



Dominican Italy Pilgrimage

November 4 - 17, 2023 - 14 Days

\$7,599 from Pensacola

For Information and Reservations, Contact Unitours, Inc.
Telephone: 800-777-7432 – Email: mpisano@unitours.com

Saturday, November 4 - Day 1 – DEPART USA

– Today we depart Pensacola to connect with our overnight flight to Rome aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast aloft.

Sunday, November 5 - DAY 2 - ROME/ BOLSENA/SIENA - Following morning arrival in Rome we travel north through the Italian countryside to the beautiful lakeside town of Bolsena. We celebrate Mass at the Lakeside Chapel in Bolsina Bolsena, known for a miracle said to have occurred in the Basilica of Santa Cristina in 1263, when a Bohemian priest, in doubt about the doctrine of Transubstantiation, reported bleeding from the host he had consecrated at Mass. Following our included lunch, we visit the Church of Santa Christina. We continue north, arriving in the magnificent city of Siena, which invites us to stroll through its Gothic streets. Dinner is on our own. Overnight at our hotel.

Monday, November 6 - Day 3 –SIENA - We discover on this tour the places visited by St. Catherine of Siena, patron saint of Italy, co-patron saint of Europe, and Doctor of the Church. We celebrate Mass at altar of St. Catherine at the church of San Domenico. Following Mass, we meet our guide. Inside the Basilica we admire the relics of the Saint's finger and head. We discover the inner greatness of this small but great Sienese woman, who fought to bring peace to all of Europe. From here we move on to visit the house-sanctuary, where Catherine was born and lived for most of her life. We see where her bedroom was, and the remains of her family's kitchen. We then descend to Fontebranda, the oldest fountain in Siena. The tour ends in the beautiful Piazza del Campo, with the famous Palazzo Pubblico that had just been completed at the time of St. Catherine. We have free time for lunch on our own and browsing before returning to our hotel. Dinner at a restaurant in Siena. Overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday, November 7 - Day 4 - MONTEPULCIANO/PIENZA/MONTALCINO

– Today we drive to Montepulciano, the "Pearl of The Renaissance". We begin with Mass at the Altar of the Tomb in the Dominican Monastery, which was home of St. Agnes of Montepulciano. We visit the temple church of "San Biagio" and walk to the "Piazza Grande," and

visit the cathedral, town hall, and some noble palaces. We also visit the Cellar Ercolani, where we enjoy pecorino cheese and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. We make our way from there to lunch at La Terazza del Chiostro in Pienza (weather permitting for an al fresco lunch on their terrace) After lunch we leave Pienza, to Montalcino, "great and noble fortified city" as Pope Pius II defined it. Rich in churches and monuments, Montalcino is also famous for its Brunello wine. We stop at La Fortezza winery, located right inside the ancient fortress of Montalcino, a place rich in history that was the symbol of the last glorious defense of the Sienese Republic in 1555 against the Florentine Hispanic troops. Here you will have the opportunity to purchase the excellent wines of the region should you choose. Return to Siena and our hotel. Dinner is on our own.

Wednesday, November 8 - Day 5 – SAN GIMIGNANO

– This morning, we drive to San Gimignano the nearby medieval town famous for its tower houses built as symbols of the residents' wealth and power. The town is so precious that UNESCO has declared it a "World Heritage Site." Walking through the Old City means plunging into the Middle Ages and getting a taste of what the city must have been like more than seven hundred years ago. We celebrate Mass at the St. Fina chapel today. Afterwards, we visit the nearby hospital with the relic of her bed. She was a saint who died at 15 years old after having been confined to this "bed" (wood panel) for 5 years of illness. We enjoy lunch in San Gimignano at Le Terrazze restaurant upstairs by the windows. We return to Siena and our hotel for overnight. Dinner is on our own.

Thursday, November 9 - Day 6 – FLORENCE

– This morning, we drive to Florence, where we begin with a drive to the "Piazzale Michelangelo" for a panoramic view of the spectacular city. We continue to the city where we celebrate Mass at the Basilica of San Marco. We meet our guide and begin our tour with a visit to the convent of San Marco and the wonderful Fra Angelico frescoes. We then continue to the Duomo, the heart of the city. Here we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, and its campanile by Giotto. Once outside we view the Baptistery with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Afterwards, we set out to the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace,

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we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna's the "Rape of the Sabines" and "Hercules." Free time for lunch on our own and some time for shopping or personal adventure. We conclude with a visit to the Basilica of Santa Croce. Among the most famous interred here, are Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo, and Machiavelli. We return to hotel in Siena. Dinner at a restaurant in Siena.

Friday, November 10 - Day 7 – AREZZO – This morning we depart Siena for a short ride to Arezzo, an ancient capital of Etruria and a small medieval jewel. Upon arrival our sightseeing will include the Cathedral [where you will also find the 14th-century tomb of Pope Gregory X], the Church of Santa Maria della Pieve, Piazza Grande, the Church of St Francis with the famous frescoes by Piero della Francesca and Giorgio Vasari's birthplace. We celebrate Mass at the Church of Saint Dominic here. Following our included lunch in Arezzo, we return to Siena and our hotel. We enjoy dinner in the city on our own.

Saturday, November 11 - Day 8 – BOLOGNA – This morning, we drive due north to Bologna, one of the culinary capitals of Italy. Situated on the southern edge of the Po plain, Bologna, the capital of Emilia-Romagna, has many medieval towers, churches and long arcaded streets lined by sumptuous 14c to 17c palaces. With one of the oldest universities in Europe, one can imagine the political and cultural importance of this once independent city. Following Mass at the tomb of St. Dominic at the 13c St. Dominic's church with statues by Michelangelo and its celebrated arch by the sculptor Niccolò da Bari, we see the Neptune Fountain, Town Hall, and leaning towers. We enjoy a wonderful Bologna lunch in the city. After our visits and free time, we return Siena where dinner will be on our own.

Sunday, November 12 - Day 9 – SIENA – This morning, we walk for Mass and a visit the Duomo with its wonderful works of art. Leaving the Duomo we descend the stairs which lead to the baptistery and there we hear some more stories about the life of St. Catherine. This afternoon will be free for rest, personal exploring and lunch on our own here in Siena. We will enjoy an included dinner in a Siena restaurant.

Monday, November 13 - Day 10 – SIENA/ORVIETO/ROME - Today we depart Siena for Rome. On route, we stop in Orvieto for a visit and Mass in the Corporal Chapel at the breathtaking Cathedral, which is known as the jewel of Italian architecture. Inside the Cathedral is the Chapel of the Corporal, which houses the altar cloth stained with the blood of Christ from the eucharistic miracle, the site of which we

visited in nearby Bolsena. In the 13th century a pilgrim priest named Peter of Prague was celebrating Mass at the crypt of St. Cristina. He was having a faith crisis concerning the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and while speaking the words of the consecration, blood started to drip from the consecrated Host. After the miracle, Pope Urban instituted The Feast of Corpus Christi. Following our included luncheon here, we continue to Rome for overnight. We enjoy a reception on the hotel's rooftop including prosecco and some appetizers. (Rooftop is weather permitting. Otherwise inside hotel,) Dinner is on our own. Overnight at our hotel in Rome.

Tuesday, November 14 - DAY 11 - ROME - This morning, we enjoy a walking tour of Rome's sites including a visit to the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Italian designer shops along the Via Condotti. We celebrate Mass at St. Catherine's Tomb in Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Following lunch on our own, this afternoon by coach, we visit one of Rome's major basilicas, St. John Lateran, the nearby Holy Stairs, and the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. We continue for dinner at Hostaria Costanza, Fr. Joe's favorite restaurant in Rome.

Wednesday, November 15 - Day 12 – VATICAN CITY/ROME – This morning, we make our way to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Francis if he is in residence. Following lunch at Ristorante Scarpone, we celebrate Mass at Santa Sabina (Dominican Headquarters in Rome) and after, we enjoy a walking tour of some more of Rome's highlights passing the Roman Fora, the Arch of Constantine, the Coliseum, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We return to our hotel and dinner is on our own tonight.

Thursday, November 16 - DAY 13 - VATICAN CITY/ROME - Following morning Mass at and a brief visit at St. Peter's, (See note below) pilgrims will have chosen one of two options. Either we spend this morning seeing the treasures of the Vatican Museum with the special "Art and Faith Tour" offered by the nuns of the Missionaries of the Divine Revelation: to marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and continue to St. Peter's Basilica to view the "Pieta" OR enjoy the 'Scavi Tour, a special tour of the excavations beneath the Vatican where the body of St. Peter was found. We visit in groups of twelve. When not below, we enjoy shopping in this area. Following lunch on our own, this afternoon we are free for shopping, personal adventure, and rest. Dinner will be in a local restaurant this evening.

Note: the option for this morning will be selected at the time of registering for the pilgrimage.

Friday, November 17 - Day 14 – ROME/USA – If possible, we celebrate Mass at the parish near the hotel before we continue to the airport to make our way home with memories of a lifetime.

Dominican Italy Pilgrimage DLB1104BF

Mail to: Unitours, Inc. 10 Midland Ave. #202. Port Chester, NY 10573

Please reserve ___ seats on this Dominican Italy Pilgrimage - November 4 - 17, 2023

Enclosed please find deposit of \$1,000 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until May 17, 2024, or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport)

My Roommate:

Address:

City, State & Zip

Daytime Telephone:

Email Address:

Name(s) as you'd like them to appear on nametags:

Charge my deposit to ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Amex ___ Discover

Card #

Exp. Date

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary.

Signature

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect December 30, 2022. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 30 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Passport MUST be valid until May 17, 2024, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S., please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on American Airlines. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a \$200 penalty.

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$1073 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$125 plus current fuel surcharges of \$320 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$133 ARE NOT INCLUDED. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received by Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made within 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include

full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date including insurance. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc. **BANK FEE:** A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/TravelInsurance for full details. Cost of travel insurance for this trip starts at \$536. To cover preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased with your reservation. (See reservation form). If paying by check, add insurance cost to your deposit. Insurance can also be purchased at the time of your final payment.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries, or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

ERRORS: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.



Italy

