

Itinerary – 2010 Faculty-led, Study tour to Italy

Thursday, March 25, evening 3 hours– time: TBA

Program Orientation – all students (credit and non-credit) must attend

Thursday, April 1, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, April 8, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, April 15, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, April 22, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, April 29, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, May 6, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students only

Thursday, May 13, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Class period – credit students required, non-credit invited

Wednesday, May 19 DEPARTURE FROM NEWARK

Enjoy full meal service on your scheduled wide-bodied flight to Rome.

Thursday, May 20 ROME - GAETA - CAMPANIA (3 NIGHTS)

We will be met at the airport by our Tour manager/guide, where we will board our own private bus and transfer to Campania, a beautiful region filled with ancient history. Time permitting; we will stop en route to explore the coastal city of **Gaeta**, an ancient town, a Marine Republic and the last bastion of the Bourbon monarchy. A highly important port and resort town in the Roman period, it reached the height of its splendor in the Middle Ages. We will have a bit of free time to explore the city center, before continuing to our hotel in Campania, normally in Sorrento, a romantic cliff top town, which overlooks the Bay of Naples.

Friday, May 21 DAY TRIP TO THE AMALFI DRIVE & PAESTUM

This morning we begin with a drive along the spectacular and incredibly scenic **Amalfi Coast**, undoubtedly one of the most scenic coastlines anywhere in the world. We will stop in Amalfi, which from the 9th to the 11th centuries rivaled the great maritime powers of Genoa and Venice. From its position at the slope of the steep Lattari hills, we will enjoy magnificent panoramic views over the Bay of Salerno. We will have a bit of free time to explore or shop in Amalfi at our leisure, before visiting the magnificent **Duomo**. This afternoon we visit the ancient ruins at Paestum, which will include: the **Basilica**, a Doric temple from the 6th century BC, the **Temple of Neptune**, one of the most impressive of the Greek ruins in the world, the **Temple of Ceres**, which still has 34 columns standing and a large altar for sacrifices to the gods. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the **National Archaeological Museum of Paestum**, which displays the metopes removed from the treasury of the Temple of Hera and some of southern Italy's finest tomb paintings from the 4th century B.C.

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Saturday, May 22 DAY TRIP TO MT. VESUVIUS & POMPEII

Our day begins with a visit to **Caseificio Michelangelo**, one of the great cheese-making factories of Campania. We will view a *demonstration* of the cheese-making process, and then have the opportunity taste some of their fresh mozzarella. Our day continues with an ascent of **Mt. Vesuvius**, a dormant volcano that dominates Campania. We continue with a visit to one of the most spectacular sights in the world, the remains and excavations of **Pompeii**. This once thriving Roman city was completely buried during the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD, and today provides archaeologists and visitors with a fascinating look at life in a Roman merchant city. We will have a local specialist guide take us through the excavations within the city walls, including the Basilica, Forum, Baths, Theater and *Amphitheater*. We conclude the afternoon with a visit to the **Villa of the Mysteries**, outside Pompeii's city walls, which is highlighted by the colorful frescoes depicting a young girl's initiation in the Cult of Dionysus.

Sunday, May 23 CAMPANIA - CASERTA - ROME (4 NIGHTS)

This morning we travel to Caserta, where we will visit the spectacular **Royal Palace**, built for Charles III to emulate the Buen Retiro in Madrid and Versailles in France. We will see the *Royal Apartments, Throne Room, and Court Theater*, before heading outside to enjoy the beautiful park with its Grande Cascata. We continue to the **Petrone Limoncello Distillery**, where the fresh lemons of Campania are made into a wonderful liquor. We will watch the process, and those of drinking age may sample some of the product. We continue this afternoon to Rome, "the Eternal City."

Monday, May 24 ROME (THE CITY OF THE CAESARS)

Today we will explore some of Rome's most spectacular remains from the powerful Roman Empire, commencing with a specialist guided tour of the **Colosseum**, considered the symbol of Rome's eternity. Completed under Titus in 80 A.D., over 55,000 spectators could watch the gladiatorial games. Next we will view the **Arch of Constantine**, before continuing our guided walk through the ruins and excavations of the **Roman Forum**, featuring the remains of magnificent temples, basilicas and triumphal arches, which once formed the heart of the Empire. Our tour concludes with a brief visit to the **Mamertine Prison**, once reserved for those that posed a threat to the security of Rome, before viewing **Trajan's Column and Markets** and the grandiose **Vittorio Emmanuelle Monument**. Our afternoon commences as we climb the long, sloping steps by Michelangelo, which lead to a perfectly proportioned square, **Piazza del Campidoglio**, highlighted by a copy of the bronze equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius in the center. We will visit the **Capitoline Museums**, which house some of the greatest pieces of classical sculpture in the world, and a *Picture Gallery*, with works from the 16th and 17th centuries, including paintings by Caravaggio, Rubens and Titian. Not to be missed is the entrance courtyard lined with the remains (head, hands, a foot, and a kneecap) of an ancient colossal statue of Constantine the Great.

Tuesday, May 25 ROME (CITY OF THE POPES)

Today we will explore the Vatican, the world's smallest independent nation, and the center of the Christian world. Our day begins with a specialist-guided tour of the **Vatican Museums**, which house one of the most impressive collections of art in the world. Our tour will include the map rooms, the tapestry rooms, and the magnificent **Raphael Rooms**, as well as the spectacular **Sistine Chapel**, highlighted by Michelangelo's ceiling and his *Last Judgment*. We continue with a visit to **St. Peter's Basilica**, the largest church in the western world and the most important point of pilgrimage in the Catholic world. Highlights of our visit will include: *The Pieta* by Michelangelo, the tomb of St. Peter and Bernini's magnificent *Baldacchino*. After time to

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explore St. Peter's Square, we will continue with a walk to the **Piazza Navona**, built on the foundations of Domitian's Circus. This magnificent square, designed in the 17th century by Bernini, is full of life and is highlighted by one of Rome's most spectacular fountains, the fountain of the *Four Rivers*. Next we make a brief visit to the **Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva**, where we will view Michelangelo's *The Redeemer*, a marble figure of Christ with his arms around the cross. Our day concludes with a **Cooking Class**, where we will learn to make some of the wonderful dishes of Italy, and enjoy them when we are finished.

Wednesday, May 26 ROME (*DELLA ROTONDA*)

Our day commences as we visit **San Pietro in Vincoli**. This Church was founded in the 5th century to house the chains that bound St. Peter in Palestine which are preserved under glass. We also view the tomb of Pope Julius II, with one of the world's most famous sculptures by Michelangelo of *Moses*. Vasari wrote about the stern father symbol of Michelangelo's *Moses*, saying "No modern work will ever equal it in beauty, no, nor ancient either." We continue the morning with a visit to the first Jesuit Church to be built in Rome. **Il Gesu** epitomizes Counter Reformation Baroque Architecture. We continue the theme and next visit the **Sant'Ignazio di Loyola**, which together with the Gesu form the center of Jesuit Rome. The vast interior is lined with precious stones, marble, stucco and gilded work and the cupola that was never built is a fake perspective. Our final visit is to the **Palazzo Doria Pamphilj** and this museum offers a look at what it was like to live in an 18th-century palace. Around the central court we view the **Picture Gallery** with a memorable collection of frescoes, paintings, and sculpture. Most important are the portrait of Innocent X, by Velázquez, *Salome*, by Titian, works by Rubens and Caravaggio, the *Bay of Naples*, by Pieter Brueghel the Elder and a copy of Raphael's portrait of Principessa Giovanna d'Aragona de Colonna (who looks remarkably like Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*). On our final evening in Rome, we will walk to the **Spanish Steps**, the stairway of the Church of Trinita dei Monti, and "the sitting room" of the city. Our evening concludes at the spectacular **Trevi Fountain**, where it is traditional to toss a coin into the fountain to ensure a return to the "Eternal City."

Thursday, May 27 DEPARTURE FROM ROME

Our enjoyable and rewarding tour will come to an end as our guide accompanies us to the airport for the return flight home.

Thursday, June 3, evening 3 hours – time: TBA

Presentations, post-tour wrap-up – credit students required, non-credit are welcome