Monday · May 16th, 2022 - Wednesday · June 1st, 2022

Italian Adventure
Itinerary For First-Time Experiential Travelers

Welcome to planning for your Italian Adventure!

Monday · May 16th
- Flights from the States

Tuesday · May 17th
- Transfer
- Villa Spalletti Trivelli - Rome, Italy (3 Nights)
- Rome Golf Cart Exclusive Private Tour

Wednesday · May 18th
- Private Early Entrance Vatican Tour
- Afternoon: At Leisure to Explore Rome on your own

Thursday · May 19th
- Private Colosseum and Roman Forum Tour
- Optional Add-On: Tour of Via Appia and Catacombs

Friday · May 20th
- Transfer
- Rail
- Private Tour of Pompeii
- Villa Franca (4 Nights)

Saturday · May 21st
- Capri in a Day with Villa San Michele

Sunday · May 22nd
- Private Amalfi Coast Experience
- Pizza Making Class

Monday · May 23rd
- Days at Leisure to explore Positano and surroundings
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Welcome to planning for your Italian Adventure!

Welcome to the starting point for planning your Italian adventure!

This is a preliminary itinerary proposal and everything is customizable, so we are able to adjust any and everything to get it exactly how you like it. The planning process is your time to dream about exactly how you would like your adventure to be.

Monday · May 16th

Flights from the States

At this stage in the planning process, I am not including specific flights as I would like to make sure the itinerary is the right fit for you first. Keep in mind that flights generally depart in the evening from the States and arrive the following day in Italy. I will work with you to find the air schedule which works best for your trip.
On arrival into Rome Airport, enjoy your private transfer with English speaking driver from the airport to your hotel - On arrival at airport please collect your luggage and make your way through customs and into the Arrivals hall where the driver will await you with a sign with your name on it. Enjoy a leisurely transfer from the airport to the hotel.

Housed in a 20th-century palace near the Quirinale, Villa Spalletti Trivelli has twelve welcoming guestrooms with period antiques, original art prints and sheets embroidered with the family crest. Guests can browse books in the wood-clad library, take tea in elegant Sala del Camino, go “aaaah” in the holistic spa or sip cocktails at the chic rooftop bar.

Note: I recently had the immense pleasure of spending a couple nights at Villa Spalletti Trivelli and it is truly a hidden gem. Make sure to get a tour of the property from my friend Andrea, the Villa owner, as he will bring the property to life for you.
Meeting Point
Hotel Lobby

A Golf Cart tour through Campo Marzio is at once a living history lesson and a celebration of Rome's famed Dolce Vita! Join your local expert driver and guide to explore the area's rich history, cultural highlights and true Roman flair...

For close to three millennia, Campo Marzio has played a vital role in Rome's history: as the ancient city's breadbasket and a military training ground with a flooded "naval stadium" in the Imperial Age, as a medieval slum for destitute immigrants and a trendy neighborhood for the Baroque upper class. Today, it is home to must-see sights like the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps, the power center of modern government at Palazzo Chigi and the city's most fashionable shopping street Via del Corso. The amusing anecdotes and insider insight of your local expert guide will make Campo Marzio's rich history come alive as we make our way from Piazza di Spagna to Piazza Navona, stopping along the way to admire architectural and artistic treasures, stylish storefronts and flowing fountains - and tossing an obligatory coin into the recently restored Fontana di Trevi! As a fitting end to an exciting experience, enjoy an al fresco cocktail or meal on lively Piazza Navona to the burbling soundtrack of Bernini's Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi.

Notes

Note: This is a great introduction to Rome, and you can sit back and relax as you are driven around the city. Perfect for your arrival day in Italy. The tour lasts approximately 3 hours.

Wednesday · May 18th

Private Early Entrance Vatican Tour
Meeting Point
Private Transfer from your Apartment to Meeting Point

This Vatican unique experience takes you to the must-see sights of the world’s smallest country, early morning and before the general public get access to the museum. Prepare to be moved by Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel, staggered by St. Peter’s and totally taken with the Museum’s treasures...

Enjoy transportation to the Holy See for a ‘voyage through the Vatican’ and skip the lines at the Vatican Museum’s entrance before the general public get the access with your expert local guide. This exclusive experience includes privileged entrance one hour before the museums open for the day. This educational and entertaining tour will show you the city-state’s most beloved masterpieces and little-known treasures, all the while sharing tales of intrigue, tragedy and power from the Holy See’s turbulent history. Originally built as papal palaces for the Renaissance pontiffs, the Vatican Museums have an unparalleled collection of classical statuary, ancient treasure like Egyptian mummies and Etruscan bronzes, a hallway lined with 16th-century topographical maps of Italy and paintings by Old Masters from Giotto and da Vinci to Titian and Raphael. Continue with a wander through the Sistine Chapel, gazing up at Michelangelo’s masterful ceiling, and a stroll down the cavernous nave of St. Peter’s Basilica with VIP entrance directly into St. Peter’s Basilica without standing in the long line with its majestic dome and bronze canopy. The tour ends on the square of the same name, a sacred and monumental site where throngs of the faithful gather to receive the pontiff’s blessing.

Notes

Note: This is an early day, as you will be picked up from your hotel around 7am. This particular tour lasts approximately 5 hours, as you do spend more time in the Vatican Museums. If you prefer a shorter tour which takes you straight to the Sistine Chapel, there is an “express” option available. Please let me know. You would still be able to visit St. Peter's at the end of the tour, though you would go straight through the Vatican Museums, and would not spend time there. Roundtrip transfers from your hotel are included.

Afternoon: At Leisure to Explore Rome on your own

Afternoon at leisure to explore Rome and all it has to offer on your own

The first settlements in the Region can be traced back to the Early Etruscan Civilization in Northern Lazio. Rome grew to rule a vast empire and, as the empire began to divide, the region became the center of the Christian World. Artists and architects flocked to work for the popes and their families, notably in the Renaissance and Baroque periods, when some magnificent works were created. Their legacy of this uninterrupted history can be seen all over the city and the surrounding area.

Thursday · May 19th

Private Colosseum and Roman Forum Tour

Meeting Point
Hotel Lobby
From the rise of Julius Caesar to the fall of the Roman Empire, Rome became the center of its modern world. Join our expert local guide to explore the highlights of Imperial Rome on foot and by private vehicle.

Visit the best-loved sights of Rome in our highlights tour that perfectly combines walking with relaxed sightseeing in the comfort of a luxury vehicle. Follow in the footsteps of Cicero and Caesar in the valley of the Forum Romanum, as your guide recounts myths and legends that make the ruins come alive like the Basilica of Constantine with its imposing arches. We continue down the Via Sacra to the triumphal Arch of Titus and make our way to the Colosseum. After admiring its exterior and exploring its interior, we’ll walk the Palatine Hill and visit the ruins of the imperial palaces and the small museum. The tour continues to the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains to see the relics and Michelangelo’s Moses, before venturing to the Vittoriano monument, sometimes disrespectfully referred to as the “Wedding Cake”. The tour ends with a panoramic drive past Circus Maximus, where daring Romans competed in fast-paced chariot races, and the two closest of the seven Hills of Rome, Aventino and Palatino.

Notes

Note: This tour lasts approximately 4 hours.

Optional Add-On: Tour of Via Appia and Catacombs

Built over 2,000 years ago, Rome’s Via Appia is a feat of engineering still unparalleled in the modern world. Join your expert local guide to follow in the footsteps of Julius Caesar and St. Peter along this storied street...

The Via Appia was built as Rome’s "Gateway to the East" in 312 BC using remarkably advanced engineering - so remarkable, in fact, that it remains more or less intact after more than 2,000 years! Join your expert guide and driver for the thrilling experience of taking the same road as Julius Caesar and the Apostle Peter, visiting important Roman and Christian sites along the way. Many of the area’s treasures are hidden underground: acres of burial sites flank the Appian Way, as tradition did not allow the dead to be interred within city limits. Those with sufficient means built elaborate mausoleums to secure their legacy, such as the tombs of Cecilia Metella and Romulus. And no trip to the Appian Way would be complete without remembering the Apostle Peter, who is said to have fled Rome along these very stones. We will visit the Church of Domine Quo Vadis ("Where are you going, Lord?"), which is said to have been built on the spot where Jesus appeared to Peter and convinced him to return to Rome and take his martyrdom like a man. Quo Vadis indeed!

Notes

Note: This is an optional add-on experience, and is not included in the package price. Please let me know if you prefer the afternoon free to explore on your own, or if you would like to include this 3-hour tour. It is a pretty special activity, which not as many people get to experience.
Friday · May 20th

Transfer

Notes

English-speaking driver and private minivan transfer from your hotel to the train station

Rail

Notes

High-speed Train from Rome to Naples (First Class Tickets and Seat Reservations Included)
Meeting Point
Hotel Lobby

Hardly any other attraction in Italy is as poignant or enlightening as the ruins of Pompeii. Join your expert local guide to travel back in time to this vibrant port town, forever frozen in ash from that fateful day in 79 AD...

Today's transfer takes you from the man-made treasures of Naples to the natural wonders of the Amalfi Coast in a luxury vehicle, stopping enroute to visit the world's most famous ghost town with your expert local guide. As you leave the chaotic city of Naples behind, Vesuvius rears its giant head before you and Pompeii's eerie ruins spreads out at its foot. This once vibrant port town comes to life as your guide shares tales of industry, intrigue and passion from the city's storied past. You'll marvel at its basilicas and baths, its elaborate mosaics and detailed frescoes, its private homes and eerie plaster casts of the dearly departed. This glimpse into what life was like for Romans may surprise you - not because of how much things have changed, but how much they have actually stayed the same! After your tour, the drive to Positano continues to the craggy cliffs and the citrus scents of the Sorrento Peninsula.

Notes

Note: Your tour in Pompeii will last approximately 2.5 hours. Your driver will pick you up at the Naples train station, your bags will remain in the car while you tour, and your driver will then take you to your hotel on the Amalfi Coast at the conclusion of the tour.
A hilltop haven overlooking a legendary stretch of the Amalfi Coast. The two sides of the Amalfi Coast are celebrated at Villa Franca. On the one hand- its setting near to the old winding streets of Positano is straight from classical Italy. On the other- the chic interiors of this boutique hotel mirror the shoreside glamour this region is known for. Take it all in from the rooftop pool- where stylish loungers and parasols pop up on sunny days. Then watch the sun go down and the hillside light up from the elegant surrounds of Restaurant Li Galli. You can even eat alfresco at Li Galli Grill- with panoramic views for company. If the fresh Mediterranean cuisine inspires you- join a cooking class - with cocktail making afterwards. Or swap chef whites for sailing kit to explore nearby beaches and bays by boat. Hotel staff can also suggest guided day trips - try Sorrento- Pompeii or Naples. After a morning tackling the hilly streets and walking trails around Positano- you can rejuvenate tired legs with a luxury massage in O SPA. Or book a manicure and pedicure ahead of a night of fine dining. When bedtime comes your airy elegant room awaits. Bedrooms at Villa Franca feature fresh white interiors- hand-crafted majolica tiling and private balconies that are perfect for admiring the landscape from.

Notes

Note: This hotel is available for an upgrade to your package, and is not included in the package pricing. My clients love the rooftop pool at Villa Franca.

Saturday · May 21st

Capri in a Day with Villa San Michele

Meeting Point
Villa Franca

Climb aboard the hydrofoil at Positano Port for a full day of fun 'alla Caprese' and discover what keeps the jet set coming back to the enchanted Isle of Capri, from Roman Emperors to 20th Century fashion icon Jackie O...

Your trip begins at the Port of Positano, the jumping off point for the hydrofoil to Capri. During the roughly 45-minute crossing, your guide will regale you with stories of the people, places and history that have made this four-mile block of limestone so legendary. Once on the island, visit Marina Grande, the main port and a seaside gem with a jumble of multicolored traditional houses, terraced slopes bursting with Mediterranean blooms and jaw-dropping mountains rising up behind. The tour continues in Capri Town perched on, where the see-and-be-seen set sips Bellinis on La Piazzetta and high fashion boutiques and artisan workshops line the narrow, elegant streets. And finally, we head over the gentle slopes of Monte Solaro to the island's "second city", AnaCapri. Despite its popularity, AnaCapri still retains its original charms, with cobblers and embroiderers peddling their wares and bougainvillea draping the characteristic whitewashed houses that show its Moorish influence. One highlight of this end of the island is Villa San Michele. Built at the turn of the 20th century by Swedish physician, nature lover and Renaissance man Axel Munthe, visit its lush gardens, charming museum and quaint chapel before heading back to Marina Grande for the ferry.
Notes

**Note:** The tour lasts approximately 8 hours including your hydrofoil (ferry) to Capri and back. If you would prefer to charter a boat for the day, please let me know, and I would be happy to look into this special upgrade.

### Sunday · May 22nd

**Private Amalfi Coast Experience**

The most spectacular way to experience the stunning Amalfi Coast is on your own luxury yacht - embrace your inner Jackie Onassis and cruise past its villages and coves, grottos and islands in style...

Oh, if these cliffs could talk! Over its rich and varied history, the stunning Amalfi coast has been the setting for Greek temples, the playground of Roman emperors and the hub of a medieval maritime republic. Today it’s your turn to take to the waters along one of Italy's most famous coastlines on your own private yacht. Join your English-speaking captain to cruise past Maiori with its grottos, Amalfi with its ancient shipyard and the 'vertical village' of Positano. And revel in the natural beauty of the Li Galli islands, the craggy cliffs of the Sorrentine Peninsula and the romantic cove of Nerano. We know you’ll love this great introduction to this fascinating coastline! At the end of your day, you will be dropped off in Sorrento.

**Notes**

**Note:** The boat trip lasts approximately 4.5 hours, and you will end at a cooking experience in Sorrento, which is not included in this tour time. Lunch is on your own, and not included in package pricing.

**Pizza Making Class**
Today’s cooking experience takes you to a charming villa outside Sorrento for a private master class in all things Neapolitan. Learn how to transform the freshest local ingredients into a three course feast!

Villa Ida is the quintessential Sorrento site - lemon trees in pots around the pool, hand painted majolica tiles and crockery throughout and a warm welcome from several generations of this proud famiglia sorrentina. The day begins with homemade cake and fresh brewed coffee with your hosts, before moving into the kitchen to don your Villa Ida apron. A member of the family course meal of Neapolitan favorites, sharing the tips and techniques her family has passed down from generation to generation. While the food cooks, venture down into the wine cellar to sample local wine and cheese, filling a majolica jug with your favorite libation for the big feast! At the family table, either in the welcome shade of the pergola or by the toasty fire, you will enjoy the fruits of your labor and share stories filled with local color. No guest at Villa Ida leaves empty handed: the recipe booklet and souvenir apron are yours to keep!

Notes

Note: The cooking lesson lasts approximately 4 hours. I am happy to add a transfer back to the hotel (not included), as it is a 30 to 45-minute drive from Positano. Alternatively, you can take a local taxi. My clients love this special class, and I would highly recommend the experience.

Monday · May 23rd

Day at leisure to enjoy your amazing property, Positano, and surroundings.

One of the most famous vacation spots on the coast, Positano is situated in a splendid gorge, which gradually widens out as it moves towards the sea. One of the most characteristic features of Positano is the architecture of the houses: cubes, painted white, pink, red, and orange, almost all with a small porch in front, some with a spherical dome. The entire built up area is surrounded by green palm and citrus groves, which makes it particularly delightful.
Transfer

Notes

English-speaking driver and private minivan transfer from your hotel to the train station in Naples

Rail

Notes

High-speed Train from Naples all the way to Venice (First Class Tickets and Seat Reservations Included)
Notes

Upon your arrival in Venice Train Station, meet your English-speaking assistant and enjoy your private water taxi transfer to the hotel.

Baglioni Hotel Luna

May 24 · 3:00 PM  
Check In

May 26 · 12:00 PM  
Check Out

2 Nights

Ideally positioned a stone’s throw from Piazza San Marco, right in the heart of Venice facing the San Marco Basin and the island of San Giorgio, the Luna Hotel Baglioni is situated a short distance from the most famous historical and artistic attractions of the city. This historic Venetian hotel, is housed in a magnificent, aristocratic Venetian palace and offers its guests an intimate, welcoming atmosphere combined with impeccable service. Upon arriving at Baglioni Hotel Luna, take time to enjoy the view of St. Mark’s Basin and the lagoon surrounding you. A romantic ambience continues inside this refurbished hotel, brimming with Murano chandeliers and elegant fabric-covered walls. Try the award-winning Canova restaurant for its Venetian and international specialties with the opportunity to dine alfresco during the good season.

Notes

Note: You will share a Junior Suite in this hotel. The location cannot be beat, as you are right by St Mark’s, and close to everything. Very charming hotel.
Meeting Point
Stazio San Tomà

The best way to experience the City on Water is from the lagoon itself - the Venice of Shakespeare plays, Henry James novels and Rossini operas really comes alive from the seat of a classic black gondola. A tribute to Venetian craftsmanship, each element of the boat is made by hand in the squeri boatyards, from the metal ferro ornament forged by local blacksmiths to the long oars and elegant oarlocks hand-carved by local woodworkers. As your gondoliere in his classic striped shirt poles his way through the most beautiful canals of the St. Mark’s quarter, you'll enjoy ornate palaces and romantic bridges - plus the chance to snap an iconic gondola photo to commemorate this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Notes

Note: Your gondola ride will last approximately 30 minutes.
Wednesday · May 25th

Half-Day Walking Tour of Venice

The City on Water, La Serenissima, The Queen of the Adriatic join your expert local guide for an entertaining and insightful introduction to the world’s most unique city...

Meet your guide on your hotel lobby to explore one of Europe’s most iconic cities and get to know Venice through the eyes of a true Veneziana. See how the city rises from the waters of the Venetian lagoon like a mirage and unfolds in a romantic maze of alleys, waterways and piazzas. Stroll to the very heart of Venice and Piazza San Marco, getting to know the ornate palaces, majestic churches and romantic bridges that make the atmosphere so unique and sharing your guide’s insight into how Venice and the Venetians strive to preserve their cultural landscape with an average of 30,000 visitors every day. Once on the famous piazza Napoleon once called the ‘most elegant drawing room in Europe’, enjoy a visit to the city’s seat of religious and of secular power: the majestic Basilica and the Doge’s Palace. Your guide will ensure you make the most of your stay in the Floating City thanks to her recommendations on shopping streets, traditional trattorias and lesser-known sights to see.

Notes

Note: Your walking tour will last approximately 3.5 hours and includes Doge’s Palace and San Marco.

Thursday · May 26th

Transfer
Notes
Private departure transfer from your hotel to the Venice train station.

Notes
High-speed Train from Venice back down to Florence (First Class Tickets and Seat Reservations Included)

Notes
Meet your English speaking driver at Florence Train Station and enjoy your minivan transfer to your hotel
This 16th century Medici Villa is set on the banks of the Arno River in the Tuscan countryside and is linked to the city of Florence by the complimentary hotel's shuttle running daily to and from Ponte Vecchio. Each of the 41 rooms and suites, divided in between 4 villas, is furnished in Florentine style. One of the villas, the Casa Colonica, an ancient farmhouse featuring 4 suites and a kitchen, has been rehabilitated in 2018 and can be rented out on an exclusive basis. The gourmet restaurant “Il Verrocchio” offers traditional Tuscan cuisine with over 400 labels of wine. The Arno SPA is set in a welcoming original Tuscan atmosphere and offers the cosmetic line by “Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella”.

**Amenities**

**Virtuoso Amenities**

For 2020:
- One-step upgrade on arrival (excluding suites), subject to availability
- American Buffet breakfast at the restaurant, for up to two in-room guests per bedroom
- Early check-in/late check-out, subject to availability
- Complimentary minibar throughout the stay, replenished once a day
- For all guests confirmed for a minimum of 3 and 4 nights: Euro 50,00 food & beverage credit to be used during the stay (one per room, per stay)

**Notes**

Note: You will share a triple Junior Suite for this hotel. My clients love this hotel as it really give you the best of both worlds. It is just outside the city center, and there is a shuttle which runs every 30 minutes back and forth. This means you can explore what the city has to offer, and then retreat to a special oasis on the river in the countryside just outside of town once you are tired. Highly recommended experience.
A walking tour with a difference! Join your local expert guide for a tour of Florence that is tailored specifically to your interests...

Whether you are brand new to the City of the Lily or a "been-there-done-that" veteran, this Florence walking tour is designed to suit your particular needs. First-timers will not want to miss the city's highlights like Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio, the center of the political life in Florence for over 700 years, as well as the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore with its lovely campanile and Brunelleschi's amazing feat of engineering in the cupola. The Arno River is another highlight with the charming riverfront houses of the Oltrarno district and its lovely bridges, especially Ponte Vecchio lined with tiny old-style shops. But our expert guides won’t stop there, they take you down roads less traveled, share fascinating tales from the city’s history and hunt down hidden treasures chosen especially for you. Whether your interests lie in history, architecture, food, or arts & crafts, rest assured that our bespoke tours will take you places you’ve never been before.

We have added some special extra touches to your introductory Florence tour:

**Theme – Eat Your Way Through Florence:**
Tantalize your taste buds to your preference: perhaps a coffee tasting, or a homemade gelato, maybe an aperitif will suit or how about enjoying a crostini at one of the oldest wine bars in Florence;

**Museum – Uffizi:**
This is one of Europe’s largest museums of Medieval and Renaissance painting. The museum can be overwhelming, but your guide will pick out the highlights of the Master painters of the Renaissance, such as those of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael.

At the end of your tour, you will be instructed on where to go for you to enjoy the Accademia Gallery on your own! The Academy is home to what is undoubtedly the most famous sculpture in the world, Michelangelo’s David. The museum also houses five other sculptures by Michelangelo: the 'Prisoners' and a St. Matthew.
(Prearranged entrances to the Accademia Gallery included)

**Notes**

*Note: This tour will last approximately 4 hours total.*
Meeting Point
Hotel Lobby

Journey to the heart of Chianti for an Antinori experience with a difference! You’ll visit the estates, taste award-winning wines and olive oils, and dine on the Michelin-starred cuisine of Osteria di Passignano…

If you know wine, then you know the name Antinori. Italy’s "first family" of winemaking has been producing award-winning wines in Tuscany since 1385 and today is your chance to experience the Antinori empire first hand. The tour starts with a private visit to the picturesque vineyards and continues in the century-old monastery Badia a Passignano. Brothers of the Vallombrosan order have been going about their monastic business here for over 1,000 years and the family ages their Chianti classico in French oak barrels in their ancient cellars. Upstairs, you’ll enjoy lunch under the vaulted ceilings of the Michelin-starred Osteria di Passignano, starting with a special tasting of the estate’s extra virgin olive oils. Each course is paired with Antinori’s celebrated Super Tuscans, like the Badia a Passignano Chianti Classico Riserva, Tignanello, Guado al Tasso, Brunello di Montalcino and Solaia. During lunch, enjoy a master class in serving Super Tuscans led by an Antinori sommelier, including the best decanting techniques, the right way to pour and ideal food and wine pairings. No visitor to the Osteria goes home empty-handed - along with your happy memories, you’ll receive a small pamphlet outlining the topics you covered over lunch.

At the end of the tour, your driver will drop you off at your Hotel in Florence.

Notes

Note: This is a full-day tour, and will last approximately 7 hours, including 5 hours at Antinori
Transfer

Notes

English-speaking driver and private minivan for transfer from Florence all the way to Perugia with a 2-hour stop for lunch in lovely Siena

Note: Lunch is not included in the package pricing, though you will have a 2-hour stop en route to Perugia, so you are able to see Siena and grab a quick bite to eat.

Sina Brufani

Piazza Italia, 12 Perugia Umbria 06121 Italy

Perched on a hill overlooking the rolling Umbrian hills, this five-star deluxe property is within easy reach of Perugia’s many charms. All 94 guestrooms ooze belle époque elegance with period antiques and sumptuous drapes. Guests love the creative Umbrian cuisine at The Collins’, signature cocktails on the terrace and the subterranean spa and swimming pool, complete with excavated Etruscan ruins.
Today's tour takes you to two of Umbria's most fascinating cities: Perugia, the ancient Etruscan city near the shores of Lago Trasimeno, and Assisi, the hilltop gem that is imbued with the spirit of its favorite son St Francis...

Umbria has born witness to some of Italy's most fascinating history - the rise of the Etruscans, the Second Punic War and St Francis' transformation of the Catholic Church - and today is your chance to explore its two most important cities with your expert guide. In Perugia, one of the twelve capitals of the Etruscan's Dodecopolis League, we will marvel at ancient artifacts like the 4th-century BC fortifications and well-preserved arches. We will also see medieval and Renaissance treasures like 16th-century Rocca Paolina fortress, the 13th-century Palazzo dei Priori and the majestic Fontana Maggiore. Later, head east through the lowlands to the foot of Monte Subasio, where former playboy Giovanni Bernadone began his quest for spiritual enlightenment that would ultimately end in sainthood. The charismatic figure of St Francis permeates the entire charming hilltop town of Assisi, most notably in his namesake Basilica with amazing frescoes and sculptures. Enjoy a stroll through its labyrinth of narrow streets and stone walls that were painstakingly restored after a 1997 earthquake and get a behind-the-scenes look at the inimitable Umbrian way of life.

Notes

Note: The total tour time is approximately 6 hours and includes both Perugia and Assisi. As I lived in Perugia for 15 years, I would be very happy to set up a lunch reservation in my favorite spot in town.
Tuesday · May 31st

Full-Day Montefalco Wine Experience

Join your local expert driver to veer off the beaten path and discover one of the hilltop towns that reveal Umbria at its best: from the Etruscans to the Romans, the winemakers to the oil presses, and the artisans to the saints… Our port of call today is the hilltop gem of Montefalco, renamed in the 13th century in honor of Holy Roman Emperor and passionate falconer Frederick II. Known as the 'Balcony of Umbria' for its breathtaking views across the fertile Spoleto plains - those same plains that grow the renowned Sagrantino wines you'll definitely want to taste while you’re here! Arnaldo Caprai is the acknowledged leader in the production of top quality Sagrantino di Montefalco, a wine produced exclusively from grapes of Sagrantino, the variety that has been growing in the region of Montefalco for more than four hundred years. Today you will enjoy a special visit to this excellent winery and taste the best local wines.

Notes

Note: This full-day tour will last approximately 6 hours and includes wine tasting at Arnaldo Caprai

Wednesday · June 1st

Transfer

Notes

English-speaking driver and private minivan for transfer from Perugia all the way to the Rome airport (Fiumicino)
At this stage in the planning process, I am not including specific flights as I would like to make sure the itinerary is the right fit for you first. Keep in mind that flights generally depart in the evening from the States and arrive the following day in Italy. I will work with you to find the air schedule which works best for your trip.