



PARMA CENTRO STORICO

EMILIA ROMAGNA TOUR SEPT 15 - 27TH 2018



TORRECHIARA CASTEL



PORTICI BOLOGNA



ANTICO BORGO DI TABIANO CASTELLO



CENTRO STORICO DI BOLOGNA

On a visit to Emilia Romagna, the local life style of relaxed self indulgence soon takes hold. Elegant art towns lying in a bucolic countryside and a splendid cuisine impart an undeniable sense of wellbeing, easily matching the legacy and interest of neighbouring Tuscany and Lombardy. Visitors however, often overlook this part of Italy. This gives the region a refreshingly un-touristy appeal, making it an ideal place to visit. As well as being a foodie haven, the region is studded with sumptuous Renaissance palaces, frescoed Romanesque churches, striking rural castles and fortified villages, and unique byzantine artworks.

Emilia Romagna is a land of dualities, and this evident in its physical, political and cultural identity. Half flat plane, half foot hills to the Apennines. The twin arteries of the majestic Po river and the historic via Emilia both traverse the region from end to end.

Its double-barrelled name derives from two separate historical and political entities, the once independent ducal states of Emilia and the Papal state giving rise to Romagna. This is the birthplace of Mussolini and Fascism, but also a stronghold of Italian style Communism (the party recently renamed Democrats of the Left), and wellspring of legislation benefiting workers rights, cultural life and progressive education in the region and beyond.

A visit to Emilia Romagna is a visit to a place where time honoured traditions go hand in glove with local artistic and technical innovation and above all, the idea of quality. Time honoured traditions relating to the creation of cheeses and salumi going back many centuries, the oldest university in the world in Bologna, and an artistic and architectural treasure trove found in many of the historical centres.

Several innovators in the artistic and technical fields hail from this region: Giuseppe Verdi, romantic composer and a figurehead of the Italian Risorgimento, Giosue Carducci regarded as Italy's national poet, Pellegrino Artusi famed food author, Giorgio Morandi still life artist, Guglielmo Marconi inventor, and Enzo Ferrari formula one driver and car designer, venerated throughout Italy as national heroes. "Made in Emilia Romagna" brands include fashion houses Armani, Maxmara, Pollini and La Perla. Luxury car manufacturers such as Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Ducati, are considered works of art.

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This is the land of the buona forchetta - gourmards with a healthy appetite where signature dishes featuring fresh pasta and cured products are an everyday rather than a special gastronomic occasion. Features of the landscape such as the river valleys channelling air from hills to the plain and the winter fog, so important in curing processes of parmigiano and salumi are also considered as fundamental ingredients. Part of the mastery in the making of these famed local food products is the innate understanding, passed down over generations, of the importance of waiting for something that gets better with age.

The art towns and cities of Emilia Romagna have a distinctly utopian air. Their beauty and charm combines architectural richness with unpretentious simplicity. The prevalence of small thriving businesses and the local artistic and food culture pervades the air, providing a wonderful stage for local inhabitants and visitors alike.

We will be based in three locations, Bologna, Parma and rural spa village Tabiano, exploring these places and the historical centres of Ravenna, Ferrara, and Modena with professional guides and expert locals. A balance between town and country, some days will be very local, others will be day trips to neighbouring towns, villages within easy reach, sampling the range of marvellous local cuisine, not forgetting that porcini will be in season!

Whether this is your first time here or you are reacquainting with Emilia Romagna, we hope you will enjoy a special and memorable experience as much as we are looking forward to hosting this visit.

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Supplementary information and the full list of tour inclusions and exclusions are as per booking form. We recommend that you spend the night prior to departure in Rome. To secure your place, a deposit of \$600 (non refundable) is required.

Price in Euro 3,975 per person, twin-share excluding airfare (approx. \$6,800). The price is subject to change with respect to exchange rate fluctuations and if a full group of 14 is not secured. Final price in dollars to be confirmed on the 18th of July 2018. We will meet in Rome and finish in Bologna.

Itinerary available soon.