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PALACE TOURS

La Dolce Vita Orient Express: The Grand Tour

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

The longest Italian route the train offers: five days and four nights in a grand loop from Rome that takes in Venice, Matera, Taormina and Palermo. The journey starts in the private lounge at Rome Ostiense before an evening in Venice, with menus by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck throughout.

From there the train runs south to the Adriatic. From Bari you continue to Matera, whose cave dwellings carved into limestone are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Day three brings one of rail travel's rare spectacles, as the train is carried by ferry across the Strait of Messina into Sicily for an evening in Taormina beneath Mount Etna. Day four is spent in Palermo, among Arab-Norman churches and lively street markets, before the train returns to Rome. This is the route for travellers who want to see the whole of Italy in one journey.

Hotel on us: book this journey with Palace Tours and choose a hand-picked hotel in Rome before and/or after your journey.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

ROME AND VENICE

Your journey begins with a private transfer from your hotel or the airport to the La Dolce Vita Orient Express lounge at Rome Ostiense, a refined space that offers a quiet moment to unwind before stepping aboard. In the morning, the train glides out of Rome, marking the start of your five-day voyage. Settle into your private cabin, and, as the landscape shifts beyond your window, make your way to the Restaurant Car for a lunch crafted by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck. By early evening, the train arrives in Venice. Here, a private water taxi awaits to bring you into the heart of the city. Wander through hidden alleyways, sip an aperitivo by the Grand Canal, or choose from a curated selection of à la carte experiences designed to connect you more deeply with the city's atmosphere and heritage. Later, return to the station where the train awaits. As the train continues its journey south, the Bar Car comes to life with live entertainment and musicians performing an intimate repertoire of Italian classics and modern arrangements.

DAY 2

MATERA



Wake to the soft movement of the train and a new landscape unfolding outside your window. Enjoy breakfast at your leisure, served either in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car as the train approaches the Adriatic coast. In the morning, you arrive at Bari, where a private transfer will bring you to Matera – one of Italy's most striking and storied cities. A place that feels quietly outside of time, with winding stone paths, sunlit courtyards, and dwellings carved directly into the hillside. Enjoy the city at your own pace or choose from a collection of carefully curated à la carte experiences. In the late afternoon, return to the train and depart toward Sicily. Back on board, a gourmet dinner crafted by Chef Heinz Beck offers a new menu inspired by the southern regions of Italy. The Bar Car fills once more with live music, weaving together a relaxed and elegant atmosphere for your second night on board.



DAY 3

TAORMINA

The train glides through the southern tip of the Italian mainland on the third day. Enjoy breakfast in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car while the landscape grows more dramatic – coastal cliffs, olive groves, and glimpses of turquoise sea. By late afternoon the train embarks on its iconic passage from the mainland to Sicily, crossing the shimmering Strait of Messina. In a rare and unforgettable moment, the train is carefully dismantled and carried aboard a ferry. From the dock, the landscape opens wide to sweeping views of the Mediterranean, an extraordinary scene suspended between sea and sky. It is a pause in motion, both serene and surreal. As the train rolls back onto Sicilian tracks, settle in for a lunch curated by Chef Heinz Beck. Inspired by the bold, sun-kissed flavors of the island. You then arrive in Taormina. Set high above the Ionian Sea with Mount Etna rising in the distance. Local assistants escort you to the city center, where the afternoon is yours to explore. Choose to wander at your own pace or select from a curated range of à la carte experiences. By late afternoon, return to the train for your next overnight journey. Dinner is served on board, with a new menu by Chef Heinz Beck highlighting Sicilian ingredients and traditions. The evening concludes in the Bar Car with live music – offering a relaxed and elegant close to the day.

DAY 4

PALERMO



Awaken to breakfast served in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car as the train approaches Sicily's vibrant capital, Palermo. You will be escorted to the heart of the city – where Arab-Norman architecture stands beside lively markets, and centuries-old churches sit amid bustling streets. The day is yours to explore at a leisurely pace or choose from a range of curated à la carte experiences designed to bring Palermo's unique culture and history to life. By mid-afternoon, return to the train for departure. As the journey continues, the train crosses back over the Strait of Messina at sunset, offering another chance to take in the stunning golden Mediterranean views from the ferry. Dinner on board, crafted by Chef Heinz Beck, reflects the flavors of Sicily and the mainland. The evening's live entertainment in the Bar Car—featuring a pianist, singer, and musician—creates the perfect atmosphere for your last night on this Grand Tour.



DAY 5

ROME

On your final morning, enjoy a relaxed breakfast served in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car as the train travels back to Rome. Take a moment to reflect on the journey – the cities visited, the landscapes admired, and the unforgettable experiences shared both on board and ashore. In the morning, the train arrives at Rome Ostiense, bringing The Grand Tour to its conclusion. From here, you are free to continue your travels or return home, carrying with you memories of a remarkable exploration through Italy.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Tips & Travel Guide

Extend your journey

You can add days in Rome before the train and in Florence and Tuscany after it. Here are three suggested lengths:

- **4 days:** 2 days before the train and 2 days after
- **5 days:** 2 days before and 3 days after
- **6 days:** 3 days before and 3 days after

Before the train: Rome

- **Day 1:** Arrive in Rome and transfer privately to your hotel. In the evening, walk to Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain.
- **Day 2:** Visit the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica with a private guide, then spend the afternoon at the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.
- **Day 3 (6-day option):** See the Borghese Gallery in the morning, then spend the afternoon and evening in Trastevere.
- The next morning, transfer to the station to board La Dolce Vita Orient Express.

After the train: Florence and Tuscany

- **Day 1:** Take the fast train from Rome to Florence, about an hour and a half. In the afternoon, visit the Duomo and the Baptistery.
- **Day 2:** See the Uffizi Gallery and Michelangelo's David at the Accademia with a private guide.
- **Day 3 (5- and 6-day options):** Spend a day in the Chianti hills, visiting wine estates and stopping for lunch in a village. Afterwards, leave from Florence or take the train back to Rome.
- The next day, transfer to the airport or your onward train.

We arrange the hotels, private transfers and guides around your train dates, and we can change any day to suit you. Prices are on request, and we have special offers on add-ons for this journey.

To request an extension, send us the enquiry form on this page and tell us which option you would like, or call 800-724-5120 (toll-free in the US) or +1 786-408-0610 from outside the US. You can also message us on WhatsApp at +1 786-408-0610.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
May 8, 2027	Cabin Suite	**€35,632**	**€20,960**
	Deluxe Cabin	**€25,296**	**€14,880**
	Cabin Suite Early Bird	**€35,482**	**€20,810**
	Deluxe Cabin Early Bird	**€25,146**	**€14,730**
Jun 25, 2027	Cabin Suite	**€33,456**	**€19,680**
	Deluxe Cabin	**€23,800**	**€14,000**
	Cabin Suite Early Bird	**€33,206**	**€19,430**
	Deluxe Cabin Early Bird	**€23,550**	**€13,750**
Sep 14, 2027	Cabin Suite	**€33,456**	**€19,680**
	Deluxe Cabin	**€23,800**	**€14,000**
	Cabin Suite Early Bird	**€33,206**	**€19,430**
	Deluxe Cabin Early Bird	**€23,550**	**€13,750**

Rates shown in Euro (EUR). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save €250

per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save €150

per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS

Regular fare

the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Cabin Suite	**from €19,680**	**from €19,430** save €250	**from €19,530** save €150
Deluxe Cabin	**from €14,000**	**from €13,750** save €250	**from €13,850** save €150

Double fares per person, two sharing; "from" is the lowest fare across the departures listed above. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: €250 / €150 on journeys from €8,000, €150 / €100 from €5,000, and €50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/ldv-grand-tour for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking & Payment

- **Deposit:** 30% of the total tour cost is due at the time of booking. The deposit is non-refundable.
- **Final payment:** the balance is due no later than 125 days before departure.
- Bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking.
- Fares are per person. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and due dates.

Cancellation

- **125 days or more** before departure: 30% of the total tour cost (the deposit)
- **Less than 125 days** before departure: 100% of the total tour cost

Changes

- **Date change:** free of charge, subject to availability, when requested 125 days or more before departure; after that, a fee of 15% of the total tour cost applies.
- **Cabin upgrade:** only the fare difference between cabin categories applies.
- **Cabin downgrade or passenger name correction:** free of charge up to 35 days before departure; within 35 days, EUR 500 per change.

Changes or cancellation by the train operator

If the train operator cancels or materially changes a departure, you will be offered a new date or an amended booking, a credit toward a future journey, or a refund of the amounts paid.

All cancellation, change, or update requests must be submitted in writing by email to travel@palacetours.com. A request takes effect only once we have received and processed it, and we will confirm the outcome to you in writing. Timeframes are calculated by reference to local time and business days at the destination; a request received outside business hours is treated as received on the next business day.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance, including cancellation cover, from the moment you pay your deposit. For information on available plans, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Grand Tour and where does it go?

> It is a 5-day, 4-night round trip from Rome, the longest Italian itinerary in the collection, taking in Venice, Matera, Taormina and Palermo before returning to Rome. All four nights are spent on board in your cabin. It is the journey that covers the greatest sweep of Italy, from the lagoon to Sicily.

How does the first day from Rome to Venice work?

> A private transfer brings you to the La Dolce Vita Orient Express lounge at Rome Ostiense, a quiet place to unwind before boarding. The train leaves in the morning and lunch is served in the Restaurant Car by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck as the landscape shifts. By early evening you reach Venice, where a private water taxi carries you into the heart of the city.

How do I get to Matera on the second day?

> You wake to the Adriatic coast and breakfast in your cabin or the Restaurant Car, and the train arrives at Bari in the morning. From there a private transfer takes you inland to Matera, a city of winding stone paths, sunlit courtyards and dwellings carved directly into the hillside. You explore at your own pace or choose a curated a la carte experience, returning to the train in the late afternoon.

Does the train really cross to Sicily by ferry?

> Yes, and on this itinerary you do it twice. By late afternoon on the third day the carriages are carefully dismantled and carried aboard a ferry to cross the Strait of Messina, with sweeping Mediterranean views from the deck. On the fourth day the train crosses back at sunset, giving you the same passage in golden light. Very few luxury trains in the world make this crossing at all.

What happens in Taormina?

> The third day brings coastal cliffs, olive groves and glimpses of turquoise sea before the ferry crossing, after which the train continues to Taormina on Sicily's eastern coast. The town is celebrated for its ancient theatre, its streets and its views toward Mount Etna. You have time there before rejoining the train for dinner on board.

What can I do during the day in Palermo?

> On the fourth morning the train approaches Sicily's capital and you are escorted into the heart of the city, where Arab-Norman architecture stands beside lively markets and centuries-old churches. The day is yours to explore at a leisurely pace or to take a curated a la carte experience that opens up Palermo's culture and history. By mid-afternoon you return to the train for the run north.

How does The Grand Tour end?

> The train returns to Rome on the fifth day after the final night on board, closing the circle where the journey began. Ending in Rome means one airport for arrival and departure and no repositioning at the end. We can arrange extra nights in the city before or after if you want more time.

What curated experience is offered in Venice?

> One of the a la carte options explores the Venice of Casanova, walking the calli and campielli of a city once famous for masquerade balls and noble intrigue. Led by expert historians, it includes the hidden passages of the Doge's Palace, moving through concealed doors into the private side of the Serenissima. It is selected and paid for separately from the journey fare.

Which cabin categories are available on The Grand Tour?

> You can book a Deluxe Cabin or a Cabin Suite. The train is composed of 12 Deluxe cabins, 18 Suites and the signature La Dolce Vita Suite, with interiors inspired by Italian design of the 1960s. Availability by category for each departure is shown on this page.

How much does The Grand Tour cost?

> Fares start from EUR 14,000 per person based on two people sharing a cabin, reflecting four nights on board and stops in four very different parts of Italy. The exact fare for each departure and cabin category is shown on this page. All meals, selected beverages and the described off-train experiences are included.

Is there a single-occupancy fare?

> Yes. A cabin can be booked for sole use at a single-occupancy rate, which is higher than the per-person sharing fare because an entire cabin is withdrawn from sale. The applicable rate is shown for each departure on this page. Get in touch and we will confirm the fare and check availability on your preferred date.

What is included in the fare?

> Included are four nights in your chosen cabin, all meals on board with menus curated by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck, selected beverages, the off-train excursions and transfers described in the itinerary, live entertainment in the Bar Car and a dedicated cabin steward. The private water taxi in Venice and the transfer from Bari to Matera are part of that programme.

What is not included?

> Travel to and from Rome is not included, nor are personal expenses, gratuities or travel insurance. Optional a la carte experiences chosen in Venice, Matera, Taormina or Palermo are paid for separately. Anything not expressly listed in the itinerary falls outside the fare.

Are all meals included across the five days?

> Yes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board are included throughout, with menus curated by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck built on seasonal ingredients from the regions you pass through. Breakfast can be served in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car. Dietary requirements can usually be arranged if you tell us in advance.

What are the evenings like on board?

> Dinner in the Restaurant Car is followed by the Bar Car, where live music rolls through the night and selected beverages are included. Over four nights the train develops a real rhythm, and the Bar Car is where most of the conversation happens. Your cabin steward is on hand throughout if you prefer a quiet evening.

What deposit is required and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 30 percent of the tour price confirms your cabin and is non-refundable. The balance is due 125 days before departure, and bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and the dates they fall due.

Can children join The Grand Tour?

> Yes. Reduced rates apply to children under 5 and to children aged 5 up to 12, based on their age at departure, and they share the cabin with their accompanying adults. The ferry crossing and the cave city of Matera tend to be highlights for older children. Send us the ages and we will price the whole party.

When does The Grand Tour operate?

> Departures run from 8 May 2027 to 14 September 2027, with six dates on sale, so it is a late spring and summer journey. All of them are listed on this page with their fares and cabin availability. With four nights on board and only six departures, this itinerary sells early.

How much walking is involved on this itinerary?

> Every stop is explored on foot. Venice means bridges and steps, Matera is built on a steep limestone slope with stepped alleys, Taormina is a cliffside town and Palermo involves busy city streets. None of it is strenuous if you set your own pace, and private transfers handle the distances, but comfortable shoes and reasonable mobility help. Tell us about any limitations when you book.

How do I ask a question or book La Dolce Vita Orient Express: The Grand Tour?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. Every departure listed on this page can be booked directly. We can also hold a cabin briefly while you confirm your flights.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

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