

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome

(D)

Arrive in Rome. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain
Evening Welcome Dinner

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

Day 3

Rome

(B,D)

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

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Day 4

Rome

(B,D)

A half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome* includes the Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment)

For choirs only: participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter's Basilica

Day 5

Rome / Siena / Florence

(B,D)

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), and the Town Hall, built in the 13th Century. A walk through the streets of Siena is an excursion into past history and the glorious Renaissance
Continue on to Florence in the late afternoon

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



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Day 6 **Florence** **(B,D)**

Morning guided tour of Florence's highlights, includes entrance to 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)

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Day 7 **Florence / Pisa / Rome** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Pisa to see* the Leaning Tower. In the northwest of the town of Pisa, enclosed on two sides by the old battlemented town walls, is the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and the Campo Santo - a harmoniously composed group of buildings of unrivaled beauty. Enjoy a guided tour of the Battistero and the Duomo

Afternoon transfer to back Rome for Farewell Dinner and overnight

** = actual entrance to the Leaning Tower is not included or recommended, due to high cost and the excessive time required for the visit*

Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Rome's International Airport for return flight home
Arrive home

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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