

Italy

**Elegant Resorts & Villas Italian Collection:**

Villas Rentals throughout Italy

Privately owned apartments in Rome, Florence, Venice and Amalfi Coast

Small Ship Cruising in the Med – “Intelligent Cruising” with on-board lecturers



**Ideal time to visit:**

Weather in the north is typified by Venice; the remaining two thirds of the country are similar to Rome. The ideal times to visit is May and June and September and October. The main cities can be crowded with tourists in July and August. The Roman’s desert their city during local holidays in August, and during this time many restaurants are closed

**Currency:** The Euro

**Average Temperature as a Guide**

TEMP C	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Ave High	11	13	15	19	23	28	30	30	26	22	16	13
Ave Low	05	06	07	10	13	17	20	19	17	13	09	06
Humidity	70	65	55	55	55	50	40	40	50	60	65	70
Days of Rain	08	08	08	05	05	05	01	02	05	07	10	10

## Special Events & Special Experiences in Italy

**VENICE Carnival:** With traditional masked balls and dazzling 18th-century costumes, the Carnival is the highlight of the city's year. St. Mark's Square and surrounding *campi* burst into exuberant life. The biggest days are the second Thursday, known as Giovedì Grasso, or "Fat Thursday," and the last day, Martedì Grasso, or "Shrove Tuesday." Most events are held around the Piazza San Marco, which fills up with thousands of people dressed in flashy costumes on the first Sunday. Some of the most interesting events, such as Baroque music and Commedia dell'Arte, are held on the smaller squares. **13-24 Feb 09 & 05-16 Feb 2010**

**MILANO Vende Moda Spring-Summer Fashion:** One of the top fashion shows in the world, Milano Vende Modais is held at Fiera Milano city every year and is the must-attend event for all self-respecting fashionistas. **01-31 Mar 2009**

**ROME SPRING FESTIVAL:** The elegant sweep of the Spanish Steps rises from a small piazza with cafes and a fountain, to the church of Trinita Dei Monti high above. This is the scene of a regular Roman festival in which azaleas are set out on the steps in terracotta flowerpots, and there is a programme of concerts laid on for the awakening of the new tourist season. **01 Apr to 31 May 2009**

**VENICE Marriage to the Sea:** An ancient festival dating to a pagan ritual for Neptune. For centuries, the fortunes of the Maritime Republic were determined by seaborne trade. To symbolize the relationship, each year the doge would board a ceremonial

barge and toss a wedding ring into the waters of the lagoon. Today, the mayor of Venice maintains the colourful tradition. **01 May, 2009**

**VERONA Opera Festival:** The city's 25,000-seat Roman amphitheatre provides a stunning setting for this celebrated open-air opera festival. **15-29 Jun 09**

**ROME Jazz Festival:** Music lovers flock to the ancient city of Rome for the annual Rome Jazz Festival. Some of the best talent from home and abroad is showcased at the festival, providing a contemporary musical experience that is one of the best around, making use of some of Rome's most important music venues. **01 Jun -31 Jul 2009**

**SIENA Palio:** Fiercely contested bareback horse races staged annually in Siena since 1644. The events take place around the dramatic, sloping "Piazza del Campo. **01- 31 Jul 09**

**SPOLETO Festival:** Renowned arts festival founded by the late Gian Carlo Menotti and held every year in the lovely walled Umbrian town of Spoleto. **13 -16 Aug 09**

**VENICE Film Festival:** The world's oldest film festival, Inaugurated in 1932 it is still one of the most prestigious.. **29 Aug-10 Sep 09**

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