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MELBOURNE regional  
CHAMBER

Presents

# Tour of Italy



2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 TO  
SATURDAY, MAY 9



## DAY 1: ARRIVE ROME

Arrive in Rome, meet our representative at the airport and transfer to the hotel. That afternoon, visit Ancient Rome, including: The Coliseum, where gladiators battled for their lives during ancient times. On the same square, we visit the Arch of Constantine erected in the IV century A.D., and the Arch of Titus in the 1st century A.D. We will continue walking through the Roman Forum, the biggest archaeological area in the world just in the heart of Rome.

Dinner and overnight at hotel

## DAY 2: ROME

Buffet breakfast provided at the hotel. Today's guided tour starts at the Vatican City and St. Peter's Basilica. Tour the Vatican Museums, the public art and sculpture museums in the Vatican City. The museums display works from the immense collection amassed by popes throughout the centuries. The tour includes the Galleries of the Candelabra, the Tapestries, Geographical Maps, Raphael's Rooms and the Sistine Chapel, featuring the divine frescos of the Genesis and the Last Judgment by Michelangelo. We continue visiting Saint Peter's Basilica (internal tour), where we will admire, besides the Pietà of Michelangelo, the body exposed to the adoration of Pope John XXIII's believers. We conclude the visit in the center of the Christianity in Saint Peter Square built by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in 1661. Spend scheduled free time at Spanish Steps and Via Condotti. Farewell dinner to the Eternal City at a restaurant in Trastevere with musical live show.

Overnight at hotel

## DAY 3: ROME / SIENA / SAN GIMIGNANO / FLORENCE

After breakfast, depart to Florence via Siena and San Gimignano. First stop is Siena, a jewel of Gothic Art in central Italy's Tuscany Region. Siena is known for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the Palio, a horse race held twice a year. We then continue to San Gimignano for a walking guided tour in the city famous for its towers. Enjoy an ice cream tasting at Dandoli Gelateria, the best ice cream in the world! Also enjoy a tasting of local wines, served with a tasting of bruschetta, olives and pecorino cheese. After a stroll through the urban "Contrade," we'll proceed to Florence.

Dinner and overnight at hotel

## DAY 4: FLORENCE & PISA

Full day to discover and admire the city.

In the morning, we will visit the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, Piazza del Duomo and its surroundings. Piazza del Duomo, together with Piazza San Giovanni, represents the heart of the city. The visit will continue through Piazza Signoria and its Palazzo Vecchio (exterior) with all the original statues, including Bellini's Perseus. The tour ends in the Straw Market and its famous wild boar mascot.

Next, we'll have time at leisure for shopping before heading to Pisa, to enjoy a guided tour. The tour (2 hours) will start from Piazza dei Miracoli, where the famous leaning tower and other wonderful monuments are located. It will continue through Piazza dei Cavalieri (famous for the Scuola Normale Superiore, where several Italian Nobel Prize winners have graduated, and the Tower of Ugolino della Gherardesca, mentioned in Dante's masterpiece 'The Divine Comedy'). Then, walking along the Lungarni (the streets running along the river Arno), we will see the birthplace of Galileo, the house where the poet Leopardi wrote the poem "A Silvia," and the Palazzo della Sapienza (Wisdom Palace), where Galileo also taught.

Dinner at a local restaurant with menu including Florentine Steak

Overnight at hotel





## DAY 5: FLORENCE / CINQUE TERRE / SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

After breakfast, we embark on a guided excursion to the fabulous Cinque Terre Villages. We'll travel by train to reach Vernazza and Manarola.

Cinque Terre is a rugged portion of coast on the Italian Riviera. It is in the Liguria region of Italy, to the west of the city of La Spezia. "The Five Lands" comprises five villages: Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore. The coastline, the five villages, and the surrounding hillsides are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the centuries, people have carefully built terraces on the rugged, steep landscape right up to the cliffs that overlook the sea. Part of its charm is the lack of visible corporate development. Paths, trains and boats connect the villages, and cars cannot reach them from the outside.

Lunch at restaurant with regional menu

We then travel to Santa Margherita Ligure for dinner and overnight at hotel

## DAY 6: SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE / MILAN / LAKE MAGGIORE

Buffet breakfast at hotel before departing for Milan.

Guided tour including main monuments (the Cathedral) and The Scala Theater, one of the famous in the world. Time at leisure for shopping. Famous throughout the world as the Italian economic capital of fashion and design, Milan is also art, history and culture!

Our tour starts from the Castello Sforzesco with a visit to the external architecture and garden. From the castle we will walk towards the Duomo, admiring the elegant buildings that surround Via Dante and Via dei Mercanti, two historic streets of Milan, headquarters of the big insurance companies. Piazza del Duomo is the heart of Milan; the Duomo is one of the most significant monuments of the Gothic style, where German influences are softened by the work of local masters. From Piazza Duomo, we walk through the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele to Piazza della Scala. Dinner and overnight at hotel

## DAY 7: LAKE MAGGIORE / SIRMIONE / VERONA

After buffet breakfast transfer to Sirmione, pearl of Lake Garda. Free time for shopping and "spritz" drink. Lunch at local restaurant. Continue to Verona, walking guided tour including Roman Arena and famous balcony of Juliet's House love scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Dinner and overnight at hotel

## DAY 8: VERONA / VENICE / MURANO

After breakfast, transfer by private coach to Tronchetto pier to take the boat to Venice island. Enjoy guided tour. The tour starts from the magnificent Piazza San Marco, one of the most beautiful squares in the world and the center of Venetian life. On the north side of the square stands the Clock Tower and the Procuratie Vecchie (once the seat of the highest courts of the ancient Republic), on the west there is the Napoleonic wing and on the south, the Procuratie Nuove. The Basilica of San Marco and the Palazzo Ducale - the symbolic monuments of the Republic - stand on the background of the square. We will continue by walking to Rialto Bridge, one of the most beautiful bridges and symbols of the town.

Lunch at a local restaurant

Next, we travel by boat to Murano, a typical lagoon village built on five small islands, famous for its glassworks, where you can visit a glassware factory. The visit continues to Burano, built on four islands and famous for the art of lace. Here you can visit the Lace School, which is located in the Palace of the Podesta.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight at hotel



## DAY 9: DEPARTURE FROM VENICE

After breakfast, we head to Venice Airport for our return flight home

### COMPLETE AIR SCHEDULE:

30 April	Orlando to Charlotte	AA 561	3:30pm	arrive 05:19 pm
30 April	Charlotte to Rome	AA 720	6:25pm	arrive 09:40 am-01May
09 May	Venice to Philadelphia	AA 715	11:55 am	arrive 3:40 pm
09 May	Philadelphia to Orlando	AA 1919	6:51pm	arrive 9:42 pm

## BUON VIAGGIO !!!

\$3,599pp

(based on double occupancy)

Single supplement: \$ 500

Valid passport required

Check deposit upon reservation: \$500 pp

Final payment due 02 March 2020

Travel Insurance highly recommended: \$290 pp

For more details and reservations:



321-676-6040

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## HAPPY TRAVEL DREAMS !!!

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