



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION *of* SMITH COLLEGE

Rome and Tuscany: A Family Learning Adventure

June 28-July 6, 2008

DETAILED ITINERARY

(subject to amendment)

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| June 28
Saturday | USA
Depart the USA for Rome, Italy. |
| June 29
Sunday | ROME
Arrive in Rome and proceed to our comfortable hotel, well-located in the city center. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure for relaxing and individual exploration. This evening we gather for an important trip briefing and for us to get acquainted, followed by a welcome dinner. HOTEL PONTE SISTO (D) |
| June 30
Monday | ROME
After breakfast, we delve into the ancient Roman sites from the Coliseum to the Forum. Following lunch in a local restaurant, we continue our walking tour to include the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and Pantheon. Return to the hotel with the balance of the day at leisure. There are a number of casual trattorias and elegant restaurants around our hotel convenient for independent dining. HOTEL PONTE SISTO (B,L) |

- July 1
Tuesday** **ROME – TUSCANY**
This morning we visit the Vatican, including special entrance to the Vatican Museums that allows us to avoid waiting in long lines. See the Sistine Chapel and other treasures. View Michelangelo's *Pieta* in St. Peter's Basilica. Then travel north into the Chianti region and our lovely villa just outside Florence. Enjoy the pool and the grounds of this hilltop setting, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. FATTORIA LA LOGGIA (B,D)
- July 2
Wednesday** **TUSCANY**
This morning we make a full-day excursion to the Renaissance city of Florence. Explore the city's medieval core, including the graceful Ponte Vecchio and the imposing Duomo, flanked by Giotto's Campanile and the Baptistery. Our first stop today is the Uffizi Gallery, where we take a fun-filled tour to learn about the symbolism of the famous paintings housed here. After lunch on your own, gather for a visit to the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's 500-year-old statue *David*. Explore independently and browse in the exquisite shops and market stalls. Meet for an ice cream tasting before returning to our villa for a make-your-own-pizza dinner party. FATTORIA LA LOGGIA (B,D)
- July 3
Thursday** **TUSCANY**
After breakfast at the Villa, depart for the hilltop city of Siena. Learn about Siena's fascinating history including the thrilling races of the Palio, a bareback horse race that has been held since the 14th century. A guided walking tour includes Siena's stunning cathedral and an exclusive visit to a private neighborhood or *contrada*, which has its own museum. Enjoy lunch and time to explore on your own and perhaps climb the tower overlooking the main square, before returning to the villa for dinner. FATTORIA LA LOGGIA (B,D)
- July 4
Friday** **TUSCANY**
After breakfast, we depart for the nearby town of Brolio, where we ascend to the top of the hill and visit its medieval castle, a fortress constructed during the Middle Ages. The adults then visit a renowned cooking school where they learn about the history of Tuscan cuisine and attend an entertaining cooking demonstration followed by lunch. Meanwhile, the children participate in a treasure hunt that takes them to a few other castles and includes lunch and a visit to the hilltop town of Radda. Our group reunites this afternoon and later tonight we celebrate Independence Day with a BBQ dinner at our villa. FATTORIA LA LOGGIA (B,L,D)

July 5
Saturday

TUSCANY

Today we visit one of Italy's most recognizable landmarks, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. After a short walking tour of other highlights we continue to the walled city of Lucca. Again a walking tour reveals the city's charms and lunch is included in a local restaurant. Before returning to our hilltop villa there is time for the children to ride bicycles around the city on its ancient ramparts. Tonight, enjoy a festive farewell dinner at our villa. FATTORIA LA LOGGIA (B,L,D)

July 6
Sunday

TUSCANY – USA

This morning, depart for the airport in Florence for flights home.