



Italy

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Best Places to Eat

- Pizzeria Gino Sorbillo (p702)
- Casa Coppelle (p655)
- Osteria Ballarò (p711)
- L'Osteria di Giovanni (p690)
- Osteria de' Poeti (p682)

Best Museums & Galleries

- Vatican Museums (p645)
- Galleria degli Uffizi (p685)
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- Museo e Galleria Borghese (p647)
- Gallerie dell'Accademia (p673)

Why Go?

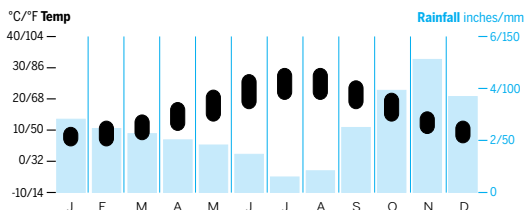
A favourite destination since the days of the 18th-century Grand Tour, Italy may appear to hold few surprises. Its iconic monuments and masterpieces are known the world over, while cities such as Rome, Florence and Venice need no introduction.

Yet Italy is far more than the sum of its sights. Its fiercely proud regions maintain customs and culinary traditions dating back centuries, resulting in passionate festivals and delectable food at every turn. And then there are those timeless landscapes, from Tuscany's gentle hillsides to icy Alpine peaks, from Tuscany's gentle hillsides to spitting southern volcanoes.

Drama is never far away in Italy and its theatrical streets and piazzas provide endless people-watching, ideally over a leisurely lunch or cool evening drink. This is, after all, the land of *dolce far niente* (sweet idleness) where simply hanging out is a pleasure and time seems to matter just that little bit less.

When to Go

Rome



Apr & May

Perfect spring weather; ideal for exploring vibrant cities and blooming countryside.

Jun & Jul

Summer means beach weather and a packed festival calendar.

Oct

Enjoy mild temperatures, autumn cuisine and the *vendemia* (grape harvest).



Italy Highlights

- See awe-inspiring art and iconic monuments in **Rome**.
- Take to the water past Gothic palaces, domed churches and crumbling piazzas in **Venice** (p672).
- Explore the exquisite Renaissance time capsule that is **Florence** (p684).
- Work up an appetite for the world's best pizza in the backstreets of **Naples** (p698).
- Visit regal palaces and museums in **Turin** (p664).
- Admire glorious Gothic architecture and renaissance art in **Siena** (p694).
- Bask in inspiring sea views on the **Amalfi Coast** (p707).
- Enjoy an open-air opera in one of Italy's most romantic cities, **Verona** (p670).
- Feast on foodie delights and medieval architecture in hedonistic **Bologna** (p682).
- Revel in drama at an ancient Greek theatre in **Syracuse** (p713).