

Il Bollettino di Gina's Italy January 2014

2014

With the holiday rush behind and resolutions are fresh, Gina's Italy sends you greetings for a wonderful and memorable 2014. Hopefully one of your resolutions include an exciting adventure to Italy with Gina's Italy. This just might be the year. There are new opportunities and horizons planned for this year's travelers. A couple of the tours are hot off the press. Is your interest piqued? Read on.



The Grand Tour

The Grand Tour is just that. Visit and walk the streets of the ancient Romans, the Renaissance Florentines and float on the Canal Grande as did the Doges of the past. We meet in Rome on April 22 beating the tourist rush of May. Enjoy the excitement of the Colosseum, the Forum, Basilica of Saint Peter, the Sistine Chapel, and the balcony of Rome. For the return trip to Italy we will make sure to throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain. Transfer to Florence in first class on Italy's train system. In Florence, feel the Renaissance as we explore the power of the Medici family and Medieval guilds who provided the impulse and support to artists like Michelangelo, Ghiberti, Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci, Giotto and more. Encounter Brunelleschi while viewing the grand dome of the Cathedral. Understand the philosophy of the age in the Church of Santa Croce, Visit the artisan shops where the crafts are maintained and kept alive. You will leave Florence transformed by the greatness of the Renaissance. As we are whisked away on our high speed train we head for Venice. Visit the extraordinary Basilica to saint Mark and the Piazza that was loved by Napoleon. From the art walk to Murano the island of glassworks, each day will be filled with the wondrous beauty of this city on stilts. Along your steps with you each day is Gina who will make sure you feel comfortable in your setting and suggest stops and places to visit. This tour is a wonderful introduction to the fascinating country of Italy. For more information write Gina:

info@ginasitaly.com



Circle of Friends

May is filled with flowers, color and festivals. With the Circle of Friends all three are enjoyed. Meeting in Florence on May 21 we will combine the acclaimed events of two other tours; Wine & Dine and Celebrate Italy. Not only will we have full days in both Florence and Rome we will experience the yearly festival in a small medieval town in Western Tuscany. Our enthusiasm will be heightened with the behind the scenes glimpses of the participants and representatives of the city districts. Another highlight is the stop at a private B&B of a well-known vintner in upper Lazio. Within city walls dating 1100 we enter the past as we approach the front door of the B&B.

We will enjoy fine wines and dinners prepared by the local cooks who only use seasonal and local produce. Our 13 days/12 nights are filled with exciting opportunities with the locals. For more details contact Gina: info@ginasitaly.com



Puglia the Pearl

Puglia is the stiletto heel of Italy. Landscapes are beautiful, old towns of white stone are filled with picturesque Romanesque cathedrals, grand Gothic castles and a town called the Baroque Florence of the South. Puglia is well known for wine, oil, bread and pasta. There are wheat fields, almond, peach and cherry orchards. Its prize though is the olive tree that lives for thousands of years. Puglia's history is filled with invasions from the Balkans, Greeks, Romans, Goths, Byzantine and Germans, to name a few. It was under Frederick II that many of the castles were built which still dot the countryside and towns. In both September and October Gina's Italy will offer two tours to this fascinating region of Italy. Using two main bases we will visit several mysterious castles, explore impressive cathedrals, meet locals who explain their craft and local production, taste wines made with historical vines, eat cheeses like burrata, visit cave homes or churches, see dry stone homes called, Trulli, and walk the streets of the majestic Baroque center of Lecce. Tourism of Puglia is best known for its beaches. All too often people overlook the inviting little towns built on the sea or on a mountain. Tourism, though, has not left its negative effect. The people are proud of their history and are attached to tradition. It is a great area to visit before it is really discovered. More news is coming. Contact Gina for news at: info@ginasitaly.com.



Adventures in Tuscany

This tour returns once again updated and modified with more days in the countryside. We overnight in Florence three nights and visit small villages nearby using public transportation. In the country we will stay at two sites: one at a villa and the other in a small medieval town built on a hill. Scenic rides through backdrops of rolling hills planted with neat rows of vines strategically placed for ideal exposure to sun and water will fill each day as we make stops to small villages that dot the area. Dine with fine hosts, drink their wine production, taste the prosciutto of Tuscany, the pecorino of Pienza, visit Siena home to first bank in the world, visit the original Sword in the Stone. This is only a short version of what awaits you. Contact Gina at: info@ginasitaly.com.

Thank you again for your interest in Gina's Italy. 2014 will be a fantastic year for exploring Italy. If travel is on your mind, contact Gina. Spaces are limited. I hope to hear from you.

Ciao, Gina

