

FESTIVAL CORALE INTERNAZIONALE DI ROMA

Festival Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1 Saturday, June 20, 2020

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Rome, Italy

Day 2 Sunday, June 21 Rome (D)

Arrive in Rome

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who assists the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for an orientation tour of Rome, stopping at sites such as Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona (lunch on own)

Late afternoon transfer to the hotel for Welcome Dinner and overnight

Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; in short, she really is the Eternal City

Day 3 Monday, June 22 Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Lunch on own

After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill

Dinner at a local restaurant

Evening rehearsal

Return to hotel for overnight

Day 4 Tuesday, June 23 Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Lunch on own

After the rehearsal, depart for a half-day guided tour of *Religious Rome*. Visit Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum (using the whisper system), St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and *The Last Judgment*)

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5 Wednesday, June 24 Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other planned activities

Lunch on own

Afternoon Dress Rehearsal in the Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva



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Transfer to St. Peter's Basilica the Vatican

Combined choirs participate/sing in a late afternoon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

Dinner at a local restaurant

Festival Finale Concert in the Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva

Late return to hotel for overnight

Day 6 Thursday, June 25 Rome / Pisa / Montecatini (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Montecatini via Pisa

Lunch on own

In Pisa, see the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistry and the Campo Santo - a harmoniously composed group of buildings of unrivaled beauty

Continue to Montecatini for dinner and overnight

Montecatini is a characteristic medieval village and is one of the most ancient inhabited centers in the Valdinievole. The Montecatini of today, a suggestive outdoor masterpiece, does not retain the image of a sole period. Instead, it is witness to a historical parable of intense experiences, filled with dark moments, almost total destruction and splendor

Day 7 Friday, June 26 Montecatini / Florence (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to the Academia, the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original 'David' and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, a lovely square in the heart of the city, towered by the lofty Palazzo Vecchio.

Visit the Ponte Vecchio, the bridge across the Arno. See the Baptistry with Ghiberti's 'Gates of Paradise', the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure in Florence

Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Return to Montecatini for dinner and overnight

Day 8 Saturday, June 27 Montecatini / Venice (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Venice including sightseeing to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century

Lunch on own

Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

Venice is eternally preoccupied with the contemplation of its own beauty. Founded on marshes, it rose to dominate the Adriatic and hold the gorgeous East in fee. At the height of her power in the 16th century, Venice was a wealthy city-republic glorying in feasts and pageants, reveling in the splendor of her painting, sculpture and architecture. Those days of glory are gone, but her art survives and the grace and refinement remain



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Day 9 Sunday, June 28 Venice / Verona / Milan (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Milan via Verona (of Romeo and Juliet fame) for an orientation tour including seeing the Roman Arena, an amphitheatre among the largest in the Roman world, which still serves as a setting for a prominent music festival. Also see Juliet's House with its famous Balcony in the inner courtyard

Lunch on own

Continue to Milan for evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10 Monday, June 29 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Milan's International Airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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