

ITALY 2008**8/6/2008, WEDNESDAY ---DEPART FROM USA**

8/7/2008, THURSDAY ---ARRIVE VENICE, ITALY. Transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. This evening an orientation meeting with your tour escort, followed by a welcome dinner. (D)

8/8/08, FRIDAY ---VENICE. Begin the day with a boat tour to the Island of Murano, known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry. Continue to St. Mark's Square to begin a walking tour of romantic Venice. Visit the Golden Basilica of San Marco, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Doge's Palace. End your tour with a gondola ride including music. The balance of the day is at leisure to explore Venice on your own. (B)

8/9/08, SATURDAY ---VENICE-FLORENCE. Depart for Florence via Pisa. View Piazza dei Miracoli with it's Leaning Tower, the Baptistry and Duomo. Enroute to Florence, enjoy a wine tasting with local specialties at a Tuscan countryside farm. (B)

8/10/08, SUNDAY--- FLORENCE. Enjoy a spectacular view of Florence from Michelangelo Square before reaching the Accademia, where Michelangelo's David is housed. Walk to the Duomo and Baptistry to view the "Gates of Paradise". Continue to Signoria Square and Ponte Vecchio. This evening dine at a Tuscan restaurant in the countryside. (B,D)

8/11/08, MONDAY ---FLORENCE-ROME. Travel through stunning Tuscany to the Medieval city of Perugia for an orientation tour. Continue to Assisi to visit the Basilica of St. Francis. Then on to Rome for overnight. (B)

8/12/08, TUESDAY---ROME. Visit the Vatican and it's breathtaking museum and The Sistine Chapel. Walk through St. Peter's Square and visit St. Peter's Basilica. This afternoon, a tour of "Ancient Rome" takes you to the Roman Forum, the Colosseum and the Arch of Constantine. Tonight, dine in a typical Roman restaurant with wine and music, then enjoy an illuminated tour of Rome by night. (B, D)

8/13/2008, WEDNESDAY---ROME-SORRENTO. Drive South passing by the famous Monte Cassino Abbey and Mt. Vesuvius to the Bay of Naples. Visit the ruins of Pompeii including the Temples of Apollo and Jupiter and the Forum. Continue to Sorrento for overnight. (B)

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8/14/2008, THURSDAY --- SORRENTO. Full day at leisure or enjoy an optional tour to the Island of Capri. Wander through the winding streets past the chic boutiques. Visit Caesar Augustus Gardens and view the famed Faraglioni Rocks (\$83). Return to Sorrento for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

8/15/2008, FRIDAY --- SORRENTO - PALENA. Today meet with your motorcoach and transfer to Palena. Check into your hotel and have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore this still charming town even after the almost complete destruction from the Second World War. (B, L or D)

8/16/2008, SATURDAY --- PALENA. Today, weather permitting, take a short excursion on Monte Zurrone, one of the highest in the Majella chain and enjoy a most beautiful, pristine panorama. On the way stop in the Medieval town of Pescocostanzo. Return to Palena and enjoy the beginning of San Falco, the Patron Saint's Festivities. (B, L or D)

8/17/2008, SUNDAY --- PALENA. Full day at leisure. Blend in with the locals and join the festivities of it's Patron Saint. You may want to visit the Ducal Castle which dates back to the 11th Century, admire the beautiful churches, some dating back to the 13th Century or just stroll through the small winding streets. (B, L or D)

8/18/2008, MONDAY --- PALENA. Today drive to the small town of Roccasalegna, climb several steps to the top for a visit of it's Castle. Then return to Palena where you will have time to relax and souvenir shopping. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner together. (B, D)

8/19/2008, TUESDAY --- PALENA-ROME. Today return to Rome. Stop in the beautiful beach town of Vasto on the Adriatic Sea, where you can admire it's imposing castle, for lunch (on own). Continue to Rome, check into your hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

8/20/2008, WEDNESDAY --- ROME-PHILADELPHIA USA
Transfer to the Airport for your return flight to the US. (B)

***** Please Note, Palena's itinerary may be altered depending on the weather and the participants' interest.**



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