



# *Contrasting Italy*

## *Lake District, Tuscany and Rome*

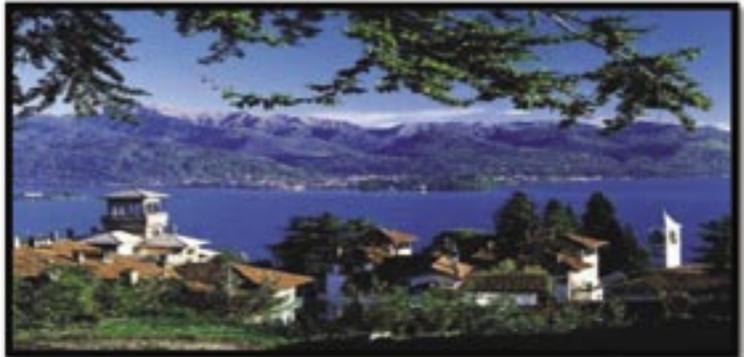
*Including excursions to Florence, Vatican City, Lugano, Switzerland, and more!*

September 25-October 4, 2011

\$3,799 per person based on double occupancy

To make a reservation call Norma Joseph  
(309) 677-4747

More at  
[www.wtvp.org](http://www.wtvp.org)



### Exclusive tour Features

- Round trip motor coach from Peoria to O'Hare
  - Air transportation from Chicago to Milan and return from Rome on regularly scheduled flights
  - 8 nights of First Class hotel accommodations:
    - o 3 nights – Stresa, Italy
    - o 3 nights – Montecatini (Tuscany)
    - o 2 nights – Rome
  - Breakfast daily at the hotels
  - Two dinners at the hotel in Stresa
  - Two dinners at the hotel in Montecatini
  - Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome
  - Full-day escorted excursion to Lugano, including round trip ride on the scenic Cog Wheel train
  - Full-day escorted Turin excursion with chocolate tasting
  - Escorted excursion to Florence, including half-day walking tour of the city with a local guide and entrance to the Academi
  - Excursion to Parma including ham and cheese tasting
  - Half-day guided tour of Ancient Rome, including professional local guide and entrance to the Colosseum
  - Half-day guided tour of “Spiritual Rome” (Vatican Museum and St. Peter’s Basilica)
  - Transportation by private, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach throughout the trip
  - Professional English-speaking tour director throughout
  - Handling of one piece of luggage per person at all hotels
  - Tax and service charges as levied by the hotels
  - \$325.00 per person airline fuel surcharges (*subject to change*)
- Not included: US and foreign departure taxes of approx. \$175.00 per person subject to change, gratuity to the tour director, local guides, and driver, and optional insurance package

### Day by Day Itinerary

#### September 25 – Chicago en route

Depart Chicago on Alitalia Airlines for Rome.

#### September 26 – Rome / Milan / Stresa

Arrive in Rome this morning and continue by connecting flight to Milan. After passing through customs, meet your professional tour director who will escort you to your motor coach for transfer to your hotel in Stresa, the beautiful resort city on the banks of Lake Maggiore. Enjoy a picturesque lake cruise before your **Welcome Dinner at the hotel. (D)**



#### September 27 – Stresa / Lugano / Stresa

After breakfast at the hotel, board your private motor coach for a full day excursion into Switzerland. The beautiful drive will bring you to the lakeside town of Lugano, where you will have time for lunch on your own. On the drive back to Stresa, stop in the small town of Capolago, home to a scenic Cog Wheel train. This cable train track takes visitors from Capolago to the top of scenic Monte Generoso in about 40 minutes. Board the cogwheel train and enjoy the picturesque views and unspoiled natural vistas of the beautiful Swiss Alps. Return to Stresa for overnight. **(B)**

#### September 28 – Stresa / Turin / Stresa



After **breakfast**, head south today to Turin. While the city might be better known to tourists as the site of the Shroud of Turin and host of the 2006 Winter Olympics, Italians know that Turin means one thing: **Peyrano Chocolate**. Founded in 1915, Peyrano began making candies of all kinds but in 1920, the family decided to concentrate on chocolate. You’ll thank them personally for that decision—and their famous Gianduiotti—once you’ve visited the pastry shop and enjoyed a chocolate tasting! Turin is also home to Nutella, the famous chocolate/hazelnut spread known throughout the world. With all that delicious chocolate coursing through your system, you’ll probably have enough energy to see the rest of Turin as well.

Next, visit The Egyptian Museum (**Museo delle Antichità Egizie**). “The road to Memphis and Thebes passes through Turin,” wrote Jean-François Champollion, the famous decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs who came to Turin in 1824. It is, in fact, the only museum other than the Cairo Museum that is dedicated solely to Egyptian art and culture and many international scholars have spent much time pouring over its treasures. The current collections were enlarged by the excavations conducted in Egypt by the Museum’s archaeological mission between 1900 and 1935 (a period when finds were divided between the excavators and Egypt). Return to Stresa for **dinner** and overnight. **(B&D)**





### September 29 – Stresa / Parma / Montecatini Terme

After **breakfast** at the hotel, check out and board your motor coach bound for the neighboring region of Emilia Romagna. Stop in the small town of Parma, known to most of the world for its fine food. This city is also home to one of Italy's top opera houses. Here you will enjoy a **tasting of the famous Parmesan cheese and Parma Ham**. Following your tasting, you will have time to explore on your own. Be sure not to miss the Duomo, revered as one of the greatest in Northern Italy, which houses the famous painting of the Assumption by Antonio da Correggio

on its cupola. Also not to miss is the Baptistery south of the Duomo. In the afternoon continue to Montecatini, your home for the next 3 nights. Montecatini has existed since before Roman times. Its cleansing waters have brought people from all over the world to "take the cure." There are actually two Montecatini. The ancient town (Montecatini Alto) sits above the newer (Montecatini Terme) on a mountaintop accessible by a funicular. After check-in at your hotel, you will have some time to relax and enjoy the town on your own. **(B)**

### September 30 – Montecatini Terme / Florence / Montecatini Terme

After **breakfast**, travel to Florence where your guided walking tour includes the main square to admire the magnificent Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore—crowned by Brunelleschi's famous dome and flanked by Giotto's Bell Tower. You'll also have a chance to see Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise* at the adjacent Baptistery, and the many sculptures and famous cafes in Signoria Square. Included in the tour is a visit to the **Galleria dell'Accademia**, where Michelangelo's *David* is on display. Enjoy free time to shop Florence's many boutiques and flea market before you head back to Montecatini for **dinner** and overnight. **(B&D)**



### October 1 – Montecatini (Volterra & San Gimignano)

Following **breakfast**, depart by motor coach for Volterra, the important medieval town that features the Porta all'Arco, the best-preserved Etruscan gateway dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. You will have time to stroll about Volterra to visit one of the many shops specializing in alabaster works. Following lunch on your own, transfer to the beautiful walled city of San Gimignano.

A highlight of the day will be your visit to a specialty store for a **tasting of local wines and meats of the Chianti region**. You'll learn about the delicacies you taste and how these products are made in this region. Return to Montecatini for **dinner** and overnight. **(B&D)**

### October 2 – Montecatini Terme / Rome

After **breakfast**, transfer to Rome, enjoying the beautiful scenery of Tuscany and Umbria on the way. Upon arrival, experience Ancient Rome during a **half-day tour**. You begin atop Colle Oppio ("Opium Hill") for a panoramic view of the **Colosseum**, modern Rome's most recognizable landmark and one of Ancient Rome's most vital social centers. Once inside, an expert guide will talk you through the bloody past of the amphitheatre as you listen to tales of gladiators, mock sea-battles and executions. After a brief rest at the **Arch of Constantine**, you will arrive at **Palatine Hill**—the most famous of the Seven Hills of Rome. From here you will admire the views of the Roman Forum and Nero's Circus Maximus where chariot races were once held. Romulus and Remus were said to have been found on the Palatine by the she-wolf who nursed and raised them. Legend holds that Romulus went on to found Rome. The last stop is for a **walk along the "Via Sacra"** (or "Sacred Way"), which is the main path through the Roman Forum that once sparkled with festivals and triumphal processions. It ends at the Temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated. Check-in at your hotel and then enjoy an evening at leisure.

### October 3 – Rome



After **breakfast**, explore the always-fascinating **Vatican City**. Stroll the **Vatican Museums**, which house over 2000 rooms and 9 miles of the most extensive collection of art in the world. Brilliantly decorated and lined with masterpieces, the Museums brim with treasures and history. Your guide will share the stories and secrets contained within the Museums' walls, pleasures originally meant for the exclusive enjoyment of the Pope. Experience Michelangelo's famous *Creation of Adam* with your own eyes as you explore the **Sistine Chapel** and wander **Raphael's Rooms**. After taking in the Museums, be humbled by the imposing beauty of Saint Peter's Basilica, where you will encounter another of Michelangelo's masterpieces, *La Pietà*. For a thrilling finish, you'll stop to admire

the magnificent Saint Peter's Square. Spend the afternoon at leisure before you enjoy a fabulous **Farewell Dinner at a local Roman restaurant**. Overnight in Rome. **(B&D)**

### October 4 – Rome / Chicago

Bid farewell to your tour director this morning and depart from Rome aboard your Alitalia non-stop flight to Chicago. Arrive the same day with delicious memories of your tour to Italy. **(B)**

**TOUR CONDITIONS**

**TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** Reservations are accepted by Checks only.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 3/1/2011. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members in writing no later than 30 days prior to departure.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** You will have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect **not** to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below.

**CANCELLATION:** \$50.00 per person administration fee if written notification is received 100 days or more prior to departure date. Between 100-61 days prior to departure, \$500.00 per person penalty will apply. After that date the following will apply to cover the considerable penalties of the different suppliers. 50% of the land rate and, if greater, any other expenses incurred on behalf of the passenger. For air portion, the regulation of the carrier will apply.

**AIRLINE MILEAGE PROGRAM:** Eskin Tours' programs are based on negotiated group air fares with various airlines. Some of the airlines may not offer mileage credit when traveling on a group fare.

**INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL:** One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a total measurement of 45 inches. All special requests that we receive for particular seating arrangement (must be noted on your reservation form as you sign up for the tour) are forwarded to the airline involved. However, we regret in this time of mass travel and computerized seating reservations; we cannot guarantee or be responsible in the event that your request is not honored by the airline. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, there will be a service charge of \$100.00 per person, plus the additional cost of the change in air fare.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, \* and/or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to Substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours nor any representative of Eskin Tours shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itineraries or schedules, or a disease outbreak . \*And WTVP

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

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**RESERVATION FORM**

Make checks payable to WTVP and mail to: WTVP 47, P.O. Box 1347, Peoria, IL 61654-1347

Italy 2011

\$400.00 per person deposit is required

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
*As it appears on passport*

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
*As it appears on passport*

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I desire a single room at \$450.00 additional

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*I/we agree to the tour conditions*

**ALL PASSENGERS MUST HAVE  
A VALID PASSPORT**