



**ITALY IN THE  
UNCROWDED SEASON**

Exploring Historic Landmark Cities of the  
Veneto & Emilia-Romagna

**October 25 - November 1, 2026**

Dear Friends,

Experience the timeless beauty of northern Italy on this immersive journey based in the charming seaside town of Chioggia, often called “Little Venice.” Begin your exploration in Chioggia taking in its canals, historic landmarks, and lively piazzas, complete with a classic Italian aperitivo. From here, venture into the heart of Venice—discovering the grandeur of St. Mark’s Square and Basilica, along with the opulence of the Doge’s Palace, where centuries of art, power, and history come vividly to life.

Beyond Venice, the itinerary unfolds with enriching visits to some of the Veneto region’s most storied cities. In Padua, admire Giotto’s masterpieces at the Scrovegni Chapel and explore the revered Basilica of St. Anthony alongside one of Europe’s oldest universities. In Ferrara, step into the Renaissance at the impressive Castello Estense and the frescoed halls of Palazzo Schifanoia. A visit to the renowned Gallerie dell’Accademia offers a final artistic highlight before the journey concludes, capturing the cultural richness, artistic heritage, and relaxed elegance of Italy.

Throughout the journey, we will be accompanied by distinguished guest lecturer **Franco Baldasso**, Associate Professor of Italian Studies at Bard College. His expertise across many of the sites and themes explored will deepen your understanding of this remarkable region and enrich your overall travel experience.

We hope you will join us on this adventure that will invigorate as much the spirit as the senses.

Warm regards,

**Thalassa Journeys**

## ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

**Thalassa Journeys** is a tour company founded by the men and women who, working as Travel Dynamics International, pioneered educational and cultural travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational, research, cultural and performing arts institutions in the United States. For more than 45 years our mission has been to provide robust, intellectually stimulating experiences to lifelong learners who see travel as an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world and their place in it. This same mission guides us today. We believe that the most rewarding travel experiences happen when small groups of like-minded individuals share an enthusiasm for engaging with the richly varied environments of the world, and with the history, culture, ideas and ideals of the people who inhabit them.

## DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER

### FRANCO BALDASSO



**Franco Baldasso** is Associate Professor of Italian Studies at Bard College, New York, where is also Director of the Study Abroad Program in Italy. He is Fellow of the American Academy in Rome after receiving the 2019 Rome Prize for Modern Italian Studies. He is Co-Director of the Graduate Summer School

“The Cultural Heritage and Memory of Totalitarianism” at Sapienza University in Rome, where he is member of the “Collegio del Dottorato in Italianistica.” His most recent publication is *Against Redemption: Democracy, Memory, and Literature in Post-Fascist Italy* published in 2022 by Fordham University Press, which received the Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize in Italian History. His books published in Italian include: *Il cerchio di gesso. Primo Levi narratore e testimone* (Pendragon, 2007); and *Curzio Malaparte, la letteratura crudele. Kaputt, La pelle e la caduta della civiltà europea* (Carocci, 2019). He also co-authored “*Letà di Whitman*” e *l’esilio. L’America inedita di Paolo Milano* (Mimesis, 2022) and *Eredità culturale e memoria dei totalitarismi* (Pearson, 2024). Prof. Baldasso was born in Treviso, in the beautiful countryside north of Venice, which is now a Unesco site for its unique hills peppered with vineyards that inspired painters and poets. Prof. Baldasso grew up in Venice and kept tight relations with the city and its land for his academic work ever since.



Ponte di Vigo, Chioggia



Cathedral of Ferrara



The Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, decorated with Giotto's famed frescoes

# ITINERARY



Sunday, October 25, 2026

## DEPART THE US

Depart the United States for Venice, Italy.

Monday, October 26

## VENICE, Italy/CHIOGGIA

Arrive at the Venice airport and transfer to the *Hotel Grande Italia Chioggia* (or similar). In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Tuesday, October 27

## CHIOGGIA

This morning, discover the charm of Chioggia on a guided walking tour through its historic streets and canals. Begin at Piazzetta Vigo, home to the iconic column crowned by the Lion of Saint Mark—affectionately known locally as the “Gato de Ciosa.” Cross the nearby Ponte di Vigo, often called the town’s “balcony,” for picturesque views over the Canal Vena. Continue to the Clock Tower of Sant’Andrea, which houses the world’s oldest functioning tower clock dating to the 14th century, and admire the nearby Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, known for its grand pulpit and notable works of art. Conclude with a stroll along the lively Corso del Popolo, lined with historic buildings and charming shops, before enjoying an Italian aperitivo paired with a classic Aperol Spritz—the perfect local refreshment. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. (B)

Wednesday, October 28

## CHIOGGIA/THE HEART OF VENICE: THE BASILICA OF ST. MARK & THE DOGE’S PALACE/CHIOGGIA

Venice, the “Queen of the Adriatic,” has remained remarkably unchanged for more than 1,000 years. In the morning, take a private boat ride to Venice to experience St. Mark’s Square, which Napoleon called “the most elegant drawing room in Europe” and visit the Basilica of St. Mark. Founded in the 9th century, its multiple domes, luminous mosaics decorating over 8,500 square meters of its interior, and many other treasures make the basilica one of the most impressive ecclesiastical sights in the world. After lunch at a local restaurant, tour the Doge’s Palace, a masterpiece of Venetian Gothic architecture that was the residence of the Doge, the supreme authority of the Venetian Republic, and its administrative center, richly decorated with paintings by Titian, Tiepolo and other artists. (B, L)

Thursday, October 29

## CHIOGGIA/PADUA/CHIOGGIA

In the morning, drive to Padua (30 minutes). Nicknamed La Dotta (The Learned), it was the home of Livy, the great Roman historian, and one of Europe’s most celebrated universities was founded here in 1222. Petrarch, Dante and Galileo were associated with the university, among other luminaries. Padua is also famous for the 14th-century artworks of Giotto, a supreme example of which we will see at the celebrated Scrovegni Chapel. Also visit the Museo Civico, home to paintings by Veneto masters. Enjoy lunch at a historic Caffé Pedrocchi, then visit the 13th-century Basilica of St. Anthony,



Chioggia street scene



Cicchetti, Venetian style tapas



Padua

an important pilgrim shrine, and the famed university. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. The rest of the day is spent at leisure. (B, L)

Friday, October 30

### **CHIOGGIA/FERRARA/CHIOGGIA**

Take a full day excursion to the Renaissance city of Ferrara. Explore the imposing, moat-encircled Castello Estense, a medieval fortress that became the lavish residence of the Este family. Visit the Cathedral before lunch, which will be at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, continue with a visit to the elegant Palazzo Schifanoia, celebrated for its extraordinary 15th-century fresco cycle depicting the months of the year and the refined courtly culture of the Este dynasty. (B, L)

Saturday, October 31

### **CHIOGGIA/VENICE/CHIOGGIA**

In the morning, take a private boat ride to Venice to visit the Gallerie dell' Accademia, Venice's foremost art museum, which houses the largest collection of Venetian art in the world. Masterpieces by Bellini, Giorgione, Veronese, Tintoretto, Carpaccio and Titian, among works of other artists, are exhibited in this superb museum. The afternoon is at leisure before returning to Chioggia for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Sunday, November 1

### **CHIOGGIA/US**

Transfer to the Venice airport for the return flight home. (B)



Castello Estense, Ferrara



Church of Sant'Andrea with Clock tower in Chioggia



The interior of the Doge's Palace, Venice

## RATES

\$ 5,490 per person, double occupancy.  
Single room supplement: \$ 590.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at the *Hotel Grande Italia Chioggia* (or similar) in Chioggia for six nights.
- Breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Three lunches and two dinners at local restaurants, with soft drinks, wine or beer.
- Lectures and discussions with Professor Franco Baldasso.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage on program arrival and departure dates.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide/tour manager.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Entrance fees to museums and other sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and the Program Inclusions.



The canals of Venice

## REGISTRATION

TJLL 26L-1025

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **ITALY IN THE UNCROWDED SEASON**, October 25 – November 1, 2026, with Thalassa Journeys. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit cards.

**For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611 or email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)**

or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:

**Thalassa Journeys:** 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation

Double Bed

Single Bed

Single accommodation

*Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

(CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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# Join Distinguished Guest Lecturer **Professor Franco Baldasso** on **ITALY IN THE UNCROWDED SEASON**

For Reservations and Information, Please Call **866-633-3611** or  
Email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)



St. Mark's Square with the Basilica and Bell Tower at twilight