



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

The Italian Lakes & Tuscany

Thursday, October 1 - Saturday, October 10, 2009

This new combination of our favorite spots in Italy is bound to become the new Classico Italiano. Tuscany rewards its visitors with fine art, extraordinary countryside, wonderful cuisine, superb wine and extraordinary beauty. Begin with a walking tour of **Florence** including admission to the Accademia Galleria to view Michelangelo's **David**. Breach the original 14th-century walls surrounding the medieval town of **Lucca**. A "Paesana Feast" and wine-tasting await you in the hill town of **Montecarlo**, internationally known for its wines. The **Lake District** in northern Italy offers classic images of balconies over blue water, ancient villas, sleepy villages and hidden gardens—all against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Visit the enchanting resort town of **Stresa** and tour the Italian Gardens of **Villa Borromeo** on the island of Isolabella. A full-day excursion to **Lake Como** is a reminder of an elegant bygone era. Visit **Bellagio**, the jewel of the lake and one of the most romantic spots in Italy. En route to Lake Garda you'll have an amazing treat—a guided walking tour of historic **Verona**. Picturesque villages, medieval castles, and lakeside promenades dot the **Lake Garda** shoreline and the highlight of your excursion will be a visit to the extraordinary **Il Vittoriale**—a citadel surrounded by walls boasting an amphitheatre, paths, gardens, parks and an artificial lake.

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia** flights from Boston to Florence and Venice to Boston via Rome
- Eight nights' three-star accommodations
- Fourteen meals: eight breakfast, six dinners
- Wine tasting and light lunch at Fattoria Il Poggio
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local tour manager

Rates

\$2,249 per person double occupancy

\$2,559 single reservation

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$395 for current taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

Trip Planner

Day 1 Overnight flight from Boston

Days 2–4 **Hotel Cellai**, Florence

Days 5–7 **Hotel Alpi**, Baveno, Lake Maggiore

Days 8–9 **Hotel Drago**, Lake Garda

Day 10 Return to Boston

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Evening departure from Boston to Rome, via Alitalia. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the in-flight entertainment.

Day 2: Arrive Rome - transfer to Florence

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Clear immigration and proceed to your connecting flight to Florence. Retrieve your luggage and clear customs before you meet the local representative who will assist you with the transfer to the **Hotel Cellai** in Florence. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. Enjoy a welcome dinner with wine this evening with your fellow travelers. **(D)**

Day 3: Florence

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and soon after depart on a guided walking tour of Florence that includes admission to the Academia Gallery to view Michelangelo's David. Continue on to the Duomo and Piazza Signoria the Cathedral

with Brunelleschi's Dome, the Belltower by Giotto and the Baptistry with the Gate of Paradise, by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Remainder of the day is at leisure to discover Florence on your own. **(B)**

Day 4: Lucca

After breakfast at the hotel you'll depart for Lucca, the only medieval town in Italy still surrounded by its 14th century walls, a town filled with ancient Roman ruins as well as great furniture, jewelry and antique shops. With your local guide enjoy a walking tour of the elegant town including admission to Palazzo Manzi. After the visit continue to Montecarlo in the beautiful Tuscan countryside to the Fattoria Il Poggio for a wine tasting and lunch a real "Paesana Feast" Return to Florence for overnight. **(B)**

Day 5: Depart to Lake Maggiore

After breakfast this morning depart Florence by motorcoach for Lake Maggiore. Check in at the **Hotel Alpi** in Baveno your accommodations for the next three nights. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at the hotel. **(B,D)**

Day 6: Lake Maggiore

After breakfast you'll depart for a full day excursion of the Lake Maggiore area. Nestled against the breathtaking beauty of the Swiss Alps, Lake Maggiore is known for its serenity and an abundance of flora and fauna. Travel to Stresa an enchanting resort town. Enjoy a relaxing boat trip to Isola Bella, one of the famous Borromean Islands in the centre of the lake, to visit the Italian Gardens of Villa Borromeo. These spectacular formal gardens rise behind the ornate villa of the Borromeo family, with spectacular fountains, imposing statues and landscaped, terraced gardens that gently cascade down to the tranquil waters of the lake. Late afternoon return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Day 7: Lake Como

After breakfast at the hotel you'll experience one of the highlights of your vacation - a full-day trip to Lake Como and Lugano Switzerland. From your hotel you will travel the west side of the Lake to Tremezzo where you'll board the boat for Bellagio. You will have free time in Bellagio and lunch on your own. In the afternoon continue to Lugano Switzerland where you will have an orientation tour and free time to explore the town. **(B,D)**

Day 8: Lake Garda

Enjoy breakfast this morning before checking out of the hotel and transferring by motorcoach to the Lake Garda area. You will have a stop en route in Verona for a guided walking tour. In the afternoon check into the Hotel Drago in Assenza di Brenzone. Dinner and overnight at the hotel **(B,D)**

Day 9: Lake Garda

After breakfast depart for a full day excursion of the resort area of Lake Garda. Garda is the largest Italian Lake and is famous for its tranquility and breathtaking scenery. You will visit the resort areas and in Gardone Riviera the extraordinary Il Vittoriale –a citadel surrounded by walls boasting an amphitheatre, paths, gardens parks and an artificial lake. In the late afternoon return to the hotel for dinner with wine and overnight. **(B,D)**

Day 10: Return flight to Boston

This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Venice airport for your return flight to Boston via Rome. Meal service is provided on the trans Atlantic flight. You will arrive in Boston in the mid afternoon. **(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.*