

The Traveling Professor Presents

# FLORENCE AND TUSCANY MAY 2012

Sunday, May 13, 2012 to 6, 2010 to Saturday, May 19, 2012  
Sunday, October 7 to Saturday, October 13 (Columbus Day Week)

Enjoy *la dolce vita* on an 7-day, 6-night visit of the best Italy has to offer. Join "Traveling Professor" Steve Solosky and a small group of like-minded travelers on a dazzling tour of Renaissance Florence and breathtaking Tuscany.

Professor Solosky has custom-designed a culturally enriching and delightful itinerary. Not only are major sites on the schedule, but there are opportunities to experience a side of Italy most tourists never get to see. Steve Solosky knows the best local dining spots, choice hotels, and insider secrets that make a visit to Italy with the Traveling Professor a truly unforgettable experience.



Walking in the Tuscan Countryside

## Included With Your Trip:

- **6 Nights in Florence** in clean, comfortable, quiet hotels in safe, central locations. Our hotel in Florence is consistently ranked in the top 5 on Tripadvisor.com. It is clean, comfortable, quiet and located in the center of Florence. Single, double, twin, and quad rooms have both private baths and showers. Breakfast is included.
- **Welcome Dinner.** Enjoying a group dinner with your traveling companions is a great start to the tour.
- **VIP Paid Admission in Florence.** In Florence visit the *Uffizi Gallery*, *Michelangelo's David* and the *Accademia Gallery*. Reduced admission on most other attractions.
- **Guided Day Trips to Siena, Pisa, and Lucca.** Bus and/or train transportation included.
- **Small Group Size** limited to 10-14 travelers.
- **Private Mercedes Car Tour of Tuscany and Chianti.** This well may be the highlight of the trip – see the *real* Italy as we visit small towns and authentic Chianti wineries.
- **Personalized, Attentive Service.** Professor Solosky takes care of the details and serves as the group's personal concierge. The Traveling Professor is always accessible to answer any and all questions, guide your stay, and to offer personal advice on everything from dining to touring to shopping.
- **Additional Options Include:** Overnight or day trip to Venice. Additional nights in Florence for only \$99 per person.
- **Priced at \$1,699 Per Person.** Based upon double occupancy. The single supplement is \$235.

Add on a charming weekend in Venice for only \$399 per person.

Even though it is months away, this trip will sell out early. A small deposit reserves your spot. Contact the Professor at [info@travelingprofessor.com](mailto:info@travelingprofessor.com) for more information or to reserve.

## Useful Notes:

- Hotels in Italy are smaller and have more "character" than those in the U.S.
- If accompanying Steve Solosky from New York JFK to Rome, the Professor will gladly travel with you to or from the Italy airports to the hotel provided you have carry-on luggage.
- The Professor is happy to communicate with you prior to the trip via e-mail or telephone to answer questions or address concerns.
- You must be able to walk 2-5 miles daily, up and down stairs, and on different grades of pavement in order to accompany the Professor on tours.
- Each traveler under 21 years of age must be accompanied by an adult over 30 years of age.
- Professor Solosky is scheduled to lead these tours

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Tentative Itinerary

**Day 1:** *Tour begins upon your arrival in Florence. Visit Michelangelo's David, just steps from our centrally located hotel. Join your traveling companions for a welcome dinner*

**Day 2:** *Florence City Tour: The Professor will personally escort you to the top sites in Florence – the Duomo, Piazza Repubblica, Palazzo Vecchio, Pont Vecchio, Basilica of Santa Croce, Palazzo Strozzi and more.*

**Day 3:** *Private Car Tour of the Tuscany/Chianti Region. A private driver with a late-model Mercedes will take you to some of the most intimate villages of Italy and to some of the best wineries in Chianti.*

**Day 4:** *Day Trip to Siena. Enjoy a café on Il Campo, the best square in all of Italy. See the churches, shops, and museums that make this a top attraction.*

**Day 5:** *Spend a relaxing day in Florence. You may wish to spend the day sipping a café on the square or perhaps shop at some of the great markets of Florence. Perhaps the Professor will escort you to some of his favorite little-known museums and churches.*

**Day 6:** *Pisa and Lucca day trip. Lucca is perhaps the most charming (and least known) town in Tuscany. Bike ride or walk through this ancient Italian town. In the afternoon, climb the majestic Leaning Tower of Pisa.*

**Day 6:** *For those going home, enjoy a farewell cappuccino in the piazza in the shadow of Palazzo Vecchio. For those staying another day, we have a truly special day planned just for you.*

**Question: Professor, how do you run your trips?**

**Answer:** About six weeks before we depart, I send a mailing to each traveler. In it is a questionnaire asking what you want to see and do. Based upon the responses, I develop a daily itinerary. Tour with me using that plan, or explore on your own. If venturing out on your own, I will provide complete guidance, instruction, and tips in order to make the day productive and go smoothly.

**Question: How do you prepare us for the trip?**

**Answer:** When traveling with me, you are well-prepared. I advise on what to pack, the anticipated weather, and money issues. I advise on language, Italian customs and protocols. I alert you of special activities such as special art exhibits, concerts, and other events. I am happy to speak with you over the phone or by e-mail to answer any type of question or concern regarding the trip.

**Question: Do we meet as a group upon our departure for Italy?**

**Answer:** It's possible to meet in New York and fly with me to Italy. But it is usually more convenient and economical to depart from your local airport to Italy. The hotel in Rome is very easy to get to from the airport. I provide detailed, fool-proof instruction on how to get there if not accompanying me to Rome.

**Question: Can you help me get the best airfare?**

**Answer:** Absolutely. I book my air reservations through the link listed on my website, [www.travelingprofessor.com](http://www.travelingprofessor.com). I travel to Europe frequently and know how to get good airfares. My recommendation is to book your flight from your local departure point into Rome, and return home from Florence, Rome or Pisa. I will gladly assist in finding air arrangements for you.

**Question: I am a solo traveler. What is the single supplement?**

**Answer:** I can put you in contact with other single travelers if you are looking to share a room. Otherwise the supplement is about \$325. By the way, quad and triple rooms can be booked at a slightly lower rate.

**Question: I want to arrive earlier/later than the scheduled trip dates. Can that be done?**

**Answer:** Yes. I can even book the hotels at a discounted rate. I can help with arrangements if traveling on to another city such as Milan or Venice. To extend your stay in Rome or Florence, it is only \$99 per person per night.

**Question: Why should I travel with a group? Can't I do this trip on my own?**

**Answer:** You can book this trip on your own. But it will probably cost more and take countless hours of planning. I know how to "do things right". Traveling with a group does not mean that everyone does all activities together. Typically, the larger group breaks into smaller groups according to personalities, interests, and other factors. It's a lot of fun to travel this way! Many of us meet for dinner each night and do other activities together.

**Question: I've heard Italy is really expensive. Is that true?**

**Answer:** It can be expensive if you don't know the GREAT local places to eat at GREAT local prices. It can be VERY EXPENSIVE if you don't know how to get around quickly and cheaply. It can be COSTLY if you don't know where to shop and what prices to pay. A wallet can take a big hit and ruin a trip if you stay in the wrong hotel. Travel with me, rely on my expertise and knowledge, and I will show you how to travel in style without sacrificing luxury or comfort. I take care of the details and eliminate the hassles.

**Contact me at [info@travelingprofessor.com](mailto:info@travelingprofessor.com) or visit <http://www.travelingprofessor.com>**