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Travel deals of the week: Guided tour hits Italian highlights

BY MAX HARROLD, THE GAZETTE AUGUST 19, 2011

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Florence is one of the stops on Perillo Tours' 10-day Vesuvius Tour, which features off-season discounts for nine departures from Oct. 28 to April 13.

Perillo Tours has off-season discounts for its 10-day guided Vesuvius Tour, visiting Rome, Florence, Naples, Pompeii, Capri, Sorrento and Venice with prices ranging from \$2,890 U.S. to \$3,390 per person. There are nine departures from Oct. 28 to April 13. Airfare, which is extra, can be arranged from several U.S. cities, including Newark, N.J., New York City (JFK) and Boston.

The itinerary begins in Rome with a three-night stay at the four-star NH Vittorio Veneto hotel, between Villa Borghese and Via Veneto. Guests take a tour of Imperial Rome and visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum and the Vatican Museums.

En route to Sorrento, you stop in Naples and Pompeii. In Naples, guests arrive via Vomero Hill overlooking the sapphire Bay of Naples, Capri, Ischia and Vesuvius and explore Castel dell'Ovo, San Carlo Opera House, Santa Lucia, Town Hall and the Angevin Castle.

In Pompeii, see one of Italy's best-known archaeological sites preserved by the ash of Mount Vesuvius. Then it's dinner and a two-night stay at the deluxe Parco Dei Principi, a hotel set on a cliff overlooking the bay of Naples in the heart of Sorrento.

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On Wednesday, see the island of Capri, followed by dinner at a great Neapolitan restaurant with fine wines of the Campagna Region. Then travel through Tuscany for a three-night stay at Grand Hotel Minerva in Florence. Then take a day trip to Venice and see St. Mark's Square, the Basilica and the Bridge of Sighs, followed by lunch. Sightseeing in Florence includes the Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery and Piazza della Signoria, home of Santa Croce Church. The last night will be at a popular Florentine restaurant with Tuscan wines.

The tour price includes airport transfers in Italy; centrally-located, first-class and deluxe hotels; deluxe motor coaches with extra legroom; daily buffet breakfast, six dinners, and one lunch; full-day Venice excursion; professional local guides; wireless headsets to hear the guides in public places; hotel taxes, hotel service charges and all tips for hotel and restaurant personnel; baggage handling (except at airport); one tote bag per person and baggage tags.

Bookings can be made up to two days prior to departure, if there is hotel availability and full payment for trip is made. For more information about the tour, visit perillotours.com/italy/tours-of-italy or call 800-431-1515.

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