

Peoria **Public Radio**

presents

Taste & Beauty of Italy

September 14 - 22, 2013

Visiting: Parma, Lake Garda, Verona, Milan, Lake Maggiore, Italy & Lugano, Switzerland

\$3699.00 per person from Peoria

For Reservations & further details call: Norma Joseph (309) 677-4907



“Taste & Beauty of Italy”

Exclusive tour features:

- Round trip motor coach transportation from Bradley University to O’Hare Airport.
- Round trip air transportation from Chicago to Milan on American Airlines.
- 7 nights of First Class hotel accommodations as follows:
 - o 3 nights – Parma, Italy
 - o 4 nights – Stresa, Italy
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome and farewell dinners with wine and beverages.
- Three additional dinners at local restaurants or hotels.
- Food tasting of Parmesan and Prosciutto.
- Wine tasting.
- A cooking demonstration of local dishes.
- Guided tours of Parma, Verona and Milan.
- Boat excursion to Borromean islands while in Stresa.
- Visit to the Ferrari Museum.
- Full time English speaking tour director.
- Luggage handling at all hotels.
- Airline fuel surcharge.

Not included: US and foreign departure of \$150.00 per person subject to change, gratuity to guide and driver, optional trip cancellation package.

“Day by day itinerary”

Sat, Sep 14th – Departure

Depart Chicago this afternoon on American Airlines to New York (JFK) where you continue by a connecting flight to Milan, Italy.

Sun, Sep 15th – Milan/Parma

Arrive at Malpensa international airport where you are greeted by your tour director and begin your drive to Parma. Check-in at your hotel and take some time to unpack and relax. In the afternoon, get acquainted with this beautiful Renaissance capital. A guided tour will take you through the pedestrian center. It’s quaint, refurbished and picturesque. You’ll walk by the magnificent Cathedral sided by a uniquely pink Baptistery. Familiarize yourself with the history of the Farnese family who in the 16th century transformed a little village into one of Europe’s capitals of culture. The guide will point out numerous *palazzos* and small museums that you may want to independently explore later in the week. Don’t miss the world famous Teatro Farnese, considered to be the first permanent theater in history or visit the Archeological Museum, which allows a glimpse of Parma’s Ancient Roman heritage. **Dinner tonight** will introduce you to Italy’s quintessential recipes. **(B, D)**

Mon, Sep 16th – Parma (Savor Italy Day)

After breakfast, we embark on a full day excursion to the nearby Apennines. Only a few miles outside of Parma lay the land of Parmesan and Prosciutto. First we stop just outside town at a Parmesan maker. Cheese is actually made in the early morning when fresh milk is brought in from the milking stations. By 9am most of the curd is

done and it's knit together to form a spongy mass. Using a long wooden paddle, the cheese maker lifts the curd mass and, dividing it in half, wraps each in muslin. When we get in it's just about the time to taste the fresh product and compare it with five or six aged ones. A unique tasting opportunity!! No need to say, accompanied by local wine. In mid-morning, we'll drive up through beautiful landscapes, dotted by villages perched on the mountain side, by medieval castles, endless vineyards, tiny hilltop fortresses and hundreds and hundreds of farms. Our destination is a prosciutto maker. Everything here is made by hand, following a century old tradition and pursued by the same family for generations. We'll be walked through the process of selecting genuine meats, salting them artfully, drying them and storing them for the correct aging time. Meanwhile, you'll be able to taste the many different cuts, accompanied by more local red wines. In the afternoon we return to Parma for some independent exploration. Dinner tonight is on our own at one of the many picturesque "trattorias" just a few blocks away from our hotel. **(B)**

Tue, Sep 17th – Parma (Lake Garda and Verona Excursion)

After breakfast, we're off to Verona, Juliet's romantic home town. We will be there in just more than an hour and a half. Upon arrival a local guide will take us around the beautiful squares, the Roman Arena, the market place, the entangled back streets, all the way to Juliet's balcony. You'll be able to enjoy some free time to do your own exploration and maybe have lunch at one of the many outdoor cafés on the Piazza Brà, facing the amphitheater. We depart Verona for a short ride to the eastern shore of Lake Garda, the largest Italian lake. This side of the water is the land of Bardolino and we'll visit a wine farm to taste some of their best bottles. Before heading home, we may want to stop in Sirmione, the Queen of Lake Garda. This entirely pedestrian medieval village, surrounded by imposing towers, draw bridge and gates, provides the feeling of quintessential Italy. If art, history and scenic views were not enough, some of the best gelato is to be found right here. **Dinner tonight will be at a country inn** by the placid Po' River. **(B, D)**

Wed, Sep 18th – Parma (Ferrari & Local Cuisine)

Today explore both sides of Parma region's soul. In mid-morning we drive to Modena, for a **cooking demonstration**, a trademark of WCBU Tours. At the Antico Moka, chef Annamaria will introduce you to the local recipes from Emilia, Italy's cuisine cradle. Locals specialize in "tortelli" and "lasagna," pasta filled with regional ingredients, "prosciutto" or squash, artichokes or spinach, "mortadella" or mushrooms. In just a couple of hours you'll witness the miracle become true. And, the best of all is that you'll taste it for **lunch**. Head to the Ferrari Museum in Maranello. It's no more than ten miles away and set right next to the factory and the testing track. The museum allows a view of more than 60 years of speed and luxury car production. Most Formula One prototypes are also displayed in this relatively small warehouse. A number of different electronic stations will give you the feeling of the speed enabled by a Ferrari. Car lovers may spend hours in here. Others may want to experience a once in a lifetime thrill: with an advanced booking and as little as \$200, you may drive a real Ferrari for 10 minutes. And if you prefer to share the expense with friends, for the same amount, a driver will take three passengers for the 10 minute ride. Overnight in Parma. **(B, L)**

Thu, Sep 19th – Parma/Milan/Stresa

Today we say good bye to Parma and head north to the heart of Milan, Italy's wealthiest town. A local guide will give us a comprehensive tour of the bustling downtown district: the Duomo, Milan's gothic Cathedral, the Galleria, the city's pulsing shopping heart, La Scala opera theater, the Sforza Castle, the medieval churches of St. Ambrose and St. Lorenz filled with Byzantine mosaics. At the end, we'll enjoy an entire afternoon at leisure to explore this regional capital. Some of the trendiest shops in Europe are just around the corner: Armani's world largest store and café, Dolce e Gabbana, Moschino, Prada, Diesel, Versace and many more are all within four blocks. And if you feel for something more affordable, two of the largest Italian trendy department stores,

Rinascente and Coin, are also within walking distance. If your taste instead is for more culture and art, you may want to visit Pinacoteca di Brera, one of the top Italian art collections featuring works by masters such as Caravaggio, Raphael, Mantegna, Rubens, Titian, Van Dyck and more. At the end of the afternoon, we head towards Lake Maggiore. Our destination will be Stresa, on the water. **Dinner tonight** will be at the hotel, overlooking the Borromean Islands. **(B, D)**

Fri, Sep 20th – Stresa (Lake Maggiore)

This morning, board a motorboat for a short ride to the Borromean Islands, just minutes away from your hotel. Start by paying a visit to Isola Bella, which hosts a grand 17th century noble palace, but most importantly one of the most beautiful European gardens. The stunning terraces overlooking the lake at 360 degrees are kept as a new classic park providing a unique experience to those who care about gardening and plants. Next stop, the Isola dei Pescatori, is the lake's old fishermen retreat, nowadays turned into a charming village dotted by little restaurants and small craft shops. The afternoon is at leisure for independent activities. You may choose to take the gondola up 5,000 ft. to the top of Monte Mottarone for a breathtaking view over the Alpine scenery. In clear days you may see all the way to Mont Blanc at the border with France. Alternatively, you may want to experience a steamer's cruise to the Eastern shore of the lake, or even all the way to the Swiss tip, in Ascona. **Farewell dinner** tonight will be at the hotel by candlelight. **(B, D)**

Sat, Sep 21st – Stresa (Lugano and the Swiss shore)

Take your passports with you today, we're crossing borders into Switzerland. Start by driving up north along the western shore of Lake Maggiore and the first Swiss town we will visit is Locarno. Stop here on the main square overlooking the water for a hot chocolate and some currency exchange. The language is still Italian, but it's not just another currency, it's another style, another pace and another way of life. So close and so different. After a quick acclimatizing stop, continue to Lugano, the district's, or Canton's, capital. Here you have the time to fully immerse yourselves into the Swiss mode. Watches, chocolate and Swiss Army knives everywhere, also exclusive clothing shops, art galleries, magnificent pastry shops, outdoors cafés, fruit and vegetable markets featuring Alpine berries and local cheeses. A couple of small museums in town are worth a visit, as is the Wilhelm Schmidt Art Nouveau, or the Bernasconi contemporary sculpture museum. On the way home tonight, time permitting, a quick visit to Fox Town, one of the largest European outlet malls, right at the border with Italy and tax free. **(B)**

Sun, Sep 22nd – Milan/New York/Chicago

Breakfast and early morning transfer to Malpensa Airport to board American Airlines flight to New York (JFK), where you clear Customs and continue to Chicago arriving the same afternoon. **(B)**

“Welcome Home”



TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Deposits are accepted by checks only.

ARRANGEMENTS: The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 1/2/2013. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members in writing no later than 30 days prior to departure.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: You have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect not to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below.

CANCELLATION: \$50.00 per person penalty if written notification is received 90 days or more prior to departure. \$500.00 per person if cancellation received between 90-61 days prior to departure. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are 100% non-refundable.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL: One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a total measurement of 45 inches.

RESPONSIBILITY: Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, *and/or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to Substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours nor any representative of Eskin Tours shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itineraries or schedules, or a disease outbreak. Eskin Tours 1-800-315-9179 *and WCBU

Reservation Form

WCBU

Name: _____ Date Of Birth _____

As it appears on your passport

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Address : _____ City _____ Home tel: _____

State & Zip _____ Email: _____ Cell tel: _____

I will share a room with _____

_____ I desire single occupancy at \$550.00 additional

_____ Enclosed is \$400.00 per person deposit for _____ persons.

Make checks payable to: Eskin Tours International Inc.

Mail to: WCBU Travel
1501 Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625

Signature and acceptance of tour conditions

Date _____