



GOURMET GETAWAYS NEWSLETTER 07.2008



ARE YOU THINKING OF PLANNING YOUR OWN TRIP BY USING THE INTERNET? YOU MAY RECONSIDER AFTER READING THIS NEWSLETTER!

As a consumer you may feel that a travel agent will charge you more money for a vacation that you wish to take. Yes, an agent may charge a consultation/booking fee but this is a small price for all the time, research, knowledge, personal service and expertise that a travel professional utilizes when putting together your dream vacation.

You should be candid with your ideas and expectations. If you have a budget let the agent know this. It is always helpful for the agent to know how he/she can best serve you if you know about how much you are willing to spend. Remember you must work together.

There are many advantages to using a travel agent. For example, when you use the services of an agent to book your hotel stay, that agent will use his/her supplier to get the best rooms available and you may be entitled to upgrades, special attention, or a special promotion. Internet bookings, even to

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the same place, do not make available the same service options and, frequently, hotels save their least desirable rooms for Internet bookings.

Agents are also able to arrange for private transfer service to meet you at the airport or train station, arrange for special tours, and can arrange for special amenities in your room upon arrival. This can only be accomplished through a travel agent. Can the internet provide these services?

Planning to travel within a country by train? Many clients ask if it is better to purchase the tickets when they arrive in that country. It is much better to buy before you leave for a number of reasons:

- Speak with your travel agent about purchasing the tickets so that she/he can coordinate your day with ease.
- When you purchase your ticket before you leave you are guaranteed a reservation. If you are traveling during peak times the trains may be full and cannot accept any more reservations for the day or time when you need to get to your next destination.
- You avoid paying in foreign currency and avoid the transaction fee on your credit card.
- Unless you are fluent in a foreign language you run the risk of not being able to communicate your wishes to the ticket agent.

I hope this article has provided you with enough information to encourage you to use an agent the next time you book that well deserved vacation that you earned. Become best friends with your travel agent and you will reap the benefits.



TESTIMONIALS

“Our time in Venice was equally memorable. Ca’ Sagredo is a fabulous boutique hotel in a charming part of Venice. I was so glad we were away from San Marco Square (the crowds were amazing there over the weekend). We were only a short walk to the Square but the atmosphere was so totally different where we were. I would definitely recommend the hotel to anyone. Thank you for wanting this to be a perfect trip for us. I appreciate your attention to all of the details to make it perfect. It was in every way! If I ever do another cooking school, I will definitely go through you.” (ME)

“I want to say how much we loved our trip to Italy. It was enchanting, beautiful, delicious and amazing. Thanks for helping put all the details together. It really was so well organized.” (IL)

“We had a wonderful trip. We all loved Orvieto. The cooking classes were not classes. It was like we met an old friend we didn’t know we had. Chef Lorenzo has a special way of welcoming people. During the three days we spent with him we shopped for food, toured wineries, had an impromptu lunch at a family olive oil operation, cooked and ate! We made wild boar ravioli, pizza, tiramisu, fettucini and the olive oil flows like water.... His staff was fun and really added to the experience. Thanks Marlene for all your hard work and clearly we highly recommend this cooking.”

“Thank you for wanting this to be a perfect trip for us. It was in every way!”

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