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DUCO

The Best of Italy



High-End Hospitality

ITALIA ANTIQVA
2022

DUCO TRAVEL SUMMIT



Yvonne Verstandig, founder of Y Travel, with her tips up on the slopes in Italy's Dolomite Mountains.

Y ITALY? PERCHE NO!

Sequencing your travel DNA and turning it into a tailor-made trip

After two years of a near-total ban on international travel, Australians are eyeing destinations far beyond their borders, with Italy at the top of that list. Melbourne-based travel entrepreneur Yvonne Verstandig is ready for them. She has devised a clever way to assure her clients' expectations are not only met on each trip but far exceeded. An avid adventurer in business and life, she launched Y Travel in late 2020 alongside a passion project, Ski Buzz, that has her and her brother tackling the Alps with intrepid skiers. Read on for Verstandig's take on why travelers are eager for Italy and poised to splurge on once-in-a-lifetime experiences and what she sees on the travel horizon for 2022.

Aussies in general are very avid travelers. As far as we've seen, Italy has been the number one destination by a long shot, and it comes as no surprise. Australians have long had a love affair with Italy. Whether they're desperate to visit for the first time or cannot wait to return, Italy is the country on everyone's radar.

We've curated extensive itineraries for foodies and adventurers through Puglia and Sicily; beach stays in Capri, Positano, Ischia, Sardinia, Forte Dei Marmi, and Porto Ercole; and trips focusing on R&R on the Lakes. We're planning winery and village visits in Tuscany, hiking and soaking up the local way of life on the Ligurian Coast, and city stays in Milan, Florence, and Rome to absorb some of the rich culture and history.

Italia Antiqua is the perfect lens through which to focus clients' attention on the *Bel Paese!* We always find that whether they know a little or a lot about Italy's rich and vibrant history, their goal is the same: to learn more, to witness it in situ, and to immerse themselves in it as much as possible.

I am lucky to have visited Italy on many occasions, and each time, I have walked away with incredible stories to share about how travelers can experience the country's famed ancient times.

I was born with wanderlust in my blood, a thirst to explore the world that was unquenchable. It was always my dream to find a way to combine my passion for traveling with my career, so after ten years as a practicing pharmacist, I followed my dream and have worked in the travel industry ever since.

Then in December 2020, after 20 years of working in travel, I established a new luxury travel space. It was the perfect time to head in a different direction. My company, Y Travel, is built on the premise that the best travel experiences are those designed specifically with each traveler's unique 'travel DNA' in mind. We curate our itineraries with the help of our eight Y Factors based not just on what our clients want to see but also on what they want to feel, to taste, to immortalize in their memory banks.

Italy is one of the most passionate countries I have ever experienced. As a destination, it represents a beautiful synergy with each of our Y Factors. Whether our clients are foodies, adventurers, budding artists, have a penchant for philanthropy, wish to connect with local culture, unwind in nature, or seek the unexpected, we know Italy will meet and exceed their expectations!

THE Y FACTORS

- Adventure** – *Risk it*
- Artistry** – *Appreciate it*
- Culture & Community** – *Embrace it*
- Generosity** – *Give it*
- Nature & Sustainability** – *Respect it*
- Taste** – *Indulge it*
- The Unexpected** – *Free it*
- Well-being** – *Feel it*

“Italy is one of the most passionate countries I have ever experienced.”