

# TRAVEL DIARIES

Discover travel and honeymoon tips from one recently married couple.



GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO

**A** Following their romantic nuptials in California, Allyson (née Levine) and Steven Joseph jetted off to Italy for two weeks of exploring and relaxing – two essential components they desired for their honeymoon. “I spent a little bit of time living in Italy and I speak the language,” explains the bride. “It was Steven’s first time traveling to the destination, so we wanted to find a balance between seeing all of the sights and sharing with him my little version of Italy from my experience living abroad.”

Allyson and Steven visited beautiful Lake Como for a relaxing first stop on their luxurious honeymoon. Grand Hotel Tremezzo provided the five-star accommodations and amenities that they were looking for to begin their tour of Italy. “We would absolutely recommend this property to other couples,” agree the newlyweds. “The hotel perfectly combines Old-World elegance and modern charm.” The boutique-style approach of the location delights guests with an impeccable and dependable staff – in fact, the same person who pours your wine in the evening is back the very next morning to pour your coffee.

Though Allyson and Steven spent much of their time basking at the many pools on property (one of them even “floats” over the waters of the lake) and decompressing at the spa facilities, they also enjoyed various excursions around town planned with the help of the hotel’s concierge service. The couple’s favorite activity was renting a boat from a local resident and exploring the gorgeous lake from end to end. “Seeing all of the little towns carved out of the cliff surrounding the lake was incredible,” shares Allyson of the memorable experience.



GRAND HOTEL TREMEZZO



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VILLA CARLOTTA  
LAKE COMO



## HIGHLIGHTS LAKE COMO

**Relaxing at Grand Hotel Tremezzo.** “We started every morning with a delicious breakfast on the terrace, and shared a toast in the hotel’s classic Italian bar each night.”

**Visiting the museum and gardens at Villa Carlotta.** “We could have spent the whole day on the grounds picnicking and admiring the gorgeous botanicals.”

**Having dinner at Locanda La Tirlindana.** “They offer delicious regional cuisine in an idyllic atmosphere with just a few tables filled with locals enjoying late-night family suppers.”



HOTEL DANIELI



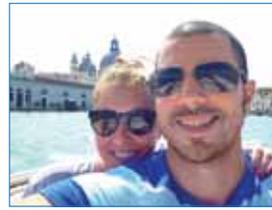
MUSEO DELLA MUSICA - SAN MAURIZIO CHURCH



PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION, VENICE  
PH. ANDREA SARTI/CAST1466



PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION, VENICE  
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HIGHLIGHTS  
VENICE

**Sipping Bellinis at Harry's Bar – the cocktail's birthplace.** "While a bit of a splurge, it is worth the experience and the people-watching."

**Seeing Venice from the perspective of the locals.** "Venice is home to such an old and rich culture. It's impossible not to fall in love with the city."

**Visiting famed museums.** "Our two favorite 'tourist spots' were the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, which houses one of the most famous modern-art collections in Europe, and Museo della Musica, which exhibits a beautiful collection of old instruments."



PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION, VENICE  
PH. ANDREA SARTI/CAST1466



The romantic city of Venice offered plenty of enticing exploration opportunities. Since Allyson had already visited the location, she focused on sharing the unique cityscape and rich culture with her husband. "I wanted to embrace 'getting lost' in the most confusing city in the world," explains Allyson. "The most beautiful parts of Venice are the ones that you find by accident."

Hotel Danieli, a centrally located historic property, served as a luxurious home base for the couple while they explored the city.

"The only time we stayed on-property was to enjoy a cocktail on the rooftop before dinner. Their drinks are pricey, but worth the splurge to view Venice from above," shares the bride. To truly experience Venetian culture, they spent one evening partaking in a self-guided Cicchetti bar tour, known by the locals as *giro d'ombra*. "Going from bar to bar, you can make a meal out of your snacks while chatting with local patrons and proprietors," says Allyson. "Top off the evening by listening to dueling live classical music in Piazza San Marco."



HIGHLIGHTS  
TUSCANY

**Dining at Villa Mangiacane.** "Their restaurant chef is incredible, so we enjoyed dinner on property two of our four nights."

**Exploring wine country.** "We rented a car and stopped at every winery we saw along the way. Our most treasured was a beautiful family-run vineyard called Montecalvi."

**Touring the region's legendary attractions.** "We explored Pitti Palace and the Boboli Gardens, topping it all off with a view of the sunset on the water and a bottle of local wine."

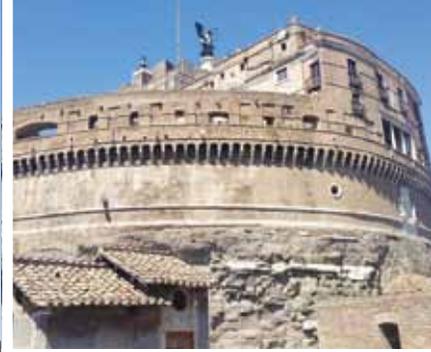


To sample Tuscany's beautiful countryside as well as its city life, Allyson and Steven chose to stay at Villa Mangiacane, a 15<sup>th</sup> century estate bordering the wine region of Chianti and located only 20 minutes from Florence. As an added bonus, the hotel provides *aperitivo* (an Italian cocktail hour) to guests every evening, which allowed the newlyweds to taste the wines and olive oils of the region while enjoying beautiful views.

Since Allyson lived in Florence for a time, she was able to give Steven a miniature tour of her choice spots. "One of my favorite stops is Cibrèo – they offer a lively dinner theater called Il Teatro del Sale," she shares. Other top picks include the local market at Mercato Sant'Ambrogio, meats at the well-known Solociccia, biscotti at Il Cantuccio, and gelato at Gelateria dei Neri. In addition to stopping at small local wineries, the couple also visited the famous Castello di Verrazzano winery in Chianti. "It's an absolutely stunning property and a worthwhile trip," says Allyson. "Make sure to take a bottle of their Vino Santo home!"



“We could honestly relive the entire trip over and over, and be perfectly happy!”



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**ROME**

**Feasting at Pierluigi in Piazza Dé Ricci.** “They have a spin on a typical Roman dish – Matriciana made with seafood – that breaks every rule of Italian cooking, but may be one of the most delicious things ever created.”

**Sampling local eateries.** “We visited local haunts like I Suppli for pizza, Etabli and Bar della Pace for after-dinner cocktails, and Giolitti for gelato and freshly made desserts.”

**Exploring the city.** “There is so much life in Rome. The staff at Hotel Dei Borgognoni has been there forever and they offer fantastic recommendations throughout the area.”



Rome – the bride’s most beloved Italian city – was the final stop on the couple’s journey. Allyson and Steven checked into the Hotel Dei Borgognoni, a “perfectly placed temporary Roman home” situated between the famed Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. Though the bride was a repeat visitor, she and Steven spent a full day taking in the city’s remarkable sights. From the Colosseum, to the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City, and finally, the gardens and galleries at Villa Borghese and Galleria Borghese, Allyson and Steven toured as much of the city’s ancient history as they possibly could in four days time.

“My favorite way to explore the sights is to plan an everyday activity near each attraction,” Allyson advises. For example, a trip to the Pantheon was paired with lunch at Osteria del Sostegno, a popular Roman restaurant, and throwing coins in the Trevi Fountain was accompanied by freshly baked bread and marinated artichokes from local bottega Panificio Riposati. “We were able to experience the city both as locals and as tourists,” Allyson says.



**TRAVEL TIPS FROM ALLYSON & STEVEN**

- “It’s worth it to upgrade to first class on trains. It’s not a huge extra fee and makes all the difference if you’re traveling with luggage.”
- “Don’t be afraid to drink from the water fountains in Rome. *L’acqua di Roma* is the freshest, coldest, most delicious water in the entire world.”
- “Pack light! If you are visiting multiple cities try to keep the luggage to a minimum, so you aren’t lugging heavy bags from train to train.”
- “It’s so nice to hand over the reins to someone experienced to plan your honeymoon travel when you are knee-deep in wedding preparations. Life:Styled Group helped us book all of our accommodations and ground transportation.”