

Italian Sampler

Experience the “real” Italy!

Enjoy cooking schools, wine tastings and tours, Olive Oil factory tours along with ancient, historical sights at a leisurely pace.



Visiting:
Amalfi Region,
Naples, Capri,
Pompeii,
Sorrento,
Amalfi Coast,
Tuscany Region,
Florence,
Assisi,
Umbria Region
Spello
Spoleto
and of course -Rome!

11 day, 9 night program April 22 - May 2, 2008



Enjoy cooking schools, wine tastings and tours, Olive Oil factory tours along with ancient, historical sights at a leisurely pace.

DAY 1 April 22, 2008

Depart USA for enchanting Italy.

DAY 2 April 23, 2008 D

ROME

Arrive in Rome, Italy. After we clear customs and collect our luggage we will be met by our Italian tour leader, Riccardo and board our waiting motorcoach for a brief city tour of Rome, followed by a guided walking tour of the Forum and the Collesseum. Check into our hotel with the remainder of the afternoon free to explore Rome. This evening we will enjoy dinner at our hotel or a local restaurant. **After dinner we will have a very special Rome by night walking tour featuring Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Capitaline Hill and Navona Square.**

Overnight : **BEVERLY HILLS**

DAY 3 April 24, 2008 B,D

ROME TO SORRENTO

Full buffet breakfast before we depart for Vatican City and our tour of the Sistine Chapel and St. Peters Basilica. Time on our own for lunch and shopping in the Vatican Museum and gift shop. After lunch we will continue to beautiful village of Sorrento. We will experience the winding road to the town of Sorrento with fantastic views of the Bay of Sorrento along the way. We will continue higher and higher to our mountaintop hotel and enjoy a "welcome reception" and meet your Italian "family." After our reception we will enjoy a special fish dinner with local fish, wine and entertainment by Guido, our traveling musician who will travel with us and entertain us all along the way. Remainder of evening on your own to enjoy the view from the top of the hotel.

Overnight : **VILLA GIOVANNI/JOHANNA PARK**

DAY 3 April 25, 2008 B,D

ISLAND OF CAPRI

Full buffet breakfast before we depart by ferry for the FULL-DAY visit to the Island of CAPRI. We will start our adventure with a boat ride around the island, then we will take the funicula to Upper Capri where we will have a tour of Augustus Gardens, with your afternoon free for lunch and shopping. This is a wonderful village to just find an outdoor cafe, enjoy lunch and watch the people pass you by. In the late afternoon return by ferry to Sorrento to our hotel. This evening after time for resting we will enjoy a cooking demonstration by Riccardo, our guide who is also a "chef". We will learn how to make your Italian favorites - "Italian Style" and then enjoy our Dinner we helped to create along with entertainment, wine of the region and song.

Overnight : **VILLA GIOVANNI/JOHANNA PARK**

DAY 4 April 26, 2008 B,D

POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM

Full buffet breakfast before our early departure for a trip back into ancient history of Pompeii and Herculaneum. This will truly be one of the highlights of your visit to Italy! **Pompeii** - the excavations of the town that was buried by 40 feet of hot volcanic ash in A.D.. 79 by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The excavations which began in 1750 laid everything bare: the original town gates, city walls and houses, are decorated with extraordinary frescoes. Walk along streets still bearing the marks made by chariot wheels over 2,000 years ago. See how they lived and died in this seaside resort town. Just down the road from Pompeii in the foothills of Mt. Vesuvius, **Herculaneum** did not fare as well. Covered by molten lava that followed the ash it has taken archeologists much longer to excavate these ruins. Both cities are unique and different in their own ways. On our way back to our hotel we will stop in the Inlaid Wood factory in the town of Sorrento for a demonstration of how they make their beautiful inlaid wood. For those that want to stay in the town of Sorrento and shop, the motorcoach or shuttle will return in the late afternoon to bring you back to our mountaintop hotel. Tonight we will visit a Mozzarella farm and have a demonstration of how Mozzarella is made- then some of us will get to help demonstrate how to make a Margharita pizza! We will be the judge on how good of a chef they are! We will enjoy a pizza party at the farm and sample their famous Chianti wine and of course dancing, wine and song. Return to our hotel and relax from a wonderful day!

Overnight : **VILLA GIOVANNI/JOHANNA PARK**



Collesseum



Assisi



DAY 5 April 27, 2008 B, D

AMALFI COAST ADVENTURE TO POSITANO

Full buffet breakfast and time to rest and enjoy our hotel this morning before mid-day departure for the Amalfi Coast Road to the quaint seashore town of Positano on the Amalfi Coast. In Positano we will enjoy a walking tour of this seaside village with time for lunch on our own and of course--- shopping! The scenery on the the Amalfi Coast drive to Positano is breathtaking and you will earn a great respect for our driver Francesco. Cooking lessons this evening... maybe Fetticini, Ravioli, or maybe Canoles!

Overnight : **VILLA GIOVANNI/JOHANNA PARK**

DAY 6 April 28, 2008 B, D

UMBRIA REGION TO ASSISI

Full buffet breakfast and one last look at the Bay of Sorrento before we depart for the charming medieval town of Assisi which will be our home for the next three nights. We will be traveling through the Umbria region of Italy whose landscapes are as compelling as its towns, from the eerie wastes of the Piano Grande region to gentle rolling countryside. We will tour *Santa Maria degli Angeli*, the church that encompasses the little chapel in which St. Francis lived and died and see the miracle of the roses without thorns. Then on to a **pottery factory** for demonstrations of how the pottery is made along with wine and food tastings of products made by the monks of the Franciscan Order.

When we arrive to Assisi we will check into our mountaintop hotel before our guided tour (with headsets) of the **Basilica di San Francesco**, the burial place of St. Francis. The basilica, which dominates Assisi, is one of the great Christian shrines and receives vast numbers of pilgrims throughout year. We will take a walking tour to the main piazza with its medieval bell tower. Our walk through the town of Assisi will be full of wonderful backstreets for shopping! Dinner at our hotel this evening.

Overnight Assisi: **HOTEL GIOTTO**

DAY 7 April 29, 2008 B, D

FLORENCE

Full buffet breakfast at our hotel. This morning we will travel to Florence, where we will first have a "photo stop" at Michelangelo Square to admire the beautiful panorama of Florence. Then we will begin our half-day guided visit of Florence including St. Mary of the Flowers, the Bronze Door of the Baptistery, Duomo Square, Signoria Square, the Holy Cross Church and a visit to the Academy to see the "David" and the "4 unfinished slaves" by Michelangelo on our special "headset" tour. Continue through the narrow streets with their high towered buildings, passing Dante Alighieri's house to the banks of the Arno river. View the magnificent domed cathedral with the baptistery and Giotto's Tower and Michelangelo's Square. We will visit Vivoli, one of the most famous Gelatos in Italy! Time for lunch on your own and shopping as well. Dinner this evening at our hotel or a local restaurant.

Overnight Assisi: **HOTEL GIOTTO**

DAY 8 April 30, 2008 B, D

ASSISI TO SPELLO

After breakfast at our hotel we will travel to the town of Spello, one of the gems of "undiscovered" medieval hilltowns of Umbria. Cobblestone passageways open into intimate closed piazzettas, and lead to Roman arches, churches and frescoed courtyards. Visit one of the oldest churches in Western Europe, or view a Roman theatre in your free time in Spello. Our day will end with a tour of a wine factory with wine tasting and samples of local specialties. Dinner at our hotel this evening with wine and song.

Overnight Assisi: **HOTEL GIOTTO**

DAY 9 May 1, 2008 B, D

ASSISI TO SPOLETO TO ROME

Full buffet breakfast in our hotel and departure for the beautiful Umbrian village of Spoleto. After a brief walking tour of the main square we will enjoy a visit to an Olive Oil factory for a tour of the factory with samples and tastings. After time for lunch on our own we will return to Rome, the ancient city. Your afternoon will be free for last minute shopping. This evening we will enjoy dinner at the **Cameo Opera** with wine and entertainment. We will enjoy sonata's of some of the most popular Italian Operas.

Overnight Rome: **HOTEL BEVERLY HILLS**

DAY 11 May 2, 2008 B

Full buffet breakfast before we depart for home.

Arrivederci!



Bay of Sorrento



Sorrento



Mozzarella Farm

Italian Sampler

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- + Roundtrip group airfare from St. Louis to Rome, Italy and return from Rome, Italy.
(other cities upon request)
- + All transfers in Italy on arrival and departure with local assistance and handling of one piece of luggage per person if utilizing group airfare.
- + Private motorcoach throughout.
- + Nine nights accommodations throughout as shown below. (or similar)

4/23-24	1 night	Rome	Beverly Hills
4/24-28	4 nights	Sorrento	Villa Giovanni
4/28-5/01	3 nights	Assisi	Hotel Giotto
5/1-2	1 night	Rome	Beverly Hills
- + Fully escorted with experienced English speaking guide throughout.
- + Several city tours with local English speaking step-on guides when required
(Step-on guide tipping is not included)

Sorrento	Positano-Amalfi Coast
Florence	Capri
Assisi	Rome
Spoleto	Spello Torgiano
- + Daily American breakfast (9)
- + Four dinners in Sorrento including:
 - Cooking schools (learn how to make Ravioli, Fettucini and...Canoles!)
 - Pizza party in Sorrento with demonstration and Chianti wine
 - Fish dinner in Sorrento
 - Wine and music at all meals in Sorrento
- + Three dinners in Assisi region including a Special "Truffles" dinner with wine
- + 1 Dinner in Rome at hotel or local restaurant
- + 1 Dinner in Rome including an Opera presentation
- + Food/wine Demonstrations: Farm and Winery tours; Gelato demonstration; Mozzarella Farm, Winery tours in all regions; Cooking lessons, Olive Oil factory tour, Pottery factory tour.
- + St. Louis Group Travel escort
- + All airport taxes and custom fees
- + Optional Comprehensive trip cancellation insurance is available and strongly suggested
- + Tipping of Driver and guide included

ROME:

Via Veneto
St. Peters Basilica
Sistine Chapel
Vatican
Trevi fountain by night
Forum
Colosseum

SORRENTO:

Ancient city of Pompeii
Ancient city of Herculaneum
View of Mt. Vesuvius
Isle of Capri
Gardens of Augustus
Bay of Sorrento
Amalfi Coast ride to Positano
Tour of Positano

FLORENCE:

Headset tour of Michelangelo's "David" and "4 unfinished slaves"
Michelangelo's Square
Ponte Vecchio (covered bridge)
Rolling hills of Tuscany

TUSCANY/UMBRIA REGION:

Assisi Perugia
Spello Spoleto

+ Tour highlights

- 1 day Florence with Academy of fine arts (to see "The David")
- Wine tastings in the Tuscany region
- 1 day Capri with boat ride
- 1 day Pompeii and Herculaneum
- 1 day Positano with Amalfi drive
- 1 day Spello Torgiano with wine factory tour and tasting
- Spoleto with Oil mill factory and tasting
- Vatican city with museums and Sistine Chapel and St. Peters Basilica
- Guided tour of Roman Forum
- Guided tour of Colosseum

Escorted round trip air transportation from St. Louis to Rome, Italy: \$ 909.00 per person
(Includes air taxes and fuel surcharges which are subject to change until ticket is issued)

**Optional comprehensive trip/medical insurance:
\$ 181.35 per person (dbl) \$213.85 Single**

LAND RATES PER PERSON:

DOUBLE

\$1925.00

SINGLE

\$2,559.00