

Discover Italy

Contents 

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping

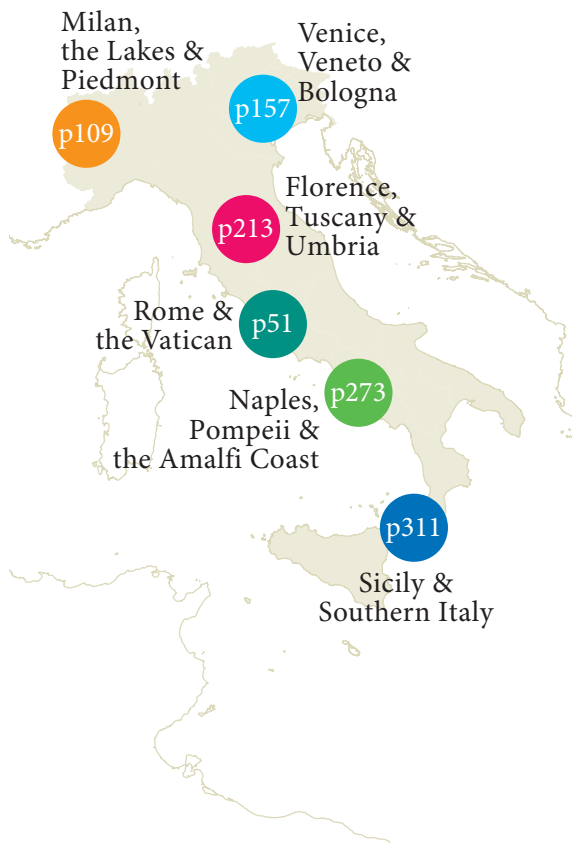


Information

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● Venice, Veneto & Bologna

Highlights 160

- Legendary Venice
- Culinary Bologna & Veneto
- Glimpse Heaven Inside St Mark's Basilica
- Admire Propaganda at the Ducal Palace
- Meet the Venetian Masters
- Clamour for More at Verona's Roman Arena
- Bologna's Quadrilatero

● Florence, Tuscany & Umbria

Highlights 216

- Duomo, Florence
- Sacred Assisi
- Develop a Celebrity Crush at the Accademia
- Actually Enjoy Politics at Palazzo Pubblico
- Chianti Landscape
- Feel Small in San Gimignano
- Orvieto's Cathedral

● Rome & the Vatican

Highlights 54

- Museo e Galleria Borghese
- Colosseum
- Vatican Museums
- St Peter's Basilica
- Roman Forum
- Roman Catacombs
- Trastevere

● Milan, the Lakes & Piedmont

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- Milan Fashion & Design
- Lake Como
- Da Vinci's Last Supper
- Get Wowed atop Milan's Duomo
- Live Bellagio's *Dolce Vita*
- Window-shop Milan's Quadrilatero d'Oro
- Turin's Eatly

● Naples, Pompeii & the Amalfi Coast

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- Ruins of Pompeii
- Sing in the Blue Grotto
- Get a Positive Outlook in Positano
- Become Speechless in Ravello
- Turn Back Time at Museo Archeologico Nazionale
- Make a Meal of the Centro Storico

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 - Go Greek in Syracuse
 - Hit the Beach at Taormina
 - Peek into the Volcano atop Mt Etna
 - Snooze in a *Sassi*
 - Glimpse Heaven inside the Palatine Chapel

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This Is Italy

Packing your bags for every possible Italian adventure is a challenge – yet Italy makes it look easy, with 47 Unesco World Heritage sites, 20 champion soccer teams, 40 European Union–acclaimed cheeses and (get this) one million vineyards, all crammed into a country the size of a Prada clutch.

Just come as you are, and let Italy show you how it's done. In a couple of days you'll have a new wardrobe; in a week you'll be on a Vespa, making gestures that could get you arrested elsewhere. You've got places to go: an Amalfi Coast beach, maybe an opera in a Roman amphitheatre, or your pick of Italy's year-round festivals. You don't have to wait for Venice Carnevale or yet another World Cup victory to party in the streets – any old saint's day or country *sagra* (harvest fair) will do.

Hungry? Ah, that's Italy's favourite word. Thanks to ancient volcanoes and an unusually sunny disposition, there's always some local, seasonal speciality bursting with flavour, and it will be delivered to you atop the best pasta or risotto you will have in this lifetime. City-state turf battles long fought by armies are now waged by *pizzaioli* (pizza-makers) over the correct thickness of a crust – best not to get the Neapolitans and Romans started. Just eat and smile, which should be easy.

Maybe it's the Mediterranean diet, but Italy wears its millennia of turbulent history extraordinarily well. Roman towns like Pompeii, Herculaneum and Ostia Antica were so well preserved by their masks of mud or volcanic ash, you'll swear they're not a day over 1950 years old. But Italy also offers glimpses into the future, with cutting-edge design showcases during Milan's Salone Internazionale del Mobile and a recent boom in contemporary art museums in Venice, Turin, Naples and Rome. For big ideas, major meals and outsized personalities, Italy has your dream vacation in the bag.

“
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Top Experiences

- 1 Historic Rome
- 2 Basilica di San Marco, Venice
- 3 Pompeii
- 4 Renaissance Florence
- 5 Amalfi Coast
- 6 Slow Food, Piedmont
- 7 Lake Como
- 8 St Peter's Basilica, Rome
- 9 Duomo, Milan
- 10 Museum Madness (Rome, Florence, Venice & Milan)
- 11 Siena's Palazzo Pubblico
- 12 Mt Etna, Sicily
- 13 Evening in Trastevere
- 14 Cinque Terre
- 15 Tuscan Food & Wine
- 16 Giotto's Frescoes, Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi
- 17 Blue Grotto of Capri
- 18 Baroque Lecce
- 19 Centro Storico, Naples
- 20 Grand Canal, Venice
- 21 Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper, Milan
- 22 San Gimignano
- 23 The Dolomites
- 24 Bologna's Quadrilatero
- 25 Reggia di Venaria Reale, Turin