



A TASTE OF ITALY 2018

*Friday May 25, 2018 – Monday June 4, 2018 ONLY \$3,295.00!!!**



An opportunity to discover Italy and get a taste of Roman culture, history and cuisine by visiting **Rome** - the famous eternal city, the **Vatican** - with all its museums and chapels, **Florence** - the cradle of the Renaissance and one of the most majestic cities in the world, **Venice** - the city built on 177 islands, 150 canals and 400 bridges, **Pompeii** - the famous Roman city destroyed by the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius in 79 A.D., the **Amalfi Coast** with breathtaking views, **Pisa**, **Assisi**, and many more.

****Price is based on double occupancy and includes round trip airfare, hotel accommodations in Rome, Sorrento, Florence, and Venice, all group meals, guided tours and entrance fees per itinerary, and all transfers.***

Note: Flight will depart from either Philadelphia or Newark. Bus transportation from Greensburg to the airport will be available. The cost for the bus (approximately \$135.00 per person/round trip) will be shared by those who take advantage of this convenient and inexpensive way to get to the airport.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1 – FRIDAY MAY 25, 2018:

Depart USA

DAY 2 – SATURDAY MAY 26, 2018:



Arrive in Rome.

10:30 a.m. Depart Rome for Sorrento. Stop in **Pompeii** for lunch and a guided tour to visit the ruins of this ancient city destroyed by the great volcanic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 BC. Arrive in **Sorrento** in late afternoon.

Hotel – Sorrento: Grand Hotel Vesuvio www.vesuviosorrento.com

DAY 3 – SUNDAY MAY 27, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

Free Day in Sorrento.

Optional Tour: Island of **Capri**, recognized as being one of the most beautiful islands in the entire Mediterranean Sea.

Hotel – Sorrento: Grand Hotel Vesuvio www.vesuviosorrento.com

DAY 4 – MONDAY MAY 28, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. – Depart Sorrento for a guided excursion along the **Amalfi Coast**, to enjoy the spectacular views of this stunning coastline with towns like Amalfi, Positano and Priano. Depart for Rome and arrive in late afternoon.

Hotel - Rome: Madri Pie www.residenzamadripie.it

DAY 5 – TUESDAY MAY 29, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. – Panoramic Bus Tour of **Rome** followed by a Guided walking tour of this famous city. Visit Fontana di Trevi, Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Spanish Steps and many more.

Hotel - Rome: Madri Pie www.residenzamadripie.it

DAY 6 – WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Guided tour of **Vatican** Museums and St. Peters. Visit the Sistine Chapel – with Michelangelo's ceiling, which he single-handedly painted in the 4 years between 1508 & 1512; it rivets the visitor's attention, along with the Last Judgment, which he painted decades later in his life. The frescoes on the side walls were painted by the great painters of the early Renaissance, Botticelli, Perugino, and Signorelli – and they also deserve the visitor's attention. Our Tour Guide will show us all the highlights of the museum, which has the finest sculpture and tapestry collections in the world.

Visit St. Peter's Basilica & Square – where Bernini's curved porticoes extending outward from the Basilica to encompass the faithful like two

welcoming arms – have defined the square visually for the last 4 centuries. The Basilica – by far the largest Church in the Christendom – is so large that even the human figure provides no useful reference! As an example, the baldachin or canopy over the altar, which is completely dwarfed by the vertical space around it, is as high as a 7-story building. Our Tour Guide will give us an in-depth tour of the Basilica.

Free afternoon and evening for shopping and strolling.

Hotel - Rome: *Madri Pie* www.residenzamadripie.it

DAY 7 – THURSDAY MAY 31, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Depart for Florence. Stop at **Assisi** where we will visit the Basilica of Saint Francis. Giotto's fresco cycle in the upper basilica on the life of Saint Francis was restored in record time by Italian art restorers after the earthquake of 1997 and is now open to the public. The lower basilica contains art by Italian medieval artists, as well as Saint Francis' tomb. The visit continues with a stroll through the medieval streets to the main square, where the Roman temple to Minerva has been preserved. Arrive in **Florence** in the evening.

Hotel – Florence: *Hotel California* www.californiaflorence.it

DAY 8 – FRIDAY JUNE 1, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Guided tour of Florence. Visit this beautiful city where the Italian genius for art reached its pinnacle. The city flourished in the Middle Ages as a free commune. Florence is known as the cradle of Renaissance (*La Culla del Rinascimento*) for its monuments, churches and buildings. Enjoy a walking Guided Tour of the outdoor Duomo complex: Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistry with its bronze doors including the famous Porta del Paradiso, the Cathedral with the magnificent Cupola del Brunelleschi, and Giotto's bell tower. A short walk through the historic streets of the heart of Florence brings you to the renowned Academy Gallery where you can admire the famous David by Michelangelo and other works by great artists. The tour will end with a visit inside the museum.

1:00 pm - Optional Tour of Pisa. Visit Miracle Square, with the celebrated Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and other important monuments. Visit the Cathedral – an unrivaled masterpiece of Romanesque art constructed between the 11th and 12th centuries. The power of Pisa as a mighty maritime nation reached its peak in the 11th century when it acquired traditional fame as one of the four main Maritime Republics of Italy.

Hotel – Florence: Hotel California www.californiaflorence.it



DAY 9 – SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2018:

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Free Day in Florence.

Hotel – Florence: Hotel California www.californiaflorence.it

DAY 10 – SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2018:



Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Depart Florence for **Venice**. Arrive in **Venice** in late morning. Guided tour of Venice in the afternoon. The tour will include the famous Rialto Bridge – the oldest of the four bridges crossing the spectacular Grand Canal. Crossing the Rialto Bridge will take you to the district of San Marco that is the center of trade and culture of the city. The heart of this district is the splendid and magnificent St. Mark's Square, overlooking the most famous monuments of Venice: the splendid Byzantine Basilica with four portals and wonderful golden mosaics, the Renaissance Clock Tower, and the masterpiece of the Gothic Palazzo Ducale. Behind the Palazzo Ducale, from the Ponte di Paglia, you can admire the famous Bridge of Sighs that used to be crossed by the condemned people before entering prison – hence the name.

Hotel – Venice: Hotel Ambasciatori & Delfino, Venezia/Mestre
www.hotelambasciatori-mestre.com

DAY 11 – MONDAY JUNE 4, 2018:

Depart Venice for the Return trip – Arrive USA same day