

# Renaissance Italy



**Day 01** Depart home city for **ROME, Italy.**

**Day 02** Rome - Assisi (D)

Arrival in **Rome, Italy.** We will be met by our tour director and transferred by motor coach through the lush Umbrian countryside to **Assisi**, hometown of our beloved **St. Francis.** Remainder of the day at leisure to wander the medieval, winding streets of this very peaceful village at the base of **Mt. Subasio.** Tonight, our welcome dinner is at the hotel serving homemade local specialties. Buon Appetito!!

**Day 03** Assisi (BD)

We begin our day with a visit to the **Basilica of St. Francis** with frescos by Giotto and the tomb of St. Francis. Visit the **Church of St. Clare** housing her incorrupt body and the **Cross of San Damiano.** Continue to lower **Assisi** visiting the **Portiuncula**, the little church that St. Francis built, housed inside the **Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli.** After dinner, enjoy a stroll through the peace-filled streets of Assisi.

**Day 04** Assisi - Florence (BD)

Morning departure through the *rolling hills of Tuscany* as we make our way to **Florence**, rich with Renaissance art treasures of Da Vinci and Botticelli including a visit to the **Academy of Fine Art** to view Michelangelo's magnificent "**David.**" Afternoon visit of the great **Duomo** – Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiori, **Baptistry** and bronze **Doors of Paradise.** Remainder of day to wander through *Renaissance Florence* as you wish.

**Day 05** Florence (BD)

Today visit to the **Franciscan Church of Santa Croce**, *final resting place of Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli.* Remainder of day to discover Florence as you please. Art lovers might enjoy a visit to the **Uffizi Gallery**, greatest collection of Renaissance art. The piazza of **Santa Croce** is known for its magnificent **Florentine gold and leather goods.**

**Day 06** Florence - Siena - Rome (BD)

Morning departure from Florence through Tuscany dotted with Chianti vineyards & olive groves to old **Siena**, the best preserved medieval town in Italy. Visit the Cathedral and St. Domenic's Church which houses the incorrupt **St. Catherine of Siena**, doctor of the Church. We will also visit the famous shell shaped **Piazza del Campo**, where the famous **Palio** (annual 75 second horse race) is held every summer. Late afternoon, return to **Rome.** The *Eternal City* is considered the **Cradle of Western Civilization** and the heart of Catholicism. After dinner, enjoy a leisurely stroll and the excitement of a city bursting with activity and the beauty of **Rome at night.** Magnifico!!

**Day 07** Rome (BD)

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of the **Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel** followed by a visit of **St. Peter's Basilica**, housing the **Pieta by Michelangelo** and the **Glory by Bernini.** This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the **Trevi Fountain, Piazza Venezia and the Ancient Pantheon.**

**Day 08** Rome Papal Audience, St Peter's Square (pope's schedule permitting) (BD)

This morning we will make our way to St Peter's Square for the "**Papal Audience**" with His Holiness, Pope Francis. This afternoon visit the **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls** with cameos of all the past popes and the relics of St Timothy. Afternoon, visit ancient Rome with outside visit of **Coliseum, Forum, and St. Peter in Chains**, housing the famous statue of **Michelangelo's Moses.**

**Day 09** Rome (BD)

After breakfast, enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of the Monument to Victor Emmanuel, inside visits of the magnificent **Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, St. John Lateran, Scala Santa** (Holy Stairs Jesus walked up to meet Pontius Pilate) and much more. Afternoon at leisure to stop for a gelato at the famous **Piazza Navonna** (Neptune's Fountain), photo opportunity at **Spanish Steps** and **remember to toss a coin in Trevi Fountain that assures your return to Rome.** Afternoon, enjoy our **Farewell Dinner** tonight and experience a **Roman Feast** with wine and music.

**Day 10** Depart Rome (B)

Morning departure to the **Rome Airport** with fond memories of the magnificent spiritual places visited, cultures experiences and friendships made along the way. **Arrivederci Roma!!**