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Avanti destinations, ideas for experiencing Italy

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Avanti Destinations knows the best trips are those designed to help you see the world in the most meaningful way – your own.



Goldberg

An Avanti tour specialist, via your travel agent, understands what makes a journey meaningful because they're enthusiastic travelers who've formed deep connections with their destinations over many years. It's this

blend of passion and knowledge that lets them create the trip for you.

The following are Avanti breathtaking highlight tours of Italy. Avanti features 20 regions of Italy tours with 52 cities to visit, 325 hotels and 806 tours from private to small group to shared group. Here are some exciting ideas to experience from Avanti Destinations.

ANCIENT IMPERIAL ROME, COLOSSEUM & FORUM

No visit to Rome would be complete without seeing the breathtaking Sistine Chapel, the grandeur of the Vatican museums and experiencing the quiet reverence of St. Peter's Basilica.

The Vatican has been an independent city state since 1929, and is home to 800 people as well as being the principal residence of the Pope and the seat of the Catholic Church. This tour, with your own private guide, will take you through the extensive Vatican museum complex with its huge papal collections of art and antiques, maps and tapestries.

From here, you will proceed to St. Peter's Basilica where your guide will explain some of the history surrounding this impressive building, which is also home to some excellent work by Bernini as well as Michelangelo's wonderfully emotional "Pieta." Exiting the basilica into St. Peter's Square, you will have some time to enjoy the dramatic majesty of Bernini's huge colonnaded forecourt before completing your tour.

Arguably Rome's most iconic landmark, the towering Colosseum still retains an air of incredible majesty nearly 2,000 years after it



▲ Leaning Tower of Pisa | Photo / iStock.com

was first built. With your guide, you'll enter the ancient structure, climbing up within the interior walls for a view of the central arena as you learn about the fascinating history surrounding the building. While some parts of the 50,000-seat amphitheater have succumbed to the tests of time, the large section that remains offers an impressive glimpse into the ancient past and the incredible spectacles that were staged there.

Just steps from the Colosseum is the Roman Forum. Nestled at the juncture of the Palatine, Quirinal and Capitoline hills, the area was once a bustling district of temples, basilicas and grandiose public spaces. Today, the sprawling ruins are an incredible open-air museum, telling a plethora of stories about life in Ancient Rome. With the help of your guide, you'll be able to uncover the secrets of this historic area, much of which remained hidden beneath different layers of the city for centuries.

Here are more different tour highlights of Italy:

CLASSIC FAMILY ADVENTURE, VENICE, FLORENCE, ROME: TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Learn to make pasta from scratch with a local chef in Florence.

Create your own Venetian mask with a master mask maker in Venice.

Cruise on the back of a vintage Vespa to discover the secrets of Rome.

Uncover the history of Ancient Rome on a private tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum.

Visit the Sistine Chapel on a private tour of the Vatican.

See Michelangelo's "David" in Florence.

CLASSIC ITALY TOUR, ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE AND TUSCANY: TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Uncover the secrets of the Doge's Palace on a private tour in Venice.

Make pasta from scratch during a private cooking class in Florence.

Go truffle hunting in the Tuscan countryside

with a guide and his truffle dog.

Discover the history of Ancient Rome on a private tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum.

Take a guided Vespa tour around Rome and enjoy some spectacular views of the city.

See Michelangelo's "David" in Florence and visit the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS ITALY: TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Sample local wines on a visit to Barolo and Barbaresco wine producers.

Meet a local hazelnut producer, cheese maker and visit a family-run winery in Piedmont.

Taste products of local producers of Parmigiano-Reggiano (Parmesan) cheese and aged balsamic vinegar.

Take a walking food tour around Rome's Campo de' Fiori and Jewish ghetto.

GRAND TOUR OF ITALY: TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit the Sistine Chapel and Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper"

Take in the dramatic scenery of Lake Como by private boat.

Enjoy the wines of Chianti on a day of wine tasting in the Tuscan countryside.

Explore hidden corners of the Doge's Palace on a private tour in Venice.

Relax on a private boat on a day exploring the island of Capri.

Action Travel can guide you to and customize your Italy trip via Avanti Destinations. With your travel date, they will be able to secure a destination and rate for you. No cost to book your travel tour with Action Travel via Avanti Destinations.

Arlene Goldberg is president and owner of Action Travel Center in Solon. You can watch Arlene weekdays on WKYC's Good Company Noon with the "Hot Travel Deal".

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