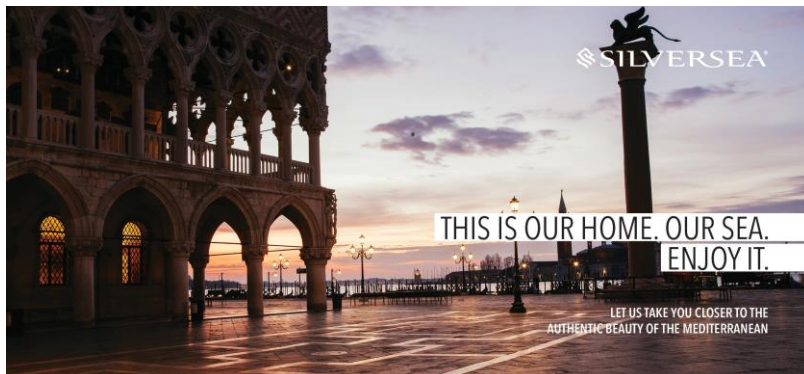


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Civitavecchia (Rome) to Venice

Departure Sep 24, 2022
 Duration 9 Days

DAY BY DAY

DAY		ARRIVE	DEPART
Sat	Civitavecchia (Rome)	-	7:00 PM
Sun	Sorrento	8:00 AM	-
Mon	Sorrento	-	3:30 PM
Tue	Syracuse (Sicily)	8:00 AM	11:00 PM
Wed	Day at sea	-	-
Thu	Corfu	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Fri	Kotor	8:00 AM	10:00 PM
Sat	Dubrovnik	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Sun	Zadar	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Mon	Venice	7:00 AM	-

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Itinerary

Rome: Civitavecchia is the port city for Rome. Rome has always been and remains the Eternal City. With its splendid churches, ancient monuments and palaces, spacious parks, tree-lined boulevards, fountains, outdoor cafés and elegant shops, Rome is one of the world's most attractive cities. Among the most famous monuments is the Colosseum where spectators watched combats between muscled gladiators and ferocious animals. Stop to see the remains of the Forum, once a political and commercial center. Rome's squares were enhanced with such imposing structures as the Vittorio Emanuele Monument and grandiose fountains like the Fontana di Trevi. Awe at Christendom's most magnificent church, the Sistine Chapel. The busy square Piazza Venezia is easily recognized by its imposing Vittorio Emanuele II Monument. Take a stroll to Rome's famous Trevi Fountain. Vatican City is the site of lovely St. Peter's Square and St. Peter's Basilica, where for 200 years, Renaissance masters worked on its design and created an unparalleled masterpiece. Visit Vatican Museum.

Sorrento: With a dramatic cliff-top setting along the rugged Sorrentine Peninsula, Sorrento has been noted for its beauty since ancient times, when Greek ships sailed past, and later by the Romans who called the city Surrentum. Travelers today find the same remarkable views sweeping across the Bay of Naples to Mount Vesuvius, along with a lively southern Italian resort atmosphere. The bustling Piazza Tasso is the heart of Sorrento. Corso Italia runs through the piazza and is lined with shops and restaurants on both sides. Escape the traffic and chaos of Piazza Tasso by wandering in Sorrento's historic district, which is located between Corso Italia and the Villa Comunale park that overlooks the cliffs of Sorrento. A grid of medieval streets, the historic center is Sorrento's most charming area. Via San Cesareo is a great spot for excellent restaurants and shops selling local specialties such as limoncello. Many shops sell beautiful intarsia, or inlaid woodworking, in the form of music boxes, furniture and decorative items. From the top of the cliff in the center of Sorrento, follow the road down to Marina Grande, which is Sorrento's smaller and much more picturesque port. Colorful buildings and restaurants sit alongside the water, where you can dine overlooking the sea surrounded by a small fishing village scene. Sorrento is ideally situated for exploring the Sorrentine Peninsula, including the Amalfi Coast, as well the nearby island of Capri, the archaeological sites of ancient Pompeii and Herculaneum, and the vibrant and fascinating city of Naples.

Siracusa: Sicilia is the favorite island of Gods in traditional poetry. The most powerful and biggest ancient city in Sicilia is Siracusa. Its name may come from the native word "Siraco", which means "marsh", due to the bogs which surrounded the city. Or it may derive from a Phenician etymology signifying the presence of seagulls on its rocky shores. Few cities of the ancient world had the importance Syracuse had in Magna Grecia, the ancient Greek settlements in Italy. The most spectacular monuments in the archeological area surrounded by colorful Mediterranean vegetation are the Greek amphitheatre and the Orecchio di Dionisio (Dionysius' Ear). Besides touring the Archeological Museum that contains beautiful objects, Ortigia Island, the heart of the old Greek city, is worth a visit. Outside the city limits is Eurialo Castle, an incredible structure built to protect the city from the Cathaginians, and Pantalica, the great rocky necropolis in Anapo Valley.

Corfu: Part of the Ionian chain, about 297 mi/475 km northwest of Athens, Corfu is one of Greece's most beautiful islands. Once renowned for its notorious nightlife (which is now mainly confined to rowdy Kavos on the south coast), it has rich scenery, numerous cypress and olive groves, rugged mountains, splendid hidden coves, and miles/kilometers of sandy beaches (the one at Paleokastritsa is the most scenic).

Kotor: The city of Kotor, Montenegro, is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the Mediterranean. Steep cliffs surround the Bay of Kotor, inviting its nickname "Europe's most southern fjord," and the city is still surrounded by its ancient walls. Kotor rates a full day to walk its narrow streets, investigate the shops and see the historic sites. History buffs will enjoy the Maritime Museum located in the Grgurina Palace. If you're feeling fit, you can walk on Kotor's fortress walls that eventually wind their way up to St. Ivan's Castle. It's a steep climb, but worth it for the views of the bay. Don't miss the St. Tryphon Cathedral in the old town, built in the 12th century. Kotor has an interesting motto above the town's entrance: "What belongs to others we don't want, what is ours we will never surrender."

Dubrovnik: Like something out of a picture-perfect fairy tale, the Old Town of Dubrovnik, Croatia, is a walled medieval city set right on the sea, with drawbridges (used in the 1991-92 war) and 18-ft-/6-m-high gates guarding the main entrances. The entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage site, but it's also very much a living, breathing city. From the crenulated ramparts and watchtowers, there are some perfect vistas of the medieval city, with its cluster of signature bright red clay roofs, and outwards to the Adriatic Sea, nearby islands and mainland mountains. Because the Old Town is blissfully free of motorized traffic, the main streets (Placa or Stradun), squares and alleyways are perfect for exploring the city on foot. Most of the inhabitants of Dubrovnik live outside of the Old Town's city walls. However, inside those walls, several hundred residents still live in historic homes, and the streets and alleyways are crammed with tiny shops, bars, cafes and restaurants that spill out onto the street. The serious damage from the Serbia-Croatian War in the early 1990s has been completely repaired. Locals are still keen to point out the shrapnel and bullet damage that has been retained as a reminder of those dark days, which still come up frequently in conversation. Dubrovnik also offers a spectacular natural setting, which includes soaring rugged mountains running along the coast, dramatic cliffs plunging into the sea, tiny deep coves with pebble beaches, offshore islands and unbelievably crystal-clear waters. This draws visitors as much as the historical medieval town. In addition, many of Dubrovnik's stunning luxury and boutique hotels are destinations in themselves, easily commanding some—or much—of guests' leisure time. Many visitors return year after year to luxuriate in their favorite hotel or resort. Dubrovnik has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe because of its warm climate, seaside setting and its rich historic and cultural heritage. In addition, many Game of Thrones fans visit the city to see the original locations that were used in the popular TV show. Dubrovnik's increased popularity also means that the city is facing the challenge of accommodating more visitors, especially during the busy summer season. Therefore, the number of visitors in the old town at any one time is limited to 8,000 people in order to protect historic buildings.

Zadar: Zadar, Croatia, is the ancient capital of Dalmatia and the oldest town on the Adriatic. Located 70 mi/115 km northwest of Split, it has a very historic core that juts out like a thumb into the Adriatic. The town was under Italian rule for centuries and still retains some of this influence with many of the Italian-speaking old-timers in the town market. To see examples of architecture from the city's earlier era, visit the ruins of a Roman forum (second century BC) and the 16th-century Sea Gate, which was rebuilt from the remains of a Roman arch. Slavic structures include the ninth-century Sveti Donat Church that stands proudly in the center of the old town, and the 13th-century Cathedral of St. Anastasia. The remains of the Church of Stomorica can be found in the southwest end of the city. The foundation of this old relic, dating from the eighth century, pokes out of the ground in the shape of a key, symbolizing the keys of Saint Peter. The archaeological museum located in the main square opposite Sveti Donat Church is also worth a visit. The Morske Orgulje (Sea Organ) is an intricate part of the city pier's marble steps, near the main ferry port. It is a modern day marvel with the varying waves, wind and tides creating a cacophony of musical sounds. The Sea Organ was conceptualized and built by architect Nicola Basic in 2005 as part of a revitalization project to bring life back to the far end of the city piers. A local travel agency can organize a tour of the nearby Kornati Islands National Park from Murter, Sibenik or Zadar—these 147 stark, rocky islands and islets make up the largest archipelago in the Mediterranean. Most of the islands are uninhabitable and retain a natural beauty. The easiest and most interesting way to reach them is by boat.

Venice: Venice, Italy, is romance: a bridge arching over a canal, a gondola gliding by, the moon reflecting off water. Venice is history: the Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace), Piazza San Marco, the Grand Canal, great art and great museums. Venice is modern: the headline names and paparazzi of the Venice Film Festival, the buzzing excitement of Carnival in the 10 days before Lent begins. Venice has a plethora of world-famous museums and artistic treasures. The Basilica di San Marco, with its spectacular Golden Altar; the Bridge of Sighs, where prisoners could enjoy one last glimpse of the beautiful city before entering the dark jail; the Gallerie dell'Accademia, with its collection of art of the 14th-18th centuries; the Peggy Guggenheim Collection of 20th-century art—the list is long. Pick and choose which places you'll visit in-depth, or just skim the surface and soak up the atmosphere. Venice is set on islands connected by bridges, with the Grand Canal as its main thoroughfare, and traffic moves by boats that range from the traditional gondolas to refuse barges. The absence of automobile noise means you can hear the laughter of children from your window, as well as footsteps seemingly just around the corner. But what makes Venice so unique also challenges its existence. The rising sea levels of global climate change threaten the city, and now, more often than in the past, high tides from the Adriatic Sea can flood whole sections of the city. Although the resident population in Venice has declined as many young people have moved to the mainland, where real-estate prices and the cost of living are lower, the city continues to draw tourists. In fact, the central areas can be packed, people may be brusque, and prices are high. Even so, Venice remains a treasure to be savored.