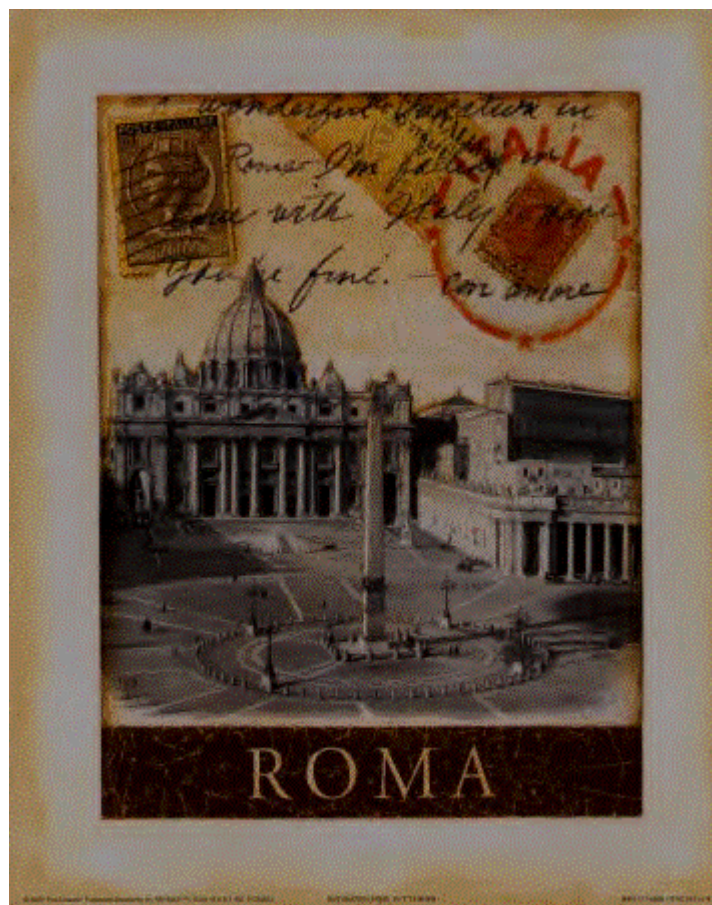


Italy Adventures 2012

~ Penne alla Vodka or Fra Diavolo ~

ROME, VATICAN CITY-STATE, ASSISI, FLORENCE,
SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, AND THE AMALFI COAST
INCLUDING POSITANO, THE ISLAND OF CAPRI, AND THE
RUINS OF POMPEII
ITALY



A Nine or Thirteen Day Adventure



KEYROW TOURS

P.O. Box 418 Interlaken, New York 14847 315.491.3711 www.keyrowtours.com

Day#1: Departure for Italy

In conjunction with Jetaway Travel, Keyrow Tours is pleased to make all flight arrangements, including primary flights originating from anywhere in the United States.. Transportation to and from your airport of departure is each person's responsibility.

Typically the international flight is eight hours and a half hours long. Please plan on sleeping on the plane as much as possible. This will help avoid jet lag, and enable us to “hit Rome running” on our first day in Italy...



“Memory is the diary that we all carry about with us.” ~ Oscar Wilde

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Day #2: "From Pagan Temples to Patrimonial Churches"

Arrival at Leonardo Da Vinci Airport, Rome Italy

After collecting our luggage and going through customs, private minivans will take us to Hotel Smeraldo, located in the historic center of Rome. The ride is pleasantly under half an hour.

The Centro Storico (Historic Center)

A.) Campo Dei Fiori

This is Rome's daily farmer's market. Just 5 minutes away from our hotel, enjoy the sights and sounds of people wheeling and dealing in produce from land and sea: Fresh veggies, fruits, cheese, meats and fish. Sit at a café and drink a real cappuccino!

B.) Piazza Navona

One of Rome's most magnificent piazzas, or squares. See Bernini's famous Fountain of Four Rivers. Once the site of an ancient charioteer stadium, today it is a romantic location filled with artisans, gelato ice cream shops, restaurants, and a variety of public performers.

Pranzo (Included Lunch)

C.) Church of San Luigi Francese

See three priceless Caravaggio paintings depicting scenes from the life of St. Matthew.

D.) The Pantheon

The best-preserved monument of ancient Rome which outdates Christianity! Once the site where Romans worshiped all of the gods, today it is a beautiful basilica.

E.) Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva

This church is built over a pagan temple to the goddess Minerva. See "The Resurrected Christ," a marble statue by Michelangelo. Visit the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena, as well as that of Fra Angelico...the same monk who made the liquor? Cheers!

F.) San Ignazio Church

Witness some of the best Baroque ceilings in Rome. Notice something peculiar about the dome?

Back to Hotel

Day's Recap

Cena! (Included Dinner).

"You may have the universe, if I may have Italy." Giuseppe Verde

Day #3: "Rome-ing Around"

Continental Breakfast

A.) Church of Santa Croce

See the relics of the True Cross, one of the nails of the Cross, a portion of the sign that hung above Christ's Cross: "INRI", a large beam from the cross of the "Good Thief," two thorns from the Christ's crown, and the finger of St. Thomas the Doubter...

B.) The Basilica of San Giovanni

Built by the Emperor Constantine the Great in the 4th century, this is the Cathedral for the Diocese of Rome. See Borromini's monolithic statues of the apostles, a beautiful outdoor cloister, the reliquary that contains the heads of Sts. Peter and Paul, and incredible mosaics.

C.) The Sacra Scala or Holy Stairs

Welcome to Jerusalem! Brought to Rome from the Holy Land in the 4th century by the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, visit the stairs that Christ ascended when condemned by Pontius Pilot.

D.) San Clemente

Excellent archaeological tour: a 12th century church, on top of a 6th century Church, on top of a 4th century Church, on top of 1st century Roman pagan apartment buildings, including a Mythic Temple. See it all! Including some of the best mosaic artwork in Rome.

PRANZO (Included Lunch)

E.) The Coliseum

Gladiator fighting, anyone? Visit the greatest monument of ancient Rome, and the bloodiest. Built in the 2nd century AD, the Flavian Amphitheatre seated 50,000 spectators and featured games with man against man, and man against wild beasts from around the known world.

F.) The Roman Forum

Visit Rome's ancient Ruins, including the Senate Building where Julius Caesar was Murdered, the temples of Saturn and Jupiter, and the Mamertine Prison where the Apostles Peter and Paul were incarcerated before their martyrdom in 64 AD.

Back to Hotel

Day's Recap

Cena! (Dinner on your own)

It's not only the physical beauty of the place...It's the smell of it, the aura of great history in the stones of every street and every building. To be in Rome is to be in touch with everything in life that really matters. ~ William Murray in "City of the Soul"

Day #4: From the Vatican to Vanity

Continental Breakfast

A.) The Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel

The entrance line to the Vatican Museum is always daunting, and the wait for the general public frequently exceeds three hours. But not so with Keyrow Tours! With your new friend Paolo, you will have immediate access to the museum and completely bypass the very long line.

PRANZO (Included Lunch)

B.) St. Peter's Basilica

Paul will give a one hour tour of St. Peter's Basilica, originally built in the 4th century by the Emperor Constantine. See Michelangelo's *Pieta*, a significant number of other masterpieces, the body of Pope John XXIII, and the tombs of many Popes.

C.) Scavi Tour

This exclusive trip is not open to the general public. Two stories beneath St. Peter's basilica, we will visit a 2nd century Pagan necropolis. Many wonderful Roman and early Christian glimpses into the past. The highlight is standing 5 feet away from the final resting-place of St. Peter himself!

Permission to attend this exclusive tour, not open to the general public, is to be determined by the Vatican...

Free Afternoon

Back to Hotel

Day's Recap

Cena (Dinner on your own)

"The Creator made the universe with designs by Michelangelo."
~ Mark Twain



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Day #5: A Peace of Assisi

Continental Breakfast

Free Morning in Rome

Pranzo (Lunch on your own)

Early Afternoon Departure for Assisi by Train

The train ride to Assisi is pleasantly under two hours. We will enjoy the beautiful countryside of the Umbrian Region, famous for its olive orchards and rolling hills. As a medieval city, Assisi stands frozen in time and is set high on top of a hill. As the birth place of Sts. Francis and Clare, the Franciscan history of this place permeates every narrow cobblestone road and piazza.

While we are in Assisi, I will share a brief history behind St. Francis and lead you to wonderful sights such as:

- A.) The House of St. Francis' family, including the prison cell where Francis was locked-up by his irate father. (Ah, medieval parenting!)
- B.) The gothic Basilica of St. Clare which houses the San Damiano Cross
- C.) Piazza Communale: Sit outdoors and drink vino or a café in Italy!
- D.) An ancient Mythic Temple that predates Christianity, but which Christianity has now embraced!

Back to Hotel
Day's Recap
Cena! (Dinner!)



“The world is a book, and those who have not traveled have only read one page.”

~ St. Augustine, 4th Century

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Day #6: Vistas of Umbria

Continental Breakfast

A.) Assisi's Cathedral of San Ruffino

In essence, this is where St. Francis' and St. Clare's spiritual journey began. See the baptism font where both saints were welcomed into the life of the Church. See a portion of the house where St. Clare grew up as a child. Enjoy some quiet time in the Cathedral's baroque side chapel.

B.) Panoramic View

From San Rufino take a pleasant hike outside of Assisi's city walls for an amazing panoramic view of the surrounding Umbrian hillsides. And for those who really want to take a serious hike...

C.) The Rocca Maggiore Castle of Assisi

The Rocca Maggiore Castel stands high above all of Assisi, commanding a superb view of the valleys and hills below

PRANZO! (Included Lunch)

D.) The Basilica of St. Francis

This 13th century basilica is created with one church on top of another. Take in amazing fresco work by Giotto. Breathe in the spirit of this place in its beautiful outdoor cloister. Finally, visit the tomb of St. Francis himself, along with his first followers. Who was Lady Jacoba? Come to Assisi, and find out!

E.) Free Afternoon to Tour the Shops

Assisi, and Umbria in general, is famous for its pottery, linens, and fine olive oil. There are dozens of small shops in Assisi which sell these items, and store owners will happily ship your purchases back to the United States in one piece!

Day's Recap

Cena! (Dinner is on your own)

“For us to go to Italy and to penetrate into Italy is like a most fascinating act of self-discovery—back, back down the old ways of time. Strange and wonderful chords awake in us, and vibrate again after many hundreds of years of complete forgetfulness.”

~ D.H. Lawrence

Day#7: "Florence... Fantastico!"

Continental Breakfast

Morning Departure for the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi:

The Church of St. Mary of the Angels: A church inside of a church. Visit the birthplace of the Franciscan Movement, and the chapel where St. Francis made his *transitus* from this life into the next.

Departure by Train from Assisi to Florence

A picnic Lunch will be provided on the train

Welcome to Tuscany and the heart of the Italian Renaissance...

A.) **The Ponte Vecchio**

Ponte Vecchio literally means, "The Old Bridge." This historic bridge that crosses the Arno River is laden with gold and diamond shops. Conveniently located just around the corner from our hotel, shoppers...this one's for you!

B.) **Piazza Signoria**

This is Florence's central square. See the Palazzo Signoria (Florence's City Hall since the Medici's), the outdoor Loggia which contains ancient Roman and Greek statuary, as well as Celini's famous bronze of Persius holding Medussa's severed head.

C.) **The Mercato Nuovo**

Florence has two excellent outdoor markets, and the Mercato Nuovo is extremely close to our hotel. Beautiful leather goods: jackets, wallets, purses, gloves, and much-much more. It's fun, even if you're not interested in buying things.

D.) **The Duomo Cathedral**

The Cathedral of Florence is perhaps the greatest symbol of Tuscany, and the heartbeat of Florentine life. For those looking for exercise, climb its neighboring bell tower created by Giotto.

E.) **Santa Croce Church**

This wonderful medieval church is the final resting-place of Michelangelo, Leonardo DaVinci, Machiavelli, Galileo, Rossini, and many others.

5:00 PM F.) **Academia Museum**

Enjoy Michelangelo's monolithic and statue of David, from the Old Testament hall of fame. Also enjoy his famous series of "Prisoners" designed for the tomb of Pope Julius II in Rome.

Back to hotel for rest

Day's Recap

Cenissima! (A Very Special Dinner!)

Tonight we dine at a private family's villa overlooking the City of Florence. While Roberto's mother and wife cook us an incredible multi-coursed Tuscan feast, he will be busy making us homemade gelato. This is an experience you will not soon forget...

"Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation. Even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind." ~ Leonardo Da Vinci

KEYROW TOURS

Day#8: Tuscan Meanderings

Enjoy two wonderful Tuscan towns that stand frozen in time. Wind your way through medieval streets. Sit at a café, and soak in the atmosphere...

Continental Breakfast

Morning Departure for Tuscany

A.) World War II American Cemetery

Just outside of Florence, we will offer our respects to over 4,000 American service men who paid the ultimate price during the Second World War. Among the fallen are five brothers.

B.) Siena

With private chauffeured vehicles, we will wind our way through Tuscany. The pleasant trip to Siena takes one hour. Siena is a town built in the Middle Ages, and it is located in the very heart of the Chianti region. Perhaps preserving its original character better than any other city in Italy, this is a real showplace of Italian gothic. Siena claims to have the purist Italian dialect when it comes to the language...

Visit the Gothic Cathedral with its marble inlaid floors and famous pulpit by Pisano.

See the Basilica of St. Dominic with the relics of St. Catherine of Siena.

Stroll through the Piazza del Campo, the heart of Siena and site of the *Palio* Horse Race .

The Tenuta Torciano Winery and Included Lunch

Tenuta Torciano is about 30 minutes away, and has been producing wine and olive oil since 1720. Featuring panoramic views with hillsides, vineyards, and olive-groves, sip wine in the heart of Tuscany or simply live in the moment. Pierluigi is the vineyard owner, and he will offer us an in depth explanation of his wines, how they are made, and the science of wine tasting and wine pairing. His mother will prepare an incredible luncheon for us using only local and organic foods that will make your palate cry out saying, "*Mama mia!*"

C.) Departure for San Gimignano

This is called the "Manhattan of Tuscany," because of its many medieval towers that look like skyscrapers from a distance. 20 minutes from Tenuta Torciano, this is a charming little town. Visit its central square, stroll into numerous shops, or dare to walk into the Medieval Torture Museum... We will have an hour or so to enjoy this little gem in the heart of Tuscany.

Departure for hotel

Day's Recap

Cena! (Dinner is on your own)

In every block of marble I see a statue as plain as though it stood before me, shaped and perfect in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to other eyes as mine see it." ~ Michelangelo

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Day #9: "Escape into Paradise"

For those choosing the Penne alla Vodka nine day tour, departure from the Florence airport will take place in the early morning...

Continental Breakfast

Morning Train Departure for Positano

We will train from Florence to Naples, and a private minivan will carry us for the rest of the journey to Positano. The Amalfi Coastline itself winds its way along scenic cliffs, following the Tyrrhenian Sea. For many, this is "Paradiso in Terra" or "Paradise on Earth!" Enjoy the panoramic views...

Pranzo (Lunch) An optional light lunch will be provided on the train

Afternoon Arrival in Positano

Hotel Pupetto is an absolute treat: A beachside resort with black volcanic sand that runs into the turquoise-blue waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Stroll the winding roads of Positano. Take a walk on the beach. There are great ceramic shops, high fashion clothing, and hiking. Positano is not a place to be "busy" seeing things. It is place to relax and allow nature's beauty to touch us in positive and happy ways. Don't forget to try a little *limoncello* along the way ☺.

Orientation stroll and Free Afternoon

Day's Recap

Cena (Dinner)



*"Sail away from the safe harbor: Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover."
~ Mark Twain*

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Day#10: "Capri-cious in Italy"

Continental Breakfast

A.) Morning Departure for The Island of Capri

A private chartered boat will take us from Positano to the Island of Capri... a one hour boat ride that offers magnificent views of the entire Amalfi Coast. Along the way we will enjoy natural rock formations including the Green and White Grottos. Don't forget your bathing suits...jump in for a swim! After circling the entire island of Capri, we will have a couple of hours on shore to take in the sights. Capri is a rather ritzy island that primarily features high fashion shopping, but also breathtaking panoramic views.

Pranzo (Lunch) An optional picnic lunch for the boat ride will be provided.

B.) The Blue Grotto

While we are at Capri, we will experience the famous Blue Grotto: a cave in the side of the island. This is a true natural wonder! As the Mediterranean sun shines through the mouth of the cave, it illuminates the water in an incredible display of turquoise blue light. *Availability is dependent on weather conditions.*

C.) Return to Positano

D.) Free afternoon to enjoy the great outdoors, walk the beach, and explore this little slice of paradise. Enjoy your time on the Tyrrhenian Mediterranean Sea.

Day's Recap

Cena! (Included Group Dinner)

*"I love the language, that soft bastard Latin,
Which melts like kisses from a female mouth,
And sounds as if it should be writ on satin
With syllables which breathe of the sweet South."*

~ George Gordon Noel Byron



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Day #11: "Amazing Amalfi"

Continental Breakfast

Take the day off to relax on the beach. Explore Positano's beauty, or...

Visit the Neighboring City of Amalfi (Optional Morning Excursion)

From Positano's black volcanic shore, Paul is happy to arrange public boat transportation for those interested in exploring the City of Amalfi. Amalfi is a beautiful seaside resort and the final resting-place of St. Andrew. Get lost in paradise, eat *gelato* ice cream, and watch the world go by...

Pranzo (Lunch on your own)

Evening Day's Recap

Cena! (Included Group Dinner)



AMOR VINCIT OMNIA

"Love Conquers All"

Ancient Latin proverb

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Day #12: Mt. Vesuvius, Pompeii and Rome

Continental Breakfast

Morning Hotel Departure

A.) The Ruins of Pompeii

A private mini-van will take us to Pompeii, which was first occupied in the 8th century BC. A private tour guide will teach us how the Etruscans first dominated the surrounding region, then later came the Saminites who turned Pompeii into a Greek town. Finally the Romans gained control over Pompeii until its end... that fateful day in 79 AD when Mt. Vesuvius unleashed its fury on the 20,000 inhabitants of this thriving Roman city.

Although this tragic event ended the lives of 20,000 Pompeian residents, the ash that buried the town served as a sort of *mummification* for the entire city. The eruption of 79 AD which buried the city in ash actually captured a special moment in time. Under the ash everything remained as it was at the time of the eruption. Artwork was preserved. Buildings were preserved. Several important clues were left behind. These clues give us a glimpse into the past that will not be soon forgotten.

Pranzo (Optional Picnic Lunch)

Afternoon Departure for Naples Train Station and Rome

Day's Recap

L'ultima Cena or "The Last Supper" Closing Banquet

Brace yourselves for a truly magnificent multi-coursed Roman feast that will be the culmination of many happy memories!!!! *The Cucina Antica Romana* prepares everything from the owner's local farm: fresh vegetable antipasto and cheeses, homemade pasta, local organic meats, and of course, vino. Buonapetito!!!

After Dinner, Paul will offer a nighttime walking tour to the Trevi Fountain

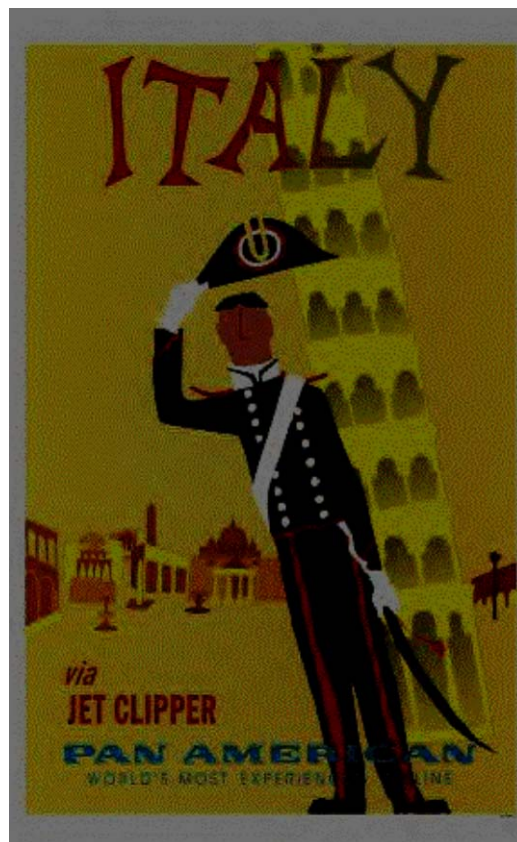
*"For us to go to Italy
and to penetrate into Italy
is like a most fascinating act of self-discovery—
back, back down the old ways of time.
Strange and wonderful chords awake in us,
and vibrate again after many hundreds of years
of complete forgetfulness."*

~ D.H. Lawrence

KEYROW TOURS

Day#13: "Arrivederci Roma!"

- A.) TBA Early Morning Departure for Rome's Airport
- B.) TBA Departure for the United States
- C.) TBA Arrival in United States of America and Airport of your choosing



*Open my heart and you will see,
Graved inside of it, "Italy."*
~ Robert Browning

Italy in 2012

WHAT IS INCLUDED? GROUND PRICE \$3799 OR \$4199

Centrally Located Hotels

Double Room occupancy in our three-star hotels in Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Positano are quaint, clean, centrally located, and with private baths. Depending on trip selection, 3 or 4 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Florence (including full day trip to Siena, San Gimignano and the Tenuta Torciano Winery), 2 nights in Assisi, and for Fra Diavolo participants: 3 nights on the Amalfi Coast in Positano with day trips to the Island of Capri, the Ruins of Pompeii, and an optional excursion to the City of Amalfi.

Meals

Daily Continental Breakfast
Daily Exquisite Traditional Main Meal (Lunch or Supper)
Two Light Meals (Lunch or Supper)
Plus "The Last Supper"...A Magnificent Feast-Extravaganza!

All Ground and Sea Transportation

Round Trip Ground Transportation to and from Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport
All Train Fares: Rome to Assisi, Assisi to Florence, Florence to Naples (en route to the Amalfi Coast), and Naples to Rome
Private Mini-Van Service in Tuscany to Siena, San Gimignano, and the Torciano Winery
Round Trip Ground Transportation from Hotels to Train Stations
Private Chartered Boat to the Island of Capri
Private Mini-Van Service to the Ruins of Pompeii

All Entrance Tickets

Rome: The Coliseum, the Ruins of the Roman Forum, the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel, and the Basilica of San Clemente.
Assisi: Guided Tour of the Patriarchal Basilica of St. Francis
Florence: Santa Croce Church, the Academia Museum, and Wine Tasting in Tuscany
Amalfi Coast: The Island of Capri's Blue Grotto and ruins of Pompeii

Keyrow's Services

Paolo will serve as your personal full time director and guide, offering daily walking tours and sharing in his knowledge of the places and things that we will see.
Please make known any special needs well in advance of the trip.

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