

Rick's thoughts

- 1 Pack Light !
- 2 Stay your first week at Cala Incantata (Experience local life; Get over your jet lag; Gain experience/confidence for the rest of your travels), then visit the rest of Italy.
- 3 Always stay two nights in whichever location you pick. Otherwise your focus is on arriving and leaving. You miss the point of being in that city.
- 4 Use trains and public transportation
- 5 Stay in 2 star hotels, 3 star hotels, or B&Bs. Spend your money on eating and entertainment.
- 6 Except for Rome, stay in small cities/towns near the primary tourist locations. For example, for Florence, stay in Siena, Lucca, or Arezzo.
- 7 Don't book tours in advance. These are best done from Italy.
- 8 Don't book trains in advance. These are best done from Italy.
- 9 If you book hotels in advance, make sure that you can cancel the reservation without penalty.
- 10 Nothing ever takes place in Italy as planned. Be flexible. Be patient.
- 11 If you are interested in eating at Michelin 2 and 3 star restaurants (or equivalents), reservations must be made months in advance.