

# Art and Cuisine in Northern Italy: From the ancients to the avant-garde



## A Crooked Tree Arts Center Tour

September 8-17, 2017

for all enquiries, please contact us at: [voyagertrips@gmail.com](mailto:voyagertrips@gmail.com)

# Second Edition!

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We're excited that you have chosen to join us (or are thinking of joining us) on the second edition Crooked Tree Tour of Italy. This year the tour will be stopping in:

VENICE

VERONA

BOLOGNA

PADUA & RAVENNA



# Highlights

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- The Biennale International Art Exhibition
- Prosecco winemaker
- Murano glassworks
- Giotto frescos in Padua
- Gondola ride
- Byzantine mosaic masterpieces
- Cooking class in Bologna
- The Arena of Verona

... and lots of great food, wine, and conversation!

# Your Guides

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Douglas Heise & Erica Vecchione, Voyager Trips

Douglas, originally from Connecticut, loves the opportunity to show parts of his beloved Italy to American guests. His work as a teacher and translator have taken him across the globe, but it is his love for Italian lifestyles and his Italian family that keeps him in Italy. His interests include traditional cultures, writing, and the sea.

Erica grew up in Parma Italy, where she worked as an Italian language instructor for foreigners. Her passion for travel and her enthusiasm for teaching make her an ideal tour guide. When not organizing education abroad experiences, she is a regular contributor to the Italian national newspaper *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, a blogger on women and culture, and a great gardener.



# Venice

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Venice needs no introduction! The events we can look forward to while in the area include:

- Entrance to the world-famous Biennale International art show
- A gondola ride
- Guided walking tour of the city
- Private water taxi from the Venice airport to downtown
- Venetian cuisine
- A visit at a major prosecco winemaker
- Seeing a Murano glassworks

Plus free time to explore as you wish!



# Food Culture in Italy

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Food is a religion in Italy, with all the rites to go with it. Here are a few things to know about the food culture you will encounter during your trip.

## Slow Food, Slow Meals

The Slow Food movement, which was born in Italy, was created as a way to embrace food as an integral part of people's lives and culture, and not just mere sustenance. During our group meals, you will experience the slow pace of Italian eating, where one course glides into another in a celebration of food, conversation, and wine.

## Osteria

We have often chosen *osteria* as the places for our group meals. An *osteria* is a traditional-style Italian eatery, much less fancy than eating in a restaurant, and totally different from a pizzeria. Osteria are often family-run and serve authentic regional food made from local ingredients in a casual setting.

## Aperitivo

An *aperitivo* is an Italian institution: generally between the hours of 6 and 8, this is a moment for Italians to unwind after the workday in a social setting. Armed with a glass of wine (usually white and bubbly, like prosecco) and snacks that can be eaten directly from the bar or at your small table, Italians converse with friends and strangers in their matchless way before heading home for dinner.

# Verona

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A gorgeous Italian city with an elegant city center, all dominated by the legendary Roman arena, Verona is a great place to get in touch with relaxed Italian life.

We will visit the arena, check out classic Italian food, and drink the great Veneto wines. There will also be a stop at the Romeo and Juliet museum, in a restored Renaissance era building showing the way life was at the time of the star-crossed lovers.



# Bologna

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Bologna is many things: university town (since 1088); economic powerhouse since the Middle Ages; vibrant religious center; gorgeous old town; and home to meat sauce and lasagna.

We'll be staying in the medieval city center while in Bologna, which we also use as a base for visiting Ravenna. A traditional cooking class in Bologna cuisine is scheduled.



# Padua & Ravenna

Padua is home to the single most important fresco series in Renaissance art: the Scrovegni Chapel by Giotto. A religious experience for all art lovers. We spend time for a visit to the chapel and free time to explore this lovely town.



Ravenna has unique cathedrals decorated with spectacular Byzantine era mosaics. A must see! We'll also pay homage at Dante's tomb and have the chance to eat the traditional local "piadina" sandwiches.



# Flight Information

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This information about flights is offered here to help you make decisions about flying to and from Italy for this tour. Please remember that flight reservations are the sole responsibility of tour participants, and are not organized by Voyager Trips or by Crooked Tree Art Center.

All participants are free to travel on whichever day they choose to Italy. If you have chosen to fly to Italy earlier than the start date of this tour, we only ask you to make your travel plans in such a way as to arrive in Venice (where the tour begins) no later than midday on September 9.

We arrange for pickup for all tour participants who arrive at the Venice airport on September 9, 2017, with subsequent transfer by water taxi to central Venice. We cannot pick you up from any other airport on that date, and therefore if you arrive at a different airport, you will have to travel on your own to Venice.

By the same token, we arrange for transfer to the Bologna airport from our hotel in Bologna on the morning of September 17th, but we cannot make transfers to any other airports on that date. We are happy, though, to help you make arrangements for moving on to other destinations in Italy if you want to extend your vacation.

# Climate & Packing

September in Italy is a transition month during which the weather is usually still nice but may begin its turn toward a rainy fall. The dramatic heat of the summer is usually (but not always) gone, leaving gorgeous, pleasant days. But pack prepared for potential rain and for cool evenings. Average temperatures in this area of Italy are a high of 78 and a low of 55.

Packing is a very personal affair, but while preparing for this trip, keep the following in mind:

A comfortable pair of walking shoes can make a huge difference while on the road.

Light rain gear can make you very happy at times.

Italians are very fashionable, but in a casual sort of way, so one casual outfit for dinners might make you feel like you blend in.

A small backpack for carrying the things you need during a day trip will make life easier.

Italian plugs are different from American ones, so make sure you have an adaptor plug if you want to be able to charge up your devices. The voltage is different too, but most devices are designed to automatically adjust to different voltages.

# Medical care & diets

Italy has a universal health care system that also treats visitors to this country. If you get sick during your stay and need to see a doctor, or you need to go to the ER, or you need a prescription, these services are available for you, usually for free. That said, having your own medical insurance is always a good idea, too.

And please, let us know in advance if you are going to need any special diets so we can get organized. Thanks!

## **Prescription medicine:**

Bring a supply of anything you know you will need during your stay, but don't travel with an entire pharmacy in your suitcase. Italy has well-stocked drugstores, and you can usually get needed medicines without a doctor's prescription at very reasonable prices.

## **Food allergies and special diets:**

You can usually find any specialized food products that you need (like gluten-free) anywhere in Italy. If you are vegetarian or vegan, you may find that many of your staple foods (eg: tofu, seitan) are not so easy to track down. But remember that many pasta dishes are vegan, and that it's totally normal to get pizza in Italy without cheese. Certified kosher and halal foods are tough to find.