

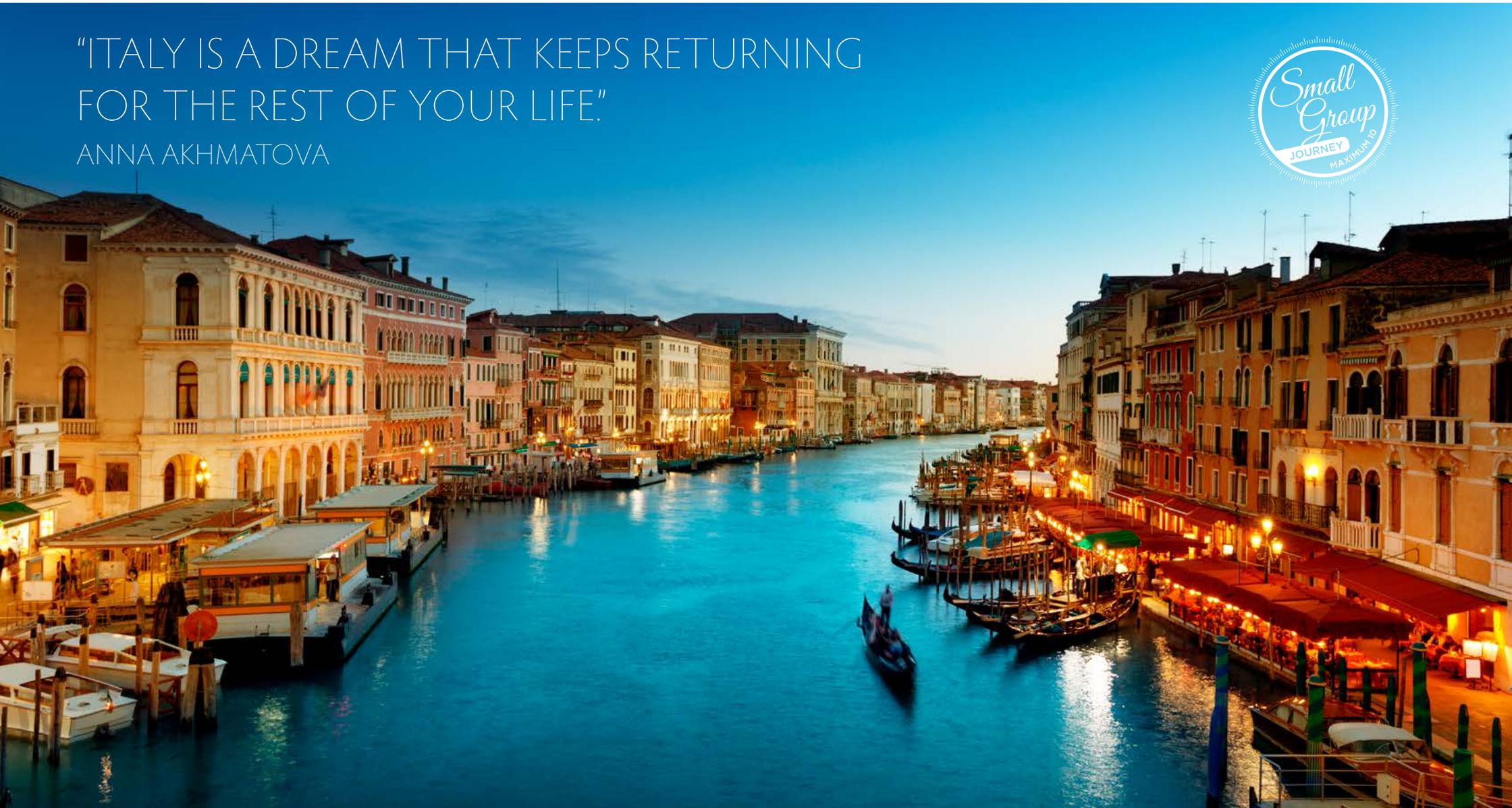


PERSONALLY CURATED SMALL GROUP & PRIVATE JOURNEYS

EUROPE 2017|18

"ITALY IS A DREAM THAT KEEPS RETURNING
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE."

ANNA AKHMATOVA



HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY (NORTH)

14 Days

Delivering the perfect blend of Italy's finest mainland attractions, Highlights of Italy features the vibrancy of its iconic cities, the tranquillity of the Lake District, the beauty of the Riviera and the splendour of Tuscany's winding roads, hilltop towns and vineyards. Designed over 14 leisurely days, travelling in carefree comfort by deluxe transport and in 4 and 5 star hotels, the tour offers a delicious blend of popular sites, secret treasures and unforgettable experiences. From cruising on Lake Como, walking between the hilltop towns in Cinque Terre or wine tasting in Montalcino, every day will be an absolute highlight.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

- > Experience Italy's 'must see' cities, the Lake District, Cinque Terre and Tuscan villages.
- > 13 nights in exquisite 4 and 5 star hotels.
- > 13 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L), 1 dinner (D).
- > Guided sightseeing of Venice, Lake Como, Cinque Terre, Florence, the Accademia Gallery and Siena.
- > Lunch at a winery in Montalcino.
- > Lunch at Lake Garda served with magnificent views.
- > Wine tasting in Montalcino and cheese tasting in Pienza.
- > Entrance fees to Doge's Palace, Villa Carlotta, gardens of Villa Melzi D'Eril, and Accademia Gallery.
- > Visit 8 UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites including Venice, Verona, Cinque Terre, the Piazza del Duomo Pisa, Lucca, Siena, Pienza and the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi.
- > Deluxe transport and boat excursions in Lake Como and Cinque Terre.
- > Airport transfers on first and last day.

DAY 1 Venice

Welcome to magnificent Venice! Upon arrival, be transferred to your spectacular hotel before spending the rest of the day absorbing the breathtaking views of this amazing UNESCO World Heritage Listed city.

Overnight: Palace Bonvecchiati 4 star or similar

DAY 2 Venice (B)

After breakfast, receive your tour welcome from your private guide before enjoying a morning walking tour of the main Venetian sites including Piazza San Marco, Doge's Palace, Ponte dei Sospiri, Rialto Bridge and Saint Mark's Basilica.

The afternoon and evening is at your leisure to perhaps experience a gondola ride, browse Venice's intriguing stores or visit the iconic lagoon island of Murano to visit renowned glass factory's producing quality glassware, vases and chandeliers.

Overnight: Palace Bonvecchiati or similar

DAY 3 Venice – Verona – Lake Garda – Lake Como (B, L)

Depart Venice for a visit to Verona, famous for Romeo and Juliet's balcony, before continuing to the shores of Lake Garda (Sirmione) for a relaxing lunch served with

magnificent views. Afterwards, continue to Italy's Lake District, renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty including spectacular mountain scenery.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni 5 star or similar

DAY 4 Lake Como (B)

Commence your exploration of this beautiful Lake and picturesque villages in Bellagio with a half day with our local guide. Bellagio is often described as the most beautiful in Italy for its spectacular mid-lake location, promenade planted with oleanders and lime trees, hotels decorated with shades of peach and cream and stepped, cobbled alleyways. Explore the town including the gardens of Villa Melzi D'Eril before embarking on a ferry to witness some of the most exquisite villas and picturesque towns on the lake. Visit the village of Varenna as well as Tremezzo's famous 17th century Villa Carlotta, featuring luxurious interiors and exquisite 17-acre gardens decorated with sculptures, stairs, fountains and over 500 species of plants. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni or similar



Tour offered in reverse direction

COMBINE WITH

This tour may be combined with Adriatic Beauty, a Rome City Break and/or Highlights of Italy (South) on certain dates.

PRIVATE JOURNEY

This tour may be taken any time as a private journey.



Sirmione, Lake Garda



Arno River, Florence

Milan Cathedral



DAY 5 Lake Como – Milan – Santa Margherita (B)

Depart Lake Como for the bustling city of Milan to view the Piazza del Duomo and Milan's Cathedral (the fourth largest in the world) and the stunning Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery before enjoying some time to stroll down Via Montenapoleone, Via della Spiga and the many other trendy streets of Milan's upscale fashion district. Afterwards, depart for the idyllic Italian Riviera town of Santa Margherita.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Miramare 4 star or similar

DAY 6 Santa Margherita – Cinque Terre – Santa Margherita (B, L)

Today you'll experience the picturesque Cinque Terre (five villages) by boat, foot and train with our local guide. These five stunning towns with their colourful houses, narrow streets and miniature squares, cling to the rugged Riviera coastline and are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The day includes an organised lunch in one of the towns with a wonderful seaside view.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Miramare or similar

Portofino



Siena



Tuscany



DAY 7 Santa Margherita (B)

Today you have the entire day to enjoy at your leisure. There are plenty of options which include further exploring Cinque Terre by hiking between the towns; venturing along the Riviera for a visit to Portofino, the playground of the rich and famous, renowned for its picturesque harbour, luxury boutique shops and great snorkelling; hiking in the stunning Portofino National Park; or simply relaxing on Santa Margherita's beautiful beach.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Miramare or similar

DAY 8 Santa Margherita – Pisa – Lucca – Florence (B)

Depart for a quick stop in Pisa for the Piazza del Duomo and the Leaning Tower before continuing to the enchanting town of Lucca, famous for its historic centre and medieval towers. Afterward, continue to Florence to freshen up at your superb hotel before enjoying the evening at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Brunelleschi 4 star or similar

DAY 9 Florence (B, D)

Delight in a guided walking tour of Florence, a paradise for art lovers and a tribute to the Renaissance. Visit the main sites including the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Piazza Signoria, the Baptistery (incl. the Gates of Paradise), Giotto's bell tower, the Basilica of San Lorenzo and the Accademia Gallery. Afterwards, the day is at your leisure to take advantage of Florence's tremendous shopping including its leather goods, artwork and antiques, before regrouping for a special dinner reservation.

Overnight: Hotel Brunelleschi or similar

DAY 10 Florence (B)

Today is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Continue exploring beautiful sites such as the Pitti Palace or Vasari Corridor, or indulge in an optional guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery, which hosts some of the most important works of Italian and Florentine artists.

Overnight: Hotel Brunelleschi or similar

DAY 11 Florence – Siena – Tuscan retreat (B)

Depart for Siena for a guided tour of the old town, famous for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the Palio, a famous horse race held twice a year. Discover the main sites including the Duomo, the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia. Continue to your magnificent Tuscan retreat where you may relax or partake in an optional cooking class.

Overnight: Castel Monastero Resort & Spa 5 star or similar

A DELICIOUS BLEND OF
POPULAR SITES, SECRET
TREASURES AND
UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Day 12 Tuscan retreat – Montalcino – Pienza – Tuscan retreat (B, L)

Today, enjoy an excursion to Montalcino and Pienza. Visit the town of Montalcino, perched high on a hill and famed for its surrounding vineyards that produce one of Italy's most prestigious wines, Brunello di Montalcino. Enjoy lunch and tasting at a renowned winery. Afterward, continue to Pienza, one of Tuscany's most picturesque villages and a UNESCO declared World Heritage Listed Site for its cultural landscape. Stroll the charming village streets and enjoy cheese tasting before returning to your Tuscan retreat.

Overnight: Castel Monastero Resort & Spa or similar

Day 13 Tuscan retreat – Assisi – Rome (B)

Depart for Assisi, best known as the birthplace of St. Francis, Italy's patron saint, and its location amid Umbria's rolling hills. Visit the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi in the Franciscan monastery, containing the tomb of the Saint plus 13th-century frescoes and paintings. Afterward, continue to Rome to freshen up before enjoying the evening at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Splendide Royal 5 star or similar

Day 14 Rome (B)

In the morning, guests not continuing to Highlights of Italy (South) or staying on in Rome will be transferred to the airport.



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