



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

Portrait of Italy

from the Amalfi Coast to Venice

March 29-April 13, 2025

16 days from \$5,174 total price from Boston, New York
(\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$679 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.

**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Alumni and Friends of Mississippi State**



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs...

Dear Mississippi State Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to travel with us on an exclusive 16-day journey to Italy. Your small group will experience the best of Italy's countryside and its great cities – Rome, Florence, and Venice. This journey showcases priceless art, outstanding cuisine, and unique lodgings.

Staying on the storied Amalfi Coast, discover Italy's Campania region, visiting historic Pompeii and exploring Sorrento. Next, during a three-night stay in Rome, see the city's most famous sights and enjoy time for independent exploration. Then it's on to Umbria and Tuscany with their traditional villages and medieval hill towns: Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, and San Gimignano. In Florence, you have the opportunity to see priceless Renaissance art, then you experience a tasting at a local winery in the Chianti region. Your journey concludes in magical Venice, with time to view its iconic sights and the chance to prolong your stay in this timeless city with a 3-day/2-night post-tour extension.

Space is limited to 24 guests, and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

Leanna P. Smith

Leanna P. Smith
Assistant Director of Alumni Partnerships & Business Development
Mississippi State University Alumni Association

MISSISSIPPI STATE RESERVATION FORM: PORTRAIT OF ITALY

To reserve your place on tour, please call **Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited's office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

PORTRAIT OF ITALY • MARCH 29-APRIL 13, 2025

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour "Venice – On Your Own" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and friends

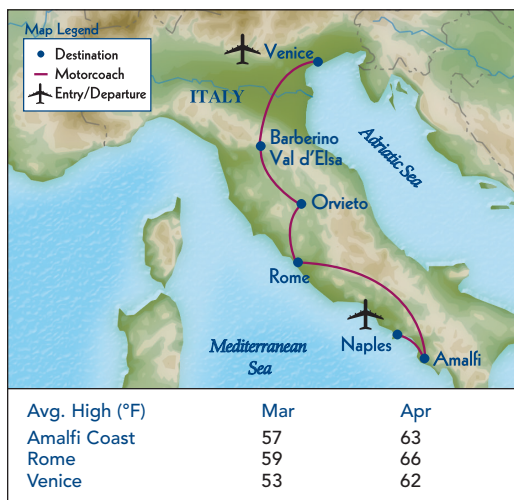
Portrait of Italy

from the Amalfi Coast to Venice

16 days from \$5,174 total price from Boston, New York

(\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$679 airline taxes and fees)

From the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to eternal Rome, through the gentle Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to timeless Venice, this wide-ranging tour showcases ancient sites, contemporary life, priceless art, and beautiful natural scenery. You'll especially appreciate the small size of your group as you stay in unique accommodations in the Tuscan countryside and in a medieval village.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Naples, Italy

Day 2: Arrive Naples/Amalfi Coast After arriving in Naples this morning, we travel to the storied Amalfi Coast, a popular resort and our base for exploring Italy's Campania region. We dine at our hotel tonight, as we will throughout our stay here. *D*

Day 3: Ravello This morning we experience this breathtaking coast by sea as we cruise from our hotel to Amalfi Center (weather permitting). Here we enjoy a brief tour of the region's largest town then have lunch on our own. Next we ascend to mountaintop Ravello, with its spectacular gardens and coastal views. *B,D*

Day 4: Pompeii/Amalfi Coast/Sorrento Our full-day excursion begins in Pompeii, the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE but not excavated until 1748. After a tour and lunch on our own here we embark on a breathtaking drive along the winding Amalfi Coast road high above the azure Mediterranean – with stops for photos and in Sorrento along the way. We return to our hotel late afternoon. *B,D*

Day 5: Amalfi Coast/Montecassino/Rome En route to Rome today we visit the town of Montecassino, whose Abbey is the mother church of the Benedictine order and a center of medieval art. A German stronghold during World War II, the hilltop Abbey was destroyed by Allied bombing then rebuilt as a replica of the 17th-century original. We tour the Abbey, then continue on to the Eternal City. We arrive at our well-located hotel mid-afternoon; our tour director will lead an informal walk of the nearby area. *B*

Day 6: Rome This morning we tour the heart of ancient Rome: the 55,000-seat Colosseum, built in 72 CE to stage gladiator spectacles; and the temples of the Forum, ancient Rome's political and legal center. The afternoon is free to explore on our own; the possibilities endless: shopping along the fashionable Via Veneto; sipping *espresso* in beautiful Piazza Navona; seeing the Pantheon, the city's best preserved ancient

Physical Activity Level

3 **Moderate**

Walk 2-4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain or cobblestones; occasional long walks from motorcoach drop-off to sights and hotels; embarkation/disembarkation from multiple boats; numerous staircases on bridges in Venice

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Naples		
2-4	Amalfi Coast	Hotel San Francesco	First Class
5-7	Rome	Monti Palace Hotel	Sup. First Class
8-10	Orvieto (Umbria)	Grand Hotel Italia	First Class
11-13	Barberino Val d'Elsa (Tuscany)	Certosa di Pontignano	Sup. First Class
14-15	Venice	Carnival Palace Hotel	Sup. First Class
16	Depart Venice for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: The Amalfi Coast boasts colorful villages and stunning scenery overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea.



The Roman Forum dates to the 7th century BCE.

building; tossing a coin into Trevi Fountain; or visiting any number of renowned museums and churches. *B*

Day 7: Rome Another morning of touring followed by a free afternoon. Today we visit the Vatican for a tour of St. Peter's Square and Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums. Highlights include Michelangelo's *Pieta* in St. Peter's, considered one of the greatest sculptures of all time; his frescoed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, now restored to its original glory; and art-filled St. Peter's itself, the most important church in all Christendom. *B*

Day 8: Rome/Umbria Leaving Rome, we travel north through a pastoral landscape of gentle agricultural land bounded by mountain wilderness and dotted with traditional villages and medieval hill towns. Mid-afternoon we reach Orvieto, perched high on a plateau above a vineyard-clad plain. After we check in at our hotel in the heart of the city's medieval quarter, our tour director leads us on an informal walking tour. Tonight we attend a cooking demonstration followed by dinner at a local farmhouse. *B,D*

Day 9: Orvieto This morning we embark on a guided walking tour of this dramatically set city. We visit the medieval *Duomo* featuring a frescoed chapel by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli's masterpiece, *The Last Judgment*. Next we explore the formerly secret passages of Parco delle Grotte, a labyrinth of underground caves used since Etruscan times. The remainder of the day is at leisure. *B*

Day 10: Orvieto/Assisi Today's excursion is to Assisi, considered a gem of an Umbrian town with inviting plazas, abundant flowers, buildings of white marble, and a pervasive medieval air. We visit St. Clare Church and the renowned Basilica di San Francesco, the burial

place of St. Francis and a sacred pilgrimage site. Inside are Giotto's priceless frescoes, *The Life of St. Francis*. There's time on our own to stroll the fountain-splashed *piazze* and to enjoy local specialties for lunch. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B*

Day 11: Umbria/Siena/Tuscany Continuing our journey, today we visit walled Siena, whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke the city's medieval past. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe's greatest public squares; its *Duomo*, one of Italy's finest. We set out on a guided walking tour that includes an inside visit to the *Duomo*, housing masterpieces by Michelangelo and Donatello, then have free time for lunch on our own and to explore as we wish. *B,D*

Day 12: Florence A living monument to the Renaissance, Florence is Tuscany's crown jewel. We

Post-Tour Extension

April 13-15, 2025

Venice – On Your Own

3 days/2 nights for \$395 total price

Single Supplement: \$325

Enjoy time on your own in this most timeless of cities.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Carnival Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport



IN TIME AND WITH WATER,
EVERYTHING CHANGES.”

– LEONARDO DA VINCI

discover this splendid city on a full-day excursion that includes a morning walking tour. Then we visit the Galleria dell’Accademia to view Michelangelo’s sublime *David*, as well as his pieces for the papal tombs; and the revered *Duomo*, with its stupendous dome by Brunelleschi. This afternoon is free to enjoy Florence as we wish. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at our hotel. *B,D*

Day 13: San Gimignano We encounter classic Tuscany today as we visit the hill town of San Gimignano, known for the 13 watchtowers that have left its skyline virtually unchanged since medieval times. Later we visit a local winery and enjoy a tasting before returning mid-afternoon to our lodgings, where we have time to relax before tonight’s dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*



Timeless Venice.

**Day 14: Tuscany/
Venice** Leaving Tuscany today, we travel through the Veneto region to Venice, which, along with its lagoon, is a UNESCO site. We arrive early this afternoon; the remainder of the day is free to explore this wondrous city on our own. *B*

Day 15: Venice This morning we take a guided walk through St. Mark’s Square and surroundings. Our afternoon is free to explore Venice independently; tonight we bid “*arrivederci*” to Italy and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 16: Depart for U.S. We depart early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S. *B*

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 14 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 22 meals: 14 breakfasts, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



We visit splendid Florence on Day 12.

Tour Departs: March 29, 2025

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$5,174
Chicago, Washington, DC	\$5,474
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia	\$5,574
Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,674
Columbus, MS	\$5,874
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,195

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$679, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,095. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,995 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,795 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or email lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

Responsibility: The liability of the Mississippi State Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, are strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Mississippi State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Mississippi State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation - Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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Mississippi State, MS 39762-5526

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**JOIN MISSISSIPPI STATE
ON AN EXCLUSIVE
TOUR TO ITALY!**

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*