

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

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Irresistible Italy!

Rome, Tuscany, Florence, Venice

with Women of the Midwest!

September 17-28, 2019



Dear Women of the Midwest,

How many of us have dreamt about one day going to Italy?

Russian poet, Anna Akhmatova, once said, "Italy is a dream that keeps returning for the rest of your life." The Bel Paese (beautiful country), with its irresistible charm, is a destination that has always been on the bucket list of thousands of travelers. And now it is a dream-turned-reality!

We have put together an amazing tour, designed uniquely for women! This is your chance of a lifetime to make your dream come true! We will start in the historic city of Rome and tour all the greats: The Colosseum, Forum, Trevi Fountain, and of course the Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel. From there we travel to Assisi, and follow in the footsteps of St. Francis. This town, known for its history of universal love and interfaith-religious pilgrimage, hosts the oldest Gothic church in Europe, and has a 1st century BC Roman Temple. The Basilica of St. Francis is one of the most visited religious sites in all of Italy.

We will travel amongst hamlets scattered throughout picturesque Tuscany, a region known for its simple elegance and harmony amidst family vineyards, wineries, cheese makers, century old farms and a breathtaking landscape. Take part in a cooking class, with wine and olive oil tastings! We also visit Florence, the "Renaissance Wonderland", home to the treasures and art of the Old Masters, such as da Vinci and Michelangelo.

And finally, Venice! Alexander Herzen, a Russian writer, wrote this about Venice: "To build a city where it is impossible to build a city is madness in itself, but to build there one of the most elegant and grandest of cities is the madness of genius."

We will spend part of our days on the islands of Murano - the glass-maker's paradise, and Burano - known as the Island of hand-made lace!

Come, join me, solo or two-by-two as we travel through "the boot" to experience what Italy is so famous for. You too, will realize that one of your biggest dreams has finally come true!

La vita e'un sogno ... Life is a dream!

Sincerely yours, Barb Wallingford

Women of the Midwest Ambassador



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



September 17, 2019 Tuesday

Our wonderful adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Rome. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your Italian dream vacation.

September 18, 2019 Wednesday - Rome

Welcome to Rome! Upon arrival we meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the center of Rome to enjoy a classic movie-lovers walking tour through the most amazing movie settings in Rome. This is a unique chance to experience Federico Fellini's classic "La Dolce Vita" (The Sweet Life) and the take in the atmosphere of the famous movie "Eat, Pray, Love". See for yourself the top sites in Rome including restaurants, fountains, piazza (squares), and neighborhoods featured in the books and movies. Retrace the footsteps of Elizabeth, played by Julia Roberts, who spends her time in Rome searching for beauty and exploring Italian food. Your first day in Rome will be celebrated with an amazing welcome dinner at a very special restaurant ...for movie-lovers only! B (during flight) | D

September 19, 2019 Thursday - Rome

After a hearty breakfast, we are ready to step back in time and visit "Ancient Rome", including the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre after the emperors who built it in the first century AD. Colosseum refers to the "colossal" statue of Nero that at one



time stood at the entrance. A fun afternoon awaits. Love Italian food? Today we will make fresh pasta and tiramisu with secret recipes straight from "nonna" (grandmother)! A truly unique experience as we learn to create fresh pasta with our favorite flavors, topped with a selection of Italian cheeses ... and love! Held in a 17th century Palazzo near Piazza Navona, this interactive class is lead by our enthusiastic Italian chef. We will complete our cooking experience by making Italy's "numero uno" dessert; tiramisu! Layered with delicious cream, coffee, sugar and cocoa, it's no wonder that tiramisu is so sought-after. Now, that's amore! B | C

September 20, 2019 Friday - Rome

After a delicious breakfast, we are off to another country! 10 minutes drive from our hotel and we are in the Vatican City! We will tour the Vatican museums, a treasure trove of ancient Greek sculptures, medieval tapestries and Renaissance paintings. Our visit culminates at the Sistine Chapel, the room where the Pope is elected. Next we visit St. Peter's Basilica, by far the largest church in Christendom. We will see Michelangelo's Pieta, sculpted when he was just 24, as well as Bernini's seven-story bronze canopy located about the main altar. The afternoon is at leisure. Time for shopping, ladies! B

September 21, 2019 Saturday - Rome - Assisi - Tuscany

After breakfast we head north. Our first



stop is the hillside town of Assisi, birthplace of one of the most popular Catholic saints in history. St. Francis of Assisi, is the founder of the Franciscan order and better known as the revered patron saint of animals. We will spend time at this stunning church and enjoy the breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and villages. Lunch is served among the locals before we arrive at our Tuscan villa where we will spend the coming 4 nights. We will enjoy an orientation tour of Figline Valdarno with our tour guide before we simply lean back and take in the peaceful atmosphere of our villa. B | L

September 22, 2019 Sunday - Tuscany

The morning is dedicated to olive oil! After breakfast, we take a short drive to Reggello for a tour of the Santa Téa Olive Oil Mill. From the date of foundation in 1426, to the year of purchase by the Gonnelli family in 1585, and up to present time, this mill has played an important role in olive oil history of Italy. Today, the Santa Téa Olive Oil Mill represents one of the most advanced realities in the world, both from the qualitative and technological point of view. Light lunch is served at a local farm, before we take a walking tour of a nearby medieval town, San Gimignano. Fortified walls and watchtowers show power and prosperity in the middle Ages, though only 13 of the town's original 76 towers still remain. Enjoy a stroll of the narrow cobbled streets, taking in the sights, Piazza della Cisterna, the Piazza del Duomo, and much more. B | T | L



September 23, 2019
Monday - Tuscany

We are in Tuscany, the area of some of the greatest wines in the world, and it's time to sniff, sip and taste. A local wine maker will take us on a passage of grape to bottle as we enjoy a selection of Chianti Classico and Super Tuscans. This afternoon we will join Mamma Paola at our villa to learn the basics of traditional Italian pizza. We start with an introduction to the story of pizza, then enjoy the preparations of the dough followed by our own pizza making. B | T | C

September 24, 2019
Tuesday - Florence

After breakfast we will take a short drive to Florence. We begin our visit with a guided walking tour of the Cradle of Renaissance to admire the majestic Duomo built in 1296 along with Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry with its renowned "Gates of Paradise" doors. We will follow the medieval streets to the most striking square in Florence; Piazza della Signoria, which is an open air museum. Then we head to the Academy Gallery for a visit and closer look at the breathtaking statue of David! You have free time in the afternoon for shopping and to discover the beauties of the city. Stroll down the cobblestoned lanes, through majestic squares and across ancient bridges. Enjoy the best of arts and crafts, florentine paper, leather goods and world-class museums! Return to our villa in the late afternoon/early evening. B

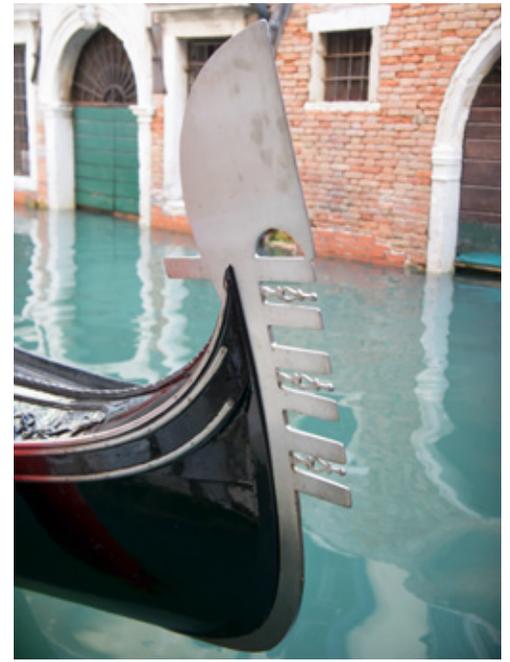


September 25, 2019
Wednesday - Venice

We say a fond "arriverderci" to Tuscany as we head north to Venice. After approximately three hours of driving, we arrive at the watery wonderland of islands seemingly laced together by delicate bridges, one of the most romantic cities in the world, but also a city where getting lost is a "must" and half the enjoyment. This is Venice! Our water taxi will take us to our hotel to check in before we head out for a walking tour including the famous Piazza San Marco, the impressive St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace, official residence of Venetian rulers in the Middle Ages. Discover the mysterious labyrinth of alleys and waterways, the clock tower, the Rialto Bridge, and the mystique of the Palace of Prisons and the Bridge of Sighs. The walking tour ends with a fun 30-minute gondola ride. B

September 26, 2019
Thursday - Murano - Burano

We will enjoy a half day excursion to Murano and Burano islands to discover the traditions and most special places in the Venetian lagoon. The first stop is at Murano, the homeland of glass. The old Murano glassworks guard secrets that have been handed down from generation to generation. You will have the opportunity to purchase original and unique beautiful works of glass art with the certainty of it being an authentic piece! We continue to the island of Burano to stroll the unique streets of brightly colored houses and



discover the masterpieces of lace made by experts. The lace houses are true gems and a visit to those is an unforgettable experience. We head back to Venice to enjoy a lunch at leisure and the remainder of the day is free to "get lost" and explore the labyrinth of narrow alleys, countless bridges, small squares of this ohh-soo wonderful city! B

September 27, 2019
Friday - Venice

A day to get lost! Explore the city of Venice or join an optional mask-painting workshop class, offering insight into an important Venetian craft. Under the guidance of a resident artist, you'll choose a mask from more than 50 different styles and decorate it, according to traditional techniques. While you work, your guide tells stories of the importance of masks and their function in the Venetian society. Tonight we enjoy a very special farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B | D

September 28, 2019
Saturday - Traveling home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer by water taxi to the Venice airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B

Itinerary subject to change.

*B = Breakfast C = Cooking Class
L = Lunch T = Tasting D = Dinner*



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508
 Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)
 Fax: 402-435-2735
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
executivetravel.com/irresistible-italy-2019

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$3,695
 Per person in single room: \$4,595
 (limited number of single rooms)

We offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on June 17, 2019, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

Women of the Midwest specializes in small group tours. This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 20 travelers. Should the number fall below 20, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity for this tour: LEVEL 2

Involves a considerable amount of activity such as substantial walking, stairs, longer periods of standing (at museums and at churches) and possibly some steep areas within the towns visited. They're not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended.

Air:

Group airfare is offered by Executive Travel. Refer to page 5 for the airfare details.

The price quoted within this brochure is based on a USD/EURO exchange rate of 1.20 (1 USD = 0.80 EURO). We reserve the right to adjust the price at final payment if the exchange rate increase.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services, priced from \$241 per person (covers land up to \$4,000 per person.) For full pricing grid and highlights, please review the enclosed brochure.

For complete details of this travel protection plan, visit policy.travelexinsurance.com/CTSB-0819. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. YIE

Included

- 10 nights accommodations at moderate 4-star hotels
- Porterage at hotels
- 10 x full breakfasts
- 2 x dinners
- 2 x lunches
- 2 x hands-on-cooking meals
- 2 x tastings (olive oil, wine)
- All motor coach (private) transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary (skip-the-line where available)
- Professional English-speaking tour manager and local guides during entire program
- All local taxes and fees as per September 20, 2018
- Tour host and Women of the Midwest Ambassador, Barbara Wallingford

Accommodations:

Rome: Hotel Empire Palace or similar
 Tuscany: Hotel Villa Casagrande or similar
 Venice: Hotel Bonvecchiati or similar

Final accommodations will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag FREE, 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour manager and driver (estimate \$5-\$8 per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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A wholly owned division of Executive Travel Inc.

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found at <http://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

JOIN OUR GREAT GROUP AIRFARE TO ROME & RETURN FROM VENICE!

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

9/17/2019 - Omaha - Chicago, 10:44AM - 12:25PM

9/17/2019 - Chicago - Rome, 3:55PM - 8:25AM (9/18/2019)

9/28/2019 - Venice - Newark, 11:05AM - 2:35PM

9/28/2019 - Newark - Omaha, 7:59PM - 10:17PM

\$1,546 per person (economy class) incl. taxes and fees.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to the departure. United Airlines' premium seating can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Women of the Midwest and Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to departure, and therefore cannot guarantee availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

