



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION of SMITH COLLEGE

Mediterranean Cultural Centers & Glorious Gardens May 22 to June 2, 2009

Preliminary Itinerary (subject to amendment)

Day 1 – Friday, May 22, 2009
(Appropriate in-flight meals)

Fly from the USA

Day 2 – Saturday, May 23, 2009

Arrival in Rome

- Arrive in Rome and transfer to Civitavecchia, the city's deep water port, to embark *Clelia II*.
- Sail in the evening.

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Day 3 – Sunday, May 24, 2009

Ischia

The largest island in the Bay of Naples, volcanic Ischia is known for its luxuriant vegetation and striking landscape.

- Land at the picturesque main town of the island, whose waterfront is lined with quaint shops and cafés.
- Our tour of this beautiful island includes La Mortella, the spectacular garden created by Sir William Walton and his wife. We will be hosted by Alessandra Vinciguerra, the knowledgeable horticulturist in charge of the garden.

(B, L, D)

Day 4 – Monday, May 25, 2009

Viareggio

From Viareggio, a choice of excursions is offered.

- Explore the delightful Tuscan town of Lucca, home to one of the finest collections of Romanesque churches and medieval places in Italy. Just outside of Lucca, in the small town of Collodi, explore the magnificent hillside gardens of the Castello Garzoni, designed in the 17th century.
- Alternatively, take a full-day excursion to Florence, birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, where art, literature, science, and philosophy achieved great heights.

- Our visit includes the splendid Duomo, crowned by Brunelleschi's distinctive dome; the Palazzo della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and the statues at Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, where Michelangelo sculpted his David.

(B, L, D)

Day 5 – Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Nice

An internationally famous resort, the French Riviera's Nice is synonymous with elegance and style.

- From here an excursion first visits the popular artists' haven of St.-Paul-de-Vence to see The Maeght Foundation's collection of Picassos, Mirós, Braques, Calder, and others.
- After lunch aboard ship, drive along the coast to Italy's Ventimiglia, an old medieval hilltown facing the sea, to visit Hanbury Gardens, a splendid botanical garden set on a wooded cape, one of Italy's most famous gardens during the 19th century.
- Also stop at the lovely French town of Menton to visit Serre de la Madone, an important garden set on a slope, designated as a Historic Monument of France.
- Alternatively, take the scenic road to the hilltop village of Eze for breathtaking views of the Riviera and visit Village Ephrussi de Rothschild its marvelous themed gardens.

(B, L, D)

Day 6 – Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Marseille

- From Marseille, drive to Aix-en-Provence, the first Roman settlement in Gaul, immortalized by the works of Cézanne.
- Tour the Old City, down the leafy Cours Mirabeau amid lovely buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries, noting the perfect classical proportions of the Hotel de Ville en route to the Cathedral of St. Sauveur, with its medieval art treasures.
- Continue to Cézanne's old studio, which remains exactly as it was at the time of the Impressionist's death in 1906, or visit the Musée Granet, with a rich collection of art (including eight works by Cézanne) and archaeological exhibits.
- If you wish, you may instead join the full-day excursion to Hyères an old town clinging on a hill facing the sea, where we will visit the grounds of Sainte-Claire le Château, the evocative villa and its gardens once owned by Edith Wharton, and the gardens of Villa Noailles, considered a fine example of Art Deco garden design.

(B, L, D)

Day 7 – Thursday, May 28, 2009

Barcelona, Spain or Montserrat

- Spend the day in Barcelona, a vibrant city rich in extraordinary works of art and architecture.
- In the morning explore Montjuïc, a hill overlooking the city, with its beautiful gardens and many attractions, including the National Museum of Catalan Art, one of Spain's finest museums.
- In the afternoon, visit the Templo de la Sagrada Família, the extraordinary unfinished masterpiece of Antonio Gaudí, and Parc Güell. Another of Gaudí's

- incredible works, the park is laid out on a hill and houses decorative monuments that attest to the imaginative genius of Barcelona's most famed architect.
- For those interested, there will be an alternative full-day excursion to the mountain of Montserrat, with its famed monastery, heritage caves, and fantastic scenery.

(B, L, D)

Day 8 – Friday, May 29, 2009

At Sea

Enjoy the ship's facilities and attend lectures as *Clelia II* cruises along Spain's Mediterranean coast.

(B, L, D)

Day 9 – Saturday, May 30, 2009

Malaga

- From Malaga, set out on a full-day excursion to Granada.
- Visit Alhambra, the world's finest Moorish palace, an architectural marvel of lacy arches, filigreed ceilings, slender columns, and romantic courtyards adorned with lovely fountains. Adjacent are the Generalife Gardens, once the retreat of caliphs.
- After lunch, tour Granada's Gothic Cathedral and Royal Chapel, which contains the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella.

(B, L, D)

Day 9 – Sunday, May 31, 2009

Cadiz

- From Cadiz, take an excursion to Seville. One of Spain's loveliest cities, it is a delightful mix of Spanish and Moorish architecture. Orange trees lining the avenues and open countryside can be seen from the summit of the Giralda Tower.
- Visit the immense Gothic Cathedral of Santa Maria de la Sede, the site of the grand tomb of Christopher Columbus.
- Continue to the Alcazar, the palace of the Spanish kings for nearly seven centuries, which retains many aspects of Andalusia's magnificent Moorish heritage.
- Also visit Casa de Pilatos, one of Seville's finest mansions, built in the early 16th century and noted for its harmonious architecture and verdant garden.

(B, L, D)

Day 10 – Monday, June 1, 2009

At Sea/Lisbon, Portugal

- After cruising along Portugal's coast, arrive in Lisbon in the evening.
- Overnight aboard ship docked in port.

(B, L, D)

Day 11 – Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Flights to the U.S.

- Disembark *Clelia II* and transport to the airport for flights back to the United States.

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