

A Visit to Italy
Including Tuscany, Amalfi Coast & the Island of Capri
May 6 through May 17, 2018

Florence	May 7	4 nights	Hotel Roma
Sorrento	May 11	3 nights	Hotel Michelangelo
Capri	May 14	2 nights	Hotel Gatto Bianco
Rome	May 16	1 night	Hotel Atlantico

(our hotels will be those listed or similar European style hotels)

Sunday, May 6

Departure from Akron Canton Airport

Monday, May 7

Florence

(D)

Arrive Milan or Rome airport and transfer our hotel in Florence, Queen City of the Renaissance. Welcome dinner is included tonight at a typical Florentine restaurant.

Tuesday, May 8

Florence

(B)

A short walk through historic streets brings us to the **Galleria dell'Accademia** where we can admire the famous "David" by Michelangelo and other works by the artist. The "walking tour" continues to the **Duomo** with its magnificent cupola by Brunelleschi. The walking tour ends at the **Piazza Signoria**, with its imposing **Palazzo Vecchio** and the beautiful **Loggia dei Lanzi**. This afternoon, time on your own to visit the **Uffizi Gallery**, a museum filled with the greatest masterpieces of Renaissance art, or stroll beside the Arno River.

Wednesday, May 9

Florence

(B)

Enjoy a full day excursion to **Pisa** and **Lucca**. First to Pisa, where we visit the Romanesque Cathedral and the lovely Baptistery, and see the Cathedral's Bell Tower, the celebrated "**Leaning Tower of Pisa**". Then travel to Lucca, an ancient city enclosed within red walls. Visit the Cathedral, with its white and green marble façade, and stroll the narrow streets and tranquil squares of Old Town passing fine palaces and noblemen's towers emblazoned with their coats of arms.

Thursday, May 10

Florence

(B, L)

Today we enjoy a drive through bucolic Tuscan countryside passing Chianti vineyards, olive groves and medieval towns to reach the famed town of **San Gimignano**, a small walled town little changed since the 14th century. Next enjoy a *wine tasting & light*



lunch in a nearby vineyard. In the afternoon we explore **Siena** & visit the famous Piazza del Campo (where the Palio horse race is held twice a year), see the **Duomo** with its black and white marble stripes and explore **Castelvechio**, the ancient part of the city. We return to Florence in the late afternoon.

Friday, May 11

Florence - Sorrento

(B, D)

This morning we travel into the region of **Umbria** along the shores of Lake Trasimeno past Perugia, the capital of Umbria, to hilltop **Assisi**, the serene home of St Francis. First we visit the **Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli** where we see the Porziuncola Chapel and the Grotto where Saint Francis used to pray. Then visit the beautiful two story **Basilica of St. Francis** and the crypt where the remains of the saint are interred. The Upper & Lower churches are decorated with frescoes by Cimabue, Lorenzetti and Giotto. Next head south past spectacular hill towns to **Sorrento** a peaceful resort set on a cliff overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Saturday, May 12

Sorrento

(B)

The tortuous **Amalfi Drive** coastal road offers some of the most stunning scenery in all of Italy. The coastline is lined with citrus groves & vineyards covering the steep slopes that descend to the emerald and blue sea. You will drive past Positano, an old fishing village that has become an elegant resort. We stop in Amalfi, a rather sleepy whitewashed town with intricate cobblestone lanes, small squares with fountains and flower-bedecked houses. You may visit the famous Cathedral of St. Andrew with a scenic position at the top of a series of steep stairs. The Duomo boasts an 11th century bronze door and a lovely 13th century cloister that combines elements of Romanesque and Arab architecture. Return to Sorrento via the serene resort of Ravello, a town of great natural beauty, perched on the side of the Dragon Hill with breathtaking views of the Gulf of Salerno.

Sunday, May 13

Sorrento

(B)

A short drive brings us to **Pompeii**; here, life came to an abrupt halt on 24 August A.D. 79 when lapillus and ashes of the catastrophic eruption of Mt Vesuvius covered the town and its inhabitants under a blanket that stood 4 to 5 meters deep. The site was re-discovered in the middle of 18th century. The excavations have uncovered roughly 60% of the city's area with its paved streets and sidewalks, residential homes, hotels, shops and taverns. An afternoon on your own provides time to explore more of the beauty of Sorrento.

Monday, May 14

Sorrento - Capri

(B, L, D)

After breakfast, private minibuses will transfer our group to the harbor to board the hydrofoil to Capri, a 40-minute ride. Enjoy an included lunch in Capri, and then we will transfer by local minibuses to **Anacapri**. We also explore the "piazzetta" of Capri, the small central square, is a haven for the international jet set. It is enclosed like a courtyard and it is surrounded by a delightful medieval quarter.

Tuesday, May 15

Capri

(B)

A day to relax on this enchanted island. You'll have free time for shopping in the boutiques; silk is a specialty, circle the island by motorboat or to visit the Blue Grotto by rowboat (weather permitting).

Wednesday, May 16

Capri - Rome

(B,L,D)

We cross the Bay of Naples and travel north along the Autostrada del Sole to Rome passing Monte Cassino, site of the terrible battle in May 1944 where thousands of allied troops perished. After an

included lunch, centuries of civilization come alive as we see the magnificent **Colosseum**, the **Arch of Constantine**, the stupendous **Roman Forum**, the **Capitoline Hill** and **Castel Sant' Angelo** as part of your afternoon tour. Your tour ends at the **St Peter's Square** for a visit to **St Peter's Basilica**. A farewell dinner is included in a Roman restaurant, a final occasion to savor the delights and delicacies of Italian cuisine.

Thursday, May 17

Return

(B)

A short drive takes us to the airport, we bid farewell to Italy & then we are homeward bound.

Your Package Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from *Akron Canton to Rome or Milan (connection) on scheduled airlines in economy class.
 - Transfers, entrance fees and sightseeing as described in above itinerary
 - 10 nights' hotel accommodations at the hotels listed (or similar European style hotels) on the itinerary
 - Daily breakfast at the hotels
 - 4 dinners
 - 2 lunches
 - 1 Wine tasting with light lunch in Tuscany
 - Professional tour manager's services in Italy throughout the trip
 - Baggage handling for 1 piece of checked luggage at hotels and piers only.
 - Gratuities to bus drivers, local tour guides and tour manager throughout the trip
 - Service charges and taxes
- * Complimentary round trip bus transportation to Cleveland Airport and parking at St. Michael's Church parking lot will be provided if the group is forced to fly from Cleveland Airport due to airline schedules.

Due to customs regulations and security reasons group members are responsible for handling their own luggage at the airports in Italy on the day of arrival and departure

Terms and Conditions

Price: \$ 6,850 per person, double occupancy
\$ 7,614 per person, single occupancy

Deposit: \$ 500 per person
required to confirm space

Final payment due: January 4, 2018

Make checks payable to: Palmer Travel

Mail to: ***Upscale Excursions & Discovery Tours***
5366 Fulton Dr. NW
Canton, OH 44718

Palmer Vacations has purchased the **Group Protection Plan** on behalf of all group participants. Travel Protection helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption and many other benefits. The plan document will be provided to every traveler, which specifies plan details, benefits, coverage and exclusions and limitations.

Cancellation Policy

The following terms and conditions will apply for cancellations NOT COVERED by the Group Protection Plan:

- Deposit amount is fully refundable if the trip is canceled by the participant on or before final payment date of January 4, 2018
- Deposit amount is non-refundable if the trip is canceled by the participant on or before January 29, 2018
- 60% of the total trip price is non-refundable if the cancellation notice is received from the traveler on or prior to March 01, 2018
- 75% of the total trip price is non-refundable if the cancellation notice is received from the traveler on or prior to April 02, 2018
- Total trip cost is non-refundable if the cancellation notice is received from the traveler on or after April 03, 2018
- No refund for unused services

Important Notes

This trip involves walking and standing on uneven paths. Order of attractions and / or sightseeing listed in the itinerary are subject to change due to reasons beyond our control. Seats are assigned at the discretion of the airlines and subject to availability of seats at the time of issuance of airline tickets. All flight schedules (once announced) are subject to change by the carrier/s until the day of travel. These rules are subject to change at the discretion of the carrier(s).

Proof of Citizenship

Citizens of the United State of America are required to have a valid passport to participate on this tour. Most countries also require that the passport be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the conclusion of the trip.



Palmer Vacations presents:

*UPSCALE EXCURSIONS AND DISCOVERY
TOURS*

Designed / Managed by: *Mustafa Saraclar & Patricia Schrader*