

## DELIGHTFUL NORTHERN ITALY



### Day 1 - Depart from your home airport for Milan

### Day 2 – Arrival in Milan

Upon arrival in Milan, meet your Tour Director for a group transfer to the hotel. Enjoy your time to relax or start exploring on your own. Enjoy a Get-Acquainted Dinner this evening. (D)

### Day 3 – Milan

Rehearsal is at the hotel today. Our Tour Director will help guests with their day's sightseeing. (B)



### Day 4 – Milan

In the morning, enjoy a walking tour with a Local Guide. Admire DUOMO SQUARE with its magnificent gothic Duomo and the glass-domed GALLERIA. Also see the famous La Scala Opera House. Also on the agenda, a special visit to the CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE to see Leonardo da Vinci's world-famous *The Last Supper*. This evening's dinner has been prepared at one of Milan's fine restaurants. (B/D)

### Day 5 – Milan– Salsomaggiore

Drive through the Lombardy plain and across the River Po to Salsomaggiore Terme. Enjoy an introductory walking tour of this charming town, exploring its handsome architecture, café-lined pedestrian streets, and beautiful public park. Visit its best-known landmark...the ornate Terme Berzeri spa house, an extraordinary example of liberty-style architecture and protected as a national monument. (B/D)

### Day 6 – Salsomaggiore, Excursion to Bologna

Enjoy a gourmet tour of Bologna. Enjoy a tour to see the main city sites of the "gourmet" Bologna, which will end with a sample of traditional food and a glass of wine in one of the Italian cities famous worldwide for its cuisine. (B)



### Day 7 – Salsomaggiore, Excursion to Castles of the Duchy & Parma

First stop today is SAN VITALE CASTLE at Fontanellato, an enchanting, moat-ringed medieval fortress. The castle is celebrated for its masterpiece by Parmigianino – a ceiling fresco depicting the myth of Diana and Actaeon. Next, visit the MELILUPI FORTRESS of Soragna and admire the castle's lavish baroque frescoes, paintings and furnishings. From here, continue to the fascinating Museum of Parmigiano Reggiano, turned famous with the export of its Parmesan cheese. Taste this local specialty before continuing to Parma. The visit includes a walking orientation featuring the Duomo with its famous frescoes by Correggio, San Giovanni Evangelista Church, and the Romanesque Baptistry. (B/D)



### Day 8 – Salsomaggiore, Excursion to Cinque Terre

Enjoy wonderful scenery as you cross the Apennines to La Spezia, a small city with a rich naval heritage. Take a short train ride from La Spezia to the villages, where you will enjoy spectacular views of the Cinque Terre region, where the beauty of the rugged cliffs and romantic fishing villages once inspired Lord Byron. If you wish, you can walk along the famous Sentiero dell'Amore (Love Path), a breathtakingly beautiful trail carved in the rocks that affords dramatic sea views. (B)

**Day 9 – Salsomaggiore – Lake Como**

Depart today for Lake Como. Inspiring everyone from Roman senators and great composers to Hollywood actors, Como is the romantic image of the lakes, its cobalt-blue waters lined with magnificent mountains, lush gardens, and grand villas. Later enjoy a LAKE CRUISE and view the opulent villas of celebrities including George Clooney and the Versace family followed by dinner this evening. (B/D)

**Day 10 – Lake Como**

Relax on the shores of Lake Como, situated beneath Alpine Switzerland. In fact, on clear days you can see the peaks of the Swiss Alps. (B)

**Day 11 Lake Como – Venice Area**

Depart today for Venice, more like a marvelous film set than a real live city, with its criss-crossing canals, gondolas and water buses, arched bridges, palaces and quiet little piazzas. The included orientation begins with a boat ride to St Mark's Square and is followed by time at leisure and a chance to watch Venetian glassblowers fashion their delicate objects as they did centuries ago. In the evening we will cross the lagoon to the picturesque fishing village of BURANO with its gaily painted houses. See lace makers at work and savor a mouth-watering meal, with drinks included. Afterwards there's time to shop and stroll on this unforgettable island before returning to Venice. (B/D)

**Day 12 Venice Area to Airport**

A transfer is provided to the Venice airport for your departure flight today. (B)