

TWO WEEKS IN ITALY: MY ITALY ITINERARY

Day 1 Venice

- Private water taxi to the hotel.
- We stayed at the [Splendid Venice - Starhotels Collezione](#) (8/10)
 - Last time I was in Venice, we stayed at [Hotel Bel Sito & Berlino](#) (6/10)
- Italian cappuccino at a cafe on St. Mark's Square called [Caffe Quadri](#) (8/10)
- Walked to the Rialto Bridge and wandered the canals without a destination in mind. We ate dinner at [Rossopomodoro Venezia](#) (4/10)
- Since we were tired and jetlagged, we called it an early night.

Day 2 Venice

- We slept in a bit this day since it was raining pretty heavily and took our time getting ready.
- Lunch of beef carpaccio and charcuterie at [Osteria San Luca](#) (8/10) before hitting the canals of Venice.
- We walked towards the Accademia Bridge which I remember the view is better than the Rialto Bridge. Some sights to see on the other side of the Accademia Bridge: San Giorgio Maggiore church, art galleries, quiet canals with fewer tourists.
- [Dinner at Ai Gondolieri](#) (8/10)

Day 3 Venice

- We finally had a break in the weather and we got up early to take advantage of the sun.
- Lunch was at [The Hotel Monaco and Grand Canal](#) (9/10)
- After lunch, we walked along the Grand Canal to the Bridge of Sighs to see the Doge's Palace from the outside.
- We were supposed to have dinner at [Terrazza Danieli](#) (7/10) for a drink on the roof.
- Highest on my list which we saved for the nicest day was a gondola ride. It is 120 Euros for 40 minutes, and that cost is regulated by the city of Venice.
- We stumbled upon [Laguna Murano Glass Showroom](#) where we purchased hand-blown Murano glass after a tour of the showroom.
- We then wandered the canals desperate to get away from tourists to the [Castello area of Venice](#).
- We had dinner near the square at [Osteria ai do Archi](#) (9/10) which was excellent, probably our favorite meal in Venice.
- We had an early train to Florence, so we arranged for a water taxi to pick us up directly from our hotel and leave us at the train station.

Florence

Day 1 Florence

- [Check in to Hotel Brunelleschi](#) (9/10) - I would highly recommend this hotel.
- We started at the [Duomo](#) and walked around the surrounding area, popping in and out of shops and taking in the sights.
- We walked from the Duomo to Ponte Vecchio just as the sun was really starting to shine, so we sat for a while at a bar overlooking Ponte Vecchio.
- Dinner reservations were right across the Ponte Vecchio on the other side of the bank at a place that was recommended to me called [Golden View](#) (10/10).
- For an amazing rooftop bar in Florence, go to [La Terrazza Continentale](#) (9/10). **It was a magical first night in Firenze.**

Day 2 Florence

- In the morning, we had breakfast at the hotel and decided to follow Rick Steves' Renaissance Walk. The walk takes you by and gives the history on the [Duomo](#), [Campanile](#), [Baptistry](#), [Piazza della Repubblica](#), [Piazza della Signoria](#), [Loggia dei Lanzi](#), all the way to the [Ponte Vecchio](#).
- We crossed the Ponte Vecchio and set our sights on [Piazzale Michelangelo](#).
- On the way, we had lunch at [Osteria Antica Mescita San Niccolo](#) (5/10) in the Oltrarno neighborhood.
- The walk up to [Piazzale Michelangelo](#) was quite easy and only took about 20 minutes. We came across a [beautiful rose garden](#) on the way to the top of the hill which was one of the most serene spots.
- At Piazzale Michelangelo, mom spotted a church that she wanted to take a look at, so we hopped in a taxi and headed for [Santa Croce church](#). We discovered that in the monastery next to the church is [a very old leather school](#) that you can actually get a tour of and see the [master artisans working with leather](#).
- We had dinner near our hotel at a restaurant called [Trattoria dall'Oste](#) (5/10).
- After dinner, we headed to the [SESTO rooftop at The Westin Excelsior](#) (10/10) because we are here for the views.

Siena and Tuscany

Day 1 Tuscany

- We walked around and then stopped to have coffee at [Rivoire](#) (9/10) and people watched.
- Stay at [B&B La Terrazza Sul Campo](#) (10/10)
- We changed and went straight for [Piazza del Campo](#), one of the best squares in Italy.

- Dinner reservations were at [La Taverna di San Giuseppe](#) (10/10) which was the highlight of our trip to Italy and favorite meal.

Day 2 Tuscany

- Originally, we had planned to arrange a car to take us to see another hill town near Siena like [San Gimignano](#), but when we arrived in Siena we chose to explore more of it on our second day.
- [Palazzo Chigi Saracini](#) (6/10)- that literally looked straight out of a fairy tale.
- After that, we headed for the [Duomo](#) and purchased tickets to go inside. I highly recommend going in, even if you are not into churches, it was unbelievable.
- After the Duomo, we wandered the streets of Siena and went in and out of shops.
- We were still fighting our hangovers and the chilly weather, so we stopped for soup and a spritz at the most gorgeous courtyard restaurant called [Rosticceria Vitti](#) (6/10).
- We continued to walk around Siena and wandered into a really cute wine shop called [Pizzicheria De Miccoli](#) that also sold meat and cheese. We decided to take advantage of our beautiful apartment that evening, and just have dinner at home.

Day 3 Tuscany

- Private driver from [Tours in Tuscany](#), who curated an itinerary for us.
- We set out in the morning for [Castello Banfi](#), a very famous Italian winery near Montalcino. We had a tour of the rooms where they age balsamic, a tour of their wine production area, a tasting, and finally lunch at the fabulous [Taverna Banfi](#) (10/10) with wine pairing.
- Our Tours of Tuscany trip continued as we headed through the [Val d'Orcia](#), a UNESCO world heritage site and something I had high on my list for this trip.
- [Pienza](#) is halfway between Montalcino and Montepulciano where our next winery was located, and I wish we had more time there. Stop here if you can!
- Our last stop for the day was [de' Ricci winery in Montepulciano](#). I 10/10 recommend the wines, the tour, and the location.
- Dinner was at [La Campana restaurant](#) (10/10)- one we just happened upon near our apartment which was exceptional.

Positano

Day 1 Positano

- We arrived in Naples around 2 pm and hired a taxi to take us to Positano.
- We checked into our favorite hotel of the trip, [Hotel Buca di Bacco](#) (10/10).
- After we checked in and changed, we were hungry so we wandered to the beach and grabbed a spritz and a quick bite at [Ristorante la Pergola](#) (8/10).

- After lunch, mom walked to the church and did some shopping, and I went for a walk to check out the beach club, [La Scoliera](#).
- Since it was Mother's Day, I wanted to treat mom to somewhere nice and we had heard great things about the [restaurant located in our hotel](#) (10/10).
- Since we had a long day of travel and excitement, we called it an early night and headed back to our room to read our books in bed and listen to the sound of the sea from our room.

Day 2 Positano

- We woke up early to grab breakfast and do some shopping before heading to the beach club [La Scoliera](#) while the sun was still shining.
- We arrived at [La Scoliera Beach Club](#) (10/10) around 11 am to the sun glistening off the water, and basically had the club to ourselves the whole day.
- We had great weather until about 3 pm when Francesco escorted us to a late lunch at [L'Incanto](#) (10/10).
- I saw pictures of [Villa Treville](#) (10/10) on Instagram while planning this trip and put it high on my list for places to visit. When we told people we were going there, everyone commented on how excellent of a restaurant [Mastro's](#) was.

Day 3 Positano

- The weather wasn't too bad, and we wanted another relaxing beach day, so we decided to try the beach on the other side of Positano called [Spiaggia del Fornillo](#) (8/10).
- It is a bit of a walk to get here along the cliffs overlooking the sea, and we relaxed on the rocky beach with our books until heading up for lunch at [Hotel Pupetto](#) (8/10).
- The restaurant had secured us a 9 pm reservation at my dream restaurant, La Sponda at the Sirenuse Hotel, and I wanted to catch the sunset at their popular champagne and oyster bar, [Franco's Bar](#) (10/10).
- [Dinner at La Sponda](#) (10/10)- I do not know if I can do justice to our unforgettable experience.

Day 4 Capri

- The weather was not good at all on this day, and I had booked us a boat tour of the coast and Capri on [Lucibello](#).
 - If you are going to Positano, use Lucibello and mention my name for 10% off!
- As we approached Capri, Dario was able to fit our boat inside even the smallest caves, telling us the legends about the ancient Romans who vacationed on the island of Capri, where to go and what to see.
- We disembarked after 3 joyous hours at sea and caught a taxi to [Piazza Umberto](#), the main square of Capri.

- Lunch was at [La Capannina](#) (7/10) which came highly recommended from Dario and our taxi driver as an authentic local spot serving seafood and fresh fish.
- We stopped for drinks as it started to rain at the stately [Grand Hotel Quisisana](#).
- The weather continued to get worse, and we figured we should head back to Positano before the ferry stopped running. I highly recommend the ferry by the way!
- Dinner was room service in bed while we rested and talked about how wonderful Positano had been, and how we couldn't wait to come back one day.

Rome

Day 1 Rome

- The hotel arranged for us to have a car to take us to Naples where we were catching our last train of the trip to Rome.
- Check in to [The Pantheon Iconic Rome Hotel, Autograph Collection](#) (0/10). - DO NOT STAY HERE. The worst hotel ever, so much went wrong I won't even go into it.
- The first thing we did after finally checking in was head for Piazza Navona. Mom and I stayed at a small B&B on the Piazza during our first time in Rome years ago, and we had so many good memories from that area. We sat at [Caffe Barocco](#) (3/10) and people-watched while enjoying a spritz in the sun.
- Next, we decided to do the [Rick Steves' Heart of Rome Walk](#).
- Dinner was another place I researched well which was a miss [Osteria del Sostegno](#) (5/10).
- We went to a nearby wine bar ([Collegio](#) 10/10) after dinner to chuckle about how Rome did not like us anymore and prayed that tomorrow would be a better day.

Day 2 Rome

- Our second day in Rome and the last of the trip proved much better thankfully.
- We spent the morning and afternoon in the [Trastevere neighborhood](#) - my favorite.
- Lunch was at [Tonnarello](#) (10/10)
- After lunch, we hopped in a taxi and headed for the Vatican. We just said some prayers before we walked from the Vatican to [Castel Sant'Angelo](#) and across the Tiber.
- We did some more shopping and stopped for gelato at [Gelateria del Teatro](#) (10/10)- I also recommend [Giolitti's](#) for gelato!
- We found ourselves back at Piazza Navona, and as we crossed the square the craziest thing happened. We were approached by a painter who recognized us from our last trip to Rome!
 - [Check out his Facebook page here](#).
- We went back to the hotel to get ready for our last night in Italy, dinner at [Dal Bolognese](#).
- After dinner, we had one more glass of wine at a bar with a view of the Pantheon, and we cheered to the trip of a lifetime.