

# ITALY: TOUR-3 AUD 10880

28 DAY TOUR, DEPARTS: 5 JUNE 2019 (Share Twin)



**LAND ONLY AUD 9200**

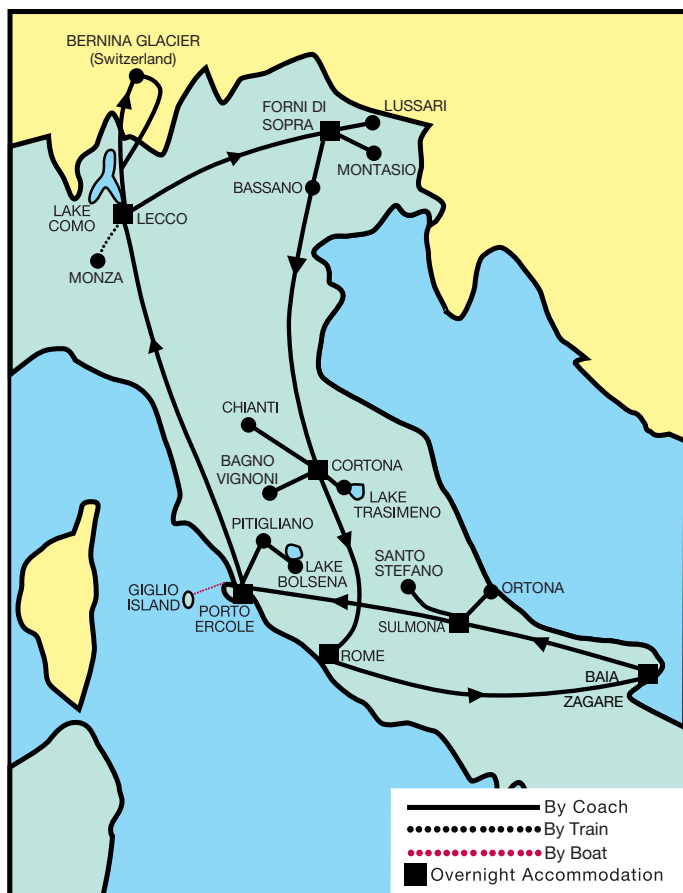
**SINGLE SUPPL. \$2200**

**OPTIONAL DINNERS:  
3 COURSE MEAL & WINE \$50**

## WEATHER

From mild conditions on the coast to cool conditions in the Alps  
IN THE CENTRE: Max Day Temp 22-27°C - Min Night 12-17°C  
IN THE NORTH: Max Day Temp 18-23°C - Min Night 08-13°C

**FOUR NIGHTS IN EVERY HOTEL !!**



## INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Return air travel to Italy flying Cathay Pacific economy class with all taxes included.
- Twelve gastronomic dinners with 1/4 bottle of wine and 1/2 bottle of mineral water included!
- Three and four star hotel accommodation (bed and breakfast). Many hotels are set in high spectacular positions and offer excellent panoramic views of the surrounding areas.
- Modern air conditioned motor coach with English-speaking tour manager.
- A wide range of local excursions available daily from all the major centres of the itinerary. These tours, provided at no extra cost, are on an optional basis.
- Scenic navigation by private boat along the Gargano Promontory.
- Sea cruise to the Mediterranean Island of Giglio and coach tour to the medieval fortress town of Giglio Castello.
- Scenic cruise at Lake Como from Lecco to Bellagio and back to Lecco.
- Taxi boat to Maggiore Isle at Lake Trasimeno.
- Optional extension to your international ticket.

## AT YOUR OWN COST

- Meals, other than those included in the package. (Optional group dinners in picturesque restaurants will be arranged at special reduced prices).
- Optional cable car at Trento.
- Optional cable cars at the Bernina Glacier (Switzerland) and Mt. Lussari.
- Entry tickets into: museums, palaces, fortresses and castles.
- Single accommodation supplement.
- Travel Insurance.



Our scenic hotel at Porto Ercole (top left)

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS

**Sulmona** – It's one of the most prominent heritage towns of the Abruzzo Region (at 400m), flanked by the snowy peaks of the Maiella mountains, reaching almost 3,000m. Within its medieval walls, the clock seems to have stopped a long time ago and the elegant architecture is as pristine as it has been for centuries.

**Giglio Island** – It's completely mountainous and culminates at 500m. A long, narrow and winding road climbs steeply to Giglio Castello: a town built on a hill crest and enclosed in a circle of medieval walls with cylindrical and rectangular towers overlooking the Mediterranean sea.

**Lake Como** – The variety of scenery along its shores and landscapes unfolds a myriad of rapidly changing views: the serene atmosphere of vast parks, the secret gardens overlooking the lake, the picturesque villages almost poised on the water, and high above, the magnificent grandeur of the Alps.

**Forni di Sopra** – It's a well renowned Alpine Resort at 900m in the Eastern Dolomites. It is graced by an impeccable Alpine architecture. Splendid scenic roads, flanked by high altitude vertical peaks, the beautiful Lake Alleghe and the spectacular passes of Giau (at 2,236m) and Falzarego (at 2,105m) are all within easy reach of Forni di Sopra.

**Chianti** – The Chianti district (within the region of Tuscany) is well renowned for its green, undulated countryside, graced by picturesque castles, small medieval villages and beautiful vineyards. The local wines are amongst the best produced in Italy.

**Cortona** – It's one of the most elegant and best preserved medieval towns in Tuscany. During the Middle Ages, Cortona was a free commune, that is an independent city state. Its heritage architecture is outstanding and still retains a pristine unspoilt ambience lost in other main cities of Tuscany.

## PROGRAM

**Wed 5 Jun** – Departure from Australia flying Cathay Pacific to Rome, via Hong Kong.

**Thu 6 Jun 07.30** – Arrival at Rome Airport. Departure by coach for Baia delle Zagare (Gargano National Park). This is mainly a scenic route which switches to a spectacular scenic coastal road along the Gargano Promontory. **17.30** – Arrival at the hotel. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Fri 7 Jun** – Morning at leisure in the beautiful hotel park. **14.00** – Scenic navigation along the beautiful coastline of the Gargano promontory, dotted with many picturesque grottos. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*Our hotel overlooking Baia delle Zagare*



*Peschici and its fortress on a cliff*

**Sat 8 Jun 08.30** – Spectacular steep climb with great scenic views from sea level to the historic village of Mount St. Angelo built on a cliff at 800m. Local sightseeing and time at leisure in Mt. St. Angelo. **13.30** – Return to hotel. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Sun 9 Jun 08.30** – Scenic coastal drive along the Gargano peninsula with a few stops on panoramic spots. Refreshment at local bar boasting sweeping views of the impressive coastline. Continuation to the medieval village of Peschici set on a cliff. Local sightseeing and lunch. Return to Baia delle Zagare in the afternoon. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Mon 10 Jun 08.30** – Departure via scenic route for Sulmona, a charming historic town, located at 400m amongst beautiful peaks, in the heart of the Abruzzo Region. **16.30** – Arrival at the hotel. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



**Tue 11 Jun 09.30** – Orientation in Sulmona covering the main architectural highlights of this historic town. Afternoon at leisure. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*The historic main square of Sulmona - Abruzzo Region*



*Rocca Calascio – Abruzzo Region*

**Wed 12 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive into the heart of the Abruzzo region, going through the Appennini Mountain Range which in this area display a very rugged pristine nature. What makes these mountains unique is the historical heritage and picturesque medieval villages which seem to belong to another age and make them a world apart from the modern architecture of the Alpine resorts. This is a full day fascinating journey. We stop at Rocca di Mezzo (1,400m) and then drive through the spectacular Sirente-Velino Regional Park. We continue to Santo Stefano di Sessanio (1,200m) for a local visit and time for lunch. On the way back, stop at Calascio renowned for its imposing castle in a panoramic spot with an impressive back-drop of high rising mountains. **17.00** – Arrival in Sulmona. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Thu 13 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Ortona, an historic city dating back to Roman times. Due to its strategic position on a promontory overlooking the Adriatic Sea, it has always been – throughout history – at the centre of battles, sieges and destruction, as testified by its heritage relics. **10.00** – Arrival in Ortona and local orientation. Time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure from Ortona. On the way back, we stop at the picturesque village of Torre dei Passeri, renowned for its ambience architecture and its old castle. **17.00** – Arrival back in Sulmona. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Fri 14 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Porto Ercole. Stop at Trevignano for lunch on the banks of Lake Bracciano. **16.45** – Arrival in Porto Ercole. Dinner at the hotel's panoramic restaurant (included).



*The picturesque little harbour of Giglio Island*

**Sat 15 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Porto Santo Stefano. **09.30** – Ferry boat to Giglio Island. Motor Coach to Giglio Castello on top of a mountain. Local sightseeing. Return to harbour-village at time of your choice with pre-paid individual ticket. **16.00** – Ferry boat to Porto Santo Stefano. **17.30** – Arrival at the hotel. **19.30** – Optional dinner at the hotel.



**Sun 16 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive through the undulated typical countryside of southern Tuscany, to the impressive medieval town of Pitigliano, built on a cliff. **10.30** – Arrival, local orientation and time at leisure. **11.30** – Departure for the picturesque village of Bolsena on the banks of Lake Bolsena. Lunch in lovely setting by the lake. **14.30** – Return to hotel. **19.30** – Optional dinner in picturesque setting by the jetty.

**Mon 17 Jun 08.30** – Day at leisure in this beautiful resort. Options: a) visit the medieval district of Porto Ercole, b) scenic walks to the medieval fortresses, c) stroll along the scenic coastline, d) relax and enjoy along the jetty and its amenities. **19.30** – Optional dinner in at the hotel.

**Tue 18 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Lecco (Lake Como). This is a freeway journey. **17.30** – Arrival in Lecco. **19.30** – Dinner in local restaurant (included).



*Lecco on the banks of Lake Como*



*Monza: the Royal Palace*

**Wed 19 Jun 08.30** – Short railway journey (30km) to Monza, renowned for its historic elegant architecture as well as the Royal Palace built in the 18th century by Ferdinand of Hapsburg, Archduke of Austria. The Palace also boasts a beautiful park. Guided orientation in Monza. Time at leisure to enjoy the downtown attractions and visit the Royal Palace. **16.00** – Train back to Lecco. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Cable car to the spectacular Chalet/lookout of the Bernina Glacier - Switzerland*

**Thu 20 Jun 08.30** – Departure for a highly spectacular drive through the Swiss Alps, climbing to the Maloja Pass (1,800m) and continuing along a beautiful plateau flanked by pretty lakes and snowy peaks to be followed by a scenic drive to a cable car station. The optional cable car can take you up to a chalet/look out at 3,000m with sweeping views of the Bernina Glacier. Continuation to the Bernina Pass (2,300m). Spectacular descent to Tirano (Italy) and then westward to Lake Como. **17.00** – Arrival in Lecco. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Fri 21 Jun 10.00** – Scenic navigation to Bellagio, the Pearl of Lake Como. **11.30** – Arrival in Bellagio. Local orientation and time at leisure. Options: visit the Park of Villa Melzi and/or explore the maze of historical alleys. **16.40** – Departure from jetty. **18.00** – Arrival in Lecco. **19.30** – Optional dinner.





*Downtown Trento*

**Sat 22 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive to Forni di Sopra (900m) in the Dolomites. **11.00** – Arrival in Trento, the capital of the northern Italian region of Trentino. This beautiful small city is endowed by a pristine heritage architecture with a Venetian influence, although Trento has never been part of the Republic of Venice. Most outstanding is the great castle of Buonconsiglio, which is the main monument in the Trentino Region and clearly shows a Venetian gothic influence.

Local orientation in Trento and time at leisure. Amongst the main attractions available there is also a cable car which climbs to 600m boasting a sweeping view of the city and surrounding Alps. **13.30** – Departure from Trento. **17.30** – Arrival at Forni di Sopra. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*Mount Lussari can only be reached by cable car.*

**Sun 23 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive to Mt. Lussari. **10.00** – Stop at Malborghetto and local sightseeing. **11.00** – Short drive to Mt. Lussari and optional cable car to the top of the mountain (1,790m). Local sightseeing, lunch and scenic walk. **14.30** – Cable car back. **17.00** – Arrival at Forni di Sopra. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*Alleghe – Dolomites*



*Cortina - The Pearl of the Dolomites*

**Mon 24 Jun 08.30** – Super spectacular drive through some of the most famous landscapes and passes of the Dolomites. Stop at Cortina, the Pearl of the Dolomites for a brief visit. Continuation along the splendid Giau Pass (2,236m) and then downhill to Lake Alleghe. Local lunch followed by a scenic walk on the banks of the lake. **14.30** – Departure and return via Falzarego Pass (2,105m). **17.30** – Arrival at Forni di Sopra. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).





*High altitude pastures (at 1,700m) of Montasio Cattle Station and a display of its locally produced specialties*



*Our lunch stop at Lake Predil*

**Tue 25 Jun 08.30** – Spectacular drive to Malga Montasio, a high altitude summer cattle station (at 1,700m) where visitors can enjoy artisan cheese and Alpine specialties. **10.30** – Arrival, local snack and scenic walk. Continuation to Lake Predil (at 950m) for lunch in a beautiful spot. **17.00** – Arrival at Forni di Sopra. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Wed 26 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Cortona, one of the premium towns of Tuscany, rich in art and architecture, located in panoramic position on the slope of a hill overlooking Valdichiana. **10.30** – Stop in Bassano, a town well renowned for its stylish architecture and historic squares full of charm as well as its lovely setting on the banks of the River Brenta. Orientation and time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure. **17.30** – Arrival in Cortona. **19.30** – Dinner in local restaurant (included).

**Thu 27 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive throughout the very picturesque countryside of the Chianti district of Tuscany. Stop at the outstanding Brolio Castle set on top of a hill at 500m with sweeping views of a lovely countryside. After visiting a section of the castle and its panoramic gardens we continue to the charming village of Castellina for some time at leisure and lunch. Refreshment at Coltibuono. **17.30** – Arrival back in Cortona. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Traditional architecture in Tuscany: Bagno Vignoni (left) and Monticchiello (right)*

**Fri 28 Jun 08.30** – Scenic drive through some of the most picturesque countrysides of Tuscany. First we stop at Monticchiello. Then we continue through a very undulated green landscape dotted with traditional Tuscan farm houses, until we reach Bagno Vignoni set on a panoramic spot. Local sightseeing and time at leisure. **14.00** – Departure from Bagno Vignoni. **16.30** – Arrival in Cortona. **19.30** – Optional dinner.





*Castiglione del Lago at Lake Trasimeno*

**Sat 29 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Castiglione del Lago, an impressive small town set in a panoramic position on a rocky promontory overlooking Lake Trasimeno. **9.30** – Arrival and local sightseeing: most prominent are the Ducal Palace and the Castle. Time at leisure. **11.15** – Departure for Tuoro along the lake shore and taxi boat to the island of Maggiore, renowned for its ancient medieval village in picturesque setting. **14.30** – Departure from the island. **16.00** – Arrival back in Cortona. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Sun 30 Jun 08.30** – Departure for Rome Airport. **15.00** – Arrival at Rome Airport – Fiumicino.

**Mon 1 Jul 09.00** – Independent transfer (without guide) to Rome International Airport by way of hotel shuttle. Cathay Pacific flight back to Australia.

**Tue 2 Jul** Arrival back in Australia

## HOTELS

**We believe that you are entitled to know exactly what you get for your money and that's why we clearly state not only the number of stars but also the location of the hotels we use.**

**Unless you are in a rush tour, where you get to the hotel late at night and leave early morning, we do believe that a good location makes a world of difference to the quality of your holiday.**

**Gargano:** Hotel BAIA DELLE ZAGARE. This luxury four star hotel has been developed in a "garden village" style - avoiding awful high rising blocks - in a most splendid spectacular location. It is surrounded by a huge pristine forest and it sits on a cliff dominating an exclusive picturesque bay with snow white private beaches which can only be accessed by way of a lift through the rocks.

[www.hotelbaiadellezagare.it](http://www.hotelbaiadellezagare.it)

**Sulmona:** Hotel OVIDIUS. It's an impeccable four star hotel in the historical central district of Sulmona. Its privileged location, almost adjacent to the cathedral, will guarantee a pleasant stay in this charming heritage town.

[www.ovidius.hotelsantacroce.com](http://www.ovidius.hotelsantacroce.com)

**Porto Ercole:** Hotel DON PEDRO. Splendid high position overlooking a picturesque little harbour and its medieval fortresses. This three star hotel is one of the most charming of the whole tour.

[www.hoteldonpedro.it](http://www.hoteldonpedro.it)

**Lecco (Lake Como):** Hotel ALBERI. This modern three star hotel is located in panoramic position right on the waterfront of the very centre of Lecco, a picturesque town, graced by the lake as well as high alpine peaks.

[www.hotelalberi.it](http://www.hotelalberi.it)

**Forni di Sopra:** (900m) Hotel POSTA. It's a modern three star hotel, in panoramic setting, boasting sweeping views in one of the most prestigious resorts in the Dolomites which are listed as world heritage by UNESCO. The hotel is located in the centre of Forni di Sopra.

[www.hotelposta.org](http://www.hotelposta.org)

**Cortona:** Hotel SAN LUCA. It's a very classy luxury four star hotel in the downtown district of this premium historic town of Tuscany. It boasts a sweeping panoramic view of the picturesque countryside of Tuscany.

[www.sanluacortona.com](http://www.sanluacortona.com)

**Rome Airport:** Hotel COMFORT. Four star hotel in the picturesque village of Fiumicino, 3km from the airport.

[www.comforthotelfiumicino.com](http://www.comforthotelfiumicino.com)

### TOTAL ACCOMMODATION - 25 NIGHTS

4 at Baia delle Zagare, 4 in Sulmona, 4 in Porto Ercole, 4 in Lecco, Lake Como, 4 at Forni di Sopra, 4 in Cortona, 1 at Rome Airport Hotel.