

Rubinsohn Travel, A Virtuoso Agency, Presents:
SPIRIT LEADS - Barbaranne Mariani's Pilgrimage Group to Italy
Featuring the Shroud of Turin, Milan, Florence, Assisi & Rome
April 22-29, 2010

Day 1 Thu. April 22

Depart on Lufthansa's overnight flight 427 from Philadelphia to Milan's Linate Airport, with connection via Frankfurt. Dinner and breakfast are served on board your flight.

Day 2 Fri. April 23

Arrival in Frankfurt at 8:35am. Make your connection to Lufthansa's flight 3954 departing at 11:10am and arriving at Milan's Linate Airport at 12:20pm. Benvenuti! Welcome to Italy! Meet your full time escort, who awaits your arrival outside the customs area, and transfer by private motor coach to your hotel, your home for the first 2 nights of your journey.

*You've arrived in cosmopolitan & fashionable Milan!
We'll celebrate [Holy Mass](#) and enjoy our first **dinner** at our hotel. (D)*

Day 3 Sat. April 24

Continental buffet-style breakfast

*We'll take the short metro ride into the heart of the city to see the **Duomo**, the great Cathedral of Milan, a striking example of Gothic architecture, the impressive **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele** and the magnificent **Castello Sforzesco**, which houses Michelangelo's last unfinished masterwork, the **Rondanini Pieta**. In the afternoon we take an excursion to **Turin** where we'll celebrate [Holy Mass](#) followed by our visit to the **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist** to see the **Shroud of Turin**, a centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man; a man, that millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. Kept rolled up in a silver casket the Turin linen has survived several blazes since its existence was first recorded in France in 1357. The shroud has been on display only five times this past century, through the years many Popes have visited the shroud of Turin including Pope John Paul the II. Pope Benedict the XVI will pray before the shroud when it is put on display this spring. It has been reported that many miraculous prayers have been received by those who have walked past the shroud. Dinner in Turin before returning to our hotel in Milan for overnight. (B,D)*

Day 4 Sun. April 25

Continental buffet-style breakfast

*After breakfast, we check-out and depart by our private motor coach to Tuscany and its capital city, **Florence**, one of Italy's most beautiful Renaissance cities, and the most significant capitals of the arts in Italy, if not the world! Here surged, in all its vigor, that artistic phenomenon which coincided with the rebirth of Europe: here*



*the dominion of Florence and the Medicis coincided with the most fecund and influential art period of the entire millennium. Resting on the banks of the river Arno, it is blessed with a charm, a magic, an atmosphere which has never failed to delight its visitors. Our first stop is at **Piazzale Michelangelo** for a spectacular view of the city before heading to the historical center. We'll break for lunch on our own then commence our classic walking tour of the city including the **Accademia Gallery**, which was founded in 1784, and contains 18th & 19th c. paintings, tapestries made in Florence & Brussels, plasters &*



more. There are works by many artists. However, the gallery's most celebrated exhibits are a group of sublime sculptures by Michelangelo: "Pieta di Palestrina", "Prisoners" and the most famous of the all, the "David". We continue our tour with the visit to the beautiful **Piazza del Duomo** to see the delicately patterned green, white and pink of the **Duomo (Santa Maria del Fiore)**, begun since 1296 and crowned by Brunelleschi. Its interior holds many masterpieces, such as stained glass windows by Ghiberti, a portrait of Giotto, frescoes by Vasari and more. Then see **Giotto's Bell Tower** and the **Romanesque Baptistery of St. John**, with the exquisite bronze doors by Ghiberti. Michelangelo called them "The Gates of Paradise".

We end our day with [Holy Mass](#) before driving to our hotel, for **dinner** and overnight. (B, D)

Day 5 Mon. April 26

Continental buffet-style breakfast

A full day at leisure to enjoy Florence as you please OR partake in an **OPTIONAL** full day excursion into the Tuscan countryside to "Siena & San Gimignano".

During your leisure time in Florence, you won't want to miss the Basilica of San Lorenzo. This is Brunelleschi's 15th century Renaissance Church, where the Medici family used to attend services. The Medici Tombs are adjacent to the Basilica. The Basilica of Santa Croce is a masterpiece of Gothic art and the pantheon of famous Italians. The interior is vast and of simple lines, and contains fine works by Maiano, Daddi, Donatello, and a superb cycle of frescoes by Giotto. The Sacristy is also rich of frescoes and paintings. It also houses memorials or tombs of great Italians: L.B. Alberti, Michelangelo, Dante, Alfieri, Rossini, Foscolo, Machiavelli, Galileo. There's the Galleria degli Uffizi, one of the world's outstanding museums and the Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens, the outdoor market and so much more. Tonight we enjoy **dinner** at our hotel. (B, D)

Day 6 Tue. April 27

Continental buffet-style breakfast

After breakfast, we check-out and depart for Rome. En route, as we head south through the Tuscan hillside and into Umbria, we arrive to **Santa Maria degli Angeli**, where we'll visit the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels**. We'll celebrate [Mass](#) here at one of the chapels. We continue inside, under the dome, to the chapel called the Porziuncola, or little portion because of its small size. It was in this chapel that St. Francis consecrated St. Clare as the Bride of Christ, and where he had the vision, which inspired the Pardon of Assisi.

Later we take the short drive to **Assisi**, the city of birds and silence under the protection of St. Francis. It is built of pink stone and prettily spread in a fan shape on the slopes of Monte Subasio. Its narrow streets are lined with old facades whose flower decked balconies make delightful pictures. The town, which is still enclosed by ramparts, has hardly changed since the Middle Ages.



Mementoes of St. Francis and St. Clare combined with such poetic setting and a gentle light, give Assisi a moving beauty all its own. We'll visit the Basilica and the town followed by lunch on our own.



We continue our drive through Umbria and into Lazio and, finally, arrive into glorious Rome, the Eternal City. En route to our hotel we have a panoramic overview of some of Rome's legendary monuments including the imposing Colosseum, the Roman Forum, Piazza Venezia, with its impressive monument dedicated to King Victor Emanuel II, before heading to our hotel.

*Rome is like no other in the world. The entire city feels like an open-air museum! Your hotel, for the last 2 nights of your journey, is located near Vatican City, close to St. Peter's Square and housed within the Palazzo delle Rovere, inside which you will find magnificent halls with frescoes on the walls, still perfectly preserved & reflecting the opulence and style of an ancient medieval palace. **Dinner** at our hotel. (B,D)*



Day 7 Wed. April 28

Continental buffet-style breakfast

*After breakfast, morning **Mass** at the nearby Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia followed by attendance to Pope Benedict XVI's Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square, Basilica or Audience Hall.*

*We break for lunch on our own then, continue our touring with a visit to the incomparable **Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel** and **St. Peter's Basilica**.*

*Tonight we savor our last evening **dinner** at our hotel, culminating an emotional and memorable trip! (B,D)*

Day 8 Thu. April 29

Continental buffet-style breakfast

Our tour ends today. After breakfast and check-out, we transfer by our private motor coach to Rome's Fiumicino Airport for our return Lufthansa flight 3841 departing at 10:10am arriving to Frankfurt at 12:15pm connecting to Lufthansa flight 426 departing Frankfurt at 1:50pm and arriving, later the same day at Philadelphia Airport, at 4:45pm. (B)

ARRIVEDERCI

A nostalgic good-bye but a promise to return!

The sequence of the visits are subject to local change, without prior notice, based on weather, traffic conditions, unexpected closings and/or tour escort's assessment. Daily Masses are subject to confirmation.