

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Tour #5 (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 transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening 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

Day 3

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

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

Lunch, on own

For choirs only: Participate/Sing in Mass at St. Peter's Basilica (pending confirmation)**

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Siena / Montecatini

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Montecatini via Siena. A guided walking tour of Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), the Town Hall, built in the 13th century, and the Duomo (cathedral).

Lunch, on own

Continue on to Montecatini in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight



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Montecatini is a medieval Tuscan town famous for its thermal waters and is one of the most famous spa towns in Italy. Montecatini was the vacation spot for numerous Italian and international celebrities. Composers often vacationed here, such as Vivaldi and Puccini – who composed part of the opera La Boheme in Montecatini. If there's extra time in the evenings, ride the funicular up the side of the mountain to Montecatini Alto, a medieval village and ancient castle of Romanesque origin. Enjoy a stunning view of the town below and a visit to the shops with traditional Tuscan delicacies in the main square as well as the old castle and watch tower.

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

Breakfast at the hotel

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. See the Baptistry with Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo and the Academy of Fine Arts*, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Venice** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Venice Mestre

Lunch, on own

Continue to Venice for hotel check-in, and leisure time

Evening dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the main island of Venice via public boat. A morning walking tour includes seeing St. Mark's Square, and the incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century

Lunch, on own

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Venice

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Milan. Enroute, stop in 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

Lunch, on own

Continue to Milan for evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 10

Depart for home

(B)

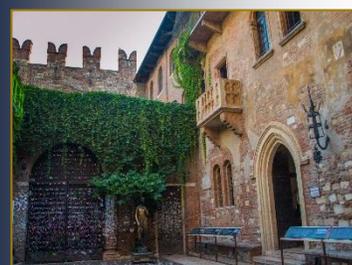
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to the Milan Airport for the return flight home

**Florence's Academy of Fine Arts is closed on Mondays. The Vatican Museums are closed on Sundays. Cremona's Violin Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.*

***As of April 2024, the Vatican is only accepting Mass participation applications received directly from the Music Director/Conductor*

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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