



## 13 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME, SIENA, FLORENCE, ASSISI AND ORVIETO

(Overnights: 2 Venice, 2 Siena, 2 Assisi and 5 Rome)

M: Meals served on board – B: Breakfast – L: Lunch – D: Dinner

### Day 1: HOME/VENICE

Depart from the home city airport on the flight to Venice. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (M)

### Day 2: VENICE

Arrival at Marco Polo airport. After clearing customs, meet your tour leader who will assist you and direct you to the motor launch. It is time to make your grand entrance into Venice as you cruise along the Grand Canal, on the way to your hotel. Time at leisure for unpacking and relaxing. Possible optional “gondola” ride in the evening.

### Day 3: VENICE/PADUA/VENICE

Enjoy a morning walking tour of **St. Mark’s Square**. See the soaring **Bell Tower**, the incredibly rich **Basilica of St. Mark** and the **Doge’s Palace**. It is from here that the powerful dukes ruled their empire during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. After, board the motor coach that will take you to Padua. Admire **Donatello’s Statue** and enjoy a visit of the **Church of St. Anthony** and his tomb. Return to Venice in time for dinner near the hotel. (B, D)

### Day 4: VENICE/VERONA/SIENA

Start your morning early by boarding the train to the lovely town of Verona. Take a look at the Romeo and Juliet’s balcony and stop for lunch on your own, in the area of the incredible Piazza delle Erbe, the most ancient square of Verona. In the afternoon, enjoy a drive through the Tuscan countryside to reach Siena. After check-in, celebrate a Mass, possibly at the Church of St. Francis. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

### Day 5: SIENA/FLORENCE/SIENA

Leave the hotel early to board the coach for an excursion to Florence. On arrival, begin a guided, walking tour of the city which will include the **Academy** with Michelangelo’s statue “**David**”, the **Cathedral of St. Mary of the Flower and Baptistery**, the **Piazza della Signoria** and the **Church of Santa Croce**, where possibly Mass will be celebrated. There will be free time afterwards to explore further this Renaissance city. Stroll past the never ending “gold” boutiques that line the Ponte Vecchio, discover the city’s flea market or visit the Uffizi Museum. Return to Siena and, on the way, stop in the Tuscan hills for an included wine tasting and dinner. (B, D)

### Day 6: SIENA/SAN GIMIGNANO/ASSISI

Begin the day with Mass at the **Basilica of San Domenico**, holding the remains of the head of Saint Catherine. Begin here a

guided tour, then move on to discover other treasures of Siena, the splendid **Cathedral** and **Piazza del Campo** where each year the famous and dangerous “Palio” horse race takes place. After free time for lunch, continue to San Gimignano, a Tuscan hill-top town, famous all over the world for the skyline of medieval towers. Continue through the Umbrian countryside referred to as the “green heart” of Italy to reach the peaceful town of Assisi. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

#### **Day 7: ASSISI**

Celebrate an early Mass, possibly at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterwards, a guided tour will include the **Basilica of St. Francis**, the **Basilica of St. Clare**, **St. Francis’ birthplace** and the **Piazza del Comune**. The afternoon is open for those that wish to visit the Church of St. Damiano, the first monastery of the Order of St. Clare. Another possibility is a hike to the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage where St. Francis prayed, surrounded by grottoes where hermits came to dwell and meditate. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

#### **Day 8: ASSISI/ORVIETO/ROME**

After breakfast, depart for yet another lovely Umbrian town, Orvieto. On the way, stop at the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels** and visit the **Porziuncola Chapel**. Once you reach Orvieto, Mass will be celebrated at the **Cathedral of Orvieto** followed by a visit. Free time to browse the narrow streets and to grab a quick lunch before departing for Rome. En route to the hotel, stop at the **Catacombs** and admire a network of underground cemeteries which are a vivid sign of the origin of Christianity. Tonight, take a short walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. (B, D)

#### **Day 9: ROME**

This morning, celebrate Mass, possibly in the Vatican Grottoes. Walk to St. Peter’s Square to recite the Angelus with Pope Francis and receive the Papal Blessing. After an included light lunch, the afternoon is free for independent exploration of the Eternal city. Some may wish to join an optional tour to Tivoli’s Villa d’Este for a visit of Cardinal Ippolito D’Este’s summer residence and its famous gardens, marvelous fountains and waterfalls (\$125.00 per person, including dinner). (B)

#### **Day 10: ROME**

Full day discovery of the major basilica’s of Rome begins with the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**, the largest church of Rome, where Mass will be celebrated. Continue to the **Holy Steps**, believed to be the actual ones Jesus climbed when He was sentenced to death, and the basilica of Rome, **St. John Lateran**. After an included lunch, visit the **Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople. The tour ends with the 4<sup>th</sup> Century **Basilica of St. Paul’s Outside the Walls**, where Mass will possibly be celebrated. In the evening, explore for another one of Rome’s endless restaurants. (B, L)

#### **Day 11: ROME**

Begin the day with a tour of the impressive **Vatican Museums**. Walk through some of the most unique rooms and view the works of art of famous artists, the **Sistine Chapel** with Michelangelo’s masterpiece “The Last Judgment” and visit the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter’s Basilica**. In the afternoon, a guided tour features the massive **Colosseum**, the incredible excavations of the **Roman Forum** and the **Church of St. Peter’s in Chains**, housing the statue of **Moses** by Michelangelo. Meet in time for dinner which will be served at a restaurant close to your hotel. (B, D)

#### **Day 12: ROME**

Begin the day bright and early with a Mass celebration then walk to St. Peter’s Square to attend the unforgettable **General Papal Audience** given by His Holiness Pope Francis. The rest of the day has been left open for last minute shopping, sightseeing or packing. In the evening, an “Arrivederci Roma” toast is in order at the Farewell Dinner. Let the wine flow as you tune in to some of Italy’s most famous melodies. (B, D)

#### **Day 13: ROME/HOME**

This morning you will be accompanied by your tour leader to the airport and assisted with check in formality to board the flight home. You will be asking yourself “where did the time go?” (B, M)



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