

THE FASHIONABLE VERSILIA and THE PEARLS OF THE TYRRHENIAN SEA

Forte dei Marmi and Viareggio are two of the most exclusive and popular resorts of the famous Tyrrhenian Coast. Forte dei Marmi and Viareggio are located around a jetty set up during the sixteenth-century to ship the Apuan marble. Here you're in the heart of the Tuscan Versilia, whose extensive beaches are very well equipped to allow the visitors to pass there all the day, from morning to evening... Sometimes even for the night. In fact, there are bars, restaurants, beach umbrellas, deckchairs, sunbeds, bathing-huts and showers in these bathing-establishments (some of these also offer the possibility to practice sports or other beach entertainments). Most part of the bathing-establishments, mainly the biggest ones, use to stay open even for dinner, for those who decide to have a good fish supper; they often organize after-dinner parties with drinks and fashion music, open also to people from outside. The beach restaurants offer a very good, fresh Mediterranean dishes (if you are in search of good fresh fish to eat, this is the ideal place for you!), served in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

You will have:

- 7 nights by Hotel in Forte dei Marmi or Viareggio,
HB service**
- Transfer APT / Hotel / APT**
- our Assistant (check-in e check-out)**

FACOLTATIVE EXCURSIONS

✧ FD EXCURSION TO THE ISLAND OF ELBA

Departure in the early morning from the hotel for Castiglione della Pescaia. Boarding from Castiglione della Pescaia, you'll enter in the heart of the ancient Principality of Piombino, sailing between the small islands of Sparviero, Cerboli and Palmaiola. Landing in Portoferraio, charming capital of the island. According to legend, the origin of the island of Elba would be a precious gem lost from Venus, a chest that conceals a heart of crystal and precious stones, which has attracted the most ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean Sea. In the morning you'll have a guided tour of the charming Portoferraio, visiting the Renaissance Fortress-city built by the Medici family and (weather permitting) the interesting summer residence of Emperor Napoleon.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch on board the ship, or in one of the restaurant of the beautiful Portoferraio (not included).

In the afternoon, free time in Portoferraio. You can walk through the streets of the town, or reach the famous beach called “Le Ghiaie”, one of the most beautiful of the island.

Return by boat to Castiglione della Pescaia. The journey continues by coach up to the hotel.

⤴ **HD VISIT OF LUCCA**

Departure by the hotel. Guided tour in the old town, visiting the Church of San Frediano, with its magnificent thirteenth-century mosaic representing *Christ in Majesty*, the nearby Piazza Anfiteatro, the most beautiful square of Lucca, the ancient Duomo dedicated to San Martino and finally the important Piazza San Michele, the central civic square of Lucca since Roman times. At the end of the visit, return to the hotel.

⤴ **FD EXCURSION TO THE ISLAND OF PIANOSA**

Departure in the early morning for Piombino. Boarding the ship to the wonderful Island of Pianosa, part of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park since 1996. Former maximum-security penal colony, nowadays the island is a beautiful natural oasis: a pristine environment, a wonderful coastline, flora and fauna that no one bothers, the remains of a Roman villa of the II century AD, fifth-century Christian catacombs carved into the tuff, disused prison facilities built from 1870 to 1980, a nineteenth-century little port, a fascinating desert island that will remain so only for a short time. With the closure of the prison and the subsequent abandonment of agriculture and animal husbandry, the landscape took on its present: along the coastline, the vegetation is characterized by low scrub of juniper, rock rose and myrtle, while the inner part of the territory, divided by superb dry stone walls, shows remaining olive crops and expanses of land where weeds have replaced the grass crops.

Lunch in the only restaurant on the island.

After lunch, possibility of a guided tour of the island (not included), or relax under the sun and swim on the beautiful beach close to the restaurant. In the afternoon, departure by boat and return to Piombino. The journey continues by coach up to the hote

⤴ **HD VISIT OF PISTOIA**

Departure from the hotel. You'll reach Pistoia and visit the old medieval town: the central Piazza San Francesco, with its interesting Franciscan Church, the Romanesque church of S. Andrea, housing a precious pulpit carved by the sculptor Giovanni Pisano, one of the town's greatest works of art. You'll also visit Piazza del Duomo, the heart of the old center, with its Cathedral, Baptistery and intact medieval palaces and then the nearby Piazza della Sala, where you'll get in touch with a typical picturesque Italian fruit and vegetable open market. Then you'll live the sweet experience of visiting a renowned *Pistoia's Confectionery*, as a mark of the traditional hand-made production of the famous Pistoia's confections, masterly prepared following the old medieval recipes. You'll be taste the exclusive Pistoia's glazed '*panforte*', delicious pralines, coffee and chocolate bon-bons and of course the typical Pistoia's full candies.

⤴ **FD MINI-CRUISE TO THE ISLANDS OF GIGLIO AND GIANNUTRI**

Departure in the early morning for Castiglione della Pescaia. Boarding and departure for the pleasant mini-cruise discovering two wonderful jewels of the Tuscan Archipelago: the islands of Giglio and Giannutri, a real paradise for lovers of the sea and unspoiled landscapes. During navigation, you'll be able to admire the beautiful beaches of Marina di Grosseto, Principina and Marina di Alberese, then approaching the rocky coast of the Maremma Park until you reach the village of Talamone. After a brief stopover in the little port of Talamone and about an hour of navigation, you'll reach Giglio Porto, the port of the island, where you will make a stop of two hours. You'll be able to reach by local coach (not included) the medieval village of Giglio Castello, perched on a hill and surrounded by massive walls, take a stroll through the tiny streets of Giglio Porto, or bathe in a small creek not far from the port.

Free lunch in Giglio Porto. Possibility of having lunch on board, tasting good seafood dishes.

After lunch, continuation of the mini-cruise to the island of Giannutri, the most southern island of the Tuscan Archipelago, nicknamed “the island of seagulls” because of the presence of a large colony of Mediterranean gull. The boat will land you on the small beach of Cala Maestra, where you'll be able to swim in beautiful crystal clear waters. You'll be also able to admire the remains of a Roman villa of the second Century AD, built at the behest of the wealthy Roman family of Domizi Enobarbi, which controlled the whole area of

Monte Argentario, including the nearby islands. During the return trip in the afternoon, you'll sail for a long stretch near the beautiful coastline of Monte Argentario, up to sight the fishing village of Porto Santo Stefano, with its impressive Spanish fort overlooking the sea, before reaching Castiglione della Pescaia. The journey continues by coach up to the hotel.

✦ **HD VISIT OF CARRARA**

Departure from the hotel for Carrara. Crouched at the feet of the Apuan Alps, the town is famous all over the world for the extraordinary quality of its marble. Michelangelo himself has tramped up there in search of the perfect block of marble for his sculptures. You'll visit the Romanesque Cathedral, entirely built in marble, the Teatro degli Animosi, the House of Michelangelo and the Academy of Fine Arts (outside visit).

✦ **FD EXCURSION TO THE NATIONAL PARK OF THE CINQUE TERRE**

Departure in the morning for Livorno. Boarding and departure for the National Park of the Cinque Terre. You'll sail along the sandy shores north of Livorno, up to Bocca d'Arno and then to Bocca di Serchio, the Versilia and the Val di Magra, where the Liguria region begins. You'll sail along the Golfo dei Poeti to the charming islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto, coming into the Regional Park of Portovenere. Stop at Portovenere and time available for tours and walks.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch on board, tasting good seaside dishes.

Then the navigation continues up to the National Park of the Cinque Terre. You'll sail close to the wonderful five villages of the Cinque Terre, with panoramic stops to take pictures from the ship. Stop at Monterosso, the most famous and charming village among the ones of the National Park. Free time for visits or for bathing in the wonderful crystal-clear waters close to Monterosso.

Then departure by boat and return to Livorno. The journey continues by coach up to the hotel.

