



Drive your own **classic** car in **Italy** **10 Days - 9 Nights**

Guided Tour through Italian cities of ART.

Alessandria/Milano - **Riviera Levante**: Santa Margherita di Ligure - Portofino - San Fruttuoso - La Spezia - Golfo dei Poeti - Portovenere - Massa Carrara - Castelnuovo di Garfagnana - Barga - Lucca - Pisa - Volterra - Siena - Florence - Bologna - Parma - Verona - Sirmione/**Lago di Garda** - **Verona/Milano**

Day 1: Alessandria - Santa Margherita di Ligure (Liguria Riviera)

Arrival in the morning in Alessandria (Italy), by car or train. We introduce ourselves to each other, before departing for Santa Margherita di Ligure, which is considered one of the most beautiful cities on the Liguria Coast. We will drive together along the **Golf of Genoa - Levant Riviera** to Margherita di Ligure. Till Genoa we use the motorway, from Genoa till Margherita di Ligure we will use the old Roman street **Via Aurelia**/Via Aurelia Ponente; (from Milan 2 h and half, from Alessandria 1 h and 45 minutes). After a nice Italian lunch you will have free time to explore this beautiful city further, on your own. You can reach Portofino by car, by boat or by foot. The road to **Portofino** will take us along the rugged and cliffy coastline of Levant Riviera (part of the National Regional Park Portofino), offering us a seductive and fascinating coastal scenery; (around 5 - 5,5 km, SP227) in 10 minutes (cars are not allowed into the village). By foot, walking on a special path till Portofino - 1 h, 6 minutes) or by boat. Portofino is one of Italy's most exclusive harbour and resort town in Italy, crammed with the yachts of the wealthy. Nestling in a creek, its pretty pastel-coloured house surrounded a yacht-filled harbour.

Accommodation and dinner in S.Margherita di Ligure - Liguria Riviera.

Liguria Region

Hotel 4** Lido Palace or Metropol**

[HTTP://WWW.LIDOPALACEHOTEL.COM/EN/BOOKONLINE.HTM](http://www.lidopalacehotel.com/en/bookonline.htm)

Day 2: Margherita di Ligure - Portofino - San Fruttuoso (Riviera Levante)

Breakfast. Free time to enjoy the city, the beach, or optional trip by boat to see **Portofino's Promontory** and **San Fruttuoso** (National Park Portofino) with its amazing **Abbey San Fruttuoso** from 11 century. Lunch - see food - in San Fruttuoso. In the late afternoon for who want we can drive till **Camogli**, for celebrate with entire village the famous festival of the **Blessing of the Fish**, when sardines are fried in a huge pan, 4m in diameter. The fish is distributed free to all-comers.

Accommodation and dinner in S.Margherita di Ligure - Liguria Riviera.

Liguria Region

Hotel 4** Lido Palace or Metropol**

[HTTP://WWW.LIDOPALACEHOTEL.COM/EN/BOOKONLINE.HTM](http://www.lidopalacehotel.com/en/bookonline.htm)

Day 3: Margherita di Ligure - Rapallo - La Spezia, Golfo dei Poeti - Portovenere - 5 Terre - (Riviera Levante)

Cinque Terre o 5 Terre = (Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza, Monterosso).

After a relaxing breakfast we will drive to Rapallo, an elegant spa (watering place), situated on the **Tigullio Golf**, at the base of **Portofino Promontory**. We will continue our drive *along the Gulf of Genoa - Levant Riviera to La Spezia Golf*, often referred to as the "Gulf of poets". This gulf is found and referred to in works by poets like Dante, Petrarca, Byron and Shelley. The way along the **coast of Liguria Sea**, offer dramatic scenery, rocky beaches, luxury villas and an infinite blue of the Mediterranean Sea.

You will visit Cinque Terre: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza, Monterosso - by boat.

We will start with the medieval burgh **Riomaggiore**, with old houses piled upon each other in a tight and narrow valley. The visit continuous with **Vernazza**, with its colourful tall houses and a harbour **church for fishermen**, is the most fascinating of all the places in **Cinque Terre**. Due to its location and difficult access, the coast Cinque Terre and its preserved and untouched vineyards on hillside terraces and fishing villages, has seen little changes through time. Even today, the area is difficult to access. The last visit today is **Portovenere**, a small picturesque village with a grand appearance, dominated by a **citadel**. The village consist of very old and preserved houses, some of them fortified by Genovesi; others date back to the XII century. Cinque Terre and Portovenere are on the UNESCO World Heritage List and has become a National Park.

Accommodation and dinner in La Spezia, Gulf of Poets - Riviera Levante.

Liguria Region

Hotel 4** MOH La Spezia**

[HTTP://WWW.MYONEHOTEL.IT/ENG/LASPEZIA/DEFAULT.ASP](http://www.myonehotel.it/eng/laspezia/default.asp)

Day 4: La Spezia - Castelnuovo di Garfagnana - Barga - Lucca

(Parco Regionale delle Alpi Apuane)

After breakfast we will begin the journey into the Toscana region and arrive at Lucca. The **Toscana region** is a culinary region with beautiful scenery, not much different from a Renaissance painting. On route to Lucca along the **Serchio River**, we will see: **Massa Carrara**, **Castelnuovo di Garfagnana**, **Barga**, the famous bridge **Ponte Della Madalena** and if the time allow, **Borgo a Mazzano**. **Massa di Carrara** is famous for its white marble carriers, like Garfagnana. The mountain peaks seem to be covered by snow all year round, but it is only the beauty of the shining marble. **Garfagnana** it is a lovely verdant and silent valley wedged between the Orecchiella Mountains and the Alpi Apuane. **Barga** is one of the most beautiful city in the Serchio Valley, with its tawny stone cathedral - San Christopher from 11 century and charming steep street.

The fortified city of Lucca, offers a seductive and fascinating beauty and a church with a façade in pisan-romanic style, hiding works of art by some of the greatest Italian masters like Nicola Pisano, Jacopo Della Quercia and Tintoretto. We will visit the **Roman Amphitheatre**, the striking façade features a colourful 13th century mosaic of **San Frediano**, the **Dome** (San Martino) **Torre dell' Orologio** (The Clock Tower), **Torre Guinigi**, and the baroque garden of **Palazzo Pfanner**.

Accommodation and dinner in Lucca o Bagni di Lucca.

Tuscan Region

Hotel 4** Ilaria, Residenza dell'Alba or Hotel San Marco**

[HTTP://WWW.HOTELILARIA.COM/LITA/Z2/C15570-7/HHCM-GALLERY.HTML](http://www.hotelilaria.com/lita/z2/c15570-7/hhcm-gallery.html)

[HTTP://WWW.HOTELSANMARCOLUCCA.COM/HOTEL/INDEX.PHP?LANG=EN](http://www.hotelsanmarcolucca.com/hotel/index.php?lang=en)

Day 5: Lucca - Pisa - Livorno with "Venezia Nuova"

After breakfast we will continue the journey into the Toscana region and arrive at one of the famous landmarks in Italy, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In **Pisa** we will park about 10 minutes walking from the centre. **You will visit: Campo dei Miracoli**, where you will see the **Dome**, the **Baptistery** and the **famous Leaning Tower**. Due to contact with great scholars from art and trade with Moorish Spain and North Africa, the Islamic influence is reflected in the grand architecture of the Campo dei Miracoli. Departure to Livorno.

Accommodation and dinner in Livorno.

Tuscan Region

Hotel 4** Hotel Grand Duca or Grand Hotel Palazzo**

[HTTP://WWW.GRANDUCA.IT/ENG/MAIN.PHP](http://www.granduca.it/eng/main.php) OR [HTTP://WWW.GRANDHOTELPALAZZO.COM/](http://www.grandhotelpalazzo.com/)

Day 6: Livorno - Volterra - Siena, city of "Palio" city of arts

After breakfast we enjoy a walk in the second commercial harbour of Italy, the city of Cosimo I, Livorno. We will pass along the channels, in the 17th district of Livorno - **Venezia Nuova, Fortezza Vecchia** and **Fortezza Nuova**. We continue "the pilgrimage of art" with our cars through the temporal landscape of Tuscany, among pines, cypresses, olives and wine ranks to **Volterra & Siena** 2h and 15 minutes. You will pass through the beautiful countryside of Toscana and when we arrive in Volterra we will park and explore this beautiful medieval city, by foot. Climbing one medieval tower will be rewarded with a marvellous view of the city and surrounding landscape. Continue the way to Siena, the "city of pestilence", the "city of art". Built entirely in red brick, the city in ochre colour is situated on a hill top, which gives it the special character.

A visit to Siena is like a return in medieval times. Parking the cars in Siena and visit Siena by foot. **You will see: Piazza del Campo** (in the shape of a shell), the place where people celebrate **Palio delle Contrade**, two times per year in the summer. Palio is a "battle" between the inhabitants of the various city districts and is fought with a "crazy" horserace around the **Campo** (Main square). The "Palio" is not a touristic event; it is a celebration by the people of Siena for the people of Siena, with great emotional charge. The riders prepare and train for the event for a whole year and the winner becomes a local hero. After visiting the **Public Palace** with its famous **Torre del Mangia** (An 88m high tower) we will have a short break for coffee in **Piazza del Campo** to admire the square and **Fountain Gaia** (made it in 1348 and decorated in 1419 by Jacopo della Quercia).

After that, we continue our sightseeing and visit the **Dome of Siena** (made between XII and XIV century) with opulence decorations inside and outside, which surpass any imagination. The Dome is famous for the **Piccolomini Library**, which is decorated with **frescoes** made by **Bernardino di Betto**, called **Pinturicchio**, between 1502 -1509, for Papa Pio II Piccolomini, known for their delicate and fine drawings, exceptional and colourful brightness. The Dome is also famous for the floor, unique in the world, made in **graffiti** and **marble intarsia**, with scenes from the Old Testament, mythic characters and Sibile. The visit inside the Dome will take about an hour and you will admire works by Michelangelo, Pisano & Beccafumi. In Siena, Wine tasting will be possible for those who want. Free time in the city of Catherina from Siena. **Suggestions: National Gallery, Palazzo Chigi-Saracini** (the next day).

Accommodation and dinner in Siena.

Tuscan Region

Hotel 3***+ **Albergo Chiusarelli** or 4**** **Hotel Mercure Siena Degli Ulivi**

[HTTP://WWW.CHIUSARELLI.COM/EN-HOTEL-SIENA-TUSCANY/](http://www.chiusarelli.com/en-hotel-siena-tuscany/)

[HTTP://WWW.MERCURE.COM/IT/HOTEL-6375-MERCURE-SIENA-DEGLI-ULIVI/INDEX.SHTML](http://www.mercure.com/it/hotel-6375-mercure-siena-degli-ulivi/index.shtml)

Day 7: Siena - Florence, Etruscan remembers ... - Friday 17 May 2012

After a nice breakfast in Siena, we depart for **Florence**, one of the greatest artistic centres of the world, the city of Italian Renaissance and the Medici family, who attracted so many artists and geniuses to the region and city. We will drive from Siena to Florence (SR429 and SR222), through the famous Region of Chianti (Castellina in Chianti - Panzano in Chianti - Greve in Chianti), about 2 and half hours.

Arrive in Florence and drive along the Arno River (which divide the city in two parts, then continue along the Zigzagging << **VIA DEI COLLI** >>, a street made in 1865 by Giuseppe Poggi, to **Piazza Michelangelo** from where you can see the panoramic beauty of Florence. We continue the way till **S. Miniato al Monte** and **Fiesole**. Fiesole it is the place where it all started, the Etruscan adventure of Florence during the 6th and 7th century B.C. We will have a short break to see S. Miniato al Monte; a marvellous church built it in Romanic-Florentine style between XI and XIII century. We continue to our hotel, park our cars and check in, before visiting **Palazzo Pitti** (Medici residence) with **Palatine Gallery, Silver Museum** and **Boboli Garden**. Our visit will end with the **Old Bridge** named **Golden Bridge**. The name "Golden Bridge" comes from the fact that the bridge has been the place

in which gold smiths and shops have done their business ever since medieval times and still do today. Free time to explore this beautiful city on your own or to relax.

Accommodation and dinner in Florence.

Tuscan Region

Hotel 4**** NH Anglo American or similaire

[HTTP://WWW.NH-HOTELS.COM/NH/EN/HOTELS/ITALY/FLORENCE/NH-ANGLO-AMERICAN.HTML?TYPE=PHOTOS](http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/florence/nh-anglo-american.html?TYPE=PHOTOS)

[HTTP://WWW.NH-HOTELS.COM/NH/EN/HOTELS/ITALY/FLORENCE/NH-ANGLO-AMERICAN.HTML?TYPE=PHOTOS](http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/florence/nh-anglo-american.html?TYPE=PHOTOS)

Day 8: Florence, city of Italian Renaissance

After breakfast we will spend 4 hours enjoying and exploring Florence with a guided walking tour. **Itinerary:** **Piazza del Duomo**, the colossal **Dome - S. Maria del Fiore** - started in 1296 by Arnolfo di Cambio and finished by Brunelleschi in the 14th century (inside, frescos by Vasari can be seen), **Campanile** of Giotto (82 m high tower), **Baptistery** with renowned and famous gates of Ghiberti, which Michelangelo named "**The Gates of Paradise**", **Loggia del Bigallo**, the "corporation" church **Orsanmichele** (a gem made in stone, with a splendid tabernacle of Orcagna and **Dante Alighieri House**. We will take a break to taste a typical Florentine product <<**LAMPREDOTTO**>>, a must when in Florence. The visit continues in **Piazza della Signoria**, with the **Neptun Fountain** by Ammannati, **Loggia dei Lanzi**, enter into **Palazzo Vecchio**, **Palazzo Uffizi** (an art gallery nowadays - exterior), via **Borgo dei Greci** to the church **Santa Croce** - pantheon of artists. Rest of the day is free time to explore the city or personal time.

We suggest visiting: **Pinacoteca Uffizi** interior, **Medicee Chapels** with Michelangelo's sculptures, (near **S. Lorenzo**, **S. Giovanni** and **Laurenziana Library**), **Galleria dell'Accademia** where you can see masterpieces of art like "**David**" and "**The four slaves**" by Michelangelo, **National Museum Palazzo Bargello**, (prison and execution place in the past, nowadays gallery of art, sculptures by Donatello, Michelangelo, Cellini, Giambologna), **Florence Badia** (from where Dante looked at Beatrice taking care of the people), **Mercato Nuovo**, **Palazzo Medici - Riccardi** with "**Magi Court**" by **Benozzo Gozzoli**, **Carmine Church** with **Brancacci Chapel**, **Santa Maria Novella** near the station.

Accommodation and dinner in Florence.

Tuscan Region

Hotel 4**** NH Anglo American or similaire

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[HTTP://WWW.NH-HOTELS.COM/NH/EN/HOTELS/ITALY/FLORENCE/NH-ANGLO-AMERICAN.HTML?TYPE=PHOTOS](http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/florence/nh-anglo-american.html?TYPE=PHOTOS)

Day 9: Florence - Bologna - Verona, the city of lovers (Romeo and Juliet)

Breakfast. We will leave Florence and head for city of Verona on motorway, one of the most elegant cities of Italy and the Veneto Region, a city built in pink marble. Sightseeing tour with the car in the walled city, surrounded by hills, passing the old bridges along Adige River. We will see **Castelvecchio**, **Ponte Scaligero**, **Castel S. Pietro** and **Roman Theatre**. We then park the cars in the centre and continue to enjoy a walking tour of the city.

You will see (exterior): **Piazza Bra** with a **Roman Amphitheatre** from the first century AD, the third largest in the world in existence today. We continue to visit **Juliet's Home**, the place of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, **Piazza delle Erbe** the ancient **Roman Forum**, **Palazzo Maffei** - baroque style, **Torre del Gardello** - gothic style, **Home of Merchants**, ancient medieval residence of corporations, **Piazza dei Signori**, **Palazzo del Comune** or **Palazzo della Ragione** with **Torre dei Lamberti**, **Palazzo dei Tribunali** (or del Capitano), **Loggia del Consiglio** - renaissance style, **mausoleums of Scaligeri** and **della Scala** family, elegant street - **Via Mazzini**. We continue the walking tour till the Church **Santa Anastasia** from the XII century, with paintings by Pisanello and the **Dome** from the XII century with Assunta of Tizian.

Drive to famous **Sirmio** peninsula, in **Sirmione - Lago di Garda**. Sirmione was an ancient thermal SPA resort, a place for health and relaxation, since the Roman time of Cattulo, 2000 years ago...

Accommodation and dinner in Verona or Sirmione.

Emilia-Romagna Region

Hotel 4**** Sirmione, Lago di Garda

[HTTP://WWW.GARDALAKE.IT/HOTEL-EDEN/](http://www.gardalake.it/hotel-eden/)

Day 10: Verona - Hamburg by train

The last "breakfast" in Italy. In the morning, free time for shopping or a leisure stroll, in the elegant city of **Verona**, in VENETO, in the Veneto Region. We say goodbye to Italy, its timeless landscapes, domes and medieval cities, which has defied time and has amazed generation after generation and us included.

Ciao Italia, "La paese della dolce vita"!

Important:

In this event - trip are invited all type of classic/vintage cars.

It is allow joining us also people without a classic car, in a minivan, with a professional guide. The minivan will follow our caravan.

Driving Route in Italy:

Start point (A) - Alessandria

Start point (AA) - Milano, for who came without car and enjoy the caravan in minivan - fly and drive.

End point (O) - Verona

Total km: about XXX km

Longest distance to drive in one day: XXX km, from (X) till (X)

Day 2 and 8 has no driving planned.

Day 8 possibility for laundry



"The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page" - St. Augustine.