

An Italian Love Story

TOURS IN ITALY...
FOR THOSE WHO DON'T DO TOURS



Nada's Top Seasonal Picks

WINTER: Carnevale in Venice - with its beautiful parade of highly crafted costumes and masks.
SPRING: Easter in Florence - attend the Lo Scoppio del Carro, an annual ceremony predicting the year's harvest.
SUMMER: The Palio in Siena - a medieval horse race among the old districts of this historic Tuscan city.
FALL: Regata Storica in Venice - a boat and gondola race during the first weekend of September.

FLORENCE, ITALY: "I invite you to immerse yourself in *my* country," urged Nada Vergili, founder of Nada's Italy. "Our tours, limited to 12 travelers, go beyond sightseeing and allow you to discover Italy's culture, cuisine, and historical sites."

This year, Nada's Italy tours celebrates its 10th anniversary. "We planned only one tour during our first year. In 2015, we have 55 scheduled with nine different itineraries," beamed Vergili. "All of our tour leaders are locals, licensed, bilingual, and 'walking encyclopedias' of Italian history."

A TRUE LOVE STORY

Born in Florence, Vergili spent her formative years in Italy. "My dad had an international business, so I learned to speak fluent English.

"I fell in love with an American and moved to The States. Not long after relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina, I had a yearning to share my *amore* for Italy. I wanted others to experience our culture outside the historic sites of the Roman Colosseum and the meandering canals of Venice," said Vergili. "I felt there was a business opportunity.

"I am not fond of typical tour packages or intricate international trips, on your own, with the use of websites. Walking with a herd of

people and being dumped from one historical site to another via large buses is no way to see any country," adamantly stated Vergili. "Likewise, planning a trip without expert, on the ground advice can prove disappointing. All villas look great on websites. But, in many instances, just behind the beautiful walled courtyard may be a railroad track or major highway. Nothing beats objective, local knowledge."



Nada's Travel Tips To Italy

Italy is about the size of Georgia and Florida combined. Weather does not change dramatically from north to south.

Winter temperatures range from the low 40s to 50s. Hotel and airfare deals abound, but many services are curtailed. Ferry and train service in Southern Italy may be unavailable or greatly limited.

Springtime can be rainy (especially in the northern/central regions). Many schools plan spring field trips.

Expect popular attractions to be busy with students.

Summer is hot and humid. Many villas do not have air conditioning. You may be surprised by the lack of crowds in the big cities because Europeans tend to head for the beach. Sales events begin in July, making it a great time to shop. One caution, the canals of Venice often emit unpleasant odors. It may be romantic to have a room overlooking a charming waterway, but beware of the smell.

Fall is the most popular travel time of the year. Prices are more expensive and the weather is ideal. September is grape harvesting time in Tuscany, creating another reason to visit this special region.

Nada's Italy is designed for people who don't do tours. By restricting each tour to a dozen individuals, itineraries are more intimate and open a window into the authentic Italian lifestyle. Most of the tours ferry you around in Mercedes vans with special permits to access popular sites. For example, in the town of Siena in Tuscany, driving through the historical part of town is restricted. With a rental car, expect to search for scarce parking in distant lots. With a permit, a Nada's Italy driver drops you off in the heart of the city.

SMALL GROUPS. EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES.

"Italian isn't just a language," insisted Vergili, "it's a way of life. Our tours are designed to provide plenty of free time, limited moving from one hotel to another, and do what you want to do. We also emphasize interacting with locals to experience the true Italian way of life."

One of Nada Italy's more popular trips visits the Amalfi Coast and its dazzling craggy cliffs, shimmering bays, and Greek temples. "One afternoon, we visit an organic mozzarella cheese farm," detailed Vergili. "We nicknamed the farm 'Cow Spa' because the animals are treated like royalty. Cows are brushed, bathed, and listen to classical music each afternoon. I know you may question my critique, but the cheese really does taste better!

"Our tours cater to your passions," said Vergili. "If you are a wine connoisseur, consider our trip to Southern Italy where we visit a winery whose vineyard is in the shadow of

Mount Vesuvius. The Aglianico grapevines, growing in volcanic ash, create an unusual nutty flavor. During our stop, we meet with the owner to explain their heritage—and indulge in a round of wine tastings!

"If art is your forte, we have a tour tracing Michelangelo's footsteps along the streets of Florence." ■

For more information on a schedule of 2015 tours, please call (704) 877-2003 or visit NadasItaly.com.

Nada's Italy Special Perks

- ACCESS: To hilltop villages, family farms, and wineries. Lodgings include castles, villas, and boutique hotels.
- CONVENIENT PLANNING: Tours start Friday and end on a Monday (11 days/ 10 nights), limiting the number of days required to be out of the office.
- VALUE: Significant cost savings versus a la carte booking on your own.
- VINO INCLUDED: Wine is paired with all included meals which focus on local cuisine.
- YOUR TOUR, YOUR WAY: If you can't find a tour that fits your needs, try Nada's Italy ByDesign services, which are completely customized around your dreams.
 - CALM PACE: No sunrise wake-up calls; most packages include a maximum of three different hotel stays.