



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Rome & Umbria

Sunday, October 25 - Monday, November 2, 2009

This exceptional journey into the heart and soul of Italy is to be savored like a fine wine! There's ancient **Assisi**, with its Roman ruins, winding medieval streets and sacred shrines—complemented by hill-town charm. Venture into the rolling green countryside to visit **Deruta**, home to a thousand-year-old pottery and ceramics industry and **Todi**, whose picturesque square is crammed with medieval monuments and is "believed" to have been built by Hercules. Stop in **Sassovivo** to listen to the silence of the 1,000-year-old Benedictine abbey's pink marble cloister and spend the day in **Cortona**, a quintessential Tuscan hill-town with 3,000-year-old walls, steep streets and, lively squares. Leaving behind the charming nooks and crannies of Umbria, you'll head to magnificent Rome. Standing on more than 2,500 years of history, Rome is an immense open air museum whose historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Get acquainted with the "lay of the land" during a panoramic coach tour and a more personal experience during a **Vatican City guided visit**. During a day on your own you'll choose your own particular thrill from a countless array of ancient buildings, exquisite art and the everyday bustle of Rome's famous squares.

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia** non stop flights from Boston to Rome
- Seven nights' three-star and four star accommodations
- Eleven meals: Seven buffet breakfast, four dinners
- Wine tasting and light lunch at Cantine Caprai in Assisi
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Service of a professional Tour Manager

Rates

\$1889 person double occupancy

\$2259 for single reservations

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

Features

Half-day guided visit of Assisi, half-day excursion to Foligno and Sassovivo, full-day guided excursion to Deruta and Todi, full-day excursion to Cortona, half-day guided visit to Vatican City, half-day guided panoramic Rome tour

Trip Planner

Day 1 Overnight flight from Boston

Days 2-5 **Grand Hotel Assisi**, Assisi

Days 6-8 **Hotel Medici**, Rome

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on your Alitalia non-stop flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive Rome

Upon arrival at the Rome airport you'll be meet and transferred, by private motor coach, to Assisi and the Grand Hotel Assisi. Check in and receive room assignments. In the afternoon there will be an orientation meeting with your tour manager. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. **(D)**

Days 3: Assisi

After breakfast you will depart for a guided visit of Assisi, best known as the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi — patron saint of Italy, founder of the Franciscan order, and one of the most popular Catholic saints. Assisi's main

attraction is the 13th-century Basilica of San Francesco, which contains the sacred relics of St. Francis and beautiful frescoes of his life. At mid day you will enjoy a light lunch and wine tasting at the Cantine Caprai before departing on an afternoon excursion to The Abbey of Sassovivo a Benedictine monastery. Administratively, it is a frazione of the commune of Foligno. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight **(B,D)**

Day 4: Deruta and Todi

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and depart for a full day guided excursion to Deruta and Todi. Deruta is a hill town and commune in the Province of Perugia in the Umbria region of central Italy. Long known as a center of refined maiolica (tin glazed pottery) manufacturing and its ceramics which are exported worldwide. In Deruta it is possible to visit pottery shops and the Regional Museum of Ceramics. Continue on to Todi and learn about its fascinating history. Built on Etruscan ruins the town is peppered with Etruscan arches, Roman cisterns and medieval buildings. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Day 5: Cortona

After breakfast depart for Cortona - one of the oldest hill towns in Tuscany and the town that was featured in Francis Mayes book "Under the Tuscan Sun." You will encounter Cortona's art, history and spirituality as you wander its medieval streets and you'll be rewarded with fabulous views of the countryside enclosed by Lake Trasimeno and the Appenine. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Day 6: Depart for Rome

After breakfast depart the hotel by motor coach for your journey to Rome often called the Eternal City, Rome. Upon arrival check in to the Hotel Medici a three-star hotel centrally located near the Via Veneto. The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to explore on your own. **(B)**

Day 7: Rome

In the morning after breakfast depart for a guided visit to Vatican City. The Vatican is one of the most interesting and breathtakingly beautiful sites in the world. Your tour covers St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel. In the afternoon you will enjoy a guided panoramic sightseeing motorcoach tour of the city. Remainder of the day an evening is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 8: Rome

Once again breakfast is included at the hotel. Today is a day of leisure for you to continue exploring the Eternal City on your own. **(B)**

Day 9: Departure for Home

This morning transfer by private motorcoach to the Rome airport for your return flight to Boston. There will be meal service enroute. You will arrive in Boston in the 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.