****

~**An Italian Experience~**

**FULL ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Saturday 7 March**  - Leave Australia for Rome:

**ROME Hotel Marcella Royal**

**Day 2: Sunday 8 March**

* **Orientation walk** **$** of our area with Penny
* Welcome **Lunch with wine** on the rooftop terrace **$**

**Basic Italian Lesson** will be conducted on the rooftop over lunch **$**
(just the words you will need to buy coffee and ask for the bathroom, etc)

* **Wander around Rome -** Walk down the famous Via Veneto: see:
	+ Café de Paris & Doney made famous by La Dolce Vita
	+ Santa Maria Della Conzecione - Capuchin monks’ burial church
	+ Piazza Barberini where the beautiful Tritone fountain is a landmark.
	+ the Trevi Fountain
	+ the Pantheon
	+ Hadrian’s temple
	+ coffee in Campo Fiori
* **Dinner -** evening at Piazza Navona, by the fountains **$**

**Day 3: Monday 9 March:**

* **9.30 am – 12.30 pm** - First half day **Discover Ancient Rome walk $**

We take a personalised walk through Ancient Rome with Ginevra to see:

* The Colosseum
* The Forum
* The Capitoline
* Piazza Farnese
* Vittorio Emmanuelle monument
* Piazza Venezia
* The Ghetto
	+ **Lunch - Hostaria Costanza $** (set in the ancient theatre of Pompey)
	+ **Afternoon free**
	+ **Dinner** **– your choice**
		- Relax at the hotel, and have a meal on the rooftop, OR
		- Join Penny for a casual meal at La Lampada (famous for its truffle dishes)

**Day 4: Tuesday 10 March**

* + **Morning free -** time to relax in your own way
* **Lunch - your choice**
* **5.00 pm -7.30 pm - Secret Rome walk $**We get right away from the tourist hotspots with Ginevra- Private visit to her uncle’s Palazzo Colonna and experience the back streets of ancient Rome.
* **7.30 pm - Dinner -** at **Café Margutta** (near Piazza del Popolo) **$**
We walk to the Piazza where all big Roman events are based.

**Day 5: Wednesday 11 March**

* **7.50 am** - Train to **Naples** and on to
* **POMPEII** – guided tour - back to AD 79 and the day time stood still – to see
	+ The homes of the nobles
	+ Wonderful murals
	+ Shops
	+ Amphitheatre
	+ Temples
* **Lunch -** We drive to Amalfi for lunch and a wander around this iconic town.
Then return to Rome for the evening.
* **7.30 pm – Dinner** at **Vincenzo’s Restaurant $**

**Day 6: Thursday 12 March**

* **8.30 am -12.30 pm - Vatican museums** **$** with Ginevra
a private entrance with no queue. You will see:
	+ the treasures of the Vatican museums
	+ the Raphael rooms
	+ the Sistine Chapel
	+ the famous double Bernini royal staircase
	+ St Peters Basilica
* **Fabulous lunch at Casa Bleve $**
* **Afternoon free**
* **Dinner** – your choice

**VENICE** **Hotel Ala**

**Day 7: Friday 13 March**

* **8:45 am -** meet in lobby
* **9.45 am -** First class **Eurostar train to Venice $**
* **1:33 pm - arrive Venice.** Transfer to Hotel **$** by **private boat**
* **2.20 pm -** meet in lobby for **Orientation walk**
* **Leisure time** to explore the streets and shops
* **7.30 pm -** meet in the Bar for a drink before dinner
* **8.00 pm - Dinner** together at **La Feluca**

**Day 8: Saturday 14 March**

* **Morning free** to sleep in, or wander the narrow streets
* **Lunch your choice**
* 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm - First guided Walk with Sara, visiting the:
	+ Doges Palace
	+ Bridge of Sighs
	+ Basilica of Saint Mark
	+ and learn more about the Piazza San Marco
* **7.30 pm - Dinner at Vino Vino -** near la Fenice **$**
* **8.30 pm - Opera $ Barber of Seville**at **Palazzo Barbarigo Minotto** on the Grand Canal

**Day 9: Sunday 15 March**

* ***Optional:***
	+ Boat trip to Burano Island
	small canals and different life style on the lagoon. (Lace making was the principal cottage industry here - an almost disappeared craft)
	+ Afternoon return to Hotel
	+ Rest of day at leisure
* **OR** - **Leisure time for the day to explore the markets, etc**
* **6.00 pm -** meet in lobby to catch water bus to early  **Dinner** at Ristorante Terrazzo Sommarivain Rialto district **$**
* **8.30 pm - Concerto di Quattro Stagione** at Scuola SanTeodoro **$**

**Day 10: Monday 16 March**

* **8.30 am – 12.30pm - Second guided walks inside Venice** with **Roberta $:**
	+ Bevilacqua fabric makers
	+ boat trip to Murano and Seguso Glass makers.
	Return by private water taxi $.
* **After lunch**
	+ explore the glass, paper, jewellery and antique shops in our vicinity OR....Enjoy a book, or snooze in the sun on the rooftop...People–watch in one of the piazzas nearby
* **7.30 pm - Dinner at Al Ponte** (a local favourite) **$**

**Day 11: Tuesday 17 March**

* **8.30 am – 12 noon - Final guided walk with Sara, visiting $**
	+ Mondo Nuovo mask makers
	+ Gondola maker
	+ Museum of Costume
* **Lunch your choice**
* **2.30 pm - Tour of La Fenice Opera House $**
We learn about this famous theatre and the rebuilding following fires in the last decade
* **7.30 pm** – meet in lobby for **Farewell Dinner at Il Sempione $**

**TUSCANY Villa Pitiana**

**Day 12: Wednesday 18 March**

* Mid–morning -Train from Venice to Florence $
Lunch in the dining car
* Arrive Florence where we meet Stefano our driver, then on to
* Villa Pitiana for afternoon tea
	+ Visit to the famous wine cellar with wine and oil tastings $
* Leisure time
	+ Enjoy the villa OR
	+ explore the towns nearby
* Meet in the lounge for pre-dinner drinks
* Welcome Dinner in the Villa Dining room $

**Day 13: Thursday 19 March**

**Leisurely day**

* 10.00 am - Cooking class at the Villa Pitiana - culminating in lunch $
* Afternoon free
	+ can organise to sightsee in the area OR
	+ read in the library AND/OR
	+ relax in the sun in the huge garden
* Dinner at the Villa $

**Day 14: Friday 20 March**

**Day trip**

* **9.00 am – 5.00 pm** - We tour, in a leisurely manner, around Tuscany and Chianti, visit **$**:
	+ Greve
	+ The Badia di Passignano
	+ San Gimignano
	+ Monteriggioni
	+ Montefioral
* **Lunch at own cost**
* **Dinner at the Villa $**

**FLORENCE Tornabuoni Beacci**

**Day 15: Saturday 21 March**

**Transfer to Florence**  **$**

* **12.30pm - Lunch on the rooftop** upon arrival **$**
* **Orientation walk** of Florence with Penny **$** - getting our bearings
	+ Browsing the leather markets
	+ the tassel shops and
	+ the glove makers
* Visit to **Ferragamo shoe museum** **$**
(see the shoes specially made for Audrey Hepburn, shoes from Hollywood movies etc…)
* **\*??\*Evening concert** at tiny St Mark’s English church in Florence
* **Dinner after concert – your choice**

**Day 16: Sunday 22 March**

* **Morning at leisure**
* **Lunch – own arrangements**
* After lunch, we drive up to the **Piazza Michelangelo $**where we can see all over Florence. Visit the old suburb of San Niccolo as we walk back down the hill to the Santa Croce and Michelangelo’s tomb
* **Visit to the Scuola di Cuoio** (school of leather) **$**
* **7.00 pm - Dinner** **at sunset** – **Golden view $** - overlooking the Ponte Vecchio

**Day 17: Monday 23 March**

* **Morning at leisure**
* **Lunch – own arrangements**
* **1.30 pm – 5.30 pm - Artisans** **walking tour with Emma**
	+ mosaic makers
	+ the gilders silver smiths
	+ paper makers
	+ exclusive perfumiere
* **6.00 pm – 7.00 pm** - Before dinner - **Art Historian Talk** - art in Florence
(what you will see at the Uffizi, etc) **$**
* **8.00 pm - Dinner** at **Paoli Restaurant**(vaulted ceilings, 400 yr old frescoes on the walls and a fabulous menu)

**Day 18: Tuesday 24 March**

**Taste of Tuscany Villa Lunch** **$**

* **11.00 am - 3.00 pm** - relax and eat *al fresco* at the **Medici Villa** in the hills above Florence (featured in films *Room with a View* and *Lunch with Mussolini*.)
* **Rest of day free**
* **Dinner** – **your choice**

**Day 19: Wednesday 25 March**

**Walking tour of Florence** **$**

* **9.00 am – 12.30 pm** –with Paola
	+ Statue of David
	+ truffle & cheese tastings at the wonderful Mercato Centrale
	+ Duomo
	+ Piazza Signoria
	+ Palazzo Vecchio
	+ Piazza Repubblica (stop for gelato)
* **Lunch on walk**
* **Rest of afternoon at leisure**, until…
* **4.00 pm – 6.00 pm Visit the Uffizi Gallery $** with Emma
skim past the crowds…
* **8.00 pm - Dinner at Gilda’s** **$** *(where everything is gilded!)*

**ROME Hotel Marcella Royal**

**Day 20: Thursday 26 March**

**Transfer to Rome- by *Eurostar* train $**

* Arrive in time for lunch.
* **Afternoon free** OR
come to the **Villa / Gallery Borghese** with Penny
* Farewell to Rome – dinner with a view of the city – wow!! **$**
* Taxi drive around the city monuments by night…

**Day 21: Friday 27 March**

**Breakfast together on the rooftop**

**Transfers to airport and then HOME:**

**Leave Rome Leonardo Da Vinci Airport for Australia…**

**Day 22: Saturday - 28 March Arrive HOME**