

EXPERIENCE ITALY LIKE A LOCAL

# ITALY GUIDE 2026

by Vorrei Travel





# WELCOME

Welcome to your insider's guide to experiencing Italy in 2026, crafted especially for travelers seeking authentic cultural immersion through food, wine, history, and faith.

Whether you're dreaming of rolling pasta in a Tuscan farmhouse, sipping Barolo among vineyard hills, walking ancient Roman streets, or exploring Italy's most meaningful religious sites, this guide will show you how to experience the country like a local, not a tourist.

Designed for couples, solo adventurers, and families, our Italy 2026 Guide reveals the most enriching regions, the best times to visit, and the unforgettable experiences waiting for you so you can relax while we craft a journey that's uniquely yours.

Buon viaggio!

*Deb Gordon*



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# CUSTOM ITINERARY

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## TUSCANY - 7-DAY ADVENTURE

Tuscany welcomes visitors with rolling vineyards, golden hills, medieval hilltop towns, and some of Italy's most celebrated food and wine. Travelers come for slow, scenic days exploring wineries, charming villages like Siena and San Gimignano, and the artistic treasures of Florence. Whether you're savoring farm-to-table meals, relaxing in countryside villas, or wandering ancient cobblestone streets, Tuscany offers an unforgettable blend of culture, beauty, and authentic Italian living.

See Your Itinerary HERE: [Custom 7-Day Tuscany Itinerary](#)

### Hotels Recommended:

Siena, Italy

Hotel Athena

Via P. Mascagni, 55

53100 Siena

Lucca, Italy

Hotel Iliara

Via del Fosso, 26

55100 Lucca

# PACKING LIST

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HERE IS A DETAILED, PRACTICAL, AND TRAVELER-TESTED PACKING LIST FOR A ONE-WEEK TRIP TO THE TUSCANY REGION OF ITALY. IT'S TAILORED TO TYPICAL ACTIVITIES, WALKING MEDIEVAL TOWNS, WINE TASTINGS, COUNTRYSIDE EXPLORING, NICE DINNERS, AND ITALY'S CLIMATE FROM SPRING THROUGH EARLY FALL.

(AIM FOR MIX-AND-MATCH OUTFITS. TUSCANY IS STYLISH BUT RELAXED.)

## EVERYDAY WEAR

- 3–4 LIGHTWEIGHT TOPS (LINEN, BREATHABLE COTTON, OR MOISTURE-WICKING FABRICS)
- 1–2 DRESSIER TOPS FOR DINNERS
- 2 PAIRS OF COMFORTABLE WALKING PANTS OR TRAVEL TROUSERS
- 1 PAIR OF JEANS OR CASUAL PANTS
- 1–2 PAIRS OF SHORTS OR SKIRTS (SEASONAL)
- 1 LIGHT DRESS OR POLO/BUTTON-DOWN FOR EVENINGS OUT
- 1 CASUAL SUNDRESS OR MAXI DRESS (WOMEN)
- 1 LIGHT SWEATER OR CARDIGAN (COOLER MORNINGS/EVENINGS)
- 1 LIGHT JACKET OR BLAZER (SMART CASUAL OUTFITS)
- 1 PACKABLE RAIN JACKET (SPRING/FALL)

## SHOES

COMFORT IS EVERYTHING—TUSCANY'S COBBLESTONES ARE NO JOKE.

- 1 PAIR OF COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES (SNEAKERS OR CUSHIONED FLATS)
- 1 PAIR OF DRESSY YET COMFORTABLE SHOES FOR DINNERS
- 1 PAIR OF SANDALS (SPRING–SUMMER MONTHS)



### SLEEPWEAR / UNDERWEAR

- 1 PAIR OF PAJAMAS
- 7 PAIRS OF UNDERWEAR
- 3–4 PAIRS OF SOCKS
- 1–2 PAIRS OF NO-SHOW SOCKS FOR SNEAKERS

### WEATHER & SEASONAL EXTRAS

#### SPRING (APRIL–MAY)

- LIGHT SCARF
- SMALL UMBRELLA
- LIGHT LAYER FOR EVENINGS

#### SUMMER (JUNE–SEPTEMBER)

- SUNHAT
- SUNGLASSES
- LIGHTWEIGHT, BREATHABLE FABRICS
- SUNSCREEN (EXPENSIVE IN ITALY)

#### FALL (LATE SEPTEMBER)

- LIGHT JACKET
- LAYERING TOPS
- CLOSED SHOES

### TOILETRIES

#### (TRAVEL SIZES RECOMMENDED)

- TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
- FACE WASH & MOISTURIZER
- MAKEUP OR GROOMING BASICS
- DEODORANT



- RAZOR
- SUNSCREEN (FACE + BODY)
- HAIRBRUSH/COMB
- HAND SANITIZER
- LIP BALM
- TRAVEL TISSUES

#### ELECTRONICS & ESSENTIALS

- PHONE + CHARGER
- CAMERA + MEMORY CARDS (IF DESIRED)
- PORTABLE POWER BANK
- UNIVERSAL TRAVEL ADAPTER (ITALY USES TYPE C/F/L)
- EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES
- ESIM OR INTERNATIONAL PLAN
- COPIES OF PASSPORT & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
- CREDIT CARDS + ATM CARD (PIN REQUIRED IN ITALY)

#### DAYPACK ESSENTIALS

- LIGHTWEIGHT DAYPACK OR CROSSBODY BAG
- REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
- SUNGLASSES
- TRAVEL-SIZE SUNSCREEN
- SMALL REUSABLE TOTE BAG (SHOPPING)
- PACKABLE RAINCOAT OR UMBRELLA
- SNACKS FOR TRAIN RIDES
- HAND SANITIZER
- PORTABLE PHONE CHARGER

#### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & PLANNING ITEMS

- PRINTED ITINERARY + CONFIRMATIONS
- TRAIN TICKETS OR CODES
- HOTEL ADDRESSES, CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS
- EMERGENCY CONTACTS
- TRAVEL INSURANCE DOCUMENTS
- DRIVER'S LICENSE (IF RENTING A CAR)
- INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED FOR CAR RENTALS)





## 2026 EVENT CALENDAR

### Firenze Rocks

June 2026 — Florence

One of Europe's top rock festivals—past headliners include Elton John, Green Day, Guns N' Roses, and Ed Sheeran.

### Florence Gelato Festival

Late April or Early May 2026

An international gelato competition + tastings.

### Palio del Girone (Florence's Neighborhood Festivals)

Spring & Summer

Local parades, music, street food, and medieval shows.

### Chianti Wine Festival (Radda, Greve, Castellina)

May — September 2026 (events stagger across towns)

Wine tastings, vineyard tours, and food pairings in the stunning Chianti countryside.

### The Palio di Siena

July 2 & August 16, 2026

The world-famous medieval horse race in Piazza del Campo—parades, flag-tossing, and historical pageantry.

### Siena Jazz Festival

July 2026

Top international jazz musicians perform in Siena's ancient courtyards and open-air squares.

### Monteriggioni Medieval Festival

July 2026

Costumes, markets, storytelling, music, and medieval reenactments inside a hilltop walled town unchanged for centuries.

### Cantine Aperte (Open Winery Weekend)

May 2026

Wineries across Tuscany open cellars for tastings, vineyard tours, and special events.

### Arezzo Saracino Joust

June & September 2026

Historic medieval jousting tournament—pageantry, costumes, and ancient traditions.

### Festa dell'Uva (Grape Festival) – Impruneta

September 2026

Floats decorated entirely with grapes, music, and harvest celebrations.

### Major Concert & Music Highlights 2026

(Lineups released annually, but events recur on the same schedule)

- Lucca Summer Festival – July
- Pistoia Blues Festival – July
- Siena Jazz – July
- Florence Jazz Fringe – September
- Opera seasons in Florence & Lucca – Throughout 2026
- Puccini Festival – July & August (open-air opera)

# ITALY TRAVEL TIPS

Tipping is appreciated but not expected.

In Italy, tipping isn't mandatory. Restaurants often include a coperto (cover charge) or servizio (service fee) on the bill, so check before adding anything extra. If the service was excellent, locals typically leave just a few euros; rounding up to 5–10% is more than enough.

Always use licensed taxis or official apps.

Official taxis in Italy are white with a "TAXI" sign and a meter. Avoid unlicensed drivers who approach you. In major cities, use apps like FreeNow or IT Taxi, or request a taxi through your hotel, to avoid scams or inflated prices.

Touching produce at markets is a no-go.

At fresh markets and fruit stands, only the vendor handles the produce. Italians see touching fruits or vegetables as unsanitary. Point to what you want or tell the vendor: "Vorrei questo, per favore" (I'd like this, please).

Don't order a cappuccino after 11 a.m.

Italians consider milk-heavy coffee a breakfast drink. While you can order one anytime, it immediately marks you as a tourist. After 11 a.m., switch to espresso or caffè macchiato to blend in.

Pizza is usually eaten with a knife and fork

In many restaurants—especially in Tuscany and northern Italy—locals cut their pizza rather than pick it up by hand. It's not "wrong" to use your hands, but using utensils is more typical in sit-down restaurants.

Always validate train tickets on regional trains

Paper tickets for local and regional trains must be stamped in the small green/yellow machines before boarding. If you forget, you can be fined—even as a visitor—so always validate first.

Don't ask for tap water at restaurants

Italian restaurants typically serve bottled still (naturale) or sparkling (frizzante) water. Asking for tap water can be seen as unusual or even rude. Expect to order a bottle when dining out.

Don't ask for substitutions on the menu

Italian chefs take great pride in recipes, and modifying dishes isn't common. Removing ingredients or making major changes can be seen as disrespecting the cuisine.



# TRAVEL BUDGET GUIDE



Our easy-to-use Italy Travel Budget Guide gives travelers a clear and realistic picture of what to expect when planning a week or more in Italy. Hotels range from charming boutique stays and countryside agriturismos to elegant historic properties, with nightly rates that vary by season and destination, making it simple to choose the perfect balance of comfort and value.

Meals are wonderfully flexible: travelers can enjoy casual cafés, delicious trattorias, and memorable multi-course dinners without overspending, thanks to transparent cost estimates for everything from quick bites to gourmet experiences.

Transportation is also straightforward to plan, whether you're using high-speed trains between major cities, renting a car for Tuscan countryside explorations, or relying on transfers and taxis. Each option is broken down with typical price ranges, so there are no surprises.

Tours and activities, from wine tastings and cooking classes to museum visits and guided walks, are clearly outlined as well, helping travelers budget confidently while choosing the experiences that matter most.

This guide makes Italy feel accessible, understandable, and easy to plan, with no guesswork, just clarity.

## Hotels & Accommodations in Italy

Prices vary by season, city, and style. Tuscany, Florence, Siena, and Lucca typically fall in these ranges:

### Boutique 3–4 Star Hotels

- €140–€250 per night (low season)
- €180–€350 per night (high season: May–September)

### High-End 4–5 Star Hotels / Historic Properties

- €300–€600 per night (depending on location)
- Luxury estates or countryside villas can reach €700–€1000+ per night.

### Agriturismos (Country Farm Stays)

- €120–€250 per night including breakfast
- Some offer dinners or farm-to-table experiences.

### Apartments / Vacation Rentals

- €100–€250 per night for a 1–2 bedroom unit
- Great for families or longer stays.

### Tips:

- Booking 6–10 months ahead gets the best prices.
- Florence, Siena, and coastal areas are noticeably pricier in summer.





### Meals & Dining Costs

Italian food can be wonderfully affordable—or delightfully indulgent—depending on how you like to dine.

### Typical Daily Food Budget

- Budget traveler: €30–€50/day
- Mid-range traveler: €60–€100/day
- Food lovers or special dining: €120–€180/day

### Typical Meal Prices

- Cappuccino & pastry: €3–€5
- Panini or quick lunch: €6–€12
- Sit-down trattoria lunch: €15–€25 per person
- Dinner at a casual restaurant: €20–€35 per person
- Dinner at a mid-range restaurant: €35–€60 per person
- High-end dining (Florence, Lucca, Siena): €70–€150+ per person

### Wine & Drinks

- Glass of wine: €4–€8
- Bottle of house wine: €12–€20
- Cocktail: €8–€14

Tip: Ordering the vino della casa (house wine) is common and often excellent.

### Transportation Costs

Getting around Italy is easy with trains, rental cars, and private transfers.

#### High-Speed Trains (Frecciarossa, Italo)

- Florence ↔ Rome: €30–€70
- Florence ↔ Venice: €25–€55
- Florence ↔ Milan: €20–€60

Book early for the best prices.

#### Regional Trains (Tuscany countryside)

- Siena ↔ Florence: €10–€15
- Lucca ↔ Florence: €7–€12
- Pisa ↔ Lucca: €4–€6

Always validate paper tickets before boarding!

#### Rental Cars (popular for Tuscany and Chianti)

- €50–€90/day for a compact car
- Auto transmissions are pricier: €80–€130/day
- Gas: €1.80–€2.10 per liter (higher than in the U.S.)

Tip: Parking inside historic centers (ZTL zones) is limited—use edge-of-town lots.

#### Private Transfers (convenient + stress-free)

- Florence Airport → Siena: €140–€180
- Florence → Chianti: €120–€150
- Lucca → Florence Airport: €120–€160
- Siena → Rome Airport: €350–€450



## Taxis

- Florence city taxi rides: €12–€20
- Pisa Airport → Pisa city center: €12–€18

Tip: Official taxis are white with a "TAXI" sign and use a meter.

## Tours & Activities

Tuscany offers rich experiences—with a wide variety of price points.

### Cooking Classes

- €90–€150 per person
- Private classes: €180–€250+

### Wine Tastings & Winery Tours (Chianti, Montalcino, Montepulciano)

- Basic tasting: €15–€30
- Guided winery tour: €25–€60
- Private tasting or food pairing: €70–€150+

### Walking Tours (Florence, Siena, Lucca)

- Group tours: €25–€40
- Private tours: €120–€250 depending on length

### Museum Tickets

- Uffizi Gallery: €20–€30
- Accademia (David): €16–€20
- Siena Duomo complex: €8–€14

### Day Trips

- Cinque Terre guided day trip: €80–€130
- Chianti wine tour: €70–€120
- Pisa + Lucca combo tour: €45–€70

## Suggested Weekly Budget (Per Person)

Mid-range traveler staying in Tuscany with day trips

### Low-End Mid-Range (€1,300–€1,600)

- Hotels: €600
- Meals: €350
- Transportation: €150
- Tours/activities: €200–€300

### Comfortable Mid-Range (€1,700–€2,200)

- Hotels: €800–€1,100
- Meals: €450–€600
- Transportation: €200–€300
- Tours: €300–€500

### High-End (€2,500+)

For boutique stays, private transfers, top dining, and customized experiences.



# READY TO GO?

Planning the perfect trip to Italy is what we do best.

With deep knowledge of the country's regions, culture, transportation, and hidden gems, we create seamless, personalized itineraries that reflect how you want to travel, whether it's a romantic escape, a family adventure, or a custom journey through Tuscany's rolling hills. From boutique hotels and private drivers to unforgettable experiences like cooking classes, wine tastings, and guided city tours, we handle every detail so you can relax and enjoy Italy with confidence.

Ready to start planning your dream Italian vacation?

Contact us today at:

Email: [askus@vorreittravel.com](mailto:askus@vorreittravel.com)

Website: [www.vorreittravel.com](http://www.vorreittravel.com)

Schedule a FREE 30-minute consultation: [START HERE](#)

