




# Italy

2025

 **Ark Mortgage**





**Italy is a beautiful country full of history, amazing food, and scenic landscapes. On this trip, we'll explore Italy and learn about its long history.**

Our once-in-a-lifetime adventure will carry you through the rich experience in Italy - from ancient times to the present. But this trip is not just about learning history; it's about relaxing, having fun, and celebrating a successful year for our team. So prepare to discover charming cities and towns while you enjoy the most luxurious hotels and gourmet food at every meal.

Enjoy the experience!





**Sunday**  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>



Departing from JFK with ITA airlines, leaving 9:15 PM AZ 611  
to FCO Leonardo da Vinci International Airport.

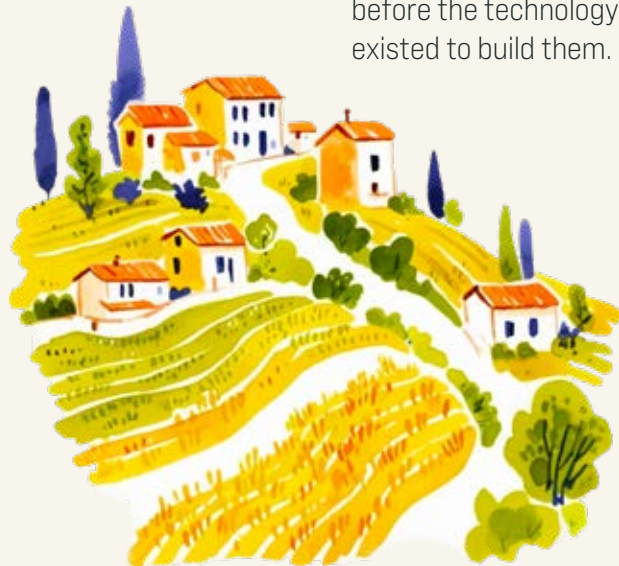
**Fun Fact**

**Inventor Ahead  
of His Time:**

Leonardo da Vinci designed inventions like helicopters, parachutes, and even a robot knight, centuries before the technology existed to build them.

**Left-Handed  
Genius:**

Leonardo was left-handed and often wrote in mirror script, a unique style where his writing could only be read by holding it up to a mirror.



# Accommodations



**The Hotel Viminale** ★★ ★★  
Via Cesare Balbo 31, 00184 Rome



The Hotel Viminale Rome is centrally located and within easy walking distance of many of Rome's famous historic sites including the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and Piazza Venezia.



This boutique hotel has recently been renovated, is under new management, and has only been open since last April.

**We will be staying here Monday,  
February 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>.**



# Monday

February 24<sup>th</sup>

Landing in Rome, Italy Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> in the morning, about 11:45 AM and get settled into Hotel Viminale.

You will then take a private walking tour of the historic Jewish Ghetto, exploring the *Tempio Maggiore* or Old Jewish Synagogue, and other landmarks of Rome.

## Fun Fact

**Catacombs:** In Rome are ancient underground burial sites, dating back to the 2nd century CE.

**Rome's Jewish Quarter:** The Jewish Ghetto in Rome was established in 1555.

**Artichokes:** The famous *carciofi alla giudia* (fried artichokes), originated in the Jewish Ghetto and remains a favorite.



# Tuesday

February 25<sup>th</sup>



Rome is an open air museum, with historical artifacts everywhere you look. On this day you will explore some of the greatest of them all. You will be led by two of the best Jewish tour guides.

You will start by visiting one of the wonders of the world, the iconic Colosseum, and get a deeper understanding of its history. Then you will walk to Titus' Arch, which depicts scenes from the Roman Empire.

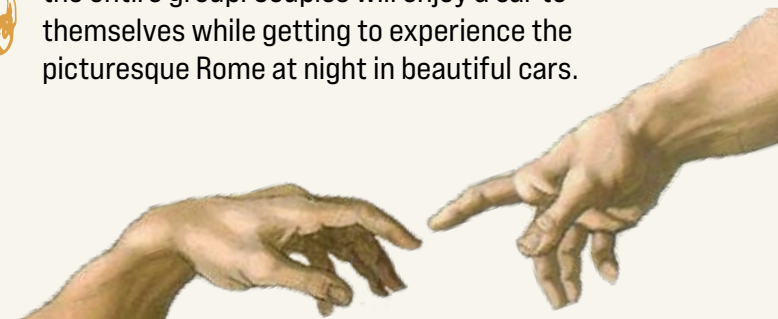


You will then travel over the border to the world's smallest country - Vatican City - a country within country. Have your passport handy today (and everyday of our trip - you'll need it to enter many locations).

## Late Night Tour



After dinner there will be a vintage car tour for the entire group. Couples will enjoy a car to themselves while getting to experience the picturesque Rome at night in beautiful cars.







# Wednesday

February 26<sup>th</sup>

After checking out of the Viminale Hotel you will take a high-speed train at 9:30 AM to Venice (4 hour trip). Daven & breakfast in the business train car, exclusive to our group.

In Venice you will embark on a fleet of private taxi boats reserved for our group, and tour the iconic city with our professional guide. Discover the rich history in the Venice Jewish Quarter plus a visit to St. Mark's square.

Dinner will be at the famous Gam Gam. Relax at an outdoor table and enjoy the view of the Guglie Bridge on the Cannaregio Canal.

# Accommodations

## Villa Cora Florence ★★★★★

Viale Machiavelli, 18, 50125



Villa Cora has been named one of The Leading Hotels of the World. This historic hotel will charm you with enchanting, timeless ambiance, graced by elegance. Relax by the heated pool or luxury spa. Located in the Oltrarno district, it is a short walk from the heart of Florence.

**We will be staying here from Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> until our departure on Sunday morning, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



# Thursday

February 27<sup>th</sup>



This part of your Italy adventure takes you to Tuscany, a region filled with history, stunning landscapes, and unique cultural experiences. Start the day by visiting the Carrara Mountains, home to the world's finest marble. Carrara marble has been prized for centuries and was used in masterpieces like Michelangelo's David. You'll get to tour the famous marble quarries, where massive mountains are carefully carved into beautiful slabs, showcasing a process that's as fascinating as the marble itself.

## Fun Fact

**Marble:** Carrara marble, famous worldwide, has been used in structures and tombstones across Italy.

Next, head to Pisa to see one of Italy's most iconic landmarks—the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Tilting since its construction in 1372, the tower attracts thousands of visitors each year. Snap a photo “holding up” this world famous monument and learn about the incredible engineering behind its survival.

A short drive brings you to Livorno, a charming coastal town and a hub for Sephardic Jews fleeing Spain and Portugal.



# Friday

February 28<sup>th</sup>

You can join an optional walking tour of Florence. The tour begins in the Jewish Quarter, where you'll visit the largest synagogue in Italy and explore its fascinating museum. From there, walk to its lively central square, the heart of Florence. Here, you'll have the chance to admire the famous Bell Tower and enjoy stunning views of the city.





**Sunday**  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>



After breakfast in the hotel at 8:00 AM the group will pack up and begin our journey home.

NEED TO LEAVE AT 9 AM SHARP. You will take a bus to the airport, a 3.5 hour drive.

**Flight #AZ 610**

Rome International Airport

Departing 2:50 PM

Arriving 6:55 PM in JFK



# Fun Facts

**Three Active Volcanoes:** Italy has three active volcanoes: Mount Etna, Stromboli, and Mount Vesuvius, the last of which famously buried Pompeii in 79 CE.

**Oldest University:** Italy is home to the world's oldest university still in operation, the University of Bologna, founded in 1088.

**Tilt Correction:** Engineers worked to stabilize the Tower of Pisa in the 1990s, reducing its lean from about 5.5 degrees to 4 degrees.

**Pizza:** Pizza originated in Italy, specifically in Naples, and is considered a national dish, with the "Pizza Margherita" - topped with tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil - being named after Queen Margherita of Savoy, who was particularly fond of it when visiting Naples in 1889, representing the colors of the Italian flag;

**Modern Banking:** Originated in Italy around 1150 as Jews fleeing persecution brought new practices, including interest-charging moneylending, merchant banking, stocks, interest bearing deposits, insurance, credit, currency exchange, and more all arise to the merchant banks of the Italian piazzas.

**Battery Powered:** The electric battery was invented in Milan in the year 1800 by physicist Alessandro Volta.



**Thank you for being a part of  
our extraordinary team!**

We look forward to another year of helping your  
clients navigate the better way home.

