



# GHF ITALY FALL TRIP

## 27 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER, 2007

(Pre- & post-trip optional extensions available on request)

*Un'opportunita' unica!* Join us on this two week adventure to Italy, featuring:  
***Roma, Firenze, Pisa, Mantova, Venezia, Verona, e Milano***

**Optional tours:** Castelli Romani, Chianti, Siena, Parma, Lago di Garda, Murano and Burano

A Greenbush Heritage Foundation initiative, coordinated by Italian native Riccardo Bambi (Suite Retreats). Trip is open to the public, with registration on a first come first serve basis.

### ***Il Programma Preliminare:***

#### ***Sat. 10/27, giorno 1- Partenza dagli Stati Uniti***

Meet at Chicago O'Hare airport for group flight departure. Overnight flight (details to be defined) to Rome Fiumicino airport. As group airfare is optional, if you choose to make your own travel arrangements, you will meet the group at our hotel in Rome. **D, B (in flight)**

#### ***Sun. 10/28, giorno 2- Benvenuti a Roma***

Group flight arrival (details to be defined). Private transfer by motor coach to our Hotel in Rome. Free PM. Optional group dinner nearby the hotel.

#### ***Mon. 10/29, giorno 3- Roma dei Papi & Roma Antica***

AM- Private bus transfer for guided tour ***del Vaticano***. In order to avoid the long lines to visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, a special advanced group reservation is included in the tour package costs. This morning we will also visit St. Peter's Basilica, and the Square. A private bus transfer to Ancient Rome site is included in program costs; lunch is on your own. PM- ***Roma Antica*** walking tour with our personal guide, including Trajan's Market, Caesar's Column, and Forum. Tour ends at the Coliseum, where entrance is optional. Free evening. **B**

#### ***Tue. 10/30, giorno 4- Roma FREE DAY***

Enjoy a fun filled full day at leisure exploring ***la capitale!*** Infinite options: Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, etc. (suggestions will be provided). **B**

Also on this day, an optional tour to the Roman Castles will be offered:

- ***Castelli Romani*** full-day (9-5) optional tour- Program with local English speaking driver includes: sightseeing with possible stops at ***Castel Gandolfo*** (Pope's summer residence), ***Ariccia*** if time allows, ***Grottaferrata*** (with entrance to the Greek Abbey), and ***Frascati***. Lunch break (by own expense), and some free time. Next is ***Tivoli***, where you will enjoy some more time at leisure. Feel free to check out the famous Villa d'Este with its beautiful gardens, and almost 400 fountains. A quick stop to admire the ruins of Villa Adriana may be an option, if time allows, before we get back to Rome.

***NOTE: 4 participant minimum required in order for this optional tour to take place***



**Wed. 10/31, giorno 5- Roma > Pisa > Firenze**

*Arrivederci Roma...* after breakfast we travel to **Pisa** by private bus. Optional group lunch **Da Bruno** on arrival. Free time in the PM, or join our personal guide for a walking tour of Miracle Square and its treasures (entrance to monuments optional). PM transfer to **Florence**, with brief stop to admire a breathtaking view of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo. Hotel check-in. Evening at leisure, or you can join us for an optional dinner nearby the hotel. **B**

**Thu. 11/1, giorno 6- Firenze**

AM- Historical city center walking tour with our personal guide. Tour highlights: Santa Maria del Fiore (Duomo), Baptistery, Giotto bell-tower, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio, etc. The tour includes a very special advanced booking at the Accademia Gallery, which houses the original David of Michelangelo. Join us for an optional lunch at a favorite local trattoria, or break free to explore the hidden gems of Florence, and beyond... Free evening. **B**

**Fri. 11/2, giorno 7- Firenze FREE DAY**

Enjoy a free day exploring the great art & the markets! **B**

Or you can join either one of these optional tours:

1. **Chianti for wine lovers'**- Full-day tour (9-5) by private mini-bus, and accompanying person if number of participants exceeds 9. Explore the breathtaking scenery of the rolling hills of the **Chianti Classico** region. Included in the tour: a visit of Albola Castle by **Radda** in Chianti followed by wine tasting, the town of **Castellina**, and lunch at a typical local Trattoria just outside of town. PM in **Greve** in Chianti: enjoy some free time, gelato, coffee, or shop and visit local producers right on the lovely main Piazza.
2. **Siena and Monteriggioni**- Full-day tour (9-5), by private van or mini-bus: AM- Meet our personal guide on arrival in **Siena** for a stroll: Medici Fortress, San Domenico, the famous Contrade, i Banchi, to end in the marvelous Piazza del Campo. Group lunch at typical Enoteca in the town center, or if minimum 10 participants, a 2 hour private cooking lesson followed by lunch (included) could be arranged instead. Free time. PM- Stop and visit of **Monteriggioni** on the old Via Francigena, and return to Florence.

**NOTE: 4 participant minimum required for each of the 2 above tours to take place**

**Sat. 11/3, giorno 8- Firenze > Mantova**

*Ciao bella Firenze...* after breakfast, hotel check-out and transfer by private bus to **Mantua**, Madison's sister city. Hotel check-in, and during our stay in Mantova... **B**

**Sun. & Mon. 11/4 & 5, giorni 9 & 10- Mantova**

"Sister city activities" (yet to be defined) and free time to explore this delightful medieval town on your own. A walking orientation tour of Mantova's historical town center with our personal guide will be included in the program costs, and group optional dinner proposed. **B**

From Mantova you can join either or both of these 2 optional tours:

1. **Lago di Garda**- A full day tour (9-5) exploring the coasts of Lake Garda and some of its quaint villages: Sermione, Peschiera, Desenzano, and more...
2. **Parma and culinary delights**- Full day tour (9-5) taste of Parma focusing on its culinary delights: Prosciutto di Parma, Culatello, Parmigiano Reggiano, etc.

**NOTE: above tours' details will follow once "sister activities" schedule is in place**



**Tue. 11/6, giorno 11- Mantova > Venezia**

*Arrivederci Mantova...* after breakfast we will travel by private bus to one of Italy's beauties, **Venice**. Our hotel will be located in the heart of Venice, just a few blocks away from Piazza San Marco. Free time for lunch. We will then meet up in Piazza San Marco for a PM walking orientation tour with our personal guide. This tour will focus on the main attractions around San Marco, and will include: entrance to the Palazzo Ducale, Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs), the new prisons, Piazza San Marco, and the Basilica. Free evening, with optional group dinner and / or gondola rides on request. **B**

**Wed. 11/7, giorno 12- Venezia FREE DAY**

Enjoy a free day in Venice to explore on your own. **B**  
Or you can join us for this optional fun morning tour:

- **Murano** and **Burano** (9-1pm), the two famous minor islands on the Venice *Laguna*.

Tour program: meet our accompanying person at the hotel reception. Short walk to our private boat. After a 20-25 minute ride we reach **Murano**. A stroll through town, includes visit of a glass blowing company. Next is **Burano**, where you can enjoy some free time and check out some local shops, before we return to Venice. Free rest of the afternoon and evening.

**Thu. 11/8, giorno 13- Venezia > Verona > Milano**

After breakfast we will travel west by private bus. Before we finally get to Milan, today we will enjoy a nice stop along the way, romantic **Verona**. Our personal guide will meet and greet us on arrival, and will join us for a panoramic drive of town. A walking tour of Verona historical town center follows, including: the Arche Scaligere, Piazza dei Signori, Piazza delle Erbe, Juliet's balcony from the house's courtyard, the shopping district (Via Mazzini), and finally, the Roman Arena in Piazza Bra' (Arena entrance is optional). Enjoy some free time and lunch on your own. PM group transfer to **Milano**. Hotel check-in, and free evening. **B**

**Fri. 11/9, giorno 14- Milano**

After breakfast, meet our personal guide at the hotel reception, and we are off to a walking orientation tour of Milan city center: the Galleria, the Duomo, and the Opera House will be the main highlights. Lunch is by own arrangements, then enjoy the rest of your last day at leisure. This evening an optional group last supper will be proposed. **B**

**Sat. 11/10, giorno 15- Arrivederci Italia...**

Our private bus will take us to Milano Malpensa airport, where we will catch our group flight back to Chicago O'Hare (details to be defined), with estimated time of arrival on the same day. For those of you who will opt to make your own flight arrangements, you are welcome to take advantage of the bus ride to the airport, otherwise from here all is by own arrangements. Our Italy trip comes to an end, with great memories to be shared with family and friends... **B**

**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner, appear at end of each day, if included in trip costs.



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***Registration Form***

GHF ITALY TRIP, 27 October – 10 November, 2007

The total cost of the land portion of the tour is **\$2,890** per person, based on double occupancy. If you are single, and not willing to share a room, a single room supplement makes your total land trip cost **\$3,590**. Alternative accommodation sharing a Triple room is also available. If you choose this option, your total land trip cost is **\$2,640** per person.

This **INCLUDES**: lodging in our five featured hotels, all first class properties (3 and 4 star category) and centrally located; breakfast daily; airport transfers for those arriving on the group designated flight; transportation for all group tours; guides; some museum advanced bookings and entrance fees (specified as included in the preliminary program); assistance by your native Italian tour coordinator; and last but not least, 8 Italian lesson classes for all tour participants at the IWC prior to trip departure.

We have priced the trip as land only tour, in order to allow you to use frequent flyer points, should you have those available. If you'd like to travel with the group, we are at the moment able to offer a **round trip special airfare** flying from Chicago, into Rome, out of Milan, and back to Chicago: **\$850** all taxes included! Fare is subject to change without notice, and subject to seat availability at time of booking.

To confirm your spot on the trip please remit this form with your **initial non-refundable deposit due by April 30, 2007** of **\$150** if single, or **\$300** as a couple.

If you choose to fly with the group, advanced payment for the air fare will also be required at this time.

A **second payment** will be **due June 30, 2006** in the amount of **\$500** as a single, or **\$750** as a couple. The **final payment** for the remainder balance will be **due by September 1, 2007**.

Tours mentioned as **optional tours** in the preliminary program (Castelli Romani, Chianti, Siena, Parma, Lago di Garda, Murano and Burano) are offered a la carte. They will be priced separately from the trip package. All registered participants will be notified via email with detailed tour pricing, and payment for these optional tours will be due together with final dues for the trip, **by September 1st**.

Registration forms and payments are accepted in the form of checks only. The initial deposit is refundable up until June 30, less an administrative fee of **\$100** per person.

Only in the case that tour 20 participant minimum guaranteed is not met by June 30th, you will be notified in advance, and initial deposit will be refunded in full. After July 31, the tour deposit payments are non-refundable. After September 1, 2007 the tour is totally non-refundable.

We encourage to purchase travel insurance for any unforeseen emergency situations. A brochure will be supplied upon registration. The timing to get the best insurance coverage is within a week of deposit. Other options are available for purchase closer to the trip date. Please refer to the brochure.

For additional information please contact:

Frank Alfano ~ (608) 222.0747 ~ [falfano@charter.net](mailto:falfano@charter.net)  
Riccardo Bambi ~ (608) 270.9757 ~ [info@suietretreats.com](mailto:info@suietretreats.com)



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**PLEASE MAIL TOGETHER WITH YOUR INITIAL DEPOSIT PAYMENT**

**BY MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007**

I wish to join the GHF ITALY TRIP, 27 October – 10 November, 2007.

Primary Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone: \_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_, Alternate Phone: \_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel room selection:  Single  Double  Triple

I AM  I am NOT interested in purchasing the round trip group air fare

I AM  I am NOT interested in receiving pricing for the optional tours offered on the free days

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_, Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Checks to be made out to Suite Retreats, and mailed to:

Suite Retreats  
5305 Fairway Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

Planning on extending your stay in Italy? Suite Retreats will be delighted to help you with your arrangements.



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