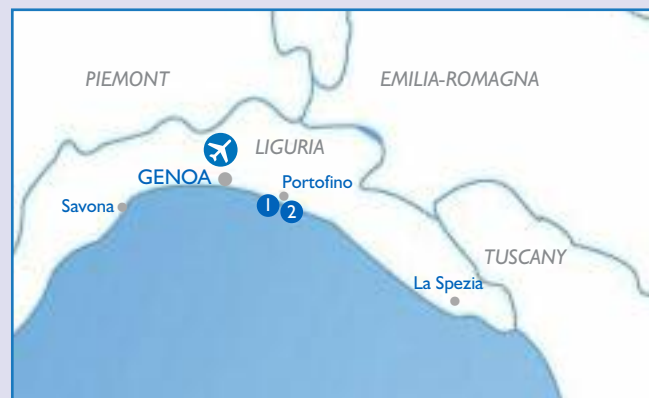


NIRA ALPINA - Switzerland

Nira Alpina is a superior design hotel situated in the Swiss ski resort of St. Moritz and connected to the Corvatsch cable car station via a private walkway. Winter and summer, the service is warm and heartfelt and the style is cool and quirky. This is not a typical St. Moritz hotel, but a Swiss spa resort for worldly, well-travelled individuals devoted to pleasure, excitement, and fast access to the pistes. The seventy rooms with a view include Junior Suites, Garden Rooms, Corvatsch Suites and Mountain View rooms. The *Nira Spa by Pure Altitude* features five treatment rooms and a relaxation area with changing colour mood lighting, steam room, Rasul and aromatherapy and a huge Jacuzzi. Breakfast and dinner is served with a fine view at *Stars Restaurant* where an alpine cuisine and dishes with seasonal, local and exotic quality products awaits you. *Pichalain* is a rustic Après-Ski Hut serving Swiss dishes such as cheese fondue and raclette and there's an in-house bakery serving fresh baked pastries and bread every morning. Sip cocktails in the sophisticated *Rooftop Bar* admiring the spectacular scenery that surrounds you. **THE ESSENTIALS** Private transfers are 2 hours 30 minutes from Milan Airport / 70 Rooms / Restaurant / In-house Bakery / Après-Ski Hut / Rooftop Bar / Large Jacuzzi **PRICES** 7 nights from £1,395pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

PORTOFINO

Once a sleepy fishing harbour, this small town is now a tourist idyll along the picturesque Italian Riviera. Relaxing and people watching are the two biggest pastimes here, as during the summer the port becomes a hub of yachting activity and the harbour simply pulses with life. For those more active there are popular diving sites nearby and, of course, you can have a go at sailing yourself. Or for those more historically minded there are several museums, castles and churches close by that are well worth exploring. And Castello Brown, dating back to the 16th century, offers one of the best views of Portofino from its once protective battlements, but if you like to be in the thick of it, take a pew at the harbour and be a part of the summertime buzz.



HOTEL KEY 1. BELMOND HOTEL SPLENDIDO 2. BELMOND SPLENDIDO MARE

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways flies daily to Genoa from Gatwick, with low cost airlines offering alternative timings from Stansted.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Even in winter temperatures rarely dip below freezing. *March to June* and *September to October* are very pleasant temperatures in which to visit. *July* and *August* are the warmest months, but kept fresh by onshore breezes.



BELMOND HOTEL SPLENDIDO

There are so many reasons to stay in Portofino on the Ligurian coast and Belmond Hotel Splendido, on a luxuriant hillside overlooking the yachts and islands in the harbour, is not least among them. Set within four acres of romantic gardens, this glamorous retreat encapsulates a true Belmond experience in the heart of a vibrant and elegant local scene.

Each of its 70 rooms and suites are uniquely decorated, many with balconies or terraces offering enchanting panoramic views of the bay. Located amidst the beautiful Mediterranean gardens, the Wellness centre boasts a sauna and steam room providing the perfect sanctuary for relaxation. Meanwhile, the "Smile" childrens club will keep them doing just that. The two restaurants offer the very best of Italian cuisine, not to mention stunning sea views. If jet-set cool in old world Italian charm is for you, then this hotel is a must.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 45 minutes from Genoa Airport / 70 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre & Tennis / Swimming Pool with Heated Sea-Water/ Complimentary Shuttle to Belmond Splendido Mare / Children Welcome with "Smile" Club for 4-12 years

PRICES

4 nights from £1,625pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

BELMOND SPLENDIDO MARE

Sister property to the Belmond Hotel Splendido, the waterside Belmond Splendido Mare has a picture-perfect position in the very centre of Portofino. Looking out onto the small, pretty square and delightful, famed harbour it provides the perfect vantage point to watch the world go by while dining alfresco in true Italian style. This hotel enjoys the use of all of the magnificent facilities of the Belmond Hotel Splendido while optimising its central location in the heart of one of the most photographed parts of the world.

Most of the beautifully airy 16 rooms and suites have balconies or a terrace giving perfect views of sea and pretty lanes along which a host of the literati and glitterati have meandered. With excellent regional specialities and a superb wine list, *Chuffay* restaurant epitomises the glamour of the Belmond Splendido Mare, whether eating indoors or al fresco on the harbour side to the accompaniment of lapping waves and gently rocking yachts.



THE ESSENTIALS

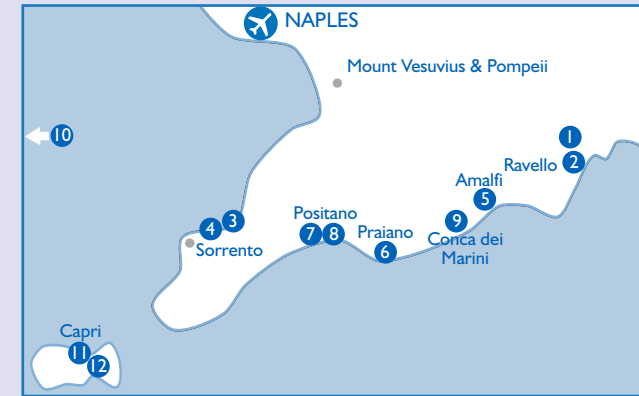
Private transfers are 45 minutes from Genoa Airport / 16 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa, Fitness Centre & Swimming Pool at Belmond Hotel Splendido / Complimentary Shuttle to Belmond Hotel Splendido / Children's "Smile" Club for 4-12 years at Belmond Hotel Splendido

PRICES

4 nights from £1,420pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

AMALFI COAST, SORRENTO, CAPRI & ISCHIA

The Sorrento and Amalfi Coast will make you giddy – and that’s not just because its famously winding coastal road involves impossibly steep mountain sides and even longer drops. No, it’s because the place is both astoundingly beautiful and impossibly glamorous; artists, writers and movie stars all flock here to find sunshine and inspiration. But this region to the south of Naples is no jet-set affair; its mood is slow-paced rather than sophisticated and its way-of-life still firmly rooted in the past. Fishermen still haul in their catch at pastel-coloured towns like POSITANO, for example; the medieval cathedral continues to take pride of place in AMALFI, whilst RAVELLO still needs nothing more than its celebrated gardens and picture-perfect Mediterranean views to keep its visitors enthralled. You can expect some steep climbs here, but remember there’s always a glass of limoncello waiting for you at the end! After a short crossing you reach the island of CAPRI, which offers everything from Roman remains to Versace gowns and let’s not forget the staggering sea views. The volcanic island of ISCHIA has as much charm as Capri has glitz, complete with a dramatic Aragonese castle. Inland from the lazy coves and pretty harbours, you’ll discover thermal spas, chestnut forests, vineyards and gorgeous gardens.



HOTEL KEY 1. BELMOND HOTEL CARUSO 2. PALAZZO AVINO 3. THE GRAND HOTEL COCUMELLA 4. GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR VITTORIA 5. CASA ANGELINA 6. HOTEL SANTA CATERINA 7. HOTEL VILLA FRANCA 8. LE SIRENUSE 9. MONASTERO SANTA ROSA HOTEL & SPA 10. GARDEN & VILLAS RESORT 11. CAPRI PALACE 12. CAPRI TIBERIO PALACE

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways flies daily to Naples from Gatwick with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures from Gatwick, Bristol, Birmingham, East Midlands, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winters here are generally mild but can be wet and as such much is closed in the region. April to June and September to October are the nicest temperatures and it is generally quieter. July and August are peak months for temperatures and people.



Amalfi Coast Tour

The enchanting Amalfi Coast hangs magically between the sapphire sky, mountains and sea, with bougainvillea and carnations adding splashes of bright colour against the charming whitewashed houses clustered in towns along a coastline defined by lovely coves and dramatic cliffs. And your amazing Amalfi Adventure, complete with boat transfers, is centred around three showpiece destinations: Ischia, Capri and Sorrento. Firstly, there’s Ischia, known as The Green Island thanks to its lush woods and pine forests. There are fishing villages, archaeological sites, beautiful beaches and hidden coves to explore by kayak. There’s also the 9 villas of the Garden & Villas Resort, where you’ll spend two



nights, nestled in a park that’s ringed by traditional dry stone walls which shelter aromatic plants, olive trees, carob trees, strawberry trees and fruit trees. Capri has long been a popular retreat for writers, artists and actors drawn by the combination of natural beauty, rich history and classy glamour. All this is showcased in the unique Capri Tiberio Palace where you’ll spend two nights surrounded by an eclectic collection of objects from all over the world and colourful Caprese tiles which conjure the La Dolce Vita era. Your final destination is Sorrento, the town of lemons and dramatic cliffs. A key destination on the 19th-century ‘Grand Tour’ it was beloved by the poet Byron and literary greats including including Dickens, Goethe and Tolstoy. The romance lingers in the picturesque

Piazza Tasso, pretty restaurants serving of ice-cold limoncello and palatial hotels including Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria. This elegant clifftop hotel with wide terrace overlooking the Gulf of Naples and Mount Vesuvius, has been by the same family for over 180 years. It offers luxuriously comfortable rooms which will be your home for three wonderful days and nights.



Sail the Amalfi Coast by Boat

There’s surely no better way to see the Amalfi Coast than by sea. Rent a boat or yacht and either take the helm yourself or hire a crew, so you can bask on the sundeck. Drift from harbour to island and swim in beautiful island bays and warm sapphire waters.





BELMOND HOTEL CARUSO - Ravello

This former 11th century palazzo is set 305-metres above sea level on the highest point in Ravello, and Belmond Hotel Caruso certainly makes the most of its spectacular views which can be enjoyed from the outdoor terrace, infinity pool or manicured terraced gardens. Cloaked in history, the palazzo has been beautifully transformed into an opulent base from which to explore Ravello and the Amalfi coastline, all of this perfectly blended with gracious hospitality and the charm of a private home.

Reflecting the classic Neapolitan era, each of the 50 rooms and suites are uniquely designed. The frescoes, vaulted ceilings and even the tiny baroque-style chapel are all evidence of its fascinating origins; the fitness facilities, wellness centre and infinity-edge pool displaying its awareness of modern trends. A contemporary twist has also been given to the Belmond Hotel Caruso's cuisine, the traditional Neapolitan dishes served in restaurants either indoors or on panoramic terraces.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Naples Airport / 50 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Shuttle Service to Amalfi and Positano / Complimentary Daily Mini-cruise Boat Trip / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,055pp including flight, transfers and breakfast. Half-board optional.



PALAZZO AVINO - Ravello

Not only is this 12th century Italian villa overflowing with refinement and romance, but its attentive staff simply can't do enough for you. Its fine dining restaurant boasts a Michelin star and its leisure amenities include a sublime spa with all local products, a stunning swimming pool and Palazzo Avino's Clubhouse by the sea, located in the small town of Marmorata just 15 minutes (complimentary shuttle) drive away.

The family owners take great pride in their stunning hotel, and it shows in the opulent finessing and antique furnishing of its classically styled rooms and suites. Found on the *Terrace Belvedere*, from 6pm you can enjoy the freshest lobster or choose from one of 100 different Martinis. Well, it had to be something special to tempt you away from their Michelin-starred restaurant *Rossellini's*. Talking of special, at sunset head to the rooftop solarium with its two whirlpools and enjoy a glass of Prosecco with an unforgettable view of the Amalfi coastline. However, the *Clubhouse by the Sea* allows you to get a lot closer; with its private water's edge villa setting, complete with pool, restaurant, changing facilities and beach platforms down to the sea, it is the ideal way to while away the day.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Naples Airport / 43 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bars (1 Michelin-Starred) / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £1,140pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



THE GRAND HOTEL COCUMELLA - Sorrento

The oldest hotel in the Sorrento peninsula on the Amalfi Coast, The Grand Hotel Cocumella is a place of myth and magic, and a favoured haunt of artists, writers and scientists from Goethe to Mary Shelley, Hans Christian Andersen and Sigmund Freud. With an exquisite private church and ancient cloister, it's the perfect base from which to explore the ruins of Pompeii and the Islands of Capri and Ischia.

The boutique hotel has 47 rooms with views of the citrus groves or the garden that reaches down to the sea. Furnished with elegant antiques, they evoke the sacred tranquility and grace of the ancient Jesuit convent whilst offering modern luxuries and comforts. Most rooms have large terraces and several have an outdoor jacuzzi. Dine at chic *Scintilla*, where gourmet cuisine uses vegetables from the organic kitchen garden to create a Mediterranean menu of local specialties and international classics. Or enjoy a Mediterranean buffet and pizza from the wood oven at the *Citrus Grove*, in the shade of orange trees near the pool. *Coku* is the first Robata restaurant in Italy and there's no better place to enjoy this fusion of Mediterranean and Japanese flavours as you watch the sunset over the Gulf of Naples.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes from Naples Airport / 47 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre and Tennis Court / Swimming Pool / Beach and Private Solarium / The 24m Tall Ship "Vera" available for private tours

PRICES

4 nights from £890pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR VITTORIA - Sorrento

Owned and run by the same family since opening in 1834, the Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria is set in the heart of Sorrento, surrounded by five acres of lush private gardens with stunning views over the shimmering bay of Naples from its cliff top position. This tranquil retreat boasts a reputation for elegant Neapolitan service and hospitality which has certainly stood the test of time.

Many of the 84 rooms and suites boast superb views of either the bay or the lush gardens. Whilst creature comforts and graceful living are very much the order of the day, the ultra modern spa *La Serra* will ensure that relaxation is guaranteed. Acres of private gardens, a swimming pool and a private lift to the harbour make this a perfectly unique and charming hotel. The icing on the cake is the Michelin star awarded to their *Terrazza Bosquet* restaurant.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes from Naples Airport / 84 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants (1 Michelin-Starred) & 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Private Lift to Harbour / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,045pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



CASA ANGELINA - Praiano

Set between Amalfi and Positano and sheltered on a cliff in Praiano overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, the Casa Angelina faces the stunning sunset with Capri's famous "Faraglioni" rocks in sight. This boutique retreat is where the Amalfi Coast goes all minimalist with whiter than white décor both inside and out. Terraces, floor-to-ceiling windows and even a glass-fronted lift to the beach ensure you never forget where you are.

Each of the 44 rooms and suites are exquisitely contemporary with just the occasional splash of colour provided by whimsical Murano glass sculptures, all complete with clean lines and white furnishings creating a serene ambience showcasing stunning views of the Gulf of Salerno, most with balconies or terraces. The *Un Piano nel Cielo* restaurant is an exceptional culinary experience for anyone with an appreciation of Mediterranean cuisine. Indulge at the Wellness Centre with its indoor pool, sauna, on-hand personal trainer and aqua gym or for the more adventurous, there is the *Master Angelina* private boat available to hire to enjoy the beauty of the Amalfi from sea level.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 80 minutes from Naples Airport / 44 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pools / Beach Club (reached via lift plus 200 steps) / Complimentary Shuttle to/from Positano / Complimentary Valet Parking / Children Welcome from 12 years

PRICES

4 nights from £1,155pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

HOTEL SANTA CATERINA - Amalfi

This 19th century whitewashed villa, clinging to a panoramic cliff has been transformed into a much-loved seaside getaway by three generations of the Gambardella family. The traditional décor is testimony to their taste; the lengthy repeat guest list an affirmation of their hospitality. Surrounded by the stunning scenery of the Amalfi coast, the Santa Caterina is personal expression of local style.

Most of the 66 classically-styled guest rooms boast sea view balconies with infinity pools on offer in some of the 'named' suites. Elevators cut into the rocks whisking you down to a private beach club complete with large heated saltwater pool and seafood restaurant; the culinary focus moves back up the cliff to the excellent Mediterranean-style eatery after dark. Indulge in a signature citrus massage at the wellness centre offering an extensive range of face and body treatments with additional steam, sauna and fitness centre.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes from Naples Airport / 66 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Beach Club / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,100pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL VILLA FRANCA - Positano

The idyllic, romantic Hotel Villa Franca nestles on the bewitching Amalfi Coast between the cliff tops and Mediterranean Sea, in easy wandering distance of the charming cobbled piazzas of Positano and two beautiful beaches.

A pair of elegant villas house the guest rooms and suites. All are unique, yet share a signature ambience that's understatedly glamorous and ultra light and airy. There's a predominance of white, with wide, sunlit windows, works of art, elegant furnishings and Italian marble bathrooms. Private balconies and terraces look out on the sapphire coastline and the rainbow-hued houses of Positano. Start the day with a gourmet breakfast brought to your room, indulge in a spa treatment, browse the on-site boutique, and look forward to a starlit aperitif on your balcony or terrace, wafted by citrus-scented breezes. For a delectable al fresco snack, head to *Gallis Grill*, located poolside, on the rooftop terrace. Sip Italian cocktails in the *Gallis Bar* and look forward to a sophisticated fine dining experience at *li Galli Gourmet Restaurant*. The menu embraces Campanian culinary traditions and the bounty of the land, including sun-ripened fruit and vegetables and seafood fresh from the bay.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 90 minutes from Naples Airport / 44 Rooms & Suites / Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool

PRICES

4 nights from £985pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

LE SIRENUSE - Positano

Set in the heart of the picturesque village of Positano, overlooking the spectacular Amalfi coastline, this 18th century palazzo, owned by Marchese Sersale and opened as a hotel in 1951, is very much the kind of place you can make yourselves at home. Once a charming summer-house, today Le Sirenuse is a delightful retreat which still retains the atmosphere of a private home.

The Michelin starred *La Sponda* restaurant provides a romantic atmosphere with Neapolitan-inspired cuisine and intriguing fellow guests combined with 400 candles to create an almost theatrical ambience. Antique-filled lounges lead to cosy sitting areas which in turn lead to panoramic terraces overlooking the 'vertical town' of Positano beneath and the Mediterranean beyond. White-washed walls and hand-made tiles distinguish the 58 rooms and suites, most of them boasting balconies and sea views. The *Aveda* spa, swimming pool and switched-on service finish it all off perfectly.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are approximately 90 minutes from Naples Airport / 56 Rooms & 2 Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar (Michelin-Starred) / Fitness Centre / Spa / Excursion Boat (summer only) / Children Welcome over 6 years of age

PRICES

4 nights from £1,595pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



MONASTERO SANTA ROSA HOTEL & SPA Conca dei Marini

Perched on a spectacular cliff-top between Positano and Amalfi, it delivers eagle-like views over the beautiful Gulf of Salerno. This privately owned former 17th century monastery, which only opened its doors in May 2012, offers panoramas like no other; be it from the rooms, suites, restaurants, spa, cascading gardens or their infinity edge pool.

With state of the art contemporary comforts where once were nuns, the 20 superbly appointed rooms and suites have vaulted ceilings and many original features, each beautifully complemented with furniture and furnishings carefully sourced from across Italy. Breathtaking views of the bay of Amalfi can be enjoyed from the comfort of a suite, some with Terraces boasting an outdoor space from which to drink in the views along with some chilled Prosecco. Several floors below, the *Il Refettorio*, a Michelin-starred restaurant, specialises in the cuisine of Campania and, as you might expect with such views of the Amalfi Coast, it delights in serving the freshest of local catches with the finest of home-grown produce from its gardens. Fittingly for a former monastery, the spacious spa is a delight of spiritual tranquillity with a superb range of treatments and techniques. There can be few more spectacular sea views in this part of Italy and Monastero Santa Rosa is one of the finest, most elegant vantage points.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 75 minutes from Naples Airport / 20 Rooms & Suites / 1 Michelin-Starred Restaurant / Spa / Swimming Pool / Shuttle Service to Amalfi / Children Welcome from 16 years and over
PRICES 4 nights from £1,225pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



GARDEN & VILLAS RESORT - Ischia

Ischia has been named the Green Island with good reason. It's a land of woods and pine forests, parks and mountains, picturesque beaches and coves. It's also famous for its fishing villages and archaeological sites, its thermal waters and traditional crafts, all making it a wonderful place to visit. Garden & Villas Resort lets you experience the Green Island in all its splendour, putting you in close contact with nature. The nine villas are nestled within in three hectares of parkland and garden, the drystone walls, scented plants, olive, strawberry and carob trees evoking an enchanted Eden. It's a verdant oasis that's perfect for wandering, jogging or yoga, to restore and rejuvenate.

Let all stresses and strains drift away in the thermal waters of the 34° indoor pool and in the tranquil Spa. Stay in the elegant warmth of a Classic Room, or a spacious Garden Suite with Park View, decorated in bright Mediterranean shades of blue and beige, with a wide terrace boasting views of the park. Or perhaps you'd prefer the Deluxe Suite with an amazing view of the sea. The cuisine here is inspired by nature too, featuring seasonal 'zero mile' products, catch of the day and delicious local dishes.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Naples Airport plus a 1 hour Hydrofoil transfer to Ischia Port / 52 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £695pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



CAPRI PALACE - Anacapri

Given that the concept of this luxury boutique hotel is 'art surrounded by rooms', on an island that artists have termed 'the place of the soul', you know you're going to stay somewhere that's rather special. Now a part of the Mytha Hotel Anthology, this is a true art hotel, with installations and works of art everywhere – in public spaces, guest rooms and studios.

Even the commercial space adjacent to the hotel has become a workshop for artisans to create handmade textiles and accessories beloved of Jacqueline Kennedy and the international jet set. But the elements that make up a five-star luxury hotel are all here too. Bold design that melds arches and columns reminiscent of a Neapolitan palace with modern signature white furniture. *LOlivo* restaurant has two Michelin stars and the *Capri Beauty Farm* is world-renowned for being the first medical spa in the world and the only medical spa on Capri Island.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes by car and hydrofoil / 68 Rooms & Suites / Medical Spa / 2 Michelin-Starred Restaurant & 1 Bistro / Swimming Pool / Free Shuttle Service from/to Il Riccio Restaurant and Beach Club (the only hotel with a beach club with one Michelin star)

PRICES

4 nights from £1,460pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

CAPRI TIBERIO PALACE - Capri Town

The exclusive and eclectic vibe of this five-star boutique hotel has made it a favoured destination for international jet-setters who are naturally drawn to the ultra glamorous island of Capri. The hotel fuses contemporary design with island myth and benefits from being located in the heart of Capri's Movida, just a short stroll from the famous Piazzetta and renowned beach clubs, yet it still offers all the privacy and intimacy of a private hideaway.

Individually styled rooms have a vintage vibe combined with high tech and the uplifting colour scheme of blue, yellow and coral reflects the Mediterranean Sea and iconic white roofs of Capri. The restaurant menu also features Caprese and Mediterranean flavours, while a white grand piano and collection of panama hats gives a nostalgic Cotton Club ambience to the *Jacky Bar*. Find Oriental Zen at the *Tiberio Spa* and admire the art installations at the outdoor pool.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 60 minutes by car and hydrofoil / 45 Rooms & Suites / Spa / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,280pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.
Half-board optional.

PUGLIA & BASILICATA

The southern regions of PUGLIA and BASILICATA deserve to be discovered. They boast stunning coastlines, enchanting cities and some of Italy's finest food and wine. PUGLIA, the 'heel of Italy', boasts world class resorts alongside charming Masserias with beautiful sandy beaches. Whilst there, explore the region, including a visit to the fairytale town of Trulli with its white stone houses and conical roofs, or Lecce, dubbed Florence of the South due to its wealth of historical architecture. Meanwhile, the neighbouring region of BASILICATA is ideal for touring. From the UNESCO World Heritage site of Matera with its fascinating network of ancient caves and narrow streets, to Maratea, where majestic mountains sweep down to the Tyrrhenian coastline. And in between lie forgotten villages such as Bernalda with its genuine hospitality as well as nearby pristine white beaches. These southern regions are the epitome of an untouched and forgotten Italy and as such are truly worth discovering.



HOTEL KEY 1. BORGO EGNAZIA 2. MASSERIA SAN DOMENICO 3. MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO 4. MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA 5. LA FIERMONTINA, URBAN RESORT 6. PALAZZO MARGHERITA 7. PALAZZO GATTINI 8. SANT'ANGELO LUXURY RESORT

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways flies daily to Bari from Gatwick, with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures from Stansted to Bari or Brindisi.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

With its Mediterranean climate Puglia boasts a longer season than most, with spring being generally warm. Summer is peak season here with long, hot and dry days with temperatures up to 30°C. The autumnal weather typically begins in **October**, however temperatures generally remain in the 20s until **December**.



Journey of Discovery...

This Fly Drive tour is a journey of rediscovery. The ancient city of **Matera** has been named European City of Culture for 2019. The jewel of the Basilicata region, in Southern Italy, its natural caves in the tufa limestone were likely inhabited 7000 years ago. Elaborate structures were built atop these huddled sassi (cave dwellings) and the 'Città Sotterranea' (Underground City) has often been used for biblical scenes in films and TV, so powerfully does it evoke the ancient Holy Land. There's nobody better placed to introduce you to this wondrous city than Nicola Ruscigno and Anna Calia. Two decades ago they decided to buy some caves in the historic center of Matera with the idea of opening a hotel.



In 2005 they built a new luxury resort called **Sant'Angelo** in the neighbourhood that surrounded the ancient court of Matera. It's now grown to occupy an entire district of the historic centre. Stay here for three nights and soak up the unique atmosphere, and then move on to Puglia.

Puglia is one of Italy's most famous regions and it's no wonder why: ancient towns, ornate churches, olives groves and the baroque splendour of **Lecce**, which is known as the 'Florence of the South'. The baroque 17th-century buildings are so distinctive that they have their own terminology – barocco leccese (Lecce baroque). It's a style distinguished by gargoyles, columns and gremlins. The countryside is equally stunning, with caves, Neolithic sites, and beautiful traditional hilltop villages.

Centrally located, **Borgo Egnazia**, is the perfect base from which to explore this beautiful region. Nestled in ancient olive groves in the Itria Valley in the heart of Puglia, it's a few strides from the shimmering blue Adriatic sea, and a perfect home from home for four nights.



Cliff dive in the home of the Red Bull diving competition in Polignano a Mare in Puglia

Cliff Diving involves awesome acrobatics and free-falling from up to 27m and since 2009 the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series has provided a platform for this thrilling drama. Now you can take a turn at the scene of the action, on Italy's southern Adriatic coast.



BORGO EGNAZIA - Puglia



An Italian masterpiece, crafted with care and expertly executed, yet this property is only 9 years old. So you are forgiven for not having been... yet. And when you do, you will be treated to a place like no other; cool and contemporary, yet architecturally sympathetic, with service Grand Dame properties crave and facilities in abundance. It will enrapture.

Located among fields of olive trees on the Adriatic, Borgo Egnazia shines brightly, no small part thanks to the local white Tufo limestone of which it has been built. Within its 20 hectares the accommodation here is composed of three distinctive areas: the elegant and sophisticated La Corte – in the hotel's main building; the traditionally styled Il Borgo, and the elegant and spacious three bedroom Villas. Only their own Championship 18-hole golf course lies between it and the Adriatic Sea, where you'll find two beach clubs. A short transfer away is a pure sandy beach with a kids' game park, a bar and gazebos, whilst closer in the property grounds *Cala Masciola* beach club has the waterside restaurant, water sports and relaxing cabanas with steps leading down to the crystal clear waters from the gentle low rock platform. A Trullalleri Kid's and Marinai and Tarantari Teens' Club with vast indoor and outdoor play areas, plus a host of engaging activities will keep the little ones enthralled. Meanwhile, discover the *VAIR SPA* – an oasis for the soul with programmes infused with southern Italian influences. Equally local are the beautiful ingredients used in the several restaurants, lovingly nurtured into mouth-watering dishes served in a choice of venues from formal to charming. This is a place that has quickly gained an enviable reputation, and for great reason.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 50 minutes from Bari Airport / 155 Rooms & Suites in La Corte (Hotel) and Il Borgo (Apulian Village) and 29 Villas / 6 Restaurants & 4 Bars / Fitness Centre / 4 Swimming Pools / Golf / Cooking School / Tennis / Beach Club / Water Sports / Children Welcome with Club for ages 3-16 years



PRICES

4 nights from £755pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.
Half-board and full-board optional.

MASSERIA SAN DOMENICO - Puglia



Nestled within ancient olive groves with distant views of the Adriatic Sea and just 500 metres from the coast, Masseria San Domenico was once one of Puglia's oldest watch-towers, dating back to the 15th century. This beautifully restored farmhouse has undergone careful restoration and been converted into a heavenly haven that exudes traditional service in classic style with a distinct Apulian feel. Choose the recently refurbished Garden Junior Suite located on the ground floor boasting a private terrace or the Junior Suite Masseria with connecting single bedroom making it perfect for families with young adults. And for spa lovers, the *SPA-Thalasso Centre* offers a vast range of therapy treatments using local ingredients' in addition to the heated Thalasso pool, gym, sauna and steam room. With a range of facilities both on your doorstep and nearby, guests can avail themselves at the magnificent salt water swimming pool with *Al Fresco* pool grill restaurant or perhaps sample the local cuisine at the *San Domenico* restaurant using local produce from the hotel's own land. Just 1km from the hotel, at the private beach San Domenico a Mare, enjoy an aperitivo of champagne, oysters, vodka and caviar and dine at the restaurant *La Nassa* which offers a refined menu of freshly caught fish and a stunning view over the sea. Masseria San Domenico is also a haven for golf and beach lovers with an 18-hole golf course and private beach.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Bari Airport / 40 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants (Jun-Sep) & 1 Bar / Spa / Swimming Pool / 2 Beach Clubs / Golf / 2 Tennis Courts / Children Welcome from 14 years and over
PRICES 4 nights from £935pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.
Half-board and full-board optional.

MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO - Puglia



Built in the 16th century as a watch tower, the Masseria Torre Coccaro is an exquisite country farmhouse, surrounded by stunning sea views of the Adriatic and set in a vast rural estate rich with olive trees. Located near Fasano, this family-friendly retreat welcomes guests with a friendly atmosphere and individual touches. All the bedrooms here are utterly charming, but of note is the Orange Garden Suite with private pool and Jacuzzi set in its own garden and the expansive Chapel Suite beside the ancient church. There are four restaurants including the *Restaurant Gourmet* set in the stables dating back to the 1600's and an exclusive sea restaurant with oyster bar. Masseria's *Spa Aveda* offers a range of treatments and Turkish bath. And if that's not enough to tempt you, Masseria Torre Coccaro is a paradise for children and beach lovers. It boasts a private sandy beach with Beach Club, a massage pavilion and even a 'quiet' mini-club.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Bari Airport / 36 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Beach Club / Cooking School / Children Welcome
PRICES 4 nights from £1,065pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA - Puglia



Rocco Forte's newest Italian hotel is the stunningly beautiful Masseria Torre Maizza in Puglia, a former 16th century farmhouse shaded by groves of ancient olive trees, just a few strides from the Adriatic. Puglia is one of Italy's hidden treasures, a region that's defined by charming, white-washed hilltop towns, delicious food, seafood, wines and ancient culture, and there's no better place to appreciate its architecture, traditions and unspoilt natural beauty than this hotel, which has been transformed into a stunning coastal oasis. Masseria Torre Maizza reopens in May 2019 after an extensive multi-million euro renovation that will encapsulate all the Forte hallmarks of architectural heritage reimagined with contemporary elegance and culinary excellence. Local artisans have redesigned the interiors to create a unique sense of place. The 40-rooms and suites, private beach club, 9-hole golf course and private gardens will be enhanced with a sunset rooftop bar, a stylish restaurant overlooking the swimming pool, fitness centre and kids club, making this a perfect destination for a relaxed and idyllic escape.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 50 minutes from Bari Airport / 28 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Swimming Pool / Beach Club / Golf / Watersports / Children Welcome aged over 10 years
PRICES 4 nights from £1,015pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



LA FIERMONTINA, URBAN RESORT - Lecce

A French businessman bought this 17th century villa, situated in the heart of historic Lecce, to honour his maternal grandmother from Puglia, Antonia Fiermonte, who became part of the vibrant Paris art scene of the early 1930s.

A boho atmosphere pervades this urban hotel. Olive trees surround the swimming pool in the sculpture garden, a rarity in the old quarter, while the artful rooms feature traditional Pietra di Trani floors, star-pinnacled ceilings, Lecce stone staircases and Italian furniture.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 30 minutes from Brindisi Airport / 16 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 1 Bar / Wellness & Beauty Treatments / Olive & Wine Tours / Salento Lifestyle Experiences / Swimming Pool / Water Sports / Cooking Classes / Children Welcome with special activities designed for all ages

PRICES

4 nights from £985pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

PALAZZO MARGHERITA - Bernalda

Palazzo Margherita is an intimate luxury hotel, located in the heart of the picturesque village of Bernalda, in Basilicata, the home town of Francis Ford Coppola where every visitor feels more like a friend or neighbour than a tourist.

This cinematic 19th century Palazzo, owned by Francis Ford Coppola, is situated only 35 minutes from the famous Unesco Heritage town of Matera. With acclaimed French designer Jacques Grange, Coppola has created a luxurious, authentically Italian hideaway that's palatial in style and levels of comfort. Nine vast suites, each with hand-painted frescoes, Murano glass chandeliers and lovingly restored floors, are hidden away behind wood painted doors without a sign. The inner courtyard opens onto a world of private gardens and a swimming pool. Only local and organic products are used in the Palazzo's kitchen. Every day changing menus reflect Basilicata's seasonal tradition, and Guests can choose to sample dishes anywhere in the estate just like in an Italian grand home.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 90 minutes from Bari Airport / 9 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / In-Room Spa Treatments / Cooking Classes / Children Welcome

PRICES

4 nights from £1,245pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



PALAZZO GATTINI - Matera

The Palazzo Gattini occupies the beautiful Duomo's Square, a high point in the glorious Town of Matera, offering spectacular vistas of the Sassi (stones). Built in the 15th century, the palace was for centuries the residence of the oldest noble family in Matera.

The rooms and suites are the work of architect Ettore Mocchetti, who has used mazzaro, a local stone, skilled craftsmanship and soft lighting to create havens of elegance. Rich fabrics elude to the sumptuous decor which would have surrounded the Earl of Gattini's family. Wake to breakfast in *The Awakening*, the ancient cheese rooms, where you'll also now find coffee, fresh juices and traditional Matera bread, local honey and jam. In the *Le Bubbolo* restaurant, antique decor harmonises with modern and there are gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options, as well as a children's menu. Explore the fascinating story of the town of the Sassi, while away warm summer evenings, listening to music and mixing with locals in the *Duomo Café*, and venture down to the ancient cisterns and stone caves, where you'll find the *Palazzo Gattini Spa*, complete with Floating Room, for a truly original zero gravity therapeutic experience.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Bari Airport / 20 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurants & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £650pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



SANT'ANGELO LUXURY RESORT - Matera

The Sant'Angelo Resort could be described as the world's most luxurious cave! The sympathetic renovation, by one visionary family, of an entire district of historical underground dwellings in the centre of the hauntingly beautiful Sassi di Matera has created this resort of cave rooms.

The magnificent location, in one of the most beautiful squares in the old city, offers panoramic views of the intricate houses and stairways reaching to the Gravina canyon, and the wonders of the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site are all nearby. The cave rooms feature dark-wood furniture and white walls, and lighting which illuminates fossils and crevices in the rock-face. But this is no stone age living. There's also TV, minibar and sunken circular baths. This is a place steeped in magic – for all ages. Dine at the hugely atmospheric and theatrical *Regia Corte* restaurant, sheltered in the cavities and arches of rough hewn rock, or on the lovely terrace with spellbinding panoramas of the Rock Churches Park, the churches of San Pietro Caveoso and the Madonna dell'Idris. The menu is just as divine, featuring authentic local ingredients and prestigious wines. A stay here in this timeless, Biblical place, promises a truly unique experience.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 60 minutes from Bari Airport / 22 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurants & Bar / Children Welcome

PRICES 4 nights from £675pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.

SICILY & SARDINIA

For all that it's part of Italy, SICILY – the largest island in the Mediterranean – is another country. It wears its history on its sleeve with rich relics scattered almost casually. The food has hints of Arabic spices; the vegetation is exotic with oranges, lemons and palms; the pace of life slow, warm and friendly. Historical riches include show-stopping Greek temples, Baroque churches, and medieval mosaics, and no visitor can resist the pull of Mount Etna's eerie volcanic landscape. Midway between Italy and North Africa, SARDINIA is Italy with a twist of the exotic. In the south, idyllic sandy coves mix with spectacular wave carved rocks and Cagliari's Citadel and Roman amphitheatre. Whilst in the north the glitterati descend to lap up the long hours of sunshine in luxurious surroundings.



HOTEL KEY 1. VERDURA RESORT 2. BELMOND VILLA SANT' ANDREA 3. BELMOND GRAND HOTEL TIMEO 4. THERASIA RESORT SEA & SPA 5. MONACI DELLE TERRE NERE 6. CALA DI VOLPE 7. HOTEL ROMAZZINO 8. VILLA DEL GOLFO LIFESTYLE RESORT 9. GABBIANO AZZURO 10. FORTE VILLAGE RESORT

HOW TO GET THERE

SICILY: **British Airways** fly to Catania daily from Gatwick with low cost airlines offering alternative timings and direct departures from Gatwick, Luton and Manchester. Low cost carriers also fly direct to Palermo from Gatwick and Stansted, and Trapani from Luton and Manchester.

SARDINIA: **British Airways** flies directly to Cagliari and Olbia in Sardinia from London three times a week in season. A British Airways operated flight departs for Cagliari from London and Manchester twice a week, with low cost airlines also flying there from Luton, Stansted and Manchester.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Winters in Sicily are generally cooler with a higher chance of rain. During **April to May** the temperatures are warming which is ideal for touring. **June to August** are the warmest months (August can be busy with Italian holiday makers) with **September** and into **October** being a lovely time of year to visit. Flights to Sardinia and hotel opening dates mean you'll only visit between **mid-May** to early **October** when there is the best chance of sunshine and lowest chance of rainfall.



Andre Bocelli in Taormina

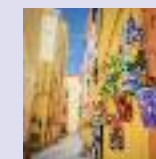
Where better to see the famous Italian singer, Andre Bocelli, perform his most famous opera arias and hits, than in the spectacular ancient theatre in his home country? Bocelli has sold more than 80 million records and has performed all over the world, singing for popes, presidents and royalty. His new album, 'Si', features a track co-written by Ed Sheeran and Tiziano Ferro, as well as duets with Dua Lipa, and soprano Aida Garifullina. From August 29-31st 2019, Bocelli will be performing in the world-famous ancient Greek theatre of



Taormina, the 'Teatro antico di Taormina'. This former gladiatorial arena was built in the seventh century BC. Carved into the rock, it's Taormina's most celebrated landmark, also famous for its spectacular views toward the Ionian coast of Sicily and the spectacular cone of Etna. Immerse yourself in culture, with two nights at either **Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea** or **Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo**, two of the most beautiful hotels on the Sicilian Ionian coast.

Gastronomic Walking Tour – Sicily & Sardinia

The fertile volcanic soils, sun-drenched climate and warm seas of Sicily and Sardinia produce a bounty of lemons, herbs, and fresh seafood and showcase all that's healthful and wonderful about Mediterranean cuisine. Full walking itineraries, from half a day to a full day, take in markets and farms and a lesson in how to make authentic pasta.



Your personal concierge

As personal and tailored to you as your holiday itself down to the finest detail; let us take care of it. From pre-booking spa treatments, restaurant reservations, golf tee times to a wide range of exclusive excursions, private tours and handpicked activities. Discuss your request with the reservations team or e-mail: concierge@azurecollection.com

VERDURA RESORT, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily



A stunning full-service resort that promises holiday memories to cherish, complete with great facilities for children, 27-holes of golf, an enormous spa and an infinity-edge swimming pool, as well as 1.8km of private coastline on the south-west coast of Sicily. Sir Rocco's interior designer sister, Olga Polizzi, has once again made her unique modish mark on all 203 sumptuous rooms, suites and villas with her inspired use of stone, wood, earth tones and dramatic accent colours set off by views of the Mediterranean Sea.

Sicilian, Italian and Mediterranean dishes are all showcased in the restaurants, such as the traditional pizzeria of the vibrantly colourful trattoria *Liola* or the *Amare* seafood restaurant by the beach, and for kids there's an early sitting option. Enjoy the 27 holes of incredible golf designed by Kyle Phillips, including one 18-hole Championship courses running along the coastline. Relax in the invigorating thalassotherapy pool spa with its multitude of tailored-treatments which takes wellness and pampering to a whole new level. Meanwhile, let *Verduland* keep the junior guests more than happy from dawn 'til dusk, comprising of a full range of special activities with dedicated areas for babies, kids and teens, plus pre-arrange all the appropriate amenities to be awaiting your arrival, from a cot and baby-proofed room to a games console, to help save on your packing. That is not to mention the tennis, bicycles, beach, water sports, football, wine tasting, cooking classes and local excursions, which mean you'll be kept as busy as you want to be.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 75 minutes from Palermo Airport / 203 Rooms & Suites / 4 Restaurants & 5 Bars / Spa / Tennis / 2 Golf Courses / Beach / Water Sports / Children, Teens Club & Crèche

PRICES

7 nights from £1,320pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



BELMOND VILLA SANT'ANDREA, Taormina

Set on its own private beach on the bay of Mazzaro' and surrounded by stunning views of Mount Etna, Belmond Villa Sant' Andrea is just a short cable car ride from the heart of stunning Taormina. Built in 1830 by an English aristocratic family, this secluded retreat is nestled amongst vast tropical gardens and offers all the charm of a private residence.

Almost all of the 71 rooms and suites have views over the private bay and many boast either lovely 'Juliet' balconies or terraces for al fresco living while the bathrooms are a wealth of marble. *Restaurant Oliviero* is justifiably famed for its superb Mediterranean cuisine with innovative twists which uses only the very freshest of local produce and seafood and there can be fewer better sea views than from its tree-shaded panoramic terrace. Enjoy exclusive use of the tranquil beach or indulge in the wellness centre set in the subtropical garden, offering revitalising treatments.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 50 minutes from Catania Airport / 71 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 3 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Complimentary Twice Daily Mini-Cruise Boat Trip in the summer months / Children Welcome with "Smile" Club for 4-12 years from May to October

PRICES

7 nights from £1,595pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.
Half-board and full-board optional.

BELMOND GRAND HOTEL TIMEO - Taormina

One of Sicily's most renowned hotels and the first to be built in Taormina, Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo sits high on the clifftops looking out towards Mount Etna and boasts a literary terrace which has been graced by some of the world's finest writers.

Literary greats such as D.H. Lawrence, Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams have all found inspiration at this lovely hotel where many stayed for months on end. It's easy to see why. There are 71 rooms and suites, including a family room and presidential suite, with décor that's full of Sicilian style, from dramatic baroque to country chic ceramics. Elegant writing desks, balconies looking out over the Bay of Naxos and terracotta rooftops of the medieval town are perfect for daydreaming, as are the lovely manicured gardens. The panoramic pool and fabled Greek Theatre adjacent to the hotel, are added attractions for contemplation and stimulation. The *Pool Restaurant* (opened from May to September) in the terraced gardens is a lovely place to relax with buffet style appetisers and pizzas cooked in a traditional brick oven, while the *Timeo* restaurant serves Sicilian favourites and has the most awe-inspiring views. Signature treatments at the wellness centre use extra virgin olive oil enriched with lava dust, pumice stone and a choice of essential oils extracted from the island's fragrant flowers and fruits such as prickly pear, tangerine, lemon, sweet almond, orange blossom or star anise. The hotel's expert team can advise on excursions for culture lovers, nature lovers and foodies while a private shuttle will whisk you to the beach cabanas of Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea. Guy de Maupassant wrote that Taormina is 'a landscape in which you can find all that seems to be created on earth to seduce the eyes, mind and fantasy,' and he knew that the Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo was the best place from which to enjoy all that this lovely destination has to offer.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 50 minutes from Catania Airport / 45 Rooms & 26 Suites / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Watersports / Swimming Pool / Beach Access at sister Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea / Complimentary Twice Daily Mini-Cruise Boat Trip in the summer months / Children Welcome

PRICES

7 nights from £1,835pp including flights, car hire and breakfast.



Therasia Resort Sea & Spa - Vulcano, Sicily

An Aeolian haven on the timeless island of Vulcano, the Therasia Resort Sea & Spa is perched on the cliff of Vulcanello with luscious parlours and interiors that use indigenous materials to reflect the wild natural landscape that surrounds it. Beds have headboards of majolica or wrought iron and bathrooms feature lava stone and Sicilian cotto tiles. Cedar and olive wood and pale ceramics adorn the rooms.

Therasia Resort Sea & Spa is close to the island's appealing centre and harbour, and many of the 90 rooms boast views of the crystalline Sicilian sea and the Aeolian archipelago. Along the island shore are beautiful coves carved by wind and waves with dramatic, volcanic black sand. And the shallow waters of Sabbienere Beach is ideal for both children and divers. *Il Cappero*, the starred restaurant in the heart of Therasia Resort Sea & Spa, is a true temple of taste! The colour combinations and culinary compositions follow contemporary trends, re-inventing the rich local tradition. In *L'arcipelago* warm wood contrasts with white walls and columns and a terrace floats above the water. This is an island devoted to wellness, with natural muds and relaxing steam that make spa treatments here particularly wondrous.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 1 hour 20 minutes from Catania Airport plus a 45 minute Hydrofoil transfer to Vulcano Port / 90 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Fitness Centre / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICES

7 nights from £1,090pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.

MONACI DELLE TERRE NERE - Etna

Monaci Delle Terre Nere is a boutique hotel with a truly unique countryside location, situated on the slopes of Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. It's a site of such astounding natural beauty that it drew the monks of St. Anne's order in the 18th century.

There's much to seduce modern day travellers. The terraced gardens, vineyards, attractive pool and focus on slow food. The estate comprises a pretty main house, with snowy white, Baroque stone frames, the 14 suites and 9 rooms are scattered around the estate, housed in former barns, stables, farmhouses and even an 18th century wine press. They have all been restored with great care using local lava stone, Etna-grown chestnutwood, modern designer furnishings and lighting as well as original art and ceramics. Many have feature fireplaces and views over Etna and the farm, or towards the sea. The restaurant, *Locanda Nerello*, puts the focus on the estate's Eco-Bio ethos and the stylish *Convivium Bar* celebrates the fact that Mount Etna is Italy's third most important wine producing region.



THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 40 minutes from Catania Airport / 23 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & 2 Bars / Helicopter Pad / In-Room Spa Treatments / Cooking Classes / Wine Tasting / Children Welcome

PRICES

7 nights from £1,295pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



HOTEL CALA DI VOLPE Costa Smeralda, Sardinia

Stretching out along the bay like a timeless Sardinian fishing village that's been sculpted by the wind, the Hotel Cala di Volpe embodies five star elegance, enhanced by the colours and scents of nature and sea. Hotel Cala di Volpe is a world apart, an icon of VIP glamour and one of the most prestigious lifestyle resorts of the Mediterranean.

The luxury is understated in this discrete celebrity haunt. Terracotta-tiled roofs and walls painted in pastel shades of pink, orange and yellow, create a rustic and historic ambience. Yet you'll find all the trappings of an A-list getaway, including private balconies and terraces with magnificent views of the the azure seafront. Languish by the Olympic-sized seawater pool or head, by hotel boat, to the nearby stunning private sandy beach. The impeccable service and chic escapism is what draws people back time and time again, not to mention the exquisite cuisine of the *Cala di Volpe Restaurant*. The sumptuousness of this ultra-exclusive resort has to be experienced to be believed.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Olbia Airport / 121 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Fitness Area with Mini Spa by Shiseido / Tennis / Golf (nearby) / Children Welcome with Club
PRICES 7 nights from £1,415pp including flights, transfers and half-board. Full-board optional.



HOTEL ROMAZZINO Costa Smeralda, Sardinia

Not far from Porto Cervo, the Hotel Romazzino shelters between emerald waters and verdant scented gardens. The whitewashed building is typically Mediterranean, gently resting on a lengthy beach of the finest sand. Thanks to the brand new *Spa my Blend by Clarins* and extensive choice of sports and activities, it takes a fresh and simple approach to wellbeing which has made it one of the leading beach resorts & spas of the region.

Within its white-washed walls the rooms, suites and villas take their inspiration from Sardinian design. You'll find traditional, tasteful wooden furniture, local, handmade fabrics and tiled floors that lead to private balconies and terraces. The lavish 3-bed villas or 5-bed villa, all with private pools, are discreetly situated toward the bluff point yet within an easy stroll of the resort's extensive facilities. The hotel has everything to offer in terms of a wellness retreat. As well as the new spa, there's a yoga and pilates room, a fitness centre overlooking the turquoise bay, tennis court, water activities, Pevero Health Trail and Pevero Golf Club nearby, as well as Toy Club for younger guests. So the only thing left to satisfy is your appetite, and there's a fabulous choice of dining venues in which to discover the diverse flavours of Sardinian cuisine.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Olbia Airport / 100 Rooms, Suites & Villas / 2 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Fitness Centre / Wellness Centre / Fresh Water Pool & Sea Water Pool / Tennis / Children Welcome with Club
PRICES 7 nights from £1,395pp including flights, transfers and half-board. Full-board optional.



VILLA DEL GOLFO LIFESTYLE RESORT - Sardinia

Like a typical Sardinian village, the clusters of white walls and terracotta tiles climb the lush green hillside overlooking the stunning Bay of Cannigione. This northern Sardinian resort purveys charm in abundance.

The accommodation choice is between rooms and the smaller suites found in the central house; larger suites located separately affording more privacy, a larger terrace and some with their own pool, as the Superior Suites and Luxury Suites. Whichever you choose, you will be delighted as they are appointed in a simple yet elegant Sardinian style and all have those incredible views. As does the pool and Mediterranean inspired *Restaurant Miraluna*. A fun dining alternative is the nearby farmhouse restaurant, *La Colti*, which serves up fresh, organic, local Sardinian fayre in a family style setting. *Chiario di Luna*, the restaurant of the private sailing yacht *BonAria*, is ideal for a romantic dinner, while *Acqua di Mare*, the sea deck restaurant, offers guests the chance to enjoy an exquisite dining experience surrounded by the gentle sounds of the water and nature. Relax by the Sea on a private Beach deck in front of the Hotel, back on site the *Armonia Spa* will unwind, whilst those views will enchant. The hotel's private yacht *BonAria* is at guests' disposal for exciting excursions in the waters of the National Marine Park of La Maddalena's Archipelago as well as exclusive for tours and romantic dinners on board.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 35 minutes from Olbia Airport / 60 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Swimming Pools / Complimentary Hotel Shuttle Service to Tanca Manna and Barca Bruciata Beaches / Children Welcome from 10 years of age
PRICES 7 nights from £1,200pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



GABBIANO AZZURRO HOTEL & SUITES - Sardinia

Nestled on the rocks of Golfo Aranci's peninsula, a stunning strip of unspoiled Mediterranean bush and white sandy beaches, Gabbiano Azzurro Hotel & Suites is a gorgeous Sardinian Resort where one can enjoy unforgettable sunrise and sunset over the sea each day. With its own private beach and fully renovated seawater pool, Gabbiano Azzurro offers supreme comfort, delicious food, warm hospitality and the natural beauty of its pristine landscape.

Food at Gabbiano Azzurro is well renowned and awarded thanks to a skilled Chef and the fishing tradition of Golfo Aranci. The *White Restaurant* showcases an everchanging menu with local and national specialties in a light-flooded venue with wide windows overlooking the blue sky and sea of the coastline. A Mediterranean and Sardinian cuisine features on the signature menu at the *Blù Restaurant*, an elegant terrace sheering over the sea, boasting the rarest products of local, ancient recipes. One can also dine in a private gazebo on the beach, feet in the warm sand, to live a romantic night and fully breathe in the magic spell of the Sardinian nights. Style and comfort are essential at Gabbiano Azzurro resort: a wide range of rooms & suites allows the Guest to live the Sardinian Dolce Vita choosing from the Superior Rooms to the Suites with private pools on the roof, each one boasting sea vistas of breathtaking, lush beauty. The larger Luxury Pool Suites are especially ideal for families, with independent bedrooms and a private pool to share your precious holiday with your loved ones. In Summer, Scuba diving, dolphin watching and many other watersport activities are available for the sea lovers, 15 beaches to visit, hiking and trekking to view Golfo Aranci's wild landscapes and protected reserve.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 20 minutes from Olbia-Costa Smeralda Airport / 90 Rooms & Suites / Private Beach (to be paid extra from 16th June to 8th September 2019) / Swimming Pool with Whirlpool Area / 3 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Fitness Room / Massage Room / HB Treatment Available
PRICES 7 nights from £885pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



FORTE VILLAGE RESORT, Sardinia



With eight different 4 and 5 star hotels dotted throughout 55 beautiful acres, Forte Village Resort is a Mediterranean beach resort unlike any other, and currently benefitting from a multi-million euro investment programme. This award-winning and world famous Sardinian escape caters to virtually every possible holiday whim.

For adults there is the *Aquaforte* spa with its series of Thalassotherapy detox pools, an Ayurvedic Park, medical spa and massage treatments, plus boutique retail therapy and evening shows at the *Piazza Luisa*. For those bringing kids (younger ones or teens) there is the truly vast *Leisure Land* and *Children's Wonderland & Mario's Village* as well as the resort's endless white sands and pools to entertain and delight. For the more sporty young ones there is a rugby academy with Austin Healey and Will Greenwood; a tennis academy and an official *Chelsea Football Club Soccer School* – the 'school run' has never looked so appealing! This really is a family resort on a grand scale.

Dining is also an integral part of the resort, with 21 restaurants in high season including some restaurants and gourmet evenings hosted by Michelin-starred chefs. So as with every aspect of this incredible resort, the choice is yours; just stay long enough to enjoy it all.

THE ESSENTIALS

Private transfers are 45 minutes from Cagliari Airport / 719 Rooms, Bungalows, Suites & Villas spread across 8 individual hotels / 21 Restaurants (during high season) & Bars / Spa / Tennis / Watersports / Scuba Diving / Chelsea Football Club Soccer School, plus Rugby, Tennis, Boxing, Table-Tennis and Cycling Academies / Children Welcome with Children's Wonderland & Mario's Village for 2-12 years and Leisureland

PRICES

7 nights from £1,695pp including flights, transfers and breakfast.



WEDDINGS IN ITALY

Italy is the most romantic place to tie the knot, whether you dream of a wedding overlooking the sea, vineyards, terraced gardens or gracious Renaissance cityscapes. The Amalfi Coast makes a glorious backdrop to your special day. The Royal terrace at Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria in Sorrento overlooks the Gulf of Naples while the mystical Grand Hotel Cocumella features an atmospheric ancient cloister which can be transformed into a fairytale ballroom. North-eastern Puglia on the Adriatic coast is where you'll find Masseria Torre Coccaro with its pretty courtyard in which stands an ancient consecrated chapel. Country Weddings amid the rolling hills of Tuscany are sublime. At the noble villa of Borgo Santo Pietro, your blessing will take place amidst fragrant gardens and fountains and at COMO Castello del Nero near Siena, magical al fresco banquets overlook vineyards and olive groves, while the villa, pool, and pine trees that surround Relais La Corte dei Papi offer a haven of Tuscan hospitality.



If you marry in the historic hilltop castle of Castello dal Pozzo, you can arrive in a horse drawn carriage and celebrate your Big Day with a fireworks display. The fabled Grand Hotel Tremezzo and Villa Balbianello, in the heart of Lake Como, is an art nouveau palace that was the location for one of the most romantic scenes in movie history – the wedding of Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala in the second Star Wars film.

Belmond Villa San Michele offers Renaissance romance in an ancient monastery. At Belmond Hotel Cipriani, Venice you'll be serenaded by gondoliers and walk in the footsteps of Cassanova, with an alfresco masked ball on the Fondamenta, overlooking St. Mark's Square. A few steps from the Colosseum, The Inn at the Roman Forum, is the only luxury residence in Rome which actually houses Roman ruins within it's walls, a truly exclusive location in which to enjoy the best day of your life.



VILLAS

If you prefer the independence of your very own home from home with all of the facilities of our finest hotels, then we have a wide selection of hotels which offer luxurious villa accommodation across Italy, of all incredible shapes and accommodating sizes. Whatever you have in mind we would be delighted to discuss all of your options for your personal villa holiday with a difference. Enjoy the best of both worlds – freedom with facilities.

These resorts include:

- *Belmond Villa San Michele, Florence* • *Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco, Tuscany* • *Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como*
- *Borgo Egnazia, Puglia* • *Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily* • *Hotel Romazzino, Sardinia*
- *Forte Village Resort, Sardinia*



Villa Sola Cabiati, Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como



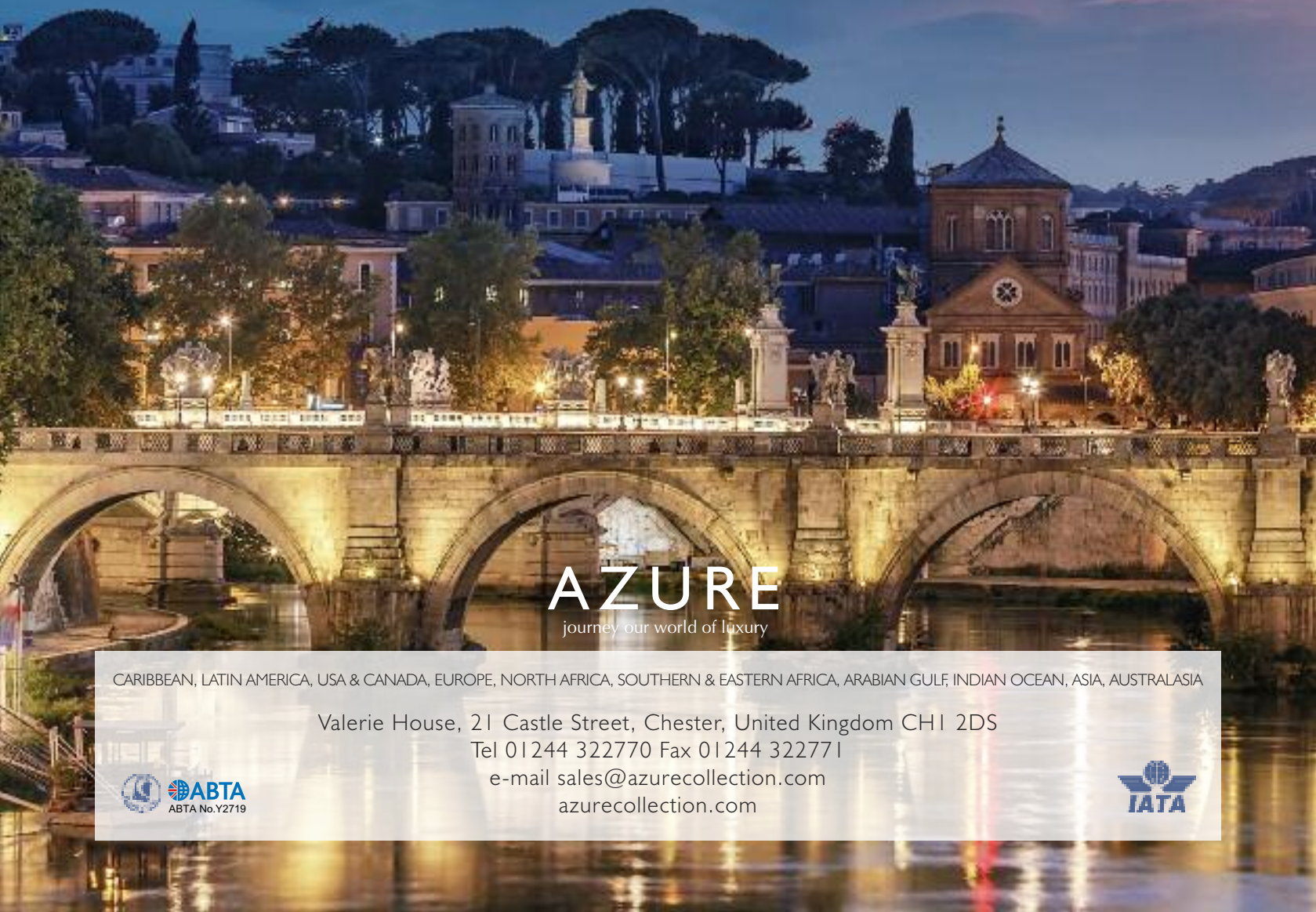
Limonaia Villa at Belmond Villa San Michele, Florence



Villa Iris at Verdura Resort, a Rocco Forte Hotel, Sicily



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