Day 1 – Depart Baton Rouge for overnight flight to Italy.

Day 2 - Venice – Mid-day arrival at Venice airport. Transfer directly from the airport to our hotel by water taxi – quite an experience, letting us see the Venice area from the water. This afternoon we begin to explore this fascinating city – there is no other like it in the world.

Day 3 - Venice – Morning water taxi down the Grand Canal through the heart of Venice, an unbelievable sight. Then a guided tour of St. Mark's Square. We visit St. Mark's Basilica and lavish Doges' Palace. See the Clock Tower and the Bridge of Sighs. Also watch skilled glassblowers fashion their delicate objects in an age-old traditional manner. Afternoon free for independent activities such as exploring, shopping and museum visits. Perhaps an optional excursion to the colorful island of Burano, or an optional gondola ride tonight.

Day 4 - Florence – Morning journey by motorcoach to Florence, the capital of Tuscany. On our journey we cross the lush plains of the mighty River Po and cross the wooded Apennine Mountains. This afternoon we motorcoach to Pisa. We take pictures of the amazing Leaning Tower, 180-feet high and 12-feet perpendicular. Two nights in Florence, cradle of Renaissance art and architecture.

Day 5 - Florence – Morning guided tour with a visit to the magnificent Cathedral. Admire Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery’s heavy bronze “Gate of Paradise” and sculpture-studded Signoria Square. We visit Michelangelo’s celebrated “David” in the Academy of Fine Arts. Afternoon is time to shop for Florentine leather goods and gold jewelry, or explore the high flea market or more museums.

Day 6 - Rome – Morning journey to beautiful Tuscan countryside to the lovely village of Cortona for a mid-day visit. This walled town has changed little since the Renaissance period. This town is the setting for the movie “Under the Tuscan Sun”. Brief visit to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Visit the Basilica. Mid-afternoon departure by motor coach to Rome, our home for three nights.

Day 7 - Rome – A full day tour to Pompeii.

Day 8 - Rome – A full day of guided sightseeing. We visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, world famous for Michelangelo’s ceiling paintings and The Last Judgement. We then visit St. Peter’s Basilica and Square. We cross the Tiber River and visit the famous Colosseum and the nearby Roman Forum, seat of Roman government 2,000 years ago. We visit the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.

Day 9 - Home – Morning motor coach transfer to the airport. We fly home today, arriving the same day with many wonderful memories.