



Avanti Journey - Flavors of Southern Europe: Rome, Athens, Barcelona & Madrid

Many countries have made unique contributions to the cuisine that we call Mediterranean. These four cities have been leaders in shaping this interesting and flavorful cultural heritage.

Call (800) 422-5053 to Book

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 3 Nights Rome
- 3 Nights Athens

- 3 Nights Barcelona

- 3 Nights Madrid

INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival & Departure Transfers Per City
- Private Rome Walking Tour with Local Tastings
- Market Tour & Cooking Class at Gianni & Cesare's Studio with Lunch
- Private Flavors of Athens Walking Tour

- Private Greek Wine Tasting Tour
- Small Group Market Walking Tour with Chef and Tasting
- Small Group Wine, Cava and Tapas Vineyards Experience
- Private Tapas Walking Tour

- Traditional Paella Cooking Class with Lunch
- Air JFK to Rome, Rome to Athens, Athens to Barcelona & Madrid to JFK*
- First Class Rail Barcelona to Madrid
- Daily Breakfast



DAY 1

ARRIVE ROME:

After landing and clearing customs, claim your bags and meet your driver who will transfer you to your hotel. You have the rest of the day to see Rome on your own. Rome is an eminently walkable city, so drop your bags and go for a walk!

(Accommodations, Rome)



DAY 2

ROME:

This morning is free to explore Rome at your leisure. In the afternoon, meet your guide for a private walking tour of some of the most famous sights of the city, such as the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and the Trevi Fountain, where legend says you must throw a coin over your shoulder into the fountain if you wish to insure your return to this stunning city. The tour ends at Parmaroma Restaurant, where you will learn about Parmigiano Reggiano cheese and Prosciutto di Parma as you enjoy tastings and wine. You have the evening at leisure.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Rome)



DAY 3

ROME:

Today your exploration of the flavors of Rome continues with a 5½-hour Market Tour and Cooking Class at Gianni and Cesare's Studio. Gianni or Cesare will meet you in Piazza Farnese at 9.30 am. The day starts off in a gorgeous local market, where the necessary fresh ingredients will be bought. After a stroll in the neighborhood to see how the Romans shop for their food, head back to Gianni + Cesare's studio located right on the Tiber River in the historical center. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to get dirty with some flour! You'll learn how to mix egg and flour to make the perfect dough for homemade pasta. You will learn how to cook an antipasto, 2 types of different pasta from scratch (an egg-based dough and a water and semolina dough) with a unique perfectly paired pasta sauce for each pasta, and a delicious dessert. Enjoy your lunch accompanied by local wines: prosecco as a bubbly to start, and a white and red wine during the meal. After the meal, you are free to continue exploring Rome on your own.

(Breakfast, Lunch & Accommodations, Rome)



DAY 4

ROME TO ATHENS:

This morning after breakfast, take your private transfer to Rome Airport for your flight to Athens. On arrival in Athens, a driver will meet you for your private transfer to your hotel. You have the rest of the day to relax or to begin exploring Athens on your own.

(Breakfast, Rome; Accommodations, Athens)



DAY 5

ATHENS:

This morning you'll be met by your English-speaking guide for a 4-hour Private Flavors of Athens Walking Tour. Tantalize your taste buds and gain insights into Greek gastronomy with this delicious food tour. Learn all about the tastes Athenians cherish and indulge in a bountiful assortment of appetizing sweet and savory local delicacies and drinks with our food-wise guide.

Discover small shops, explore the city's central food market and find out for yourself what the local food culture is really like. Highlights include:

- A walking tour to the city's most authentic neighborhoods
- Visit the city's central food market
- Discover unique specialty food stores
- Enjoy a cup of Greek coffee
- Sample a rich selection of sweet and savory local delicacies-enough to replace lunch!
- Learn about the local food culture and gastronomy

At the conclusion of the tour, you'll be returned to your hotel. You have free time for the balance of the day to explore Athens on your own.

(Breakfast, Lunch & Accommodations, Athens)



DAY 6

ATHENS:

Your exploration of the flavors of Athens continues this morning with a Private Greek Wine Tasting Tour. This experience starts with a walking tour during which you will view major sites and discover hidden treasures. After you have got a taste of what Athens is like, the time is right to enjoy the tastes and aromas of the finest Greek wines in the smart and comfortable environment of a wine bar.

- Enjoy a 2-hour private sightseeing city tour
- Sample a selection of the finest Greek wines
- Unique wine bar in the heart of the city
- Savor delicious delicacies
- Discover the cultural value and history of Greek wines
- Learn about famous winemaking regions and the process of winemaking
- Fun and knowledgeable English speaking wine guide

At the conclusion of this tour, you'll be returned to your hotel. You have free time for the balance of the day to explore Athens on your own. If you haven't already seen it, don't miss the Acropolis - the historic center of Greek culture.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Athens)



DAY 7

ATHENS TO BARCELONA:

This morning after breakfast, take your private transfer to Athens Airport for your flight to Barcelona. On arrival in Barcelona, a driver will meet you for your private transfer to your hotel. You have the rest of the day to relax or to begin exploring Barcelona on your own.

(Breakfast, Athens; Accommodations, Barcelona)



DAY 8

BARCELONA:

Late this morning, you'll delve into the secrets of the flavors of Barcelona on your Market Walking Tour with Chef and Tasting.

What a better way to experience Barcelona than a dedicated food tour? Start your day with a delightful taste of traditional gourmet bites. The professional chef will guide you through the colorful Boqueria Market, one of the most famous markets worldwide, recognized for the incredible variety of products they offer. Taste local gourmet delicacies and visit traditional grocery shops carefully selected by our chef. Continue your visit through the maze of the old town of Barcelona to reach the Santa Caterina Market. Savor authentic delicatessens of the market, a selection of appetizers that will surprise your taste.

At the end of the tour, you are free for the rest of the day to explore Barcelona.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Barcelona)



DAY 9

BARCELONA:

Continue your exploration of the flavors of Spain with a Wine, Cava and Tapas Vineyards Experience. Enjoy an exclusive day visiting two local, family-run wineries in the Penedés Region just outside of Barcelona. You will have the opportunity to taste 4 excellent wines and 4 glasses of cava paired with a wide variety of bites and tapas. Explore the area on a 4 wheel drive adventure through 2000 year-old vines accompanied by a local viticulturist to learn everything there is about wine-making.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Barcelona)

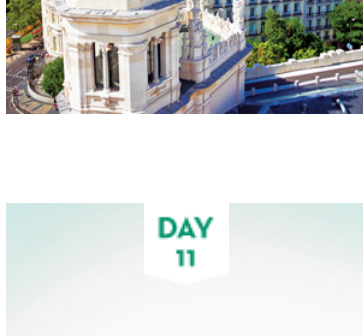


DAY 10

BARCELONA TO MADRID:

This morning, after breakfast, you'll have a private transfer to the Barcelona train station, where you'll board the train for your first-class train journey to Madrid, which takes 2½ hours. Upon arrival in Madrid, a driver will meet you for your private transfer to your hotel. You have the rest of the day to relax or to begin exploring Madrid on your own.

(Breakfast, Barcelona; Accommodations, Madrid)



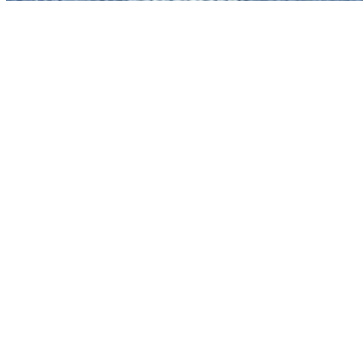
DAY 11

MADRID:

Today is free for you to explore on your own; options could include a visit to the Mercado San Miguel street market, just off the Plaza Mayor; Retiro Park, a beautiful space of parks and gardens, designed for strolling; or Puerto del Sol - a large public square filled with fountains, shops, and lots of people.

In the evening, you'll delve deeper into Madrid's culture with a Private Tapas Walking Tour. The most inescapable element of Spanish cooking is tapas, small snacks now popular the world over. In all of Spain's cities, towns and villages you will find bars, taverns, even entire neighborhoods specializing in tapas. An evening spent sampling tapas is the ideal way to experience Spanish culture. You will be accompanied by a food and wine expert who will be pointing out little known cultural and gastronomic landmarks throughout the tour, telling stories and answering queries, while enriching and enlivening your experience of this vibrant and flavorful city.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Madrid)



DAY 12

MADRID:

Today you will have a hands-on experience with Spanish cuisine, via a Traditional Paella Cooking Class with Lunch. This 4-hour experience begins at 10:00am.

You will learn how to cook the authentic typical dishes of Spain (paella, gazpacho, tapas). The participants in this event will be given a chef's hat and full equipment. Instructions from a chef and a limited period of time to decide exactly how to make a Paella, a potato omelet or original tapas (appetizers). Finally, relish the dishes you've created. All is carried out in a local restaurant where wine and sangria are included with your lunch.

After lunch, you are free to continue exploring Madrid on your own. If you haven't already done so, we suggest a visit to the Prado, one of the world's great art museums and home to many masterpieces by Goya, El Greco, Velasquez and Rubens.

(Breakfast, Lunch & Accommodations, Madrid)



DAY 13

DEPARTURE:

After breakfast, meet your driver for your private transfer to Heathrow Airport and your return flight to the US, filled with many fond memories.

(Breakfast, Madrid)

** Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change