



Villas, Vineyards, Vistas and Lakes of Northern Italy

September 21 – 28, 2019

(depart US on 21 Sept, return on 28)

\$3500 per person double occupancy land only

\$1500 single occupancy

September 21 – Depart US for Verona Italy. We recommend Lufthansa Airlines which will allow you to fly directly into Verona and out of Venice from Charlotte, connecting both ways in Munich. We will offer a group fare of approximately \$1000 roundtrip, if 10 or more are interested in flying roundtrip from Charlotte. Lufthansa also flies from Atlanta and Washington Dulles and other major airports. Other airlines also fly into Verona, connecting, in another European capital such as Rome or Paris.

September 22 – Arrive Verona and transfer to our hotel, the beautiful and famous Due Torri.

www.duetorri.com

Later in the afternoon we will meet our private guide to visit the beautiful city center of Verona: the enchanting city of lovers, with idyllic streets, squares, and magnificent Roman ruins. The city is timeless and unhindered. Plaza Erbe is named after Verona's old herb market. In the center rests a large, beautifully medieval fountain with men's faces etched in it. Today stalls sell everything from herbs, to wild mushrooms, to fruit, to amazing vegetables. Included in our walking tour will be the beautiful garden, not to be missed, Giardino Giusti.

September is the the month for the collection of rice, which is one of the typical products of the area. Tonight, we will have a superb risotto in one of the enchanting osterie of the city center. This will also offer us to get an opportunity to taste the wine production of the area of Verona hills (Valpolicella and Amarone in particular) that is so well paired with risotto.

September 23 - After breakfast, get ready for a full day at the Lake Garda: Italy's largest lake. The first stop will be Sirmione with its famous 13th Century Scagilero castle, the only castle in the world with its own port. From there, we'll travel by private boat over Garda's crystal waters, admiring the beauty of the small charming village along the coast. After lunch in Punta San Vigilio we'll disembark in Bardolino, famous for its wines. Quick free time before to come back to Verona.

September 24 - Valpolicella is among Italy's most ancient wine regions. Research shows that the locals started producing wine 600 years B.C. (here the history of Valpolicella). During the Roman period, the viticulture was improved and encouraged to provide the empire with wine. At that time Valpolicella began to become a renowned place for vacation. Indeed, the lords of Verona used to build their countryside homes in this charming land with plenty of natural beauty. Also, Dante Alighieri, the major Italian poet of the Late Middle Ages, decided to reside in Valpolicella. Nowadays, this land of wine, charm, and tradition beloved by many tourists for its landscapes covered with olive and cherry trees as well as vines.

Today you will get the chance to visit the villa where Dante's son, Pietro, came to love the beauty of the city and its countryside, and so decided to remain in the area, purchasing the Casal dei Ronchi in Gargagnago estate (possession) in the heart of the historic Valpolicella region in 1353. Twenty-one generations later, both house and estate still belong to Dante's direct descendants, the Counts Serego Alighieri. Today, the Villa stands surrounded by Valpolicella vineyards, the center of traditional farming activities associated with a large and flourishing estate.

Lunch will be at the magnificent Villa Mosconi Bertani.

September 25 - Today after breakfast you will leave Verona to move to Venice. During the way, you will stop at Vicenza (1 hour drive from Verona). Vicenza and the surrounding countryside and hills are particularly famous for the many works, and particularly the Villas, by Palladio. Because of the architectonic contributions of Andrea Palladio, it was included in UNESCO's list of world heritage places in 1994. Vicenza's city center is small enough to be comfortably explored on foot. The main road through the old town is the Corso Palladio, which contains the best of the city center's shopping as well as most of Palladio's urban palaces: the Basilica Palladian which massive structure on the city's main square called Piazza dei Signori, the Loggia del Capitano, also made by Palladio around 1571, but in red brick without any stucco and the Olympic theatre anchors one end of Corso Palladio and is arguably one of Palladio's two great masterpieces. We will visit Rotonda, which many think were Palladio's most famous. Then on to Venice and our stay at the famous Monaco et grand Canal Hotel. www.hotelmonaco.it. Upon arriving at the hotel, we will enjoy walking around the square and dinner at your choice of many great Venetian restaurants. Time for the "tiny fishes" so famous in Venice and so crisp and yummy!!

September 26 - Today after breakfast, meet your private guide at the hotel lobby for a private tour by walk through the narrow alleys, the famous bridges and of course crossing St. Mark's square. Venice is worldfamous for its canals it is built on an archipelago of 118 islands formed by about 150 canals in a shallow lagoon. The islands on which the city is built are connected by about 400 bridges. In the old center, the canals serve the function of roads, and every form of transport is on water or on foot. Venice is universally considered to be the most beautiful city in the world

because of this unusual urban design and its inestimable artistic heritage; it is included in the heritage of humanity projects protected by UNESCO and has the highest number of visitors of any Italian city, many of whom are foreign tourists. Along the way we will stop at a private villa, Palazzo Malipiero, for an aperitif. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy Venice.

27 September – Our last day in Italy. Shopping or visiting more historic spots or enjoy the natural surroundings of the Venetian lagoon on a relaxing boat trip to the picturesque islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello. On Murano you can watch master craftsmen create original works of art in glass, following techniques and trade secrets which have been handed down through the centuries.

Navigating on through the salt marshes you will reach Burano, a fishing village with brightly colored cottages, and home of exquisite hand-made lace. Here you can sample the local fish risotto and traditional buranei biscuits.

Just five minutes further on by boat lies the island of Torcello. Now a quiet backwater, Torcello was once a thriving lagoon settlement and here you will rediscover the very origins of Venetian civilization. Inside the ancient church of Santa Maria Assunta, glittering medieval mosaics evoke the richness and importance of Torcello's history. This afternoon we will visit the Fortuny Showroom. www.fortuny.com, and have an aperitif. Please visit the website of the Fortuny company to realize how many beautiful items originated with this brand. Our farewell dinner will be together in a lovely location overlooking the Grand Canal.

28 Sept. – Early morning departure for the airport, and return to US.

Included in cost:

6 nights hotel accommodations

Taxes and portorage

Airport transfers to/from the hotel in Verona on arrival and Venice on departure.*** All transport and tours in the itinerary:

Verona, Lake Garda, Valpolicella, Vincenza, Venice

Private guides for tours

2 lunches with wine

2 dinners with wine

Breakfast daily

Gratuities for driver/guides

Just Ladies Escorts

Not included:

Airfare

Travel Insurance

The Venice Island Tour described in the itinerary is optional.

*** If you choose to arrive in Venice you may transfer by train to Verona, but private transfers are not provided. Transfers are provided on arrival to Verona airport. We suggest and provide information for Lufthansa through Munich.

For REGISTRATION INFORM EMAIL: WEEZIEGLASCOCK@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 336 -275-1010

Limited to 16 participants and deadline December 15, 2018

