



Peter Davio
State Deputy

Cordially Invites you to join him and First Lady Francine on a

Visit to Italy
Under the Tuscan Sun

Visit Rome, Assisi, Siena, Montecatini, Florence, Padua, Venice and more

April 9 - 19, 2012: \$3348
(plus departure taxes and fuel surcharge)

Features Included:

- ❖ Round trip from Washington
- ❖ Accommodations in first-class, centrally-located hotels.
- ❖ Daily buffet breakfast and most meals, as per itinerary.
- ❖ Papal audience with special reserved seating
- ❖ All transfers and sightseeing on private deluxe motorcoach.
- ❖ Bi-lingual tour escort from time of arrival to departure.
- ❖ Luggage assistance in hotels (one per person).

Operated By:
Renaissance Group, LLC
1(800) 304-8259

Day 1 – Monday, April 9, 2012: Depart USA to PADUA

Depart from Washington D.C. to Padua through a European gateway connection. Dinner, breakfast, and entertainment aloft.

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 10, 2012: PADUA

Arrive in **VENICE** by mid-day and meet your Renaissance Group tour escort after clearing customs. You will be escorted to your private motorcoach for



St. Anthony, Padua

the 40-minute drive to your hotel in **PADUA**. After you have checked in and been refreshed, your motorcoach will pick you up for an orientation tour of the city that, during the 13th and the 16th centuries, was recognized as a scientific, artistic, and cultural center. Padua is the second biggest university city in all of Europe. Known as a pilgrimage city, millions continue to come every year to visit the “*Basilica di Sant’ Antonio*,” where the body of the saint rests. In Padua you will find the most complete and the best-preserved collection of Giotto’s works. The oldest of these works are “The Passion” and “The Life of Saint James” (1372-1377), by Altichiero and Avanzo. This basilica dates from 1232 and its high altar is surrounded by eight sculptures by Donatello. Its eight domes are Byzantine and similar to the ones of San Marco’s Basilica in Venice. Not far from the basilica is one of the most interesting botanical gardens in Europe (since 1545) laden with exotic flowers and plants. In the evening, everyone will enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a

local restaurant showcasing the cuisine of the Veneto region. Overnight in your hotel.

Day 3 – Wednesday, April 11, 2012:

PADUA...VENICE...PADUA

After breakfast in your hotel, you will leave for a full-day excursion of the city of **VENICE**. The secret to seeing and discovering the real romance and beauty of Venice is to *walk* it. The city is built on 117 small islands and has some 150 canals and 409 bridges. Highlights of the tour will feature *Piazza San Marco* (St. Mark’s Square) which Napoleon thought of as the finest drawing room in Europe; St. Marco’s Basilica, which houses the body of the saint, embodying a magnificent blend of architectural and decorative styles; the *Ca’d’Oro* (Golden House), acclaimed as the most beautiful gothic building in Venice; the 16th century *Ponte di Rialto*; and the Doge’s Palace. The city took its roots during the *longobardo* occupation in 639 AD when Bishop Mauro built the cathedral of Torcello. By 776 AD the bishop moved his seat to the island of Olivolo beginning the concentration of the inhabitants toward the island of Rivoalto (Rialto). In 814 AD, the territory was divided between the French and the Byzantines who remained in the lagoon, recognizing the authority of the Doges. 814 should be recognized as the birth of the Venetian state. Among Venice’s most ancient



Venice

monuments is the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, founded in the 639 and modified between the 9th and 11th centuries. It is Byzantine in

design with a simple façade, and in its interior you can admire the beautiful *capitelli*. Lunch will be served in a typical local restaurant. Return to overnight in your hotel in **PADUA**.

Day 4 – Thursday, April 12, 2012:

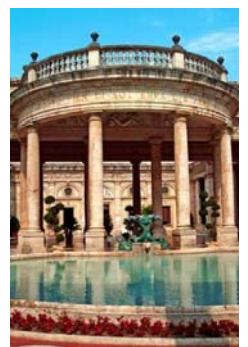
PADUA...FERRARA ...MONTECATINI



Ferrara

After breakfast you will depart for **MONTECATINI**. A summer resort, Montecatini is a wealthy and popular watering-hole

lying at the foot of the Pistoian Mountains. Its baths and spas date back to the fourteenth century and, nowadays, there are nine fully-functioning ‘*terme*’ spread around the town. Elegant, peaceful, and relaxing, they make for perfect resting places. From there we will take various excursions throughout the Tuscan region. On the way to Montecatini we will stop in **FERRARA** for lunch. Ferrara grew into a cultural center, renowned for music as well as for visual arts. The town is surrounded by more than 9 kilometres of ancient walls, mainly built in the 15th and 16th centuries. They are the best preserved Renaissance walls in Italy.



Montecatini

Day 5 – Friday, April 13, 2012:
MONTECATINI...SIENA...SAN
GIMIGNANO...MONTECATINI

After a buffet breakfast at your hotel, you will leave for a full-day excursion to the cities of **SIENA** and **SAN GIMIGNANO**. This city has conserved the pure medieval character that prevailed during the 13th-14th centuries. There will be lunch and a wine tasting at a local farmhouse close to San Gimignano and will include a visit of the



Siena

famous cellars. In the afternoon, with your tour escort, you will visit **SAN GIMIGNANO**, a city rich in history, art and culture. See its beautiful towers which date back to the 11th and 13th centuries.

Surrounded by the splendid Tuscan countryside, this city was once the seat of a small Etruscan village. This evening's dinner is at your hotel in **MONTECATINI**.



Tuscan Vineyard

Day 6 – Saturday, April 14, 2012:
MONTECATINI...FLORENCE...MONTECATINI

After breakfast, today there will be a full-day excursion to **FLORENCE** starting with a mass at Santa Croce. It is the burial place of some of the most illustrious Italians, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, Foscolo, Gentile and Rossini, thus it is known also as the Temple of the Italian Glories. The highlights will include the Duomo, the Baptistery with its golden doors by Ghiberti, Giotto's Bell tower, the Academy of Fine



St. Francis

Arts which houses the original statue of "David" by Michelangelo, and Piazza della Signoria. You will have lunch together and some free time in the late afternoon to

enjoy exploring more of this city's marvels on your own. Dinner is at your hotel in **MONTECATINI**.

Day 7 – Sunday, April 15, 2012
MONTECATINI...LUCCA...VIAREGGIO...MON
TECATINI

After breakfast, you will visit **LUCCA**, a charming Tuscan town enclosed by massive red brick walls where you will see and visit, among other sites, the Duomo of San Martino, Lucca's finest Romanesque building, whose impressive façade is a triumph of sculpture, carving, and inlay work. Mass will be celebrated at San Martino. Continue on with the Torre Giungi, a 15th century 130-foot high tower topped with a tree; Palazzo Pfanner with its fine gardens, statues, loggia, and fountains. Proceed to **VIAREGGIO**, one of the most traditional seaside resorts of Tuscany. Take a walk along the beach, and have a sampling of some home-made Italian ice-cream before returning to **MONTECATINI** for your overnight.

Day 8 – Monday, April 16, 2012: MONTECATINI...
ASSISI...ROME

After breakfast in your hotel, depart for **ASSISI**, the birthplace of St. Francis to view the beloved saint's famous basilica, a building nearly destroyed during the horrendous earthquake of 1997 when its roof collapsed. You will be shown the magnificent frescos which have now been almost completely restored. Lunch will be served in a typical restaurant of Assisi. In the late afternoon, you will depart for **ROME** where you will arrive in the early evening.

Day 9 – Tuesday, April 17, 2012: ROME

After breakfast in your hotel, your visit of the city will focus on Christian Rome, including the catacombs and coliseum. In the afternoon we will take a half-day walking tour of Renaissance Rome to include the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Pantheon, and Piazza Navona where we will have dinner in the square in a typical Roman restaurant. Overnight in your hotel

Day 10 – Wednesday, April 18, 2012: ROME

After breakfast in your hotel, you will be taken to St. Peter's Basilica for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI (special seating reservations are being negotiated) followed by a visit to the Sistine Chapel and Vatican museum. Lunch on your own. Enjoy the rest of your afternoon revisiting your favorite sites, exploring new ones or savoring a *gelato* in any of the wonderful cafes around the city. A farewell dinner will be offered at a local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel.



Day 11 – Thursday, April 19, 2012: ROME...USA

After breakfast you will check out and be transferred to the airport for your return flight home where you will arrive on the same day.

Please complete the below form and kindly cut-out and return a copy for each traveler with \$500 deposit to:

Renaissance Group LLC Phone: 1(703) 430-0030
20897 Planetree Forrest Ct. Fax: (703) 430-1440
Potomac Falls, VA 20165 E-mail: info@rengp.com

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K of C - ITALY UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

(1) - Participant Information

FIRST NAME / MIDDLE NAME

_____/_____
(AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

LAST NAME

(AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FULL ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____ - _____

E-MAIL: _____

(2) - ROOMING REQUEST:

- SINGLE ROOM (BASED ON AVAILABILITY, SUPPLEMENT APPLIES): \$700

- TWIN / ROOMMATE NAME: _____

- TRIPLE / ROOMMATE NAMES: _____

- I WILL - I WILL NOT ACCEPT A TRIPLE
I AM A - SMOKER - NON-SMOKER

(3) - INSURANCE INFORMATION:

RENAISSANCE TRAVEL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS PURCHASE OF TRAVEL INSURANCE. TRAVELEX BROCHURE IS INCLUDED AS A SUGGESTION OF TRAVEL PROTECTION, BUT YOU MIGHT CHOOSE A DIFFERENT PLAN.

- I WILL PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE.

- I DECLINE THE OFFER OF TRAVEL INSURANCE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ASSUMING ANY FINANCIAL LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH MY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH OTHERWISE MAY HAVE BEEN COVERED BY TRAVEL INSURANCE. PLEASE INITIAL _____.

(4)- FINAL PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- AIR DEPARTURE TAXES AND FUEL SURCHARGE OF \$489.00 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) MUST BE INCLUDED IN YOUR FINAL PAYMENT.

- FINAL PAYMENT WILL BE BY CASH OR CHECK OR (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO RENAISSANCE GROUP LLC)

- BY CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. _____ **NO**

CREDIT CARDS PAYMENTS OVER PHONE

PLEASE NOTE: TOUR PRICES REFLECT 3% DISCOUNT FOR PURCHASE MADE WITH CASH OR CHECK.

FINAL PAYMENT DUE BY 01 NOV 2011

(6) - SIGNATURE:

X _____ DATE: _____

RESERVATIONS ARE MADE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. SPACE IS LIMITED.