

# OLIVE TREE ESCAPES™

*Designers of Luxury Bespoke Journeys to  
Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, & Montenegro*

CHICAGO, IL

877-272-2310 • OTESCAPES.COM



## *What is OTE -* OLIVE TREE ESCAPES?

Olive Tree Escapes is a tour operator that provides luxury bespoke journeys to Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro. We specialize in designing upscale and customized experiences for the discerning traveler. What sets us apart is that we focus 100% on the Mediterranean area in order to achieve a level of expertise a notch higher than large-spanning operators, and our sales team is US-based to help you plan the trip, while your clients still get the full support from our on-site offices in Italy and Croatia.

### **Our Goal**

OTE is a boutique travel company that focuses on Travel Agent relationships and partnerships. We know that referrals are the key result every agent would like from their clients. So, our main goal is to make Travel Agents look good to their clients, which in turn makes them satisfied and happy to refer you to a new possible customer. We will give you all of the insider info you need in order to turn every customer meeting into a successful sale.

### **Our Location**

OTE's main office is based in Chicago, and our second office is located in New York City. Our travel experts are available to talk and assist you from Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 5:30PM Central Standard Time. And for all of those who are traveling to Europe with us, we have two offices (one in Florence and one in Zagreb) ready for support and assistance on site.



## OUR FOUNDER & PRESIDENT: BETH RUBIN



“ While she can plan romantic getaways to Florence or family vacations to Rome, Rubin encourages travelers look beyond popular destinations. In Calabria, she has helped clients track their ancestors. From Milan, she’s set up excursions to such cities as Mantua and Cremona. Even on classic trips, Rubin tempts clients with unusual day trips or excursions like visiting a saffron producer in Umbria as an addition to a winery-filled vacation in Tuscany and Piedmont.

— Travel+Leisure

Beth Rubin started her career in the travel industry in 2000, designing unique Italian itineraries loaded with first-hand tips after her return to the US from a study abroad experience in Cortona, Tuscany. After 17 years of success in the travel industry and two Travel + Leisure® A-List of Top Travel Advisor awards, Rubin’s passion led to the opening of Olive Tree Escapes, her own Chicago-based bespoke luxury travel company.



## Our Team

Olive Tree Escapes has brought together a team of experts with over 50 years of combined experience in the travel industry. Our group of agents includes natives from Rome, Ancona, Vicenza, Split and Zagreb, and we all have lived in Italy or Croatia for an extensive period. We are the local experts, who work in your time zone.





## *Why Choose* **OLIVE TREE ESCAPES?**

### **Our Experience**

**We are travel experts with first-hand local knowledge.**

Our team is either native to the country, or has lived in the country for an extensive period of time. Our knowledge goes beyond the well-known sites and popular tourist spots.

**Destination expertise.**

We focus exclusively on Italy and Croatia (Slovenia and Montenegro).

**Award-winning consultants.**

With over 50 years of combined experience, developing a strong network of connections in our destinations.

**More than a vacation.**

We design bespoke experiences tailored to meet your clients' every need, crafted just the way they want it.

### **Unique Service**

**Personal travel consultant.**

You will work with the same travel expert throughout the whole process. Our goal is to create itineraries that are tailored to each client's personal style. The proposal is refined to perfection in every detail with you and your clients, creating dream vacations with the degree of involvement you prefer.

**Expertly-led tours.**

Our guides and services are hand picked and yearly reviewed for quality control, and all of our guides and staff speak English.

**Unexpected extras.**

To make the client's trip truly unforgettable, we give personal recommendations for a unique experience even when they are visiting on their own.

### **On Site & At Home Support**

**We are your Italy and Croatia experts based in Chicago.**

Our travel planners are located in Central Standard Time, available during your office hours. Our on site representatives are available in local time while your clients travel.

**Concierge service.**

On-site support and English-speaking staff fluent in Italian and Croatian.

**Real support before, during and after the trip.**

Delayed flight, missed connection, weather problems? In case of unexpected events, a travel expert is available on call to help resolve any issues.

### **Partnership Value**

**We value our partnership with our Travel Agents more than anything else.**

We want to make you feel comfortable and prepared when you are communicating with your clients.

**Quarterly Webinars for your benefit & knowledge.**

Sales tips, new product education, updates on trends and insider info you might find useful in your next sale.

**Commissions on all of our bookings.**

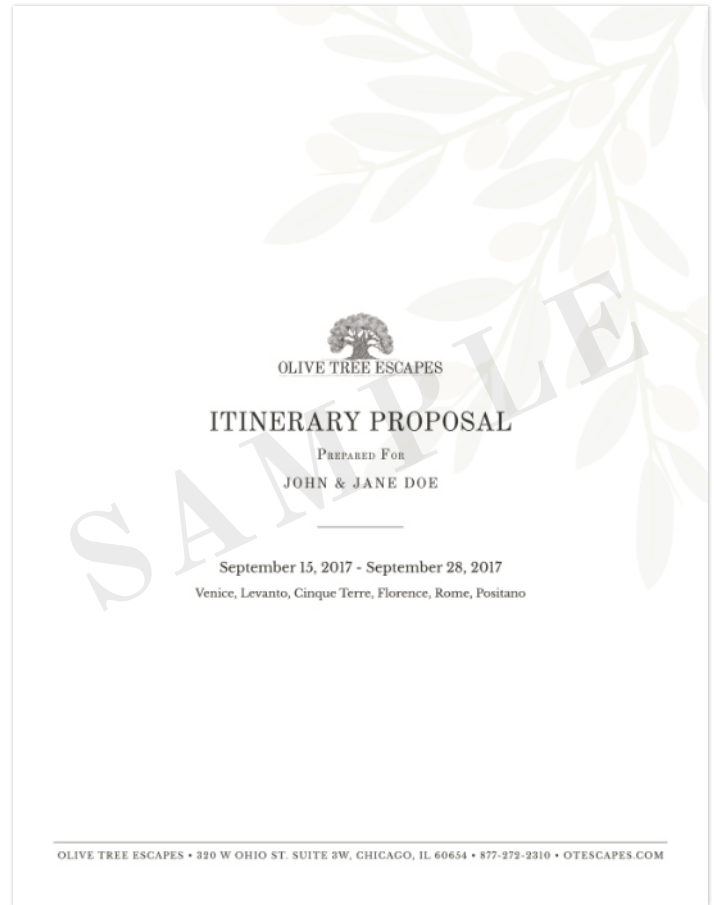
Bi-monthly commission checks.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

Olive Tree Escapes is a tour operator that provides luxury bespoke journeys to Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro. We specialize in designing upscale and customized experiences for the discerning traveler. What sets us apart is that we focus 100% on the Mediterranean area in order to achieve a level of expertise a notch higher than large-spanning operators, and our sales team is US-based to help you plan the trip, while your clients still get the full support from our on-site offices in Italy and Croatia.

From personalized travel tips, to ensuring your dietary needs are met. Nothing is final until you and your clients' are satisfied. And once you confirm the itinerary, we go ahead and process all the services and create a personalized booklet: a printed and digital itinerary with all activities, vouchers, and confirmations neatly gathered in one place and shipped directly to you.



**ITINERARY PROPOSAL - JOHN & JANE DOE**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

**SATURDAY - SEPT. 23RD**    **GUIDED TOUR**  
Early Entrance to the Sistine Chapel & Vatican Museums



LOCATION	Rome
START TIME	7:30PM
DURATION	Approx. 3.Hrs.

Early access before all the crowds, you will begin with an introduction to the museums, and proceed directly to the Sistine Chapel, followed by entrance to the Vatican Museums, and ending with a tour of St. Peter's Basilica.

**SUGGESTED ITINERARY**

**TRASTEVERE**

Literally meaning "across the Tiber," this was Rome's first suburb, and many residents insist it's the "real" Rome. The district is a thriving tangle of charming medieval streets, vibrant outdoor restaurants and trattorias, intimate bars and cafes. Trastevere is home to an array of galleries and artisans' shops, plus the large Sunday flea market, Porta Portese. The Church of Santa Maria dominates the piazza of the same name. The steps of the central fountain there are a good place to watch the area's colorful characters. To the west rises the Gianicolo Hill, which offers magnificent views from a ridgeline park.

**MONTE**

Ancient Rome's shantytown (*Sabazia*) is now gentrified under the design of artists, hipsters and up-and-comers. Its once-cheap property is now among the most expensive in Rome. Ethnic restaurants, galleries, bars and funky shops flank its narrow alleys. The main square is often filled to capacity on weekends, when locals go out to visit and sip coffee or wine at the cafes around the perimeter. The area stretches east from the Forum between Via Nazionale and Via Cavour.

**PARCO DEI MOSTRI**

Bomarzo village, 7 mi/12 km northeast of Bagnai, contains the silly and sublime Monster Park (*Parco dei Mostri*)—also called the Sacred Grove, *Sacro Bosco*. This surreal sculpture garden—sort of a 16th-century theme park—is one of northern Lazio's primary attractions. Daily 8:30 am to one hour before sunset. 10 euros. Località Giardino, Bomarzo, Bagnai. Phone: 0761-924-029. Website: [www.sacrobosco.it](http://www.sacrobosco.it).

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**ITINERARY PROPOSAL - JOHN & JANE DOE**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

**SIRACUSA**    **RESTAURANT TIPS**

**Al Mazari**  
Address: Via G. Torres, 7/9 96100 Siracusa (SR) Italy  
Phone: +39 0931 483690  
Website: [www.almazari.com](http://www.almazari.com)

On Siracusa's island of Ortigia, Al Mazari has been mentioned by the Michelin guide for its excellence in Trapanese cuisine. Its menu, written in Sicilian dialect (with translation), includes dishes such as couscous, a specialty of Trapani. The candle-lit dining room is simple yet elegant.

**Angelina's Bakery**  
Address: Corso Umberto, 50, 96100 Siracusa (SR) Italy  
Phone: +39 328 679 3397  
Website: [www.angelinasbakery.it](http://www.angelinasbakery.it)

Perfect for a quick lunch, this bakery and cafe offers a wide range of sandwiches and salads, matched with a nice selection of wines. The bread is baked daily and the dessert list is a must.

**Cantina Giaraca**  
Address: Via dei Mille, 34, 96100 Siracusa (SR) Italy  
Phone: +39 0931 464907  
Website: N/A

Close to Ortigia's little harbor is this stylish wine bar located in a Liberty-style palazzo that is also the 24-room No'art Boutique Hotel. Dario, the sommelier, will introduce you to their large selection of high-quality Sicilian wines, paired with cheeses, salami and other local gastronomic delights. The saffron-flavored DOP cheese from Enna called Piacentinu is a standout.

**La Terrazza sul Mare**  
Address: Grand Hotel Ortigia, Viale Giuseppe Mazzini, 12, 96100 Siracusa SR, Italy  
Phone: +39 0931 464600  
Website: [www.orzaviaggiando.it/la-terrazza-sul-mare-siracusa-migliori-ristoranti/9877557/recezione](http://www.orzaviaggiando.it/la-terrazza-sul-mare-siracusa-migliori-ristoranti/9877557/recezione)

This roof-garden restaurant, located on the third floor of the Grand Hotel Siracusa offers a great view of the city and the sea. Among the best picks, the jumbo shrimp with citrus sauce, or the risotto with monkfish and saffron. Reservations recommended.

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## REACHING OUT

### Join Our Quarterly Webinars

Olive Tree Escapes Webinar series is part of our ongoing efforts to keep our travel agent partners up-to-date with the latest Italian and Croatian travel trends, accommodations, and experiences. It's also an informal way to get to know our knowledgeable team of experts. Each Webinar is 30 minutes: approximately 20 minutes of presentation followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. The Webinars are free, exclusive for travel agents, and recordings will be available for all the registrants.

*[Watch our past Webinars](#)*

Are you interested in receiving our quarterly Webinar invitations? You can subscribe by sending an email to [marketing@otesCAPES.com](mailto:marketing@otesCAPES.com).

### Olive Tree Escapes FAMs

Gain first-hand experience and knowledge of Italy and Croatia with our FAMs.

To receive information about our upcoming FAM trips, please send an email to [marketing@otesCAPES.com](mailto:marketing@otesCAPES.com).

OLIVE TREE ESCAPES

OCTOBER 3, 2017 | 11:00 AM CST

ROME AS A LOCAL

REGISTER NOW

Join Olive Tree Escape's Rome expert Silvia Bolasco-Gianfortune as she reviews The Eternal City's hidden gems, non-touristy and original neighborhoods and activities.

### We Are Social

Follow Olive Tree Escapes on social media to keep-up-to-date with the latest travel trends, destination highlights, company news, and more! Connect, follow and have a conversation with us.

*[Join our Facebook Travel Agents Group](#)*







# Italy



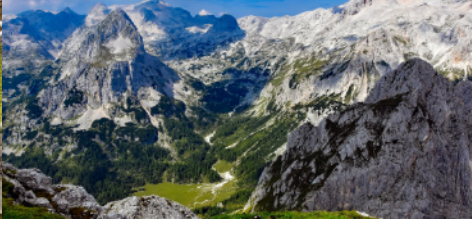
# Croatia



# Montenegro



# Slovenia



*Expertise in Our*  
**DESTINATIONS**



## MOST COMMON QUESTIONS

**Can we book only tours and transfers with you, if we have already booked the hotels on our own?**

Yes, that is totally fine. But we do require packages, no a la carte services.

**Minimum of transfer and services you book in a package?**

Minimum of 3 services bundled in one package.

**Villa rentals?**

We do villa rentals across the country (even off the beaten path) and apartment rentals in the cities. Remember: villa rentals are weekly, Saturday to Saturday, and apartment rentals usually have a minimum of 3 nights.

**Do you have contracted air with most major airlines?**

No, we don't. We book it with a consolidator but we are more than happy to leave it up to you or your client directly.

**Can Croatia be a day trip from Venice?**

Yes, it can. 3 hrs from Venice to Rovinj. Not the easiest, but doable.

**How easy is it to combine Croatia and Slovenia?**

Pretty easy. Ljubljana is 1.5 hours away from Zagreb. Slovenia has a lot to offer, you can do Ljubljana and Lake Bled in a day trip.

**Now that the client is ready to confirm, how does payment work?**

Deposit in the amount of 30% is due at the time of booking. Final balance will be due 60 days prior to departure day. In the event of cancellation, deposit and final payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. Olive Tree Escapes strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance. Additional information about it can be provided upon request.

**Will you provide a list of suggested restaurants? Can you make reservations?**

Yes, we will send a list of recommended restaurants for each city where the client will stay. We can certainly make reservations.

**The package looks great, but my clients want to know what the hotels cost. Can you provide the individual costs?**

No, we cannot provide itemized costs as we have contract rates that are contingent on the prices remaining confidential and in a package. If your clients are trying to meet a specific budget, we can always suggest ways to cut back on the overall package cost.

**Is the package refundable?**

No, the deposit and any subsequent payments are non-refundable. We highly recommend travel insurance - you can [find more details here](#).





CONTACT US

## OLIVE TREE ESCAPES

877-272-2310

[info@otesCAPES.com](mailto:info@otesCAPES.com)

[otesCAPES.com](http://otesCAPES.com)

### **Business Hours**

**Monday - Friday**

9am - 5:30pm CST