

# ITALIAN DISCOVERY

Sept. 10 – Oct. 3, 2007

24 days...\$4277 \* + air

OUR FAVORITE AND MOST POPULAR TOUR....a real discovery of Italy!

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**SEPT 10 DEPARTURE from U.S.A. bound for your adventures in ITALY!**

**SEPT 11** Arrival in Munich, Germany, **group met** by our comfortable coach & experienced driver, then transported to riverside city of Innsbruck, a historical and pleasant city in the Inn Valley beneath the beautiful alps. Hotel is located close to the old center – even has a pool. **D - INNSBRUCK**

**SEPT 12** Morning **tour** of old city with **local guide** plus visit to **Maximilian's tomb** with stunning bronzes + folk museum **AND** finish on top of their **ski jump** for view and **lunch!** WOW! Drive through Brenner Pass. Seems much like Austria but gradual transition to Italian "look" is very curious. Turn east through beautiful Dolomite mountains. Our 2 nights location is a highly regarded wood carving center - winter ski area. You'll love our hotel! **SELVA B-L-D**

**SEPT 13** Full day coach tour around rugged and grandiose Dolomites with all kinds of possibilities – spectacular views, amazing roads, resort areas, visit to charming towns...lakes, alpine flowers, cable cars, carving studio...our exceptional driver will show his wood carvings....you will be impressed. An awesome day! **SELVA B - D**

**SEPT 14** If clear, we'll take a gondola up for look over the magnificent valley and mountain views. Driving through the Dolomites, see lakes, hamlets with fine old wooden houses, castle remains, remarkable scenery. Drop down into the Po Plain and head for the bridge crossing the lagoon. Arrive in romantic Venice - **vaporetto** to Piazza San Marco and nearby hotel, right in the heart of things! **VENICE B - D**

**SEPT 15** **City guide** gives us personal look at his city & most important places plus some "inside" information. Visit **St. Marks Square & Basilica, Campanile, Ducal Palace**. Afternoon free to visit wonderful galleries, shop in the beautiful shops, and walk, walk, walk the meandering streets to quiet campos & along interesting canals. **AND** don't miss our opportunity for a wonderful musical evening treat. Glorious! **VENICE B -**

**SEPT 16** A day to explore the winding streets, churches in abundance, art galleries, lace school...afternoon take a boat to 1 or 3 of the lagoon islands known for glass & lace. Eat along the Grand Canal, evening gondola ride. Perhaps Patty's mysterious Venice lady will take some on a behind the scenes walk- a rare treat. Drinks on the Grand Square while listening to the entertaining musicians and toe tapping music. No city like it anywhere! **VENICE B -**

**SEPT 17** Totally different part of Italy with hill towns where life remains unchanged. Beautiful drive to Assisi, home of St. Francis and to our hotel and its breathtaking valley view. Left miraculously intact during WW I, you will discover the special charm here. Often evening music and dancing in the main piazza is a joyful event. **ASSISI B - D**

**SEPT 18** Our enthusiastic **guide** will introduce the real Assisi to us – people and worthwhile places. Great **tour** with visit of lower & upper **Basilica** to experience the sadness of the earthquake damage plus the joy of Giotto's paintings. Still enclosed by ramparts, you can discover cobblestone streets with their 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> century facades. Go by local bus or walk high on the mountain to see the fortress, shop for famous Assisi embroidery or just plain "poke around". Pre-dinner terrace **"party"**. **ASSISI B - D**

**SEPT 19** We literally plunge from the world of medieval Italy – darker, more mysterious in tone – to vivacious, outgoing southern Italy. Past Naples and under the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius, we reach "Siren Land", Sorrento's narrow busy streets + our \*\*\*\* hotel. By now we thoroughly enjoy our group get-together before dinner. **SORRENTO B - D**

**SEPT 20** Today our treat is "the world's most beautiful island", the **Isle of Capri**. Catching a **steamer**, the island is yours to discover whether you visit the Blue Grotto, take the chair lift to the top of the mountain, visit Anacapri, get lost on the winding streets or ? Unlimited vistas viewing the Bay of Naples, misty blue Mediterranean and Amalfi Coast. Return to Sorrento to wander the old city and finish off with a wonderful swim at our hotel. **SORRENTO B - D**

**SEPT 21** Fabulous **drive** with our skillful local driver, with incredible views straight down to the water as we follow the twisting **Amalfi Coast**. Houses and hotels unbelievably perched on the hillsides. Visit picturesque **Ravello**, a favorite with 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century palaces, gardens and Cameo carving. Superb pasta **sampler lunch**. Explore the streets of **Amalfi**, enjoy the beach, visit cathedral (1203) & learn about Amalfi handmade paper. **SORRENTO B - L**

**SEPT 22** Leaving Sorrento, we stop for an excellent **tour** at the most famous ghost town of all, **Pompei**, destroyed by volcanic blast in 79 AD. My friend, your **guide**, Aurelio will open your mind to this historical place. "All roads lead to Rome"- arrive at our hotel next door to the Vatican Museum. Fun pre-dinner get-together on roof, dinner at nearby family restaurant, perhaps an evening walk to St. Peters - brilliant! **ROME B-L-D**

**SEPT 23** After early morning visit to nearby "outdoor" market, a **guided tour** of the ancient center: Coliseum, Roman Forum (glory of old Rome)...but there's more during your free time, Palatine Hill, Victor Emmanuel monument. Join us for dinner at a family trattoria if you like. **ROME B -**

**SEPT 24** Early start to **Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel**. To Bernini's Plaza & **St. Peters** with Michaelangelo's Pieta. Looking up or going up to beautiful dome & taking time to see all the interior has to offer our senses. Patty will give you a great walk this afternoon - Pantheon! Spanish Steps! Trevi Fountain! Piazza Navona! **ROME B - D**

**SEPT 25** Heading north we enter the Etruscan "heartland" and on to hill city, Orvieto, in a spectacular situation. Get acquainted with its charm, then **tour** with local guide of splendid 13th cent. Gothic cathedral, plus cave visit & **wine tasting** of famous Orvieto Classico wine. You'll enjoy evening here after the tourists have left. **ORVIETO B - D**

**SEPT 26** Visit to **Siena**, one of Italy's best preserved towns, where you hear the purest Italian spoken. Our articulate and knowledgeable **guide** will introduce this medieval jewel. Time to visit the immense, unfinished cathedral and climb the brick tower (1338-48) for splendid views before continuing on to **San Gimignano**, another hilltop medieval gem with its many towers. On to Europe's richest city of art - one of the most beautiful, interesting & fashionable in the world. Family run hotel is close to fun San Lorenzo market. **FLORENCE B - D**

**SEPT 27** Our **tour** at Palazzo Davanzati, a 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Palace & with our guide provides insights into medieval Florence. Then on to the **Duomo** and all between there and **Santa Croce** - a perfect start! Climb belltower, visit flea market, Medici Palace, Ponte Vecchio (gold merchants)...choices are endless along with pasta and gelati selection. We'll show you all the major places.....a great day! **FLORENCE B - D**

**SEPT 28** Two full days in Florence will scarcely satisfy us, but we'll have with a good feeling for the city of Dante, Michaelangelo & Leonardo DaVinci. Museums, churches, shops.....history, art & fashion. And most impressive is the **Accademia** (home of Michaelangelo's David). Our central hotel insures time to walk and explore. **FLORENCE B - D**

**SEPT 29** Walk the giant wall at **Lucca**, time for lunch and the fun Sunday market. Mustn't forget **Pisa** with its Leaning Tower, Cathedral and you'll love the acoustical presentation in the **Baptistry!** On to the coast and the **Cinqueterre** - another side of Italy where you can relax in very simple surroundings. Walk, swim, sketch, boat and train "excursions". Our town is the choice of the Italians! **MONTERROSO B - D**

**SEPT 30** Our thoroughly Italian village is the perfect base to explore this delightful area. Get up early for walking along the rocky cliffs with vast views of sea & coast. Visit the five fishing villages, eat delicious seafood & the best pizza in the world. Enjoy the simple life. Possible evening "breakwater" party. **MONTERROSO B - D**

**OCT 1** A lovely ride north through the countryside with stop in **Milano** to see the Duomo, Galleria and La Scala, then on to charming **Lake Como** with pre-dinner party and delicious dinner at our lakeside hotel. Our waiter serves with a smile and you'll appreciate the homestyle Italian food and atmosphere. **CERNOBBIO B - D**

**OCT 2** A day to relax, regroup, getting for return to USA but also time to take a steamer ride to famous Bellagio or a small fishing village for lunch and exploration, last minute shopping, go by train to Como or Milano (Last Supper) for the day or just relax by the lake with swans, boats and view spectacular. **CERNOBBIO B - D**

**OCT 3** Bags packed & memories of sunny, colorful Italy and the life-loving Italians. You will want to come again on one of our special Italian trips.**Group transfer** makes an easy departure to airport and flight. **ARRIVEDERCI. U.S.A. B - D**

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**Note: Often we can help you be part of this tour even though you cannot be gone for the total of 24 days.**

**B - L - D** denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Items in **bold** are included tours, admittance's, rides, etc. We reserve the right to make itinerary changes due to changes overseas – but always with the idea of making the tour even better.

\* Prices will be calculated on foreign exchange rates known at time of final itinerary printing and is subject to increase if rates change prior to date balance is due.

#### **INCLUDED:**

- + Pre-trip group pot-luck dinner and post-tour get-together
- + **Group pick-up** at airport + Escorted by Patty Price
- + Coach transportation, same driver throughout + Driver's basic tip
- + Portage for one bag when available
- + All accommodations, 3 to 4 star quality, 2 to a room, limited single supplement available
- + All breakfasts - **B**, 2 lunches - **L**, 14 dinners - **D**, as indicated on the itinerary
- + Maps and daily hand-outs enroute
- + Tours/visits **in bold** on the itinerary
- + Walking tours: Innsbruck, Venice, Assisi, Pompei, Rome, Orvieto, Siena, Florence
- + Special Amalfi coast ride with stops in Ravenna and Amalfi + Boat and day on Capri

#### **Not Included:**

- + Airfare + Cost of passport + Single supplement
- + Laundry, liquor, soft drinks, drinks on coach
- + Excess baggage charges, items not specifically listed
- + Extra personal thank you's to guides, driver, escort

**DEPOSIT:** \$350 to hold your place on the tour

**BALANCE:** July 10, 2007