



## "The Italian Way"

### EACH TOUR INCLUDES

- superb accommodation
- wine tasting
- daily excursions
- gourmet meals
- medieval castles
- local markets

### The Italian Way "Lifestyle and Culture"

The aim of our tours is to give you a taste of the food, wine, art and culture of the various regions we visit. Our small selected groups will ensure you a pleasant and enjoyable experience. You will be spoilt by the food, wine, the history and the arts.

### Accommodation "Villas, Farmhouses, Family Run Hotels"

Your welcome is in the Veneto and you will be transported from our regular meeting point at Venice Airport to your accommodation in the Venetian hinterland.

During the tours you will stay in a range of carefully selected properties such as restored country residences, farmhouses and small family run hotels. All bedrooms have private facilities.



### Meals " A Gourmet Delight"

These will be typically Italian, served at your place of residence and in selected restaurants with plenty of pasta dishes such as gnocchi, lasagne, tortellini and penne. You will indulge in the exquisite local meats, poultry and game which will be prepared in a typical Italian style. All restaurants are selected for their superior quality and variety.

### Wines "Great Local Reds and Whites"



**Prosecco** – A local jewel in the crown produced in the hills of the Veneto

**Verdiso** – Of ancient vine stock, one of the original wines of this area

**Merlot and Cabernet** – Some of the favourite reds

**Marzemino** – Mellow ruby red wine, celebrated by Mozart in his "Don Giovanni"

**Chianti** - From the vineyards in the beautiful Chianti area of Tuscany - and many others.

## Excursions "Villages, the Alps, Wine Valleys"

Enjoy daily excursions throughout the different regions. Each itinerary offers many wonderful day trips in the local areas. Here are just some of the many places you may visit during your tour.

**Veneto** – Venice with a gondola ride, the Alps and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Asolo and Trieste

**Tuscany** - Montepulciano, Siena, Pienza, San Gimignano and the Chianti hills

**Umbria** - Assisi, Spello, Spoleto and Montefalco

**Amalfi Coast** – Positano, Capri, Pompeii and the spectacular Amalfi coast

**Cinque Terre** – Monterosso, Vernazza, Riomaggiore and Portofino



## Activities "As Much or as Little as You Wish"

The small groups enable you to holiday at your own pace.

**WINE TASTING** enjoy a great prosecco, chianti and other local wines

**GOURMET MEALS** sample the delicious foods of the region and treasure some great recipes

**VISIT** village markets and art galleries

**ENJOY** free time to wander at leisure during excursions

**DISCOVER** the natural beauty of the Italian countryside

## Day Trips "All at a Leisurely Pace"



**VENEZIA** You will visit Venice and walk through the winding streets "Calli" across numerous beautiful bridges and visit famous art galleries and Venetian piazzas. Truly one of the world's most beautiful cities. Take the vaporetto on the Grand Canal, admiring the sights. A gondola ride will make this a memorable day.

**THE ITALIAN ALPS AND ALPINE LAKES** Vittorio Veneto and Cortina. Spectacular views as you drive up to the breathtaking Dolomites. See the "Tre Cime de Lavaredo". Visit "Pieve di Cadore" home of "Titian".

**ASOLO** (The town of Robert Browning) The city of a hundred horizons, an enchanted place, ever the favourite of artists, poets and painters

**VERONA AND LAKE GARDA** Visit Verona, the romantic city of Romeo and Julietta and enjoy a stay in Sirmione on Lake Garda, Italy's largest and most scenic lake.

**CINQUE TERRE** Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia - colourful clifftop villages and spectacular views. The most famous pathway in Cinque Terre "Via dell'Amore" was carved out of the steep cliffs overlooking the sea between Riomaggiore and the village of Manarola – an easy walk.



**SIENA** Explore Siena, a city built around the grandiose square Piazza del Campo and one of Italy's most enchanting cities.

**SAN GIMIGNANO** An enchanting medieval city where once stood 72 towers – today with 14 left it is just as impressive as it once was.

**ASSISI** The home town of San Francesco, a beautiful and tranquil refuge - the Basilica is one of Umbria's main attractions. The town's pink and white marble buildings shimmer in the sunlight.



**MONTEFALCO** With its splendid panoramic position, the town is known as Umbria's balcony.

**MEDIEVAL CASTLES** Visit castles dating from the 10th to 14th century.

**VILLAGE MARKETS** Plenty of fun here and great shopping for the latest fashion in clothes, handbags and shoes etc.

**CONEGLIANO** Production centre of prosecco wine. Conegliano is home to the world's oldest wine academy and watching over the city stands the 14th century castle. Walk down Via XX Settembre with its antique shops, art galleries and historic palazzi.

**AMALFI COAST** The resort town of Ravello, the hillside village of Positano with its fashionable boutiques and the beautiful little island of Capri are just some of the places you will visit. Spend time exploring Pompeii, the unique ruined Roman city where the life of 19 centuries ago is vividly experienced.

**TRIESTE** A grand port city famous for its ancient palazzi, ancient taverns and typical restaurants. Trieste is also known as the coffee capital of Italy. You will visit the beautiful Castello di Miramare with its spectacular gardens and take a scenic drive along the breathtaking coastline.



These are just some of the places you will visit during your tour. Please see tour itineraries for more detail.

## About Your Host



### **Claudio Polles**

Your bi-lingual guide who is from the Veneto region and who divides his time between Italy and Australia. Claudio, artist / gourmet connoisseur, third generation European restaurateur, has successfully established numerous continental restaurants throughout Australia and Europe. In 1987 Claudio was given duties as a consultant for the Tasmanian State Government in the tourism and industry sector. Claudio has worked in art for the past 30 years during which he has been involved in numerous international art and antique expos.