



PEARLS of ITALY

THE LAKE DISTRICT | VENICE | TUSCANY | ROME

SMALL GROUP
MAXIMUM OF
28 TRAVELERS

SPONSORED BY



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



OCT. 14-25, 2017



Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Sip Chianti wine during a visit to the cellars of **Castello di Monsanto**.
- ▶ Stroll through the exquisitely landscaped English-style gardens of the **Borromean Islands**.
- ▶ Witness Leonardo da Vinci's **"The Last Supper"** and Michelangelo's David.
- ▶ Breeze through the **canals of Venice** aboard a water taxi.
- ▶ See the glittering mosaics of **St. Mark's Basilica**, and feed the pigeons in St. Mark's Square.
- ▶ View **San Gimignano's soaring medieval towers**.
- ▶ Enjoy early access to the Vatican Museums and witness Michelangelo's exquisite **Sistine Chapel** frescoes.

A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

Your next memorable chapter includes the Italy of Roman emperors, medieval maritime explorers, Renaissance artists and world-famous winemakers. This is a land where history, artistic tradition and scenic beauty are forever intertwined.



Traveling Aggies

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Howdy, Ags!

Historic treasures, unrivaled artwork, scenic beauty: Italy's riches are vast, varied and yours to discover when you join us for a 10-night journey through the regions of Piedmont, Veneto, Tuscany and Lazio.

Begin with three nights in Stresa exploring the old-world charm and lavishly landscaped gardens of the Italian Lake District. Witness the 14th-century Doge's Palace and Byzantine decadence of St. Mark's Basilica during two nights in canal-laced Venice. Spend three nights in Florence exploring the illuminating work of Renaissance masters, and sample wine while visiting medieval towns. Your journey concludes with two nights in Rome, the Eternal City.

In addition to exciting excursions and stimulating lectures, you'll enjoy ample leisure time for individual exploration, ensuring you an unforgettable Italian adventure.

Space is limited to ensure maximum traveling comfort, so we encourage you to make your reservation today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director, Travel Programs

The Association of Former Students

AggieNetwork.com/Travel

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel



The Forum, Rome



Surrender to the allure of Italy, a rich tapestry of stunning scenery, mesmerizing art and heady wine, interwoven with the golden threads of ancient history. Experience the floral-scented breezes and beguiling views of the mythic Italian Lakes District when you sail to sparkling Lake Maggiore's trio of islands, a 16th-century legacy of the aristocratic Borromeo family. Visit sophisticated Milan and Venice, luminous city of water and stone. See Michelangelo's famous David in Renaissance Florence. Stroll through medieval hill towns overlooking glorious Tuscan countryside, and sample rich, ruby Chianti in the very region where it's produced. Fall in love with Rome, where 2,700 years of history are on display at every turn. In this land that has birthed empires and shaped destinies, adopt Italy's cultural tradition of embracing life to the full.

DAY ONE
IN TRANSIT

Depart your gateway city for Milan, Italy.✈

DAY TWO
MILAN, ITALY | STRESA

Upon arrival, transfer✈ to Stresa, Italy, and check in to the Hotel La Palma.

DAY THREE
B I L I D
BORROMEAN ISLANDS

Educational Focus: *The Development of the Lakes District.*

Excursion: *Borromeo Islands.* Sail to the gorgeous trio of islands on glimmering Lake


Milan Cathedral

Maggiore. Visit Isola Madre's lovely 16th-century villa and famous English-style gardens filled with fragrant citrus trees, azaleas, rhododendrons and ancient wisteria. Cruise to Isola dei Pescatori, the only island that is inhabited year-round. Finally, step onto the shores of historic Isola Bella. Explore the artwork and gilded rococo rooms of the baroque Borromeo Palace. Wander tiered formal gardens where white peacocks and golden pheasants strut freely amid exotic blooms and fanciful statues.

Local Flavor: Soak up the old-world ambience of Isola dei Pescatori during lunch at an island restaurant.

This evening, enjoy a Welcome Reception and Dinner with fellow travelers.

DAY FOUR
B I D
STRESA

Independent Exploration: Today is at leisure. Visit lakeside open-air markets, or witness exotic birds and animals roaming freely in the natural environs of Parco della Villa Pallavicino.



St. Mark's Basilica, Venice

DAY FIVE

B

MILAN | VENICE

Excursion: Milan. Explore the history and sophisticated elegance of Milan. Visit Santa Maria delle Grazie Church and admire Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" gracing the refectory wall. Explore 14th-century Milan Cathedral, which took nearly six centuries to complete. The exquisite Gothic building of pink and white marble houses thousands of statues.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy free time. Explore Sforza Castle, its defenses designed by the multitalented Leonardo, or visit the opulent La Scala opera house.

Continue to Venice by high-speed train. Upon arrival, take a water taxi through Venice's famous canals to the Hotel Saturnia & International.

DAY SIX

B

VENICE

Excursion: Venice. Navigate Venice, maritime superpower of the Middle Ages known as La Serenissima, the Most Serene. Visit St. Mark's Square and hear the melodious peal of bells from the Campanile. Take in the Italo-Byzantine exterior of St. Mark's Basilica before stepping inside. Every surface gleams with the work of generations of Venetian goldsmiths, and 2,000 gemstones sparkle in the golden altarpiece. Learn about the former Venetian Republic's powerful rulers when you visit the Doge's Palace, a 14th-century Venetian Gothic masterpiece of pink marble and frothy stonework arches.

Independent Exploration: Your afternoon and evening are at leisure. Visit the bustling shops around Rialto Bridge, or soak up beautiful



Venice

Grand Canal views during a classic Venetian gondola ride.

DAY SEVEN

B | D

FLORENCE

Transfer by high-speed train to Florence. Upon arrival, check in to the Grand Hotel Baglioni.

Independent Exploration: Choose a restaurant for lunch on your own, and enjoy leisure time to explore Florence's Old Town, or view panoramas of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo.

Excursion: Florence. Discover the Renaissance legacy of Florence. See Brunelleschi's magnificent red-brick dome and the green, white and pink marble exterior of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Witness exceptional sculptures in Piazza della Signoria, and the crenellated tower of medieval Palazzo Vecchio, built above a first-century Roman theater. Stand upon the triple-arched stone bridge of Ponte Vecchio, famous for the tiny shops operating there since the 13th century.

Educational Focus: Renaissance Art.

Local Flavor: Savor regional specialties for dinner at a local restaurant.



San Gimignano



Winery

DAY EIGHT

B

FLORENCE

Independent Exploration: This morning is at leisure. Visit Piazza della Repubblica to rub the nose of the legendary boar statue, il Porcellino, promising your return to Florence, or join the Elective Excursion to the Uffizi Gallery.

ELECTIVE | Uffizi Gallery.

Tour the 16th-century, Vasari-designed Uffizi Gallery, a masterpiece itself. Trace artwork from the 12th through 16th centuries, with an emphasis on Renaissance masterpieces. Linger over Botticelli's "Birth of Venus," Leonardo's "Annunciation" and Caravaggio's superb "Bacchus."

Excursion: Accademia Gallery. Visit the gallery

designed to house Michelangelo's David. Admire several of Michelangelo's unfinished sculptures before entering the central gallery to stand before the 17-foot David. Carved from a single, veined block of Carrara marble, admire the incredible detail, the furrow in his brow, the veins in his sinewy arms, the curl of his toes over his pedestal. The Accademia's Museum of Musical Instruments hosts the grand ducal collection of instruments, including a one-of-a-kind Stradivarius.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy an evening at leisure.

DAY NINE

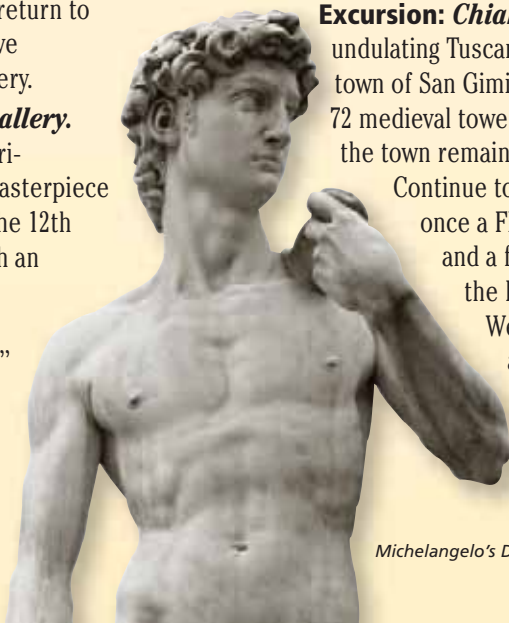
B | L

SAN GIMIGNANO | CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI

Excursion: Chianti. Journey over the undulating Tuscan landscape to the hill town of San Gimignano. Fourteen of 72 medieval towers that once graced the town remain an impressive site.

Continue to Castellina in Chianti, once a Florentine stronghold and a founding member of the League of Chianti.

Well-preserved streets are lined with medieval stone buildings commissioned by Cosimo il Vecchio of the Medici family.



Michelangelo's David, Florence



Florence



Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Castellina in Chianti and a wine tasting at the beautiful Chianti region's Castello di Monsanto winery.

Educational Focus: *Contemporary Italy.*

DAY TEN

B

ROME

Transfer by high-speed train to Rome.

Excursion: *Ancient Rome in a Modern City.* Stroll by the remnants of ancient Rome's greatest monuments, the Colosseum and the Forum. These proud reminders of the power and the glory of the storied city are testaments to ancient Rome's status and eternal appeal. Marvel at the arches of Titus and Constantine, which continue to stand nearly 2,000 years after they were built. Continue to Piazza Navona with its ornate fountains and Bernini sculptures. The square hosted the city's main market for nearly 300 years.

This afternoon, check in to the Rose Garden Palace.

Independent Exploration: The afternoon and evening are at leisure. Explore the famous Pantheon, toss coins in Trevi Fountain and sit on the Spanish Steps with a scoop (or two!) of creamy gelato.

DAY ELEVEN

B | D

ROME

Excursion: *The Vatican.* Enjoy early access to the Vatican Museums, showcasing some of the world's most significant collections. Step into the Sistine Chapel to marvel at the incredible frescoes which Michelangelo spent four years creating. Cross the central square to enter St. Peter's Basilica, the largest cathedral in the world. See the well-polished foot of the St. Peter statue, which people rub for a blessing. And witness the breathtaking Pietà sculpture, completed by a 22-year-old Michelangelo.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy leisure time to stroll through atmospheric St. Peter's Square. Witness Bernini's semicircular colonnades and gorgeous 17th-century fountains.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

DAY TWELVE

B

IN TRANSIT

Transfer✈ to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: *Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.*

✈ *Provided for AHI FlexAir participants*

BLAD denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

🌀 *Elective Excursion available at an additional cost*

| ACCOMMODATIONS |



HOTEL LA PALMA
STRESA



HOTEL SATURNIA &
INTERNATIONAL | VENICE



GRAND HOTEL BAGLIONI
FLORENCE



ROSE GARDEN PALACE
ROME



Our travel experts have selected these first-class properties, each in a prime location, for your comfort. Details in the design and décor celebrate the local culture and enhance the ambience of each hotel. Their restaurants feature menus of elegantly prepared local and international cuisine. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to maximize the enjoyment of your stay.

Reserve your trip to Italy today!

Trip #:14-23005W

Send to: The Association of Former Students
 Attn: Traveling Aggies
 505 George Bush Drive
 College Station, TX 77840-2918
 Phone: 979-845-7514
 Fax: 979-845-9263
 Toll Free: 800-633-7514



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Guest 1: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

Guest 1: _____ Class Year _____

Guest 2: _____ Class Year _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Milan, Italy, with a return from Rome to depart from:

Departure City _____

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Only Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$995 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **July 31, 2017** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600/person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED:Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL: The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE: Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS: On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

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CANCELLATION: All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS:** Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

All prices listed are in USD. CST Registration No. 2028271-20. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST-33300 Iowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Reg. No. 8889139. Washington State Seller of Travel Reg. No. 601-820-781. **PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-**all IATA and ARC Member Carriers ©2017 AHI Travel Printed in the USA.

LAND PROGRAM

Oct. 15-25, 2017

Full Price
\$4,845

Special Savings
\$250

Special Price*
\$4,595*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$995 (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights!

Oct. 14-25, 2017

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ a **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ discounted prices for business-class upgrades
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.

| UNESCO |

Six of Italy's UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program:

1. **Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci, Milan**
2. **Venice and its Lagoon**
3. **Historic Center of Florence**
4. **Historic Center of San Gimignano**
5. **Historic Center of Rome**
6. **Vatican City**



Vatican City



800-633-7514

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ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Three nights in Stresa, Italy, at the first-class Hotel La Palma.
- Two nights in Venice at the first-class Hotel Saturnia & International.
- Three nights in Florence at the first-class Grand Hotel Baglioni.
- Two nights in Rome at the first-class Rose Garden Palace.

TRANSFERS

- All transfers within the Land Program: trains, deluxe motor coaches and water taxis, including baggage handling.

MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, featuring 10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **TRAVEL CONSULTANTS** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **TRAVEL INFORMATION** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to fully prepare you for your journey.

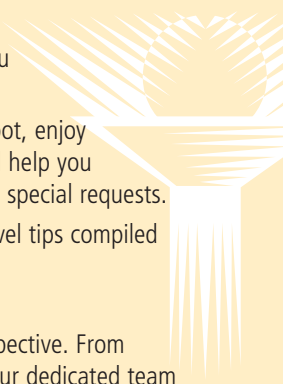
Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **TRAVEL DIRECTOR** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **EXPERT GUIDES** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **LECTURERS** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.

YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- **The following excursions:**
 - Sail to the Borromean Islands.
 - See Leonardo's "The Last Supper" during a tour of Milan.
 - Explore Venice and its canals.
 - Discover Florence, cradle of the Renaissance.
 - Visit the Accademia Gallery and see Michelangelo's David.
 - Explore medieval towns in Chianti.
 - Discover Rome, the Eternal City.
 - Visit Vatican City and its spectacular museums.





Traveling Aggies

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The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students
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505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

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Colosseum, Rome



Venice



Isola Bella

Journey with us to the Lake District, Venice, Florence and Rome!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.