

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 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 the transfer into Rome. As time permits, take a tour of the city, including visits to the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and of course Trevi Fountain

Check-in to a conveniently-located hotel

Welcome Dinner

Optional evening walking tour

Rome - myth has it that Rome was founded around the Seven Hills in 753 B.C. by Romulus and Remus. During the centuries that followed, Rome became the central figure of western history as the Roman Empire flourished throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. After the fall of the Empire the city prospered again during the Renaissance under the influence of such geniuses as Da Vinci, Michelangelo and Bernini. The inspiring treasures of their achievements await your visit

Day 3

Rome

(B,D)

A half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome* includes entrance to the Roman Forum and the Colosseum, and viewing the Circus Maximus, Victor Emmanuel Monument, the Pantheon, Capitoline Museum, Quirinale Palace, and Castel Sant'Angelo

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 / Cremona / Venice** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Venice

En route, stop in Cremona. A half-day guided tour of Cremona includes the Civic Museum, Duomo (Cathedral), Town Hall, and most importantly, the Stradivarius Collection and Stradivarius Museum which exhibits plans, models, molds and tools belonging to violin-maker Antonio Stradivarius
Continue on to Venice

Venice is eternally preoccupied with the contemplation of its own beauty. Founded on marshes, it rose to dominate the Adriatic and hold the gorgeous East in fee. At the height of her power in the 16th century, Venice was a wealthy city-republic glorying in feasts and pageants, reveling in the splendor of her painting, sculpture and architecture. Those days of glory are gone, but her art survives and the grace and refinement remain. A visit to Venice will fill your soul

Day 8 **Venice** **(B,D)**

Transfer to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A morning walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Palace of the Doges where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century
Time permitting, visit a glass-blowing factory on one of Venice's many islands
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Venice

For choirs only – participate/sing in Mass at St. Mark's Cathedral

Day 9 **Venice / Verona / Milan** **(B,D)**

Morning transfer to Milan. En route, stop on Verona (of Romeo and Juliet fame) for a guided tour that includes the Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) with its famous Balcony in the inner courtyard
Continue on to Milan hotel
Farewell Dinner

Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Milan's international airport for the return flight home
Arrive home in the evening of the same day

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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