

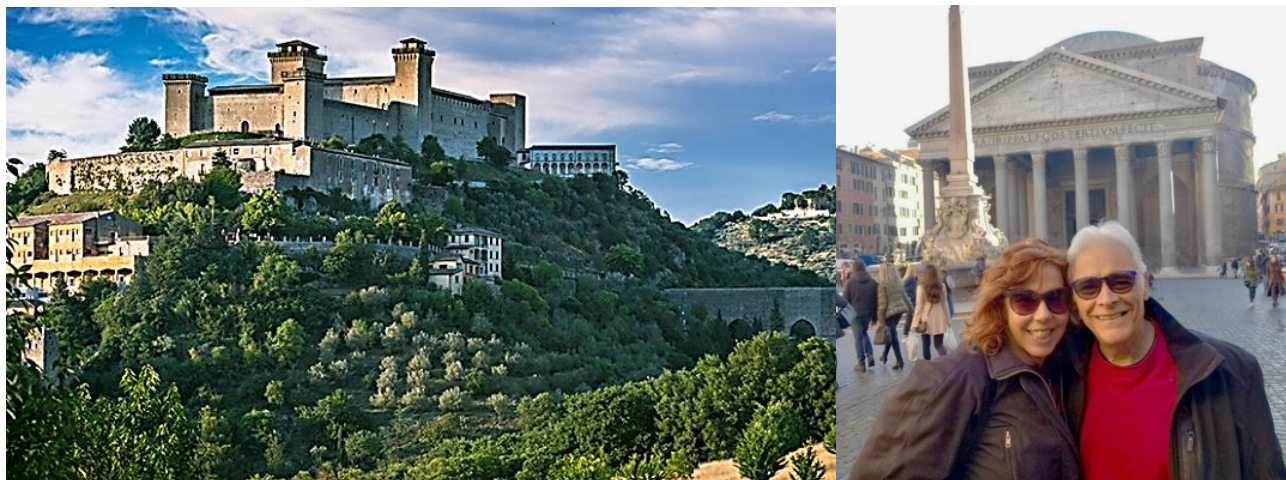
Exploring Umbria...

An Authentic Italian Experience

Including 3 Days in Rome

(Tentative Itinerary)

September 17, 2027 – September 28, 2027



A dreamy vacation to a perfect destination for those seeking a more authentic Italian experience away from large crowds. We'll visit the many hill towns and medieval villages that make Umbria so very special, including: Assisi; Orvieto; Spello; Spoleto; Gubbio; Torgiano; and the capital of the region, Perugia.

Umbria is an Italian region bordering Tuscany, Lazio and Le Marche. Often called the country's green heart, it's known for its medieval hill towns, dense forests and local cuisine, particularly foraged truffles and wines. Hilltop Perugia, the regional capital, is the site of medieval Palazzo dei Priori, housing the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria art museum. Pedestrianized Corso Vannucci is the focus of city life. Food and wine are as much a part of Umbria's charm as its scenery and history.

Imagine wandering ancient streets in quaint medieval villages, enjoying a leisurely coffee in the piazza. Lunch of local delicacies is commonplace...and not in a hurry. Imagine...just imagine...no crowds; no stress; just our little group surrounded by the beauty that is the green heart of Italy.

And what can we say about Rome? So many people tell us, "I've been to Rome", and we say, "But not with us"! Rome is one of those cities you can go to again, and again, and again, and you still will not have seen it all.

The Journey Begins

Friday, September 17, 2027

Depart USA for Umbria Italy

Saturday, September 18, 2027

Arrive in Rome and Transfer to our hotel and villa, Valle di Assisi



Upon arrival in Rome, we'll transfer via bus to our hotel, Valle di Assisi.

This magnificent, family owned hotel, and spa will be our home for seven days. They do it right - from their organic and sustainable gardens

and vineyard, to all sorts of spa services. It's all here.

We'll get settled and get to know each other in a relaxing environment with beverages and snacks; followed a luscious first dinner.

Sunday, September 19, 2027

It's off to tour Assisi and the Life of St Francis



Following breakfast at the hotel and villa, we'll head off for Assisi, a hill town, not far from Valle di Assisi, best known as the birthplace of St. Francis, Italy's most famous patron saint. The Basilica of St. Francis is a massive, 2-level church, consecrated in 1253. Its 13th-century frescoes portraying the life of St. Francis have been attributed to Giotto and Cimabue, among others. The crypt houses the saint's stone sarcophagus. We'll visit and tour both the church and the tomb of St

Francis, followed by lunch and plenty of free time to explore this amazing town before heading back to the hotel and villa for a dinner prepared by Christina.

Monday, September 20, 2027

Exploring the Ancient Etruscan City of Orvieto



Following breakfast at the hotel and villa, we'll head off to Orvieto, a small city perched on a rock cliff in Umbria, Italy. Duomo di Orvieto, dating from 1290, has a mosaic facade and houses a marble Pietà sculpture. The Pozzo di San Patrizio is a 16th-century well shaft with a double spiral staircase. An underground cave network attests to the city's Etruscan roots. Artifacts from this era, like ceramics and bronze items, are on view at the National Archaeological Museum. We'll arrive in Orvieto and give you some free time to explore the city, as everything closes down after lunch. Following lunch, we'll tour the underground, and head back to Valle di Assisi.

Tuesday, September 21, 2027

We'll Visit the Medieval Cities of Spello and Spoleto



Again, we'll enjoy breakfast at the hotel and villa, and then it's off for a day visiting two medieval cities, Spello and Spoleto. These are two charming, historically significant towns in the Umbria region of Italy. While Spello is a picturesque village known for its "Infiorata" floral festival and Roman remains, Spoleto is a more substantial city with a rich history, Roman ruins, and a prominent arts festival.

We'll have lunch in Spello, and spend the afternoon in Spoleto, before heading back to Valle di Assisi.

Wednesday, September 22, 2027

It's off to Perugia, the Beacon of Central Italy



Following breakfast, we'll depart for Perugia, the capital of the Umbria region. It's known for its defensive walls around the historic center; the medieval Priori Palace exhibits regional art from the 13th century onward. Looking onto Piazza IV Novembre, the Gothic cathedral houses Renaissance paintings and frescoes. In the square's center, Fontana Maggiore is a marble

fountain with carvings of biblical scenes and zodiac signs. Perugia boasts a very intense city life thanks to the two historic universities – the University of Perugia founded in 1308 and the University for Foreigners, the oldest of its kind in Italy. You may also be thrilled to know the historic 'Baci' candy was invented in Perugia in 1922 by Luisa Spagnoli. I'm sure you'll want to indulge in just a few.

Thursday, September 23, 2027
We'll Visit Quirky Gubbio and Tasty Torgiano



Yet another amazing day exploring the Umbrian region of Italy. After breakfast, it's off to visit Gubbio and Torgiano. Gubbio is both angular and imposing, this medieval town is unlike anything else you'll see in Umbria. As the oldest town in the region, the buildings are quite gothic and the architecture exudes tradition. The old town is amazing. There are quirky stalls and craft shops, where you can buy products relating to leather, iron and gold. It may just sound like another 'market' but these stalls are a rarity, and the locals are extremely welcoming – always eager to share their stories with you; and set those taste buds alight with melt-in-the-mouth truffles. Used on everything (trust us) and too good not to try!

And then there's Torgiano; foodies, this one is for you. Surrounded by olive groves and vineyards upon vineyard, Torgiano has the best luxurious extra-virgin olive oil and smooth peppery red wine. This sleepy town has gained fame for its gastronomical history, and visitors can learn all about it at the Museo del Vino. The most qualified wine museum in Italy, guaranteeing a good glass of wine. Here, we'll enjoy a wine tasting as well. The town of Torgiano still preserves its typical medieval appearance and the remains of its ancient walls.

Friday, September 24, 2026
A Chill Day at Valle di Assisi



Time to chill. After a fun-filled week of exploring the Umbrian country side, we'll take a full day to relax and enjoy all the villa has to offer, perhaps a massage or a workout at the gym, or a hike along the hiking trails. We'll also enjoy a cooking class and wine tasting as well.

Saturday, September 25, 2027
Transfer to Albergo Santa Chiara in Rome

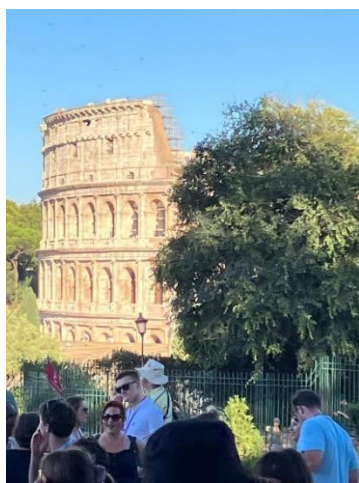


We'll arrive in Rome in time to check in to Albergo Santa Chiara, freshen up a bit, and then head off to lunch at Fattoincasa, one of our many favorite restaurants in Rome.

Following lunch we'll enjoy a walk along the Tiber and through the Campo di Fiore neighborhood, where you'll have some free time to explore the many shops and market stands.

We'll also visit the Jewish Ghetto as well. And then we'll head back to the hotel to relax, enjoy an aperitivo, and then head out for dinner.

Sunday, September 26 and Monday, September 27, 2027
Exploring the Neighborhoods of Rome



We will be posting more details on our Rome itinerary, but know, along with our trusted companion, Elisabetta Luti, we will be exploring the many neighborhoods that make the city so special, from Centro Storico to Trastevere to Testaccio, and more.

Tuesday, September 28, 2027
Depart for the USA