

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Jewels of Italy

Sunday, September 23 – Monday, October 1, 2012

This new destination for The Travel Club pairs one of our favorites—**Sorrento**—with one on the top of our wish list—the **Borghi**, the medieval villages of Tuscany. As the gateway to the Amalfi Coast, Sorrento is a lovely, relaxed resort sitting on a cliff's ledge above the Mediterranean. Sorrentine legends mention Greek gods, heroes and mermaids. History reveals that at least one Roman emperor made his home here while countless artists and writers have sought inspiration among its olive and lemon groves. You'll be inspired with day trips along **La Costiera Amalfitana** and an excursion to the **Isle of Capri**. The "road less traveled" leads us off the beaten path to the enchanting Borghi, small Tuscan communities which are, for the most part, insulated from tourists. We'll stay in Anghiari, rated one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Outside its 12th and 13th century fortified walls, the countryside around **Anghiari** seems untouched—dotted with monasteries and archaeological sites. Inside, you'll be charmed by small squares, artisan shops, towers and churches. You'll enjoy visits to San Sepolcro, birthplace of painter Piero della Francesca and the first pasta factory in Italy; and ancient **Monterchi**, a hilltown whose name means the Mount of Hercules. A visit to the Hermitage of Montecasale and the famous cathedral in **Orvieto**, along with stops at a textile factory, ancient oil press and a pasta factory complete this unique and relaxing journey.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled **Alitalia** flights from Boston to Florence via Rome and Naples to Boston via Rome
- Seven nights' three-star accommodations
- Eleven meals: seven buffet breakfasts, one lunch, three dinners
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local guide during excursions in Sorrento
- Services of professional local Tour Manager in Tuscany

Rates

\$2,314 person double occupancy

\$2,714 for single reservations

Includes \$374 fuel surcharge.

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$125 for air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.

TRIP PLANNER:

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston

DAYS 2–5 Hotel La Meridiana, Anghiari

DAYS 6–8 Hotel Zi Teresa, Sorrento Tuscany

DAY 9 Return flight to Boston

FEATURES:

Full-day guided excursion along the Amalfi Coast with stops in Amalfi and Ravello, full-day guided boat excursion to Capri, visit to Orvieto, visits to Museo della Battaglia and Taglieschi, visit to monastery at Hermitage of Montecasale, excursion to San Sepolcro and Monterchi, visit to Busatti textile factory and olive oil factory

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Depart from Boston this evening on Alitalia Airlines. Dinner is served aloft along while crossing the Atlantic. Relax and enjoy in-flight entertainment.

Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Florence – transfer to Anghiari

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. You will clear immigration and proceed to your domestic flight for Florence. Upon arrival, you clear customs and meet your professional guide who will escort you to the **Hotel La Meridiana in Anghieri**. The afternoon is at leisure and this evening join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant. (*D*).

Day 3: Anghiari, Tuscany

In the morning after enjoying breakfast depart the hotel to visit to the Busatti Textile Factory, renowned for their timeless fabrics, hand loomed in the village of Anghiari. Today, artisans at Busatti spin the linen and cotton which has been treated first with olive oil. Linen and cotton are dyed on the thread and not on the reel or on the woven fabric, using only Busatti's exclusive colors. Some of the color sources are "guado," "henna," onions, sage and carrots. Ancient carding machines and shuttle looms give the fabrics a special softness that is so often lost today. Special attention is always paid to finishing the pieces and embroidery is still done by hand. Although Busatti has grown over the years, their pledge has always been to "never disown the origins, the taste, and the quality" Continue on to Visit and ancient oil press and enjoy a tasting and snack based on local specialties. In the afternoon you will visit Donna Eleonara factory producer of home made pasta. Return to the hotel. This evening is at leisure. (*B*)

Day 4: Anghiari, Tuscany

Enjoy breakfast and depart with your tour manager on a walking tour of Anghirari a lovely medieval town lying between two rivers, the Tiber and the Arno. Enjoy a stroll along the ancient walls of the village and discover alleys, small squares and archaic churches. In the afternoon you will have a guided visit to the Museo della Battaglia. The town of Anghiari was the site of a 1440 victory of the Florentines over the Milanese, a decisive battle in stopping Visconti ambitions over Tuscany and the rest of Italy. The Museo della Battaglia is a well presented museum dedicated to this famous battle. Next is a visit to the Museo Taglieschi which presents works of art from the Upper Valley of the Tiber: Gothic and roman architectural items, fresco fragments and furniture and paintings from the 15 and 16C. Remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. (*B*)

Day 5: Anghiari Tuscany

Depart from the hotel by motorcoach to visit the Hermitage of Montecasale a Benedictine monastery donated to St Francis Assisi in 1212. Today you can still see that bed that St Francis made by placing a few leafy boughs over a rock. The last time Saint Francis was here was in 1224. The hermitage of Montecasale also welcomed Saint Anthony and Saint Bonaventure Continue onto the “borgo” of San Sepolcro a pleasant and interesting town located on the plains of the Upper Tiber Valley in the southeast of Tuscany bordering Umbria. Lunch will be provided at a local typical trattoria. You will also have the opportunity to visit Monterchi an ancient medieval village before returning to Anghiari. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B,L,D)**

Day 6: Sorrento

After breakfast check out of the hotel and depart by motor coach for Sorrento. There will be a stop en route at the town of Orvieto, famous for its Cathedral which stands out as an important architectural landmark with its splendid Gothic facing and the richness of the ornaments and internal chapels, dating back to 1263. Upon arrival in Sorrento you will check into the **Hotel Zi Theresa**. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 7: Amalfi, Positano, Ravello

After breakfast set out for a full-day excursion along the Amalfi Coast. Stop in famous Positano, the most picturesque town on the Amalfi Coast before arriving in Ravello where you visit Villa Rufolo (1270) built by Nicola Rufolo, one of the richest Patricians of Ravello, situated on a ledge overlooking the coast. It has become a famous attraction for thousands of visitors each year. Next stop the charming, peaceful resort town of Amalfi It was once one of the four powerful Maritime Republics and has much historic interest. Narrow alleyways wind through the town up the slopes between the sea and mountains. You will tour the Chioostro del Paradiso (the Cloister of Paradise) which is an excellent example of medieval architecture with a Moorish influence. Besides history and beauty, the town is noted for its good beaches and bathing establishments, historic resorts and hotels, lemons, and handmade paper. Amalfi is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. The evening is at leisure **(B)**

Day 8: Capri and Anacapri.

Perhaps the highlight of this holiday--today you'll enjoy a full-day guided excursion to the magical isle of Capri. Transfer by ferry across the Gulf of Salerno to Capri. Your local guide will lead you on a tour of the island by minibus, a visit of Villa San Michele, the famous “Piazzetta” and the Gardens of Augustus that overlook the famous Fraglioni rocks. There will be free time to browse around have lunch on your own and shop before returning to Sorrento in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 9: Depart Naples Airport- Rome- return to Boston

Early morning transfer to the Naples airport for your return flight to Boston via Rome **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*