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**ITALY**  
**Sports Tour**  
*Rome, Florence, Venice*  
**10 Day / 8 Night Program**



**SUGGESTED PROGRAM**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Actual sequence and timing of activities will revolve around your game & practice schedule, which will be finalized in the weeks prior to your team's arrival at its destination. All times are approximate and may vary according to flight schedules and other logistical factors.

**ALL SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.**

**Day 1**      **USA – ROME**

Evening      Fly overnight to Rome via major international scheduled airline with likely change of plane enroute. Dinner and breakfast served aloft.

**Day 2**      **ROME**

Morning      Arrive at Rome's Fiumicino International Airport.

Greeting by your highly-qualified **Tour Manager**. The Tour Managers we select are chosen for their high-energy and commitment to customer satisfaction. For the duration of your stay, your Tour Manager will be coordinating and managing all of your scheduled activities and will be available to you on a 24-hour basis should you need special assistance.

*The Roman Empire was one of the most important economic, political and cultural forces in the history of western civilization. Rome is known as the "Eternal City" for its timeless character transcending all historical periods dating back to the city's founding, possibly as far back as 753 BC. Larger-than-life landmarks from pre-Christian times stand side-by-side with more recent edifices that are "only" a few centuries old and modern 20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings alike. In short, Rome is one of the most compelling destinations anywhere in the world for the traveler looking for an unparalleled historical and culturally-enriching experience.*

Brief overview of the city on your way to the hotel. Stop for breakfast en-route.

Arrive at your hotel and check in.

**Afternoon**      **PRACTICE SESSION.**

Evening            Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

**Day 3**            **ROME**

Morning            Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning            **Ancient Rome Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included)**



**Coliseum**



**Roman Forum**



**Palatine Stadium**

The juxtaposition between Rome's ancient landmarks and monuments beside its modern buildings and other structures makes for a fascinating contrast between old and new.

Visit the **Coliseum**, one of the world's most iconic and recognizable ancient buildings. Walk among the remains of this amphitheatre which was originally completed in 80 AD as a site for fights between gladiators and other public events.

Continue on to **Palatine Hill**, the most famous of Rome's "Seven Hills" and site of the earliest Roman settlements. From here you can take in great views of the **Roman Forum**, a plaza that was the center of Roman public life for centuries, and Nero's **Circus Maximus**, where a Roman chariot racing stadium once stood. The only remains today are a small amount of the original structure and the former race track covered with grass.

The last stop is a walk along the "**Via Sacra**" or "Sacred Way" which was the main street of ancient Rome and led to the Forum. It ends at the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated.

Coliseum, Roman Forum, and Palatine Hill tickets are all included.

Afternoon            Free time for lunch, relax and to explore the city.

Evening            Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

**Evening**            **MATCH # 1 vs. an ITALIAN TEAM**

**Day 4**            **ROME**

Morning            Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning            **Vatican Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included)**

**Please Note:** visitors in shorts or sleeveless tops are not admitted to churches and Vatican Museums.



**St. Peter's Basilica**



**Vatican Museum**



**Sistine Chapel**

Start your tour of the **Vatican**, the world's smallest country, with a visit to the **Vatican Museums**, among the world's greatest art museums and home to the largest art collection in Europe with over 65,000 masterpieces.

View the **Pinacoteca Vaticana** featuring works by Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci and the **Collection of Modern Religious Art** with almost 800 works by 250 artists, including such famous names as Rodin, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Kandinsky, Chagall, Klee, Dalí, and Picasso. Continue on to the **Museo Pio-Clementino** of Greek and Roman sculpture.

The **Sistine Chapel** is the last stop and grand finale of a visit to the museums. Admire the fabulous frescoes by Renaissance artists Botticelli, Perugino, Ghirlandaio and the famous ceiling by **Michelangelo**.

Climb the **Scala Regia** steps to **St. Peter's Basilica**, the world's largest Christian Church and burial place of many popes. Enjoy viewing the church's many beautiful works of art, highlighted by Michelangelo's famous **Pietà** sculpture of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the crucifixion.

Afternoon Free time for lunch, relax and to explore the city.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

**Evening** **MATCH # 2 vs. an ITALIAN TEAM**

## **Day 5** **SIENA & SAN GIMIGNANO**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Check out of Hotel and transfer to **Montecatini**. Stop on the way to explore the cities of **Siena** and **San Gimignano**.

Morning **Siena City Tour**



**Gothic Cathedral**



**Piazza del Campo**



**Relaxing on the Piazza**



Travel to **Siena**, Italy's best preserved medieval city filled with fine examples of Gothic architecture. View **Piazza del Campo**, a very unusual central plaza shaped like a shell with scalloped edges. Walk along the small medieval streets and admire wonderful buildings. Visit the interior of the **Cathedral** and the **Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana**.

Afternoon Free time for lunch. Continue your journey to the town of San Gimignano.

### **San Gimignano**



**San Gimignano** is a walled medieval hill town in the province of Siena. The city is known for its numerous medieval structures, especially its towers, that can be spotted from miles away.

Late afternoon Board your private motorcoach for your transfer to **Montecatini** (30 miles west of Florence).  
Evening On the way, enjoy the scenery of vineyards and olive trees.  
Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

## **Day 6** **FLORENCE**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

***Florence was founded on the banks of the Arno River as a Roman city in 80 BC and was one of the world's most important cities politically, economically, and culturally from the 14th to the 16th centuries. It was a prosperous trading and financial center and the origin of the great explosion of creativity and innovation in art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance. Today Florence receives approximately 1.65 million visitors annually, many of them visiting the city's historic cultural institutions, such as the Uffizi and Accademia Art Galleries.***

### Morning **Florence City Tour**



**Ponte Vecchio**



**Florence skyline**



**"Il Duomo"**

Tour **Florence**, "the capital of arts", and one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Visit the 15<sup>th</sup>-century **Cathedral (Duomo)** with its massive "**Cupola del Brunelleschi**", possibly the largest dome ever built, and its bell-tower. Stop at the **Ponte Vecchio** arched stone bridge which has spanned the **Arno River** since the 14<sup>th</sup>-century. The bridge is lined with jewelry shops and art dealers. Later drive along **Viale dei Colli** road to the **Piazzale Michelangelo** for a wonderful panoramic view of the city.

Afternoon Free time for lunch, relax or to explore the city.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

**Evening** **MATCH # 3 vs. an ITALIAN TEAM**

**Day 7** **FLORENCE**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning **Uffizi & Accademia Galleries**



**Uffizi Gallery on Arno River**



**"David" Sculpture**



**Uffizi Gallery by Night**

Take this opportunity to visit two of the most famous museums in the world.

The **Uffizi Gallery**, originally a 16<sup>th</sup>-century palace, contains works of art by **Leonardo Da Vinci**, **Botticelli**, **Michelangelo**, **Rubens**, **Rembrandt** and **Goya** among others. One of its most famous works is "**The Birth of Venus**" by Botticelli.

The **Accademia Gallery** houses pieces from **Donatello** as well as the original **David** by **Michelangelo**, the world's most famous sculpture.

Afternoon Free time for lunch, relax or to explore the city.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

**Day 8** **FLORENCE – VENICE**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Check out of Hotel and transfer to **Venice**.

Afternoon We will check in at your hotel in the town of **Abano Terme**, just 40 miles west of Venice.

***Venice is legendary for its many canals and is considered one of the world's most romantic cities. It is set on 117 islands in the marshy saltwater Venetian Lagoon which is separated from the open sea by two long strips of land. Venice's traditional architecture, mostly a local version of the Gothic style, and watery setting complete with gondolas steered by oarsmen dressed in traditional garb make for a picture-postcard setting that charms visitors and Venetians alike.***

Afternoon

### **Venice Walking Tour**



**Piazza San Marco**



**Cannaregio District**



**Grand Canal**

Start your tour at the iconic **Piazza San Marco** square watched over by **St. Mark's Basilica**, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture. Later enjoy walking through beautiful narrow streets and alleys and magical bridges, experiencing why Venice is considered one of the world's most beautiful cities. Visit the **Campo Santa Maria Formosa**, one of Venice's largest squares bordered by small shops and residential areas, the **Church of San Giovanni de Paolo** in the **Cannaregio** district, and the house of famous 13<sup>th</sup> century explorer **Marco Polo**.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

### **Day 9**

### **VENICE**

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning

### **Grand Canal Boat Tour**



Enjoy a one-hour boat ride in a traditional gondola along the **Grand Canal**, Venice's main "street" ! Admire the city from a different point of view. Palaces, churches, and picturesque and charming houses, shops, and other structures make for a fairy tale landscape taking you back to another time. Continue your ride through some of the smaller canals to discover the soul and intimate feel of this wonderful place.

Afternoon

Free time for lunch on your own and to explore the city.

### **MATCH # 4 vs. an ITALIAN TEAM**

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

### **Day 10**

### **VENICE – USA**

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel and check out.

Transfer by your private motorcoach to the International Airport for your return flight home.

Relax and sleep during your flight.

Afternoon Arrive back in the USA later the same afternoon.

**Your Italian Sports & Cultural Adventure comes to a close with great memories to cherish for a lifetime !**

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

### **Travel Services:**

- Economy-class Air Transportation USA – Italy round-trip.
- Intercity Transportation Rome – Florence – Venice by private motorcoach.
- Three nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Rome, including daily breakfast.
- Three nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Florence, including daily breakfast.
- Two nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Abano Terme, including daily breakfast.
- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers by private motorcoach.
- Ancient Rome Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included)
- Vatican Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included).
- Siena City Tour
- Visit to San Gimignano.
- Florence Morning City Tour
- Morning Tour of Uffizi and Accademia galleries
- Venice Walking tour
- Grand Canal Boat Tour
- **Tour Manager** available as necessary in Italy and 24/7 access in case of emergency.
- 24/7 Emergency Support from **Victory Sports Tours'** Operations office.

### **Sports Program:**

- ***Four Games with clubs / universities at your level.***
- ***One Practice Session.***
- ***Bottle of Water provided to each player, each game / practice.***
- ***Uniform Laundry Service provided between games.***
- ***Round-trip Transfers to above Sports Activities by private motorcoach.***

### **Summary of Included Meals:**

- 8 Breakfasts
- 8 Dinners

### **Tour Price:**

- For the most up-to-date pricing information on this tour, please visit our website:

<http://www.victorysportstours.com/browse-tours/>

Click on your sport and scroll down to the tour named **"Italy #2"**.

- Price is based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers.
- Prices are subject to availability of airfares at time of booking.
- One **FREE COACH'S TRIP** is included based on 20 paying travelers (21st is free).
- Coach would share twin room with paying traveler and pay only taxes/fees.

### **Notes:**

- The itinerary text outlines both included services and suggested free time activities. For a definitive indication of what is included in the tour price, please refer exclusively to the "TOUR INCLUSIONS" section above.
- No booking has been made yet. Tour dates are subject to availability.
- Tour price is based on current U.S. dollar / foreign exchange rate. Price may vary if the exchange rate were to change significantly prior to receiving your tour deposit.
- Air taxes/fees are determined by the various governments/airlines involved and are those currently in effect. By government regulation, actual air taxes/fees collected will be those in effect at ticketing, approx. 45 days before departure.
- Airlines may add a fuel surcharge if the price of fuel increases significantly.
- Final fuel surcharge is determined approx. 30 days prior to departure.
- Full Terms & Conditions to be provided upon acceptance of this proposal.