

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Tour #1 (5 nights / 7 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome / Montecatini (D)

Arrive in Rome

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer to Montecatini for an orientation tour

Lunch, on own

Continue to Montecatini for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Montecatini is a medieval Tuscan town famous for its thermal waters and is one of the most famous spa towns in Italy. Montecatini was the vacation spot for numerous Italian and international celebrities. Composers often vacationed here, such as Vivaldi and Puccini – who composed part of the opera La Bobeme in Montecatini. If there's extra time in the evenings, ride the funicular up the side of the mountain to Montecatini Alto, a medieval village and ancient castle of Romanesque origin. Enjoy a stunning view of the town below and a visit to the shops with traditional Tuscan delicacies in the main square as well as the old castle and watch tower.

Day 3

Montecatini / Florence (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

A half-day guided 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 Baptistery with Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo and the Academy of Fine Arts*, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Montecatini / Rome (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Rome

Lunch, on own

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish steps, the Piazza Navona, and the Trevi Fountain

Evening 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



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

Day 5 **Rome** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
Half-day guided tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill
Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 6 **Rome** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
A half-day guided tour of Religious Rome includes Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museums*, Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment) and St. Peter's Basilica

Lunch, on own

*For choirs only: Participate/Sing in Mass at St. Peter's Basilica (pending confirmation)***

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Depart for home** **(B)**

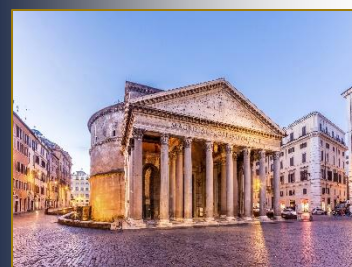
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to the Rome Airport for return flight home

**Florence's Academy of Fine Arts is closed on Mondays. The Vatican Museums are closed on Sundays.*

***As of April 2024, the Vatican is only accepting Mass participation applications received directly from the Music Director/Conductor*

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.

© Music Celebrations International



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity