



# Tuscany: Off the Beaten Path with Larry Kanfer

*Stevie Jay*  
TRAVEL



# Tuscany: Off the Beaten Path with Larry Kanfer

PRINTED APRIL 6, 2022 10:12 AM

## The Tour Staff Welcomes You!



Our travel agents are Stevie & Janet Khachaturian who join everyone to support the fun!



Our tour manager is Anna Castagnetti from Britain and now Montecatini. She will do everything possible to keep to the general plan and watch for some extra fun along the way.



Our tour hosts are Larry & Alaina Kanfer who want to make sure everyone is okay and having a great time. If you are looking for things to do, ask them for ideas.

## Important Note

There are a lot of pages here. However, the key parts to read before departing are:

**StevieTips**—with useful passport, packing, money, electrical current and local travel tips. This follows the **Tour Membership List and Itinerary**.

**Coach, Flight & Hotel**—on this and the next page. We suggest that you always carry this and so we made this booklet small. It is good idea to leave a copy, photo or scan page 3 for those at home!

Also included in your Documents Package is: a **Bag Tag** for your checked bag, and an **E-Ticket**.

## E-versions of these documents

You can download e-versions of these documents and read them on a smart phone or tablet like an iPad: [steviejaytravel.com/path](http://steviejaytravel.com/path).

## Online Form

Italy requires that every traveler fill in the following form online, EU Digital Passenger Locator Form (dPLF). Please open your web Browser on your computer or smartphone and go to this website: <https://app.euplf.eu/#/>

The form asks for your flight information below but the airport code is LIRF not FCO. *Seat assignment is not required.* For your US phone, the access code is "1". See below for the hotel address. The region is Toscana (Italian for Tuscany).

When done, print out the form to give to them on arrival. We suggest saving the form on your phone also.

## Coach & Flight Schedule

*Your bag tag shows which departure point you selected.*

<u>Carrier</u>	<u>Flight#</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Arrive</u>
Peoria Charter Co.		FRI	22APR	Champaign Kanfer Gallery*	Chicago O'Hare ORD	11:00 AM	
American Airlines	110	FRI	22APR	Chicago O'Hare ORD	Rome FCO**	4:50 PM	9:00 AM 23APR
American Airlines	111	MON	02MAY	Rome FCO	Chicago O'Hare ORD	12:50 PM	4:40 PM
Peoria Charter Co.		MON	02MAY	Chicago O'Hare ORD	Champaign Kanfer Gallery*		8:15 PM ESTIMATED

\* Kanfer Gallery 2103 N Dunlap Avenue, Champaign. \*\*Rome code on online form is LIRF. Please call the Gallery and advise if you are leaving a car 217 398-2000. *Park at your own risk.*

## Hotels

*(In parenthesis are the number of nights we stay here followed by dates of check in and check-out)*

### Montecatini Terme

(7) 4/23-30/2022

Bellavista Palace Hotel  
Viale Fedeli, 2  
Montecatini Terme 51016 Italy

Phone: (+39) 0572 78 122

### Rome

(2) 4/30/2022-5/2/2022

NH Collection Roma Vittorio Veneto  
Corso d'Italia, 1  
Rome 00198 Italy

Phone: (+39) 06 84951

Larry Kanfer's cell 217-369-1733

Stevie Jay's cell 217 840-9913

*Front Cover, top: Montecatini Alto photo by Florian Villesèche, bottom: Bolgheri Cypress Road photo by Katy 89*

# Tour Membership List

## Tuscany Off the Beaten Path

		Departing			Departing
1	BERG/BRENDA	Champaign	11	KHACHATURIAN/JANET	Champaign
	EISENSTEIN/JOYCE	Champaign		KHACHATURIAN/STEVEN	Champaign
2	BURNHAM/DEBORAH	Champaign	12	LESNEY/DIANA	Champaign
	BURNHAM/RAYMOND	Champaign		LESNY/DAVID	Champaign
3	COOLIDGE/MARYJO	Champaign	13	PENNY/SUSAN	Atlanta
	SWANSON/JANICE	Champaign		SHELDON/MELANIE	Atlanta
4	FARON/ALICE	Chicago/O'Hare	14	ROSS/JOHN	Champaign
	FARON/JAMES	Chicago/O'Hare		ROSS/LINDA	Champaign
5	FROST/VICKI	Atlanta	15	SHERRICK/KRISTINE	Champaign
	HOLLOMON/HATTIE	Atlanta	16	TRIMBLE/VICKI	Champaign
6	FULLER III/ALBERT	Champaign	17	WAKEFIELD/CAROL	Champaign
	FULLER/NANCY	Champaign			
7	GRAYSON/THOMAS	Champaign			
	JONES/SHARON	Champaign			
8	HAGEN/ALLEN	Champaign			
	HAGEN/JEAN	Champaign			
10	KANFER/ALAINA	Champaign			
	KANFER/LAWRENCE	Champaign			

Total 29 travelers

Let us know if the departure point above is incorrect.  
Your **Seat Assignment** is shown on your E-Ticket Page.



# Itinerary

*A blank line is included with each day so you can write in the time to be on the bus the next morning or other times that you need to track.*

*Itinerary subject to change.*

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## Day 1 4/22/2022 Friday Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

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Larry and Alaina welcome you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago to our overnight, non-stop flight to Rome.

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## Day 2 4/23/2022 Saturday Flight arrival-Rome-Montecatini Terme

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Arrive in Rome and are met by your tour manager and touring coach driver (the four Atlanta ladies hire a taxi to come over to the airport). We head north and move into our home in the spa town of Montecatini Terme. Here we are “off the beaten path” of Venice-Florence-Rome and in the heart of magical Tuscany. This provides us a “hub and spoke” sort of vacation where we’ll have the luxury of settling in and need not unpack and repack frequently. Most of day trip destinations are less than an hour away. Enjoy a Tuscan welcome dinner prepared for our group. (D)

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## Day 3 4/24/2022 Sunday Montecatini-Vinci

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This morning, we travel through the chestnut and oak trees of the Montalbano hills, and estates, vineyards and olive groves, on your



way to the village birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, we will learn all about the quintessential Renaissance man and his many interests: painting, sculpture, anatomy, inventions and music. Later, visit a bakery in a local village to discover Italian bread making, then enjoy fresh bread, local cheeses, cold cuts and with a glass of wine. We return to our home base, where we can discover the local cuisine in Montecatini. Note: if there is a day you would like to have a free for La Dolce Vita or a private excursion, you can do that any of days 3-8. (B, L)

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**Day 4 4/25/2022 Monday Montecatini-Chianti Valley**

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We visit Tuscany's Chianti Valley between Florence and Siena that has been famous for excellent wines for eight centuries and visit bucolic Greve where we will have a delightful lunch. In the afternoon, we visit a Tuscan estate renowned for its Chianti and "super Tuscan" wines. (Today Brenda Berg arrives in Pisa and a private driver will meet her to bring her to the hotel.) (B, L)

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**Day 5 4/26/2022 Tuesday Montecatini-Tuscan Farmhouse**

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You have a free morning to wander through Montecatini. Join Larry and bring your camera and meet locals in this spa town. This afternoon we head to a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. We start by picking ingredients from the garden and learn about the principles of Italian cuisine. Then you are welcome to help prepare and cook the meal so you can learn by doing. We look forward to enjoying the wonderful dinner we prepare together. (B, D)

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**Day 6 4/27/2022 Wednesday Montecatini-Lucca**

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Visit another off-the-beaten path town, Lucca, a wonderful walled medieval town rich history and culture. Immerse yourself in the cultural collections at the Palazzo Mansi Museum. Then a local guide will show us the Old Town's cobblestones and cafés. Then we have Cafe Crawl snack brunch with main course restaurant. Then, see the gardens of Palazzo Pfanner with its lovely views has become a film site such 1996's The Portrait of a Lady. (B, L)

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**Day 7 4/28/2022 Thursday Montecatini-Bolgheri**

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We travel among vineyards and cypress trees to tiny Bolgheri, population 131. The gate of its red-brick castle welcomes us to the Old Town and its wineries. Later we stop for a wonderful view of the Etruscan coast and have lunch. (B, L) (B, L)

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**Day 8 4/29/2022 Friday Montecatini-Optional excursion to Florence**

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Today is yours to do as you please. You can ride up the funicular to Montecatini Alto, schedule a spa day for yourself or to join an optional excursion to Florence. Dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

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**Day 9 4/30/2022 Saturday Montecatini-Orvieto-Rome**

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Free morning. Drive to Rome via the almost impregnable Orvieto (pictured below) in Umbria. Built on a flat-topped butte of high cliffs from the 1290s, its site was an important refuge after the fall of the Roman Empire. Continue on to Rome. Free evening in the eternal city. (B, L)

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**Day 10 5/1/2022 Sunday Rome**

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In our sightseeing of ancient Rome, we see the Colosseum, Roman Forum and the Pantheon. Tonight is our included farewell dinner. (B, D)



We say arrivederci to our Italian home, and all board the airport transfer for American Airlines non-stop to Chicago. Motor coach to Central Illinois with memories of a unique visit to Italy Off the Beaten Path. (B)

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Stevie Jay  
TRAVEL



## StevieTips



**Vaccination Card, in hand?** Make sure you get your Vaccination Card in hand right away. We recommend taking a photo of it with your phone (or make a xerox copy) as a back-up proof. This is required to visit Italy.

**Passport, in hand?** Make sure you get your Passport in hand right away. We have seen people think they know where it is and then go there on the morning of travel and cannot find it. Make sure it is good through November 2, 2022 (or later if you plan to stay on after our tour ends!)

Replacing a lost passport in a hurry can be quite expensive. There are no other visas or other tourist cards required for this tour itinerary. Keep your passport with you and only surrender it if a hotel or government official requires you to. *Make a xerox copy of your passport* (or take a photo) and use that if anyone else wants to see it (like to exchange money).

**Do you wear a watch?** If you count on your cell phone for the time, it may not work overseas if you have no data plan. We recommend that you get an inexpensive watch to wear and be on time. And get a small

travel alarm clock (or use your smartphone's app). Being a few minutes late is multiplied by those who must wait for you. We will all appreciate getting to leave on time.

**Last Minute News?** If there is news that would affect our tour, please go to [steviejaytravel.com/news-terms](http://steviejaytravel.com/news-terms) for the latest word.

Accident, Illness, delay or interruptions? If you have issues, that you need help with or a claim to make, if you bought the Deluxe Group Plan from AIG Travel Guard, they have staff standing by to help, call toll free 1-866-401-8955 within the U.S. (or internationally by calling collect to this US phone +1-715-295-9365) and reference Policy number: 3933935 for Illinois (3933933 - GA, NC, SC; 3933937 - FL).

Travel Guard staff provides Travel Medical Assistance, Worldwide Travel Assistance and LiveTravel® Emergency Assistance. For an *Insurance Description of Coverage* see: [steviejaytravel.com/path](http://steviejaytravel.com/path). For other help, call Bill Owen at 217-619-0202.

**Difficulties en route?** If you have difficulties while on tour, don't suffer in silence—let us know. We want to do what we can to help. Ask your tour manager or tour host.

**Weather** will likely be mild, about 65° with plus or minus 10° temperatures. Rather than heavy clothing, we recommend that you *wear layers*. You might start the day with a light rain jacket, sweater and shirt then peel layers as the day warms up. *WeatherBase.com* gives the following *average* from low to high of 55-75° with 2.9" days of rain in April.

These are statistics converted to Fahrenheit. Celsius temperatures can be a challenge to convert: deduct 10%, double that and add 32°. So 20°C - 10% = 18 x 2 = 36 + 32 = 68°F.

Or remember every 11 Celsius, increase 20 Fahrenheit:

- Freezing 0°C = 32°F
- Chilly 11°C = 52°
- Mild 22°C = 72°
- Hot 33°C = 92°F and estimate between those!



**Maximum Checked Bag Size:** 62" total dimensions of Length + Width + Height and weight 50 pounds. Here's the link for *American Airlines*: <https://www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/baggage/checked-baggage-policy.jsp>

No fee for the first checked bag but American Airlines does have a fee for a second checked bag. Because of vehicle storage limitations, we prefer most to not bring a second checked bag. If someone does, we will have to charge for the extra tips for portorage.

**Maximum Carry-on Bags Size Maximum:** Height 21.5”, Width 15.5” & Length 9.5” and 22 pounds. You can *also* bring one small personal item, e.g. small handbag, laptop, duty free or baby changing bag with a maximum size Height 10”, Width: 13” & Length 8”.

Note that **maximum-sized** carry-on bags will have to placed in the coach’s luggage compartment. So a *smaller* carry-on bag with wheels *plus* a small to medium sized back pack would be a better combination.

**What not to pack in your checked bag:** passport, vaccination card, medications or valuable items. If you have medications, bring several days extra in case you are delayed on the return. *Carry these items with you.*

**What to Pack** We already suggested layers, here are more suggestions: Wrinkle free, drip-dry and comfortable. Getting laundry done on tour is usually impractical.

No dressy clothes are required for this tour. Casual clothes are best.

Don’t buy new shoes right before you go! It is much better that they be broken-in and see you through a lot of walking long before the tour.

**TSA’s 3-1-1** rule requires all carry-on liquids be in containers no larger than 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) and all of them placed in a quart-sized zip-lock bag, one zip bag per passenger. More or larger liquid containers can go in a *checked bag* without limitation. Here is the web address for this: [www.tsa.gov/videos/travel-tips-3-1-1-liquids-rule](http://www.tsa.gov/videos/travel-tips-3-1-1-liquids-rule).

**Lost Luggage** If luggage is lost or damaged, file a claim *immediately* with the airline. Show them the page of hotels so they know how to get the bag to you. If not found within 24 hours (depending on policy’s terms) of arrival, travel insurance will reimburse for certain purchased items under its Baggage Delay coverage.

**Electrical Devices** Normal American electrical appliances (such as hair dryers and shavers) will not work in Italy without both a:

- *Power Converter* to reduce their “hotter” 220-230 volt power to your USA 110 volt device.\*
- *Plug Adapter* that allows you to fit your plug into their sockets. Typically their plugs have 2 or 3 round poles instead of our 2 flat blades (see photos below for Type L which also fits in Type F.

Plug and socket photos from [www.power-plugs-sockets.com/italy/](http://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/italy/)



Type F: This socket also works with plug C and E



Type L: This socket also works with plug C

*\*Exceptions: if your appliance has a switch to go from 110 volts to 220 volts or your camera, phone, computer etc. has a power pack that automatically **converts** (you can tell because the range 100-240V is shown on its power pack), **you still need a plug adapter, like at left.***

Kits that include both Converters and Adapters (plus adapters for other countries) are sold at luggage departments of Wal Mart and similar.



## Travel Money

Debit & Credit Cards are a great way to pay for most larger expenses. Card companies have immense buying power to get a great “foreign exchange”

Bronze Euro cents



rate, but best to use a card without a 1-3% fee. Visa and Master Card are the mostly commonly accepted.

A card without a “chip” will usually work but their card “swipers” require you enter a “PIN” number; if you don’t have that number, call your credit card issuer now. *Important: some businesses will not accept credit cards for smaller amounts like under €20.*

Gold Euro cents, tens



To avoid having your card(s) shut down on first use, call your card issuer (some allow you to do this on line) telling them where and when you are going, and returning. Otherwise charges may appear to be fraudulent because the charge originates overseas. Getting the card working again may require international calls, time and trouble. If you have two cards, carry both to have a back-up.

€1 & €2 Euro coins each in 2 colors



A debit card is also a great source of funds and may allow smaller minimum purchases. Because of the set fee amount, when getting Euro cash at an ATM machine, it’s better to get a larger amount rather than frequent, small amounts.

The symbol for the Euro is €. It is colorful and the smallest paper Euro is €5. There are 100 cents per Euro. Having Euro cash simplifies! So try to keep about 100-200 in Euro cur-

rency as a reserve supply. Then you'll be ready to pay if they don't take cards. **Cautions:** Avoid large amounts of currency as pick pockets could clean you out. A neck or belt loop wallet, or money belt might be a good place to put **part** of your cash and card(s). Men: put wallet in a front pocket. Ladies: put your purse in front of you, across your body; don't just set it on the ground when eating.

**“FX”**  
FOREIGN EXCHANGE **Currently a Euro is worth about \$1.10** in US dollars (see inside back cover for a chart). Even if this exchange rate changes, to convert prices on menus and in stores, simply add 10% for an *estimate* of the dollar equivalent.

Avoid carrying *just* US dollar cash. Changing dollars to Euros can be difficult, time-consuming or expensive because the typical hotel or “Bureau de Change” may show a good rate but then as you worked your way up in line, you see that they charge a 9.9% fee! Sure, bring some dollars for your flight days' expenses at US airports. But best to get some Euros before departure (some US banks sell Euros) or right after landing.

**Travelers Cheques** are of limited value these days. Most businesses do not take them and they can be difficult to get cashed.

**U.S. Customs Duty Free Allowance** of \$800/person is what you can bring back without paying duty. A total of \$801-1800 is subject to a 3% duty. Over \$1800 is subject to varying percentage rates, so if you plan to buy a lot, keep your receipts.

**Hotels** may request a credit card imprint or your passport on check in to set up an account for incidental charges. The hotel staff makes room assignments; location, view and size may vary accordingly.

**Smoking** Some hotels or certain rooms are non-smoking, so the hotel may charge a penalty if they find that you smoked in a room. Inspect your hotel room before checking out. Hotels may not forward forgotten items, or may charge extra to do so.

Note: no smoking is allowed on the motor coach. Rest stops will be made regularly when you can smoke while touring.

**Safety & Security notes:** check for emergency exits. Put your room key on the bedside table while you are in the room. Don't leave valuables in your room when you go out. Keep your room locked. Some European hotel doors do not lock automatically on leaving the room, try the door. You may have to lock the door manually with the key. Tap water should be safe, most drink bottled water.

**Motor coaches in Europe** have strict rules about the length the

driver may be on duty and drive during that time. It is checked via tamper-proof digital system. So he will not be allowed to be on duty after a certain point each evening.

If seat belts are provided you must wear them or risk a fine. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Don't put heavy or dangerous items in the overhead racks. Do not leave *valuables* on the coach. Ordinary items are generally safe though; the tour manager and driver will advise you about this. Remain seated when the coach is moving. Check the traffic before exiting the coach.

*On arrival in Rome*, make sure you take everything with you to the hotel; usually our driver and the *touring coach* will end their service then. We will have a different coach each of the last two days.

*Seat Rotation* The tour manager will ask if anyone would like to rotate seats so that different people can ride in front and spend time with new people. Then each day those choosing that option will move back 1 row if on the right side of the coach and up 1 row on the left side, until they rotate to the front again.

From our experience, some may not care for seat rotation. And so the back several rows can be set aside for them to *stay* in a particular spot. This way, everybody's happy.

**Telephone** Your family or friends calling you in Europe will require (for most carriers) 011 then the country code, 39 for Italy, and leave out the actual phone number's initial zero (sometimes shown in parenthesis).



If you call the USA from Europe, dial 00 then one (1) plus the area code and phone number.

Calling from a pay phone is best done with a prepaid calling card. First, call the access number shown on the card. You can buy calling cards in the US or in Europe. *We do not recommend charging an international call to your hotel room; it can be very expensive.*

Getting your own phone set up for overseas use can be expensive or not surefire. Renting a phone usable overseas is more surefire but can be expensive. Unless if you need constant, immediate contact, we suggest an internet phone service app like *Skype* or *Google* if you have a smart phone or computer. You could use that app when you connect to Wifi at the hotels (when the Wifi has a good enough connection!)

Sign up now for a free account through *Skype* or *Google* which allows you to call via the internet rather than more expensive cell service. With *Skype* there will be a cost to call normal land line & cell phones in the

US, unless you sign up for an Unlimited USA plan for a few dollars per month. Calling cost is low: 2.3¢ per minute (plus 4.9¢ connection fee), but you will need to put some money on account by charging your credit card \$10-25 *before* leaving on the trip.

Skype is free if you call another person who also has a Skype account so if there is someone who you think you would call (or will want to call you), get them to sign up for a free Skype account.

*Skype is not for emergencies.* Instead, in an **emergency, dial from the hotel room's phone: 112.**



**Remember the time difference!** Italy is 6 hours **ahead** of the Central US time zone. If calling home, be careful about when you call! And if your family or friends might call, tell them about the time difference.

**Shopping Hours** are not “24/7” as some are in the U.S., they vary from store to store and from place to place. Generally open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and reopen from 3-7 P.M. On Sunday, many shops are closed.

**Value Added Taxes, V.A.T.** You may be paying as much as 22% in VAT that you do not owe, as a non-resident you do not owe all the taxes included in the purchase price of merchandise. If you make larger purchase, ask for a vat receipt when making a purchase.

How to get your VAT refund you must show receipts for what you bought (and air flight itinerary) to a VAT refund station which are in major airports. There may be a minimum purchase price for a VAT refund or other limitations.

**Tipping** Here are recommendations for those who serve you:

*Tour Staff:*

- The US coach driver and the US skycaps are tipped by our tour host
- Hotel Porters are tipped by the tour manager
- Driver €3-4 per day\*
- Tour manager €4-5 per day\*
- Tipping is *not* expected for the staff from Central Illinois

\*Paid at the **end** of their service (not daily): the driver on arrival in Rome and the tour manager on the day of your departure back to the USA.

*Restaurants:* In Tuscany, tipping has become routine. A *service charge* of 10% or more *may* be added to the menu price in nice restaurants (especial-

ly a hotel's restaurant). So if it says *service included*, then a tip is included. They are required to make note of this so you don't double tip.

If neither of the above tipping inclusion applies, then 10% at a nice restaurant or leave a Euro or two at ordinary restaurants. It is customary to "round up" the check's amount to an whole Euro amount, ideally in multiples of five (rather than leaving coins smaller than a Euro). Don't tip on a credit card receipt, leave whole Euro coins or cash instead on the table.

*Taxi drivers* Round up the fare a Euro or two, telling him to keep the change.

**Lost?** Carry your hotel address when leaving the premises—found on page 3 of this booklet. You can show it to a taxi driver to get you back.

The bag tag and hotel page has Larry Kanfer's cell phone number and once it is known, you can add Anna's cell phone.

**Have fun!** According to Mark Twain, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

*Stevie Jay*  
TRAVEL

### Foreign Currency as of...

4/6/22 10:09 AM

Based on oanda.com rate (no fee credit card)

US Dollar	Italy Euro
\$ 1	0.91 €
\$ 5	4.55 €
\$ 10	9.11 €
\$ 20	18.21 €
\$ 50	45.53 €
\$ 100	91.05 €
\$ 200	182.10 €

### Dollar Equivalents

Italy	US
1 €	\$1.10
5 €	\$5.49
10 €	\$10.98
50 €	\$54.91
100 €	\$109.83
500 €	\$549.15
1,000 €	\$1,098.30

*Subject to Change*

