ITALIAN ART HISTORY TOUR

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Pittsburgh

June 12 to June 21, 2018
Dear Osher Members,

I’ve spent so much time in the classroom with many of you, studying Italian art history, and I am beyond excited to now have the opportunity to go to Italy and study these works of art with you in person! I am especially excited that we will have private entries to world-class museums such as the Vatican Museums and the Uffizi Gallery. We will have the museums to ourselves to discuss and study some of the most magnificent works of art in Europe (without bumping into other tourists everywhere we turn!)

While we are in Rome and Florence, I will lead special additional tours to see some of my favorite works of art in those cities. We will get to see Caravaggio’s paintings in San Luigi dei Francesi, Bernini’s Ecstasy of St. Teresa in Santa Maria della Vittoria, and Gaulli’s spectacular ceiling in the Gesù, to name just a few. I am also looking forward to our day trip to Tivoli, where we will get to explore the ruins of Hadrian’s villa and see the spectacular gardens of the Villa d’Este.

I can’t wait to see you all in Italy!

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**Rome: Hotel Le Meridien Visconti**

June 13 to June 17 (4 nights)
June 20 to June 21 (1 night)

Close to Rome’s River Tiber, Le Meridien Visconti Rome offers design rooms and is just 2 minutes’ walk from Castel Sant’Angelo. The restaurant with rooftop terrace overlooks the historic centre.

The Meridien Visconti is set between the Vatican City on one side and the shopping streets and the Spanish Steps on the other. The hotel features a collection of contemporary Italian artwork in the lobby with Wi-Fi access. A generous buffet is served daily in the breakfast room. A hospitality desk will be available for you in the hotel lobby.

**Florence: Hotel Astoria**

June 17 to June 20 (3 nights)

The hotel is located in the city centre, a few steps from the Duomo, the Santa Maria Novella train station, the Medici Chapels and San Lorenzo Market, a 10 minute walk to Ponte Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery and the Academy of Fine Arts. A generous buffet is served daily in the breakfast room. A hospitality desk will be available for you in the hotel lobby.
Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Depart US

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 - Rome Arrival

A VIP greeter will assist you from the Rome Fiumicino airport’s arrival gate to the private bus to transfer you to the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti in Rome. Porterage service will be available at the bus.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel
Afternoon at leisure

7:00 p.m. - Welcome dinner at the Restaurant Clemente alla Maddalena including bus transfer

Overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Ancient Rome & Private Vatican Museum Visits - Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Ancient Rome Tour

Please meet your guide at 9:00 a.m in the lobby of your hotel.
Take a journey through time and discover Ancient Rome with your expert guide and driver. See the famous sites of the Roman gladiator fights at the Colosseum, learn the meaning of the ruins at the Forum, and visit Circo Massimo, the Arch of Constatine and Piazza Venezia.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00p.m. - Afternoon on own

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Private opening Vatican museums

Please meet your guides at 5:00 p.m in the lobby of your hotel to transfer you to the Vatican museums. Visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel after closing time on this exclusive private access tour. Enjoy the rare opportunity to explore the museum in peace without the crowds and the daytime heat.

Take this opportunity to admire and study the upper galleries of the Vatican Museums, including the Galleries of Maps, Gallery of the Candelabra and Gallery of Tapestries, as well as the Octagonal Court and Raphael's Rooms.

Experience the magnificence of the Sistine Chapel, and listen as your guide explains the beauty and the secrets hidden within two of the world’s most famous masterpieces - “The Last Judgement” and “The Creation of Adam.”

Transfer back to hotel - Overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti
Friday, June 15, 2018

Borghese Collection Visit - Breakfast at the Hotel

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Guided tour of Borghese Gallery and Barberini Palace. Please meet your guide at 8:30 a.m. in the hotel lobby for your transfer to the Borghese.

The Galleria Borghese houses a substantial part of the Borghese collection of paintings, sculpture and antiquities, begun by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, the nephew of Pope Paul V (reign 1605–1621). The Villa was built by the architect Flaminio Ponzio, developing sketches by Scipione Borghese himself, who used it as a villa suburbana, a country villa at the edge of Rome.

Inside the Villa, paintings by Rubens, Bernini and Caravaggio will be viewed then continue to Palazzo Barberini which hosts the Ancient Art Gallery of Rome with extraordinary masterpieces of Italian and International paintings. Among the most important paintings at Palazzo Barberini you will find: Judith and Holofernes by Caravaggio, the Narcissus always by Caravaggio, Venus and Adonis by Tiziano, Christ and adulteress by Tintoretto, Portrait of a Young Woman by Raffaello.

Afternoon and evening on your own - Overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti

Saturday, June 16, 2018

Tivoli Excursion - Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Full Day at the Tivoli
Please meet your guide at 9:00 a.m in the hotel lobby.

A relaxing day discovering the archeological wonders of Tivoli. Tivoli’s picture perfect countryside, fresh air and beautiful views greatly attracted the Imperial Romans. Visit the ruins of Hadrian’s Villa, one of the largest and most spectacular villas ever built in the Roman Empire. Have a lunch in a scenic restaurant located near Villa Adriana.

Then visit the town’s most famous sight: Villa d’Este, a country residence built in the 16th century by Pirro Ligorio for Cardinal Ippolito d’Este. Walk through its immaculate gardens, rich with fountains, and imagine the luxurious life back in the days of the ancient Roman royalty. Return to Rome by 6:00 p.m.

Lunch at Adriano Restaurant - Overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti
Sunday, June 17, 2018

Rome to Florence via Siena - Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Private Transfer from Rome to Florence via Siena

Please meet your guide at 9:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby to transfer to Siena with a stop for lunch at a quaint trattoria.

After lunch, please meet the guides to see Piazza del Campo, the Public Palace inside the Civic museum with Lorenzetti paintings and the Cathedral. The visit will last two hours and half. Say goodbye to your guides and continue to Florence with a drop off at your hotel around 6:00 p.m.

Overnight at the Hotel Astoria

Monday, June 18, 2018

Florence – Michelangelo’s House Visit & Welcome Dinner - Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Private visit to Michelangelo’s House & Welcome Dinner
Please meet your guide at 9:00 a.m in the lobby of your hotel.

Visit the Michelangelo’s house and the private archive. A place to remember and celebrate the greatness of Michelangelo and at the same time a pompous and Baroque exhibition of the art collections of the family.

Casa Buonarroti is one of the most extraordinary Florentine museums. It offers admiring the two famous marble relief pieces, sculptured by Michelangelo in his early years: the Madonna della Scala, which clearly shows the passion of this artist for Donatello and the Battle of the Centaurs that echoes the admiration of the artist for classic art.

Afternoon at leisure

Welcome Dinner in Florence
Please meet your assistant at 7:30 p.m in the hotel lobby to transfer by private bus to Piazzale Michelangelo to dine in a beautiful restaurant overlooking Florence.

Overnight at the Hotel Astoria
Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Full day Florence Walking Tour with the Accademia & Private Uffizi Gallery Visit
Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Full Day Florence Walking Tour

Please meet your guide at 9:00 a.m in the hotel lobby.
Visit the stunning new Opera del Duomo Museum with your expert guide featuring fascinating models describing the construction of Brunelleschi's dome, the original bronze doors by Ghiberti, and an important collection of sculptures including another version of Michelangelo's Pietà, done when he was in his eighties.

Access the museum's panoramic terrace for an up close view of the Duomo where you can see the intricate details, then proceed on a walking tour around the piazza to learn about the actual construction of this masterpiece, that started back in 1296. Then visit the Brunelleschi Duomo's and stop for your lunch in a Florentine restaurant.

After lunch continue with the famous Accademia Museum. Enter with a reservation and visit the famous 'David', the statue that established Michelangelo as the greatest sculptor of his time. Learn about the making and history of this glorious sculpture, and tour Michelangelo’s other works in residence. Also on display at the Accademia are paintings from notable Renaissance artists, such as Uccello, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli, and Sarto.

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – At Leisure

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - Private Opening Uffizi Gallery After Closing

Please meet your guide at 7:00 p.m in the hotel lobby.
Visit the Uffizi gallery, one of the most important galleries in the world, offering a collection of world-famous artistic masterpieces such as Botticelli’s Birth of Venus and Caravaggio’s Bacchus along with other works by Renaissance masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.
Overnight at the Hotel Astoria

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Transfer from Florence to Rome via Pienza & Montepulciano - Breakfast at the Hotel

Please meet your private assistant at 9:00 a.m in the lobby of your hotel.
Explore on your own the southern area of Tuscany with a stop in Pienza, an architectural masterpiece of Renaissance design, where you will see the Palazzo Piccolomini and Duomo along with the many shops selling every type of pecorino cheese imaginable. Then continue to Montepulciano, famous for the noble red wine, and stop in a local cellar for a tasting and lunch. After lunch continue to Rome with drop off at your hotel in the late afternoon.
Overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Visconti

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Rome Airport Transfer - Private Transfer From the Hotel to the Airport in Time for Your Outbound Flight
Land Program Costs

Inclusions

- Nine days of services
- Eight nights of accommodations
- Special lectures and venue visits by Dr. Rachel Miller
- Group Hospitality desk located in Rome and Florence hotel lobbies
- Transportation from Rome to Florence
- Transportation from Florence to Rome
- Two Welcome Dinners
- Four Lunches
- Two Rome airport transfers
- All guiding and transportation
- All entrance fees and headsets
- Private access to the Uffizi Gallery
- Private access to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel
- Private access to Michaelangelo’s House
- All guide and driver gratuities

The program cost is $3,870 per person – double occupancy. The single supplement is $595.

Frontiers Contact

Our team of highly specialized agents coordinate every last detail of your trip. For more information about the Italian Art History Tour, please contact:

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