

CLASSICAL ITALY

ITINERARY NIGHTS: Venice (2), Montecatini (2), Siena (1), Rome (2)

HIGHLIGHTS: Venice Walking Tour • Venice City Tour • Doges' Palace • Murano Island Tour and Glass-Blowing Demonstration • Florence City Tour • Brunelleschi's Dome • Accademia Gallery • Pizza Demonstration and Dinner • Siena City Tour • Siena Duomo • Rome Walking Tour • Rome City Tour • Colosseum • Vatican Tour • Vatican Museum



DAY 1 Take off today for Italy!

DAY 2 VENICE Buon Giorno! Your TSA Tours representative will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. Explore this magnificent city of canals and bridges on an evening **Walking Tour** around the enchanting Piazza San Marco.

DAY 3 VENICE Begin your **Venice City Tour** at the Piazza Roma and walk along the Grand Canal to see St. Mark's Basilica, the Rialto Bridge, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Clock Tower. Visit the Byzantine **Doges' Palace**, symbol of Venetian power and glory. Board a *vaporetto* for **Murano Island**, the main center of the Venetian glass industry since the end of the 13th century. Shop for crystal and see a **glass-blowing demonstration** in this canal town lined with Renaissance houses.

DAY 4 MONTECATINI Transfer to Italy's Tuscany region and enjoy a guided **Florence City Tour**. See the

Piazza del Duomo with the city's magnificent cathedral and baptistery. A climb up the steps leads to a magnificent viewing terrace from **Brunelleschi's Dome** at the top of the cathedral. Also see the Piazza del Signoria, the Campanile and the Palazzo Vecchio. Return to Montecatini, a fashionable spa town lying between Pisa and Florence.



DAY 5 MONTECATINI

Spend the day in Florence beginning with a tour of **Accademia**, housing works of Italian sculptors including the original *David*. Spend your free afternoon shopping for bargains in the Straw Market, or visit the Uffizi Gallery to see Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*, and Raphael's *Madonnas*. Many pizzerias in Italy still use the wood burning brick stoves. See a **Pizza Demonstration**, and then eat the delicious results for dinner tonight.

DAY 6 SIENA Journey through the olive groves and vineyards of Chianti to a medieval walled city in the heart of Tuscany. Siena has preserved its medieval appearance, with old squares and narrow alleyways. A guided **City Tour**

begins at the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in the world. Visit the colorful **Duomo** with its exterior of white and dark green marble; and see the famous Torre del Mangia and the splendid Gothic Palazzo Pubblico. The rest of the day is free for discovery.

DAY 7 ROME Transfer to Rome, capital of Italy since 1870. See the best of the Eternal City on a **Rome City Tour**. Visit the **Colosseum**; see Circus Maximus, Palatine Hill, the Arch of Constantine, Piazza Venezia, and Capitoline Hill with its view of the Roman Forums. In the evening, enjoy a **walking tour** to the Pantheon, the Piazza Navona and the Piazza di Trevi with the beautiful Trevi Fountain. Toss in a coin and make a wish!

DAY 8 ROME Leave Italy behind as you enter the independent city-state of the **Vatican**. Amidst the impressive works is the Sistine Chapel's vault by Michelangelo in the **Vatican Museum**. This stunning depiction of the Old Testament was completed in four years, and is perhaps the single greatest work ever created. Visit **St. Peter's**, the largest church in the world. Covering over six acres, St. Peter's can accommodate 95,000 visitors.

DAY 9 DEPART Board your flight home, well versed in the classic arts of Italy.

For more information, please contact: