



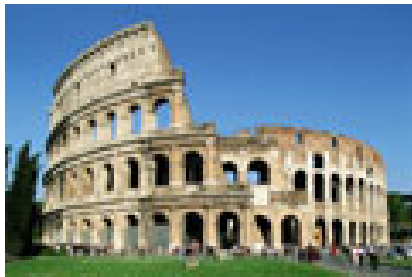
2008 Italy Tour

Saturday, May 10 - Sunday, May 18 – Atlanta – Rome – Matera

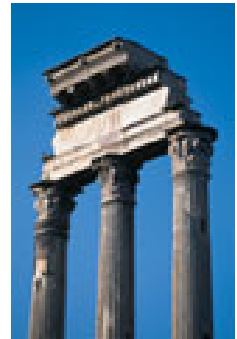
Depart Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport on an early evening flight on Air France, connecting through Charles DeGaulle Airport in Paris, and arriving in Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci/Fiumicino airport in the afternoon. After clearing customs our group will be met by our Rome guide, who will assist us in boarding our coach for a private transfer to the hotel. Check-in, dinner and overnight will be at the 4-star Hotel Regent. **(D)**

Monday, May 12

Following breakfast in our hotel we will board the coach for a guided half-day city tour of Ancient Rome. Begin with *The Roman Forum*, center of political and social activity of ancient Rome. It was expanded to include temples, a senate house and law courts. After touring the *Forum* travel to the *Coliseum*. It was built during the reign of Emperor Vespasian and dedicated in 80 AD by his



son Titus. The Coliseum could hold upwards of 50,000 spectators. Public events such as gladiator fights, mock naval battles and wild animal hunts were held there. The Coliseum is one of Rome's most famous landmarks & tourist attractions. Although it survives only as a ruin, it still rates as one of the finest examples of Roman architecture and engineering. The afternoon is free for lunch, shopping, sitting at a sidewalk café, tasting gelato, or catching



up on sleep. After dinner at our hotel we board our coach and meet local musicians for our evening rehearsal. **Hotel Regent (B, D)**

Tuesday, May 13 – Artistic Rome Tour - St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican Museum, and Sistine Chapel

After breakfast board the coach for a half-day guided tour of the Vatican, including *St. Peter's Basilica*, the *Vatican Museum* and the *Sistine Chapel*. See Michelangelo's *Pieta* & Sistine Chapel ceiling, the Bernini columns, Raphael's *Transfiguration* and so much more. The afternoon is free – same as Monday. Serious shoppers may want to visit the city's most famous shopping district, which is conveniently compact, fanning out at the foot of the Spanish Steps. Here you can ricochet from Gucci to Prada to Valentino to Versace. This evening we will board the coach to transfer to our Sacrofano performance and dinner. **Hotel Regent (B, D)**

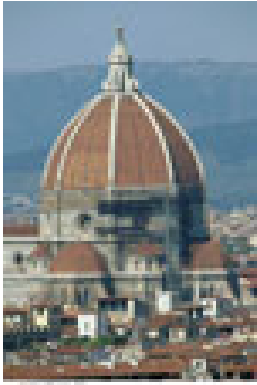


Wednesday, May 14 – Free Day in Rome or Florence

After breakfast you will have the entire day to continue exploring Rome or participate in an optional excursion to Florence. If this is your first visit to Rome you should plan to visit the famous Roman Monuments - the often filmed *Trevi Fountain*, the *Spanish Steps*, the *Pantheon* and the *Piazza Navona*. In the afternoon you may want to include a tour of the *Museo a Galleria Borghese*. This palace was completed in 1613 for Cardinal Borghese to flaunt his fabulous antiques collection and hold elegant fetes. Throughout the palace are works of art by Bernini (including *David* and *Apollo and Daphne*), Titian, Caravaggio, and Raphael.

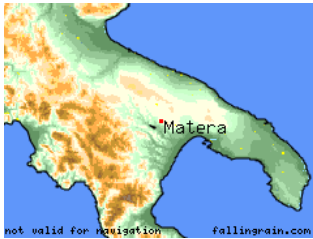


For those choosing to spend the day in Florence, we will depart after breakfast, purchase a train ticket and travel by high speed train to Florence. Sightseeing here is easy: everything you'll want to see is concentrated in the relatively small historic center of the city. Exploring Florence's *centro storico* will reveal Ghiberti's bronze doors at the Battistero, Giotto's *Campanile* (bell tower), Brunelleschi's cupola atop the *Duomo*, and Botticelli's *Primavera and Birth of Venus* at the *Galleria degli Uffizi*. Wander further north and you will find Michelangelo's *David* at the *Galleria dell'Accademia*. In the evening we will return to our Rome hotel. **Regent (B)**



Thursday, May 15 & Friday May 16 – Matera

After breakfast we will check out of the Rome hotel and board the coach for our half day drive to Matera - one of southern Italy's most unusual towns. You may have



seen this area (probably did not realize this) if you saw Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*. On their own, the elegant baroque churches, palazzo and broad piazzas – filled to bursting during the evening *passeggiata*, when the locals turn out to stroll the streets – would make Matera stand out in Basilicata's landscape. But what really

sets this town apart is its *sassi*, rock-hewn dwellings piled chaotically atop one another. While in Matera we will meet a second group of Italian musicians and combine our talents for a public concert. **Hotel (B, D)**



Saturday, May 17 – Rome

After breakfast we will return to Rome, allowing you time to revisit areas of interest, strike out on your own to explore the environs, shop, or just relax. This evening the group will gather for a farewell dinner. **Hotel Regent (B, D)**



Sunday, May 18 – Rome – Atlanta (B)

This morning we board the coach for a transfer to Fiumicino airport and our flight back to Atlanta.



The Tara Winds Italy Program Includes:

Airfare: Roundtrip Atlanta - Rome on Air France

Hotel Accommodations: Four star Hotel Regent in Rome. The Hotel Regent is a 4 stars hotel centrally situated in the residential area of Rome, "Parioli", near all the most important Embassies, and a short distance from Piazza del Popolo, Via Veneto, Auditorium, Piazza di Spagna, Borghese Gallery, from the Mosque, Termini Railway Station and from the Olympic Stadium.

Our hotel in Matera is being arranged by our hosts. At this time we do not know the name of the hotel; however, we have included the expense of these accommodations in the land package. We will provide the hotel information when advised by our hosts.

Meals: European buffet breakfast and three-course dinner as indicated. We have omitted lunch as it makes the combination of group and personal schedules flow better and allows for personal meal choices.

Coach Charters: The group will have exclusive use of air-conditioned charter coaches for the program as listed. Tour guides (one per bus) are provided for itinerary as listed.

Other Included Expenses:

- Admission Fees for all sites and attractions mentioned have been included.
- Gratuities for guides, drivers and baggage handling have been included.
- Optional extra nights in Italy are available.

Coordination:

- **A fulltime escort for the group will be provided by Travel Gallery, Inc.**