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## Custom Genuine Italy Small Group Tour of La Bella Italia

November 16, 2016

Day 1 Friday September 1, 2017 Depart USA  
International flights from US to Venice, Italy.

Day 2 Saturday September 2, 2017 Arrive Venice

Buongiorno and Benvenuti! Welcome to La Bella Italia! Upon arrival in Venice, you will be met in the arrivals hall of Marco Polo Airport by a private water taxi driver holding a sign with your name for transfer to your hotel. Check in and time to settle in after overseas flights. This afternoon could be a good time to enjoy a gondola ride. Dinner and then overnight in the unique water city of Venice. PWT/H/D

Day 3 Sunday September 3, 2017 Venice

Venice



Breakfast at hotel. Then at 9:00 a.m., meet your private bilingual and certified guide in the hotel lobby for a memorable two hour walking tour of Venice. Venice, which is referred to as La Serenissima by the locals is a symphony of romance, elegance, mystery and invigoration. Built to accommodate an active maritime trade of exotic spice from the Far East, Venice and her intriguing history are fascinating. Rich in art, architecture and literature, she will take your breath away. You will venture into the heart of Venice to unveil her most precious treasures. The Grand Canal will lead you to The Piazza San Marco and the incredible Basilica. Saint Mark's Basilica is a wonderful example of Byzantine Venetian architecture. It was at one time the Doge's chapel but it was also the mausoleum for Saint Mark, the patron saint of Venice, whose life is narrated in the golden mosaics on the walls. You will also view the Palazzo Ducale or Duke's Palace. This impressive structure is a combination of Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance architecture, and was the official residence

of the 120 Doges who ruled the "Serenissima Republic" for 1,100 years. If you choose, you may explore the many lavish rooms and admire masterpieces by Tintoretto, Titian, Veronese and Bellini. As well, you may view the Bridge of Sighs as well as the famous Rialto Bridge, the oldest bridge in Venice dating back to 1172. Enjoy an independent lunch and the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. After lunch, you could try a relaxing ride in an authentic Venetian gondola (The Gondole Danieli Service on the Grand Canal in front of Hotel Danieli is very reliable and the cost is 80 euro). You may also choose to visit the gift shops around Ponte Rialto. Or, you can wander through the Dorsoduro neighborhood, a true Venetian area filled with small alleyways, bridges and small antique markets. At 6 pm or so, you should visit an authentic Venetian Bacari. Bacari in Venice are a centuries old tradition and they can be compared to a very casual wine bar or Taverna. This is where the Venetians congregate at the end of the day to chat, socialize and indulge in savory cicchetti which are small snacks made with the freshest ingredients of the day. It is a great way to rub elbows with Venetians and sample the most delicious examples of Venetian cuisine. Overnight in Venice.

B/G/H

Day 4 Monday September 4, 2017 Venice-Florence-Chianti-San Gimignano

Breakfast at hotel and check out. Meet your private water taxi at your hotel lobby for transfer to the Venice train station. There you will board a high speed train to Florence. Upon arrival in Florence, meet your private driver at the beginning of your track for transfer to Chianti.

## Chianti Region



Enjoy a beautiful ride along the gently rolling hills of Toscana. Have your cameras ready today! You will be making your way to Greve in Chianti to an ancient 14<sup>th</sup> century Castle. There you will partake in a delicious and memorable wine tasting and spectacular lunch! You will find that after experiencing this beautiful area known for its gastronomical wonders and of course the production of fine Chianti wine, you will have a new appreciation for Italian cuisine. Late afternoon transfer to San Gimignano, where you will check into your hotel and settle for overnight. B/PWT/TRTK/PD/WT/L/H

## Florence



## Day 5 Tuesday September 5, 2017 San Gimignano, Florence

Breakfast at hotel. This morning meet your private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to Florence. Upon arrival in Florence, meet your private guide for a pleasant 3 hour walking tour of Florence. This morning you will visit the Galleria Accademia to view the beautiful sculptures by Michelangelo, the slaves or prisoners of the rocks and the unforgettable statue of David. The Accademia houses some of the most important sculptures of Florence (to avoid the long lines, we prearrange entrance tickets for you). Then you are on to the famous Duomo of Florence (the fourth largest church in the world), with its grandiose cupola by Brunelleschi, Giotto's bell tower, and the Baptistry with its famous bronze doors. Your guided tour will include the Piazza Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio. After the tour, you will have time to independently discover something new in the city. During your free-time, you may choose to rest at a local trattoria or visit the open air markets of the San Lorenzo or the Mercato Del Pulcinello for some genuine Florentine artifacts, leather goods and souvenirs.

## San Gimignano



Return to San Gimignano in the afternoon for time to explore this beautiful Medieval Tuscan hamlet that we like to refer to as an outdoor living room. This tiny and pristine city has remained intact over the centuries and is situated on top of the rolling hillside. It is famous for its numerous medieval bell towers, frescoes and other art treasures. If you would like to taste an authentic Italian gelato, one of Italy's best is located here. Two of the more outstanding flavors that they make are pink champagne with grapefruit and wild forest berries with fresh rosemary. Also, if you are interested, you should try a savory/sweet dessert only made in this area. The original recipe was developed at some time between the years 1095-1200. This treat is called "panforte" or strong bread which is made of dried fruits, nuts and honey. Used as sustainable nourishment for the soldiers during the crusades, this Tuscan delicacy has survived the centuries. We will enjoy dinner together at 7:30 pm in the town. Overnight in San Gimignano. B/PD/G/ET/D/H

## Day 6 Wednesday September 6, 2017

San Gimignano-Orvieto-Roma

## Orvieto



Breakfast at hotel and check out. At 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, meet your private driver outside of your apartment for transfer to Roma. Along the way, you will stop in the lovely town of Orvieto where independent exploration is a pleasure. The origins of Orvieto date back to the Etruscan Civilization. The first Etruscan settlements, going back to the 9th century B.C., in fact were found inside the turfaceous caves in the bedrock upon which today rises the city itself. During your free time, you may choose to visit the Duomo as it is the most famous Cathedral of the city. Construction of this Italian Gothic style structure took 100 years to complete and dates back to 1263. The Duomo houses the blood soaked cloth which is the relic related to the miracle at Lake Bolsena which occurred in the same year. The modern day Roman Catholic Festival of Corpus Christi is a result of this miracle. Another possible sight could be Saint Patrick's Well. After independent exploration, you will stop and enjoy a delicious and memorable lunch in a cavel At 1:00 pm, you have a reservation to dine at an exquisite restaurant. After this amazing experience, you may simply enjoy sitting and sipping a cold glass of local white wine as you observe the local color of the town. If shopping is your goal, there are many beautiful shops to explore. One of my favorite things to do is to sit back and observe the Orvietani (citizens of Orvieto). Late afternoon, you will continue on your way to Rome. Check into your hotel in Roma for overnight.

B/PD/L/H

Day 7 Thursday September 7, 2017 Roma Antica

## Rome



Breakfast at hotel. Then at 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, meet your private bilingual guide as well as your private driver for a four hour tour of Ancient Roma in all its glory. As you plunge into the vivacious traffic of Rome, your senses will be simultaneously stimulated by antiquity and modern day society. You will feel the heart-beat of the city as you pass through the Piazza Venezia where you will admire the monument dedicated to the first Italian King, Vittorio Emmanuelle II. Today, it has been dedicated to the memory of the unknown soldiers with an eternal flame. You will pass the Teatro Marcello and The Circus Maximus, a site of many chariot races. You will take a stroll through the Roman Forum, rich with antiquity. Through the main square of Rome, crossing the Via Sacra (the Sacred Way), the most important street in ancient Rome where many triumphant processions took place. You will see the ruins of some ancient monuments as well as the Triumphal Arches of Titus and Septimius Severus, the Curia, seat of the Roman Senate, the Basilica Emilia and the Basilica Julia which were both used for business transactions. You will also see The Vesta Temple with the house of the Vestal Virgins, and finally the Temples of Antoninus and Faustina, Vespasian and Saturn. During your visit to The Coliseum, the magnificent Flavian Amphitheatre, you will envision the gladiator duels, wild beast fights and naval battles which were arranged for the entertainment of the ancient Roman people. Entrance tickets to the Coliseum will be provided. The Arch of Constantine is visible from here as well. In the afternoon, you will have time to relax at an outdoor café or discover something new in the Eternal City. You may choose to visit the Trevi Fountain or the Spanish Steps. Campo Dei Fiori is also a lively spot with a wide choice of pubs and pizzerias. The Jewish ghetto and the Trastevere neighborhood are

amazing spots as well. There is also Castel Sant'Angelo, where parts of the film Roman Holiday were shot. We will arrange a wonderful dining experience for you tonight with traditional Roman fare at 7:30 pm. Overnight in Rome. B/G/ET/PD/D/H

Day 8 Friday September 8, 2017 Roma Religiosa

## Vatican



Breakfast at hotel. Then at 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, meet your private bilingual guide for a 3 hour walking tour which will begin with a visit to the Pio-Clementino Museum and will then move on to the visitation of The Vatican, The Sistine Chapel and The Vatican Museums. To save time, we will prearrange entrance tickets for you. The journey through the Vatican Museums will proceed through the Gallery of the Candelabra, the Gallery of Tapestries and the Gallery of Maps and from these Galleries, you will enter directly into the Raphael Rooms, where you will observe the extraordinary frescoes executed by Raphael and the Sistine Chapel. The actual visit to the Basilica, the largest Christian place in the World, will include a viewing of the magnificent Pieta by Michelangelo, Bernini's bronze Baldacchino (canopy), and the throne of St. Peter. At the end of your tour, you may choose to visit the underground catacombs which house the remains of the popes. Enjoy the remainder of day at leisure. Overnight in Rome. B/G/ET/H

Day 9 Saturday 9, 2017 Roma-Pompeii-Sorrento

## Pompeii



Breakfast at hotel and check out. Then at the hotel lobby, meet your private driver for transfer to Pompeii for a two hour tour with our bilingual certified guide. Pompeii was a city and civilization built over 2,000 years ago. Upon arrival to the archaeological ruins, you are magically transported in to antiquity. In Pompeii, you will view homes in which mosaics and frescoes have been preserved despite the treacherous devastation sustained during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on August 24th in the year 79 AD. After your tour, your driver will take you to your hotel for check in. Relax and enjoy time at leisure. You may choose to discover

Sorrento's main square, Piazza Tasso, where there is a great little market area to sample artisan made Limoncello. You can do some great shopping there as well. Overnight in Sorrento. B/PD /H/ET/G/L

Day 10 Sunday September 10, 2017

Sorrento-Amalfi Coast drive

## Amalfi Coast



Breakfast at hotel. Then at 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby, meet your private driver to enjoy a lovely day along the Amalfi Coast. Your journey will take you along the winding coast with stops in the quaint fishing village of Amalfi as well as the upscale resort town of Positano. In Positano, you will indulge in a beautiful lunch that we will prearrange for you. After enjoying time at leisure, return to Sorrento for overnight. B/PD/L/H

Day 11 Monday September 11, 2017

Sorrento-Capri

## Capri



Today is a lazy day on the boat and at the beach. After breakfast at the hotel, you will meet your private driver in the lobby of the hotel 9:00 am and board a private boat for a leisurely ride to the upscale Island of Capri. You will circumnavigate the entire island and visit the most spectacular grottoes characteristic of the island, such as the Blue Grotto, Green Grotto, White Grotto, and around the famous Faraglioni Rock formations. Provided the seas are calm, you will be able to go into the Blue Grotto. Lunch and beverages will be provided for you on board. By early afternoon you will dock at Capri and you will have time to independently visit the island or hang at the beach. Late afternoon return to Sorrento for dinner and overnight. B/BR/L/H/D

Day 12 Tuesday September 12, 2017

Sorrento-Depart Napoli

Breakfast at hotel and check out. Then meet your private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Naples airport where you will board your flight back to the United States. Arrivederci, Bella Italia!! B/PT

## CODES

B= Breakfast      L = Lunch      D= Dinner    H= Hotel    G= Guide    ET= Entrance Ticket  
PD= Private Driver      PT= Private Transfer      TRTK= Train Ticket      BR= Boat Ride  
WT= Wine Tasting      PWT= Private Water Taxi

### Your custom Itinerary to Italy Includes the Following:

10 nights in 3 star superior and 4 star luxury hotels

10 breakfasts

5 private bilingual certified guides

4 VIP entrance tickets

All private drivers and transfers while in Italy

1 first class train ticket per person

2 private water taxis

1 private speed boat ride to and from Capri

5 lunches with wine

4 dinners with wine

1 wine tasting

24 hour support from Diana Maiola and Staff

Price per person based upon double occupancy for the land portion of this journey with 12-16 participants is \$5346.00 + international airfare

Price per person based upon double occupancy for the land portion of this journey with 8-11 participants is \$6050.00 + international airfare

Price per person based upon double occupancy for the land portion of this journey with 6-7 participants is \$6689.00 + international airfare

Single supplement: price available upon request

Kindly note that your final quote for the land portion of this journey does not include tipping and meals where not indicated.