



SELF-DRIVE EMILIA ROMAGNA (TOUR CODE: 11600)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Bologna

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Mar 24 - 30 Dec 25

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Self-Drive

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

A trip through Emilia Romagna, which has flourished since the middle ages thanks to the region's monasteries and the University of Bologna.

Highlights

- Chance of sampling several **Slow Food Presidia products** - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" such as *Parmigiano Reggiano*, *Romagnola piadina*, *Culatello di Zibello* and many more!
- Discover gorgeous cities such as **Parma, Ferrara, Ravenna and Dozza** while tasting delightful food and wines of the Emilia Romagna Region!
- Taste the **Modena Traditional Balsamic Vinegar**, hand-made from boiled grape must and then aged for a long period in wooden kegs
- Guided visit to the breathtaking **Castle of Torrechiara**

Emilia Romagna is home to delightful towns of great artistic importance, with cathedrals and ancient castles, Renaissance arcades and galleries with masterpieces by Raphael and Guido Reni. It is also famous for many delicacies such as the Prosciutto Crudo ham, the Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, the Culatello di Zibello, the Balsamic Vinegar of Modena and many other traditional delicacies!

Additionally, participants will have the unique chance of sampling several **Slow Food Presidia** products (high-quality, traditional food and beverages at "risk of extinction") and will taste authentic regional dishes at restaurants selected among those recommended by the Slow Food association in their "**Osterie d'Italia**" guide: small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce for traditional recipes.

Slow Food is an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking. It was founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy in 1986 and has since spread worldwide. Promoted as an alternative to fast food, it strives to preserve traditional and regional cuisine and encourages farming of plants, seeds, and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem. It promotes local small businesses and sustainable foods. It also focuses on food quality, rather than quantity. It was the first established part of the broader slow movement. It speaks out against overproduction and food

waste. It sees globalisation as a process in which small and local farmers and food producers should be simultaneously protected from and included in the global food system.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights in Bologna at Art Hotel dei Commercianti - 4* or similar
- Car Hire Credit of \$600
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- 1 Slow Food welcome dinner at an "Osterie d'Italia" typical Slow Food restaurant
- 1 lunch after cooking lesson
- 2 typical lunches Slow Food restaurant
- Aperitivo in Bologna
- 4 guided tastings of Slow Food and/or Presidia products from the Emilia Romagna region
- 1 cooking lesson
- 2 Guided tour in Bologna and Ferrara
- Estense Castel Entrance Fees

ITINERARY

Day 1 Bologna

Arrival at the hotel and check-in. Time to relax, followed by a **traditional dinner** based on local seasonal produce from Emilia-Romagna.

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commercianti** - 4* or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Bologna

In the morning, **cooking lesson** dedicated to traditional Bolognese cuisine, followed by lunch.

In the afternoon explore some of the city's picturesque squares and beautiful buildings on a 2-hour guided tour. You'll see the two towers, the Asinelli and the Garisenda, towering over the city, and you'll explore the ancient Quadrilatero Market to see the historic shops and fill your nostrils with the scents of local food.

Finally, discover the Palazzo del Re Enzo, now the seat of the City Hall, overlooking the beautiful Piazza Maggiore. And after a whole day around the city it's time to relax and to taste one of the specialties Bologna is known for: the **Aperitivo**. You may hardly still be hungry after a large cured meats and cheese "tagliere" and delicious "bruschette".

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commercianti** - 4* or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **3**

Bologna Modena Bologna

Departure to **Modena** for an old “Acetaia”, vinegar factory visit. accompanied by expert guides, can visit ancient Acetaie and discover the production techniques for the **Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena DOP** and its motherland: it is here that this sensory experience begins, in these magic places that, thanks to a microclimate that is hot in summer and cold in winter, house the barrels, made of the most precious woods, where the product slowly ripens. At the end of the visit, you can start tasting the Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena DOP. Tasting is made “vertically” to gradually accustom the palate to the many different flavours of the Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena DOP, passing from the youngest Vinegar to the oldest one.

Then travel through the beautiful **Modena countryside** where the sea breeze crosses the hills and makes this area ideal for Modena ham making. Inside a Modena ham factory, follow the journey of this prestigious ham from careful meat selection until its meticulous aging. Taste the unique sweetness of Parma ham and other local cold cuts, as the “culatta”.

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commerciali** - 4* or similar.

Breakfast

Day 4 Bologna Modena Lambrusco Bologna

After breakfast we suggest you a stroll around Modena’s historical centre. Modena is pleasurable in every season and offers tourists extraordinary beauties, all concentrated in its graceful historic centre, that narrate the splendour of a city that for a long time was the capital of a duchy under the Este lords, who resided here from 1598.

UNESCO has acknowledged the universal value of the city’s monumental treasures by declaring the Cathedral, Piazza Grande and the Ghirlandina Tower a Unesco world heritage. The day continues with a visit to one of the most important Lambrusco wine producers, where you can appreciate all the characteristics and the real taste of this wine paired with farm-to-table delicatessen.

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commerciali** - 4* or similar.

Breakfast



CATHEDRAL OF PARMA

Day 5 Bologna Parma area Bologna

After breakfast we suggest to visit **Parma**. Its center, full of art masterpieces, wide green spaces, little and big treasures from different ages, welcoming visitors and citizens all in the refined atmosphere of a petite capital. The presence of music in the history of the city is varied and recognized worldwide; the spirit of initiative and everyone’s passion give the city a deserved relevant position among the capitals of music. The gastronomic tradition is also very remarkable, offering, besides

cold cuts and cheese which are famous all over the world, first courses of homemade pasta cooked in different ways.

Parma in 2015 has been designated a Creative City of Gastronomy Unesco. Therefore, we cannot leave Parma without a lunch of Parma specialties. Free afternoon followed by a short **visit of the wonderful Torrechiara Castle** (optional). In the afternoon, stop at local "Cantina/Winery", situated in one of the most beautiful spots in the Parma hills. Tasting of four wines accompanied by local produce.

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commerciali** - 4* or similar.

Breakfast



Day **6**

Bologna Ferrara Bologna

This day is dedicated to **visiting Ferrara with a licensed guide**. Situated on the great plain of Emilia, Ferrara stands a few kilometres south of the Po River, and about 50km from the sea. Ferrara is a splendid city of art, to be enjoyed by walking its streets, its character - this magnificent Renaissance capital - revealed on every corner. Through its glorious past, you can understand the roots of its present. The Este family governed here for three centuries and gave the city the appearance it has today: a uniquely planned city, harmoniously fusing Mediaeval and Renaissance architecture, Europe's first modern city. It is precisely these characteristics that secured its UNESCO World Heritage status. It's a peaceful city to wander on foot or by bike, every step reliving the magical atmospheres of the past.

Visit the Estense Castle, former residence of the Este dukes. Lunch in a Typical Osteria.

Overnight stay in Bologna at **Art Hotel dei Commerciali** - 4* or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day 7

Bologna

Your itinerary has come to an end! After breakfast, check-out of your hotel.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Art Hotel dei Commercianti

Bologna

The Art hotel Commercianti has been recently renovated maintaining all the characteristics of the original building: the frescoed ceilings, the wooden beams, the elegant terraces overlooking the gothic windows of the monumental basilica of San Petronio. This 4-star hotel located in a quiet pedestrian area, has a *private parking in the center of Bologna* next to the Basilica of San Petronio in Piazza Maggiore. The building boasts an unbeatable location, a few steps from the main attractions of the city: the Archiginnasio, the Palazzo del Podestà, the Fountain of Neptune, the Two Towers and, why not, also from the most famous shopping streets of Bologna and the best restaurants.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **FLEXI CAR HIRE CREDIT:** This self-drive package includes a \$600 (\$100/day) Flexi Car Hire Credit. This provides the flexibility of selecting a vehicle based on your own preferences and requirements. As each location has vehicle limitations, please speak to our team for options.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package