

Pomona College Alumni Association Presents:
The Path to Rome
September 22 – October 4, 2019

Rome is the Eternal City. From its very foundation in 753 BCE, it began laying its claim to being the heart of Italy and indeed of the Mediterranean as a whole. The city's most salient identity since the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE has been as home to the shrines of Sts. Peter and Paul, both of whom were executed in Rome around the year 64 CE. The importance of these two saints in early Christian history guaranteed that their physical remains (that is, their "relics") would attract the attention of pilgrims in search of heavenly patronage.

In the year 990, Sigeric, the archbishop-elect of Canterbury, walked all the way to Rome to receive his appointment from the pope, who considered himself to be the vicar of St. Peter. The account that he wrote of that journey is the earliest record we have of a pilgrimage to Rome. Like all pilgrims before and after, Sigeric followed the ancient Roman roads that to this day still bear the names of Emperors.



Our journey to Rome, over a thousand years after Sigeric's, will take us along the very same route, savouring the natural beauty of Tuscany and Lazio as well as their many man-made adornments, particularly the work of the great Renaissance artists of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The art and architecture of the monumental churches and the papal palaces along our route testify to an era of intense Christian devotion, fueled by incredible Italian wealth and profoundly humanistic inspiration. Beyond this visual feast are the literal ones that the goddess Pomona, in partnership with the chefs and winemakers of the region (and, of course, our own Ben), have prepared for us.

Join us as we walk this ancient path. Experience first-hand the legacy of the Renaissance, rooted in ancient Rome yet inseparable from the medieval church.

KBWolf
Ken Wolf

Peter Watson
Peter Watson

The Path to Rome

Sunday and Monday, September 22 and 23

U.S. / Florence, Italy / Siena

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving at Florence Airport. Transfer to the Grand Hotel Continental, a superb hotel in the heart of medieval Siena. This evening, join fellow travelers for a reception in the hotel.

GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL (R)

Tuesday, September 24

Siena

Today discover the myriad art treasures of this extraordinary medieval city. This morning's walk traces the route of the road to Rome through the town. We are free for lunch and this afternoon to enjoy free time to wander cobbled alleys and historic streets. Take in the shell-shaped Campo, Siena's famous main piazza — site of the twice-yearly Palio horse race and locale of the magnificent Palazzo Pubblico.

GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL (B,D)

City Walking



Wednesday, September 25

Siena / Buonconvento

We depart Siena and travel south to begin our walk at the little town of Isola d'Arbia. Our route leads across the beautiful Tuscan scenery of rolling hills and farmlands, down to the walled town of Buonconvento. This afternoon, we drive on to our hotel located near Montalcino in a beautiful converted castle.

CASTELLO DI VELONA (B,L,D)

AM – 5 miles, PM – 4 miles

Thursday, September 26

Montalcino / Bagno Vignoni

We drive to our starting point and begin at the home of Brunello, Italy's most renowned red wine. From here we walk south past ancient farms and hamlets to the little town of Torrenieri. Then it's a quick drive on to the delightful town of San Quirico d'Orcia and a walk through the typical Tuscan landscape of Val d'Orcia — terraced vineyards and olive groves, cypress-capped hilltops and wooded valleys — to the magnificent medieval spa town of Bagno Vignoni. We return to our hotel by road, stopping on the way at the famed medieval monastery of Sant'Antimo.

CASTELLO DI VELONA (B,L,D)

AM – 4 miles, PM – 3 miles



Friday, September 27

Montalcino / Bolsena

We start our day driving to the ridge top town of Radicofani. From here we walk down to the valley floor, all the while viewing the magnificent scenery across this volcanic region. After lunch we drive on to the little village of San Lorenzo, and then walk across the hills with views over Lake Bolsena to the beautiful medieval village of Bolsena itself, home of the miracle of corpus christi. Our simple hotel this evening is on the lakeside.

HOTEL ROYAL (B,L,D)

AM – 6 miles, PM – 4 miles



Saturday, September 28

Bolsena / Civita Castellana

This morning, we leave Bolsena and walk up through woods and farmland to the plateau above the lake. After a picnic lunch, we drive on to the beautiful papal town of Viterbo, stopping for a visit. Then it is on to the town of Civita Castellana and our hotel for the next two nights.

HOTEL RELAIS IL FALISCO (B,L,D)

AM – 5 miles, PM – City walking

Sunday, September 29

Civita Castellana / Caprarola

We drive up to the eastern side of Lake Vico, exploring a branch of the Via Francigena route known as Via Cimino. After lunch above the lake we walk down through the woods of the Cimino Hills to Caprarola. This little village is dominated by the huge Palazzo Farnese, a masterpiece by the architect Vignola. We will have time to visit before returning to our hotel by road.

HOTEL RELAIS IL FALISCO (B,L,D)

AM – 3 miles, PM – 2 miles

Monday, September 30

Civita Castellana / La Storta

We walk to the village of Calcata with its beautiful medieval quarter before we descend into the valley to our lunch site close to Etruscan remains. After a picnic lunch, we continue on to the park of



Veio, another great Etruscan site. The route winds amongst woods and open fields in a landscape that has been worked and lived in for three millennia. Continue the short distance by road to our hotel.

HOTEL CASTELLO DELLA CASTELLUCCIA (B,L,D)

AM – 4 miles, PM – 3 miles

Tuesday, October 1

Civitavecchia

Today we drive east before spending the day walking Etruscan roads and visiting one of the great archaeological areas at Cerveteri, where we will get a better understanding of the Etruscan civilization. We return by road to La Storta.

HOTEL CASTELLO DELLA CASTELLUCCIA (B,L,D)

AM – 5.5 miles, PM – 1 mile

Wednesday, October 2

Rome

We drive on to the edge of Rome and walk from the heights of Monte Mario, one of Rome's seven hills and then down the Viale Angelico to our destination, the basilica of Saint Peter. After a pause for lunch we visit the basilica itself before walking on to our hotel for a restful late afternoon and evening.

HOTEL MINERVA (B, L)

City Walking



Thursday, October 3

Rome

This morning we are guided on a walk through the early medieval churches of Rome as well as some of the other delights of the city. You are free for lunch and the afternoon to explore many of the other delights of Rome. This evening join the group for a final farewell dinner in the rooftop restaurant of our hotel.

HOTEL MINERVA (B,R,D)

City Walking

Friday, October 4

Rome / U.S.

Travel to Rome's Fiumicino Airport for outbound flights. (B)

Welcome Home

TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- Group transfers from Rome Fiumicino Airport on September 23, departing from Rome — Airport on October 4
- 11 nights hotel accommodations based on double or single occupancy
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary: R= Reception, B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- Lunches and dinners include bottled water and wine
- Hotel taxes and service charges on quoted services

TRIP EXCLUSIONS:

- Cost of obtaining a passport and/or visa
- Communications costs, such as phone calls, emails, and faxes
- Any items of a personal nature
- Any items not included in inclusions
- International air reservations

COST PER PERSON:

\$7785.00 per person based on two people sharing a twin-bedded room. The trip cost is based on a minimum of 15 paying participants. We reserve the right to cancel this trip if a minimum number of participants is not reached.

A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional cost of \$1435.00.

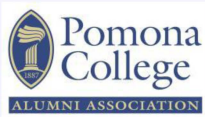
A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required at the time of booking. Final payment is due no later than June 20, 2019.

Should you cancel your trip for any reason before June 20, 2019, a \$1,000 per person cancellation fee is charged. If you cancel between June 21 and July 21, 2019, a fee equal to 50% of the tour cost is charged. No refund can be paid if cancelled after July 22, 2019. If we can resell your booking, a \$250 per person transfer fee will be charged.

Airline tickets have separate charges and cancellation fees depending on fare paid and date of change or cancellation. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

CONDITIONS AND CONTRACT: Travelstore VIP is the principal tour operator and is responsible to the participants for all arrangements and for all tour services and accommodations offered in these tours. Travelstore VIP, its agents, servants and employees shall not be responsible for personal injury or property damage, loss or delay, or change of itinerary incurred by any person or tour participant arising out of the act or negligence of any direct or supplemental air carrier, hotel or other person rendering any of these services, or accommodations being offered in this tour; nor shall Travelstore VIP be responsible for any injuries, death, damages, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by reason of any event beyond the actual control of Travelstore VIP or of any agent supplier or due to force majeure. The right is reserved to decline or accept or to retain any person as a member of a trip, or to cancel a trip, due to circumstances beyond the control of Travelstore VIP.

If the contract between Travelstore VIP and the passenger, on the one hand, and/or the contract between Travelstore VIP, and the designated carrier, on the other hand, is cancelled by the tour operator for any reason whatsoever, all partial or full payments made for the trip will be refunded in their entirety, without further obligation on the part of the tour operator.



The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category or change schedules without prior notice should circumstances so demand. In the event of a change in the itinerary necessitated by factors or conditions beyond the actual control of Travelstore VIP, no refund can be made nor will credit be allowed, provided that in the event of such change in itinerary, Travelstore VIP shall attempt to provide accommodations and services of comparable quality and standards as set forth in the brochure.

Any such change shall not modify the cancellation provisions in the brochure. No credit will be allowed or refund given for any services provided in the Itinerary and Conditions List should any such services not be utilized by the tour members. Availability of refunds for air transportation depends on the type of air tickets purchased, and the point at which transportation is not used.

Travelstore VIP shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused to any traveler in conjunction with other actions, omissions, or conditions outside Travelstore VIP's control including terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local law, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions, or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or other conditions outside Travelstore VIP's control.

INSURANCE: Travel insurance for travel accident, loss/damage/delay of baggage, flight insurance and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Applications will be sent on request.

OPERATORS: This program is operated by Travelstore VIP of Irvine, California, and Duende Travel, UK, and hotels listed in the itinerary.

For further information, please contact:

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