

Pauwels Travel Bureau
95 Dalhousie Street
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1 Canada
Tel. 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 - Fax 519-7536376
E-mail: tours@pauwelstravel.com Website: www.pauwelstravel.com

CRADLES OF THE RENAISSANCE

Venice - Florence
(Rome included as an option)

Saturday, April 28 to Thursday, May 10, 2012

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1 - Saturday, April 28:

Evening departure from Toronto International Airport with Air Canada to Frankfurt, Germany. Dinner and breakfast served onboard.

Day 2 - Sunday, April 29:

(D)

Morning arrival in Frankfurt and brief connecting domestic Lufthansa flight to Venice - Marco Polo Airport. Transfer to a centrally located hotel in the heart of the Roman city of Treviso. Following registration, an opportunity to enjoy this ancient Roman city with its walls, canals and flowing river, tiny piazzas and elegant shops. Dinner in a typical ristorante by the Piazza dei Signori.

Day 3 - Monday, April 30:

This morning we travel by local train across the causeway to Venice and begin an exploratory walking tour of this intriguing city of Titian and Vivaldi. Sites will include the Bridge of Sighs, the Ducal Palace, St. Marks's Basilica, the Campanile and Shakespeare's Rialto. Time to enjoy lunch before personal visits to the Guggenheim and Accademia. Evening return to Treviso.

Day 4 - Tuesday, May 1:

We return to Venice after breakfast to enjoy S. Maria della Salute, I Frari, the Arsenale and Ghetto, as well as participate in the multi-faceted May Day celebrations offered in *La Serenissima*; the requisite gondola on the canals, Murano Island, a coffee in Piazza San Marco, and music in the many campos. In the late afternoon however, we leave S. Maria Lucia Station and return to our hotel and the evening festivities in Treviso.

Day 5 - Wednesday, May 2:

(D)

A full day excursion in the Veneto. We begin with a visit to the River Brenta where the charms of the Veneto landscape and the numerous villas enroute will be our first introduction to Andrea di Pietro better known as Palladio. A tour of his Villa Pisani before continuing on to the old university town of Padua. (*A visit to the Scrovegni Chapel may be possible subject to admission time constraints*). Following lunch, we continue to Vicenza with ample opportunity to view and visit Palladio's magnificent architectural masterpieces, both urban and rural but where the Basilica, Teatro Olimpico and the Villa Rotonda will be of particular interest. A visit to his magnificent Teatro Olimpico, the Piazza dei Signori and the Corso Andrea Palladio before our return to Treviso. Dinner this evening in a local trattoria.

Day 6 - Thursday, May 3:

Morning excursion to the Roman city of Verona. A leisurely walking tour of the historical core of this magnificent and romantic city including the Piazza Bra, the superb Roman Arena, the obligatory house

and balcony of Juliet, historical Piazza delle Erbe, the impressive tombs and tiny chapel of the Scaligeri family, rulers of Verona during the Middle Ages. Lunch at leisure. As we return to Treviso, perhaps a wine tasting of the excellent regional wines.

Day 7- Friday, May 4:

(D)

Departing Treviso after breakfast, we follow the coast south toward the Byzantine city of Ravenna and the Church of S.Apollinare in Classe. Here we view the magnificent mosaic, *Christ in Judgment*. We continue on, lunch enroute, before mid-afternoon arrival in Florence, home of the Medici, Machiavelli and Michelangelo. Following registration, a late afternoon orientation walk in the neighbourhood - the Medici Chapel and Palazzo, San Lorenzo and the vibrant leather market. Dinner in a nearby typical trattoria.

Day 8 - Saturday, May 5:

(L)

The day begins with a scheduled visit to the Accademia, a superb setting for Michelangelo's *David*. Later, a guided walking tour of Florence including the Piazza Del Duomo, the Baptistry, Santa Maria dei Fiori, and the Piazza della Signoria. After a group lunch we tour Santa Croce with its tombs of Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli and memorial to Dante. We continue on to the Ponte Vecchio, the medieval bridge across the Arno River - today lined with goldsmith shops. Evening at leisure.

Day 9 - Sunday, May 6:

This morning is reserved in its entirety for our obligatory self-directed visit to the Uffizi, truly one of the greatest art galleries in the world, with works by many of the great Italian (and other) masters of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Ample time and opportunity to contemplate according to one's own artistic pleasures. We gather after lunch and walk to the Medici Chapels, the staircase to the Laurentian Library and the Medici family church of S. Lorenzo. Remainder of the afternoon free for individual activities and choices.

Day 10 - Monday, May 7:

Full day excursion into the Tuscan countryside. Our first stop will be at the unique hilltop town of San Gimignano, a superb little medieval walled town, whose skyline is dominated by its many tall towers. Possible wine tour/tasting of the famous white Vernaccia wine before continuing on to Siena in time for individual lunch in the magnificent shell-shaped Campo. Afternoon guided city tour including the Duomo itself, the Precinct, the Palazzo Pubblico and the Piazza del Campo. Opportunity to browse in the quaint narrow streets, shop or sip a glass of...before returning to Florence in time for dinner.

Day 11 - Tuesday, May 8:

We begin our day with a visit to the Ognissanti, parish church of the Vespucci family. Here we find painted reference to a member of that family, Amerigo, as well as the burial site of Botticelli and in the adjoining Refectory, a truly magnificent Ghirlandaio masterpiece, the superb *Last Supper* fresco. A short walk to the magnificent Gothic Dominican preaching church of Santa Maria Novella before an excursion - by city bus - to nearby Fiesole, a small town with Roman and Etruscan ruins, monasteries, villas, gardens, and wonderful views of Florence in the Arno Valley below, which can be enjoyed over lunch. Remainder of day at leisure but we strongly recommend visits to the Bargello Museum and the former Palace of the wealthy Strozzi banking family, which today provides a superb venue for any number of rotating significant art collections. The latest has been an unusual presentation of the early period of the three Spanish modernists – Picasso, Miro and Dali.

Day 12 - Wednesday, May 9:

(D)

After breakfast, we cross the River Arno to the Brancacci Chapel in S. Maria del Carmine to view Masaccio's famous *Life of St. Peter* frescoes. Later we take a local bus to travel what the Florentines call

the *Passeggiata Ai Colli*. The nineteenth century road, flanked by rows of pines and cypresses and interspaced with magnificent mansions, travels through the city's southern hills. Enroute we stop at the Piazzale Michelangiolo where the eye is given a marvelous view of the Arno River, the Ponte Vecchio and the city's roofscape! We return to the city by way of the Porta Romana and opportunity for personal choices; the Pitti Palace (the magnificent Renaissance residence of the Medici rulers of Florence), the wonderful Boboli Gardens, considered to be among the finest horticultural creations in Europe, and the Archaeological Museum with its Etruscan treasures...or the Mercato! Tonight our *arrivederci* dinner in a typical Florentine trattoria for those who are returning to Canada.

Day 13 - Thursday, May 10:

Following breakfast, coach transfer to the airport and our mid-morning Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt and the Air Canada transatlantic connection to Toronto. Lunch and a snack will be served before the late afternoon arrival at Pearson International.

Tour Cost: \$2,995.00

Single Supplement: \$285.00

Included in the tour price are:

- Economy class return flight;
- Accommodation in well located premium hotels, based on double occupancy (all rooms have private facilities) – single room supplement: \$285.00;
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily and a total of *five* full-course dinners/lunches;
- **Additional two dinners for Rome extension participants;**
- Airport transfers in Europe;
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admission;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included are:

- The standard combination of airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges, presently \$450, but subject to change;
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Meals other than those mentioned above;
- Beverages with dinners;
- Travel insurance as follows:

All-inclusive package:

Up to age 59:	\$234.36
Ages 60-64:	\$288.36
Ages 65-69:	\$345.60
Ages 70-74:	\$474.12
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

Non-medical package

Up to age 59:	\$194.40
Ages 60-64:	\$214.92
Ages 65-69:	\$237.60
Ages 70-74:	\$268.92
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

ROME EXTENSION

Thursday, May 10 – Sunday, May 13, 2012

Day 13 – Thursday, May 10:

(D)

Morning departure for Rome. Enroute, a stop at the ancient Etruscan mountain town of Orvieto. Known for its excellent white wines, its Romanesque-Gothic Duomo is considered to be one of the most dazzling in all of Italy. Perhaps, a cappuccino in the piazza before continuing on to Rome. An introductory panoramic tour of the imperial, renaissance, and modern city including the Coliseum, the Imperial Forums, the Arch of Constantine, the Piazza Venezia and the Victor Emmanuel Monument before registration at our hotel. Welcome dinner and an evening stroll to the Trevi Fountain by way of the Quirinal Palace.

Day 14 - Friday, May 11:

After breakfast we travel to the Vatican for a scheduled guided tour of its Museum. Of all the contained works and artifacts, the Sistine Chapel with its magnificent ceiling is arguably the best known. After, we continue into St. Peter's Basilica to view Michelangelo's evocative *Pieta*. And perhaps, an opportunity to view the city from the Dome of St. Peter's. After lunch, we stroll back through the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. Dinner at leisure.

Day 15 - Saturday, May 12:

(D)

Morning walk through the heart of ancient Rome. Sites will include the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Forums and the Circus Maximus. Remainder of the day to satisfy individual tastes...shopping, museums or just strolling. And depending on the energy level, a walk to picturesque Trastevere, located on the Left Bank and filled with many quaint shops, galleries and restaurants. Here too, in the piazza di Santa Maria, is the lovely mosaic decorated Church of Our Lady. This evening we gather for yet another of our *arrivederci* dinners.

Day 16 - Sunday, May 13:

Following breakfast, transfer to Da Vinci International Airport and the direct Air Canada flight to Toronto.

Extension Cost: \$775.00

Extension Single Supplement: \$335.00

Travel Insurance:

All-inclusive package:

Up to age 59:	\$268.92
Ages 60-64:	\$331.56
Ages 65-69:	\$397.44
Ages 70-74:	\$534.60
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

Non-medical package

Up to age 59:	\$228.96
Ages 60-64:	\$258.12
Ages 65-69:	\$289.44
Ages 70-74:	\$329.40
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

With single supplement:

All-inclusive package:

Up to age 59:	\$307.80
Ages 60-64:	\$380.16
Ages 65-69:	\$455.76
Ages 70-74:	\$602.64
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

Non-medical package

Up to age 59:	\$267.84
Ages 60-64:	\$306.72
Ages 65-69:	\$347.76
Ages 70-74:	\$397.44
Ages 75 and over:	Call for rates

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Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 15 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
Within 14 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Trans Atlantic economy flight by scheduled, IATA carriers, based on charter class fare. Other fares may also be used. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "Cradles of the Renaissance Tour", April 28 – May 10, 2012.

With the Rome extension, May 10 – 13, 2012: _____ LIFE Institute Member: _____

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (VALID FOR 6 MONTHS FROM RETURN DATE) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

PHONE: (Residence _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES _____ NO _____

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.) Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. (We will do our best to assist you but cannot guarantee success, especially in the case of requests for specific seating arrangements, since airlines do not normally allow individual seat selections for groups.)

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program. _____

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ Decline Insurance _____

Signature (s) _____

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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