

FESTIVAL CORALE INTERNAZIONALE DI ROMA

Standard Festival Tour #2 (6 nights / 8 days)

Wednesday June 22nd, 2011

Depart from USA via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Rome, Italy.

Thursday June 23rd, 2011 Rome

Arrive in Rome. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who assists the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for an orientation tour of Rome, stopping at sites such as Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona (lunch on own). Late afternoon transfer to the hotel for Welcome Dinner and overnight.

Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; in short, she really is the Eternal City.

Friday June 24th, 2011 Rome

Morning rehearsal. After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill. Late afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping or other planned activities. The center with its churches, ancient palaces and monuments, spacious parks, tree-lined boulevards, fountains, outdoor cafes and elegant shops, makes Rome one of the world's most attractive cities. Evening dinner and overnight.

Saturday June 25th, 2011 Rome

Morning rehearsal. After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome*. Visit Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum (using the whisper system), St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and *The Last Judgment*). **Combined choirs will participate/sing in a late afternoon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.** Evening dinner and overnight.

Sunday June 26th, 2011 Rome

Morning rehearsal. After the rehearsal, depart for half-day sightseeing, including entrance to Ostia Antica with its beautifully preserved ruins. It was founded, probably in the 4th century BC, as a military colony to guard the river mouth against seaborne invasions. Later, during the centuries when virtually all imports reached the Capital via Tiber, Ostia gained prominence as the domestic landing for cargo boats. By the 2nd century AD, it had become a flourishing commercial center inhabited by upwards of 100,000 people, whose apartment buildings, taverns, and grocery shops are still intact. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner in a local restaurant. **6:30 pm dress rehearsal. 9:00 pm Festival Finale Concert in S. Maria Sopra Minerva.** Late return to the hotel.



Monday June 27th, 2011 Rome / Naples/Sorrento

Transfer to the Naples/Sorrento area. Visit the ruins of Pompeii which was buried by an eruption by Mount Vesuvius in August, 79 AD. The excavations, begun in the 18th Century have unearthed some of the best artifacts of Roman life. ***Return to the Naples/Sorrento area for an evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.***

The south Italian port town of Naples, principal town of the region of Campania and of the province of Nápoli, lies on the north side of the Bay of Naples, on the Tyrrhenian Sea, extending along the lower slopes of attractive hills. The old town with its narrow streets and stepped lanes and its tall balconied houses is fringed on the west and north by extensive villa suburbs. In recent years much of the city has been redeveloped with new buildings and realigned streets, particularly in the area around the harbor, the Rione Santa Lucia. Naples possesses many historical monuments going back almost 3,000 years, particularly the treasures, to be seen in the National Museum, garnered from the cities engulfed by Mount Vesuvius.

Sorrento - this important Italian resort, known for its many beautiful gardens, overlooks the gulf of the same name. Orange and lemon groves are to be found in the surrounding countryside and even encroaching on the town. Local craftsmen produce various marquetry (wood inlaid) objects.

Tuesday June 28th, 2011 Naples/Sorrento / Rome

Full-day guided tour of the Amalfi Coast, visiting Sorrento Peninsula, Positano, Furore Valley and Salerno. For over 19 miles the coasts innumerable bends afford constantly changing views of enchanting landscapes, wild, fantastically-shaped rocks plunging vertically into a crystal-clear sea, deep gorges spanned by dizzy bridges and Saracen towers perched on jagged rock stacks. Contrasting with these awe-inspiring scenes are the more charming views of fishing villages and the luxuriant vegetation, a mixture of orange, lemon, olive and almond trees, vines and the Mediterranean flora. Late afternoon transfer to Rome for an evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.

Wednesday June 29th, 2011 Depart for home

Transfer to Rome's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.

