

LIONS GATE *University*

NEW COURSE

The Guide to Essential Italy / Smithsonian

Starting Sunday, July 31, 2016 @ 1:00 PM

About This Course: 36 30 min. Lectures

The Guide to Essential Italy, your own grand tour of Italy that focuses on the most historically and artistically compelling sites. A world expert in cultural travel for over 45 years, Smithsonian Journeys, the Institution's worldwide travel program, has created an Italian itinerary that has been honed over time to present a fascinating picture of this amazing destination. With their experts, we created a circuit that explores some of the most culturally significant landmarks, gives the opportunity to view countless impressive masterworks of artistic genius, and examines the impact of Italian history on the rest of the world. A breathtaking travel journey, this 36-segment course is a video tour and travelogue that lets you walk the streets and savor the heritage of Italy's premiere destinations of Rome, Tuscany, and Venice, with side trips to additional treasures of Italian civilization.

The Eternal City

Your Italian journey begins in the phenomenal urban landscape of Rome. In a full fourteen lectures on this center of Western civilization, you'll delve into historic treasures such as these:

- At sites such as the Forum Romanum, the Colosseum, the Claudian aqueduct, and the massive Baths of Diocletian, appreciate the majesty and power of the Roman Empire as well its astounding feats of architecture and engineering.
- Explore great Renaissance and Baroque palaces evoking the lavish opulence of the Roman nobility, including the Chigi Palace and Palazzo Borghese, among the grandest private houses in all of Rome, and the Villa Farnesina, one of Rome's most glorious jewels.
- Among triumphs of civic architecture, admire the Campidoglio, Michelangelo's masterpiece of urban planning; the Piazza Navona, crowned by Bernini's spectacular Fountain of the Four Rivers; and the 19th-century Victor Emmanuel Monument.
- Experience the splendor of the Roman church at the Capitoline, the papal basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, the Vatican's Apostolic Palace and Basilica of St. Peter, and Bernini's superlative Cornaro Chapel.

And much more.....