

DISCOVER ITALY WITH SIMON GAULT

18 Days | Departing 7th September 2019

Join celebrated Kiwi chef Simon Gault on a premium escorted journey from Rome to Venice. Discover the jewels of ancient and modern Italy, while enjoying the delights of authentic food and wine experiences with local chefs and experts.

INCLUDES:

- Auckland to Italy return economy flights with Singapore Airlines
- 15-day premium escorted journey
- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Hand-picked hotels in the best locations
- Luxury, air-conditioned 40-seater coach with extended leg room



TRAVELCOM

Crafting unique journeys



**SPECIAL
DEPARTURE**
**BOOK
NOW**

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

Travelcom | 165 Maunganui Road | (07) 575 5049
travel@travelcom.co.nz | www.travelcom.co.nz

INSIGHTVACATIONS.COM
#INSIGHTMOMENTS



Taste a freshly prepared Southern Italian meal on a Dine-at-Home experience in Alberobello

DISCOVER ITALY WITH SIMON GAULT

18 Days | Departing 7th September 2019

DAY 1: 7th September: Depart Auckland

Depart Auckland bound for Rome via Singapore, flying Singapore Airlines.

DAY 2: 8th September: Welcome to the Eternal City of Rome

Welcome to the city of Rome. Upon arrival into Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport you'll be transferred to your hotel, thereafter embarking on a leisurely walking exploration to see the Trevi Fountain and Pantheon. The afternoon is yours to explore, as you wish.

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for your Welcome Dinner, a fun evening of Italian cuisine with wine. (DW)

Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome

DAY 3: 9th September: Rome with quintessential Italian dinner

Spend the day enjoying Rome at your own pace. Stroll through the boutiques of the Via del Corso and Via Nazionale, or visit the elegant designer stores near the Spanish Steps.

Tonight, you're treated to the quintessential Italian experience – fine food, wine, music and a private performance of enchanting operetta. (B) (DW)

DAY 4: 10th September: The coastal town of Monopoli

Journey southeast, through the sun-baked landscapes of Puglia to the coastal town of Monopoli. Stroll around the beautiful small harbour, watch fisherman repair their nets, or enjoy some gelato. (B)

Il Melograno Hotel, Monopoli

DAY 5: 11th September: Monopoli with a Local Expert

Visit Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with your Local Expert. Explore the small, whitewashed stone houses, clustered throughout the city and built entirely without mortar.

For your Dine-at-Home experience, you are welcomed into a local family's home. See Nonna making orecchiette pasta and join her for a freshly prepared southern Italian meal. (B)(DW)

DAY 6: 12th September: Sorrento on the coast

Visit with a Local Expert for an in-depth exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi – a labyrinth of cave dwellings, churches, staircases and arches, hewn out of solid rock. Head towards the Tyrrhenian Sea, to the lively cliff top town of Sorrento. Perched

upon the cliffs, look out to see the mighty Mount Vesuvius across the Bay of Naples, and join your Travel Director for an orientation. (B)

Grand Hotel Vesuvio (or similar)

DAY 7: 13th September: Capri, the Isle of Dreams

Meet your Local Expert and cruise to the beautiful Isle of Capri. On arrival ascend to Capri town by funicular and explore the narrow alleyways. Enjoy a delicious local lunch, before you descend to the port in one of the island's iconic open-top taxis. You'll then return to Sorrento for some relaxation time. (B)(L)

DAY 8: 14th September: Orvieto, the heart of Italy

Wander through the streets of Orvieto, located on a rock pedestal overlooking a vineyard-covered plain. Savour the distinctly medieval ambience and admire the richly decorated facade of the cathedral in Piazza del Duomo.

Join local Chef Lorenzo for a fascinating cooking demonstration, followed by a Highlight Dinner and a glass of the Orvieto Classico wine. (B) (DW)

Aquila Bianca Hotel

DAY 9: 15th September: Perugia, the jewel of Umbria

Explore the main street of Perugia's Old Town on a guided walking tour. See the Collegio del Cambio, the splendid Priors' Palace, the cathedral and the finely sculptured Great Fountain in the magnificent main square. Visit an artisanal workshop to meet Marta, recipient of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Learn how Marta and her weavers are preserving the ancient craft of loom weaving. (B)

Sangallo Palace Hotel

DAY 10: 16th September: Hilltop Assisi

Journey to the stone-built, hilltop town of Assisi. See the Church of St. Mary of the Angels before continuing up Mount Subasio with a Local Expert to visit the Basilica of St. Francis. Built in the 13th Century, this is where the frescoes by Giotto heralded a new era in Italian art.

Continue to a family run olive mill to meet a third-generation specialist and follow the evolution of the olive from tree to table. Relish the intense flavours drizzled over crusty bread with a sprinkle of salt – delizioso! (B)

DAY 11: 17th September: Perugia – Monteriggioni

Explore the hidden streets of San Gimignano, before meeting world champion gelato maestro Sergio Dondoli. Visit his artisan ice cream parlour and taste his silky, frozen treats.

Journey through the Tuscan hills to Il Vecchio Maneggio. Enjoy a drink upon arrival before delving into your delicious Farm-to-Table experience, with all the organic produce sourced from the surrounding farm. (B)(DW)

Borgo San Luigi Hotel

DAY 12: 18th September: Florence, birthplace of Renaissance

Join a Local Expert as you venture through the Renaissance city of Florence by foot. See the marble-clad cathedral crowned by Brunelleschi's Dome, the baptistery with its beautiful Gates of Paradise, Giotto's splendid bell tower and Piazza della Signoria with its open-air gallery of Renaissance sculptures. The afternoon is yours to explore. Don't miss the chance to try the delicious local cuisine and sample rich Chianti wine. (B)

DAY 13: 19th September: Parma

Continue to the beautiful university town of Parma, world-famous for its local ham and cheese.

Meet one of the locals, Signora Afra at Ciaolatte Parmesan, the first organic Parmesan cheese farm in Italy. Learn about the process and taste samples of the organic cheese and other delicious local delicacies, accompanied with a glass of wine. (B)

Starhotels Du Parc

DAY 14: 20th September: Verona and onto Venice

Journey to the elegant city of Verona; the legendary home of Romeo and Juliet. See the ancient Roman Arena and stand beneath Juliet's balcony in a Renaissance courtyard. Continue through the Soave vineyards and onto Venice, Queen of the Adriatic. (B)

Hotel Giorgione

DAY 15: 21st September: Venice

Visit a traditional art centre on Giudecca Island where you'll view beautiful handcrafted glass being made by expert glassblowers. After you'll travel by a private boat that'll ferry you

to St. Marks Square. See the basilica, Doge's Palace and its adjoining Bridge of Sighs. A visit to Venice is not complete without a gondola ride. To the tune of accompanying musicians, you'll be serenaded through the atmospheric canals, past water-lapped doorways and Rococo palaces.

In the evening, cruise the islands of the Venetian lagoon to arrive at Burano, famous for its candy coloured houses. Sit down to a sumptuous Celebration Dinner with wine, sampling the local specialities. (B)(DW)

DAY 16: 22nd September: Depart Venice

Alas, you must bid farewell to this enchanting city. Enjoy the day at leisure before your departure transfer to Venice Marco Polo Airport. (B)

Depart Venice for Frankfurt. Thereafter depart Frankfurt via Singapore to Auckland, flying Singapore Airlines.

DAY 17: 23rd September

In-flight.

DAY 18: 24th September

Arrive Auckland.

TRIP PRICE FROM
\$11,490

per person twin share

includes return flights, taxes
and gratuities for Travel Director
& Driver.

From \$2,100 per person single supplement

