

ITALY 2017

Four wonderful weeks living the Dolce Vita

Train Travel

All bookings were made on trainline.com which allows booking your confirmed seat up to three months prior to travel. Business Class is very comfortable and reasonably priced (Rome - Florence AUD\$50). Rail travel is convenient as the stations are central and only a short taxi ride to your hotel. There is no rush to be early as the platform number is assigned about 10 to 30 minutes prior to departure and the train arrives about 10 to 15 minutes prior to departure.

Hotels

Rome

Best Western Plus Hotel
Universo (Close to Station)

Hotel Caravita, Via del
Caravita 5 Roma 00185RM
(Boutique hotel centrally
located off Via del Corso)

Sorrento

Palazzo Jannuzzi, Piazza
Torquato Tasso. Sorrento (
Beautiful Hotel, Wonderful
breakfast and close to
everything in Sorrento)



Overview

One week in Sorrento for R and R, Six days in Rome, Five days in Florence and then Two days in Milan with a 10 day Insight Northern Italy Coach Tour. Travel between city centres was on the comfortable high speed Trenitalia. All accomodation was booked online. Rail travel was booked on trainline.com which covers all European Trains

The Journey

My wife Cobie, and I spent four fabulous weeks in Italy during September 2017, which I may hasten to add, is the busiest tourist month as the hot summer temperatures are on the decline.



Florence

Palazzo Alfieri Residenza D'Epoca, Lungarno Corsini 2, Tornabuoni, 50123 Florence (Boutique Hotel right on the Arno River and 10 minutes walking distance to all the central Florence sights.)

Milan

Melia Milano, Via Massaccio 19, 20149 Milano, Italy (Standard 4 star Hotel prior to Insight Coach Tour.)

Local Tours

Viator.com

Viator was our "go to" company for local tours. They collate independent tours from local operators and provide a one stop shop for any tour.

We arrived at Rome Fiumicino Airport and caught the Leonardo Express to Roma Termini. Overnight was the Best Western Plus Hotel which was 5 minutes walk from the station. Hotel was convenient and comfortable.

Sorrento

The next day train to Naples and then taxi to Sorrento. The hotel of choice was the Palazzo Jannuzzi centrally located with a wonderful view of Tasso Square from our room.

Sorrento is a great base with lovely views, restaurants,



shopping and night markets. Day trips are easily planned to the Amalfi coast, Capri (40mins by boat), Pompeii or Herculaneum (40 mins by train) or shopping in Naples. The National Archaeological Museum in Naples has a great collection from Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Rome

Rome is an amazing city with history, architecture and



surprises everywhere you look. Best advice in Rome is stay as centrally as you can, then you can walk to most attractions. We stayed at Hotel Caravita which is 20 metres off Via Corso (the main shopping street). It was a lovely modern boutique hotel with walking time to Pantheon 10 mins, Trevi Fountain 10 mins, Spanish Steps 15mins, Forum and Coliseum 25 mins and St Peters 30 mins. In Rome just walk, view, relax, drink and eat and then do it again in any order.

Insight Vacations

Our 10 day tour of northern Italy was with Insight Vacations.

Insight provide very comfortable touring with increased legroom and a maximum of 36 on the coach.

Hotels are generally good 4 to 5 star depending on location.

Our tour included stops at

Milan

Milan tour, Verona

Trento

Trento, Bolzano

Cortina D Ampezzo

Dolomites, Conegliano

Venice (Two nights)

Venice, Burano, Sirmione

Como

Lake Garda, Lake Como, Bellagio

Baveno (Two nights)

Lake Maggiore, lake Orta, Isola Bella

Milan

Florence

From Rome to Florence by train then a 5minute taxi ride to our Hotel right on the Arno River. The hotel Palazzo Alfieri Residenza D'Epoca was very comfortable with a larger



room and a beautifully prepared buffet breakfast. Our room had views of the Arno River. Above is a view from the roof-top terrace. The hotel was a 5 minute walk to Ponte Vecchio and a 10 minute walk to Santa Maria dei Fiori Duomo. Florence is one giant museum of Art, Architecture and culture. Must see places are the Duomo, Uffizi Gallery, Pitti Palace, Ponte Vecchio and Academia Gallery. Purchase tickets online or as early as you can to save waiting in long queues. We also booked a one day coach tour that toured Sienna, San Gimignano, Monteriggione and the Chianti region.

Milan

Again train from Florence to Milan and taxi to our hotel which was a standard hotel prior to our 10 day coach tour with Insight Vacations. Some main attractions are the magnificent Gothic Duomo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci.

Northern Italy

