

Carson City Chamber of Commerce presents...

# Italy's Treasures

March 15 – 26, 2025



For more information contact  
Carson City Chamber of Commerce  
**(775) 882 1565**  
[director@carsoncitychamber.com](mailto:director@carsoncitychamber.com)



**collette**



**Small Group Travel** rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

**12 Days • 18 Meals:** 10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 5 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Italian Lakes Region, Stresa, Wine Tasting, Italian Riviera, Cinque Terre, Carrara Marble Quarries Off-Road Excursion, Tuscan Countryside, Italian Cooking Class, San Gimignano, Siena, Florence, Bologna, Venice

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa
Days 4, 5	Grand Hotel dei Castelli, Italian Riviera
Days 6 – 9	Hotel Villa Lecchi, Tuscany
Days 10, 11	Ca' dei Conti Hotel, Venice

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Day 1: Saturday, March 15, 2025 Overnight Flight** Travel along breathtaking landscapes and venture into metropolitan meccas ripe with culture and history. Discover Italy on an unforgettable journey that delves into its most cherished treasures.

**Day 2: Sunday, March 16, 2025 Stresa, Italy - Tour Begins** Begin on the arresting shores of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by the peaceful beauty of the Alpine lakes region. This evening, cruise to Isola dei Pescatori,\* the most picturesque of the Borromean Islands, where you'll engage with new friends at a dinner welcoming you to Italy. (D)

**Day 3: Monday, March 17, 2025 Stresa** In an ancient village nestled in the mountains, a local family welcomes you to sample their very own artisanal cheeses, paired with the region's best wines. The remainder of the day in Stresa is at your leisure. Explore the piazzas, flower-lined cobblestone streets, and lakeside promenades. Or enjoy your breathtaking surroundings during an optional cruise to Isola Bella, known as the "beautiful island." Here an expert will guide you into the Borromeo Palace,\*\* a lakeside Baroque beauty adorned with an exotic garden. As the day draws to a close, visit a family-run wine shop and enjoy a cocktail party with some *antipasto* snacks. (B)

**Day 4: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Stresa - Orta - Italian Riviera** Witness picture-perfect views from Lake Orta, an ancient glacial lake in the Alpine foothills. A boat delivers you to the island of San Giulio, dominated by its working convent. Journey to the Italian Riviera and discover its immeasurable grandeur along the Liguria coast. (B, D)

**Day 5: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Italian Riviera - Cinque Terre - Italian Riviera** Travel by rail today as you discover the colorful Cinque Terre (UNESCO), a string of medieval villages perched on the edge of the sea. Feel like you have stepped back in time as you traverse the rugged coastal area dotted with terraced vineyards. Spend an afternoon independently exploring this awe-inspiring landscape. (B)

**Day 6: Thursday, March 20, 2025 Italian Riviera - Carrara Marble Quarries - Tuscany** Veer off the beaten path to visit one of Italy's great natural wonders: the Carrara marble quarries. During an off-road drive in the Apuane Mountains, you'll follow the roads the *cavatori* (quarrymen) carved into the mountains while extracting the precious stone. Over the centuries, Carrara marble was used by artists such as Michelangelo to carve his *Pietà* in Rome's St. Peter's Basilica, as well as his legendary *Statue of David*. Enjoy some free time to explore Carrara's old town on your own; view the town's cathedral, the *Duomo*, built in white marble, or search for Michelangelo's bust marking his former home. After an included lunch in Carrara, continue on through the rolling hills of Tuscany, ending the day in a historic Tuscan villa for a rejuvenating 4-night stay.\*\*\* (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Friday, March 21, 2025 Tuscany - San Gimignano - Tuscany** This morning, journey into the heart of the Chianti countryside, where a family-owned villa welcomes you. After a tour of the house and grounds, you'll engage in a hands-on cooking lesson. Break bread during an authentic Tuscan lunch and toast to your host with local Chianti wine. Later, take in Tuscany's landscape, a spectrum of verdant vineyards and endless groves en route to San Gimignano. Nicknamed the Manhattan of the Middle Ages, San Gimignano's 14 towers soar distinctively over the landscape making this iconic hilltop village stand out against the rolling hills. Taste authentic Italian gelato from an award-winning ice cream parlor while you wander the cobble streets and gaze up at the imposing towers during time at leisure in this Tuscan gem. (B, L)

**Day 8: Saturday, March 22, 2025 Tuscany - Siena - Tuscany** Travel south to Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage site where stunning Romanesque and Gothic architecture can be found on every corner. Walk the narrow medieval streets on a guided tour. Get to know the local lifestyle of a *contrada* (neighborhood) whose community Museum is centered around the colorful *Palio* horse race. Retreat to your Tuscan villa for a relaxing afternoon. (B, D)



## Per Person Rates\*:

**Double \$5,449; Single \$6,149; Triple \$5,399**

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from Reno Tahoe Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

**Not included in price:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person.

**\*\* Air rates are subject to availability at time of booking and not guaranteed**

Limited Availability. All space is on a first come first serve basis.

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

### Day 9: Sunday, March 23, 2025 Tuscany - Florence - Tuscany

Welcome to Florence – the birthplace of the Renaissance and the beloved home of the Medici family, Galileo, Botticelli and da Vinci. Set out on a walking tour of Florence’s treasures and monuments, highlighting the *Piazza del Duomo* and the famous Gates of Paradise on the Baptistery. You’ll also wander past the *Palazzo Vecchio*, the Signoria and Santa Croce squares. Enjoy time to explore Florence independently before returning to your villa. (B)

### Day 10: Monday, March 24, 2025 Tuscany - Bologna - Venice

On a walking tour, discover the culture of Bologna, a city barely changed since the time of the Renaissance and Italy’s food capital. Browse the city’s specialty food shops and sample local delicacies such as Parmigiano cheese, mortadella - the Italian progenitor of baloney - and lasagna. Arrive later in Venice, the

“Queen of the Adriatic,” and settle in for a 2-night stay in one of the most romantic cities in the world. (B, L)

**Day 11: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Venice** Spend the day in *Venezia*, the floating city home to lavish art collections, wonders of architecture, and where marbled palaces tower over gondola-laden canals. A local guide takes you on a walking tour of its incredible sites, including the Bridge of Sighs, the Bell tower, and St. Mark’s Square. Then, travel by boat to Murano\*\*\*\* for an expert glass-blowing demonstration, a renowned tradition on the island. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore more of Venice on your own. Say *arrivederci* to Italy at a savory farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 12: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 Venice - Tour Ends** Wake up in Venice and depart for home. (B)

### Experience It! The Carrara Marble Quarries

Climb into the seat of an off-road vehicle to climb high into the Apuane mountains, a small chain overlooking the Mediterranean. There, you’ll find the brilliant white quarries where Carrara marble is mined. These legendary quarries have supplied the world with marble since the era of the early Romans, who used it to build ancient architecture like the Pantheon. Later, renown artists like Michelangelo and Rodin would use this marble to carve their masterpieces. *Cavatori*, or quarrymen, have been pulling marble from these mountains for 2000 years. But it’s not just the art and the architecture made from this marble that will take your breath away – it’s the landscape too. These are mountains of marble, and you can see the bright white veins running through the rock. The brilliance of the marble quarry against the blue of the sky and the sea is a sight you’ll never forget.

*“The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material.”*

- Michelangelo

**For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1270325>**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices. In particular, you should expect large crowds in the Cinque Terre, San Gimignano, Florence and Venice. For the Cinque Terre excursion, agility is required to board trains that require the ability to climb 3 one-foot-tall steps holding on to railings and agility boarding local ferry boats when available. Some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motor coaches, especially in historic areas such as the Cinque Terre villages, Siena, San Gimignano, Venice, and Florence which requires minimum 2.5 miles of walking over flat but cobblestoned streets with narrow sidewalks. For your comfort, we recommend bringing comfortable walking shoes.

**Travel with an average of 16 people (maximum of 24).**

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

In order to fully experience the destination, some of our hotels on these programs are located in smaller towns or on country roads where access is limited to large coaches. In these cases, you will be dropped off as close as possible and there will be a short walk to access the hotel from the drop-off area.

Days of features are interchangeable.

Most shops and businesses in Italy are closed on Sundays and on national/religious holidays.

\*In the event of adverse weather conditions, the dinner at Isola dei Pescatori may be held at your hotel instead.

Most museums in Florence are closed on Mondays, including the Academy Gallery and the Uffizi, as are other state museums. Most state museums in Florence require reservations to access. We suggest you book a ticket online if you plan to visit the Academy or the Uffizi during your free time in Florence.

\*\*Isola Bella and the Borromeo Palace are open from April 1 to October 31. If you are travelling between November 1 and March 31, you will enjoy a scenic cruise of the Borromeo Islands and a visit to Pallanza village instead. If you are in Lake Maggiore between April 1-15 the Borromeo Palace might be closed mid-week.

\*\*\*\*On occasion, due to inclement weather, your boat trip to Murano Island may be substituted with a visit to a local glass factory in Venice.

Hotel check-in on your day of arrival is 3:00 p.m. Rooms may not be available prior to that time.

\*\*\*Note that villas in Tuscany are dotted throughout the region and we use different properties on this program. Some may be located in the countryside, removed from a city center. Still others may be closer to the hustle and bustle of the region. Each one is unique, full of history, has many amenities and is brimming with true Tuscan flavor. This is part of the fun!

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.



Our air guests will arrive into Milan airport and depart out of Venice airport. All departure transfers will depart from Venice city center to the Venice airport.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

**IDENTIFICATION**

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

*Effective for travel in May 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>*

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

**A non-refundable deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Final payment due by December 19, 2024.**

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

**For important reservation information visit  
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1270325>.  
 You can also find this information on your tour documents.**

---

BOOKING NUMBER: 1270325  
DEPARTURE DATE: March 15, 2025

TOUR: Italy's Treasures *Art, Food & Wine of Italy*  
GROUP NAME: Carson City Chamber of Commerce

### Available Options

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

*Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.*

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

---

### Venice

#### Venetian Serenaded Gondola Cruise

**\$75 USD**

Experience the romance that can only be found in Venice – La Serenissima – while traveling on its famous waterways. Partake in one of Venice’s most famous pastimes – a gondola cruise. Take a pleasant stroll toward the Grand Canal to board your gondola. As you relax in your elegant watercraft, your gondolier navigates the Grand Canal as well as smaller side canals. Admire the scenery as you listen to the melodic voice serenading you in true Italian style – just like in those romantic Italian movies! This option operates weather-permitting. *Duration: Approximately 1 hour.* Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required. Transportation is not included.

### Stresa

#### Lake Maggiore Cruise

**\$99 USD**

Surround yourself in the beauty and grandeur found on the lakes of Northern Italy. Cruise along scenic Lago Maggiore passing the Borromean Islands sprinkled throughout this stunning lake. These petite but incredible islands are brimming with grand villas and exquisite, world-renowned gardens. Glide past Isola del Pescatore viewing the gulf of Baveno before making a stop at Isola Bella. Then we make our way along the cobblestone streets of the quaint town to the impressive, Baroque Borromean Palace and gardens. This famed palace is steeped in immeasurable wealth and regal pageantry. On your guided tour, surroundings will bring you back to the 17th century. Get a glimpse inside life as a royal as you stroll through the opulent halls superbly decorated with rare artwork and tapestries. Then, you’ll head outside to the perfectly manicured, tiered gardens that abut the lakeshore. Behold stunning views and the splendor of the gardens as we make our way through with an expert. Return to the boat for a cruise back to Stresa. This option must be purchased at least 20 days prior to the tour’s departure. In the event that the option does not meet the minimum number of guests required to operate, guests who purchased the option will be refunded. *Duration: Approximately 2 hours.* Please note a minimum of 12 passengers is required. Transportation is not included.