

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

# RIMINI, SAN MARINO & VENICE

## JEWELS ON ITALY'S ADRIATIC COAST

9 DAYS: Saturday, September 17–Sunday, September 25, 2022

**THIS HOLIDAY IN NORTHERN ITALY IS A DREAM!** It starts in Emilia Romagna, the gastronomic heart of Italy, and ends in astonishing Venice with its 150 canals, 400 bridges and countless piazzas. Our home base for the first four nights is the classic seaside resort of Rimini—a popular holiday retreat for Italians! Our adventure begins with a visit to picture book Republic of San Marino, the world's smallest sovereign state—24 square miles of mountain scenery—completely surrounded by Italy. Next up: elegant Bologna, a sophisticated university city with well-preserved medieval architecture, 24 miles of covered walkways and where food is taken very seriously! An excursion to Ravenna highlights its famous and stunning 5th–6th century Byzantine mosaics. Next is Ferrara, whose historic center is much as it was 300 years ago. There are those who argue that Ferrara is the perfect Italian city, just as fabulous as Florence. And now the star attraction: extraordinary Venice. “With its magnificent 16th and 17th-century palaces and piazzas, it is no surprise that Venice is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world.” —*Condé Nast Traveler*. We'll enjoy a walking tour of the Piazza San Marco and have time to explore on our own.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled ITA Airways flights from Boston to Bologna and Venice to Boston, via Rome
- Seven nights' four-star accommodations
- Eleven meals: seven breakfasts, four dinners with wine
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/ hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **Accommodations**

**DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston**  
**DAYS 2–5 Hotel Villa Adriatica, Rimini**  
**DAYS 6–8 All'Angelo Art Hotel, Venice**  
**DAY 9 Return flight to Boston**  
**or similar hotel accommodations**

### **Rates**

**\$3,459** per person double occupancy  
Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Single supplement is \$545. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just \$450. Call to reserve. Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.

### **Features**

Excursion to San Marino with free time. Excursion to Bologna with guided walking tour and free time. Full-day excursion to Ravenna with guided tour featuring San Vitale, Saint Apollinare, the Baptistery, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and free time. Guided tour of Ferrara including the Renaissance wall and the Estense Castle. Venice half-day guided walking tour. Day at leisure in Venice.

### **Day 1: Overnight Flight**

Depart from Boston this evening on Alitalia Airlines. Dinner is served aloft along while crossing the Atlantic. Relax and enjoy in-flight entertainment.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Bologna – transfer to Rimini**

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. Clear immigration and proceed to the connecting/domestic flight for Bologna. Upon arrival, clear customs and meet our professional Tour Manager who escorts us to the **Hotel Villa Adriatica**. After check-in and room assignments we'll have the balance of the afternoon to relax and get settled. In the evening we'll get acquainted at a Welcome Dinner with wine at the hotel. **(D)**



### **Villa Adriatica**

**Viale Amerigo Vespucci, 3, 47921 Marina Centro RN, Italy Tel: 011 39 0541 54599**

**The 4-star Villa Adriatica** is a splendid historical building dating back to 1880. This fascinating Art-nouveau villa, one of the oldest accommodation facilities in Rimini, is idyllically set just in the heart of Rimini Marina Centro. Villa Adriatica has recently been totally renovated and reflects modern comforts and welcoming spaces. The elegant, romantic atmosphere of this Art-nouveau building is enhanced by splendid pieces of furniture and fine details. Situated a short distance from the sea, Villa Adriatica Hotel Rimini Marina Centro also has lush gardens, swimming pool and solarium area.



### **RIMINI**

Although it has long been a favourite destination for a seaside holiday, there is more to Rimini than its glorious beach. One of the world's most famous seaside resorts, the charming and friendly town of Rimini is located in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, on the Adriatic Sea. Founded by the Romans in 286 BC, it wasn't until the mid-19th century that it first gained a reputation as a resort. It's a perfect place for the most relaxing of holidays, boasting 9 miles (15 km) of fine, sandy beach and plenty of bars and restaurants catering for all tastes. The town's long history has resulted in some fascinating landmarks, monuments and other places of interest to visit. Roman history is represented by the Augustus Arch and the Tiberius Bridge. A major historical attraction is the Surgeon's House; an archaeological area documenting 2000 years of Rimini's past, and the Rimini Museum is also well worth visiting. The Malatesta Temple is a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance. The great Italian film director Federico Fellini was born in Rimini and the Museo Fellini chronicles everything related to his fascinating life and career. Of course, no visit to Rimini would be complete without sampling the local delicacies such as piadina flat bread and the

fabulous seafood dishes such as pesce azzurro.



### **Day 3: Excursion to San Marino**

This morning we'll depart Italy (!) and travel just 15 miles to the Republic of San Marino – the world's smallest and oldest surviving sovereign state and constitutional republic – founded in 301. Entering into the country is simple – for tourism purposes no passports are required. But, bring yours anyway and pay a small fee to have it stamped! There are many attractions once you cross the border: shopping, scenery, cuisine, monuments, museums and works of art. Enjoy dinner with wine at the hotel this evening **(B, D)**



### **SAN MARINO**

The Most Serene Republic of San Marino is a must-see destination for lovers of history—and for those who love picturesque panoramas. One of the world's smallest and oldest republics, San Marino isn't, technically, Italy. But it is surrounded by Italy's Emilia-Romagna and Le Marche regions near the Adriatic Sea. The total size of the country is 24 sq miles! Like its name, "Most Serene Republic of San Marino," implies, the tiny country is a green oasis—the perfect place to relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. Complete with unspoiled land, rolling hills, wineries and fortresses, San Marino is a great (and less crowded) alternative to the Tuscan countryside. On a clear day, you can

even steal a view of the nearby Riviera Romagnola beaches! Hopping over from Italy to San Marino is quite easy: There is no border control, so you don't need your passport to enter... but you can ask for a stamp in the tourist department as a souvenir! The local currency is the Euro and the official language is Italian, although most shops and restaurants speak English. As an independent state, San Marino has its own military—one of the smallest in the world! The fascinating tradition of the changing of the guard is kept from April to September, every half hour from 8am to 6pm at the Palazzo Pubblico.



#### **Day 4: Excursion to Bologna**

This morning after breakfast depart for an excursion to Bologna and enjoy a guided walking tour. Bologna, the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, is a lively and cosmopolitan university city known for spectacular art, cuisine, music and culture. Well known for its towers, Bologna has a well-preserved historical downtown. After the tour we'll have free time to explore and have lunch on our own before returning to the hotel. **(B)**

#### **BOLOGNA**

Bologna, a city rich with cultural jewels, has long been one of the best-kept secrets in northern Italy. Tourists in the know can bask in the shadow of its leaning medieval towers and devour the city's wonderful food. The charm of the centro storico, with its red-arcaded passageways and sidewalks, can be attributed to wise city counselors who, at the beginning of the 13th century, decreed that roads couldn't be built without portici (porticoes). Were these counselors to return to town eight centuries later, they'd marvel at how little has changed. Bologna, with a population of about 373,000, has a university-town vibe—and it feels young and lively in a way that many other Italian cities don't. It also feels full of Italians in a way that many other towns, thronged with tourists, don't. Bolognesi come out at aperitivo time, and you might be struck by the fact that it's not just youngsters who are out doing the passeggiata, or having a glass of wine with affettati misti (mixed cured meats). From as early as the Middle Ages the town was known as "Bologna the Fat" for the agricultural prosperity that resulted in a well-fed population. In the 21st century Bolognese food remains, arguably, the best in Italy. With its sublime cuisine, lively spirit, and largely undiscovered art, Bologna is a memorable destination.





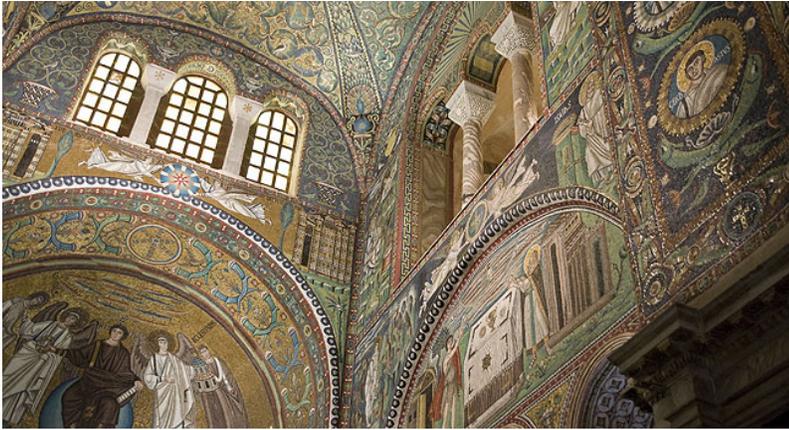
### **Day 5: Excursion to Ravenna**

Depart the hotel for an excursion to the town of Ravenna – famous world-wide for its 1,500-year-old churches decorated with marvelous Byzantine mosaics. Here we'll visit the grand Basilica di San Vitale, one of the most important examples of early Christian Byzantine Art and architecture in Western Europe. The building is one of eight Ravenna structures inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Next, we travel south to a small harbor town of Classe to view the 6<sup>th</sup> century Basilica of Sant'Apollinare. Like most Ravenna churches, it is also known for its exceptional mosaics, and also possesses elegant architecture and a fine collection of early Christian sarcophagi. We'll have free time in Ravenna before dinner with wine at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

### **RAVENNA**

A small, quiet, well-heeled city, Ravenna has brick palaces, cobblestone streets, magnificent monuments, and spectacular Byzantine mosaics. The high point in its civic history occurred in the 5th century, when Pope Honorious moved his court here from Rome. Gothic kings Odoacer and Theodoric ruled the city until it was conquered by the Byzantines in AD 540. Ravenna later fell under the sway of Venice, and then, inevitably, the Papal States. Because Ravenna spent much of its past looking east, its greatest art treasures show that Byzantine influence. Churches and tombs with the most unassuming exteriors contain within them walls covered with

sumptuous mosaics. These beautifully preserved Byzantine mosaics put great emphasis on nature, which you can see in the delicate rendering of sky, earth, and animals.



**Ravenna**



### **Day 6: Transfer to Venice**

After breakfast we'll check out of the hotel and depart by motorcoach for Venice. En route we'll enjoy a stop in Ferrara for a panoramic guided tour of this walled city. See the Renaissance walls, the cathedral, Piazza Savonarola, Via delle Volte and the Estense Castle, surrounded by a water-fill moat. Continue to Venice and be transferred by motorboat to the **All'Angelo Art Hotel**, our accommodations for the next three nights. Our evening is at leisure for dinner on our own. **(B)**

### **FERRARA**

Ferrara is characterized by twisting medieval cobblestone streets, a Duomo with a looming Gothic facade, and – best of all – a castle straight out of a storybook, complete with towers, moat, and drawbridges. Though it was settled as early as the 6th century AD, Ferrara's history really begins with the arrival of the Este, who first made their appearance in the city in 1196. The majestic moated castle, now the architectural gem of the historic center, was originally built as a fortress to protect the ruthless Este dukes from their own citizens. Today you're likely to be charmed by Ferrara's prosperous air and meticulous cleanliness, its excellent restaurants and chic bars (for coffee and any other liquid refreshment), and its lively wine-bar scene. You'll find aficionados gathering outside any of the wine bars near the Duomo even on the foggiest of weeknights. Though Ferrara is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city draws amazingly few tourists—which only adds to its appeal.



## All'Angelo Art Hotel

**Calle de l'Angelo, San Marco 403, 30124 Venezia VE, Italy Tel: 011 39 041 520 9299**

Set in a 17th-century building on the canal of Palazzo Ducale, All'Angelo Art Hotel is in the heart of Venice. WiFi throughout is free. The spacious rooms at All'Angelo Art Hotel are elegantly furnished and come with a satellite flat-screen TV, a marble bathroom and air conditioning. Paintings by Matisse, Braque, Vedova and San Tommaso can be admired in public areas. A buffet breakfast is served daily and includes homemade cakes and pastries. Angelo Art Cafè wine bar provides high-quality wines served with traditional Venetian snacks, called cicchetti. The hotel also features a private landing for water taxis. Set along a canal, this refined hotel in a 17th-century building is a 3-minute walk from Piazza San Marco, a 5-minute walk from the Bridge of Sighs and 9 minutes' walk from the Rialto



Venice (Venezia) really needs no introduction. The Serenissima has been a fabled destination for centuries. Just the name Venice is enough to conjure up a host of images, even for those who have not yet set foot in Italy: gondoliers

in striped jerseys, the Rialto and the Bridge of Sighs, masked balls, golden barges, courtesans in gondolas and crumbling palaces facing streets made of water. The western world's most famous figures visited Venice, marvelled at the gold mosaics of St Mark's, admired art in churches, explored the city's maze of canals (or, in Byron's case, swam in them).

Venice is a city unlike any other. No matter how often you've seen it in photos and films, the real thing is more dreamlike than you could imagine. With canals where streets should be, water shimmers everywhere. The fabulous palaces and churches reflect centuries of history in what was a wealthy trading center between Europe and the Orient. Getting lost in the narrow alleyways is a quintessential part of exploring Venice, but at some point you'll almost surely end up in Piazza San Marco, where tourists and locals congregate for a coffee or an aperitif.

What is Venice really like?

Venice is a glorious cliché, more romantic, more beautiful and more surprising than you could expect. No matter how many photographs or films you may have seen, it is still a jaw-dropping experience seeing Venice's canals and palaces for the first time. That first cruise down the Grand Canal - punctuated by exclamations and photo-snapping - is one of life's unforgettable experiences.



### **Day 7: Venice**

After breakfast at the hotel we meet our local guide for a two-hour walking tour of Venice Visit the Piazza San Marco, the lively heart of the “Serenissima,” which is surrounded on three sides by historical buildings with arcaded facades. See the Clock Tower, Doge’s Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. The afternoon and evening are free to discover Venice on our own. Stroll to the Rialto Bridge market to shop for bargains and souvenirs. For sheer romance, try a Gondola ride on the Grand Canal (**B**)





**Day 8: Venice – Day at leisure in Venice**

Today will be a day for exploring this marvelous city on our own. This evening we'll say goodbye to our new friends at a Farewell Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

**Day 9: Return to Boston**

Details of departure will be posted.



