



**FRATELLI & COMPANY**

Presents

**SIGHTS ON ITALY**

September 2—13, 2019

**Florence / Tuscany / Perugia / Chianti / Rome / Sistine Chapel/ Vatican City/ Sorrento /  
Naples / Amalfi / Saintt Gerard Majella / Monte Vergine /Wine & Food Tasting / and  
more.....**

*Fratelli & Company Group Travel*

[www.fratelliandcompany.com](http://www.fratelliandcompany.com)



Dear Friends;

I would like to invite you on a very exciting pilgrimage/tour to some of my favorite parts of Italy; Rome, Tuscany, Perugia, the Chianti region, Sorrento, Naples and more.. This excursion has been designed to allow you to experience, first hand, the deep religious sentiments of these areas as well as the cultural and gastronomical peculiarities of each particular region.

I have used Fratelli and Co. for many years. They design these excursions to be not only personal, educational, spiritual and truly fulfilling. Fratelli always adds that extra special touch such as visiting an off the beaten path winery or monastery.

As a result these type of tours promote comradery, conviviality, and a jovial spirit! When you return from a Fratelli & Company Tour you feel as though you didn't just visit places, but rather you experienced a culture, a heritage and language, in this case the Culture of Bella Italia! It would truly be my pleasure to share with you my beloved Italy and the Italian experience in September 2019.

God bless you

Fr. Tom Nicastro

### **Day 1—Departure—Monday, September 2, 2019**

This evening's trans-Atlantic flight to Rome, Italy will depart from Newark Liberty International Airport. Meals and entertainment are aloft and 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 12, "Airfare & Transfers")*

### **Day 2 — Arrival Rome Fiumicino Airport**

Upon arrival at Fiumicino, Leonardo daVinci 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—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 will we 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. **Dinner (included w/**

**wine & water & coffee), overnight in Florence.** Mass today 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.

## Day 4— 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 with lunch (included) in the **Verrazano Castle**. Later we continue our journey south along the Chianti Road to the medieval village of Monteriggioni. Here we will have some free-time to explore this fascinating city before heading back to 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*

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 Sieneese 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.

In the Castel Verrazano we are talking about the famous explorer who on April 17, 1524, at the age of 39, was the first European to discover the New York Bay. The castle, in Val di Greve, was the abode of his aristocratic family of origin, the Verrezzanos. In one of the letters Giovanni da Verrazano wrote to King Francis I of France, at whose service he had started his adventures on the coasts of North-America – the great seaman wrote: “We often went five or six leagues into the interior, and found the country as pleasant as is possible to conceive, adapted to cultivation of every kind, whether of corn,



wine or oil...”Words we might borrow to describe the luxuriant Tuscan hills of Chianti Classico, where the Castle rises with its 16th-century cellars and its 220 hectares of land, which have produced excellent wine for almost a millennium. A place that was, and is to this day, “*as pleasant as is possible to conceive*”. **Tonight supper on your own and overnight in Florence.**



## Day 5— 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 Etrus-



can 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.

Today 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. **This evening, supper included with wine, water and coffee. Overnight in Florence.**

## Day 6—Florence to Sorrento Orientation Tour of the City

This morning we depart from Florence to make our journey south to Sorrento. Our destination today will be one of the most romantic and picturesque regions of Italy, the Sorrentine peninsula. En route we will pass beneath the awesome and mysterious shadows of Mount Vesuvius, which in 79 AD, destroyed most of the area and created an entirely new coastline with its cataclysmic eruption. As we travel along the serpentine coastal road, hovering over the turquoise Mediterranean Sea called "La Sorrentina", the views will be breathtaking. Upon arrival at our hotel you will have some time for check in and to freshen up before our short orientation tour of this magnificent city of cliffs. **Supper included with wine, water and coffee and overnight in Sorrento.**





### Day 7—Sorrento/Amalfi (Costiera Amalfitana)

Today after breakfast we will embark on one of the most memorable days of the entire trip, “La Costiera Amalfitana”, the Amalfi Coast Drive. Traveling south from the Bay of Sorrento to the Bay of Salerno along the Mediterranean, its time to experience the most spectacular and scenic coastal drives in all of Europe, if not the world! The 40 mile trek of cliff road consists of over 1000 curves and turns, each one with a new and fantastic view of the mountains which seem to lean down to kiss the crystal clear turquoise sea below. There will be panoramic stops along the way for photos



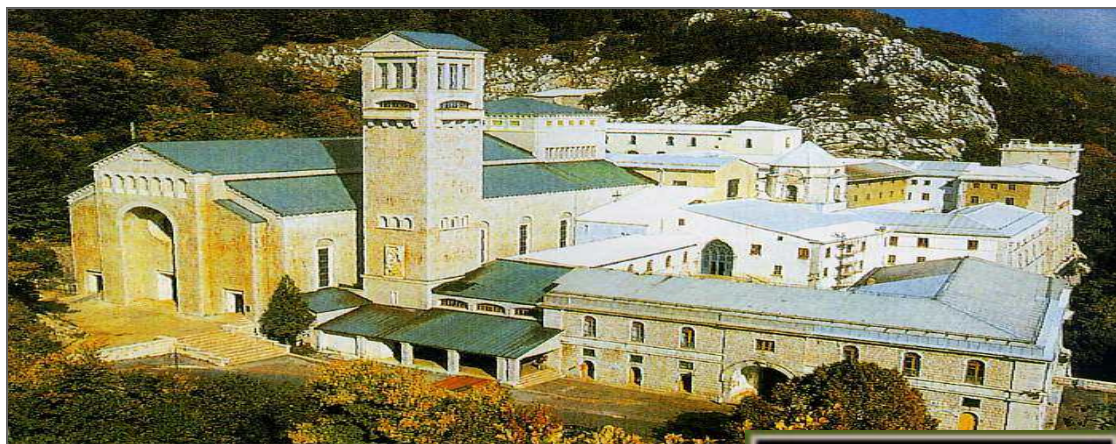
- have your camera ready for this one!!!



Our main stop today will be in Amalfi, a beautiful sea-port city, once an ancient Empire, with its magnificent Arab/Norman Cathedral of Saint Andrew’s (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Century). The cathedral houses the relic of the head of Saint Andrew taken in the sack of Constantinople in 1204. There will be some free time for shopping and meandering in this beautiful seaside village. **Dinner (included) and overnight is in Sorrento.**

### Day 8—Saint Gerard Majella & La Madonna di Monte Vergine

Today we travel inland to the Apennine hills of Avellino to visit two famous shrines. We begin our day with a visit to the abbey of Monte Vergine. The monastery chapel contains an ancient Byzantine picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary, said to have come originally from Antioch. The dark features of the Blessed Virgin standing out from a background of bright gold have won for it from peasants and pilgrims the name of "Schiavona"



Later we proceed to Materdomini to visit the famous shrine of St. Gerard. The youngest of five children, he was born on April 6, 1726, in the small town of Muro. He was very sickly at birth and was immediately taken to the Cathedral church for Baptism.

He is the saint whose intercession is requested for children (and unborn children in particular), childbirth, mothers (and expectant mothers in particular), motherhood, falsely accused people and good confessions. Gerard Maiella was beatified in Rome on January 29, 1893, by Pope Leo XIII. He was canonized less than twelve years later on December 11, 1904, by Pope Saint Pius X. His feast day is October 16.

**Dinner (included) and overnight will be in Sorrento. Mass TBA.**





## Day 9 — Sorrento to Naples Basilica / Neapolitan Nativities/ Santa Chiara / City & Panoramic Sightseeing



Today, after breakfast, we depart to the legendary city of Naples. There will be a scenic tour of the city and time to visit the main Cathedral of Naples; *Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta* and burial place of *San Gennaro*, patron of this region of Italy. *San Gennaro* is invoked by the faithful to intercede for the protection of the population against the wrath of Mount Vesuvius, the famous Monastery (Basilica) of *Santa Chiara* with its magnificent “majolica” tiled designed

cloister.

We will walk along the Spanish Quarter, famous for the production of the Neapolitan Nativity scenes. A pizza **lunch (on your own)** would be in order today in view of the fact that “pizza” was invented in this famous city. There will be a walk through the *Galleria* and *Piazza del Plebescito*, past the Royal Palace of the Bourbon Kings. We will see the *Angevin Castle* or *Maschio Angioino* as the locals call it. This imposing castle, once surrounded by deep moats, was built in 1282 by Pierre de Chaulnes and Pierre d'Angincourt, the architects of Charles I of Anjou. It was modeled on the castle at An-



gers, France. Later in the afternoon we will depart Naples for the last leg of our journey through central Italy to the Eternal City of Rome. We will arrive in Rome late in the day, check into our hotel. And proceed to supper. **Supper (included) and overnight in Rome.**





## Day 10— Rome—Vatican City & Sistine Chapel

Today after breakfast we will visit Vatican Hill; one of the Seven Hills of Rome where the seat of Christianity; St. Peter's Basilica is located atop it. At 22,067 square meters, (approx. 210,000 square feet) 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. Inside the Basilica you will visit Michelangelo's famous "Pietà", the Baldacchino Altar and crypt where the many of the popes are buried and much more. Later we will continue onto the Sistine Chapel to see one of the world's most famous masterpieces by Michelangelo—"The Ceiling". The balance of the day is free to shop or visit other sights on your own. **Dinner this evening (on your own) overnight in Rome.**





## Day 11 — Ancient & Monumental Rome

Today, after breakfast, we will begin our tour of some of the most important and popular sites of Ancient & Monumental Rome.



**Coliseum**, Located just east of the Roman Forum, the massive stone amphitheater was commissioned around A.D. 70-72 by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty as a gift to the Roman people. In A.D. 80, Vespasian's son Titus opened the Colosseum—officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater—with 100 days of games, including gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights.

**Capitoline Hill:** The Capitoline Hill is the smallest among the seven hills of Rome. Even though it is the smallest it played a huge part in the religious and political aspects of Rome since the founding of the city center.

**Pantheon:** The Pantheon is the best preserved building from ancient Rome and was completed in 125 AD in the reign of Hadrian. Its magnificent dome is a lasting testimony to the genius of Roman architects and as the building stands virtually intact it offers a unique opportunity for the modern visitor to step back 2,000 years and experience the glory that was Rome.



**Piazza Navona:** The main attraction of Piazza Navona is the trio of fountains that adorn the square. The central and largest fountain is the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi (Fountain of the Four Rivers). It was constructed between 1647 and 1651 on request of pope Innocent X.



**Fountain of Trevi:** It is the largest Baroque fountain in the city and the most beautiful in the world. A traditional legend holds that if visitors throw a coin into the fountain, they are ensured a return to Rome. The *Trevi Fountain* is situated at the end of the Aqua Virgo, an aqueduct constructed in 19 BC by Agrippa, the son-in-law of Emperor Augustus.

**Spanish Steps:** The elegant staircase of 135 steps was inaugurated in the Jubilee Year of 1725 by Pope Benedict XIII, originally used to link the Bourbon Spanish Embassy to the Church of Trinità dei Monti. The name comes from the Spanish Embassy to the Vatican that has been located in the piazza since the 1600s.

*Much of today's tour will be on foot, please wear comfortable shoes and clothing.*

**This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner (included) with music, wine, water and coffee included in Rome. Overnight will be in Rome.**



## **Day 12— Departure Day**

Today, we bid not farewell, but *Arri-vederci* (see you again) to Italy as we transfer to **Leonardo DaVinci Airport in Fiumecino**. Upon boarding our flight homebound, not only will we be carrying many kilos of Italy in our luggage, but many memories of fun days, wonderfully interesting meals shared with friends, a bit more culture to add to our already cultured consciousness, but above all, the recollection of an impressive and wonderful journey on the **ITALIAN PENINSULA**.



## **Dinner aloft and overnight at HOME!!!**

### **INCLUDED:**

**\*ROUND TRIP COACH AIR FARE from Newark (EWR) INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**\*\*ROUND TRIP GROUP AIRPORT TRANSFERS IN ITALY**  
**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 & LUNCHEs and Wine Tasting as per itinerary**  
**DE LUXE AIR-CONDITIONED MOTORCOACH**  
**FIRST CLASS HOTELS**  
**PORTERAGE in HOTELS in ITALY**  
**TAXES (20% VAT) & SERVICE CHARGES**

### **EXCLUDED:**

**ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS TO US AIRPORTS**  
**PASSPORTS and/or VISA FEES**  
**GRATUITIES to DRIVER, GUIDES, TOUR ESCORTS**  
**PORTERAGE IN AIRPORTS**  
**ITEMS OF PERSONAL NATURE (Laundry, telephone calls, room service, etc)**  
**BEVERAGES at MEALS UNLESS LISTED IN THE ITINERARY**  
**CITY HOTEL STAY TAXES - \$50 per person for the entire trip.**

**\* - see page 10 "Airfare & Transfers"**

**\*\* - see page 10 "Airfare & Transfers"**



## 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, Fiumicino 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. *If you are booking “your own” air, please contact us for the Group air schedule.*

## INSURANCE

Many times we are asked about travel insurance. We, unless licensed by the State of New Jersey, we 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.

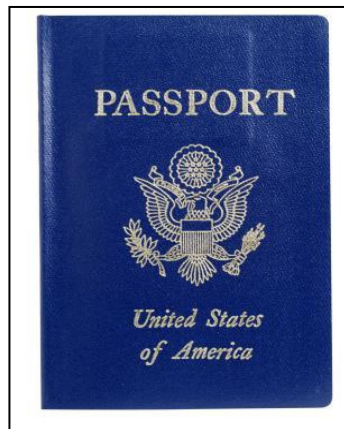
## PASSPORTS

**Make two copies of all of your travel documents (passports picture page) in case of an emergency or loss and leave one with a trusted friend or relative.**

## Travel to European Countries in the Schengen Area

Entry into any of the 26 European countries in the Schengen area for short-term tourism, a business trip, or in transit to a non-Schengen destination, requires that your passport be valid for at least three months beyond your intended date of departure. Because many Schengen countries assume all travelers will stay the full three months allowed for visa-free visitors, we recommend that U.S. citizens:

- Have at least six month’s validity remaining on your passport whenever you travel abroad.
- Check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe.
- Carry your passport with you at all times in Europe. ID must be shown upon request by Government officials anytime in the Schengen areas.





FOR FURTHER INFO CALL

Fratelli & Company Group Travel

E-mail — [info@fratelliandcompany.com](mailto:info@fratelliandcompany.com) or [fratelco@aol.com](mailto:fratelco@aol.com) – tel. or fax (908)766-8994

Please fill in all areas and sign reverse side of application. A copy will be sent with your receipt of deposit.

**Land Package - \$3,097. per person (double occupancy)**

**Airfare — \$1,002. (see page 10 "Airfare & Transfers")**

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**Sights On Italy—September 2-13, 2019**

Name as it appears on passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile or Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: (City, State, Nation) \_\_\_\_\_

US CITIZENS

U S Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOREIGN NATIONALS

Foreign Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Alien Registration # (Green Card) \_\_\_\_\_

If you DO NOT have a passport at this time, please indicate, then provide to the tour operator/tour organizer with the passport info ASAP.

I wish to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Private Accommodations or Single Room: \_\_\_\_\_ + Single Supplement Fee **\$600.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

***Fratelli & Co. GTC***, 26 Pill Hill Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

\$500. Per person. Deposit due with this application

Balance in Full Due 60 days prior to departure date; July 2, 2019

Will you be taking Travel Insurance? It is recommended. Yes \_\_\_ / No \_\_\_ Your travel professional can assist you.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO: Please provide one or 2 Names and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Do you have any SEVERE FOOD or MEDICATION ALLERGIES: - Please list below or on separate sheet.