

ITALY



SEPTEMBER 2018

Pre-Meeting Adventure



Florence

September 21 – 25, 2018

When to Arrive

You will want to be in Florence by
Friday September 21, 2018.

September 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Accommodations



Sina Villa Medici Hotel

About the Hotel

- The Hotel was converted from an historical residence into a 5 star hotel.
- It is located in the center of Florence and within walking distance to most major art sites and shopping locations.
- Recently renovated and is part of the Autograph Collection by Marriott
- Provides a courtesy shuttle into town
- Includes a FULL breakfast buffet
- Qualifies for Marriott Rewards Points

Sina Villa Medici Hotel Pricing



- September 21-25, 2018
- Single Occupancy Rate: €270.00
- Double Occupancy Rate: €300.00
- The above rates are per room, per night inclusive of buffet breakfast
- VAT currently 10% and city tax €5,00 per person per night are not included in above rates

Sina Villa Medici Florence

- Reservations must be booked by reservation form and sent by email to groupshvm@sinahotels.com
- Cut off date to book rooms is March 15, 2018.
- Cancellation policy
 - Individual cancellations received by June 21, 2018 will incur charge for one night's room and tax.
 - Individual cancellation received after June 22, 2018 through July 22, 2018 will incur charge equal to 50% percent of total stay.
 - Individual cancellations received after July 23, 2018 through arrival date will incur charge equal to 100% percent of total stay.

How to Get There



- Direct flight from Florida to Florence (the hotel is about 20 minutes from the airport)
- High speed train from another city in Italy to Florence (the train station is about 10 minutes from the hotel and is within walking distance)

Train Information

Link that will provide options for trains.

www.italiarail.com/pages/routes/rome-fiumicino-airport-to-florence

Check-In



Rest, Relax, Enjoy Dinner On
Your Own After
The RPPTL Reception.

September 21, 2018
Evening Reception
(Included)



Saturday, September 22, 2018



Group Activities Begin

Highlights of Florence Morning Tour (Included)

- We will begin the morning with a walking tour through the city historic centre to see and feel its rich history.
- An expert guide will take us to the Fine Arts Academy to see the jewel of the Florentine Renaissance-Michelangelo's incredible statue of "The David," carved between 1501 and 1504.



- We will tour the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore (Duomo), and gaze upon the vast frescoes of the Last Judgment.
- We will see from the inside the enormous dome that was added in the 15th century and is visible throughout the city.



- We will tour the Baptistery dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Described by Dante in the Divine Comedy as “my beautiful San Giovanni.” Its origins are unknown but it was described in 897 as minor basilica. Until the end of the 19th century all Catholics in Florence were baptized within its doors.
- We will see the famous doors known as the Gates of Paradise (note the original doors are in the museum). Each panel depicts a scene from the Old Testament.



Baptistery



Baptistery (Inside)

- We will then walk to the Piazza della Signoria, the open-air museum of Florence, and its political centre since the Middle Ages.



Morning Tour (Included) (Continued)

- The tour will include a stop at a mosaic laboratory where we will see how mosaic artwork is made.
- The Tour ends at the Straw Market and the picturesque shop-lined bridge, Ponte Vecchio, which is famous for its many gold and silver shops.
- Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many local restaurants.



Afternoon Options

- After you have enjoyed lunch on your own you will have three options:
 1. Return to the hotel by taxi on your own.
 2. Stay in town and enjoy shopping and people watching and return by taxi on your own to the hotel.
 3. Participate in one of two optional afternoon tours.



Optional Tour #1

Duomo From Top to Bottom and Museum

- In the afternoon explore more in depth the hidden treasures of the Duomo, which is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It was built between 1296 and 1436 on top of the 7th century church of Santa Reparato. This tour explores the underground crypt of the Duomo and the layers of history that lie beneath the surface.



Duomo



Crypt

Optional Tour #1 (Continued)

- Explore the Bell Tower by Giotto.
- Take a guided tour of the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo. The museum houses the original Gates of Paradise and many other statutes and works of art that were removed throughout the years from the Duomo and Baptistery including Donatello's Penitent Saint Mary Magdalene and Michelangelo's Pieta.
- At the end of that tour for those who are up to the task climb 463 steps (there is no elevator) to the top of Duomo. The way up (and down) are tight corridors used by the workmen who built the cathedral. Warning the steps can be steep. Once on top enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of Florence.



Donatello's
Penitent Saint
Mary Magdalene

Price Per Person:
€61,57

Approx Tour Time:
3 – 3.5 hours

Optional Tour #2

Florence by River

- Discover the city of Florence by gondola-style boat. The boats used on this tour are the actual boats used by the Florentine “Renaoli” in the past. Take a guided journey down the “Arno” river and admire the city’s architecture, artistic beauty and nature from a unique perspective. Cruise under the Ponte Vecchio and get a riverside view of the Uffizi Gallery, Corsini Palace, and the Santa Trinita Bridge. Learn all about the secret passageways of the Vasari Corridor and enjoy the stories of Florence as told to you by your guide on this relaxing ride. The journey ends with a celebratory toast with your fellow castaways.



Approximate Tour Time:
45 Mins - 1 Hour Price
Per Person:
€110,02

Evening (Included)

- Dinner at Sunset
- Dinner at La Loggia in Piazzale Michelangelo
- Enjoy sunset and the breathtaking view of Florence from the restaurant's panoramic terrace. Includes pre-dinner drinks, multiple course dinner and plenty of wine.



Sunday, September 23, 2018

Morning Tour (Included)

- No trip to Florence is complete without a visit to the Uffizi Gallery. The Uffizi is one of the most famous museums in the world. Our personal guide will take us through the museum where we will gaze upon some of the most spectacular artwork ever created by Botticelli (The Birth of Venus), Michelangelo (Doni Tondo – the only painting actually authenticated to have been made by Michelangelo), Leonardo da Vinci (Annunciation) and Raffaello (Madonna of Goldfinch), just to name a few.



Sunday, September 23, 2018

Morning Tour Continued (Included)



Annunciation



The Birth of Venus



Madonna of Goldfinch



Doni Tondo

Afternoon Options

- After you have enjoyed lunch on your own you will have three options:
 1. Return to the hotel by taxi on your own.
 2. Stay in town and enjoy the afternoon and return by taxi on your own to the hotel.
 3. Sign up for one of two optional afternoon tours.



Optional Tour #3

Bargello Museum and Santa Croce Basilica

The afternoon begins with a guided tour of Santa Croce Basilica, which is one of Florence's largest churches and the largest Franciscan church in the world. Construction began in 1294 by architect, Arnolfo di Cambio, but was not completed until 1442. It is considered a masterpiece of Gothic art. The basilica has over 16 chapels and contains numerous examples of typical Renaissance sculpture, with the most famous – the Crucifix by Donatello – dating back to 1425. The presence of approximately 276 funeral monuments and tombstones has led to Santa Croce being thought of as the burial place of Florence's most illustrious citizens. Famous persons buried there include Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini and Galileo.



Santa Croce Basilica



Crucifix
by
Donatello

Optional Tour #3 (Continued)

After touring the basilica we will visit the most famous leather school in all of Florence. Post World War II, life was not easy in Italy and there were many orphans. Marcello Gori and Father Bernardino Farnetani, a friar of the church, decided to pass on the craft of leather to those children, and opened Scuola del Cuoio in the monastery of Santa Croce. Through the years, the school's focus has shifted from orphans to teaching the underprivileged and even inmates in the city jail. One of the most fascinating things in the school is watching the craftsmen work with gold leaf. If you are looking for a unique souvenir you will have the opportunity to purchase an item stamped in gold with your initials.



Scuola del Cuoio

Approximate Tour
Time: 3 hours
Price Per Person:
€59,50

Optional Tour #3 (Continued)

The tour continues with a visit to the Bargello Museum. Inside this 1255 Gothic palazzo is Florence's premier sculpture museum, with works by Michelangelo, the Della Robbias, and Donatello. Originally a town hall, this fortress-like building later became a prison and after extensive renovation was opened as one of Italy's first national museums in 1865. In the palazzo's old armoury there are 16th century works, including some of Michelangelo's earliest sculptures, such as "Bacchus" (1497) and the bust of "Brutus" (1539) and Giambologna's masterpiece, the "Flying Mercury" (1564). We will see



Optional Tour #3 (Continued)

the palazzo's inner courtyard, which is one of the few medieval courtyards in Florence remaining in more or less original shape, and is studded with the coats of arms of various past notables. Next, we will move to the Room of the Council, which contains some of the most important sculptures of the early Renaissance. Donatello's work dominates the room, starting with a mischievously smiling "Cupid" (1430-1440) and on the other end of the room is the Islamic Collection, a testament to Florence's wide and profitable trade network with its collection of oriental carpets and objects. This tour is truly a step through time and an un-missable Italian experience!



Price Per Person:
€59.50

Optional Tour #4

Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens

A half day tour of Florence beginning with the wonderful Pitti Palace. In 1550, this Palace was purchased by the Medici family who later commissioned Bartolomeo Ammannati to enlarge the Palace according to its original design created by Filippo Brunelleschi in 1440. The result is the beauty that you will admire today: where side doors have been transformed into ground-floor windows lengthening the façade of the building and where the most beautiful of Renaissance courtyards, the Cortile dell' Ammannati, was created in the interior of the Palazzo. Inside the Palace is the Galleria Palatina, which contains works



Approximate Tour
Time: 3 hours
Price Per Person
€78,00

Optional Tour #4 (Continued)

by Titian, Raphael, Tintoretto, Caravaggio, Botticelli and Rubens. Also located in the Palace is the Galleria del Costume, with rotating exhibits of clothing from different periods in history. As you stroll through the Palace you will stumble upon the Museo delle Carrozze, which houses authentic coaches from the 18th and 19th centuries. Our guide will then lead us to the famous Boboli Gardens, which lie directly behind The Pitti Palace. Reflecting the taste of the high Renaissance period, these vast and splendid public gardens are bursting with trees that have been treated like architecture and lawns filled with grottos and fountains.



Evening Dinner at Castello di Verrazzano (Included)

Located in the Chianti region of Tuscany. The Castle can be traced back to the 12th century. It is the birthplace of Giovanni da Verrazzano, who discovered the Bay of New York and much of the East Coast. In 1964 the bridge from Brooklyn to Staten Island was named in his honor. Today the Castle is home to a magnificent winery and we will arrive just in time for the harvest. After touring the grounds and the wine cellar we will enjoy wine and olive oil tasting and a wonderful Italian dinner.



Monday, September 24, 2018
Open Day



Spend the day exploring Florence on your own. There are plenty of things to see and do. **PLEASE KEEP IN MIND MOST MUSEUMS ARE CLOSED ON MONDAY.**



Optional Tour #5

Excursion to Cinque Terre Villages

Spend an unforgettable day discovering the breathtaking Cinque Terre. Explore the picturesque fishing villages of the UNESCO-listed area and fall in love with the distinctive atmosphere and architecture of each town. From Riomaggiore's cobbled streets to Monterosso's stunning beaches, the Cinque Terre is a scenic treasure and this experience will offer a picture-perfect snapshot of old-world Italy. In medieval times, the word "terra" (land) meant "village." This is the origin of the name of this beautiful area: Cinque Terre (Five Villages). The inhabitants of these villages had agricultural origins and lived on the



Optional Tour #5

(Continued)

hills. They came down to the coast once the Saracens had finished invading, when the sea became safe; they populated the villages at the mouths of the rivers along the shore. Cinque Terre landscape is harsh and wild and even the coast reflects its nature. High cliffs drop down into the cobalt blue depths of the sea, hiding minute shingle beaches at Riomaggiore and Vernazza, or tiny ports like at Manarola. Here, in summer, sunbathers mix with fishermen. The Cinque Terre, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, are today a national park and protected marine area, protecting this great cultural heritage.



Chalet Del Lago

(Included with Cinque Terre Villages Tour)

On the way back to the Hotel we will stop in Torre del Lago and enjoy dinner at the Chalet del Lago. The restaurant is situated on the edge of the lake of Massaciuccoli, the largest lake in the Tuscany region. From the terrace overlooking the lake, you can admire the profile of the Apuan Alps. The Chalet was originally built at the end of the 19th century, and was marvelously renovated keeping the original shape. The famous Italian opera composer Puccini, known as the "maestro," found inspiration here and visited the Chalet frequently. In honor of Puccini there is a nearby theatre, where every year the "Festival di Puccini" is held. The Chalet is known to be the meeting-point for musicians and artists. Inside one can admire several fresco's from the "macchiaioli."



Optional Tour #5

(Continued)

- You have the option of traveling between the villages by train or hiking between villages. Both options include a tour guide. Please keep in mind that if you choose to hike between villages you will not have as much time to explore the villages.
- In addition to dinner, lunch is included on this tour.

Approximate Tour Time: 13 hours

Price Per Person: €234.47

Optional Tour #6

Excursion to Venice by High Speed Train

- Depart in the morning from Florence's main train station by high speed train. After 2 hours and 10 minutes you will arrive at Venice's train station from where you will board a private motorboat to reach the city center. You will then meet with your guide and begin an extensive full day experience of the city.
- The tour in Venice will take you to the "largest living room in the world," St. Mark's Square, which opens on the Grand Canal. Then on to St. Mark's Basilica, an 11th century building of Byzantine and Western style, on the plan of a Greek cross, with an extremely rich decoration of marbles and mosaics. You also will see the Campanile, a 325 feet high bell tower.



Optional Tour #6 (Continued)

- See the Doge's Palace, the symbol of Venetian power and residence of the Doge, seat of the government, law courts and prisons. In the Palace, admire numerous artworks of Tintoretto as well as the rich adornments. See the Bridge of Sighs, which connects the Doge's Palace with the prisons. The name originates from the prisoners' lamentation as they were taken to their place of execution.
- The tour of course includes a Gondola ride.
- Ample free time will be allocated before the journey back to the train station for the return trip to Florence.

NOTE: Lunch and Dinner will be on your own.

Approximate Tour Time 13 hours; Price Per Person €333,38

Tuesday

September 25, 2018

- Last minute shopping or sightseeing in Florence on your own before heading to Rome. Your bags must be packed and ready in the morning, but you will have the choice of taking an early or late afternoon train to Rome.
- Optional Trip to Pisa. If you chose this option you will have to take the late afternoon train to Rome.
- NOTE: Your luggage will transported to Rome and waiting for you when you arrive at the hotel in Rome.

Optional Tour #7

Pisa



- A trip to Italy is not complete without a trip to Pisa.
- The day begins bright and early (you need to have your bags packed for Rome before you leave). We depart the hotel at 7:45am by motorcoach (luggage must be packed before you leave). The journey will begin with a drive through the fertile and picturesque Tuscan countryside toward the historic city of Pisa, renowned for its architectural beauty and for being the birthplace of Galileo Galilei. The visit of Pisa includes the town's monumental centre, Campo dei Miracoli, where we will take a guided tour of the Baptistry, the Cathedral, and the Camposanto (monumental cemetery). You will of course also see the Leaning Tower.
- After the guided tour you will have approximately 2 hours to enjoy lunch on your own, climb the 300 steps to the top of the Leaning Tower, or just enjoy walking around the town.
- After our tour of Pisa we will head back to Florence and join those who stayed behind at the train station for our journey to Rome.



Approximate Tour Time: 8.75 Hours

Price Per Person: €110,95 (includes climb to top of tower)

Late Afternoon (Included)

- Late afternoon (around 4:30 pm) we will board a high speed train to Rome. Once in Rome we will be transported to our Hotel.
- Take a few hours to relax and enjoy dinner on your own either on the train or in Rome.



ROME



Hotel In Rome

- The Westin is one of the city's most imposing palaces rich in history and located on one of the most celebrated and talked about streets of Rome and close to Rome's main attractions: the legendary Via Veneto. The hotel is nestled between the Spanish Steps and the Borghese Gardens & Gallery.
- This five star hotel offers an indoor swimming pool and wellness center.
- Included with your room is a full buffet breakfast every morning.



Westin Excelsior Rome Hotel Pricing



- September 25-30, 2018
- Single Occupancy Rate: € 325.00
- Double Occupancy Rate: € 335.00
- The above rates are per room, per night inclusive of buffet breakfast and internet in guest rooms
- VAT currently 10% and city tax € 7,00 per person per night are not included in above rates

Westin Excelsior Rome

- Reservation cut off date is August 26, 2018.
- Reservations can be made by clicking on the link below:
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801290383&key=2E9A9F0>
- **Individual cancellation Policy:**
- From June 26, 2018 (90 days prior to first arrival of September 25, 2018) : 50% penalty will be applied to any cancellation
- From July 27, 2018 (60 days prior to first arrival of September 25, 2018): 100% penalty will be applied to any cancellation

Evening (Included)

After dinner (on your own) we will gather together for drinks and dessert. But you won't want to stay out too late as you will need your rest for the days ahead.



Wednesday
September 26, 2018
Morning

- This morning you have the choice of exploring Rome on your own or joining one of two optional tours.



Optional Tour #8

Papal Audience

If you want the chance to see the Pope and receive a Papal Blessing this is your opportunity as Papal Audiences are only held on Wednesdays when the Pope is in Rome. The Papal Audience is scheduled to start between 10:00 -10:30 am; however, we will have to arrive early to go through security and get a good seat. The ceremony is held in St. Peter's Square and typically lasts 60-90 minutes. While we wait for the audience to begin our guide will provide a history of the Vatican and point out the many interesting sites and facts about the square. If you have religious articles you want blessed be sure to bring them with you.

After the tour you will be given time to enjoy lunch on your own before the afternoon tour begins.

Approximate Tour Time: 4 hours

Price Per Person: €37,35



Optional Tour #9

Walking Tour Borghese Gardens and Gallery

- This tour will begin with a guided walk from the hotel through the Borghese gardens to the Gallery. The Gallery is a magnificent temple of art. It was created by the wealthy Cardinal Scipione Borghese in the early 1600s to house his world-renowned private collection of masterpieces by Raffaello, Tiziano, Bernini, and Caravaggio, just to name a few. The Cardinal created a home for himself and his art collection in the midst of Rome's most beautiful two hundred acre park. Villa Borghese was built with the intention of combining art and nature in an incomparable setting. The building later became the home of Napoleon's sister, Pauline, when she married a member of the Borghese family. The famous sculptor Antonio Canova immortalized Pauline in an extraordinary marble sculpture of her as Venus, which is displayed at the Gallery. In 1901, the Borghese family gave its villa and art collection to the city of Rome, which then made it a museum with all its wonderful collection. This is a guided tour.

Approximate Tour Time: 3 hours

Price Per Person: €36,73

Afternoon Imperial Rome Tour (Included)

- Take a journey into ancient times. The tour begins by walking into the largest amphitheatre in the ancient world: the Colosseum.
- During the visit see where gladiators and fierce animals challenged each other until death for the pleasure of the Emperor and the public.



Afternoon (Continued)

- The journey continues with a walk through what was then the center and heart of ancient Rome – the Forum. See the Senate House, where the destiny of Rome and most of the Western world was decided. We will continue to the Arch of Titus, which commemorates the Emperor's victory over Jerusalem in 72 A.D. Admire the Arch of Constantine, commemorating the conversion of pagan Rome to Christianity.
- The journey will include a drive by of the famous Circus Maximus, and the Theater of Marcellus (a forerunner of the Coliseum) and will end in Piazza Venezia to admire the huge marble monument to King Victor Emmanuel II, built at the beginning of the last century.



Evening Dinner -- Restaurant Tre Scalini (Included)

- This restaurant opened in 1882, and has become the most famous restaurant in Piazza Navona. Relax and relish the view of the Piazza as you enjoy a multicourse dinner. For dessert we will enjoy their famous “tartufo,” which is a rich creamy ice cream drenched in chocolate, cherries and whipped cream. For those of you who have who have seen the film “Angels and Demons” with Tom Hanks, which is based upon the novel by Dan Brown, you will recognize this Piazza and its fountain.





Thursday September 27, 2018 (Included)



Travel to the out skirts of Rome to the scenic hilltop towns of Castelli Romani. Just about half an hour drive and you will find yourself surrounded by gentle hills covered in woods, vineyards, vegetable gardens, orchards and olive trees...this is the world famous 'campagnaromana' which fascinated great artists of the past - Goethe, Lord Byron, Michael Ende - as well as the young aristocrats who visited Italy during their Grand Tour in the 18th century. Relax on the journey through the idyllic Alban Hills, and enjoy a stop at the historic village of Castel Gandolfo. Renowned for being the summer residence of the Pope, the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, perched dramatically above lake Albano, has meant a lot to many Popes. Pope Pius XI had the whole place modernized and spruced up in the 1930s for papal hols, adding a model farm to supply fresh produce for Vatican tables. Pope John XXIII used to delight in giving his security the slip here, and hang out with locals in the town that surrounds the estate. Pope John Paul II spent five years and 16 days of his 16-year pontificate here, controversially building a swimming pool in the grounds. Pope Benedict XVI hid out here for months after handing in his resignation in 2013. Only recently opened to the public, we will be among the first to tour the Pope's Summer Residence.

Thursday (continued)

See personal items of the Popes' never before seen by the public. The tour includes the Pope's private gardens and enjoying a lunch from the food grown on the Pope's private Farm.



Evening (Included)



After touring the Summer Residence we will head on to the Santa Benedetta winery located between the towns of Monteporzio Catone and Frascati on the slopes where the Roman castles overlook Rome, Santa Benedetta is an agricultural factory that is in the centre of the production of Frascati DOC wine. The winery exists since 1650 and has always cultivated vines and produced wine. Today the activities of the winery include the production of grapes, wine and olive oil. We will be greeted by Fabia, the owner of the factory who is a professional Gourmet Chef. We will walk the vineyards, experience a cooking lesson in making pasta, enjoy wine tasting, a grand buffet of hors d'oeuvres and a traditional gastronomic dinner.

SPONSORED BY:
Santa Benedetta Winery -
Sponsored by Northern
Trust Bank



Friday
September 28, 2018



Plan A

Basilicas of Rome

(Optional Tour #10)

- The tour begins with St. Peter's Basilica. Inside the Basilica you will see Michaelangelo's Pieta, Bernini's Baldacchino, St. Peter's tomb. You will also have the opportunity to climb to the top of the dome for the spectacular view.



Plan A

Basilicas of Rome - Continued

- Then stroll onward to the Church of St. Peter in Chains. Named after the chains that held St. Peter captive in both Rome and Jerusalem, the church is rich in religious history and Renaissance art. Michelangelo's acclaimed sculpture of Moses is a highlight.



Plan A

Basilicas of Rome - Continued

- The tour will proceed with a visit to the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. It is the most important of the Roman churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with a lot of mosaics and decorations.
- Construction on the church began 356 A.D.
- This famous church to Mary, mother of Christ, also contains relics of Jesus' cradle.



Approx Tour Time: 5 hours
Price Per Person €54,45

Friday Afternoon

- Own your own to enjoy Rome.
- Lunch and Dinner are on your own.



Vatican Museums

By Night

(Included)

- One of the largest museums in the World displaying works from the immense collections amassed by Popes throughout the centuries including some of the most important masterpieces of Renaissance art in the World. The museum has the greatest collection of artwork by Raphael.
- The tour ends in the Sistine Chapel.



Friday Plan B

- Vatican Museums in the morning. (INCLUDED)
- OPTIONAL tour in the afternoon. If you join the optional tour you will have to eat lunch in one of the Vatican cafeterias on your own before the afternoon tour.
- Dinner will be on your own after you return to the Hotel.



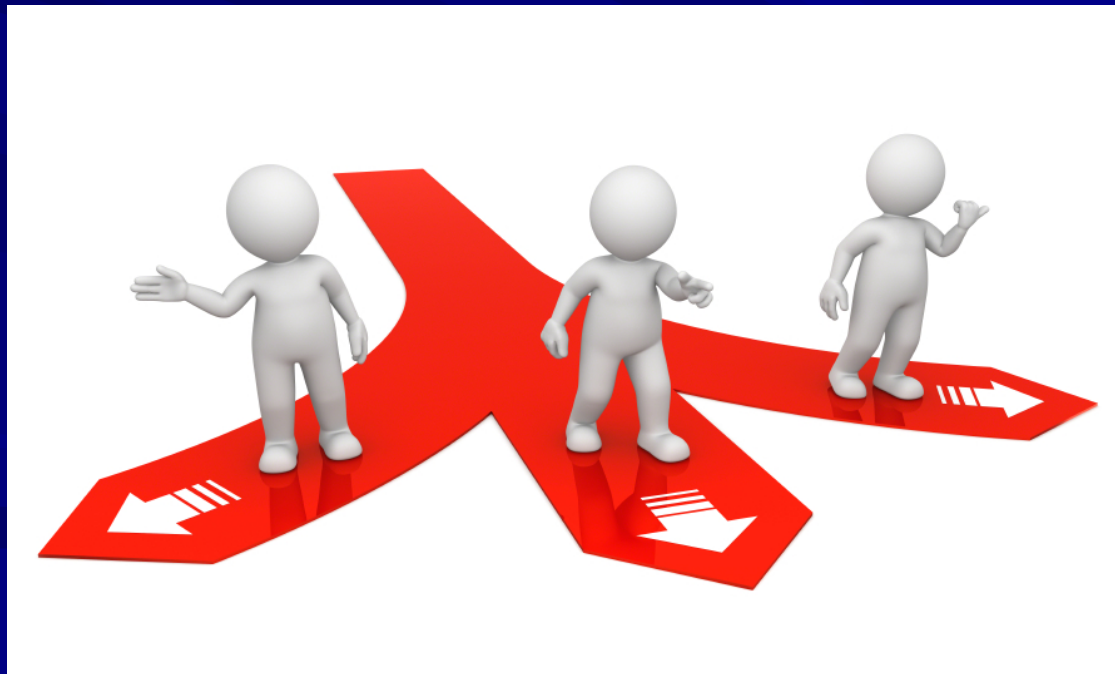
Saturday
September 29, 2018
Morning

Executive Council Meeting



You Decide

Spend the day on your own; or
Chose between one of two optional tours



Morning/Afternoon Basilicas & Catacombs And Old Appian Way Optional Tour #11

The tour begins with a visit to St. John in Lateran. Founded by Constantine some time during 314-335. It once served as the official residence of the Pope. Today it is the Cathedral Church of Rome. Many Popes are buried in this Church. After a visit to St. John in Lateran we cross the street to find the Holy Stairs, which are the very stairs Jesus walked up before being put on trial in Jerusalem by Pilot and which were brought back from the Holy Land by St. Helen.



Basilicas & Catacombs And Old Appian Way Continued

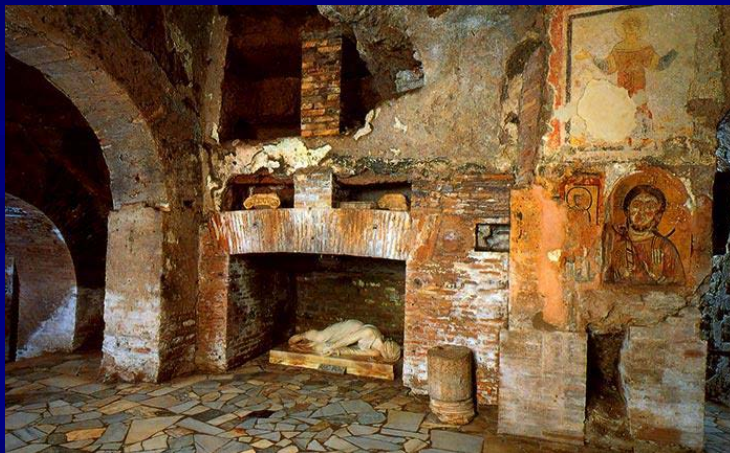
- The tour will proceed with the visit of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, one of the lesser visited basilicas in Rome despite its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Through the Gate of St. Paul, we continue on to the Basilica dedicated in his name. Visiting St. Paul's Outside the Walls, the largest Basilica in Rome after St. Peter's, we see the charming cloisters. We complete this unique tour by making our way towards the Old Appian Way, the oldest paved road in the world, and which leads us to the Catacombs.



Approx Tour Time:
5 hours
Price Per Person
€67,96

Basilicas & Catacombs And Old Appian Way Continued

- The Catacombs consist of an intriguing maze of underground tunnels hollowed out of volcanic rock, where the early Christians who were persecuted by the Romans had to practice their religious rites and bury their dead in secret. We will have the opportunity to walk through these dark and narrow tunnels to fully experience their mysterious and enchanting atmosphere. The decorations found throughout the Catacombs represent precious samples of early Christian art, such as frescoes portraying biblical scenes and those representing the themes of Baptism and Resurrection.



Saturday

Hadrian Villa in Tivoli

Optional Tour #12

- A short ride through the Roman countryside and its olive groves, you reach Tivoli, a famous resort for Romans for more than 2000 years. You will visit Villa d'Este, a beautiful private Renaissance mansion, once the home of Cardinal Ippolito d'Este. Using this villa as a pleasant country retreat, he spent years creating the unbelievable terraced gardens, filled with hundreds of fountains and waterfalls, grottoes and ancient trees. It is artistically composed to create an unforgettable effect with simple architecture that contrasts with the elaborate metric design of the gardens descending in a series of terraces that are certainly some of the finest to be found both inside or outside of Italy.

Approximate Tour time: 5 hours

Price per person: €56,29



Saturday
Evening
(Included)

- Dinner will be at an undisclosed location.



Sunday
September 30, 2018

Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius
Optional Tour #13

Price Per Person: €199,00



- Join us for a day trip to the Naples area to tour the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and the still active volcano Mt. Vesuvius that destroyed Pompeii in 79 A.D. and then either return to Rome that night or continue on to the Amalfi Coast. Either way the day will begin early.
- We will travel from Rome to Pompeii by luxury, private motor coach.
- After touring the extensive excavated ruins of ancient Pompeii we will enjoy lunch at the Cantine del Vesuvio winery. After lunch we will board four wheel drive vehicles that will take us to the beast: Mount Vesuvius. Parking lot to rim: 500 yards up modest switchbacks to the mostly flat crater rim trail.

Naples & Vesuvius Looking East from Bay of Naples



Pompeii with Vesuvius in Background from Southwest



Pompeii Columns and Steps with Vesuvius in Background from West



Herculaneum: Roman Caesar Statue in Courtyard (for illustrative purposes, Pompeii is similar)



Herculaneum: Inside Bathhouse



Herculaneum: Bathhouse Mosaics



Herculaneum: Restaurant



Vesuvius Aerial Photo from South



Vesuvius Aerial Photo of Crater From North



Vesuvius: Walkway to Crater Rim



Vesuvius: Person Inside the Crater

--Do NOT Do This!!



Vesuvius: Do NOT Take Photos From Inside the Crater!!!



Vesuvius: Windy Crater



Amalfi Coast



Accommodations



Hilton Sorrento Palace

About the Hotel

- An exclusive hotel in an enchanting setting featuring outdoor swimming pools, an indoor pool, fitness center and citrus garden.
- Settimo Club Lounge features a terrace and the infinity rooftop pool.
- Dine at one of our three hotel restaurants.
- Discover the attractions nearby including the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Capri

Hilton Sorrento Palace Pricing



- September 30-October 3, 2018
- Single Occupancy Rate: €219.00
- Double Occupancy Rate: €269.00
- The above rates are per room, per night inclusive of full American breakfast
- VAT currently 10% and city tax are not included in above rates

Optional Tours



Island of Capri

Optional Tour #14

The journey begins with a short 25 minute hydrofoil trip from Sorrento to Capri, the Blue Island, characterized by its rugged landscape pierced with caves, lush vegetation and mild climate. Upon arrival you will proceed to Anacapri by mini bus or mini cab located just 10 minutes away and offering a fantastic scenic ride. After ample time in this small quaint village you will be driven to Capri and enjoy lunch in a typical Caprese restaurant. You will have free time to explore and discover the narrow and quaint streets of Capri. Return by Funicular or mini bus to the port and hydrofoil back to Sorrento.

Price per person (based upon 15 participates minimum) €214,35



Amalfi Coast Experience

Optional Tour #15

Enjoy a pleasant journey along one of the most spectacular coastlines of Italy, the famous Amalfi Coast. We depart by private motor coach from Sorrento and drive along the coast road to reach the town of Amalfi. The drive offers astonishing views of the surrounding mountains and sea. Upon arrival in Amalfi you will have time to explore the charming fishermen's town and lunch (included) at a local restaurant. After lunch transfer to Positano, the most unique and beautiful town of the Amalfi coast. Enjoy time for shopping and relaxation before you board a private boat to return to Sorrento.

Price per person €188.24
(based upon 15 participants
minimum)



Naples Experience

Optional Tour #16

Visit the bustling city of Naples in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius. Enjoy a half day walking tour visiting the grand Piazza del Plebiscito and two magnificent castles on the sea. Explore the Spaccanapoli neighborhood and visit the cloister of the Santa Chiara church. Naples is the birth place of pizza so here pizza is a masterpiece created with the freshest ingredients and cooked in historic wood burning ovens. You will also visit the National Archeological Museum where you will see the findings from the excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Price per person (based upon 15 participants minimum) €206.24



Travel Pointer

- It is recommended you only have one piece of luggage.
- Luggage with 4 wheels is ideal.
- Luggage weight limitations are strictly enforced by the airlines.
- Consider buying a packable duffle bag you can carry on the plane on the way home for items you bought.



Attire

- Most activities will be casual.
- In churches – your lower body must be covered to the knees (this includes men) and shoulders should not be exposed.
- Comfortable walking shoes is a must.
- You will want to bring a jacket as the temperature in the mornings and evenings is generally between 65-75 degrees.



Electronics

Most electronics will work with 110 to 240 volts and all you will need is an adaptor. But you should check your electronics before you leave.



Cell Phones

- Most plans allow you to turn on international calling before you leave.
- AT&T has a \$10.00 per day flat fee that allows unlimited cell and texting.
- Check with your individual plan carrier.