

# ITALY 2010-2011

## **Day One- December 26, 2010- Los Angeles to Rome**

Meet in the RCHS Band Room and travel via school bus to Los Angeles International Airport. Your overnight flight will include a dinner, entertainment, and a breakfast snack.

## **Day Two- December 27, 2010- Arrive Rome to Montecatini Terme**

Arrive today in Rome, Italy. After clearing customs and claiming your luggage, you will be met by your Italian guides (one per coach) and your tour manager, who will be with you for your entire journey.

After departing the airport, travel north through the beautiful region of Tuscany into charming Montecatini Terme, a resort town known for its thermal spas. Upon arrival, check into a hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel or local restaurant.

## **Day Three- December 28, 2010- Florence**

Transfer into Florence for a guided walking tour of the city, past the Cathedral with its immense dome, Giotto's Baptistery's "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti. You will have time for lunch and site seeing around Florence, known for its leather goods and fine jewelry. Other options for individual tour groups for an additional cost include;

Academia Art Gallery (Michaelangelo's David)  
Uffizi Art Gallery  
Santa Croce (burial site of Michaelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and many more)

## **Day Four- December 29, 2010- Pisa and Lucca**

Visit Pisa, a port city filled with monuments, cobblestone streets and markets. Pose for a photo in front of the Leaning Tower and have lunch on your own.

Perform as a part of the holiday celebrations in the town of Lucca, a city known for its intact walls dating back to the Middle Ages. Have time to explore the city on your own to see its amazing shopping district, its numerous towers, and the Church of San Michele.

## **Day Five- December 30, 2010- Rome by way of Siena**

Surrounded by olive groves and the vineyards, Siena is one of the most beautiful cities of Tuscany. Set on three hills, the city is drawn together by winding alleyways and steep steps. At its heart is the Piazza del Campo- an enormous, shell shaped piazza famous for its annual horse race called the Palio.

Continue traveling to Rome, The Eternal City, where you will check into your hotel.

### **Day Six- December 31, 2010- Rome**

Today's tour brings you to St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, where you will have the great opportunity to admire Michaelangelo's restored masterpiece painted on the ceiling, Raphael's Rooms, and art dating back to before the beginning of Christianity. Enjoy the remainder of the day in sight seeing groups for additional sightseeing or shopping.

Other sightseeing locations; The Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain, or spend more time at the Vatican

This evening, groups participating in the New Year's Rome Parade will gather for a private New Year's Eve dinner and celebration.

### **Day Seven- January 1, 2011- Rome**

This morning, participate in a European-style parade with bands invited from around Europe and the United States assembling in Saint Peter's Square. Following Pope Benedict XVI's blessing, the parade will travel along the Via della Conciliazone, culminating at the Castel Sant' Angelo, located on the Tevere River. Thousands of people travel from all over the world to hear the New Year Papal Blessing.

After the parade, return to the hotel to change clothes before your classic Rome tour. Then back into the city center to visit the Coliseum and the ancient ruins of the Roman Forum and Pantheon.

### **Day Eight- January 2, 2011- Rome to Los Angeles**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Continental breakfast, meals, and in-flight entertainment included. Welcome Home! Transfer back to RCHS via school bus.

*This is a proposed itinerary and is subject to change.*