



“Benvenuto in Italia!”

March (23) 24-30, 2019



Buongiorno...and welcome to Italy! Steeped in ancient history and culture, Italy is a land for passionate souls. Italy will captivate your spirit with endless discoveries of ancient architecture from the Roman Empire, stunning art from the Renaissance, and an enticing modern life packed with bustling city squares, sidewalk cafes, and exciting nightlife.



We'll begin our journey on the beautiful island of Sicily. Starring dramatic cliff-side villages, the volcanic valleys of Mt. Etna, and timeworn streets of Siracusa, you'll see why Sicily is one of the most popular destinations in the Mediterranean. The city of Palermo has a history marked by a multitude of conquerors and subsequent cultures that settled there. The Phoenicians, Byzantines, Arabs,

Romans, French Angevins, Spanish Aragonese, and even the Mafia are among those who have contributed to Palermo's collective cultural history. From the Cappella Palatina, to the



Quattro Canti, a city square in the heart of Palermo containing four seventeenth-century palaces, Palermo has played host to those seeking adventure for centuries. The resulting cultural blend emanates from Palermo's buildings, art, and people. Nestled on the shores of Palermo's coast, the Grand Hotel Villa Igia Palermo has been an historic landmark in this Sicilian town for generations.



Housed in what was once a villa of a prominent family, the hotel still has the original frescoes, furniture, and décor; and has married them with modern amenities like a full-service spa, a fitness center, an outdoor swimming pool, and a tennis court. We'll spend three exciting nights in Palermo...then it's on to Rome!

Historians date the beginnings of this city in the 8th Century B.C., with Rome reaching its greatest heights in the 1st and 2nd Centuries A.D. The Pantheon is considered one of the finest surviving temples of this era, along with the Colosseum, a huge amphitheater that was once the scene of gladiatorial combats. Foremost of the Roman monuments is the Forum and the Imperial Forum, ancient centers of commerce and religion; and the Catacombs, primitive tunnels beneath the city in which early Christians practiced their religion. Numerous sites are throughout the city: Piazza Navona, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Venezia, Vatican City, and St Peter's Basilica just to name a few.



We'll be staying in the historical Sina Bernini Bristol, one of the most renowned hotels in the Eternal City. From its privileged location between Piazza Barberini and Via Veneto, just a few



minutes' walk from the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps, the hotel offers one of the most beautiful views of Rome's historic center. The classic and contemporary ambiance blends perfectly with elegant furnishings, modern amenities, a wellness spa, and superb dining choices including the 8th floor Guida Ballerino Rooftop Restaurant.

As guests of US Air Conditioning/York you'll be treated like emperors at our private welcome and farewell dinners. You'll discover various highlights of Sicily and Rome on our historic walking tours; dine in some of the best restaurants in Palermo and Rome; and of course stay in amazing hotels in both destinations. Journey with us to the home of Caesars, Kings, Popes, and Medici's...where there is so much more to discover!