Join us for a 16 day adventure exploring the art, history, and culture of Italy.

Step into the beautiful Italian piazzas and landscapes. Taste the wines and get hands-on experiences creating traditional foods. This program is an immersion into Italian history and culture, which will include visits to historical sites, universities, and museums. Enjoy this gastronómical adventure, where you will experience the passion and dedication that goes into creating Italian food and wine.

Starting in Rome, experience the grand architecture and the history of the Roman Empire and the Vatican, including modern-day cultural and educational activities. Leaving Rome, we head north, through the Italian countryside to the city of Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance.

Explore the city and surrounding countryside with visits to historic basilicas, museums, and hilltop towns, including the deep-rooted cultural traditions of the Palio di Siena, a medieval horse race.

Next stop is the romantic city of Verona, where you will experience the setting that inspired Shakespeare’s famous Romeo and Juliet. Our journey ends in Milan, where you will spend your last night experiencing the magic of the La Scala, one of the world’s most famous Opera Houses. From Milan, you have the option to extend your adventure for an additional 3 days, ending the tour in Venice.

For More information, visit us at www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

Important note: Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency. Travel insurance is also available via CampDoc, our travel program registration system.

Tour Dates:
Sep. 16-Oct 2, 2019
Tour Cost:
$5,300.00
Single supplement: $1100.00

Venice Extension:
Oct 2-Oct 5, 2019
Cost:
$1,600.00
Single supplement: $300.00

Inclusions
- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground Transportation
- Entry fees
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the Airport
- Gratuity

Transportation costs to and from Italy are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.
Deliciously Inspiring Italy Itinerary

Day 1: Rome
- Program orientation at hotel before starting a journey to the Piazza del Pololo, near the city’s historic northern border and home to the Basilica Parrchiale Santa Maria del Popolo, where works from artists such as Raphael, Bernini, and Caravaggio reside.
- Continue to the Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti, known in English as the Spanish Steps. Nearby, the art and home of Lorenzo Bernini are seen on the way to Sant’Andrea delle Fratte, which hosts some of Bernini’s most famous angelic sculptures.

Day 2: Rome
- Morning lecture on Italian Art and a guided walking tour of Imperial Rome in the Roman Forum and the nearby Colosseum and Palatino.
- Afternoon walking tour of Baroque Rome including the Trevi Fountain, a visit inside the Pantheon, Campo de’ Fiori, and Navona Square.

Day 3: Rome
- Morning visit to the Vatican to explore the vast galleries of the Vatican Museums, then discover Michelangelo’s masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel.
- Free afternoon in Rome.

Day 4: Rome
- Morning lecture at the European University on The Italian Political System.
- Afternoon visit to Cooperativa Geribaldi, an integrated agricultural cooperative located near the heart of Rome. The cooperative’s mission is to include Autism and intellectual disability into the school and work environment by providing job training and other skill building projects.
Day 5: Rome - Tivoli
- Tour two of Italy’s most magnificent country estates: Villa D’Este and Hadrian’s Villa.
- Hadrian’s Villa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Emperor Hadrian created this lovely estate filled with striking palaces, temples, libraries, fountains, and gardens.
- Afternoon visit to the Villa D’Este, one of the most enchanting sites of the late Italian Renaissance is also another UNESCO World Heritage Site with famous fountains in the magnificent garden including the Fontana de Nettuno, and many other breathtaking sights.

Day 6: Rome-Florence
- Morning train to Florence.
- Afternoon walking tour of Florence to experience Piazza and Basilica di Santa Maria Novella, then to the Basilica di San Lorenzo and the nearby San Lorenzo market.

Day 7: Florence
- Morning guided tour of Florence’s most famous museums, Santa Croce, Piazza Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi gallery.
- Afternoon visit to the Accademia Gallery.

Day 8: Florence-Siena-San Gimignano
- Morning bus trip to Siena.
- Walking tour with a visit to the Piazza del Campo, and visit a contrada of Siena to learn about the city’s traditions and the ancient history of the Palio.
- Afternoon visit to the hilltop city of San Gimignano, characterized by its towers known all around the world, along the Via Francigena, an ancient pilgrimage route that connected Rome to France.

Day 9: Florence
- Morning visit to a cooking school, visit local market to shop for ingredients, and return to the school and prepare a typical Italian meal including a starter, gnocchi and tiramisu.
- Afternoon guided tour of Florence artisan shops and local crafts, Including a visit an old pharmacy, an antique bookshop, and an interactive demonstration of goldsmithing in the Florentine style.
Day 10: Florence-Pienza--S. Antimo
- Morning bus ride through the Valdorcia countryside to Pienza and a stop to taste the unique Pecorino cheese, made from local sheep's milk.
- Continue to the medieval town of Montalcino and to the famous vinyards of Tenuta Fanti, for a lunch and wine tasting.
- Afternoon bus ride to Sant’Antimo Abbazia, a former Benedictine monastery for an exclusive tour that includes the Carolingian Chapel, the crypt, the tribune, the monastic pharmacy, and St. Benedict’s herb garden.

Day 11: Florence-Bologna-Verona
- Morning adventure in Bologna to the FICO Eataly World, the largest “Agri-food” Park in the world. The mission of FICO is to tell the story of Italian cuisine, from farm to table, by giving visitors the opportunity to see how food is processed and prepared before it gets to consumers.
- Afternoon FICO hands-on class about pasta, and the secrets of making classic Italian cuisine.

Day 12: Verona-Valpolicella
- Morning walking tour of Verona starting at the Duomo of Verona, located in the medieval part of the city. The tour will continue to the Ponte di Castelvecchio, with the third stop at Piazza Bra, the location of Juliet's house.
- Afternoon in Valpolicella with a visit to the Ancient Pieve di S. Giorgio, and a Valpolicella wine tasting.

Day 13: Verona-Sirmoine-Lago di Garda-Parco Giardino Sigurta
- Morning tour of Sirmione, a town on the southern bank of Lake Garda. Sirmione can only be reached by a small one-lane bridge through the Rocca Scaligera Piazza, one of Italy’s most well-preserved castles.
Day 13: Verona-Sirmione-Lago di Garda-Parco Giardino Sigurta
- Afternoon visit to Sigurtà Park and Gardens, located in Valeggio sul Mincio. Historically a mixture of farmland and private gardens, now it spans roughly 60 hectares and includes a 2,00 square meter hedge maze, water gardens, a medicinal garden, and plenty of hidden sights.

Day 14: Verona
- Morning free time in Verona for shopping and sightseeing.
- Afternoon walk around the Piazza Bra and the Arena.

Day 15: Verona-Milan
- Morning departure to Milan and a visit the Duomo and Terraces. The tour starts from the archaeological area below the Basilica Santa Tecla in the Baptistery, one of the oldest Cathedrals in Milan, dating back to the 4th century.
- Free afternoon to explore the famous Via di Montenapoleone and surrounding sights.

Day 16: Milan
- Morning walking tour to see the outside of the Castello Sforzesco and S. Maria delle Grazie where Leonardo Da Vinci’s “Last Supper” painting resides.
- Afternoon visit to the Museum and the La Scala Theatre to discover the legacy of A. Toscanini, the renowned Italian conductor, and the historical stage sets with their period decorations, the royal stage, the foyer, the stalls, and the mechanism of the stage.
- After heading back to the hotel to rest and change, return to La Scala to attend the opera, Gaetano Donizetti.

Day 17: Milan
- Morning transfer to Malpensa airport to make the return flight (or to Venice for extension trip).

"The Creator made Italy from designs by Michaelangelo."
- Mark Twain
Welcome to the "Queen of the Adriatic"

Explore the rich history of this ancient city, named after the Veneti people who inhabited the area as early as the 10th Century BCE. Over the centuries, Venice has been a major maritime power, a city-state, and a flourishing trade center. Located in a lagoon on Italy’s Northeast shore, the unique location of Venice has influenced the culture and aesthetic of the city, and inspired many artists and writers throughout the years. Steeped in rich artistic history and stunning architecture, Venice is a treasure not to be missed.

Day 17: Milan-Venice

- Morning departure by bus from Hotel in Milan to Venice, crossing the Ponte della Liberta, the only access to Venice by road vehicles.
- Private boat transfer from Venice to Hotel in Lido di Venezia.

Day 18: Venice

- Morning tour in the historical centre of Venice. Locations include:
  - St. Mark's Basilica, a masterpiece of Byzantine art with beautiful gold mosaics and marble floor inlays.
  - The Pala d'Oro, an exquisite example of Byzantine art with thousands of gems and precious stones placed into an altar and retable.
- Afternoon visit to the Palazzo Ducale, one of Venice's most famous buildings. For centuries, the Palazzo Ducale had three fundamental functions: it was the seat of the Venetian government, the Doge's residence, and the palace of justice.

Day 19: Venice

- Morning excursion by private boat to the islands of Murano and Burano in half a day with a demonstration the techniques of tradition Murano glassmaking.
- Afternoon walking tour or by public boat to Ponte di Rialto, free time to explore.

Day 20: Venice

- Transfer from Hotel by boat from Lido di Venezia to Venice airport.