

# Urban and Rural Landscapes of Venice and Rome

## July 9 - 26, 2007

*Join Bill Geiger to discover Italian Landscapes and Culture*

We begin our adventure in Venice and end in Rome. Venice is an impressive blend of waterways, bridges, land and glorious architecture. Comprised of 118 small islands, linked by over 150 canals and connected by 400 bridges in a crescent lagoon, it is one of the world's loveliest cities, and the only city of its kind in the world due to its topographical features. Often called the gateway to the Orient, Venice is a living museum to the past boasting magnificent oriental architecture, an incredible number of churches, historic palaces and Gondola Serenades (with live music and singing). You will marvel at the elegant Venetian buildings and palaces which peer over the ancient web of narrow streets and maze of canals. The entire historic center is a treasure from an artistic and architectural point of view and the vibrant history dates back to the Middle Ages.



The ancient city and landscapes of Rome are an experience of a lifetime. Rome is rich in life and culture. Italy itself is an unforgettable place with ancient ruins, extraordinary works of art and sculpture, spectacular architecture, landscapes, gardens, delicious food and drink. You can experience the people, places and beautiful countryside with experienced professor guides.

For three millennia Rome has played an essential role in civilization, religion, art, architecture, and gastronomy. Known as the "Eternal City", Rome is home to some of the most remarkable sites in the world, like the Coliseum, Trevi Fountain, and the Vatican, to name just a few. With its mixture of ancient ruins and contemporary living, Rome charms and excites all of her visitors. We walk and see the city, its churches,

spaces, palaces, gardens, landscapes and people.

We will have an optional day for journeys to Florence and Pompeii. Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance", is known for its spectacular artwork, architecture, and literature. During the late Middle Ages, Florence was the center of European culture and today you can still see the stunning Duomo, the Baptistery featuring Ghiberti's famous bronze doors, and the beautiful Boboli Gardens. Pompeii is truly a visit back in time. The preserved History is breathtaking in Southern Italy.

### Program includes:

- Round-trip flights Chicago to Venice, returning from Rome on Swiss Air
- 3 nights accommodation in Venice at the Hotel Belle Epoque
- 13 nights accommodation in Rome. Housing at the Monache Camaldolesi Convent on the Aventine Hill of Rome, simple rooms with private baths and a great view! The convent is next to the Roman rose garden and across from the American Ambassador to Rome's residence. A pleasure to just sit and enjoy "La Dolce Vita"
- All transfers included, including the Eurostar High Speed Train from Venice to Rome
- Breakfast, lunch and dinners provided at the Convent, except on scheduled travel and/or free days as noted
- Day trips outside of Rome to Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli, Villa d'Este, and Villa Lante with the Monster Park
- All scheduled museum and site visit entrance tickets; Weekly Metro passes for Rome

**Package Price:** per person based on double occupancy, with air out of Chicago

- \$3,495 Air and Ground Package, per person
- \$2,495 Ground Package Only (no air), per person
- \$325 Single Supplement



Deposit NOW to guarantee your space! \$250 per person deposit due by February 15, 2007  
Final payment due May 10, 2007

*For questions and itinerary details, contact:*

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