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## NORTHERN ITALY

#### 8 VIEWPOINT

We begin our Grand Tour by approaching Italy from the northeast and arriving at the ski resort of Monte Lussari.

## 10 SAN DANIELE

**Hannah Bellis** continues to Udine for its sensational alpine scenery and, perhaps more importantly, to visit the home of some of the Peninsula's finest *prosciutto*.

#### 14 VIEWPOINT

The picture perfect region of South Tyrol was long the subject of territorial disputes between Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

#### 16 48 HOURS IN TURIN

Lorenza Bacino spends a weekend in the first capital of the Kingdom of Italy, beginning the with a sightseeing tour by hot-air balloon.

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## 24 48 HOURS IN MILAN

Marina Spironetti has made Italy's second city her home, and here she reveals to us its very best insider secrets.

#### 30 ISOLA

Marina Spironetti takes us even deeper into her adopted home town as we undertake an intimate tour of Milan's trendiest and most talked-about district.

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Descending towards Venice, we briefly stop to explore the top ten attractions of one of the Veneto's most compelling cities.

# 41 18TH CENTURY VENICE

**Jonathan Palmer** follows the original Grand Tourists and discovers some seedy secrets within the Serenissima's underbelly.

#### 44 ST MARK'S BASILICA

Freya Middleton is your guide to the church that is the soul of Venice, and which was once the mantelpiece of the Republic.

#### 45 VENICE LIGHT AND DARK

**Fleur Kinson** explains why this extraordinary city of paradoxes is still one of the world's premier tourist attractions.

#### 50 CAFFÈ FLORIAN

Located in the Piazza San Marco in Venice, this prestigious café is the oldest coffee house in Italy. We stop for an espresso.

# CENTRAL ITALY

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Freya Middleton takes us to see the famous leaning tower and recounts the history of one of pre-unification Italy's most influential republics.

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## 60 LA SCUOLA DEL CUOIO

Marina Spironetti goes back to school to join the ranks of students from all over the world taking a class at the famous leather-making workshop in Florence.

## 65 MICHELANGELO'S DAVID

Freya Middleton explains the significance of this proud republican statement, how it relates to the story of David and Goliath, and why it also needs to be considered in a much broader conext.

## 66 48 HOURS IN FLORENCE

**Freya Middleton** continues as our guide to the heart of Florence, as we carefully retrace the footsteps of the richest and most powerful families of the Renaissance period.

#### 72 THE PANTHEON

**Freya Middleton** heads south to Rome to tell us the story of this most spectacular of all the ancient monuments.

## 73 18TH CENTURY ROME

**Jonathan Palmer** continues in the tracks of the original Grand Tourists as they continue in their horse-drawn carriages south, towards their most important destination.

## 76 48 HOURS IN ROME

Mark Nicholls takes a break from birthday celebrations to reflect on the absorbing atmosphere and ambience of the streets around Piazza Navona and beyond.

## 82 SAN LUIGI DEI FRANCESI

This majestic basilica offers more than just spiritual delights, with works by venerable art masters adorning every alcove.

## 84 THE FIELD OF CESTIUS

Joe Gartman explores the non-Catholic cemetery in Rome, a tranquil yet vibrant setting under the shadow of a pyramid that has become the posthumous home of countless luminaries throughout the ages.

# SOUTHERN ITALY

## 90 NEAPOLITAN FLAVOURS

Hannah Bellis shares a few of her favourite things about Naples, a city like no other that, like its ice cream, is one of many different layers and flavours.

## 95 THE ROAD FORWARD

**Fleur Kinson** takes great delight in strolling across the traffic-free asphalt of the newly reclaimed Naples sea front, a stretch which was once notorious for overloaded roads.

#### 100 POMPEII

Pompeii is a truly spectacular place, frozen in time for two millennia. Its rediscovery attracted the Grand Tourists, eager for a glimpse of life in the Empire of Ancient Rome.

## 102 FROM THE ASHES OF VESUVIUS

Hannah Bellis considers what Pompeii and Herculaneum meant to the Grand Tourists, what they mean to the visitor today, and how each site tells a very different story.

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Fleur Kinson intrepidly climbs the iconic volcano that is much loved for its black majesty, but that still holds an ever-present deadly potential.

# 114 IN SEARCH OF THE GODFATHER

Ben West takes us on a fascinating journey through the beautiful island of Sicily to discover the haunts and the history behind the Mafia movie trilogy.

## 120 ETNA ABOVE ALL

Amanda Robinson visits chic Taormina in Sicily and discovers how the majestic Mount Etna casts a long shadow over its surrounding landscapes.

## **124 THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES**

Located just outside the city of Agrigento in Sicily is one of the most iconic Italian sights, a constant reminder of the island's Ancient Greek rulers.

# 126 SICILY IN SIX DAYS

Jane Keightley learns how best to enjoy Sicily in less than a week, travelling along the northwest coast from Palermo to the charming town of Trapani and beyond.

## 130 LADY EMMA HAMILTON

**Joe Gartman** recounts the life and times of the wife of the British Envoy to Naples, one of most famous women of the Grand Tour era.

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