

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita



August 19 - 27, 2018

ITALY

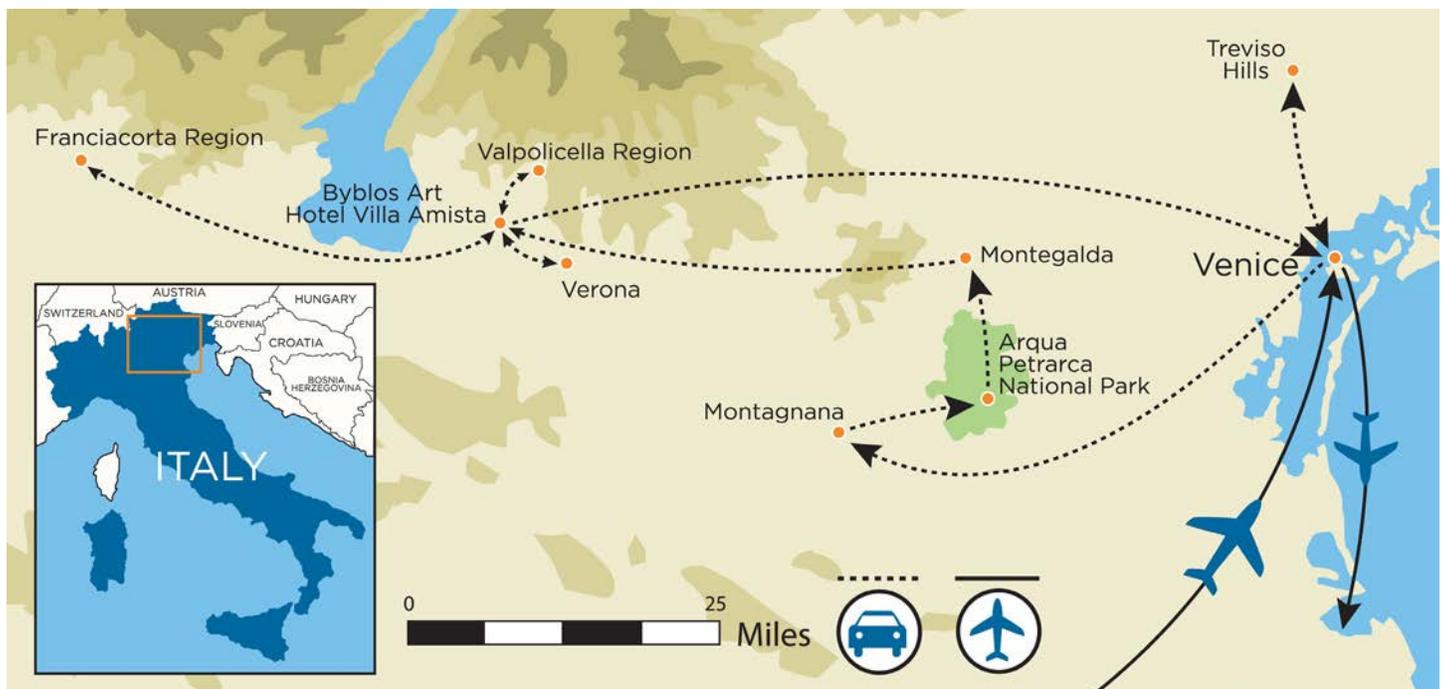
Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Learn how traditional Venetian masks are made and decorated by hand - then make one!
- ▶ Enjoy an Italian cooking class in an ancient Venetian palace
- ▶ Enjoy a private after-hours visit to St. Marks Basilica to see the glittering mosaics at night
- ▶ Visit Villa Monteleone in Valpolicella, a small woman-owned winery to learn about local flavors and production
- ▶ Sit down with Giuliana Longo at her cap store and learn how she makes the typical gondolier's cap

TRIP ROUTE



ITALY

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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1: Arrive in Venice, welcome dinner with your group
- Day 2: Learn to make a Venetian mask, visit the Doge's Palace, explore Bacaro
- Day 3: Visit a local wool mill, taste cheese at a local dairy, taste prosecco at a winery
- Day 4: Enjoy an Italian cooking class, private night visit of St. Marks Basilica
- Day 5: Taste prosciutto at a local factory, visit Arquà Petrarca, explore Montegalda
- Day 6: Sample local wine at Villa Monteleone and Meroni Winery
- Day 7: Walk the historic streets of Verona, visit a winery and the Oil Museum in Bardolino
- Day 8: Have lunch in a 15th century farmhouse, enjoy a private winery visit
- Day 9: Depart for the US

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$5,990

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,100

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

is this trip
right for me?

We rate this trip as easy. You should be able to walk comfortably for a few hours at a time. We have a partnership with FitForTrips, a company that will design an individualized fitness plan for you to ensure that you are prepared for the trip. Visit <https://fitfortrips.com/partners/adventure-women/> for more information.

the important
stuff

You should come with a flexible, adventurous, and enthusiastic spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor that adventure travel requires.

how do I get
there?

pack your
bags!

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

is this trip right
for me?

the important
stuff

how do I get
there?

pack your
bags!

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

Forms and Final Payment:

Once you book, you will need to fill out and return to AdventureWomen:

- Information Form
- Booking Conditions Form
- Copy of Flight Information
- Copy of Issuing Page of Passport (photo page)

Final payment is due to AdventureWomen in a cash form (check, money order, or wire transfer) on or before May 20, 2018.

Passports and Visas:

Citizens of the United States must have a passport valid for six months beyond your travel dates with at least two blank facing pages. If you do not have a passport, please apply now!

Money:

The currency of Italy is the Euro.

As of May, 2017, US\$1 = €0.89. You will be able to use credit cards during this trip, and ATMs will be accessible.

Suggested Gratuities:

- ▶ Main guide: €2-3 per day
- ▶ Drivers: €2-3 per day

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

is this trip right
for me?

the important
stuff

how do I get
there?

pack your
bags!

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

Arrive: Arrive in Venice, Italy (VCE) on August 19, 2018 in the early afternoon.

Depart: Depart Venice, Italy (VCE) on August 27, 2018 in the morning.

We are happy to help you make your flight and travel arrangements. Please contact us at:

(800) 804-8686 or (617) 544-9393
email: info@adventurewomen.com

If you'd like to do anything prior to or following the AdventureWomen trip, we'd be delighted to help you arrange any trip extensions you're interested in.

Note: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last-minute registrants, we must release hotel rooms two to three months prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

.....

is this trip right
for me?

the important
stuff

how do I get
there?

**pack your
bags!**

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

Packing Considerations: In August, it is sunny and hot in Italy. The temperatures will range from 70°-86°F during the day. You should plan on bringing cool clothing and dressing in light layers.

Clothing and Gear:

- Duffel bag or small suitcase
- Daypack or large purse
- 1 pair walking shoes (make sure you are comfortable - you will walk everywhere!)
- 1 pair flats/nicer sandals
- 1 pair flip flops
- 3-4 tank tops/tshirts
- 1-2 nicer blouses
- 1-2 dresses/skirts (one dress/top should have sleeves for visiting churches)
- 1 lightweight jacket
- 1 pair lightweight pants
- 1 pair jeans
- 1 bathing suit
- Waterproof jacket
- Hat for sun protection
- 5-7 pairs underwear
- 5-7 pairs of socks
- Sleepwear

AdventureWomen Essentials:

- Travel documents (passport, airline tickets, money)
- 2-3 spare passport photos (in case of lost passport)
- Write down/print out travel insurance number
- Locks for your suitcase/duffel bag
- Travel alarm clock with spare batteries
- Binoculars (8x40/42 models are excellent choices; center focus models are easiest)
- Digital camera, memory cards, battery charger
- Power adapters
- Sunglasses, case, and strap
- Spare glasses, contact lenses, cleaner, saline, etc.
- Money belt or neck pouch
- Your AdventureWomen insulated bottle (good for hot or cold drinks!)
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF
- Hand wipes/hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Small packet of tissues
- Tampons and panty liners (avoid plastic applicators)

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

is this trip right
for me?

the important
stuff

how do I get
there?

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bags!**

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

Essentials Continued:

- Earplugs: We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs. Available at most drugstores or at www.earplugstore.com
- Assortment of stuff sacks and Ziploc bags
- 1-2 bandanas/Buff
- Reading material/journal and pens

Personal First Aid Kit:

- Prescription medicine you usually take (in original containers)
- Personal epi pen (if you need one, don't forget to pack it!)
- Bandages, Gauze, Ace bandage, blister prevention
- Antiseptic wipes/spray
- Antibiotic ointment
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Oral rehydration tablets/packets
- Antidiarrheal medication
- Mild laxative
- Antacid
- Cold remedies
- Ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- Eye drops
- Tweezers, scissors (travel size), safety pins

If you prefer to buy a complete kit, we recommend the Smart Travel first aid kit.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

.....

is this trip right
for me?

the important
stuff

how do I get
there?

pack your
bags!

the fine print

your adventure
in depth

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

your adventure in depth

DAY 1

Sunday
8/19/18

Arrive in Venice

Venice is one of the most enchanting and amazing cities in the world. It is elegant, cultural, and exciting. It is the pearl of the Adriatic Sea, and every single site is rich with art and culture that celebrates the rich history of this city.

Pick-up and Transfer

You will be picked up at the Venice Airport by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

Welcome Dinner

Enjoy a welcome dinner and group orientation this evening.

Accommodations

Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

Meals Included

dinner

your adventure
in depth

DAY 2

Monday
8/20/18

Accommodations

Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Venice

Venetian masks are a centuries-old tradition, and are typically worn during the Carnival of Venice, but have been used on many other occasions in the past, usually as a device for hiding the wearer's identity and social status. Venetian masks are ornately designed, featuring bright colors and complex decorations.

Mask Workshop

Begin your day learning how to make and decorate a Venetian mask. Get creative - the mask is yours to take home!

Visit a Squero

Venice has about 400 gondolas in active service, all of which are made by hand in boatyards, or "squero." There are only three or four squeri left. Although the squero isn't open to the public, you will enjoy a view of the gondola craftsmen at work from the opposite bank of the San Trovaso Canal. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

The Doge's Palace

Visit with an art historian from the Doge's Palace, a magnificent combination of Byzantine, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture, the center of the Venetian Empire, and the seat of the Venetian Government. The art historian will tell you about the secrets and tales of the Palace, including the fascinating life of Giacomo Casanova, the famous libertine who escaped from its prisons.

Bacaro Tour

Discover the hidden specialties of some of the best osterias in Venice (called "bacaro"). Taste the famous venetian "cicchetti" and tapas with a glass of local wine in your hand.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

your adventure in depth

DAY 3

Tuesday
8/21/18

Venice

With its flowery, fruity bouquet and its fresh, light flavour full of verve, Prosecco DOC is the ultimate simple but sophisticated wine which personifies the unique Italian lifestyle. The Prosecco DOC production area is located in northeast Italy, more precisely in the territories of five Veneto provinces (Treviso, Venice, Vicenza, Padua, Belluno) and four provinces in Friuli Venezia Giulia (Gorizia, Pordenone, Trieste and Udine). This is one of the most stunning areas in the Italian peninsula.

Paoletti Wool Mill Founded in 1795 by Gaspare Paoletti in Follina, this is one of the biggest centres of the wool industry in the then highly active Republic of Venice. Today, Lanificio Paoletti is the only manufacturer of carded-wool yarns and textiles in the area which has resisted the passage of time.

Lunch Enjoy lunch in a local osteria, where you will experience a real journey through local products and wine.

Perenzin Dairy Perenzin Dairy is an artisanal dairy and shop with a cheese bar and restaurant. The cheese is produced by Carlo Piccoli, a cheese specialist, who is very skilled and creative. You will learn how the cheese is produced and have the chance to taste some of it.

Prosecco Winery The vineyards of the Prosecco region spread out as you travel along country roads to the first winery where the best Prosecco DOC is produced. Visit a winery and see the cellars, wine press, and fermentation room and taste Prosecco.

Accommodations

Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

your adventure
in depth

DAY 4

Wednesday
8/22/18

Accommodations

Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Venice

Saint Mark's Basilica is the cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Venice, northern Italy. It is the most famous of the city's churches and one of the best known examples of Italo-Byzantine architecture. Originally it was the chapel of the Doge, and has been the city's cathedral since 1807. It is sometimes called the Church of Gold because of its opulent design, gold ground mosaics, and its status as a symbol of Venetian wealth and power.

Italian Cooking Class

This morning, you will have the opportunity to learn how to cook Italian cuisine using traditional Venetian recipes, which differ according to the seasonal products available. Visit the market with the chef this morning to purchase the fresh products for the meal you will make. Enjoy a delicious lunch as a group.

Luciana Longo Caps Atelier

Visit this unique and amazing cap shop, run by Giuliana Longo. She produces beautiful caps and is incredibly creative. She also makes the authentic gondolier's cap.

Private Night Visit to St. Mark's Basilica

Visit St. Mark's Basilica after closing time. You will see it like no one else, as it will be opened for a private AdventureWomen visit. You'll have the rare opportunity to go where other visitors can't. Evening is when the mosaics are at their most beautiful, with all 43,000 square feet lit up, glimmering and sparkling in the dark.

your adventure
in depth

DAY 5
Thursday
8/23/18

Accommodations
Byblos Art Hotel
Villa Amista
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Venice to Lake Garda

Lake Garda is the largest lake in Italy. This alpine region was formed by glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. The lake and its shoreline are divided between the provinces of Verona (to the south-east), Brescia (south-west), and Trentino (north). The name Garda comes from the town of the same name. It is the evolution of the Germanic word warda, meaning “place of guard” or “place of observation.”

Visit a Prosciutto Factory

This morning, visit a prosciutto factory in Montagnana, a medieval village with perfectly-preserved 14th century walls.

Arquà Petrarca

Arquà Petrarca is considered to be one of the most beautiful villages of Italy. It is famous as the home to poet Francesco Petrarca. Arquà Petrarca is also famous for producing olive oil, chestnuts, and honey.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at a typical trattoria with a beautiful view of the surrounding hills.

The Bells Museum

Montegalda, a small village between Vicenza and Euganean hills, is home to the unique Bells Museum. It houses historical items dating back to the 11th century.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

your adventure in depth

DAY 6

Friday
8/24/18

Lake Garda

The vineyards of the Valpolicella region begin just outside the city of Verona and stretch in two directions from the romantic home of Romeo and Juliet: west towards Lake Garda, and the historic heart of this very traditional wine, and to the east, where younger, more modern winemakers are making their mark.

Visit Villa Monteleone

Today's wine tour will take you to a very specific area of Valpolicella: Sant'Ambrogio, one of the five towns that constitutes Valpolicella Classica, the historical wine producing region of Amarone, Recioto, Ripasso. The estate is made of fewer than 20 acres of vineyard of typical Valpolicella grape varieties. You will visit the drying center and the barrique cellar. The tasting includes Valpolicella classic, Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso, Amarone, and Recioto on the ground floor of the beautiful villa.

Meroni Winery

Meroni winery is a small company run by its young owner, who is the third generation of wine makers in his family. Meroni's Amarone is called "Velluto" (velvet), when you'll taste it you'll immediately understand why.

Accommodations

Byblos Art Hotel
Villa Amista

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

your adventure
in depth

DAY 7
Saturday
8/25/18

Accommodations

Byblos Art Hotel
Villa Amista

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Lake Garda

Verona is the town of Romeo and Juliet. In Verona, there is much more to experience than Shakespeare: history, music, open-air theatre, wine, and excellent food.

Walking in Verona

Enjoy a walking tour of Verona with an art historian. See history unfold through Verona's streets and alleys, which are still the same as the Romans designed them when they first arrived here more than two thousand years ago. The tour will include the famous house of Romeo and the house of Juliet, the stunning Scala family tombs, masterpiece of gothic architecture, Signori Square, Erbe Square, Arena, and much more.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at one of the best restaurants in town.

Bardolino

Bardolino is a small village on the east coast of Lake Garda. The wine produced on the hills overlooking the lake takes the name from the village. Visit a local winery and the Oil Museum.

your adventure
in depth

DAY 8

Sunday
8/26/18

Accommodations

Byblos Art Hotel
Villa Amista

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Lake Garda

Franciacorta is a beautiful region surrounded by green hills and vineyards, located between Brescia and Lake Iseo. It is the most important wine district in Italy for sparkling wine production.

Il Mosnel Winery

This morning, visit one of the most beautiful, historic wine estates in the area. Founded in 1836 by the Barboglio Family, Il Mosnel winery is now run by the 5th generation of the family, Lucia and Giulio. You'll visit the 16th century cellar and the garden vineyard behind the villa, where you will taste Franciacorta Brut, Vintage Franciacorta Saten, and Vintage Franciacorta Extra Brut EBB while enjoying a view of the Pinot Noir walled vineyard.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch in an ancient farmhouse dating back to the 15th century. Taste some local delicacies.

Contadi Castaldi Winery

Enjoy a private visit and tasting of different Franciacorta wines. Featured in the Italian edition of cooking reality show Masterchef, Contadi Castaldi was founded in 1987 by Vittorio Moretti, owner of the iconic Bellavista winery and L'Albereta Relaix & Chateaux, and is now widely recognized as the leader in Franciacorta Saten production.

Farewell Dinner

Have a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reminisce over all of the memories you have made and celebrate the end of an incredible trip!

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

your adventure in depth

DAY 9

Monday
8/27/18

Lake Garda and Depart

Enjoy one last morning in Italy before departing for the US.

Transfer to the Airport

Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends
as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.

Meals Included
breakfast

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

Accommodation Details

Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

Venice is a dream. Wrap yourself in its enchanting atmosphere while you stay at the four-star Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli, an elegant hotel in the historic center of the city. Overlooking the Grand Canal, next to the Church of San Stae, Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli has silent, relaxing rooms, in the tranquility of romantic Venice, hidden from the bustle of tourists and convenient for getting to the Rialto district and St. Mark's Square.

Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amistà

In the 15th century, architect Michele Sanmicheli started from the ruins of a Roman "casa forte" to design the central part of the villa in Venetian style. The current building, a work of architect Ignazio Pellegrini, dates back to the 18th century. Paintings and original art from both periods are on display. Villa Amistà is a combination of historic and contemporary pieces of furniture, resulting from the inventiveness of the well-know designer Alessandro Mendini, and with several artworks by world-famous artists, that have made the villa a real museum of contemporary art and design.

ITALY

Venice, Verona, and La Dolce Vita

August 19 - 27, 2018

your adventure
in depth

Included/Not Included

Included:

- ▶ All hotel accommodations throughout the trip
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Fully-guided sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ English-speaking guides throughout the trip
- ▶ One AdventureWomen Associate

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Italy
- ▶ Optional activities as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages
- ▶ Fees for passports, visas, or immunizations
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities