

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Standard 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

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

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



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

Transfer to Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic

Half-day sightseeing to the main island of San Marco via public boat

A 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

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)**

Day at leisure in Venice

Motorcoaches and Tour Managers are at the group's disposal. Round-trip vaporetto tickets included for transfers to and from islands. There is much to do in Venice itself and in the surroundings. Verona, Padua, Bolzano are nearby. Museums, churches, unique architecture, shopping, exploring Venice by water taxi - all of these activities beckon. This city is singular among the world's cities - it encompasses 118 islands separated by more than 150 canals. Its incomparable art treasures alone justify its renown

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

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

Transfer to Milan

Half day guided tour of Milan includes entrance to La Scala, the best-known opera house in the world. Also visit the Duomo, the largest Gothic cathedral in Italy

Evening Farewell Dinner

Milan is a storehouse of artistic treasures. Milan is also Italy's leading commercial and industrial center, located at the foot of the magnificent Alps. It is the dynamo behind the country's economic miracle, a city like no other in Italy. Surrounding the historic center, it is a fast-paced business city in which consumerism and the work ethic rule. Much of the city is a testament to the prestige-building of the Visconti dynasty and their successors, the Sforzas, who ruled here in Renaissance times

**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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