



Barrington Community School

presents *Florence - The Cradle of the Renaissance*

February 5 - 11, 2010

What better way to captivate and stimulate your senses than a journey deep into the heart of romantic Tuscany? Here the magnificent harmony of the landscape spreads out in low-lying hills with graceful curves that afford wide views of olive groves, vineyards, and cypress trees bathed in soft, golden light..

From the consummate artistry of Florence to the art and civilization of the ancient Etruscans to the great treasures of the Renaissance, this is a mind-expanding exploration of culture and countryside. You'll experience a wonderful balance of guided days and free time to explore on your own from our base in the heart of the city.

Roaming the countryside or immersed in the cities, there is something of interest for all. The beautiful medieval city of Siena, built around the Piazza del Campo, is a mystical, passionate place, encircled by ramparts and riddled with narrow Gothic streets. In Florence, that cradle of exceptional artistic and intellectual activity ruled by Brunelleschi's magnificent dome and the incomparable Uffizi Gallery, a local guide takes us into the heart of the city's treasures.

And throughout, we'll be reminded that the great Tuscan painters—from Leonardo to Valdarno—filled their paintings with the gorgeous landscapes and light that still seduce today.

Join Discover Europe's Fiona Bennett, and BCS' Director, Sandi Tinyk, and escape the harsh New England winter on BCS' 12th annual Superbowl Escape to the Cradle of the Renaissance.

Please Note: The special early-bird discount price for those who register by June 30, 2009.



Brunelleschi's Dome



The Copy of David in the Piazza della Signoria

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

	Special Early-bird Registration Register by June 30, 2009	Normal Registration By Dec 5, 2009
Barrington, via Boston departure:	\$2490	\$2690
Land only (no airfare included):	\$1760	\$1960
Single supplement:	\$290	\$390

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air from Boston to Florence.
All airport taxes and customs charges included.
- Hotels:** 5 nights accommodation in a first-class hotel.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Breakfast daily, 2 dinners and 1 agriturismo lunch.
- Guides:** Discover Europe's Fiona Bennett and BCS' Sandi Tinyk will escort the group throughout the tour.
Local guide for 2 half-days in Florence.
- Expenses:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

**For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432**



Friday, February 5th

Our private coach takes us this afternoon from Barrington to Boston Logan Airport where we board Air France's overnight service to Paris.

Overnight: Flight

Saturday, February 6th

We land in Paris this morning and connect with our onward flight to Florence. On arrival we are met for the transfer to our city center hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood this afternoon. We gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)**

Overnight: Florence

Sunday, February 7th

We'll meet our local guide this morning and begin our explorations of this fabulous city with a tour of the Uffizi Gallery. We then enter the Piazza della Signoria where we'll admire the graceful Loggia dei Lanzi, the Neptune Fountain, and the copy of Michelangelo's *David*, standing where the artist intended it to be. We'll continue on foot to the Duomo, contrasting its extravagant exterior to its rather austere interior, and concluding with a climb (for those who want to) up to Brunelleschi's magnificent dome to admire the unforgettable views over Florence. We continue to the Baptistry; Ghiberti's famous east doors of the Baptistry

Overnight: Florence

depict Old Testament scenes and Michelangelo dubbed them the "Gate of Paradise." These are copies; the original doors are in the Museo del'Opera del Duomo and this inconspicuous building contains some of the finest works of art in Florence. The afternoon and evening are free for individual adventures. **(B)**

Monday, February 8th

A panorama of Tuscan countryside unfolds before us today as we head south through the region to the beautiful city of Siena. We'll tour the lovely Piazza del Campo and visit Siena's Duomo - one of the most dramatic in Italy with its striking black and white marble pillars and façade. The inlaid marble floor, featuring Biblical scenes, is an architectural and artistic treasure. Leaving the city we'll have lunch in a nearby "agriturismo" – local wine, produce and assorted delicacies will be on offer. This afternoon we break our journey back to Florence with a stop in San Gimignano, known as "San Gimignano of the Towers." We'll have free time to explore and visit the Collegiata, a 12th-century Romanesque church with a superb fresco cycle of Biblical scenes before returning to our hotel for a free evening. **(B, L)**

Overnight: Florence



The Tuscan Countryside

Tuesday, February 9th

A full free day in this fabulous city. Visit the Pitti Palace, stroll along the banks of the Arno and over the Ponte Vecchio, or browse the leather markets. Or just sit and sip cappuccino and watch the world go by. **(B)**

Overnight: Florence



San Gimignano

Wednesday, February 10th

This morning our local guide takes us to two of the city's most famous museums. We'll begin at the Accademia, home of Michelangelo's *David*, and then continue to the Bargello, with its exceptional collection of renaissance art. The afternoon is free before we gather again for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Florence

Thursday, February 11th

Morning transport to Florence Airport for returning flights to Boston, where our coach will be waiting to take us back to Barrington. Alternatively you may like to stay on and join our Valentine's tour to Rome, immediately following this tour. **(B)**

Overnight: Home

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner