



New
This Year

Palazzo Ducale, Urbino Italy

8 nights

\$5,495* p.p.

Departs: Oct. 17, 2020

Toronto - \$5,495* p.p.

Vancouver - \$5,995* p.p.

Group size: 20 maximum

Visits to:

- Rome – Pesaro – Ancona –
- Conero – Loreto – Urbino – Recatini –
- Macareta - Morro D’Alba Pesaro –
- Gubbio - Montefalco – Assisi –
- Wine Route & Bevagna – Spoleto
- Cooking Class – Orvieto – Todi

What’s Included:

- * Roundtrip airfare
- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- Pesaro: four nights 4-star hotel accommodation
- Montefalco: four nights 4-star hotel accommodation
- Excursions: Wine tasting experience at local winery Rosso Conero, wine tasting at experience at local winery Morro d’Alba, Spoleto cooking class
- Eight breakfasts, one lunch and six dinners
- Private motor coach transportation
- Merit Travel tour host**
- All taxes and gratuities

THE BEST OF CENTRAL ITALY & UMBRIA

Round-trip by land: Rome

Embark on the ultimate culinary tour to central Italy and discover one of the most fascinating and beautiful regions, Umbria. Known as the green heart of Italy, Umbria’s rolling hills are patchworks of yellow sunflower fields and ancient stone towns.

Taste the highest quality local cuisine, enjoy fabulous wines and delicious food and meet passionate local producers. See the magnificent cathedral of Orvieto, the glowing pink buildings of the hill town of Assisi, and the stately, medieval Gubbio.

Single supplements available!
Call your local Merit Travel expert.

*CDN\$ p.p. dbl. occ. Taxes included. **Single supplement: \$1,100.** Airfare available from most Canadian airports, please enquire. **Minimum 12 passengers required for a Merit Travel tour host.
ON-4499356/4499372 | BC-34799 | QC-7002238 | 111 Peter Street, Suite 200, Toronto, ON. M5V 2H1 | *Merit Travel is a registered trademark of Merit Travel Group Inc. All rights reserved.



ACTIVITY LEVEL:
SIGHT-SEEING

APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers who are physically fit and comfortable with longer days of touring by transport and by foot and do not require mobility aids.

Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

DAY 1 | Oct. 17, 2020 | Toronto/Vancouver - Rome

Board your overnight flight to Rome, Italy.

DAY 2 | Oct. 18, 2020 | Rome - Pesaro (D)

Arrive at Rome Fiumicino airport and meet your local tour guide. Once you board your private minivan, the tour will start passing through some of the most beautiful countryside of the Central Apennines, with your final destination being Pesaro, on the Adriatic Coast.

Reach your villa in the Pesaro countryside, and after checking in, have some free time to relax in the swimming pool before enjoying a fabulous welcome dinner.

Accommodation at Relais Villa Giulia (4 nights)

DAY 3 | Oct. 19, 2020 | Pesaro - Ancona - Conero - Loreto (B, L)

After breakfast, you will board your minivan and transfer to Ancona. Overlooking the sea, with one of the largest ports in Italy, Ancona is a city full of monuments and beautiful landscapes. It is also known as "City Dorica", a name which refers to its Greek origins.

Here you will find the Cathedral which dominates the city from above, the picturesque arch of Trajan and Mole Vanvitelliana on the side of the harbor. The War Memorial overlooks the sea in one of the most unique areas of the coast. Walking through the alleys and historical streets, you can discover hidden spots and panoramic views.

During lunch at a local winery, Rosso Conero, you will taste one of the best red wines of the region, and then enjoy a panoramic tour of the

Conero Riviera. This stretch of coast on the slopes of Monte Conero, has plentiful beaches, bays and coves of exceptional beauty.

Last stop of the day will be in Loreto, a beautiful hill town second only to Assisi and Rome as a place of religious pilgrimage. The town is a showcase of some of Italy's greatest artists and architects. People come here from all over the world to visit the Basilica della Santa Casa, known for enshrining the house in which the Blessed Virgin Mary is believed by some to have lived.

Return to the Relais Villa Giulia for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 | Oct. 20, 2020 | Pesaro - Urbino (B, D)

Today after breakfast we explore the land once ruled by the lords of Montefeltro. The day is devoted to visiting Urbino, one of Italy's most fascinating towns of the Renaissance. It is also the birthplace of Raphael. A conducted tour of the magnificent Ducal Palace, which houses the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche with its precious paintings by Piero della Francesca, Tiziano, Paolo Uccello and Raphael.

Lunch will be independent, and your local expert tour guide will be happy to give you some advice on choosing where to dine. In the afternoon you will visit a local farm and observe the farmer making casciotta cheese and have a sample of it with crescia bread.

Return to the Relais Villa Giulia for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 | Oct. 21, 2020 | Pesaro - Recanati - Macerata - Morro d'Aalba (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will go to Recanati, the small town that gave birth to the famous poet and essayist Giacomo Leopardi, one of the most radical and challenging thinkers of the 19th century. The poet's memory is kept alive throughout the town, in fact you can admire Casa Leopardi, the home of the poet, which houses his valuable library, as well as visit his mother's house; the Antici Mattei Palace. Recanati also honored Beniamino Gigli, one of the greatest Italian tenors.

In the afternoon board the minivan and proceed to Macerata, the birthplace of the Jesuit Matteo Ricci, this historical town is bordered by ramparts dating back to the 16th century. It is crossed by many roads that lead up to Piazza della Libertà, the heart of the old town, which is surrounded by the most important monuments and churches and the entrance to the University Palace. Nearby,



you will find the Civic Museums of the Buonaccorsi Palace, known for its 18th century paintings depicting the Stories of the Aeneid. Macerata also houses the famous Sferisterio Opera Festival, in the harmonious outdoor arena.

On the way back to Pesaro you will stop at a local winery in Morro d'Alba, where you will taste the town's real attraction. The Lacrima di Morro d'Alba is produced in very limited quantities and offers a uniquely aromatic red wine which is soft and full-bodied. Morro d'Alba is also known its covered walkway around the town's 15th century walls.

Return to the Relais Villa Giulia for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 | Oct. 22, 2020 | Pesaro - Gubbio - Montefalco (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will leave Le Marche and transfer to Umbria. Your first stop will be Assisi where you will meet your local guide and enjoy a half day tour, including the Roman remains under the still-standing temple of Minerva, and the Basilica of San Francesco with Giotto's frescoes which decorate the lower church. The Basilica of Santa Chiara, dedicated to Saint Clare of Assisi, a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi and founder of the Order of Poor Ladies, (known today as the Order of Saint Clare), the remains of Saint Clare are kept in the Basilica.

In the afternoon continue to Gubbio, a town with a decidedly medieval aspect, known for its dark grey stone, narrow streets, and gothic architecture. Many houses in central Gubbio date from the 14th and 15th centuries and were originally the dwellings of wealthy merchants. The hills above the town were already occupied in the Bronze Age and it was an important town of the ancient Umbrian people in pre-Roman times. The area is famous for the discovery of the Etruscan Tablets, a set of bronze tablets that constitute the largest surviving text in the Etruscan language and transcribed into ancient Umbrian.

At the end of the day you will arrive at your farmhouse-style accommodation in the Montefalco area. Enjoy a typical Umbrian dinner with local products.

Accommodation at Villa Pambuffetti (4 nights)

DAY 7 | Oct. 23, 2020 | Montefalco - Assisi - Bevagna (B, D)

After breakfast transfer to Assisi. St. Francis was born here in 1182 and spent most of his adult life preaching around this area of Umbria.

Assisi is the quintessentially quaint and tranquil Italian hill town,



and here you will be able to visit the Basilica di San Francesco. In the afternoon, go to Torgiano, famous throughout the world for its fine wines. Visit a cantina and have a wine tasting session.

Then, visit Bevagna. The town was recently voted the most beautiful village in Italy.

Return to the Villa Pambuffetti for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 | Oct. 24, 2020 | Montefalco - Spoleto (B, D)

After breakfast you will visit Spoleto, one of the loveliest of the Umbrian hill-towns. Founded by the Umbrians, Spoleto was one of central Italy's most important colonies.

You will have a free morning to explore Spoleto.

In the afternoon, you will join a cooking class and learn some traditional Umbrians recipes. Along with your private chef you will prepare local dishes and enjoy dinner.

Return to the Villa Pambuffetti for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9 | Oct. 25, 2020 | Montefalco - Orvieto - Todi (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, explore more of the Umbria region, Italy's green heart. You will first stop in Orvieto, which looks down over a vineyard-spotted plain. Visitors flood into the town to admire the Duomo, among the greatest of Italy's Romanesque-Gothic Cathedrals.

In the afternoon, continue to Todi, a town famous for its striking location on a hillside. An ancient Etruscan, and then Roman settlement, it still preserves an uncorrupted medieval air, with several tiny churches, three austere public palaces and many sleepy corners. Return to the Villa Pambuffetti for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 | Oct. 26, 2020 | Montefalco - Rome - Toronto/Vancouver (B)

After breakfast, board your transfer to the airport for your departure flight home.

RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- g. Personal injuries or death;
- h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- a. 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- b. 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- c. 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.