Bluebonnet Bespoke

Sample Itinerary: 11 Days in Rome & the Italian Coast by Sailing Yacht

Rome on both ends, and in between a week aboard a four-masted sailing yacht, calling at Ponza, Amalfi, the Aeolian Islands, Sardinia and Corsica. This sample is based on a real Bluebonnet trip, with personal details removed. Every itinerary we design starts from scratch, so think of this as a starting point, not a package.

Length	11 days in Italy and France (plus overnight flight)
Route	Rome (2 nights), 7-night small-ship cruise round-trip from Rome, Rome (1 night)
Pace	Easy: unpack once for the week, with an optional excursion in each port
Ideal for	Couples, anniversaries, travelers who love the sea but not big ships
Best seasons	Late spring through early fall

Rome

Stay: Hotel De′ Ricci, an eight-suite boutique hotel near Campo de′ Fiori and Piazza Navona that feels more like a private Roman home. It′s built around wine, with sommeliers on staff, a cellar of more than 1,500 labels and a wine cabinet in every suite. Preferred-partner amenities include daily breakfast, a hotel credit, early check-in and late check-out, and an upgrade when available.

Day 1: Benvenuti a Roma

A private driver meets you at Fiumicino. Once you're settled in your suite, follow our mapped walk at your own pace: Piazza Navona and Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers, the Pantheon, a coin over your shoulder at the Trevi Fountain, then Via del Corso to the Spanish Steps.

Dinner idea: Osteria da Fortunata, a Roman favorite for classic pasta, around the corner from the hotel.

Day 2: Ancient Rome and Gelato by Golf Cart

An early small-group tour of the Colosseum's first and second levels, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, before the heat. For the afternoon, choose one of two mapped walks: Villa Borghese and the Pincian Terrace with the galleries of Via Margutta, or the ivy-covered lanes of Trastevere, ending with an aperitivo by the Tiber.

In the evening, a guided golf-cart tour covers the city without tiring your legs: Circus Maximus, the Mouth of Truth, the Pantheon and Trevi, with a gelato stop and sunset over Piazza del Popolo from the Pincio.

Dinner idea: La Nuova Piazzetta Navona, a family-run spot for homemade pasta and wood-fired pizza.

Sailing the Italian Coast

Ship: Windstar's *Wind Spirit*, a four-masted sailing yacht for just 148 guests. Every stateroom has an ocean view, the teak decks are wide open, and there's a watersports platform off the stern. Small enough to slip into harbors the big ships can't reach.

Day 3: All Aboard

A slow breakfast, then a private driver to the port at Civitavecchia. Settle into your ocean-view stateroom and watch the coast slip away as the sails go up.

Day 4: Ponza

The island where Romans go on vacation: one main street, few cars and a harbor full of fishing boats. *Optional excursion:* circle the island on a traditional fishing boat past sea caves, white cliffs and Chiaia di Luna beach, with swim stops along the way.

Day 5: Amalfi and Positano

Optional excursion: a boat from Amalfi to Positano for an hour among its boutiques and pastel houses, then back to Amalfi with a guide to the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Leave time for a limoncello before you re-board.

Day 6: Lipari

The largest of the Aeolian Islands, all pastel houses and volcanic hills. *Optional excursion:* the island's best viewpoints over the archipelago, then a local pizzeria where you make your own Sicilian pizza and eat it with local wine and Aeolian cookies.

Day 7: A Day at Sea

No ports, no plans. A massage at the spa, a book on the teak deck, and the pool and hot tub.

Day 8: Sardinia's Emerald Coast

A long day in Porto Cervo, the yacht-lined enclave of the Costa Smeralda. The ship stays until 10:00 p.m., so there's time for a beach afternoon and dinner ashore.

Day 9: Corsica

Porto-Vecchio, a Genoese fortress town above a deep blue bay, now in France. Walk the old citadel and the Porte Génoise, or drive south to the clifftop citadel of Bonifacio, Corsica's oldest settlement.

Back to Rome

Stay: Singer Palace Hotel Roma, a five-star boutique hotel in the 1850 building that was once Singer's Roman headquarters, steps from the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain. Preferred-partner amenities include daily breakfast, a food and beverage credit, early check-in and late check-out, and an upgrade when available.

Day 10: The Vatican

A private driver brings you from the ship back into the city. In the afternoon, a private guide takes you through the Vatican Museums with skip-the-line entry, ending in the Sistine Chapel. Afterward, explore St. Peter's Basilica with our stop-by-stop walking guide:

Michelangelo's Pietà, Bernini's bronze canopy over the High Altar, and the view up into the dome. A driver is waiting in St. Peter's Square to take you back to the hotel.

Good to know: we add a night in Rome after the cruise, so there's no rush from the port to the airport and you still get a day to see the Vatican.

Dinner idea: ADEVA, modern Italian cooking in a restored former church near the Trevi Fountain.

Day 11: Arrivederci

Breakfast at the hotel, then a private transfer to the airport for the flight home.

What's Included

Every detail below was arranged before departure, so the trip itself took no planning on the ground.

- Private transfers between the airport, the hotels and the cruise port
- Three nights at two boutique Rome hotels, with preferred-partner amenities
- Seven nights aboard *Wind Spirit* in an ocean-view stateroom
- Timed entry and guided tours of the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
- A private Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel tour with skip-the-line entry
- The evening golf-cart tour of Rome
- Shore excursions requested in advance for each port
- Mapped walking routes for Rome and a self-guided St. Peter's Basilica walk
- Dinner suggestions near each hotel
- A know-before-you-go guide: passport rules, church dress codes, dining customs and safety tips
- A direct line to your advisor throughout the trip

Make It Yours

This is one way to see Italy by sea. Yours might add a few days in Florence or Tuscany, a villa on the Amalfi Coast, or a private yacht charter for the whole family. Tell us who's traveling and what you're celebrating, and we'll design the trip around you.

Start planning your Italy trip

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