

Italy 2016: The Art & Culture of Florence

Karen Dunbar and Mike Minelli

In partnership with Frosch International Travel

Dates of Travel: December 9-17, 2016

Travel Fee: \$3,400

Grades 9-12

Course Description

Students in this immersion will have a unique opportunity to explore the visual artworks and cultural traditions of Florence, a vibrant city and jewel of Italy's Renaissance. Over seven days, the city's bustling contemporary streets and historical sites will serve as both classroom and departure points for learning. Students will experience the extraordinary artworks in the Uffizi Gallery and L'Accademia (such as Michelangelo's *David*) and explore the city, including its Duomo, a glorious 15th century cathedral, which remains an impressive feat of engineering to this day. We will take a one-day field trip to the Tuscan hill town of Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage site with beautiful medieval buildings and the famous shell-shaped Piazza del Campo. Through focused observation and discussion, we will consider how social, economic, political and geographical factors have shaped the creative forms of Italy's culture. Students will learn the art and science of perspective, participate in a fresco workshop, and experience Italy's rich culinary culture. No previous Italian language experience necessary for this course, only the desire to explore new ways of seeing and different places...*Chi cerca trova!*

Day 1 ~ Friday, December 9, 2016

LOS ANGELES/EN ROUTE

Depart the **United States** flying overnight to **Florence, Italy** via Paris.

Day 2 ~ Saturday, December 10, 2016

FLORENCE

Arrive **Florence**. Meet, assist and transfer to hotel by private motor coach with assistance. An opportunity to freshen up at the hotel, followed by **dinner** at Le Fonticine.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (D)

Day 3 ~ Sunday, December 11, 2016

FLORENCE

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is spent exploring the old city center and the 15th century **Duomo**, one of the largest cathedrals in the world. **Lunch** on own. **Dinner** at Le Fonticine.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 4 ~ Monday, December 12, 2016

FLORENCE

Breakfast at the hotel. The day includes self-guided visits to **Santa Maria Novella** Church and Apothecary and **Santa Croce**, a basilica run by Franciscan monks and a masterpiece of Florentine Gothic architecture. **Lunch** on own at Mercato Centrale. **Dinner** at Le Fonticine, followed by a performance at **Santa Monaca Church**, an exciting journey through the most famous Italian opera arias.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 5 ~ Tuesday, December 13, 2016**FLORENCE**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a walk to the **Uffizi Gallery**, the greatest collection of **Italian Renaissance paintings and sculptures** in the world. **Lunch** on own. **Dinner at Grotta Guelfa** with full menu options, an opportunity to practice speaking in Italian.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 6 ~ Wednesday, December 14, 2016**FLORENCE/SIENA/FLORENCE**

Early breakfast at the hotel. Board private motor coach and depart to **Sienna** with assistance. Visit **Piazza del Campo**, the most important square in Siena, circling around the **Fonte Gaia** (Happy Fountain) with its reproductions of the original white marble figures sculpted by local artist Jacopo dell Quercia. Onto the **Civic Museum**, Siena's stunning town hall, which sports some of the finest works of the Sienese school. **Lunch** at a local restaurant. Continue to the **Duomo of Siena**, Giovanni Pisano's wonderful black-and-white Gothic cathedral and the **Piccolomini Library** with its Pinturicchio frescoes. **Dinner** in Siena. Return to **Florence** after the day's excursion.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 7 ~ Thursday, December 15, 2016**FLORENCE**

Breakfast at the hotel. Walk to **Galleria dell'Accademia** for a self-guided visit. Of the three statues of **Michelangelo's David** in Florence, the original can be admired here. Explore the **Museum of Musical Instruments**, a collection of about 50 musical instruments revealing the primary role music played in everyday life and official celebrations of the Medicean Court. **Lunch** on own. Continue to **San Marco Museum**. **Dinner** at Le Fonticine.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 8 ~ Friday, December 16, 2016**FLORENCE**

Following **breakfast** at the hotel, walk to "**La Specola**" **Museum of Zoology and Natural History** for a self-guided visit. Next, proceed to **Boboli Gardens** on Piazza Pitti. **Lunch** on own. This afternoon, continue to the **Pitti Palace** with visits to Palatine and Modern Art Galleries. Walk to **Piazalle Michelangelo**. Special full menu **Farewell Dinner at Grotta Guelfa**.

CORONA D'ITALIA HOTEL (B,D)

Day 9 ~ Saturday, December 17, 2016**EN ROUTE/LOS ANGELES**

Early morning transfer with breakfast box to **Florence airport** with assistance for departure to the **United States**. Arrive **Los Angeles** later today.

(BB)

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 7 nights' hotel accommodation Corona d'Italia Hotel including daily breakfast/box
- WiFi at hotel throughout stay
- Round-trip economy class airfare Los Angeles-Florence/Florence-Los Angeles
- Nightly dinner December 10-16 (4 @ Le Fonticine, 1 in Siena, 2 @ Grotta Guelfa)
- 2 complimentary chaperones air & land arrangements in shared accommodation
- 4 days' hotel meeting room usage
- Minibus for Siena day trip with assistance
- Roundtrip airport transfers by private motor coach with assistance
- All Entrances
- Special programming: Concert at Santa Monaca
- Gratuities

◆ **SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS** are provided on the basis of two or three persons sharing a

twin or triple bedded room, in the hotels selected for the tour. FROSCH International Travel and its subagents reserve the right to substitute hotels of the same category when necessary for the proper handling of the tour.

◆ **MEALS** included are 7 breakfasts/breakfast box, 0 lunches and 7 dinners, as per itinerary.

◆ **PERSONAL TIPS** to your drivers, local representatives, Siena guide, and at hotel.

◆ **TRANSFERS AND TOURING IN ITALY** is provided by modern heated motor coaches and includes the program outlined in the itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

◆ **PERSONAL ITEMS** such as laundry and telephone calls.

◆ **MEALS** not outlined on itinerary.

◆ **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

◆ **PASSPORTS** must be carried by each tour member and must be valid 6 months beyond tour date.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- ◆ **ENTRANCES** Florence: Duomo & Opera Duomo; Santa Croce Church Complex; Santa Maria Novella; La Specola Museum of Zoology and Natural History
- ◆ **PERSONAL ITEMS** such as laundry and telephone calls.
- ◆ **MEALS** not outlined on itinerary.
- ◆ **PASSPORTS** must be carried by each tour member and must be valid 6 months beyond tour date.

