



The Grand Canal, Venice

# Medical History, Cuisine and Culture in Italy

7 – 14 October 2021

3 nights Florence – 2 nights Bologna – 2 nights Padua



Jon Baines  
tours



The exquisite Anatomical Theatre in Padua University

**Explore history, art and design, medicine and culture in Italy from the late medieval period to the budding of modernity in the Renaissance and beyond. Visit hospitals and one of the oldest, most sumptuous pharmacies in the world in Florence. You will also experience the renewed relevance of Florence's original plague 'wine windows'. Examine the new importance of anatomy, one of the cornerstones of Renaissance art and science, and see the exquisite**

**anatomical waxworks in Bologna. Visit the first anatomical theatre in Padua and its famed botanical gardens before continuing to Venice, a city of architectural and artistic wonders, where the outbreak of the Black Death led to the birth of quarantine.**

You will be travelling throughout Italy at a beautiful time of year while enjoying wonderful wine and cuisine along the way.

## Tour Leader

Until recently **Janice Liverseidge** was a Director at The Royal Society of Medicine and is now a full-time guide and in her spare time a trustee of both the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund and the London Handel Festival. Earlier in her career she worked for the British Medical Association. She is also a registered Blue Badge tourist guide and regularly leads groups in London on medical history walks, tours of the Wellcome Collection and other healthcare locations plus provides music and art tours for the Foundling Museum and the London Handel Festival. Janice has travelled extensively, including an eight-month journey around India, South East Asia and Australia, and has led highly successful RSM tours to Vietnam and Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, South Africa and China.

Janice has the Visit Britain “Good to Go” Industry standard demonstrating that she



has shown her compliance with government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, has a Risk Assessment in place and ensures social distancing including using a phone app when providing tour commentaries.



Ponte Vecchio, Florence

## 3 nights Florence – 2 nights Bologna – 2 nights Padua

### Day 1: Florence (Thurs, 7 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Arrive in Florence, the centre of the Italian Renaissance, and transfer to the hotel.

**Eve:** Welcome dinner.

### Day 2: Florence (Fri, 8 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Take a walking tour of the city, including the Cathedral, Baptistery, Giotto's Bell Tower, Signoria Square, Ponte Vecchio and Santa Croce Square.

**Pm:** Visit the Misericordia Museum. Return to the hotel via the ancient plague 'wine windows', now re-opened, and over a glass of wine learn of the Decameron and plague in 14th century Florence.

**Eve:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 3: Florence (Sat, 9 Oct) **B L**

**Am:** See the Ospedale Santa Maria Nuova. This hospital has been in existence since 1288 and was built by the father of Beatrice Portinari (beloved of Dante). It was originally a hostel for visiting pilgrims and travellers, became a hospice for Black Death victims and later served as an office where money could be exchanged and deposited and letters could be received; Michelangelo did his banking here and

on occasion Leonardo da Vinci was given access by the hospital to corpses for dissection and autopsies. Visit the beautiful Ospedale degli Innocenti (the Hospital of the Innocents), built in the first years of the 1400s as a home for orphans and abandoned children. It was the first institution of its kind in Europe and can be considered the first fully Renaissance building. It also contains a gallery with magnificent Renaissance artworks, including an early Botticelli.

**Pm:** Lunch at the rooftop cafe. Visit the ornate Santa Maria Novella Pharmacy, one of the oldest pharmacies in the world, established in 1221 by Dominican monks. Visit the eclectic La Specola Museum, the oldest public museum in Europe, founded as the personal collection of the Medici family in 1771 and opened to the public in 1775. It is known especially for its collection of highly detailed wax anatomical models from the eighteenth century.

### Day 4: Bologna (Sun, 10 Oct) **B L**

**Am:** Drive to the idyllic, historic village of Scarperia e San Piero for a short visit. Continue to Corte d'Aibo at Monteveglio

Piazza Maggiore, Bologna



to visit its lovely vineyard, lake and wine cellars.

**Pm:** Enjoy lunch with wine tasting at the restaurant, which serves regional specialities with its own wine. Transfer to Bologna and the Hotel Porta San Mamola. Visit the University of Bologna, the oldest continually operating university in the world. Visit the Museo di Palazzo Poggi and see its collection of anatomical wax models.

### **Day 5: Bologna (Mon, 11 Oct)** B D

**Am:** Walking tour of Bologna incorporating a culinary walking tour, enjoying samples en route as you visit the Piazza Maggiore, San Petonio church, Piazza della Mercanzia, the ancient market area, with entry into Santa Maria della Vita. Finish the day with a pre-dinner glass of frizzante at Osteria del Sole, Bologna's oldest bar, which has not changed a great deal since 1465.

### **Day 6: Padua (Tues, 12 Oct)** B D

**Am:** Drive to Padua and visit its lovely botanical gardens, dating back to 1545.

**Pm:** Check into the hotel before joining a guided tour of the beautiful Renaissance Anatomical Theatre – the oldest in the world – at the Padua University Medical

School. Option to visit the Scrovegni Chapel to see the Giotto frescoes\*.

**Eve:** Farewell dinner.

### **Day 7: Padua (Wed, 13 Oct)** B L

**Am:** Take the train to Venice and a private water taxi to Isola del Lazzaretto Nuovo, where lepers and visitors were isolated during plague outbreaks in the first example of quarantine in the world. Continue to Isola del San Servolo, the site of a former military hospital, later used for the mentally ill, with the gardens on the island used as a pharmacy. Visit the Asylum Museum.

**Pm:** Local pizza lunch. Visit the Scuola Grande di San Rocco. Established by a group of wealthy citizens in 1478, its ceilings are ablaze with magnificent Tintoretto paintings. Return to Venice for time at leisure before returning to Padua or extending in Venice (see overleaf for details).

### **Day 8: Padua (Thurs, 14 Oct)** B

**Am:** Depart Padua.

**\* The Scrovegni Chapel must be booked in advance at an additional cost. Please let us know if you would like to visit and we will book your place.**



Sunset over Florence



Villa Royal

## Hotels

### **Villa Royal (Florence)**

An 18th century aristocratic house in a peaceful pocket of Renaissance Florence, Villa Royal was converted into a hotel in 1956. Spacious and elegant rooms with modern comforts overlook beautiful big gardens and a lovely swimming pool.

### **Porta San Mamola (Bologna)**

This charming hotel is tucked into the heart of the old city, just a few steps from the beautiful Piazza Maggiore. It retains its traditional Bolognese style, including a delightful courtyard where breakfast is served, with gardens lush with oleanders and pomegranates.

### **Hotel Alberto Verdi (Padua)**

A stylish, contemporary boutique hotel, Alberto Verdi has an excellent location in the centre of Padua, a few steps from the bustling Piazza dei Signori and the Duomo Cathedral. It has large and bright rooms with friendly, helpful staff and very good coffee and breakfast.

## Extension in Venice

If extending your stay in beautiful Venice, we advise taking your luggage from Padua during the day trip to Venice, to be delivered to your hotel while you are on tour. Accommodation options include the historic waterfront hotels of La Calcina or the Pensione Accademia.

### **Hotel La Calcina**

Housed in a converted seventeenth century lime warehouse, the beautiful Hotel La Calcina is listed among the Historical Places of Italy and the European Historic Cafés. La Calcina

has hosted travellers through the centuries and boasts a superb waterfront location on the banks of the Zattere, one of Venice's most charming districts, with its famous restaurant in a terrace right on the water.

### **Pensione Accademia**

Within the walls of an elegant seventeenth century Venetian palace, this stunning hotel is perched right on the Grand Canal. Part of the Historical Places of Italy group, the hotel is known for its lush gardens and its peaceful setting. The comfortable and stylish rooms overlook the canal or the gardens.



La Calcina



Streets of Bologna (top); Artworks in the Museum of the Innocents; The courtyard of Hotel Porta San Mamola, Bologna; The approach to Pensione Accademia, Venice (above)

**The cost of the tour is  
USD \$3,584**

**The cost includes:**

- Seven nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms in medium-grade hotels

**Single supplement: USD \$546**

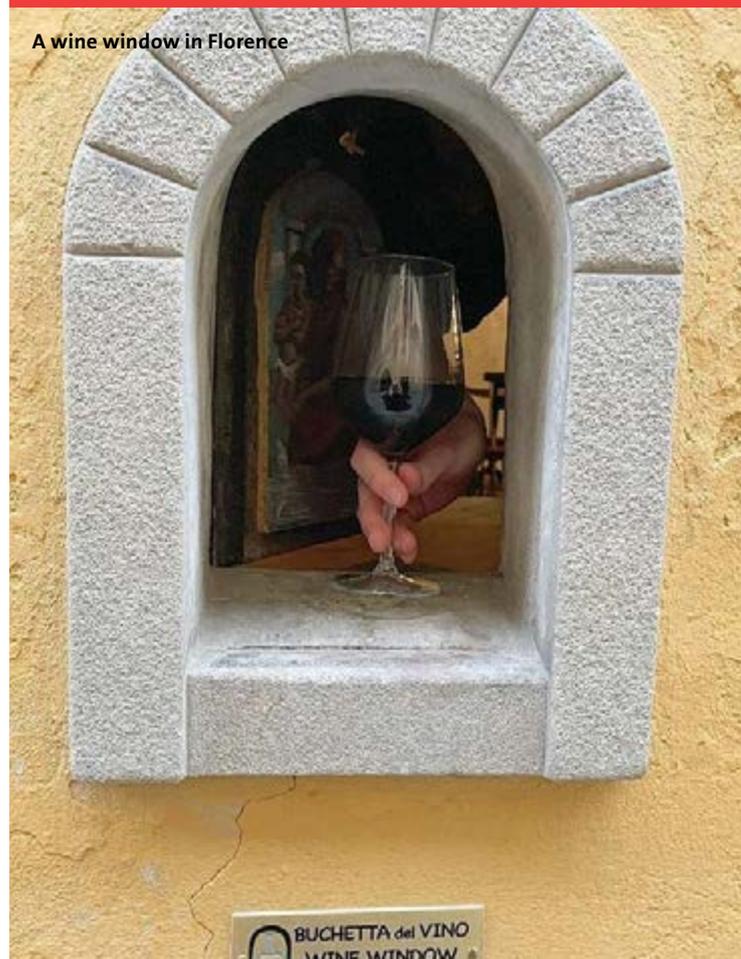
- Tour leader (Janice Liverseidge)
- Local guide throughout
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts
- Dinners or lunches daily with wine
- All internal transport
- A full programme of visits
- Admission fees where applicable
- Tips

**The cost excludes:**

- International flights and airport transfers
- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry, inoculation fees, and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visas, if applicable

**NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.**

A wine window in Florence



# About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Santa Maria Duomo, Florence (top); Santa Maria Novella Pharmacy, Florence; Enjoy wine tasting at Corte d'Aibo near Bologna; Extend your stay in lovely Venice (above)

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