

ITALIAN HOLIDAY

8 DAYS (9 Meals)

\$2,979 PER PERSON*

Italy is a country that has everything you dream about wanting in a vacation. Each region is filled with amazing sights, passionate and caring people, stunning beauty and incredible food and wine to savor. A visit to Italy will leave you with memories to cherish a lifetime.

DAY 1- DEPART USA

Overnight flight to Rome. **Meals en route.**

DAY 2 - ARRIVE ROME

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City! After check-in the remainder of the day is at leisure, perhaps to relax or explore. This evening enjoy a Welcome Drink with your Tour Director and fellow travel companions. **Overnight in Rome.**

DAY 3 - ROME SIGHTSEEING AND AT LEISURE

This morning our guided sightseeing tour takes us into **St. Peter's Basilica** in the Vatican to see the famous **Pieta** - among other great works. Then we cross the Tiber to explore ancient Rome with views of the Forum, a visit to the mighty Colosseum where gladiatorial combat took place and a view over the Circus Maximus where chariot races were held. Later, time to relax and explore further. **Overnight in Rome. BB**

DAY 4 - ROME SIGHTSEEING - VENICE

An early start today so that we can enjoy our highlight guided visit to the **Sistine Chapel** to admire the painted ceiling by Michelangelo. Later we head north from Rome following the valley of the River Tiber. Then we enter **Umbria** and see the impressive hilltop towns of **Orte** and **Orvieto**, once used as a stronghold by the popes, before entering Tuscany. Here we see the Chianti vineyards and the terraced olive groves before we start to cross through the forested Apennine hills. We pass Bologna and reach the flat Veneto plains and continue to our hotel. **Overnight in Venice. BB, D**

DAY 5 - VENICE SIGHTSEEING - LAKE GARDA

This morning we savour the sights and sound of this floating city on an **included canal cruise** by private motor launch to **St. Mark's Square**, viewing the Bridge of Sighs and Doge's Palace. Next we visit a **glass-blowing factory** before time on your own to explore this unique city. Then we cross the Veneto plains towards the Italian Lake District for tonight. **Overnight at Lake Garda. BB, D**

DAY 6 - LAKE GARDA - FLORENCE

Today our Tour Director will show us a special Hidden Treasure! But first we follow the shores of Lake Garda before we head to Florence via Mantua. The medieval and Renaissance past of this culturally rich city is revealed to us on a **guided walking tour**. We will see the **Piazza Signoria** - the political centre of the 15th century city - with its impressive sculptures and imposing palazzos, the multi-colored marble **Duomo** and famous Baptistery with the bronze doors designed by the Renaissance artist Ghiberti. We'll also walk to see the Ponte Vecchio, bridging the river Arno. Later, time to explore, relax or shop for high quality leather goods and 18-carat gold jewelry. **Overnight in Florence. BB**

DAY 7 - FLORENCE - ROME

This morning we drive southwards passing the Chianti vineyards and the olive groves which cover the rolling hills of **Tuscany**. This unique landscape has been an inspiration to artists throughout the centuries and still is today. Then we travel through the region of Umbria with bright golden fields of sunflowers and shady valleys before we reach again the valley of the River Tiber which leads us back to the eternal city of Rome. Here we have time to relax a little before we join our Tour Director and new-found touring friends for a **Farewell Dinner** with wine tonight in a local restaurant to celebrate the end of our Italian holiday together. **Overnight in Rome. BB, FD**

DAY 8 - ROME - USA

It's 'boun viaggio' as our Italian vacation comes to an end. **BB**

PRICE PER PERSON*

Single - \$3,329.00(*Request basis only*)

Double - \$2,979.00

Includes Air from Houston, TX

DEPARTURE DATE

June 4, 2010

**Prices include the taxes and fuel surcharges that are determined by the airline. Taxes are subject to change until ticketed!*

DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS: \$200 confirms your seat

Balance due on or before **March 15, 2010**

Travel Insurance Available...ask for details

VALID PASSPORT REQUIRED



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