

FEAST & PRAY

Saint Magdalen de Pazzi Parish
with
Fr. Ken Brighenti

FLAVORS OF ITALY

Florence / Tuscany / Siena / Perugia / Chianti / Rome / Castelli Romani Region /
Castel Gandolfo / Frascati / Subiaco / Wine & Food Tasting / and more.....

October 14—25, 2018



Dear Friends;

I would like to invite you to a very exciting pilgrimage/trip to some of my most favorite parts of the world, Florence & Tuscany and Rome & Castelli Romani. The trip has been designed to experience the deep religious sentiments of the areas, along with the cultural, and gastronomical peculiarities of the region. I have travelled with **Fratelli & Company** for 27 years. **Fratelli** designs the excursions to be personal, educational and spiritual. They always add extra touches, such as visiting an off the path winery, a cheese factory or monastery. It promotes conviviality and joviality. When you return from a **Fratelli** trip you just didn't visit sites you have experienced a culture. It would be my pleasure to share my beloved Italy with you in October 2018.

God bless,

Fr. Ken Brighenti

Day 1—Sunday, October 14, 2018—Departure

This evening's trans-Atlantic flight to Rome, Italy will depart from Newark Liberty International Airport. Meals and entertainment are aloft and early afternoon arrival in Rome. Time schedule TBA.

(There will be a "group flight" to Italy. Anyone wishing to book their own air, please contact our office ahead before booking for schedules and arrival meeting point. Please refer to page 10, "Airfare & Transfers")

Day 2 — Monday, October 15—Arrival Rome Fiumicino Airport

Upon arrival at Fiumicino, Leonardo da Vinci Airport, we will clear customs, baggage claim, and meet our motor-coach and driver. We will proceed north today to Florence, the Renaissance city. When we arrive at our hotel, we will check in and have some free time to freshen up before leaving for this evening's welcome drink and dinner in a lovely restaurant with regional cuisine and local wines. Afterwards, we will retire for the night for a good rest before beginning tomorrow's excursion. Dinner (included w/wine & water & coffee), overnight in Florence.

For those still energized we can take a walk around city center in the evening to catch some of the sites beforehand.

Day 3—Tuesday, October 16—Florence Full day City Tour (walking)

Today, after breakfast, we will begin our walking tour of Florence. Florence is one of the few cities around the world whose entire historical center is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reason is it offers hundreds, maybe thousands, of monumental arts and architecture. We will begin our day with a visit to the Accademia to see some of Michaelangelo's greatest works, especially the "David". Afterwards onto the



Duomo, Santa Maria del Fiore, Brunelleschi's masterpiece. Here we will also see Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistery with its "Gates of Paradise" doors. We will continue on to Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio. There will be a break for lunch before continuing on our walk to Santa Croce. The Basilica of Santa Croce is also known as the Temple of the Italian Glories, as many important artists, writers and scientists,

including Michelangelo Buonarroti, Galileo Galilei, Gioachino Rossini, Ugo Foscolo and Leon Battista Alberti are buried here. Mass today to be announced.



Florence was a centre of medieval European trade and finance and one of the wealthiest cities of that era. It is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance and has been called "the Athens of the Middle Ages". A turbulent political history includes periods of rule by the powerful Medici family and numerous religious and republican revolutions. From 1865 to 1871 the city was the capital of the recently established Kingdom of Italy. The Florentine dialect forms the base of standard Italian and it became the language of culture throughout Italy due to the prestige of the masterpieces by Dante Alighieri, Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio, Niccolò Machiavelli and Francesco Guicciardini.

Tuscany is located in central Italy and stretches from the Apennines to the Tyrrhenian Sea. Its landscape, artistic heritage and stand-out cities - first among them Florence - make Tuscany an unquestioned protagonist of international tourism. In this region, nature has many different facets, starting from the coast that alternates long and sandy beaches with rocky cliffs and steep headlands. The islands of the Tuscan Archipelago, surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation, a crystal-clear sea and rich sea-beds, are peerless. You can admire sceneries of uncontaminated nature in the Apuan Alps and in several protected areas. However, the most typical sceneries of the region are those that merge the beauty of nature with the millenary work of man. The amazing Gulf of Baratti and the sites of Vetulonia, Vulci and Pitigliano guard necropoli and vestiges of the Etruscan civilization, while Roselle and Cosa evoke memories from the Roman Age. Medieval villages, historical towns, castles and defense systems, country churches and beautiful abbeys, like the one of Sant'Antimo, are scattered all over the territory and their profiles stand out in the landscapes of the Crete Senesi, Orcia Valley, Garfagnana, Chianti and the Maremma. Finally, Tuscany is full of spas: Montecatini, Saturnia, Montepulciano, Monsummano and Bagno Vignoni, which offer relaxing holidays thanks to their thermal waters and well-equipped facilities for all types of treatments.

Day 4 — Wednesday, October 17— Saint Magdalen de Pazzi Church / Pienza

Today, after breakfast, we will transfer to St. Madalen de Pazzi Church for mass before beginning our day. Santa Maria Maddalena dei Pazzi is a Renaissance-style Roman Catholic Church and a former convent located in Borgo Pinti in central Florence. The Pazzi name was added after a nun, canonized in 1669, from the Pazzi family, who patronized the church. The original convent had been dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen delle Convertite, the patron of once-fallen, now converted women. The Cistercian order from Badia a Settimo took control of the site in 1332 and moved to it in 1442, while the convent was transferred to San Donato in Polverosa. The church and chapter house were rebuilt between 1481 and 1500, with initial designs in 1492 by Giuliano da Sangallo.



Pienza, is the "touchstone of Renaissance urbanism." In 1996, UNESCO declared the town a World Heritage Site and in 2004 the entire valley, the Val d'Orcia, was included on the list of Unesco's World Cultural Landscapes. Pienza was the birthplace of Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, who would become Pope Pius II. After he became Pope, Piccolomini had the entire village rebuilt as an ideal Renaissance town that would serve as a retreat from Rome.

The pecorino cheese of Pienza is one of the best in Italy, especially the version 'sotto cenere' or 'under ashes'. The cheese has ancient origins and has probably been produced in the zone since man first



settled here. Sometimes known as 'Pecorino della Val d'Orcia' or 'Cacio di Pienza', it is produced between October and July and seasoned for up to 2 months to give it its distinct flavor. It also offers a good excuse to visit this charming town in the Val D'Orcia between Montalcino and Montepulciano. Cheese and wine tasting with lunch in Pienza (included). Supper (on your own) and overnight in Florence.

Day 5—Thursday, October 18— Full Day Siena

After breakfast we will depart for the city of bell towers; Siena.

We begin our day with mass at the Basilica of San Domenico. St. Catherine spent a large part of her life inside the walls of this

stupendous Basilica, first to be dedicated to begun by the The most important relic, brought from Rome to Raymond of Capua in placed in a copper silver one still on display



which was one of the St. Dominic. It was Dominicans in 1226. the Sacred Head, was Siena by Blessed 1383 and it was at first container and then in a in the Basilica.

Siena is so beautiful and particular to make it not like anywhere else. It's so special, a place that anyone coming to Tuscany shouldn't miss visiting. The city has a very characteristic and appealing historical center, enclosed within its medieval walls, through which traffic is not allowed. While entering the town, it's impossible to not be affected by its peaceful and thrilling atmosphere; it's a bit like entering another world, where life still goes slowly. Siena is small enough for you to reach every corner of it on foot, so enjoy the pleasure to wander across the incredibly charming alleys and hidden corners of this beautiful Gothic town.

Day 5 Continued

Siena has been declared, by UNESCO, a World Heritage Site. Siena is a magnificent example of medieval architecture unspoiled and unchanged. In the 14th century, more than half its population perished from the Black Death; the city seems to have stood still in time. In Siena we will visit the Piazza del Campo where the Palio is held. The Palio is a horse race that is held twice each year in Siena. Ten horses and riders, bareback and dressed in the appropriate colors and costumes of medieval times, represent ten of the city wards. The race circles the Piazza del Campo, on which a thick layer of dirt has been laid, three times and usually lasts no more than 90 seconds. Our tour will culminate at the Piazza del Campo where you will have free-time for lunch and shopping and will also be our meeting place for departure. The Palio area is a great place to shop and/or just relax at a café to have a coffee or glass of wine and people watch. Dinner (included with wine, water and coffee) and overnight in Florence.



Day 6— Friday, October 19 – Full Day Chianti Region



This morning, after breakfast, we will leave Florence for the Chianti Wine Region. We will be traveling along the “Chianti Road” or “Chiantigiana”. The Via Chiantigiana is one of the most enjoyable motoring routes in Italy. It runs directly south from Florence to Siena through the middle of the Chianti Classico wine zone of Tuscany, one of the most instantly recognizable landscapes in the world. After passing Ugolino Golf Course, the oldest golf club in Italy, the Chiantigiana runs upward and follows the ridges between the Val d'Elsa and the Valdarno, wandering from one farmhouse and villa to another, from time to time passing through villages and small towns. The territory traversed by the Via Chiantigiana has been one of the most important wine producing regions in Italy for over two centuries. In fact, it was the Habsburg-Lorraine ruling family, most notably Leopold I, Grand Duke of Tuscany, who, during the 18th and 19th centuries, began cultivating the grapes that would become modern Chianti. Since the 1920s, this territory has been the official area of production for the Consorzio del Vino Chianti Classico Gallo Nero wine

makers consortium. Our first stop today will be village of Greve. Greve's history is connected to the beautiful Castle of Montefioralle located above the town, when it served as the castle's marketplace in the 13th century. The strategic position at the crossroads of three important pilgrimage roads - the Chiantigiana road, the road to Valdarno and the road to Val di Pesa - favored its economic growth. At the beginning of the 1500s, the curious shaped square was already built and was later described by the Grand Duke Leopold I as "a beautiful square where every Saturday a big market of livestock and foods takes place". While in Greve we will have our first wine tasting of the day. Later we continue our journey south along the Chianti Road to the medieval village of Monteriggioni.

Here in **Monteriggioni**: we will have a typical Tuscan “pranzo” (lunch) in one of the local restaurants serving up regional cuisine of local products with wine pairing. Later there will be some free-time to explore this fascinating city before heading back to Florence. Tonight supper on your own and overnight in Florence.

Monteriggioni represents one of the most important walled castles in the territory. It has incredibly preserved an intact structure as if time had never passed on the hill from which it elegantly dominates the surrounding landscape. It has a perfect circular perimeter which makes one suppose it to be an artificial construction while in actuality it was created by just following the curves in the natural ground. The castle was built by the Sienese between 1213 and 1219 for defensive purposes; its strategic location atop a hill overlooking the Cassia Road allowed the castle to control the cities of the Val d'Elsa and Staggia and be on the lookout for any armies approaching Siena. The intact fortified wall presents 14 towers along which the guards used to walk and patrol the walls and 2 gates, one called the Romea Gate which faces Rome and the other known as the Florentine Gate since it heads toward Florence.

The reputation and prestige of this particular castle has a much consolidated notoriety because Monteriggioni was cited by the “**Supreme Poet**” **Dante Alighieri** in his most famous work, *The Divine Comedy*:

*"As with circling round
Of turrets, Monteriggioni crowns his walls;
E'en thus the shore, encompassing the abyss,
Was turreted with giants, half their length
Uprearing, horrible, whom Jove from heaven
Yet threatens, when his muttering thunder rolls."
- Dante Alighieri, Hell, canto XXXI, lines 40-45*

Day 7—Saturday, October 20— Full Day to Perugia

Today we proceed into the Umbrian Hills to Perugia. A university city with one large university and a smaller one catering to foreign students. The student population gives the city a more youthful feel than a city as old as Perugia might otherwise depict. The University for Foreign Students brings a distinct foreign presence, even if there aren't as many tourists. The city's history dates back to pre-Roman times, some Etruscan ruins from that era still exist today. We will have a walking tour of the city's main square and the Cathedral of San Lorenzo. The current cathedral, dedicated from the beginning as the Cathedral of San Lorenzo and Sant' Ercolano dates from the 1300s by Fra Bevignate that was initiated in 1345 and completed in 1490. There will be some free-time for lunch on your own and browsing. Later we will have a tour and taste of the world famous Perugina Chocolates (Baci) originating from



this ancient city. Perugia has long been considered the Italian capital of

chocolate, even more so since it started hosting the annual Euro-Chocolate exhibition, the chocolate industry's most important trade event. Upon our return to Florence you will have some time to freshen up and relax before this evening's event.

An unforgettable evening of eating and drinking around Florence's hippest neighborhood. We set off as the sun dips over the horizon and will be introduced to the very best restaurants and wine bars Florence has to offer. See the perfect cocktail being constructed then sip it down during cocktail time as you watch the world go by on the cobblestoned Santo Spirito streets. Savor artisanal truffle cheese and cured local meats paired with the perfect local vino. Watch a live demonstration of how to cook the ultimate Florentine steak, the Bistecca alla Fiorentina (then taste it, which is even better!). Need we say

more? Our local expert guide will also regale you with stories, fascinating history, and a unique glimpse into the best part of Florentine life....the food of course! Overnight in Florence.



Day 8—Sunday, October 21 — Departure to Rome / The Basilicas of Christian Rome

This morning, after breakfast, we want to get on the road to Rome early. We check out and board our motor-coach for the trip southbound to the Eternal City. Upon arrival we will begin our tour of Christian Rome with Mass at the Basilica of San Paul Outside the Walls. Immediately following we will meet our guide and begin our tour of the Basilica.

Some free time for lunch and shopping at the Basilica. Later we will move onto St. John Lateran the seat of the Bishop of Rome and the Mother Church of Christianity.

San Paolo Fuori Le Mura is the second largest basilica of the four. It was founded by the Roman emperor Constantine over the burial place of St. Paul (now under the papal altar), making it a popular pilgrimage site. The huge basilica has maintained the original structure with one nave and four aisles, but it was almost entirely reconstructed in 1823 following a fire. The covered portico that precedes the façade is a Neo-classicist addition from the reconstruction. What remains of the ancient basilica is the interior portion of the apse with the triumphal arch. South of the transept is the cloister, considered one of the most beautiful of the Middle Ages.





Mater et caput of all Rome's and the world's Catholic churches, San Giovanni in Laterano is the oldest church of the Western World, founded in the 4th century by Constantine the Great. Dedicated to John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, it stands on the piazza by the same name, within Rome's city center. San Giovanni in Laterano is also the city's cathedral, seat of the Bishop of Rome. The basilica was reconstructed a few times until the 18th century, when the monumental façade, a two-storied portico supported by giant columns, crowned by 15 seven-meter-high statues, was redesigned.

Afterwards we will arrive at our final Basilica of the day Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major) in the heart of the historical district of Rome.



The largest church in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary, hence the name, and one of the first to be built in her honor, Santa Maria Maggiore is located on Piazza Esquilino, not far from the Termini train station. It is the only basilica among these four to have preserved the Paleochristian structure of the 5th century, even though it underwent several makeovers and additions externally. It closely resembles a 2nd-century imperial basilica, imposing in its aspect, perhaps to signify Rome's Christian future. Under the high altar is the Crypt of the Nativity, with a crystal reliquary said to contain wood from Jesus' crib.

After a full day of Basilica hopping it will be time to check into our hotel and have some time to unpack and freshen up before this evening's supper. Supper will be in a local restaurant with wine, water and coffee included, within walking distance of the hotel. For those who would like we can take a nice neighborhood walk afterwards to explore Rome while other tourists are sleeping!

Day 9—Monday, October 22 — Rome Vatican City & Monumental

The day will begin with mass and then a guided visit of St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel.

Later on today we will be visiting such sites as the Coliseum, the Capitoline Hill, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Fountain of Trevi, the Spanish Steps and more. This evening a pizza supper is included (with wine, water and coffee) and overnight in Rome.

At 22,067 square meters, St. Peter's is the world's largest church; regarded as one of the holiest Catholic shrines, it is a popular place of pilgrimage, even though it is neither the Mother Church nor a cathedral (San Giovanni in Laterano is both). It is hard to grasp its proportions until you have seen it. Particularly impressive is its height, 136 meters from the ground to the top of the magnificent dome, the tallest in the world. According to Catholic tradition, the Basilica is the burial site of the apostle St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome. St. Peter's tomb is said to be below the high altar. Many popes have been buried here since the Early Christian period. A church has been on this site since Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. Construction of the present basilica, which replaced the basilica of the 4th century, began on 18 April 1506 and was completed in 1626. St. Peter's Basilica is also famous as a magnificent work of art, to which major Renaissance artists, including Michelangelo, Bramante, Raffaello, Sangallo and Giacomo della Porta contributed. Gian Lorenzo Bernini designed the ample staircase and elliptical square surrounded by columns, which "introduces" the basilica, with the façade by Carlo Maderno.



Day 10—Tuesday, October 23 — Castel Gandolfo & Frascati Wine Region

Castel Gandolfo is a town located 25 kilometers southeast of Rome in the Lazio region of Italy. Occupying a height on the Alban Hills overlooking Lake Albano, the Pope's sumptuous summer palace, until recently when Pope Francis opened the Palace for tourism for the first time ever. Much of Castel Gandolfo is discreetly dedicated to the various Pontifical villas and religious foundations. The Papal Palace - with its astronomical observatory attached - dominates Piazza della Libertà, but other locations, like the sprawling papal gardens, are tucked away out of sight. Tours of the Palace are independent and by audio-guide. Immediately following there is an audio guide of the Barberini Gardens by vehicle.



Frascati: the Ancient Town sits on the rim of a dormant volcano. Its rich volcanic soil was much sought after by the Etruscans, Ancient Romans, the Vatican State and most recently by Romans on weekend get-aways. Wine has been produced in Frascati for thousands of years. Frascati wine is known as the 'Golden Wine of the Romans', the 'Pope's Wine' and the white wine of Rome. Each stone building, cobblestone street, and ancient church tells the story of the centuries of people who have called Frascati home. Here in Frascati we will enjoy a wine and pecorino cheese tasting before returning to Rome. Supper tonight on your own and overnight in Rome.

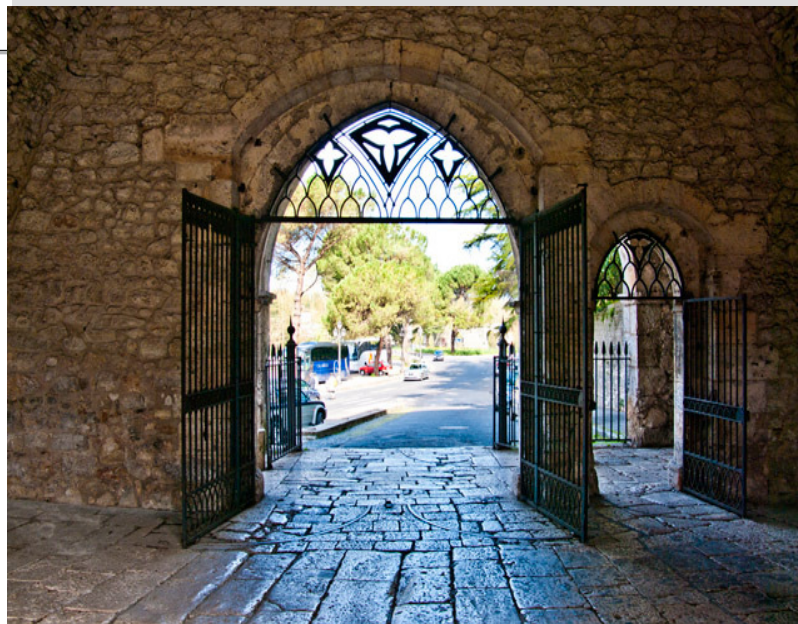
Subiaco: Starting point for St. Benedict.

We will depart Rome this morning after breakfast heading southward to our first stop, Subiaco, the first of 14 monasteries built by St. Benedict. We will celebrate mass here today. Afterwards, we will have a guided tour of the monastery.

When St. Benedict, at the age of fourteen (c. 494), retired from the world and lived for three years in a cave above the river Anio, he was supplied with the necessities of life by a monk, St. Roman. From this grotto, St. Benedict developed the concepts and organization of the Benedictine Order. He built twelve monasteries, including one at the grotto, and placed twelve monks in each. In 854 Pope Leo IV is said to have consecrated an altar to Sts. Benedict and Scholastica and another to St. Sylvester. Another renovation took place in 1053 under Abbot Humbert of St. Scholastica. Abbot John V, created cardinal by Pope Gregory VII, made the grotto the terminus of a yearly procession, built a new road, and had the altars re-consecrated.



Casamari: a chronicle of the abbey from the 13th century dates its founding to the 9th century as a Benedictine monastery with the same name. Initially, a small community with a simple church the buildings were expanded in the mid-11th century by its then-Abbot Giovanni. The fact that it became a sphere of influence for the region at that time is shown by the large number of donations it was receiving and its acquisition of many chapels in the area whose revenues contributed to the maintenance of the abbey. At the start of the 19th century, Italy found itself invaded by the forces of the First French Empire. In the course of the Napoleonic wars, several French soldiers stopped at the abbey on their return from the assault on Naples. They were well received by the prior, Simon Cardon, a fellow Frenchman. Nevertheless, the soldiers proceeded to sack the abbey, including the church, where they broke open the tabernacle and scattered the consecrated hosts on the floor. When Cardon and five of his fellow monks went to recover the hosts, they were shot by the soldiers. Declared martyrs, they were buried within the church itself, as opposed to the abbey graveyard. Soon, though, the abbey, along with most other religious communities, was suppressed by a decree of Napoleon in 1811.



We will conclude our day with supper at a rustic restaurant with local regional cuisine: Santucciuo Restaurant in Sezze Romano. All the food products, wines, cheeses meats are locally produced. This restaurant has 4.5 stars on Trip Advisor. Meal to include wine, water and coffee. Return to Rome for overnight.



“Santuccio” la ristorazione semplice e genuina tra i Monti Lepini”

“The locale was born as a country inn when Sante Perciballe, then Mayor of Sezze, in order to overcome a relative lack of food (eateries) in the country, decided to venture into this family-run business. It was June 1969: he did not have a specific preparation, nor an idea of what would entail the organization of lunches and ceremonies. However, he pointed to the great culinary abilities of his wife Lina, who was tied to "simple" dishes of rural tradition. They were, however, really exceptional and he did not go wrong! "Signora Lina's dishes remind me of the aromas and tastes of those cooked by my grandmother." Taken from the “IPMAGAZINE”

Day 12 — Thursday, October 25— Departure Rome to USA

This morning you will have time to prepare you luggage for the journey home. The famous but unpleasant cliché, “all good things come to an end”, unfortunately and accordingly also this escapade through the regions Tuscany & Lazio, Italy. Upon our arrival at the airport, we will board our homebound flight with many memories, stories and kilos of Italy with us to recount and share. Say “Arrivederci”, never “Good-bye”.



AIRFARE & TRANSFERS

This trip is priced Land & Air separately. The reason: *anyone wishing to procure their own air travel through frequent flyer miles or other, may do so, keeping in mind, they must adhere to the “group” arrival and departure schedule in Rome, Fiumecino Airport in Italy, to be able to take advantage of the “included” transfers to and from the airport in Italy. Otherwise you may be obliged to take taxis or hire a private transfer to meet the group or return to the airport at your own expense. We will be pleased to assist you in booking your flights from the USA to Rome, Italy.

INSURANCE

Many times we are asked about travel insurance. We, unless licensed by the State of New Jersey, cannot sell you insurance of any kind. There are several options that you can research such as; AARP Members, AAA Members, check your “homeowner’s policies” for travel provisions, other organizations to which you may be a member, or check online at <https://www.insuremytrip.com/>. This web site will give you comparisons from which to choose.

PRIOR to DEPARTURE

Prior to all of our group departures Fratelli & Company Group Travel will provide you with an “information” packet which will answer many of your concerns and questions about the trip. It will give contact information, flight schedules, hotel information and telephone numbers to leave at home with family members. It will give you info for packing suggestions, type of weather to expect, Euro vs US Dollar exchanges, US Embassy telephone numbers and much more. However, if you have a question or concern beforehand, please do not hesitate to call or email our office.

INCLUDED:

***ROUND TRIP GROUP AIRPORT TRANSFERS IN ITALY (see above AIRFARE & TRANSFERS)**
ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR ESCORT FROM DAY of ARRIVAL to DAY of DEPARTURE
ENGLISH SPEAKING LOCAL GUIDES THROUGHOUT
ENTRANCE FEES TO SITES INCLUDED
BUFFET BREAKFAST DAILY with coffee, tea, juice
DINNERS & LUNCHESES as per itinerary
DE LUXE AIR-CONDITIONED MOTORCOACH
LUGGAGE HANDLING IN and OUT OF HOTELS
FIRST CLASS HOTELS
TAXES (19% VA TAX) & SERVICE CHARGES

EXCLUDED:

ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS TO US AIRPORTS
PASSPORTS and/or VISA FEES
GRATUITIES to DRIVER, GUIDES, TOUR ESCORTS
LUGGAGE HANDLING IN AIRPORTS
ITEMS OF PERSONAL NATURE (Laundry, telephone calls, room service, etc)
CITY HOTEL STAY TAXES (46.50 Euro per person)