

# SPLENDID ITALIAN VACATION



**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!**

Take in the mystique, history, art, and food  
on guided tours of

**Venice, Pisa, Florence, Assisi, and Rome**  
(Includes: Papal Audience)

**May 8<sup>th</sup> - May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

## **Trip Includes:**

Bus transfers from Waco to DFW and return to Waco:

Round trip airfare , First Class Hotels, All transfers , 12 meals: 8 buffet breakfasts, 4 dinners with wine , Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach , Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout, Services of local guides in all major cities. Entrance fees per itinerary and Airport Taxes

**Total cost: \$3,765\*\***

\*\*\*Deposit of \$300 due by 11/1/2011; Balance due by 2/1/2012.

For more info Contact

Glenda at 254-732-2404 or 281-216-1859

Travel Insurance is not included but highly recommended



# **Splendid Italian Vacation**

(Visit Venice, Pisa, Florence, Assisi, Rome) With Papal Audience

May 8, 2012 to May 17, 2012

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL

Bobby @ (254) 776-2312

or

Glenda @ (281) 216-1859



## **Highlights**

### **Escorted Package Includes**

- Chartered bus Waco to DFW, return DFW to Waco
- Flights DFW – Venice, Rome-DFW
- Airline fuel surcharges, subject to change until tickets are issued
- 8 nights First Class accommodations
  - –2 nights **Hotel Carlton & Grand Canal, Venice**
  - –2 nights **Hotel Adriatico, Florence**
  - –4 nights **Grand Hotel Palatino, Rome**
- All transfers
- 12 meals: 8 buffet breakfasts, 4 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in all major cities
- Entrance fees per itinerary

### **Special Features**

- Doge's Palace, Venice
- Wine tasting with local specialties at Tuscan countryside farm
- Michelangelo's *David*, Florence
- Basilica of St. Francis, Assisi
- Evening Walking Tour of Rome
- Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel, Rome
- Dinner with Opera Singers, Rome
- Wine & mineral water with all dinners
- *Whisper* technology enhanced touring

### **DAY 1, Tuesday - Depart the USA**

Depart the USA for Italy. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment for your journey

### **DAY 2, Wednesday - Arrive in Venice**

Arrive in Venice and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. This evening, enjoy an orientation meeting with your tour escort, followed by a welcome dinner

**Overnight:** Venice

**Meals:** Dinner

### **DAY 3, Thursday - Venice City Tour**

Today begins with a boat ride to the Island of Murano, known throughout the world for its fine glasswork industry. Then, visit St. Mark's Square to begin a guided walking tour of romantic Venice. View the Golden Basilica of San Marco, the Bridge of Sighs and visit the Doge's Palace, whose facade features a massive late-Gothic gate, known as the Porta della Carta. Take the remainder of the day to explore Venice on your own

**Optional:** Gondola Ride with Music (PM)

**Overnight:** Venice

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 4, Friday - Pisa Sightseeing En Route to Florence**

Travel through the stunning panorama of Tuscany to Pisa. On arrival, view the famous Piazza del Miracoli with its Leaning Tower, the Baptistery, the Duomo, and the Monumental Cemetery. The four monuments of this extraordinary piazza make for a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. En route to Florence, visit a local Tuscan farm in the countryside for a wine tasting with local specialties. Evening at leisure

**Overnight:** Florence

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 5, Saturday - Florence City Tour**

Today's morning tour begins with a visit to the Accademia of Fine Arts, where Michelangelo's *David* is housed. Walk to the Duomo, celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistery's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti. Continue to explore the open air art museum of Signoria Square ending at Ponte Vecchio, known as the "Old Bridge." Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Florence. This evening, dine at an authentic Tuscan restaurant in the countryside

**Overnight:** Florence

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**(Optional Uffizi Gallery Tour PM, \$65):** *\*\*available for purchase Only in Italy from your tour escort. \*\**

Florence and the fine arts are synonymous. Gate 1's guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery provides insight to the history of the structure and its collections. Originally the private collection of the Medici family, the palazzo was opened to the public in 1765. Your tour highlights exceptional examples of Florentine painting with an aim to help you better understand the works of masters including Giotto, Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci. Following the tour, enjoy a refreshment break and complimentary beverage at the museum's cafe, which features a breathtaking view of the city. Tour participation guarantees immediate entry to the Gallery, with no lengthy waits in oftentimes two-three hour queues. *\*\* Important: Please note that the Museum has a limited maximum capacity and therefore reserves the right to restrict admission. In this case we may not be able to offer the tour. Price is based on minimum number of passengers.*

### **DAY 6, Sunday - Sun Route Via Assisi to Rome**

Today travel along the famous "Sun Route" motorway to the medieval city of Assisi, renowned for its 13th-century Basilica of St. Francis and Giotto's frescoes. Continue to your hotel in Rome

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 7, Monday - Tour Ancient Rome**

This morning, a historic tour of "ancient Rome" takes you to the Roman Forum, the political center during the Roman Republic, the triumphal Arch of Constantine, the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater built in the Roman Empire.

Afternoon at leisure

**Optional:** Piazzas of Rome (PM)

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 8, Tuesday - Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel**

Today begins with the visit to the Vatican Museums and Michelangelo's breathtaking Sistine Chapel. Stroll through St. Peter's Square, passing Bernini's famous colonnade, to visit St. Peter's Basilica, where you will view Michelangelo's *Pieta*. This highly-finished marble sculpture depicts the body of Jesus in the arms of Mary after the Crucifixion and is considered to be among the most compelling of all works of art in the Western world. Afternoon at leisure. Tonight, dine in a typical Roman restaurant with wine and music, then enjoy an illuminated tour of the city

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 9, Wednesday – Papal Audience**

This morning, attend the Papal Audience at the Vatican and receive the Blessing of the Holy Father (subject to Holy Father’s schedule).

In the afternoon, enjoy tour of Christian Rome. Depart the Piazza San Bernardo, crossing the Piazza della Repubblica, and continuing along the Via Nazionale to the Basilicas of St.Mary Major and St. John in Lateran. Upon arrival, visit the well-preserved site of the Holy Stairs, the 28 marble steps climbed by Jesus Christ to stand trial before Pilate’s Palace. From this age-old pilgrimage site, the tour continues by coach crossing the Piazza San Giovanni and Via Latina, to the Ancient Appian Way, where you will find the sacred Chapel of “Domine Quo Vadis.” The tour concludes with a visit to the legendary Catacombs of St. Domitilla. Return in the early evening, passing the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla en route.

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 10, Thursday - Depart for the USA**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

*Itineraries may contain suggestions for activities for your leisure time; these suggestions do not constitute a recommendation nor an endorsement of any specific service provider and the decision to participate in any such activities should be made independently.*

**Group Insurance**

| Trip Cost       |    | 0-34   | 35-59     | 60+       |
|-----------------|----|--------|-----------|-----------|
| \$3501-\$4000   | \$ | 98.00  | \$ 112.00 | \$ 190.00 |
| \$4001 - \$4500 | \$ | 112.00 | \$ 124.00 | \$ 215.00 |