

A TRUE ITALIAN ADVENTURE

Day 1. June 26. Tue. Fly to Rome, Italy

Depart from your airport on Delta Airline and go New York where you meet the rest of your group. From there you fly to Rome, Italy. The overnight flight is a unique experience. Dinner and breakfast are served aboard.

Day 2. June 27. Wed. Land in Rome

Welcome to Italy! First impression: Italian is spoken here! You are tired, but you cannot check into your hotel until this afternoon. Therefore, from the comfort of your deluxe bus, let's sightsee some of Rome's highlights: Coliseum, Circus Maximus, Caesar's Palace, Castle San Angelo, President's Palace, Wedding Cake and most of downtown accessible by bus. Then you start your vacation with a delicious lunch in a Roman restaurant where food and wine abound. Next, you check into your hotel.

Day 3. June 28. Thu. Visit Vatican City

Yesterday you landed in Italy and came "abroad"; this morning you go "abroad" again to Vatican City, the smallest country in the world. You will see St. Peter's Square and Basilica, the greatest Christian church. What an emotional, historical and artistic experience! Have lunch and then visit the Vatican Museum and its famous "Sistine Chapel". After dinner you may spend some time at the Hotel's large Bar for dancing and fun. Same hotel.

Day 4. June 29. Fri. Rome: downtown walking tour

Discover the soul of Rome by going on a downtown walking tour: Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Navona Square, Coliseum, Forum Romanum, etc. Rome was not built in one day, but you will certainly discover it in one day! What a fantastic experience! It is a hard but a very fun and educational experience! Same hotel.

Day 5. June 30. Sat. Abruzzo.

Abruzzo is the region located by the Adriatic Sea; it has mountains and hills. After breakfast we drive through those mountains strewn with picturesque, old towns. We take a break in the ancient but neat city of Sulmona, famous for its many "confetti shops". Then we proceed to our hotel right by the beach. Run for the water! Have an evening of great food and fun.

Day 6. July 1. Sun. Abruzzo

It is Sunday, thus you will have the opportunity of attending religious service with the locals and then visit an oil mill. A fabulous lunch-party in a country restaurant is waiting for you: you will have a very large variety of local specialties and wine. You feel like kings and queens! You will love it! Now have more fun on the beach and dance after dinner. Same hotel.

Day 7. July 2. Mon. Marche Region, Assisi.

This morning you travel north on the freeway running between the blue Adriatic Sea and the green hills dotted with medieval towns. In Loreto you will visit the renowned "Santa Casa" (Holy House) where the Holy Family lived. When many centuries ago the Muslims threatened to destroy it, the House was miraculously transported in Loreto. Have lunch and shop for souvenirs. After that you cross the Appennini mountains and enter the Umbria region. More good food and fun is waiting for you in Assisi.

Day 8. July 3. Tue. Assisi

Today in Assisi you walk through the same streets where St. Francis and St. Clare walked and preached some 800 years ago. They founded the religious order of Franciscans. You will see their tomb and their artistic basilica. Then you will have plenty of free time to explore that medieval town with its quaint streets, shops, restaurants, fortress, etc. Tourists love Assisi! Same hotel.

Day 9. July 4. Wed. San Gimignano and Winery

You have heard about the beauty of the "Tuscan country side". Well, today you drive through it as you go to San Gimignano. This is a town that remained the same as it was more than a thousand years ago. With its medieval towers and unique shops San Gimignano is a major Tuscan tourist destination. You will love it! In the afternoon we go to a country Winery where you taste many kinds of local wine, eat bruschette, cheese, salami, prosciutto, and have a lot of fun. You drink wine until you drop! Hotel in Montecatini.

Day 10. July 5. Thu. Florence.

You will have the entire day downtown Florence. This is the "Renaissance City of Europe", because, after many centuries of cultural darkness, here the western civilization was born again. A local guide will tell you all about it during a walking tour of the city's highlights: Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Signoria, Duomo, Santa Croce, etc. After that you will have free time for lunch and shopping. Late afternoon drive to your

deluxe hotel by Padua.

Day 11. July 6. Fri. Venice

The fabled city of Venice is entirely built on water! A boat will take you downtown through the famous Canal Grande. Follow your guide for a short orientation waking tour during which you will see St. Marc's Square and Basilica, the Bridge of Sighs, Rialto Bridge, etc. After that you will have the rest of the day free to discover on your own the tiny alleys and hidden plazas linked by narrow foot-bridges over canals. Ride the Gondola, shop for souvenirs, eat and have fun. Venice: what a fantastic place! How many restaurants, shops, people from all over the world and... how many pigeons! Same hotel.

Day 12. July 7. Sat. Verona, drive to the Alps.

Verona is a real tourist attraction, because of the famous Castle of Romeo and Juliet, the best preserved Roman Amphitheater and its medieval and classic downtown packed with shops, restaurants and tourists. Next, drive west on the Po Valley, bypass the city of Milan and arrive to the spectacular Lago Maggiore (Major Lake) by the Alps. Hotel by the Lake.

Day 13. July 8. Sun. Milan.

The modern city of Milan is Italy's second largest city and financial capital. You will love visiting its huge medieval castle, the famous gothic Duomo with more than 3000 marble statues, the Gallery with the "Bull", La Scala Opera House, etc. Downtown Milan you will have plenty of free time to enjoy your last day in Italy. Same hotel.

Day 14. July 9. Mon. Return Flight

A morning drive to the airport reminds you that everything comes to an end. You fly from Milan back to USA. You will be home the same day. Yes, today your wallet is lighter than when you left, but look how much life experience you gained and how much fun you had! Mamma Mia, I love Italy! I don't want to go back! Arrivederci, Roma! I shall return! O Sole Mio

Tour cost: \$3990 per person

Tour cost includes: round trip air tickets from New York to and from Italy; all land transportation by private bus with a driver, all sleeping rooms in double occupancy in first class hotels, all breakfasts and all dinners, drinks and wine in most hotels, tour escort at all time, local guide in Florence, motor boat in Venice, sightseeing as in this itinerary, taxes, tips.

Notice. The above cost does not include the round trip cost from your airport to and from New York. The reason is that when this itinerary and cost is prepared we don't know who will come on the tour and from where; what we know is that we all meet in New York. When you join the tour tell us the name of your airport and we will figure out your additional air cost, which, being in conjunction with the Italy tour, should be very reasonable.

Tour cost will not include: lunches, drinks in some hotels and entrance to Vatican Museums (pay only if you go).

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