

Ministry To Tourism presents A Pilgrim Journey Celebrating Jubilee Holy Year 2025

with the

Best of Italy

March 23 – April 5, 2025

April 3-5, 2025 Holy Year Feature



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Jubilee Year 2025

People of the Bible, whether Jew or Christian, have celebrated Jubilee Years for centuries.
Christian Jubilee came to be in 1300 when there was an atmosphere of anticipation for the beginning of the new century.
Pope Boniface VIII therefore proclaimed the first Holy Year in Christendom.
Rome was filled with pilgrims.
Dante Alighieri, the distinguished Italian writer, vividly recounts the event.

This is your opportunity to
enter the Holy Door and begin celebrating Holy Year 2025

“Be Pilgrims of Hope” and “Builders of Peace”

Collette’s BEST of ITALY Small group Explorations concludes in Rome April 3.
Ministry to Tourism will highlight the Holy Year during the two night extension concluding in Rome April 5.
Details TBA

Welcome to Italy! Welcome to Rome!



Small Group Travel rewards travellers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

14 Days • 19 Meals: 12 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Venice, Gondola Ride, Classical Music Concert, Po River Delta Wetlands, Choice on Tour, Republic of San Marino, Impact Moment: Culinary Arts & Agriculture Vocational School Visit, Florence, Chiusi Etruscan Museum, Labyrinth of Porsenna, Rome, *Trastevere* Food Tour Dinner

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Maison Venezia UNA Esperienze, Venice
Days 4 – 6	Borgo Conde Wine Resort , Forlì
Days 7, 8	Grand Hotel Cavour Florence, Florence
Days 9 – 12	Ponte Sisto Hotel, Rome

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1: Sunday, March 23, 2025 Overnight Flight

Join us for a fabulous Italian adventure featuring the magic of Venice, Florence and Rome. Journey to the wine-producing Romagna countryside for a 2-night stay in a wine resort, and visit the Republic of San Marino, an enclave province of Italy. Come along with us and embrace the history, culture, art and romance of this incredible country.

Day 2: Monday, March 24, 2025 Venice, Italy

Welcome to enchanting Venice (UNESCO) with its 117 tiny islands surrounded by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. This evening, meet your fellow travellers over a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Venice

This morning, explore the traditional Venetian craftsmanship behind one of the city's symbols: the sleek, iconic gondola boats. Visit a local *Remèr* oar-making workshop, one of only a handful still active in the city. Then, join a local guide for a walking tour of the Venice's most iconic sights. Pause for the perfect view over the Bridge of Sighs and take in St. Mark's Square, adorned with marbled palaces and gilded basilicas. Travel by boat to Murano for an expert glass-blowing demonstration, a renowned tradition on the island. This evening, glide along the canals during a gondola ride* before delving into Venice's classical music heritage while attending a live performance of the *Four Seasons*** composed by the great Venetian Antonio Vivaldi. (B)

Day 4: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 Venice - Po River Sailing - Romagna Countryside

Say "Ciao" to Venice as you journey towards the Romagna region, famous for its epicurean lifestyle and its *joie de vivre*. Along the way, visit the Po Delta (UNESCO). Since ancient times, this delta has been the border between the Venice and Ravenna regions, once two independent states. These wetlands will give you a glimpse into what Venice and Ravenna looked like to ancient Roman settlers making their way here from the south. You'll explore these wetlands by pontoon boat,* learning about how the ecosystem here actually aided the Romans in escaping the barbarians that harried them. You'll also learn about the lives of fisherman and farmers whose lives have changed very little over the last 1000 years. Take in the tranquil scenery before stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, continue to your hotel nestled among vineyards in the Romagna countryside and settle in for your 3-night stay. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Thursday, March 27, 2025 Romagna Countryside

Today, **it's your choice!** Bask in the bucolic landscape at your wine resort hotel and pamper yourself with an organic wine-infused mud treatment in the onsite spa **-OR-** spend the day exploring Ravenna (UNESCO). During the darkness that enveloped the last days of the Roman Empire, Ravenna emerged as a centre of power thanks to its strategic position. The city's rulers – the Byzantines, the Goths – adorned its churches with dazzling mosaics. During a guided walking tour, discover the city's most illustrious monuments including the mosaics that inspired Cole Porter's *Night and Day*. This evening, join the local chef for a hands-on cooking class centered on Romagna's most typical pasta dishes with colourful names such as *garganelli* or *strozzapreti* (priest-stranglers), and enjoy the results of your work for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6: Friday, March 28, 2025 Romagna Countryside

Grab your passport*** and journey to the landlocked Republic of San Marino, the fifth-smallest country in the world. Perched at the top of Mount Titano, the old town of San Marino (UNESCO) gives visitors sweeping views over the Adriatic Riviera and the gentle rolling hills of the Romagna countryside. Explore the Old Town's intricate system of fortification towers, walls, gates and bastions during time at leisure. This evening, wrap up your stay in the Romagna Countryside with a wine-pairing dinner at your wine resort hotel. (B, D)

Day 7: Saturday, March 29, 2025 Romagna Countryside - Florence

Today, travel to the Emilia region, Italy's foodie haven. Meet students and teachers at a vocational high school**** for an



Per Person Rates*:

Double \$7,819; Single \$9,739; Triple \$7,749

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Saskatoon Municipal, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges of \$180 per person (subject to increase until paid in full), Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$599 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

Impact Moment dedicated to the Culinary Arts and Agriculture. Here, Italy's future chefs and farmers learn how to make *Parmigiano-Reggiano* cheese according to traditional codes, dating back to the 1300s. Students also try their hand aging Balsamic vinegar, a generational process taking anything from 12 to 25 years. Enjoy a farm-to-table light lunch prepared by the culinary students using ingredients from the School's farm. Later, continue to Florence (UNESCO), the "Cradle of the Renaissance" and your home for the next 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 8: Sunday, March 30, 2025 Florence

This morning, meet a local expert for a walking tour of a city that is a work of art all on its own. Your guide will highlight the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Baptistery. You'll also visit the Piazza della Signoria with its impressive Palazzo Vecchio. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Florence's cultural riches independently. Perhaps you'll visit one of the city's many museums,**** such as the Uffizi or Academy Gallery, where Michelangelo's *David* is kept. (B)

Day 9: Monday, March 31, 2025 Florence - Chiusi - Rome

This morning, traverse southern Tuscany, the ancient land of the Etruscans. This mysterious civilization predated the Romans, who assimilated them, erasing most of their way of life, even though many early kings of Rome were Etruscans. By all accounts, they were an advanced society and culture. On a guided walking tour of Chiusi, once part of the Etruscan Dodecapolis, you'll explore the town's underground water system – which has so many twists and turns that it was nicknamed *Labyrinth of King Porsenna*. You'll also visit the small archeological museum housing some of the most interesting artifacts archeologists found in the surrounding hills. Arrive in Rome (UNESCO) in the afternoon and settle in for a 3-night stay. (B)

Day 10: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Rome

This morning, explore Rome's early Christian legacy during a visit of the Catacombs. Then, delve into Rome's second Golden Age on a walking tour exploring its Renaissance and Baroque heritage and featuring Caravaggio's paintings, alongside the Pantheon and Navona Square. The afternoon is yours to explore more of Italy's capital city. Perhaps you'll stroll down the monumental avenue of the Imperial Forums for views of the Colosseum, or climb the Capitol Hill with its monumental piazza designed by Michelangelo. (B)

Day 11: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 Rome

Make the most of a free day in the Eternal City. Perhaps you'll stroll through the Borghese Gardens for views of the city's skyline or join an optional guided tour of the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica.***** Gather tonight to toast the end of your Italian adventure during a food tour* in Rome's bohemian *Trastevere* district. (B, D)

Day 12: Thursday, April 3, 2025 Rome

Take advantage of seeing more on your own. (B)

Day 13: Friday, April 4, 2025 Rome

Enjoy another additional day to experience Rome on your own (B)

Day 14: Saturday, April 5, 2025 Rome - Tour Ends

Your time on tour comes to a close today, but there's more of the world to see. Now it's off to make new memories. (B)

Experience It! The Independent Republic of San Marino

This tiny country is the fifth smallest in the entire world, and the third smallest in all of Europe. At 23.6 square miles, only Monaco and Vatican City are smaller countries than San Marino. Set like a tiny jewel in Italy, surrounded on all sides, it only has a population of just over 30,000 residents. Here, they speak Sanmarinese, Italian, and *Romagnol*, the oldest dialect of the region. It was founded in 301 A.D. by its namesake, St. Marino, making it the oldest Republic in the world. Its Historic Centre and Mount Titano are beautifully preserved areas that look much like they did during the medieval era, which is why UNESCO declared them a heritage site in 2008, protecting them for future generations.

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1286875>

PLEASE NOTE:

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travellers who require mobility assistance devices.

In Italy, some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motor coaches, especially in the historic areas of Venice, Ravenna, San Marino, Florence and Rome. For your comfort, we recommend bringing walking shoes. Agility is required for boarding the gondola boats in Venice and the pontoon boat in the Po Delta. The visits to the underground Labyrinth of Porsenna in Chiusi and to the Catacombs in Rome require negotiating 3 to 4 flights of steps and may not be suitable for people suffering from claustrophobia.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Days of features are interchangeable.

Most shops and businesses in Italy are closed on Sundays and on national/religious holidays.

*On occasion, due to inclement weather: your gondola boat ride in Venice may be substituted with a motorboat transfer; your pontoon boat ride on the Po Delta may be replaced with an enclosed motorboat ride or for a tour of the local River Museum; and your farewell dinner in Rome may be served in a local restaurant instead.

**Exact concert program is confirmed 6 months ahead of your tour departure date and is subject to change. Occasionally the orchestra may be on tour and unavailable.

***Bring your passport to San Marino if you would like to have it stamped with the country's entry visa.

****During school holidays the visit to the culinary vocational school will be replaced by a visit to a local farm producing Parmigiano-Reggiano, and lunch will take place at a local Balsamic vinegar producer.

*****Most museums in Florence are closed on Mondays, including the Academy Gallery and the Uffizi, as are other province museums. Most province museums in Florence require reservations to access. In order to avoid standing in long lines, we suggest you reserve your ticket online prior to departure if you plan to visit the Academy Gallery or the Uffizi during your free time in Florence.

*****The Vatican Museum optional tour must be purchased at a minimum of 90 days prior to departure. The Vatican Museums date and time is subject to change based on availability of reservations. The Vatican Museums are not available on Sundays and Catholic holidays.

When reserving single accommodations, be advised that single rooms in Italy are often smaller in size.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

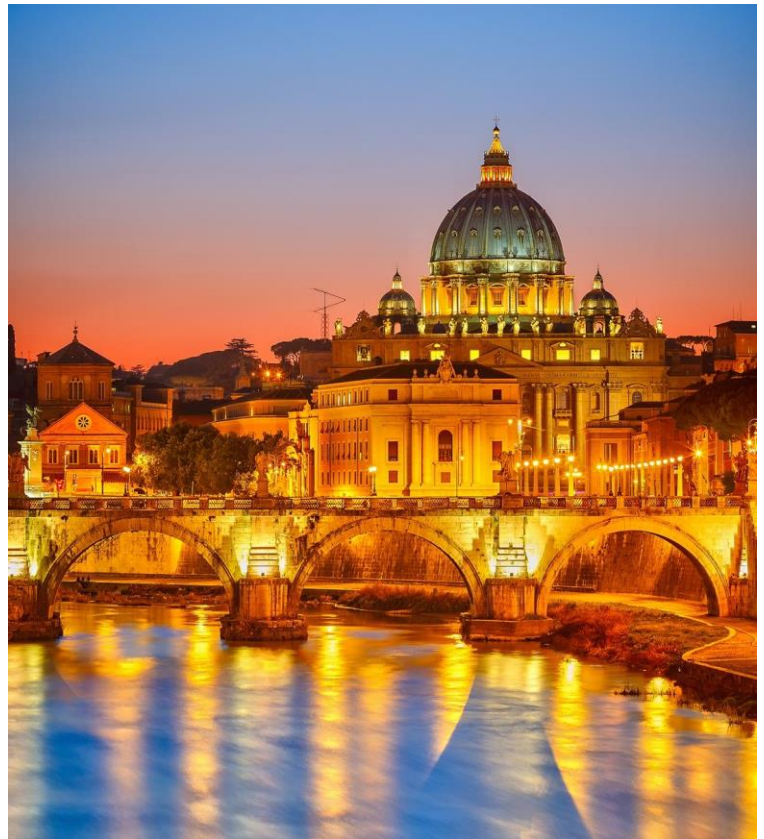
To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Documentation is required by foreign governments for all trips outside Canada. You should visit Global Affairs Canada at <https://travel.gc.ca/> for general information about passports and visa requirements. Some



countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry, so it is important that you check with the appropriate foreign consulate or embassy for specific entry requirements and details you need to know regarding how and when to obtain the visa. Please remember the possession of valid passports and necessary visas are the responsibility of each client/passenger. If you would like assistance in ensuring you have the proper visa(s) for your trip outside of Canada, we would be happy to refer you to a company that can assist you.

We strongly recommend that you have a valid passport (with seven-month validity) for all travel outside Canada.

Please be advised transit visas may be required if connecting through a country on route to your final destination.

INSURANCE

When travelling outside Canada, health insurance is required. Contact your booking agent for more details.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

There may be different living standards and practices and different standards and conditions with respect to the provision of services and accommodations outside of Canada.

Effective for travel in May 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more travelling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of September 17, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by December 23, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until September 24, 2024.

BC Reg. #23337; Travel Industry Council of Ontario Reg. # 3206405

**For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1286875>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**