

Travels Through Italy

with

Jay Bonner, Ambassador for Constituent Outreach

Tentative Itinerary Fall 2024

- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | DEPART U.S.** - U.S. flights to Rome depart on October 25. Plan to arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport (FCO) between 7:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. on October 26. We will travel together to Spoleto. If you cannot meet at this time or have other travel plans, please let us know.
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | SPOLETO** - Arrival and Introduction to the Spoleto Valley. The seat of a Lombard Duchy during the High Middle Ages, Spoleto preserves a vast array of artistic memories from its historical past. We arrive in time to enjoy lunch and a brief rest, followed by a walking tour that will take you from Roman time to the early Christian period, from the Middle Ages to the blooming of the Renaissance. The XII Century Duomo preserves the last fresco cycle by the Florentine artist Fra Filippo Lippi.
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | SPOLETO**
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 28 | ASSISI & SPELLO** - After a short ride through the valley, we arrive at Assisi, a magical town that still preserves the atmosphere, colors, and sounds that must have been so familiar to Saint Francis and his poor friars. The Basilica contains examples of the most important frescoes in the history of western painting. After lunch, spend time in the charming Umbrian hillside town of Spello.
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 | ADVENTURE TO TUSCANY | SIENA** - Our travels will include stops in Siena and several of the most colorful smaller towns in central and southern Tuscany. In Siena you will be treated to a detailed visit of the *Palazzo del Comune* (Town Hall) with its splendid frescoes and a spiritually charged tour of the resplendent Gothic Duomo. You will have time to shop in the shops that line the colorful streets of the city.
- **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30 | MONTEFALCO | TREVI** - A morning visit to Montefalco will offer you one of the most spectacular views of the countryside and a chance to taste some of the best wine in the region. A short trip across the valley to the adjacent hill town of Trevi will provide a complete view of the area.
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 | FLORENCE** - Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance civilization, will appeal to the history buff, the art lover, or simply the admirer of nature. Winding through the streets of the old part of town, taking a walk along the Arno River, and visiting the museums or churches will magically put you in touch with many of the greatest minds of western civilization, from Dante to Michelangelo, from Botticelli to Boccaccio. Asheville School alumna Erica (Mitchell) Filidoro '95 will join this tour and add her Tuscan expertise to our time.

- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | SPOLETO** - Enjoy a free day in Spoleto
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | DEPART FOR THE U.S.** - Depart Spoleto at 6:00 a.m., arriving at Fiumicino (FCO) at 8:30 a.m. Flights out of Rome should leave no earlier than noon.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Tour participants will be staying at the [Palazzo Leti](#), a 13th Century residence restored as a bed & breakfast. From the Italian-style garden you can enjoy breathtaking views of some of Spoleto's most iconic landmarks.

FEES

Base Tour Price: \$3900 (estimated for a shared room), \$4250 (estimated for a single room)

- **Required Tour Deposit:** \$500 is due upon application to reserve your spot
- **Final Balance:** Remaining \$3400 (\$3750 for single room supplement) is due before July 30, 2024.
- **Checks should be made out to Asheville School and sent to Anne DeGennaro, Senior Administrative Coordinator in the Administrative Office, Asheville School, 360 Asheville School Road, Asheville, N.C., 28806**
- *Fees are calculated on 2024 exchange rates and are subject to change. They are based on double occupancy and include lunch on arrival day, continental breakfast and dinner each day, and travel and fees for all group activities included in the itinerary. This does not include airfare, daily lunches, health or travel insurance, or personal expenses. A single hotel room is available for an additional \$350. Travel insurance is at the traveler's discretion; however, it is strongly advised.*

Readings: In advance of the travels, participants will be asked to read selections from Luigi Barzini's *The Italians*. (Rachel Cusk's travel memoir, *The Last Supper*, includes comments on several of the cities we visit, but previous participants have found her tone annoying. I still recommend the book for a contemporary take on Italy. If interested, we would discuss chapters connected to our travels. Easy to do over an aperol spritz!) There may well be a zoom class of Italian readings offered in fall 2024 in anticipation of this experience!