

# RPPTL - ITALY 2018

## Florence

September 21-25, 2018



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## FLORENCE - DAY 1

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### **WELCOME GATHERING**

*included*

appetizers; beer and wine  
at host hotel, location TBD

## FLORENCE - DAY 2

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

7:45 am - 12:45 pm

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF FLORENCE**

*included tour*

transportation departs at 7:45 am from hotel

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

### **LUNCH (ON OWN)**

For those not going on PM tour, you will need to take a taxi on your own back to the hotel.

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### **PITTI PALACE AND BOBOLI GARDENS**

*optional tour #4*

tour departs from city center at 2:00 pm

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### **BARGELLO MUSEUM AND SANTA CROCE BASILICA**

*optional tour #3*

tour departs from city center at 2:00 pm

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

### **DINNER AT THE LA LOGGIA IN PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO**

*included*

transportation departs at 6:30 pm from hotel

## FLORENCE - DAY 3

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018**

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

### **UFFIZI GALLERY**

*included tour*

transportation departs at 9:00 am from hotel

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

### **LUNCH (ON OWN)**

For those not going on PM tour, you will need to take a taxi on your own back to the hotel.

1:45 pm - 5:15 pm

### **DUOMO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND MUSEUM**

*optional tour #1*

tour departs from city center

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### **FLORENCE BY RIVER**

*optional tour #2*

tour departs from city center

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## FLORENCE - DAY 3

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018**

6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

**DINNER - VERRAZZANO CASTLE  
WITH WINE AND OLIVE OIL TASTING**  
*included*

transportation departs hotel at 6:00 pm

## FLORENCE - DAY 4

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

7:45 am - 8:30 pm

**VENICE EXCURSION**

*optional tour #6*

transportation departs hotel at 7:45 am

8:45 am - 10:00 pm

**CINQUE TERRE VILLAGES**

*optional tour #5*

transportation departs hotel at 8:45 am

## FLORENCE - DAY 5

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

7:00 am - 9:00 am

**LUGGAGE PICK UP**

luggage will be picked up in hotel lobby, further information to be provided

7:45 am - 3:30 pm

**PISA**

*optional tour #7*

transportation departs hotel at 7:45 am

11:00am - 3:15 pm

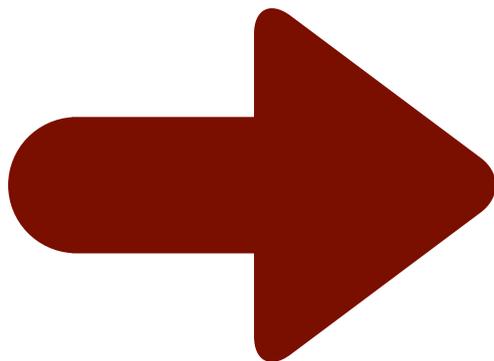
**EARLY TRAIN TO ROME**

transportation to train station departs at 11:30 am from hotel, train departs at 1:00 pm.

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**LATE TRAIN TO ROME**

for those going to PISA, direct transportation to train station will be provided. For those not attending the Pisa excursion, further train information will be provided in Florence



### TRANSPORTATION NOTE:

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the listed bus departure time for each event.

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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF FLORENCE

September 22, 2018 - 7:45 am - 12:45 pm  
included tour

**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes. Knees and shoulders covered, no shorts or sleeveless shirts allowed.**

Begin your tour by walking through the historic centre to see and feel the rich history on offer in this captivating city. Your expert guide will take you to the Fine Arts Academy to see the jewel of the Florentine Renaissance- Michelangelo's incredible statue of "The David," carved between 1501 and 1504. We will tour the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore (Duomo), and gaze upon the vast frescoes of the Last Judgment. We will see from the inside the enormous dome that was added in the 15th century and is visible throughout the city. We will tour the Baptistery dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Described by Dante in the Divine Comedy as "my beautiful San Giovanni." Its origins are unknown but it was described in 897 as minor basilica. Until the end of the 19th century all Catholics in Florence were baptized within its doors. We will see the famous doors known as the Gates of Paradise (note the original doors are in the museum). Each panel depicts a scene from the Old Testament. We will then walk to the Piazza della Signoria, the open-air museum of Florence, and its political centre since the Middle Ages. The tour will include a stop at a see how mosaic artwork is made. Finally, you will see the Straw Market and the picturesque shop-lined bridge, Ponte Vecchio, which is famous for its many gold and silver shops. The tour ends at the Piazza della Signora where you are free to walk around and enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many local restaurants.

### PITTI PALACE AND BOBOLI GARDENS

September 22, 2018 - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
optional tour #4

**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes.**

A half day tour of Florence beginning with the wonderful Pitti Palace. In 1550, this Palace was purchased by the Medici family who later commissioned Bartolomeo Ammannati to enlarge the Palace according to its original design created by Filippo Brunelleschi in 1440. Our guide will then lead us to the famous Boboli Gardens, which lie directly behind The Pitti Palace . Reflecting the taste of the high Renaissance period, these vast and splendid public gardens are bursting with trees that have been treated like architecture and lawns filled with grottos and fountains.



# RPPTL - ITALY 2018

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### BARGELLO MUSEUM AND SANTA CROCE BASILICA

September 22, 2018 - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

optional tour #3

**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes. Knees and shoulders covered, no shorts or sleeveless shirts allowed.**

The afternoon begins with a guided tour of Santa Croce Basilica, which is one of Florence's largest churches and the largest Franciscan church in the world. Construction began in 1294 by architect, Arnolfo di Cambio, but was not completed until 1442. It is considered a masterpiece of Gothic art. The basilica has over 16 chapels and contains numerous examples of typical Renaissance sculpture, with the most famous – the Crucifix by Donatello – dating back to 1425. The presence of approximately 276 funeral monuments and tombstones has led to Santa Croce being thought of as the burial place of Florence's most illustrious citizens. Famous persons buried there include Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini and Galileo. After touring the basilica we will visit the most famous leather school in all of Florence. Post World War II, life was not easy in Italy and there were many orphans. Marcello Gori and Father Bernardino Farnetani, a friar of the church, decided to pass on the craft of leather to those children, and opened Scuola del Cuoio in the monastery of Santa Croce. Through the years, the school's focus has shifted from orphans to teaching the underprivileged and even inmates in the city jail. One of the most fascinating things in the school is watching the craftsmen work with gold leaf. If you are looking for a unique souvenir you will have the opportunity to purchase an item stamped in gold with your initials. The tour continues with a visit to the Bargello Museum. Inside this 1255 Gothic palazzo is Florence's premier sculpture museum, with works by Michelangelo, the Della Robbias, and Donatello. Originally a town hall, this fortress-like building later became a prison and after extensive renovation was opened as one of Italy's first national museums in 1865. In the palazzo's old armoury there are 16th century works, including some of Michelangelo's earliest sculptures, such as "Bacchus" (1497) and the bust of "Brutus" (1539) and Giambologna's masterpiece, the "Flying Mercury" (1564). We will see the palazzo's inner courtyard, which is one of the few medieval courtyards in Florence remaining in more or less original shape, and is studded with the coats of arms of various past notables. Next, we will move to the Room of the Council, which contains some of the most important sculptures of the early Renaissance. Donatello's work dominates the room, starting with a mischievously smiling "Cupid" (1430-1440) and on the other end of the room is the Islamic Collection, a testament to Florence's wide and profitable trade network with its collection of oriental carpets and objects. This tour is truly a step through time and an un-missable Italian experience!



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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### DINNER AT THE LA LOGGIA IN PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

September 22, 2018 - 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

included

**DRESS CODE: Business Casual. Ties and jackets not required.**

This unique restaurant in Florence is housed in a 100 year old art gallery which was originally built as a museum reuniting the various scattered works of Michelangelo. This idea was eventually dismissed and La Loggia became instead a trendy coffee shop and restaurant with the most incredible view over the city.. Occupying a prominent position overlooking Piazzale Michelangelo with a unique view of the city, La Loggia is a harmony of new-classic architecture and art of the 16th Century. Its splendour reflects the fact that it was built during the period in which Florence was considered the Capital of Italy. Enjoy sunset while sipping prosecco and the breathtaking view of Florence from the restaurant's panoramic terrace. Includes three course dinner and wine.

### UFFIZI GALLERY

September 23, 2018 - 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

included tour



**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes.**

No trip to Florence is complete without a visit to the Uffizi Gallery. The Uffizi is one of the most famous museums in the world. Our personal guide will take us through the museum where we will gaze upon some of the most spectacular artwork ever created by Botticelli (The Birth of Venus), Michelangelo (Doni Tondo – the only painting actually authenticated to have been made by Michelangelo), Leonardo da Vinci (Annunciation) and Raffaello (Madonna of Goldfinch), just to name a few.

### DUOMO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND MUSEUM

September 23, 2018 - 1:45 pm - 5:15 pm

optional tour #1



**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes.**

**Knees and shoulders covered, no shorts or sleeveless shirts allowed.**

In the afternoon explore more in depth the hidden treasures of the Duomo, which is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It was built between 1296 and 1436 on top of the 7th century church of Santa Reparato. This tour explores the underground crypt of the Duomo and the layers of history that lie beneath the surface. Explore the Bell Tower by Giotto. Take a guided tour of the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo. At the end of that tour for those who are up to the task climb 463 steps (there is no elevator) to the top of Duomo. The way up (and down) are tight corridors used by the workmen who built the cathedral. Warning the steps can be steep. Once on top enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of Florence.

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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### FLORENCE BY RIVER

September 23, 2018 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
optional tour #2



#### **DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes.**

Discover the city of Florence by gondolastyle boat. The boats used on this tour are the actual boats used by the Florentine "Renaioli" in the past. Take a guided journey down the "Arno" river and admire the city's architecture, artistic beauty and nature from a unique perspective. Cruise under the Ponte Vecchio and get a riverside view of the Uffizi Gallery, Corsini Palace, and the Santa Trinita Bridge. Learn all about the secret passageways of the Vasari Corridor and enjoy the stories of Florence as told to you by your guide on this relaxing ride. The journey ends with a celebratory toast with your fellow castaways.

### DINNER - VERRAZZANO CASTLE

September 23, 2018 - 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm  
included

#### **DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes.**

Located in the Chianti region of Tuscany. The Castle can be traced back to the 12th century. It is the birthplace of Giovanni da Verrazzano, who discovered the Bay of New York and much of the East Coast. In 1964 the bridge from Brooklyn to Staten Island was named in his honor. Today the Castle is home to a magnificent winery and we will arrive just in time for the harvest. After touring the grounds and the wine cellar we will enjoy wine and olive oil tasting during our wonderful Italian dinner.



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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### CINQUE TERRE VILLAGES

September 24, 2018 - 8:45 am - 10:00 pm

optional tour #5

**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and flat shoes.**

Spend an unforgettable day discovering the breathtaking Cinque Terre. Explore the picturesque fishing villages of the UNESCO-listed area and fall in love with the distinctive atmosphere and architecture of each town. From Riomaggiore's cobbled streets to Monterosso's stunning beaches, the Cinque Terre is a scenic treasure and this experience offers a pictureperfect snapshot of old-world Italy. In medieval times, the word "terra" (land) meant "village". This is the origin of the name of this beautiful area: Cinque Terre (Five Villages). Cinque Terre landscape is harsh and wild and even the coast reflects its nature. High cliffs dropping down into the cobalt blue depths of the sea, hiding minute shingle beaches at Riomaggiore and Vernazza, or tiny ports like at Manarola. Here, in summer, sunbathers mix with fishermen. The Cinque Terre, recognized by UNESCO "World Heritage", are today a national Park and Protected Marine Area, protecting this great cultural heritage. On the way back to the Hotel we will stop in Torre del Lago and enjoy dinner at the Chalet del Lago. The restaurant is situated on the edge of the lake of Massaciuccoli, the largest lake in the Tuscany region. From the terrace overlooking the lake, you can admire the profile of the Apuan Alps. The Chalet was originally built at the end of the 19th century, and was marvelously renovated keeping the original shape. The famous Italian opera composer Puccini, known as the "maestro," found inspiration here and visited the Chalet frequently. In honor of Puccini there is a nearby theatre, where every year the "Festival di Puccini" is held. The Chalet is know to be the meeting-point for musicians and artists. Inside one can admire several fresco's from the "macchiaioli." In addition to dinner, lunch is included on this tour.



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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### VENICE EXCURSION

September 24, 2018 - 7:45 am - 8:30 pm  
optional tour #6

**DRESS CODE:** Comfortable attire and shoes.

After you depart the hotel at 7:45 am with the tour guide, the tour will depart Florence from the main train station by high speed train. High-speed trains in Italy are probably the best way to get from one major city to another. After 2 hours and 10 minutes you will arrive at Venice train station from where you board your private motorboat to reach the city center. You will then meet with your guide and begin an extensive full day experience of the city. The tour in Venice will take you to the “largest living room in the world”, St. Mark’s Square, which opens on the Grand Canal. Then on to St. Mark’s Basilica, an 11th century building of Byzantine and Western style, on the plan of a Greek cross, with an extremely rich decoration of marbles and mosaics. We see the Campanile, a 325 feet high bell tower. Then, on to the Doges Palace, the symbol of Venetian power and residence of the Doge, seat of the government, law courts and prisons. In the Palace, we will admire innumerable artworks of Tintoretto as well as the rich adornments. To conclude, the Bridge of Sighs, which connects the Doge’s Palace with the Prisons. The tour includes a Gondola ride. Free time will be allocated after lunch and before the Gondola ride. Lunch and dinner will be on your own (meals available for purchase on train).



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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### PISA

September 25, 2018 - 7:45 am - 3:30 pm  
optional tour #7

**DRESS CODE: Comfortable attire and shoes. Knees and shoulders covered, no shorts or sleeveless shirts allowed.**

The day begins bright and early (you need to have your bags packed for Rome before you leave). We depart the hotel at 7:45 am by motorcoach (luggage must be packed before you leave). The journey will begin with a drive through the fertile and picturesque Tuscan countryside toward the historic city of Pisa, renowned for its architectural beauty and for being the birthplace of Galileo Galilei. The visit of Pisa includes the town's monumental centre, Campo dei Miracoli, where we will take a guided tour of the Baptistry, the Cathedral, and the Camposanto monumental cemetery). You will also see the Leaning Tower and have the option to climb the 300 steps to the top of the Leaning Tower, you will have time to enjoy lunch on your own, or just enjoy walking around the town. After our tour of Pisa we will head back to Florence and join those who stayed behind at the train station for our journey to Rome.



## HOTEL INFORMATION

### SINA VILLA MEDICI

Via Il Prato, 42, 50123 Firenze FI, Italy

TELEPHONE: +39 055 277171

### OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Debra Boje : 813 - 601-6986



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