



SEE YOU THERE

April **2024**

Some photos of elaborate events and functions at the conference

It is hard to put into a short newsletter the huge impact of my time in Italy and how excited I am to share this with clients. Hopefully, this paints a bit of a picture.

Italy... a very popular destination for my clients for good reason.

Beautiful, diverse areas, fun people, history everywhere and amazing food. What is not to love? I was fortunate enough to attend one of the best travel trade shows focusing solely on Italy. This prestigious, invitation only conference took place in Milan where I was able to meet and learn from the best sources that my clients have been able to and continue to experience.

My first time to Milan was in depth and my first impression was how the city is fueled by creativity and innovation! The city is made up of beautiful and distinct neighborhoods that you can easily explore by foot. From historic streets, to tranquil parks, palazzos, hidden gardens, canal-side cafes, and the iconic Duomo. The more time I spent here, the more I uncovered! A brand new gem **Palazzo Cardusio** was home for me.



Palazzo Cardusio



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 Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com
 @melissajamesic www.seeyourthereflc.com

Experiences

You can't visit Italy without indulging in their delicious pasta and seeing the process from fields to harvesting to grinding, mixing and then cutting was informative and fun! Every bite of pasta after this experience felt a little different, understanding the value of good pasta. And you can taste the difference!



Another incredible experience was visiting a **Carrara quarry** and those marble mountains. Seeing them from afar and then later going inside the mountain to see the heavy machinery, trucks, and bulldozers extract the marble. It is very much a construction site experience yet very clean. There was white dust on my shoes and jeans but you just shake the dust off and it is gone. It is much cleaner than sand. Seeing the size of the blocks of marbles and then understanding the logistics of the process gave me immense appreciation for the marble I continued to see throughout Italy, not to mention the many monuments and statues made out of these incredible stones.



Spotlight on Tuscany



Tuscany is on most clients' wishlists and after visiting a handful of villages, hotels and resorts (out of probably thousands I wish I could have visited!) I had a few highlights...



Balcony views from Plaza e de Russie



My villa at Borgo Pignano



Volterra

The tuscan coastline offers a stretch of beaches with similarities to the French Riviera but has its own unique feeling. I was fortunate enough to stay at **Plaza e de Russie** in Viareggio which is a perfect spot to situate yourself for a seaside escape. Modern, comfortable and contemporary design rooms with Relais & Chateaux association ensuring you will enjoy unpretentious, homely fresh food in their Michelin star restaurant. Views from your balcony on the boardwalk and ocean are the perfect spot for sunset aperitivo! Walk to dining options, beach clubs, shopping in 30 seconds. Forte dei Marmi, Lucca, Pisa, Arezzo, Siena, San Gimignano, Volterra, Carrara, Torre del Lago Puccini are just some neighboring towns all within reach with a short drive not to mention less than 1.5hrs to Florence.



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Umbria and Six Senses in Rome



All roads lead to Rome but first, I need to gush over the fabulous Six Senses Rome

After an exciting and busy few weeks in Italy I was ready for a reset, pause and pamper which is what I got and then so much more!!! I expected Six Senses to calm my mind but I was not prepared to enter a resort haven in the city center! Space, high ceilings, natural light, textures, smell were some of my first impressions as I entered the hotel and explored the facilities and my beautiful suite. The bottom 3 photos are of my suite (one of my clients fav category) with a huge private terrace overlooking the rooftops and sights of the city. Apart from the stunning accommodations what I can really appreciate is the soundproofing in this hotel. The seal of the windows and doors ensure you don't hear a peep for a peaceful sleep (or afternoon nap!) which not many hotels can boast about. The reason I call this a resort is because there is SO much to do without leaving. I recommend a minimum of 2 nights to do hotel only experiences followed by 2 additional nights minimum for Rome. The spa is outstanding offering a huge selection of treatments. I pampered myself with a herbal healing hammam (wow!) and 'cocoon'. Their roman baths featuring several temperatures are so wonderful. Dining - their food sourcing and philosophy is perfection not to mention delicious and then experiences... complimentary sound bath, crafts for kids and adults, sustainability tours... wow! Loved it here and you will too.

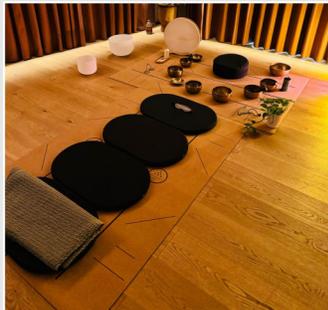


Palazzo Misciattelli

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The Umbria region in central Italy is often called the country's green heart, known for its medieval hill towns, dense forests and local cuisine; particularly foraged truffles and wines.

An absolute gem is Orvieto - a small city perched on a rock cliff with maybe my favorite Duomo, dating from 1290 which has a mosaic facade. The Pozzo di San Patrizio is a 16th-century well shaft with a double spiral staircase with 254 steps each way worth exploring to work off that extra serving of pizza and pasta you 'had to have'! An underground cave network attests to the city's Etruscan roots. What I found so special about Orvieto was that it is small but not too small, offers a large variety of fantastic and inexpensive dining options and is NOT overrun with tourist buses like too many villages sadly.

Possibly my favorite thing about the city is your luxurious accommodation option in a residence at **Palazzo Misciattelli**! Each residence offers top notch luxury amenities, linen, towels, high end appliances and privacy with hotel-like inclusions like daily breakfast, housekeeping, fitness center, sauna etc. A private cooking class with an authentic chef will leave you inspired and excited to hit the kitchen upon your return home. Your residence is in the heart of Orvieto so you are footsteps away from everything you need for a 3 night stay + and short driving distance to a variety of options for a longer visit. Did I mention, you can be in Rome via a quick 1 hour train ride?!



Heading south



Pompeii's archaeological site is a historic city that was immersed in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. We discovered what the excavations have revealed about the daily life in Pompeii so far with new discoveries continually occurring. Our private guide was superb, informing us about all of the highlights, weaving us to the best places to understand more about this tragic event and how life was in these times. We were also able to see the sculptures and art that survived the damage caused by the volcanic eruption. The site (city) is huge which is why even as a travel advisor, I get an expert guide to enhance my own personal experience. I adhere to the principle that if I wouldn't personally enjoy it, I wouldn't suggest it to my esteemed clients.



Florence and more of Italy



The cradle of the Renaissance and the world capital of art in the 15th century, Florence boasts one of the oldest historic centers and some of the most famous museums in the world.

Where to start? Brunelleschi's Duomo, Piazza Della Repubblica, Piazza della Signoria, Santa Croce with its tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo, the Ponte Vecchio lined with centuries-old jewelry shops that is topped by the Medici family's secret passageway, Accademia Gallery, visit the famous 'David', the statue that established Michelangelo as the greatest sculptor of his time. Medici Chapels, The Uffizi Gallery, one of the most important galleries in the world.. I could go on and that is just one portion.

Florence as a base also allows you to visit neighboring towns for day trips such as Chianti, Siena and San Gimignano.



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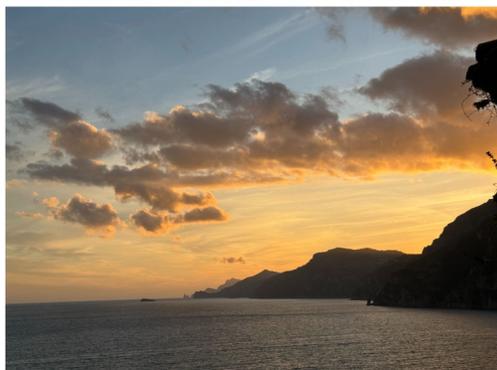
Spotlight

on the breath taking

Amalfi coast



WOW! So much to say, so little space... Positano is probably the most well known town on this coastline and I was able to experience the creme da le creme of this region at **Il San Pietro di Positano**. Carved into the cliff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, rooms are unique both in their design and decor. Absolutely luxurious, I'll let the photos below do the talking. What I do need to describe is the mouth watering food and impeccable service. This entire region is incredibly expensive due to high demand and boutique properties, but I can say without a doubt, you will create life long memories here!



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Last but not least Rome



I feel like I took a journey through time and discovered another world... with an Ancient Rome tour led by an incredible private guide. We visited the amazing architectural marvel, the Colosseum and then learnt about the ruins at the Forum and surrounding landmarks.

Everything continued to piece together as we continued on this historical journey to visit the main artistic and architectural monuments of Classic Rome. Nicola Salvi's theatrical design of the Trevi Fountain, Bernini's Baroque style in Piazza Navona, the Spanish Steps, I now know why they are "Spanish" and saw the best-preserved ancient building in Rome, the Pantheon. So much history, thought and engineering took place long before technology was a thing to piece it all together. Quite spectacular!

Visiting the smallest country in the world, Vatican City has been on my list (2nd smallest country is Monaco FYI). Seeing these famous landmarks in person that are always on T.V. was pretty cool. I have never seen so many people queuing to get into a venue... it was like crazy Disneyland queues. Luckily, my VIP entrance and guide whisked us through in just minutes as others around us had hours to wait. Being treated like a rockstar vs actually being one is quite nice. St Peter's Basilica took my breath away... no photos or explanation will ever do it justice.

Rome is spoilt for choice when it comes to accommodation and this hotel blew me away with looks, design, quality and service. The tentative service was truly special and sincere that I felt excited to get back to my home in Rome after an amazing day to share with the staff who greeted me so warmly about what I had experienced. **J.K. Place Roma** was superb!! Discreet and perfect for unpretentious luxury!

In summary, you can tell from the photos and notes Italy has a lot to offer!

The best suggestions I can provide for a seamless trip to Italy is to try book as far in advance as possible and aim for those shoulder seasons and/or, be open to trying something a little different. Something equally interesting but not as well known. I am always available to guide you and set expectations on the best choices for you and your traveling companions. Let's get planning!



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