



Libby Cameron
Garden Writer
Tour Leader

Italy is a banquet for the senses & the intellect. Our tour is unlike any other, off the tourist track to some hidden gardens & places not easy to find on your own.

With local guides in each of the five regions of this itinerary, you will discover the unique qualities of each district with time to absorb the exciting Italian culture.

Private gardens are included along with some famous treasures of the Renaissance.

It's a lesson in living; romance, exquisite architecture, patterned gardens ... the present inextricably linked to the past.

Libby



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For Operations & Administration

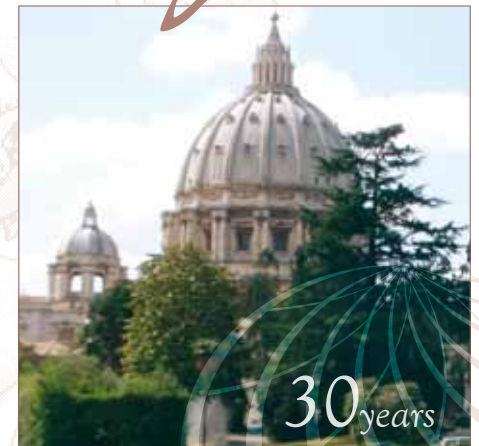
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The Gardens of Tuscany

italy



24 SEPTEMBER – 8 OCTOBER 2010

Deluxe Accommodation

Special Selection of Gardens

Escorted by Libby Cameron

**DAY 1 FRI 24 SEP 10**

Rome (D)
Arrival into Rome with remainder day at leisure. Welcome dinner tonight at hotel.
Accommodation: Hotel Ponte Sisto, Rome

DAY 2 SAT 25 SEP 10

Rome (B)
To Tivoli & Villa Adriana, a monument to antiquity. Continue to Villa d'Este, renowned for the organ fountain, "Walk of the Hundred Fountains". Lunch in Tivoli, return to Rome with afternoon free.
Accommodation: Hotel Ponte Sisto, Rome

DAY 3 SUN 26 SEP 10

Rome (B)
Travel south of Rome, to Giardina Ninfa. These beautiful gardens ramble over ancient walls & towers, rejoicing in the lush conditions. Lunch in Norma, return to Rome with afternoon free.
Accommodation: Hotel Ponte Sisto, Rome

DAY 4 MON 27 SEP 10

Rome (B)
Morning visit to the Vatican Gardens behind St Peter's Basilica, one of the most famous green spaces in the world. Free afternoon; option to spend time in the Vatican.
Accommodation: Hotel Ponte Sisto, Rome

DAY 5 TUE 28 SEP 10

Rome - Viterbo (B/D)
Villa Lante, is your first stop today, a landmark in the history of Italian gardens. Afternoon visit to Castello Ruspoli to see the oldest classic parterres in Italy. Continue to Viterbo overnight with dinner included in your hotel.
Accommodation: Mini Palace Hotel, Viterbo

DAY 6 WED 29 SEP 10

Siena (B)
Travel to the mediaeval city of Siena. With aristocratic mansions, narrow streets, medieval gates, walls & towers, it's a showplace of Italian Gothic. Guided tour on arrival.
Accommodation: Hotel Degli Ulivi, Siena

DAY 7 THU 30 SEP 10

Siena - Florence (B/D)
San Gimignano this morning & a walking tour of this gem of the Middle Ages. Continue to Florence. Check in to your hotel, centrally located with dinner included. Walking tour after dinner of this centre of the Italian Renaissance.
Accommodation: Hotel Adriatico, Florence

DAY 8 FRI 1 OCT 10

Florence (B)
To Lucca, former capital of Tuscany & a guided walking tour to see it perfectly preserved incl. Palazzo Pfanner. Visit Villa Massei, in the hills outside Lucca. Return to Florence.
Accommodation: Hotel Adriatico, Florence

DAY 9 SAT 2 OCT 10

Florence (B)
Visit Palazzo Pitti, once residence of the Medici family & a guided tour of Boboli Gardens. Afternoon to Settignano to the famous Villa Gamberaia overlooking Florence.
Accommodation: Hotel Adriatico, Florence

DAY 10 SUN 3 OCT 10

Florence - Venice (B)
To Venice. For 1000 years the city was one of the most enduring mercantile sea powers on earth. Today Venice remains achingly beautiful

& in danger of sinking. Visit the significant baroque Giardino Barabargio enroute.
Accom: Hilton Molino Stucky, Giudecca

DAY 11 MON 4 OCT 10

Venice (B/D)
Morning guided walking tour of Venice. Remainder of the day free to explore this romantic city. Optional evening to visit Burano.
Accom: Hilton Molino Stucky, Giudecca

DAY 12 TUE 5 OCT 10

Venice - Verona (B)
To Verona to visit Giardino Giusti above the River Adige. Free afternoon.
Accommodation: Accademia Hotel, Verona

DAY 13 WED 6 OCT 10

Verona - Stresa (B)
To Stresa on the Lake Maggiore. Lunch stop in Bellagio, ferry across to Villa Carlotta with a complex suite of gardens & panoramic views to snow capped mountains.
Accommodation: Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa

DAY 14 THU 7 OCT 10

Stresa (B/D)
Visit Villa Cicogna on Lake Como with terraced gardens & water staircase. Free afternoon in Stresa. Farewell Dinner tonight in your hotel.
Accommodation: Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa

DAY 15 FRI 8 OCT 10

Bellagio - Milan - London (B)
Visit Isola Bella (17th C.), with dramatic Baroque gardens. Transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport for onward flights.

Limited places are available on this tour.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Air-conditioned motorcoach throughout tour
- Deluxe accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, 4 Dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens & sightseeing including Vatican Museum & Gardens, Ninfa Gardens, Sistine Chapel, Villa Adriana, Villa D'Este, Villa Lante, Castello Ruspoli, Villa Celsa, Boboli Gardens, Villa Gamberaia, Giardino Barbagi, Bridge of Sighs, San Marco Basilica, Villa Carlotta, Villa Cicogna, Isola Bella, Giusti Gardens, Villa Massei & Palazzo Pfanner.
- Guided tours of The Vatican, Siena, Florence, Lucca & Venice
- Fully escorted by Horticulturist Libby Cameron with an English-speaking National Tour Guide.
- Ross Tours travel bag & wallet

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For tour prices, booking conditions and booking arrangements, please see the General Information leaflet which accompanies this brochure.

To book travel, additional accommodation, excursions, stop-overs, please contact our booking agents.

Hotels listed in this brochure are correct at time of printing, however, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, the accommodations substituted will be equivalent in standard.

Group meals do not include beverages.

A personal travelling companion can be arranged for you to accompany you on this tour, if required. Please contact our booking agents for details and price information.

Ross Garden Tours reserves the right to make changes to the programme of garden visits outlined in this brochure due to weather and other conditions beyond our control, and if we feel that by so doing the experience of our tour participants will be improved.

All tours run subject to a minimum number of participants, please see the General Information leaflet which accompanies this brochure for details.