



At a glance... Italy

The world's most romantic cities, secluded hideaways and cuisine to die for... Italy really is honeymoon heaven

Romance factor

Italy is a honeymoon hot spot for good reason, because it's got something to suit just about everyone, whatever your tastes. There are tranquil mountains and lakes in the north, stunning seaside scenery on the east coast, rolling hills in Umbria and Tuscany, golden beaches in Sicily and Sardinia, and the culture-packed cities of Rome, Venice and Florence.

Hot hotels

Hotel Cipriani (hotelcipriani.com), set on its own private island in the Venice lagoon, is legendary. **Villa d'Este** (villadeste.it) on the shores of Lake Como, boasting sweeping staircases and shimmering chandeliers, and **Hotel de Russie** (hotelderussie.it), a magical five-star retreat right next to the Spanish Steps in Rome, are both favourites with **George Clooney**.

Wining and dining

The Loggia Restaurant at the **Villa San Michele** (villasanmichele.com), just outside Florence, has mouthwatering Tuscan dishes and spectacular views of the city from its terrace. The Michelin-starred restaurant **Il Pellicano** (pellicanohotel.com) in Porto Ercole on the east coast is a place

to see and be seen in, while La Terrazza at **Hotel Splendido** (hotelsplendido.com) offers fabulous vistas and delicious seafood.

Best beaches

Italy's islands are home to the country's best beaches. **Arbus** and **Chia** on Sardinia are stretches of soft golden sand, **Noto** in Sicily boasts white sand dunes, while the Island of **Giglio** in Tuscany has secluded bays just perfect for lovebirds seeking privacy.



What's the temperature?

The essentials

SCENT

Him: Aramis Tuscany eau de toilette, £27 (right), conjures up sun-baked Etruscan hills and the spicy scent of cypress trees.

Her: Christian Dior Dolce Vita eau de toilette, £55, Italian elegance captured in a bottle, blending the gentle aromas of lily, heliotrope, rose and magnolia.

A GOOD READ

Alastair Sawday's *Special Places to Stay: Italy*, £14.99 (sawdays.co.uk).

RAIN CHECK

Rainfall rises from November to February.

WEBSITE

Check out enit.it, the Italian government tourist board site.

TOUR OPERATORS

Citalia (0870 909 7555, citalia.com)
Italian Journeys (020 7373 8058, italianjourneys.com)

Thomson.co.uk (0870 165 0079, thomsonbeach.co.uk)

