



# ITALIAN RIVIERA

RIVIERA DI LEVANTE

*An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience*

**S**avor the natural beauty of the land, the sea, the art, the architecture and the cuisine of that romantic stretch of captivating coastline called the Riviera di Levante, the Italian Riviera. Learn about Genoa's fascinating maritime history and its famous resident. Discover the artistic heritage of Carrara and watch as art comes alive before your eyes. Visit the picture perfect village of Santa Margherita and the fashionable and beautiful resort of Portofino. Explore the charming villages of the Cinque Terre and admire their breathtaking panoramas of sparkling sea and rugged mountains as you walk the coastline. Relax at the end of the day and watch as the sun ignites in a dazzling sunset. Feel your feet slip through silky sand as you walk along beautiful beaches. Hear your footsteps echo on well-worn docks as you stroll through picturesque harbors filled with yachts. From centuries old tradition to a modern, cosmopolitan flair, the Italian Riviera offers a pleasing mix of old and new—an unforgettable travel experience.

## EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Delight in views of the coastal and mountain scenery from your room at the first-class **Hotel Vis à Vis** overlooking the charming town of Sestri Levante.
- Visit the beautiful villages of the famous *Five Lands*, the coastal **Cinque Terre**, declared an UNESCO *World Heritage List* site.
- Discover **Portofino**, nestled in a picturesque harbor, and the seaside resort town of **Santa Margherita**.
- Explore **Genoa**, *La Superba*, the city that brought the world Christopher Columbus and upholds a centuries old legacy of exploration and maritime excellence.
- See the magic of a sculptor at work in **Carrara** and marvel at the transformation of the famous snow-white marble into art.
- Journey to the Tuscan town of **Lucca** to see its magnificent medieval monuments.



## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Transportation

- Round-trip, scheduled jet service to **Florence, Italy**.\*
- Round-trip motorcoach transfers from the Florence airport to the seaside town of Sestri Levante, including baggage handling at the hotel.\*

### Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in Sestri Levante at the deluxe **Hotel Vis à Vis**.

### Meals

- **Enjoy an extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and six dinners (wine included with dinner). Enjoy tea and coffee with all meals. Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at featured **local restaurants**.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception** at the hotel.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception** and **Graduation Ceremony** followed by a festive **Farewell Dinner**.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

*(For full details please refer to the day-by-day itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions**.

### Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and expert **English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Deluxe travel wallet.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.\*
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel, subject to policy terms.\*

\*Provided for Air Program participants only.

# INCLUSIVE PROGRAM ITINERARY

## Day One

Depart your gateway city for **Florence, Italy**, aboard scheduled jet service. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

## Day Two

Upon arrival, transfer to **Sestri Levante** and the **Hotel Vis à Vis**. (*Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.*)

Tonight, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

## Day Three

**Educational Focus: *The Riviera del Levante ~ A Painter's Palette.***

**Excursion: *Walking Tour of Sestri Levante.*** Walk along winding streets to see the Piazza Matteoti, with its Town Hall and Basilica of Santa Maria di Nazareth.

**Excursion: *Santa Margherita and Portofino.*** Tour Santa Margherita, a town of flowers, swaying palm trees and hillside villas. Embark on a cruise to Portofino for panoramic views from the Church of San Giorgio, the medieval fortress of Castello di San Giorgio and the Punta del Capo lighthouse.

## Day Four

**Excursion: *Genoa.*** Admire La Spianata di Castelletto and see the Renaissance palazzi on the Via Garibaldi. Stroll past medieval churches to the house believed to be the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. Walk to Piazza Mateo, visit Palazzo Ducale, the Church of Gesù and the black and white Cathedral of San Lorenzo.

**Local Flavor:** Savor lunch at a local restaurant.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy time at leisure to discover Genoa's many charms.

**Educational Focus: *The Cinque Terre ~ A Tasteful Encounter of Land and Sea.***

## Day Five

**Excursion: *Cinque Terre.*** Glide by boat to Portovenere and Vernazza, where you'll see elegant architecture, Genoese towers and the Gothic Santa Margherita d'Antiochia. Take a train to Riomaggiore and admire the breathtaking vistas as you stroll along *La Via dell'Amore*,

a paved coastal trail to picturesque Manarola. See Manarola's colorful homes that cling to the cliffs before returning to Sestri Levante by train.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Vernazza.

**Independent Exploration:** You will have the opportunity to explore Portovenere and Vernazza on your own.

## Day Six

**Educational Focus: *Michelangelo: When Marble Comes Alive.***

**Excursion: *Carrara.*** Visit a local quarry where Michelangelo chose his prized marble and visit its museum dedicated to the history of marble. Enjoy a demonstration by a local sculptor and see the town's Duomo. Study its rose window, which is considered to be a masterpiece in marble.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Carrara.

**Independent Exploration:** After returning to Sestri Levante, the afternoon is free for independent exploration.

**Educational Focus: *Meet the People.***

## Day Seven

**Educational Focus: *A Contemporary View of Italy.***

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Tuscany.

**Excursion: *Lucca.*** After lunch, enjoy a walking tour of the walled, tree-lined city of Lucca. See the Romanesque Duomo di San Martino, the Church of San Frediano and the Church of San Michele.

## Day Eight

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy the day at leisure to explore or relax independently.

This evening, join your friends for a special *Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony* and a *Farewell Dinner*.

## Day Nine

After breakfast, transfer to the Florence airport for the return flight(s) to your gateway city. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

*Note: Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.*

**Front page (top to bottom):**  
Portofino; Sestri Levante

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## HOTEL VIS À VIS

Located on a hill, this deluxe hotel commands breathtaking views of the sapphire bays below, and is ideally close to local shops and other places of interest. After a day of sightseeing, take a leisurely walk through the well-manicured garden, or enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool nestled among olive trees and pines. Perhaps you'll opt to relax on the terrace and watch the sunset or take advantage of the sauna. Enjoy culinary delights in the hotel's restaurant, as well as a stunning panorama of the surrounding scenery. At the end of the day, retire to the unrivaled comfort of your guestroom. Each tastefully appointed room features individual climate controls, satellite television, minibar and direct-dial telephone.



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