

ROME, FLORENCE AND TUSCANY MARCH 2012

Sunday, March 11, 2012 to Sunday, March 18, 2012

March is the perfect time to discover the wonders of Italy. The sky is clear. The weather is perfect, and the high-season crowds have yet to arrive.

Enjoy *la dolce vita* on an 8-day, 7-night visit of the best Italy has to offer. Join "Traveling Professor" Steve Solosky and a small group of like-minded travelers on a dazzling tour of ancient Rome, Renaissance Florence, and breathtaking Tuscany.

Professor Solosky has custom-designed a culturally enriching and delightful itinerary. Not only are major sites on the schedule, but there are opportunities to experience a side of Italy most tourists never get to see. Steve Solosky knows the best local dining spots, choice hotels, and insider secrets that make a visit to Italy with the Traveling Professor a truly unforgettable experience.

The cost is only \$1,699 per person based upon double occupancy.

Included With Your Trip:

- **3 Nights Accommodations in Rome, 4 Nights in Florence** in clean, comfortable, quiet hotels in safe, central locations. Rome accommodations are rated a TripAdvisor.Com "Traveler's Choice," the Florence accommodation consistently ranks within the top 5. Single, double, twin, and quad rooms have both private baths and showers. **Breakfast is included.**
- **Welcome Dinner.** Enjoying a group dinner with your traveling companions is a great start to the tour.



Biking in Lucca

- **Rome City Transportation** - unlimited bus and metro use.
 - **VIP Paid Admission in Rome and Florence.** Visit Rome's *Colosseum, Forum, Palantine Hill* and another attraction of your choice, i.e., *Borghese Gallery*. In Florence visit the *Uffizi Gallery, Michelangelo's David, the Accademia Gallery, Pitti Palace*, and more with no waiting in line.
 - **Round Trip Transportation** between Florence and Rome via high-speed luxury trains.
 - **Guided Day Trips to Siena** including paid admission to Siena's best museums and attractions. Transportation also included.
 - **Private Mercedes Car Tour of Tuscany and Chianti.** This well may be the highlight of the trip – see the *real* Italy as we visit small towns and authentic Chianti wineries.
- **Small Group Size** limited to 14 travelers.
 - **Personalized, Attentive Service.** Professor Solosky takes care of the details and serves as the group's personal concierge. The Traveling Professor is always accessible to answer any and all questions, guide your stay, and to offer personal advice on everything from dining to touring to shopping.
 - **Additional Options Include:** Another day in Rome or Florence for \$109. Chianti Wine Tasting and day trips to Venice and other Tuscan hill towns.

This trip will sell out early. Contact the Professor at info@travelingprofessor.com for more information or to reserve.

Useful Notes:

- Airfare is not included.
- Hotels in Italy are smaller and have more "character" than those in the U.S.
- The Professor is happy to communicate with you prior to the trip via e-mail or telephone to answer questions or address concerns.
- You must be able to walk 2-5 miles daily, up and down stairs, and on different grades of pavement in order to accompany the Professor on tours.
- Each traveler under 21 years of age must be accompanied by an adult over 30 years of age.



Walking in the Tuscan Countryside

Frequently Asked Questions

Tentative Itinerary

Day 1: *Tour begins in Rome. Colosseum and Forum. Welcome Dinner. Gelato at the Pantheon.*

Day 2: *Vatican Tour. Castle St. Angelo. Have dinner with me and the locals in the Trestavere section of Rome. Follow me to my secret gelato spot.*

Day 3: *Campo di Fiori – the market, the shopping, the best pizza in the world. Galleria Borghese. The Spanish Steps. Trevi Fountain. Another great Roman meal. And of course, a farewell to Rome gelato.*

Day 4: *Travel to Florence via luxury high speed train. Florence city tour. Michelangelo's David at the Accademia.*

Day 5: *Enjoy a full day tour of the Chianti and Tuscan countryside in a private car tour. Wine tasting is included.*

Day 6: *Climb to the top of the Duomo in the morning. Siena day trip in the afternoon. Enjoy meeting new friends and have great wine at my favorite enoteca.*

Day 7: *Mercato Centrale. The Uffizzi Gallery. Pitti Palace. Professor Solosky's secrets of Florence then maybe a quick trip to Fiesole?*

Day 8: *For those going home, enjoy a farewell cappuccino in the piazza in the shadow of Palazzo Vecchio. For those staying another day, we have a truly special day planned just for you.*

Other sites to see in Rome: The Baths of Diocletian, The Churches of Rome, Roman Markets and Shopping, National Museum of Rome, Ostia Antica, Catacombs, Piazza Navona

Other sites to see in Florence: Palazzo Strozzi, Boboli Gardens, Pont Vecchio, Piazzale Michelangelo, Palazzo Vecchio, Ferragamo Museum, Florence's Historic Churches, Wine Tasting

Question: Professor, how do you run your trips?

Answer: About six weeks before we depart, I send a mailing to each traveler. In it is a questionnaire asking what you want to see and do. Based upon the responses, I develop a daily itinerary. Tour with me using that plan, or explore on your own. If venturing out on your own, I will provide complete guidance, instruction, and tips in order to make the day productive and go smoothly.



Question: How do you prepare us for the trip?

Answer: When traveling with me, you are well-prepared. I advise on what to pack, the anticipated weather, and money issues. I advise on language, Italian customs and protocols. I alert you of special activities such as special art exhibits, concerts, and other events. I am happy to speak with you over the phone or by e-mail to answer any type of question or concern regarding the trip.

Question: Do we meet as a group upon our departure for Italy?

Answer: It's possible to meet in New York and fly with me to Italy. But it is usually more convenient and economical to depart from your local airport to Italy. The hotel in Rome is very easy to get to from the airport. I provide detailed, fool-proof instruction on how to get there if not accompanying me to Rome.

Question: Can you help me get the best airfare?

Answer: Absolutely. I book my air reservations through the link listed on my website, www.travelingprofessor.com. I travel to Europe frequently and know how to get good airfares. My recommendation is to book your flight from your local departure point into Rome, and return home from Florence, Rome or Pisa. I will gladly assist in finding air arrangements for you.

Question: I am a solo traveler. What is the single supplement?

Answer: I can put you in contact with other single travelers if you are looking to share a room. Otherwise the supplement is about \$400. By the way, quad and triple rooms can be booked at a slightly lower rate.

Question: I want to arrive earlier/later than the scheduled trip dates. Can that be done?

Answer: Yes. I can even book the hotels at a discounted rate. I can help with arrangements if traveling on to another city such as Milan or Venice. To extend your stay in Rome or Florence, it is only \$109 per person per night.

Question: Why should I travel with a group? Can't I do this trip on my own?

Answer: You can book this trip on your own. But it will probably cost more and take countless hours of planning. I know how to "do things right". Traveling with a group does not mean that everyone does all activities together. Typically, the larger group breaks into smaller groups according to personalities, interests, and other factors. It's a lot of fun to travel this way! Many of us meet for dinner each night and do other activities together.

Question: I've heard Italy is really expensive. Is that true?

Answer: It can be expensive if you don't know the GREAT local places to eat at GREAT local prices. It can be VERY EXPENSIVE if you don't know how to get around quickly and cheaply. It can be COSTLY if you don't know where to shop and what prices to pay. A wallet can take a big hit and ruin a trip if you stay in the wrong hotel. Travel with me, rely on my expertise and knowledge, and I will show you how to travel in style without sacrificing luxury or comfort. I take care of the details and eliminate the hassles.

Contact me at info@travelingprofessor.com or visit <http://www.travelingprofessor.com>