

FESTIVAL CORALE INTERNAZIONALE DI ROMA

Standard Festival Tour #5 (8 nights / 10 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

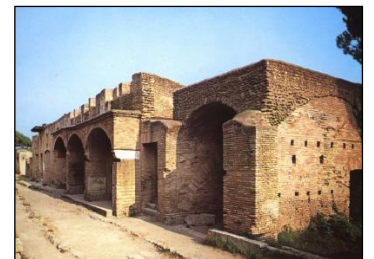
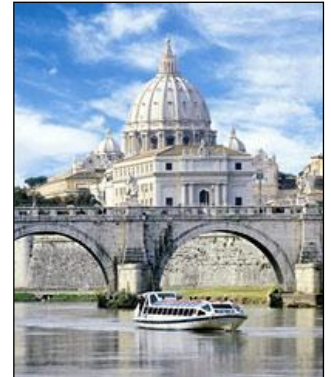
Morning rehearsal. After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill. Late afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping or other planned activities. 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 the Basilica of St. John Lateran.** Late return to the hotel.



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Monday June 27th, 2011 Rome / Florence

Transfer to Florence via Siena. A guided walking tour of Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its matchless harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), the Town Hall, built in the 13th Century, and the Duomo (cathedral). A walk through the streets of Siena is an excursion into past history and the glorious Renaissance.



Florence was once a Roman colony, but began her real development during medieval times and was at her prime during the Renaissance under the reign of the Medicis. Dante, da Vinci, Ghiberti and Michelangelo all were either born or worked extensively in Florence. The preservation of their works and that of others has made Florence the greatest museum of the Renaissance.



Tuesday June 28th, 2011 Florence

A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, a lovely square in the heart of the city, towered by the lofty Palazzo Vecchio. Visit the Ponte Vecchio, the bridge across the Arno lined on both sides with goldsmiths, silversmiths and Florence's best jewelers. Then drive to Fiesole overlooking Florence before driving back into the city. Proceed along the Viale dei Colli to Piazzale Michelangelo for another panoramic view of the city. Return to the central area of the city to see the Baptistry with Ghiberti's 'Gates of Paradise', the Campanile, the Duomo and then on to Academia, the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original 'David' and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system). **Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.**



Wednesday June 29th, 2011 Florence / Lucerne, Switzerland

Transfer to Lucerne, Switzerland.

Lucern (Lucerne) is the capital of its canton and considered one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland. The lake resort city sprawls at the foot of Lake Lucern in the cradle of historic Switzerland. The city's medieval heritage is evident in the fortifying walls and towers, the old churches and houses and the unusual covered bridges that span the Reuss.



Thursday June 30th, 2011 Lucerne

A walking tour of this picturebook-like town includes the Covered Wooden Bridge, Mussegge Towers, the Lion Monument and the old town. There is also time available for shopping for bargains including Swiss watches, lace, wood carvings and chocolate. Afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping or other planned activities. **Evening concert in Lucerne.** Farewell Dinner and overnight.

Friday July 1st, 2011 Depart for home

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

