

# American Celebration of Music in Italy

Tour #2 (6 nights / 8 days)

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## Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

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## Day 2

**Rome**

**(D)**

Arrive in Rome

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening 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*

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## Day 3

**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

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## Day 4

**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***

Evening dinner and overnight

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## Day 5

**Rome / Siena / Montecatini**

**(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Montecatini via Siena. A guided walking tour of Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), the Town Hall, built in the 13th century, and the Duomo (cathedral).

Lunch, on own

Continue on to Montecatini in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight

*Montecatini is a medieval Tuscan town famous for its thermal waters and is one of the most*



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*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 Boheme 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.*

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**Day 6** **Montecatini / Florence** **(B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

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 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

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**Day 7** **Montecatini / Pisa / Rome** **(B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Pisa to see the Leaning Tower (entrance not included). In the northwest of the town of Pisa, enclosed on two sides by the old battlemented town walls, is the Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, with the cathedral, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and the Campo Santo - a harmoniously composed group of buildings of unrivaled beauty. Enjoy a guided tour of the Battistero and the Duomo

Lunch, on own

Afternoon transfer back to Rome

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

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**Day 8** **Depart for home** **(B)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Rome's airport for return flight home

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

***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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