

# 3-Night Florence, Italy CME AWAY®

## Pre-Tour Optional Extension

### September 3-6 2023

I was fortunate to travel to Florence for the first time last summer. We have travelled to Italy, many times, but never made it to Florence. Florence is definitely one of Italy's hidden gems, overshadowed by the larger cities like Rome, Venice, Milan and Naples.

It truly is a walking city where history surrounds you. The Medici family, also known as the House of Medici, first attained wealth and political power in Florence, Italy in the 13th century through their success in commerce and banking. Every corner you turn, there is something that relates back to the Medici family. The Ponte Vecchio Bridge was constructed originally in wood, but after the flooding of the bridge in 1333, it was rebuilt in stone in 1345. Tanners, Blacksmiths and Butchers set up permanent stalls there to sell meat and fish in order to keep the smell out of the town square. These stalls were eventually turned into jewellery shops. In the 16th century, the Medici family built an enclosed private passageway to connect the Palazzo Vecchio to the Palazzo Pitti. This narrow elevated passageway allowed the family and guests to travel freely and unnoticed.

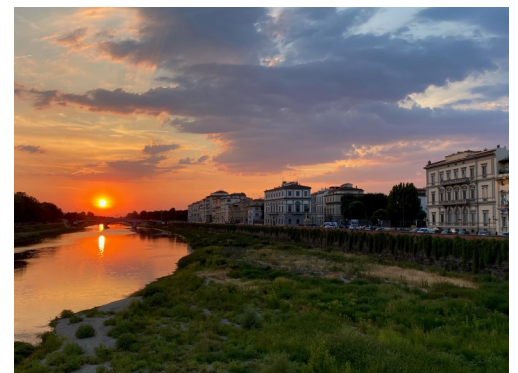
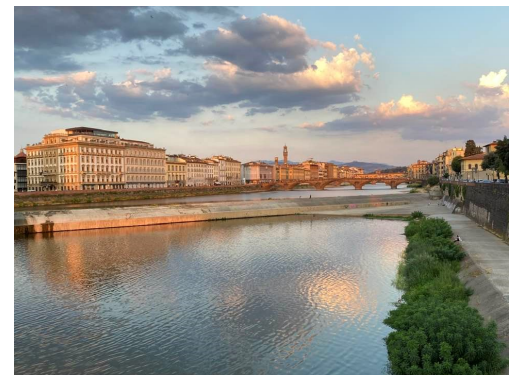
History abounds with Florence being the burial place for Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli to name a few. Once you have taken in the history, there are so many great café's, restaurants and shops to enjoy all the ambiance that Florence has to offer. If you are looking for a great spot to watch the sunset over the river, the Westin Excelsior has a beautiful rooftop restaurant and bar, where you can either enjoy a light snack and drink or dinner.

In my mind, a trip to Florence is not to be missed.

**SuZanne Gosrani**  
Senior Vice President, CME AWAY®



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## Pre-Tour Optional Extension

### September 3-6 2023

#### Day 1 | Sunday, September 3, 2023: Florence, Italy—Tour Begins

Get settled into Florence for your 3-night stay. Take time to get acquainted with the beautiful area on your own time after your travels to Italy.

*Accommodation: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Classic Room.*

#### Day 2 | Monday, September 4, 2023: Florence

Start your morning with a locally guided walking tour of Florence's cultural treasures, passing the Duomo, the Baptistery, the Palazzo Vecchio and the Piazza della Signoria. The afternoon is yours to browse the shops of via Tornabuoni, or perhaps visit one of the city's great museums\* such as the Uffizi or the Accademia, which houses Michaelangelo's statue of *David*.

*Accommodation: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Classic Room. Meals: B.*

*\*Most province museums in Florence require reservations to access. In order to avoid long lines we suggest you reserve your ticket online prior to departure if you plan to visit the Academy Gallery of the Uffizi during your free time in Florence.*

#### Day 3 | Tuesday, September 5, 2023: Florence

Explore Florence's bohemian *Oltrarno* district during a guided walking tour of the city's Left Bank, *Oltrarno* literally means "on the other side of the Arno," the river which runs through Florence, Grasp the spirit of this "Florence of the Florentines": here the last craftsmen, the market stalls, the gardens and churches, the typical restaurants and cafes still move at the gentle rhythm of everyday life, away from the hustle and bustle of Florence's more famous monuments. The *Oltrarno* was so dear to the Medici family—Florence's great rulers—that they made it their home by establishing themselves in the Pitti Palace. The remainder of the day is yours to explore more of Florence Perhaps you'll venture up to Piazzale Michaelangelo, a panoramic terrace offering charming views of the city's towers and domes.

*Accommodation: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Classic Room. Meals: B.*

#### Day 4 | Wednesday, September 6, 2023: Florence—Rome

Your Florentine sojourn comes to a close to say. Say Arrivederci! as you transfer to Rome by highspeed train to begin your Rome & Amalfi Tour. *Today breakfast will be included.*

**The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3.** This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation, and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. **Please note: portage is not available at the Florence or Rome train stations. You must be able to handle your luggage on and off the trains, including 2 steps to lift the luggage onto your assigned carriage, there is no checked luggage service available on Italian train.**

### What's Included

- 3 nights accommodation at the Grand Hotel Baglioni in a Classic Room
- 3 breakfasts
- High-speed train from Florence to Rome

### Not Included

- Transfers on arrival day
- Items of a personal nature
- All other services not mentioned
- Gratuities/tips for tour guides and drivers
- Trip Cancellation, Interruption and/or Medical Insurance. It is your personal responsibility to ensure you have sufficient insurance coverage. Please ask your CME AWAY advisor about the options we offer.

### Terms & Conditions

- The tour is capacity controlled and space is limited. Book early to avoid disappointment. Minimum number of passengers required.
- Prices are subject to change and are only guaranteed with deposit.
- Deposit of \$250 per person due at time of booking. Deposit is refundable up to March 6, 2023
- Final payment is due June 6, 2023.
- Cancellations after June 6, 2023 are completely non-refundable.
- Trip and conference must be booked through Sea Courses.

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**[CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER FOR THIS  
PRE-TOUR  
EXTENSION!](#)**

Prices as of September 15, 2022 based on double occupancy

3 Night Tour in CAD	\$1,499 per person
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3 Night Tour in approx. USD	\$1,149 per person
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