

Jewish Itineraries Food and History Tour

2021 • \$ 3,450 Land Package



Jewish Synagogue Rome Italy

The Jews of Italy have strong bi-cultural roots dating back to the second century BCE, when many Israelites, under the leadership of Judah Maccabeus, left the land of Israel to go the “Eternal City” (Rome). They also settled in Naples and in various localities in the southern part of the peninsula. Jews in pre-Christian Rome were very active in proselytizing their faith. It was not until the Jewish revolts in 132 CE, culminating in the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, that the Jewish-Roman alliance was broken and the Jews were forced into slavery. Approximately 10,000 Jews were transported to Rome to be used as work hands to help build the Coliseum. In addition to the history of the Jews in Italy, it’s important to note the gastronomic contribution made in expanding the knowledge of new flavors, aromas, spices and cooking techniques, which are common today in the Italian food repertoire but many ignore the sources. Ingredients such as eggplant, artichokes, honey, nuts and many more, found commonplace in the new Italian cuisine developed after the Inquisition of the 1500’s. As a chef, I personally undertook the task to share Italian Sephardim Cookery since 1985 simply to pay homage to my Jewish paternal grandmother, and for over 30 years offered Sephardim holiday celebrations in our restaurants with cuisine representing the several Ghettos of the Italian peninsula.

Today we no longer run restaurants, but my passion in sharing the wealth of Jewish Cuisine in Italy is represented in this tour which combines the uniqueness of Jewish settlements in Italy with their culinary richness. The affinity of the two cultures is redefined in this excursion.

After all as we say in Italy: **“The difference between in Italian and a Jew is the shiness of their shoe”**.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM ITINERARY

Day 1 – Monday Firenze Tuscany

Guests will be arriving in Florence Airport. Our deluxe private touring bus will take you to our 4-star rated hotel in Florence city center. Welcome cocktails and nibbles at arrival. Check in, free time to explore the surroundings. We reconvene for the welcome dinner at hotel.

- **Inclusions:** Airport transport / Welcome Cocktail / Dinner

Day 2 – Tuesday Firenze

Morning: Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby. Florence is one of the few cities around the world whose entire historical center is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reason is because it offers hundreds, maybe thousands, of things to see and to do. We'll be visiting the **Synagogue of Florence, the Jewish Museum, and the old Jewish Neighborhood**. We'll then continue toward the San Lorenzo Market. The market is actually comprised of two separate entities, an indoor market, known at the Mercato Centrale, or Central Market, home to all things food and the outdoor section that lines the surroundings streets of the large Mercato Centrale building, selling leather, clothing and many souvenirs. This outdoor market (and the indoor one as well) is a great addition to your sightseeing, ending up at the indoor market for **our lunch!**

- **Afternoon:** Free afternoon for you to wonder through the cultural richness of Florence, including famed **Ponte Vecchio, the Campanile of Giotto, Michelangelo's Statue of David, and Santa Croce**. Of course the list of things to see is entirely up to your eagerness. At the end of your journey through the city we will meet again for Dinner in the evening at **Ruth's Jewish Restaurant**, followed by return to our Hotel for the overnight.
- **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Guided Morning Tour / Lunch / Dinner / Overnight

Day 3 – Wednesday Bologna

Morning: Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby. Departure toward the city of Bologna in Emilia Romagna with an approximate 1-1/2 hour travel time. This morning we'll explore the Jewish Neighborhood of Bologna, with a guided tour of the **Bologna Synagogue, Jewish Museum, the Shoah Memorial Palazzo Bocchi, and Casa Sforzo**, the latter both formerly Jewish settings of wealthy Jewish merchants.

Afternoon: Free afternoon to discover the rich history of Bologna. This city is the lively, historic capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, in northern Italy. Its **Piazza Maggiore** is a sprawling plaza lined with arched colonnades, cafes and medieval and Renaissance structures such as **City Hall**, the **Fountain of Neptune** and the **Basilica di San Petronio**. Among the city's many medieval towers are the Two Towers, leaning **Asinelli and Garisenda**. You may enjoy some great food tasting in many of the food shops in the city-center. We reconvene to embark toward home-base Florence, and make a visit to a lovely winery for a tasting along our way back to Florence. Dinner will be at **4 Leoni Ristorante** in the center of the city for a true Florentine experience, followed by return to our hotel. **Check out tomorrow!**

- **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Guided Tour / Wine Tasting / Florentine Dinner / Overnight

Day 4 – Thursday Siena, Pitigliano

Morning: Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby. This morning we are checking out and continue to Southern Tuscany to the town of Pitigliano for our mid-week journey. It will be our longest day but it promises to deliver excitement, history, food, wine and knowledge. On our way south we'll make a stop to the romantic city of **Siena** where we'll take a tour of the **Synagogue and Jewish Cemetery**. You will have free time to enjoy the city. Siena is famous for its large square, called **Il Campo**, winding medieval alleyways, and the Palio, a historic horse race that takes place twice during the summer months. During your visit to Siena, you will spend most of your time in and around Il Campo, the heart of the city.

Afternoon: We will reconvene and depart toward **Terra di Seta Winery** in Castelnuovo Berardenga in the province of Siena for a wine tasting and food bites, including a seminar on a great Tuscan-produced olive oil. We'll continue our journey toward the Jewish settlement of **Pitigliano** in the area known as the Maremma, Southern Tuscany. Check in our hotel, followed by a **welcome cocktail and evening dinner in Pitigliano**.

- **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Wine Tasting with food / Olive Oil Seminar / Dinner / Overnight

Day 5 – Friday Pitigliano Tuscany

Morning: Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby. This morning we will enjoy a guided tour of the Pitigliano Synagogue and other sites of interest in Via Zuccarelli, the old Jewish quarter. **Wine and Olive oil tasting at Cantina di Pitigliano** which produces great Jewish varietals, and continue to a tasting of the famed “**Sfratto**” at **Forno del Ghetto**. Sfratti are a celebration of two cultures colliding, for better or worse. Persian-influenced ingredients from Israel like walnuts, orange zest and honey were mixed with Maremman dessert classics – olive oil and white wine – for a biscuit that’s crunchy on the outside and soft and gooey with every bite. Today the biscuits remain a symbol of the local fusion cuisine known as Goym. It was a way for the Jewish bakers of the time to commemorate the harmony they once shared with their neighbors and maybe even remind their children that things weren’t always so bitter in Pitigliano.

Afternoon: We will depart to visit two other additional Jewish settlements: **Sorano and Sovana**, both located within short travel time from Pitigliano. Brief visit and history immersion in these two romantic centers proudly listed as two of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Return to Pitigliano for evening dinner at **Il Tufo Allegro Ristorante**. **Pack your bags: we are going to Rome tomorrow.**

- **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Wine & Olive Oil Tasting / Sfratto Tasting / Dinner / Overnight

Day 6 - Saturday Rome

Morning: Continental breakfast at Hotel lobby. We are headed to Rome, Capital of Italy where we will spend our next two days. Check in at 4-star rated hotel. Start the morning touring the Catholic portion of the city with **Vatican City** – including **St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Sistine Chapel**. Walk in the footsteps of the Roman Empire at the Coliseum. Continue on to the Arch of Titus and recount the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Roman Empire. Ascend **Palatine Hill**, one of the Seven Hills of Rome, for a panoramic perspective on this ancient city. This portion of the day is guided by a professional tourism specialist. In the afternoon you will have free time to continue your day selecting the many activities available in the eternal city. We urge everyone to take to the city of Rome by foot so you can really appreciate the beauty of the city and stumble across gems you may never find on a taxi route. Rome offers a great bus service (hop-on-hop off), very convenient and fairly priced. **Lunch will be on your own**, and you can choose the luscious pizza alla Romana or maybe a Suppli of rice filled with a rich meat sauce. **Evening:** During the later part of the day you will have the option to attend local **Kabbalat Shabbat services** followed by Shabbat dinner at **Nonna Betta Restaurant in the Jewish Ghetto**.

- **Inclusions:** Breakfast / Guided Tour / Dinner / Overnight

Day 7 – Sunday Rome

Morning: Continental breakfast followed by departure to the Old Jewish Ghetto. We will spend the morning here with a guide tourism specialist that will enlighten you on the history of the ghetto and its people. Tour stops today will include:

Isola Tiberina Island in the middle of the Tiber River with bridges connecting Trastevere to the Jewish Ghetto

Teatro Marcello Named after Marcus Marcellus, Emperor Augustus's nephew, who died five years before its completion; the Teatro was begun by Julius Caesar and completed by Augustus in 13 BC.

The Great Synagogue

The Great Synagogue of Rome, or the Tempio Maggiore di Roma in Italian, is the largest synagogue in all of Rome and possibly all of Italy.

Jewish Museum of Rome

The Jewish Museum is located in the Great Synagogue. Opened underneath the Great Synagogue in 1960, it displays silverware and textiles, parchments and marble carvings from the collections of the Jewish Community of Rome..

Mouth of Truth, or Bocca della Verita, T

The image of a man's face carved in marble. Located in the entrance of the Santa Maria in Cosmedin Church since the 17th century, the sculpture is thought to be from the first century.

The Turtle Fountain

Originally built as a drinking fountain, the water was sourced from the Acqua Vergine, one of Rome's first aqueducts – a big deal for sixth century Romans!

.... And maybe even a Church

Somewhat surprisingly all things considered, there are more than 15 churches in the small area that comprises the old Jewish Ghetto.

We will stop for a mid-morning snack at **Forno del Ghetto Bakery** for a tasting of fine Jewish pastries and delicacies. Lunch will be at **Restaurant Dolce Kosher**, a family operated business with great Jewish specialties. In The afternoon you will have free time for you to explore additional venues on your own, make the last souvenir purchase, or simply few selfies. We will reconvene in the evening for our farewell dinner at **Taverna del Ghetto** in the Jewish quarter.

Day 8 – Monday Departure

Morning: Continental breakfast followed by transfer to Leonardo da Vinci airport for return flights to final destinations.

MORE TRIP DETAILS BELOW

List of total inclusions: Pick up from Florence Airport / Return to Da Vinci Airport Rome / 5 Guided Tours of all sites / Luxury Deluxe Motor Coach for all transportation / 3- Four Star Hotel Accommodation / Museums Tickets / All Taxes & Service Charges / 1 Welcome Cocktail 7 Breakfast / 5 Dinners with wine 2 Lunches with wine / 3 Wine Tasting / 2 Olive Oil Tasting 2 Dessert-Pastry Tasting / All travel within Italy Except private requests / 7 nights – 8 days

Additional Trip Details

- * Single occupancy available for an additional \$250.00 PP / Suite \$ 500
- * Deposit \$550 for reservation (non-refundable).
- * Please read our cancellation policy before making your payment.
- * The following is included in the price. All land transportation during tour / including trip from airport and return

carmela@chefwalter.com 401-273-2652 / we will hold your reservation without deposit for 14 days. A \$550 non-refundable deposit is required to hold a reservation for tour at time of reservation.

We reserve the right to modify the program based on unexpected factors, but with equal or superior offerings.

*** Payments**

By check payable to: Walter Potenza 286 Atwells Avenue, Providence RI 02903

• Not included your Airfare •

PAYMENT / Payment in full is required at least 90 days prior to departure REFUNDS / In the event that we must cancel a trip, you will be given a full refund of all deposits and payments. We do not give refunds of deposits or final payments for tours that commence as scheduled, including for unused portions of the tour. We do give credit for cancellations as noted below.

Cancellation policy

In the event you cancel your tour for any reason, we allow credit for payments (but not the non-refundable deposit) in the following way: • 100% credit for future tours given with 90 days notice. • 60% credit for future tours given with notice of 60 to 89 days.

- 30% credit for future tours given with notice of 30 to 59 days. • No credit is issued for cancellation less than 30 days prior to start date of the tour. • All cancellation credits are good for one year from the start date of the originally scheduled tour. We strongly encourage trip insurance. (Contact your credit card company for additional information).

For details call 401.273.2652 or carmela@chefwalter.com

What to Pack for Italy: Travel Water Bottle / Active-wear / Running Shorts / Travel Towel / Sun Hat / Travel Insurance / Adapter



Florence Synagogue

