



Tour Information



Andrea Bocelli in Marostica





Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86
Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.
Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.
Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it Website:
http://www.consolondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra
Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit
www.britishairways.com

Transfers

On arrival in Venice, transfer by coach to Abano Terme for check in for a six-night stay at your hotel. Approx. transfer time is approx. 1 hour.

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Hotel Savoia Thermae and Spa, Abano Terme

The Hotel Savoia Thermæ & SPA is composed of the Savoia building dating back to the 1980s and the Todeschini building, the second oldest hotel in Abano Terme dating back to the end of the 18th century. Hotel facilities include bar and restaurant, Cool thermal outdoor pool, Warm thermal outdoor pool with water games, hydro-massages and cervical waterfalls, a warm thermal indoor pool with hydro-massages, spa, fitness centre, hairdressers and beauty centre with treatments available at an extra cost. All bedrooms are comfortable with bathroom with bath or shower and complimentary toiletries, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, free Wi-fi and minibar.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<https://www.savoiaterme.it/en/>



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

The cuisine is based on four core ingredients: unsalted bread (crisp crust on the outside, light and airy inside), olive oil, meat, and wine. Traditional food is simple and abundant, using the produce from the surrounding countryside, with most dishes being meat-based – *bistecca alla fiorentina* (large T-bone steak), *tagliata* (sliced rare beef), *arista* (roast loin of pork), *bistecchine di maiale* (pork chops), and well-braised game (boar, deer, rabbit).

Bread salad (*Panzanella*) or thick and rich soups are a popular first course – *sullo scio* (tomato, garlic, tagliatelle and Parmesan soup), *zuppa di cipole* (onion soup), *pappa al pomodoro* (bread and tomato soup), *ribollita* (vegetable and bread soup), and *stracciatella* (egg and parmesan cheese soup).

Sliced meats (prosciutto and salame), *Crosti toscani* (sliced bread topped with a chicken liver pate), and *Fettunta* (bread with olive oil) are common *antipasti*. Side and vegetable dishes often use chick-peas and beans.

Typical Tuscan desserts include *Castagnaccio* (chestnut cake), *Bongo* (chocolate profiteroles), *Schiacciata alla fiorentina* (sponge cake), *Schiacciata con l'uva* (sweet grape bread), *cantuccini* (almond biscuits), and Pisa's *Torta con i Bischieri* (rice, milk and lemon tart). Ice-cream and sorbet are also favourites, even more so during the summer months.

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

Tuscany's viniculture regions produce a wealth of high quality, world famous wines, with 80% of the production being reds, predominantly based on the *Sangiovese* grape variety. *Chianti*, *Brunello di Montalcino*, and *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano* are popular reds, the dry *Vernaccia di San Gimignano* an excellent white.

The renowned Tuscan dessert wine *Vin Santo* (holy wine) is generally made from *Trebbiano* and *Malvasia*, although *Sangiovese* is also used to produce a rosé version.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Strega*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily



Destination

Abano Terme is a spa resort in the Veneto region of north-east Italy, close to Padua. The town is located close to a range of low green hills, the Colli Euganei (Euganean Hills). The 'Terme' part of the name means 'spa' - previously the town was also known as Abano Bagni, which means much the same. Abano is pronounced with the stress on the first syllable; both 'e's of Terme are pronounced. A sign at the entrance to Abano Terme greets visitors: 'Welcome. Please avoid disturbing noises'. This sums up the atmosphere of the leafy town. Abano is dedicated to rest and relaxation and does its best to avoid anything which might disturb the languid pottering of its visitors. In a welcome return of his hugely successful, sold-out concert in 2016, Andrea Bocelli will be returning to perform a live concert in the little town of Marostica, in the Veneto northwest of Venice. The internationally acclaimed, award-winning tenor will perform with choir and orchestra in a spectacular performance in two parts, the first dedicated to the most famous opera arias, and the second a reflection of his most popular hits. Marostica is a picturesque town, embraced by its ruined hilltop castle and defensive walls, and the lower castle (the Castello Inferiore) in the town itself. The concert will take place in the beautiful setting of Piazza degli Sacchi in Marostica.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Vicenza

Vicenza was a prosperous town under Venetian rule, and its pride was demonstrated in fine architecture, much of which still survives. Its 'unique appearance,' largely owing to the work of influential sixteenth-century architect Andrea Palladio, has led to the town's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site: City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto. After Palladio, Vicenza is most famous for its trade in precious metals, it's also known as the 'City of gold'. For more information about Vicenza, please visit:

<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/vicenza.html>

Ferrara

A heavyweight Renaissance art city, with UNESCO World Heritage status, peppered with colossal palaces and still ringed by its intact medieval walls. Historically, Ferrara was the domain of the powerful Este clan, rivals to Florence's Medici in power and prestige, who endowed the city with its signature

building – a huge castle complete with moat positioned slap-bang in the city centre. Ferrara suffered damage from bombing raids during WWII, but its historical core remains intact. Of particular interest is the former Jewish ghetto, the region's largest and oldest, which prevailed from 1627 until 1859 and the Romanesque Ferrara Cathedral which has a 3-tiered facade and a marble bell tower.

For more information about Ferrara, please visit:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/emilia-romagna-and-san-marino/ferrara>

Venice

Never was a thoroughfare so aptly named as the Grand Canal, reflecting the glories of centuries of Venetian architecture in the 50 palazzi and six churches lining its banks. At the end of Venice's signature S-shaped waterway, the Palazzo Ducale and Basilica di San Marco add double exclamation points. But hiding in the narrow backstreets: neighbourhood churches lined with Veroneses and priceless marbles, convents graced with ethereal Bellinis, Tiepolo's glimpses of heaven on homeless-shelter ceilings, and a single Titian painting that mysteriously lights up an entire basilica. The central square, Piazza San Marco, contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile bell tower offering views of the city's red roofs.

For more information about Venice, please visit:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/venice>

Verona

Verona was an important Roman town and is rich in archaeological sites, the grandest of which is the Roman Arena, where operas are now performed in the summer. It's easy to spend a long time simply exploring the narrow streets lined with handsome palazzi that make up the historic centre. The town's museums and churches contain fine works of art, while the ruined Roman theatre over the river has excellent views from the terraces where the ancients watched plays. Shakespeare is extremely unlikely ever to have set foot in Verona. However, his source for the plot of Romeo and Juliet was derived at several removes from an Italian story set in the town, featuring two feuding families with names similar to those of historical Veronese dynasties.

For more information about Verona, please visit:

<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/verona.html>

Padova

Padua (Padova) is a large town in the Veneto region in north-eastern Italy and is home to an ancient university and the Scrovegni Chapel (Cappella degli Scrovegni), with its priceless frescoes by Giotto. The town centre is an attractive place to explore, with many historic streets to wander. It's always been a wealthy town, and has fine architecture covering many different eras.

For more information about Padova, please visit:
<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/padua.html>

Bocelli Concert

In the spectacular outdoor venue of the Palazzo Castello in the lovely town of Marostica, Andrea Bocelli will perform a concert in two parts – the first half dedicated to opera, the second to the music of his widespread “crossover” repertoire.

There is a significant walk to the concert venue from the drop off point, so this tour may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties.

Important information

In the unlikely event of the total cancellation of the performance due to weather, ill-health, or any other reason or change of cast, the ticket price will only be refunded if the entire performance is cancelled. Only the ticket price will be refunded under such circumstances and no reimbursement made for travel expenses such as flights, hotels, meals etc.

Reading Suggestions

Andrea Bocelli, *Andrea Bocelli: The Music of Silence*.
A splendid autobiography, by one of the best known and successful male singers in the world.

Henry James, *Italian Hours*, 1909.

Published at the end of his life, Henry James portrays his love of Italy through this series of essays, written over nearly four decades.

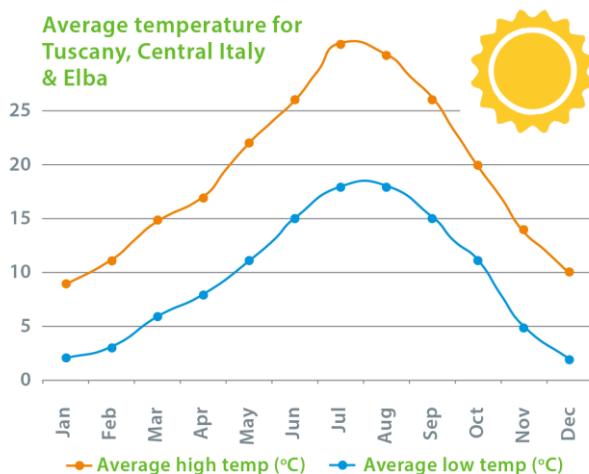
Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Italy at this time of year is likely to be warm, but there is always the chance of the odd shower or thunderstorm. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form

of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note than some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Italy, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

We would advise ensuring that your travel insurance has full health cover in the event that the EHIC becomes invalid following the end of the transition period in December 2020.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:
<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:
00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:
00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate general Milan
Via S. Paolo, 7
20121 Milan
Italy
Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431
Fax: +39 (0)2 8646 5081
Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 2413.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London EC1V 9DB
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