



# MASTERFULLY PLANNED EXPERIENCES

An Insider Look

## Easter in Italy: The Pompeiani Family

The Creation of a Family Trip to Italy  
Alison McMaster, Founder & Lead Travel Designer

When a family of nineteen trusted us to create an unparalleled vacation across Italy, I knew our work would be equal parts logistics mastery and memory-making.

With multiple generations, Easter travel, and several regions on the wish list, my role was to quietly choreograph every moment so they could simply show up, enjoy each other, and savor Italy at its best.

Duration: 7 Days / 8 Nights

Places: Rome, Tuscany, Florence

Two Generations: 19 family members

Signature Touch: Visit to the family church

Vibe: Active, Cultural, Family-bonding

“A trip of a lifetime, for a family of 19, MPE showed professional knowledge and was with us every step of the way. We can not imagine a group of our size, navigating Italy without Alison’s expertise and guidance.” Mike Pompeiani





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### Personal Travel Consultation

We began with a private consultation to understand their desired destinations and what this trip means

We talked about:

- Their heritage connection to Italy and the desire to introduce their children and spouses.
- Past trips that felt too rushed or disorganized for a group of this size.
- Non-negotiables: meaningful time in Rome and Tuscany, a special Vatican Easter Sunday Mass, and a day honoring family history in Abruzzo.



### Design: Crafting Their Custom Itinerary

I then outlined a master plan. Key design decisions included:

- Anchoring the first days in Rome with privately guided visits to the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and Colosseum, along with private dinners and time for personal exploration.
- Securing VIP Easter Sunday Mass at the Vatican.
- Booking a Tuscan villa as a “home base” for excursions to Florence, San Gimignano, Chianti wine country, and the coast.
- Weaving in a coastal adventure to Cinque Terre with realistic timing and walking considerations.
- Designing a final heritage day that would be the emotional centerpiece of the trip.



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### Coordination: Behind the Scenes

Once the itinerary was approved, we shifted into orchestration mode. For a group of this size, “details” become hundreds of micro-decisions. My role included:

- Negotiating room needs and configurations to suit each nuclear family, while keeping everyone in the same key locations.
- Arranging private transfers, tours, and dining so the entire trip unfolds at the right pace.
- Vetting every partner, including drivers and guides, for their reliability, personality, and ability to gracefully host a large family.

### Hero Experience: Easter Sunday in Rome

One of the most meaningful experiences we created was Easter Sunday in Rome.

- Early-morning coordination ensured smooth hotel checkout and group transfers to St. Peter’s in time for seated Easter Mass, without anyone feeling rushed or confused about where to be.
- After Mass, we arranged a long, leisurely lunch in a restaurant on the Pantheon square, complete with a welcome aperitivo and a menu designed for their group.
- Behind the scenes, I reconfirmed transfers and coordinated luggage collection and the onward drive to Tuscany, so the family experienced the day as seamless, sacred, and stress-free.





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### Signature Touch: Heritage Day in Abruzzo

Another standout experience was their heritage day in Ripa Fagnano and L'Aquila.

- We coordinated a private visit with their cousin, Fernando, to walk through the village, visit the family church of San Rocco, and share stories that brought their ancestry to life.
- A tasting at a beloved local confectioner and lunch in a sixteenth-century country mansion turned the day into a celebration of both memory and place.
- Our team handled timing, language nuances, and logistics door-to-door, so the family could fully immerse in the emotion of "going home" together.



### Support: Every Step of The Way

Throughout the journey, I was onsite to anticipate needs, smooth the unexpected, and make real-time refinements.

- I proactively communicated daily pickup times and meeting points so no one in the family had play leader.
- I coordinated with our local guides to adjust walking intensity & timing based on how the family felt.
- When local nuances came into play, we prepared the family in advance.

By the end, what endured was the ease of exploring Italy as a family: Easter Mass at St. Peter's, laughter in their Tuscan villa, dinner in the shadow of the Pantheon, cooking dishes together, and walking their ancestral streets side by side.