

ROME / FLORENCE



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ROME / FLORENCE

DAY 1	Group departs hometown for Rome, Italy	
DAY 2	<p>Arrive Rome, transfer from airport to the hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival Staff • Brunch in the hotel <p>Hospitality Desk Open Remainder of day at leisure Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome</p>	Dinner at Meo Patacca
DAY 3	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p><u>GROUP ACTIVITY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Walking Tour with Lunch at Tre Scalini Restaurant • Visit to Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel & St. Peter Basilica <p>Hospitality Desk Open Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome</p>	Dinner Dine-Around
DAY 4	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p><u>GROUP ACTIVITY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Rome Tour <p>Hospitality Desk Open Lunch and afternoon at Leisure Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome</p>	Dinner at Café Veneto
DAY 5	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p>Group departs Rome for Florence by Train</p> <p><u>GROUP ACTIVITY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Walking Tour with Lunch at Mamma Gina Restaurant <p>Hospitality Desk Open Afternoon at Leisure Overnight at the Grand Hotel, Florence</p>	Dinner at Restaurant Sabatini
DAY 6	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p><u>GROUP ACTIVITY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siena Tour with wine tasting and lunch <p>Hospitality Desk Open Afternoon at Leisure Overnight at the Grand Hotel, Florence</p>	Dinner Dine-Around
DAY 7	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p><u>GROUP ACTIVITY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of Lucca & Pisa <p>Time at leisure in Lucca Hospitality Desk Open Overnight at the Grand Hotel, Florence</p>	Farewell Gala at Palazzo Corsini
DAY 8	<p>Breakfast at Leisure (Included)</p> <p>Departures from the hotel and transfers to the airport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure Staff 	

DAY ONE—ENROUTE

Group departs hometown for Rome Italy.

DAY TWO—ARRIVAL & WELCOME

DARE IL BENVENUTO A ROMA! Uniformed Castle Travel Group Management Staff will be at the airport to welcome your group, guide them to the waiting motor coaches, and organize porter services. Staff will accompany each motor coach on the transfer to the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome. Upon arrival, guests will be served brunch in the hotel while their luggage is placed in their rooms.

HOSPITALITY STAFF

Professional uniformed personnel are available for hospitality desk duties. Your participants' questions are important and will be answered by well prepared and knowledgeable staff.

CAVALIERI HOTEL, ROME



The Cavalieri Hilton Hotel Rome combines all the advantages of a resort Hotel with the convenience of being a 15-minute drive from the city center. Overlooking Rome and the Alban Hills from atop Monte Mario, it's set among 15 acres of trees, flowering shrubs, and stonework. Its facilities are amazingly complete. The entrance leads into a lavish red-and-gold lobby, whose sculpture and winding staircases are usually flooded with sunlight from the massive windows.

DINNER AT MEO PATACCA

Meo Patacca is one of the most famous restaurants in Trastevere; the most popular and characteristic area of Rome. Garlic and hot pepper leaning from the wooden ceiling, Folk music played among tables and waiters dressed like in the past century complete the atmosphere. Enjoy a four-course dinner with house wine, mineral water and coffee.

Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome.



DAY THREE—CITY CENTRE WALKING TOUR / DINNER DINE-AROUND

WALKING TOUR OF ROME

Breakfast at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome (Included). Motor coach transfer to the city centre for walking tour of Rome and a light lunch at Tre Scalini Restaurant, which faces the wonderful fountains of Navona Square.

After lunch, the tour will continue with a visit of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter Basilica.

Return to the hotel by motor coach.

DINNER DINE-AROUND

Tonight guests will be assembled into groups for a fabulous dine-around experience in one of the following restaurants:

HOSTERIA DELL'ORSO

"The Bear's Inn" has been recently reopened after its closing down in 1997. It is located between the Tiber and Piazza Navona in one of Rome's oldest quarters. The palace dates back to 1200 but it underwent changes and reconstruction during the Renaissance. The portico and the three arches Loggia are remarkable features of the building, as well as the floors, ceilings and architraves all original and very well preserved. The Hostaria dell'Orso has been one of the oldest and most famous hotels in Rome until the 19th century. Famous personages have been here from Dante Alighieri to Pope Boniface VIII's, Rabelais, Montaigne, Chateaubriand Göthe and many others. The building develops on three levels; on the ground floor there is a Piano Bar, on the main floor there is the Restaurant and on the upper floor the Disco. The current owner of Hostaria dell'Orso is Gualtiero Marchesi one of the most famous Italian Chefs



EL TOULA'

An elegant and cosy restaurant - guests enter through archways of soft green velvet-lined walls, into this intimate dining room, and seated upon cushioned chairs of golden velvet. "El Toulà" is for the fashionable set of Rome who chooses not simply to eat, but to "dine" in the true sense of the word. Some of the masterpieces of the restaurant are "Risotto allo Champagne" (a delicious rice dish cooked in Champagne), or "Tagliolini Verdi al Prosciutto" (green spinach noodles with ham), or "Steak au Poivre" (steak with peppercorns).



GIRARROSTO TOSCANO

"Girarrosto Toscano". Informal, casual, and comfortable. Tuscan cuisine. The waiter will fill your table with sticks of pepperoni and wedges of "Provolone" (a great Italian cheese), bowls of peppers of every variety... it is just as you came into the home of a marvelously rich Italian farmer and while you make small talk he sets out some snacks for you to munch on before dinner.



SABATINI

Trastevere is one of Rome's most ancient sections and "Sabatini's" is one of her oldest great restaurants. The Square of Santa Maria in Trastevere, where "Sabatini" sits, dates back from the third century A.D. and "Sabatini" has been there in one guise or another since around the same time. (They've rebuilt the building a great number of times.) "Sabatini" specializes in seafood dishes. This is really a typical Roman restaurant offering Roman cuisine in an informal though atmosphere.



TAVERNA GIULIA

This is a quite elegant restaurant behind Piazza Navona in the direction of San Peter Square. Here you can taste the Ligurian specialties like the Pesto sauce from Genoa for the pasta, or pies with artichokes, spinach and ricotta cheese and many other tasty recipes.

Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome.



DAY FOUR—IMPERIAL ROME WALKING TOUR / DINNER

Breakfast at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome (Included). Motor coach transfer to the city centre for Imperial Rome Tour. After the tour, guests will return to the hotel by motor coach with time to rest before dinner.

DINNER AT CAFÉ VENETO

Motor coach transfer to Café Veneto for dinner.

The luxurious decor of the Café Veneto creates an ambience that evokes the atmosphere of the classic European Coffee House and the opulence of an eighteenth century maison in perfect harmony with the architecture of Via Veneto. It is also possible to dine outside, enjoying the lively atmosphere of Via Veneto sitting inside the elegant “greenhouse” with air conditioning. Service is very good, food is excellent – in particular the meat which comes directly from the owner’s farm in Argentina.

Motor coach return transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome.



DAY FIVE—TRANSFER TO FLORENCE / DINNER

Breakfast at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, Rome (Included). Motor coach transfer to train station for transfer to Florence. (Luggage to travel separately and placed in hotel rooms.)

Upon arrival in Florence, the group will take a nice walk to the Mamma Gina Restaurant for lunch.

LUNCH AT MAMMA GINA

A simple yet elegant 15th century Tuscan palace, "Trattoria" in historic Borgo San Jacopo. It first opened in the early 1950's when Signora Gina started cooking meals for the workmen dredging sand from the Arno river. It has continued to offer this traditional style of cooking, based on genuine, simple and refined dishes, the old Tuscan cooking of the past. Many famous Italian and international politicians, philosophers, and actors dine in this restaurant.

After lunch, local English speaking guides will escort the group around the historical centre of Florence; and to the Grand Hotel, Florence where guests can check-in and relax before dinner.

GRAND HOTEL, FLORENCE



A landmark of history and tradition, the Grand Hotel, Florence faces a small Renaissance square, overlooking Florence's River Arno. Named to Condé Nast Traveler's 2002 Gold List as well as Condé Nast Traveler's 2001 Readers' Choice Awards List, the Grand Hotel is indeed a special place in a very special city. Since its inauguration, this splendid former 18th century palace, located near some of the world's finest museums, has been the hotel of preference for discerning international travelers in Florence. With its richly appointed rooms, attentive service and beautiful historic setting, the Grand Hotel is a Florentine masterpiece that bridges the centuries.

DINNER AT SABATINI

There are few renowned restaurants in Italy with 80 years of experience; in Florence the name Sabatini is synonymous with fine dining, where tradition and quality go hand-in-hand. Eating here can be considered a ritual that has maintained an informal yet elegant atmosphere throughout the years.

Overnight at The Grand Hotel, Florence.

DAY SIX—SIENA TOUR / DINNER DINE-AROUND

Breakfast at The Grand Hotel, Florence (Included). Motor coach transfer to Siena.

SIENA

A medieval town built on three hills between the Arbia and Elsa Rivers. Birth place of St. Caterina and many famous artists. You will visit the Cathedral, a splendid gothic building, the Opera Museum, Piazza del Campo - the civil life centre of Siena with a singular shell form, surrounded by Palazzo Sansedoni of the 12th-13th century. Outside of the Palazzo Pubblico is the biggest gothic building in Tuscany and the tower La Torre del Mangia.



After the medieval city tour, the group will transfer by motor coach to the Chianti area for wine tasting and lunch at the Castle of Verrazzano.

CASTELLO DI VERRAZZANO



Located in the territory between Florence and Siena, the Castle was first an Etruscan settlement, then a Roman one, and in the 7th Century became property of the Verrazzano Family. The farm is situated in the heart of the Chianti area.

After the wine tasting and lunch, guests will return to the hotel by motor coach with time to rest before dinner.

DINNER DINE-AROUND

Tonight guests will be assembled into groups for a fabulous dine-around experience in one of the following restaurants:

PAOLI

Opened in 1824, it was remodelled in 1909 and again in 1951 when Guido Pini took over the restaurant and restored it to its past splendour. The restaurant is distinguished for traditional Tuscan foods and service.

HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI - SANTA ELISABETTA RESTAURANT

On the first floor of the Hotel Brunelleschi you can find one of the better restaurants of Florence, the Santa Elisabetta restaurant, partly hidden in the quiet antique Byzantine tower. The Chef Antonio Piro is known as one of the most creative Chefs of the new generation, representing the Tuscan cuisine with a touch of his own fantasy. This excellent cuisine combined with the best of Tuscan wines chosen by the Sommelier make your dinner an unforgettable experience.

LA LOGGIA

In 1865 from the terraces of Monte San Miniato, emerged the Cafe and Restaurant La Loggia, a piece of work built by Giuseppe Poggi during the period in which Florence was the Capital of Italy. Diners can overlook the skyline and feast on homemade pasta in this historic loggia, built for the return of Michelangelo's Roman sculptures, when Florence was briefly the capital of Italy between 1865-1871.

VILLA SAN MICHELE

A 15th-Century Abbey of unsurpassed beauty, only a few minutes distance from the centre of Florence, basking in the serene tranquility of the Fiesole Hill, it is surrounded by a large park and many acres of woodland. The view over Florence and the historical landscape are magnificent. Excellent cuisine.

Overnight at The Grand Hotel, Florence.

DAY SEVEN—LUCCA & PISA / FAREWELL GALA

Breakfast at The Grand Hotel, Florence (Included). Motor coach transfer for full day excursion of Lucca and Pisa.

LUCCA

The most civilized of Tuscany's cities, a stately grid of Roman roads snug behind a mammoth of tree-top battlement. The birthplace of Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), whose *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Turnadot*, and *La Bohème* which have become some of the world's favorite operas. It's famous for its olive oil and has become a favorite spot for artists and writers. Walk along the ramparts and down the medieval streets, stopping at the 14th-Century Cathedral Duomo San Martino to see Nicola Pisano's *Descent From the Cross*.



PISA



The city began as a seaside settlement around 1000 B.C. and was expanded into a naval trading port by the Romans in the 2nd century B.C. By the 11th-Century, Pisa had grown into one of the peninsula's most powerful maritime republics. Pisa's main claim to fame since the end of its naval power has been its University, established in 1343 and one of Italy's top schools. Pisa was also the birthplace of one of Western history's greatest physicists and astronomers, Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), a man prone to dropping uneven weights from the Leaning Tower and making statements about Earth revolving around the Sun.

You will visit Pizza del Duomo (or Campo dei Miracoli) hosting the 12th-Century Cathedral renowned for its pulpit, famous painting and mosaic; the Baptistery, majestic romanic building; the Composanto and the unique Leaning Tower – the symbol of the town.

After the tour, guests will be transferred by motor coach back to Lucca – leisure time for lunch and shopping.

Return to the hotel by motor coach with leisure time before dinner.

GALA EVENING AT PALAZZO CORSINI

Guests will be transferred by motor coach to the Palazzo Corsini and their farewell gala.

PALAZZO CORSINI

The palace, set in the heart of Florence, was bought in 1649 by Maria Maddalena Machiavelli – wife of Marquis Corsini and restructured in several phases for over 50 years.

Going up an imposing staircase we reach the Throne Room with columns and statues on the walls, and two beautiful wooden chandeliers. Next to the Throne Room is the Dancing Hall with frescoes on the ceiling and a crystal chandeieier

Overnight at The Grand Hotel, Florence.



DAY EIGHT—DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the Grand Hotel, Florence (Included). After breakfast, guests check-out of the hotel, claim their luggage and board the motor coach.

TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT

Participants will be transferred from the hotel to the airport by motor coach (based on the flight manifest with a minimum of three hours prior to flight departure time).

DEPARTURE STAFF

Uniformed Castle Travel Group Management Staff will be at the hotel to co-ordinate departures to the airport and assist with luggage handling. We will accompany the group to the airport and organize the porter services.