



Barrington Community School

presents

Venice & the Veneto

A Regional Discovery in Northern Italy

May 1 - 10, 2008

Designed exclusively for Barrington Community School, this exquisite tour will highlight picturesque towns and villages, panoramic lakeside views, magnificent mountains and Roman ruins, culminating in the intriguing mix of fantasy and reality of Venice.

Our tour begins at Lake Garda, the largest and most beautiful of the northern Italian lakes, where our lakeside hotel is beautifully situated on its western shore in Gardone Riviera. The Dolomites in the north shelter the lake from cold winds, providing a very mild climate and perfect growing conditions for a wide variety of plants and trees. Our full exploration of the Veneto region will include city tours of Verona, Vicenza and Padua.

We conclude in Venice, the most charming, poetic and romantic city in the world. No trip to Venice is complete without a visit to the Gallerie dell'Accademia, one of the greatest collections of paintings in Europe, as well as the 20th-century works of the Peggy Guggenheim collection.

This spring why not join BCS director Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's Fiona Bennett for a visit to a vineyard (Bardolino), a stroll through the quiet streets of a lakeside resort town or an ancient village in search of the perfect gelato, and an opportunity to sample the rich cuisine of the north and toast the beauty of the Veneto region. If you can't bear to leave, we invite you to sign on for our Adriatic cruise extension as we make our way from Trieste down the Dalmatian Coast (see separate sheet for complete details).



Lake Garda - the Riva del Garda



Venice - the Grand Canal

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

Boston departure:	\$3980
Land Only:	\$3240
Single supplement:	\$690

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from Boston to Venice.
All customs fees and airport taxes included.
- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, including round trip transfers from Barrington to Boston.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners, 1 lunch.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director & BCS escort throughout.
Local guide for Venice walking tour.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

For further information & registration please contact:

Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School

(401) 245-0432



Thursday, May 1st. This afternoon we depart by private motorcoach from Barrington to Boston, Logan Airport where we board Air France's direct overnight service to Paris. **Overnight: Plane**

Friday, May 2nd. In Paris we connect with Air France's continuing service to Venice where we will be met by Fiona Bennett, our Discover Europe representative. We'll arrive at our hotel on the shores of Lake Garda around lunchtime. After checking in, the afternoon is free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. We'll gather this evening for a welcome dinner. **(D)** **Overnight: Gardone Riviera**

Saturday, May 3rd. This morning we'll travel by boat to Sirmione, an enchanting town on the lake's southern shore, to visit the Grotte di Catullo, the ruins of a large Roman villa, a reminder that Garda has been a holiday resort for the pleasure-seeking well-to-do since the height of the Roman era. This is the most important example of Roman imperial domestic architecture in northern Italy and is beautifully set amid olive groves at the end of a long promontory. We'll have free time for

lunch and sightseeing in Sirmione before we return to our hotel by bus, stopping en route at the charming town of Salo, once the seat of the Captain of the Venetian Empire. Free evening in Gardone Riviera. **(B)** **Overnight: Gardone Riviera**

Sunday, May 4th. Our excursion today takes us first to Vicenza, where sightseeing introduces us to the many fine buildings of its favorite son, Andrea Palladio, including the Teatro Olimpico and numerous palazzi. We continue to Verona, one of the most attractive towns in northern Italy, with wide pavements of red Verona marble, impressive Roman remains, including its famous Arena, a rich artistic heritage and important historic churches. We'll stop for lunch and a chance to walk around this ancient city, founded by the Romans in 89 BC. We might buy lunch in the Piazza delle Erbe, a large fruit and vegetable market, before continuing through the Piazza dei Signore to the cathedral and campanile. There will be time for a quick sprint to the top of the Roman Amphitheatre, one of the largest of its kind, for splendid views across the city. And, of course, a stop at the Casa di Giuletta for a view of Juliet's balcony. We return to Gardone Riviera for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Gardone Riviera**



Monday, May 5th. A lakeside drive northward today includes Limone, one of the lake's most attractive villages, with terraced lemon groves along the shore, and Gargnano, surrounded by great expanses of lemon plantations and where D.H. Lawrence wrote *Twilight in Italy*. We'll visit Riva del Garda, in ancient times an important trading center, before returning to our hotel. Free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Gardone Riviera**

Tuesday, May 6th. This morning we cross the lake by boat to the Venetian resort town of Garda to explore the east side of the lake. We'll begin in the medieval walled town of Lazise and make our way northwards to Bardolino. Famous for its light, dry red wines, we'll stop and have lunch at a local Agriturismo here before we continue along the side of the lake to Malcesine, dominated by the outline of the Castello Scagliero. From here we'll take the cable car up Monte Baldo for fantastic views over the whole area. We return to Gardone Riviera for a final free evening on the town. **(B, L)** **Overnight: Gardone Riviera**



Wednesday, May 7th. Our first stop today is Padua, the city of St. Anthony, where we'll visit the Scrovegni Chapel to view the fabulous Giotto frescoes. From Padua we'll travel along the languid waters of the Brenta Canal, to whose green shores 17th and 18th-century Venetian society moved en masse in the summer. Among the 50-odd villas along the canal is the 18th-century Villa Pisani at Stra, the largest villa on the Riviera del Brenta and once owned by Napoleon. We'll visit this villa as well as Villa Foscari, also known as La Malcontenta, which, according to legend, was the home of Dame Foscari (the "malcontent" of the name), who was exiled here after betraying her husband. We'll arrive in Venice in time to relax before dinner at our hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Venice**

Thursday, May 8th. A guided walking tour this morning includes the Piazza San Marco to visit two of its greatest treasures: the magnificent Basilica of San Marco, built in the 9th century to enshrine the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist, and the Doge's Palace, the residence of the doge, the seat of the highest magistrate of the Venetian Republic. Although Florence may be credited with having a crucially important revolution in art during the Renaissance, it is also true that what happened a century later in Venice had a long-lasting effect on all subsequent Italian, French, Flemish and Spanish painting. At the Accademia this afternoon, we will view important works by such great Venetian masters as Tintoretto, Titian, Veneziano, Bassano, Mantegna, Bellini and Carpaccio. Free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Venice**

Friday, May 9th. Today begins with a visit to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, the second most visited museum in Venice, to view 20th-century works by Picasso, Braque, Calder, Magritte, Dali, Kandinsky and other modern masters. The rest of the day is free to explore the capital of the "Serene Republic." Perhaps take a boat to visit the islands of the lagoon; Murano and Burano, known for their glass and lace respectively, and Torcello, site of the very first Venetian settlement and famous for the ornate Byzantine mosaics of its 11th-century cathedral. This evening we gather again for a farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Venice**

Saturday, May 10th. Morning transport to Venice, Marco Polo Airport for returning flights to the U.S on Air France, via Paris. On arrival at Boston we will be met for the transfer back to Barrington. **(B)** *Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*



Barrington Community School

presents

Cruising the Dalmatian Coast

An Optional Extension to *Venice & the Veneto*

May 10 - 18, 2008

Extend your visit to the Adriatic with this exploration of the beautiful Dalmatian coast and its hundreds of picturesque islands set in an intensely blue sea. Mountains sweep down to the sea covered in rich vegetation, on shore there are great historic towns and villages, and the whole coastline from Slovenia to Montenegro offers a wealth of historic and natural world wonders. Ports of call will include Pula, with many remnants of the Roman era; Zadar, a delightful place to spend a relaxing day and perhaps sample the local specialty, a maraschino cherry liqueur; Split, the heart of Dalmatia, with an excursion to the Palace of Diocletian, one of the last imperial residences of the Roman Era; breath-taking Dubrovnik with its many cultural treasures which have earned it the designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll also stop at stunningly beautiful Montenegro, making our way up the fjord past towering mountains to the town of Kotor, with little courts and squares faced with Renaissance buildings.



Dubrovnik

With a yacht-like ambience, *Arion* has a particular style, charm and grace which can only be found on vessels of this size. Recently refurbished, *Arion* is able to offer a truly memorable cruising experience combined with a service that is second to none. *Arion* was constructed in 1965 at Pula, in Croatia, as *Istra*. Purchased by Arcalia Shipping, the ship was completely reconstructed in Lisbon in 2000. The *Arion* is operated by Portuguese and other European officers and an international crew. Her size and characteristics make her able to visit cosy harbors and ports of call larger vessels are not able to access.

Join BCS Director, Sandi Tinyk, for an unforgettable experience *Cruising the Dalmatian Coast*.



The MS Arion

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

Land Only (no airfare included):	\$3360
Single supplement:	\$1350

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 1 nights accommodation in a first-class hotel. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Cruise:** 7 nights accommodation in a category 3 cabin. All port taxes and ship crew gratuities included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary. Included shore excursions are listed in the itinerary. Other, optional, shore excursions will be available on board ship.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast and 1 dinner in Trieste. Full board while on the *MS Arion* includes a cocktail party, a barbecue, welcome and farewell dinners, afternoon tea and evening entertainment.
- Guides:** Escorted by BCS Director, Sandi Tinyk throughout. Local guides for shore excursions
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

Please Note: The published price is based on category 3 cabins (outside, main deck). Cabin upgrades may be available on a request basis.

For further information & registration please contact:

Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School

(401) 245-0432



Saturday, May 10th. This morning you bid adieu to your recent traveling companions at Venice Airport and board a bus to travel around the top of the Adriatic Sea to the port of Trieste. There will be time to explore the hilltop site of the ancient city where the piazza della Cathedrale is lined with the ruins of a Roman basilica, a 15th-century castle, a 16th-century Venetian column, the altar of the Third Army and the Basilica of St. Justus! We'll have dinner at our hotel here. **(B)** **Overnight: Trieste**

Sunday, May 11th. This afternoon you are transferred over the border into Slovenia to the nearby port of Koper to board your cruise ship, the *MS Arion*. Your cruise includes full board from dinner this evening until breakfast on May 18th. **(B, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**

Monday, May 12th. Pula. The western shores of the Istrian Peninsula are home to its most beautiful towns, one of which is 3,000 year-old Pula. This charming Italianate-styled town is famed for its age-old archeological ruins, which include a spectacular Roman amphitheatre, the sixth largest in the world. Other highlights include exquisite classical monuments such as the Temple of Augustus, Golden Gate and the Triumphal Arch of the Sergei. Today, marvel at the city's sights on a guided tour, including the colossal 22,000-seat amphitheatre, built entirely from limestone and the site of many a gladiatorial contest. There's also an optional excursion to visit Rovinj, another Istrian gem, and the ancient inland village of Motovun, for a taste of hidden Croatia. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**

Tuesday, May 13th. Zadar. Once rivaling Venice in importance, historic Zadar is a treasure trove for sightseers. Dating back to the 9th century BC, this wonderful, red-roofed city stands on a scenic promontory jutting into the sparkling Adriatic. A charismatic mix of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, it's perhaps best known for its ruined Roman Forum and priceless collection of ecclesiastical art known as 'The Gold and Silver of Zadar', housed in one of its churches. Our guided tour includes the main landmarks, particularly the impressive St Donatus' Church, a circular edifice built in pre-Romanesque style. Other optional excursions include trips to spectacular Plitvice National Park, with its stunning lakes and waterfalls, and to 10th-century Sibenik. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**



Downtown Split

Wednesday, May 14th. Korcula. The ancient city of Split is Croatia's second largest city and known as the "Capital of Dalmatia." Having developed as a town after the building of the original Roman Emperor's Palace 1,700 years ago, this relaxed, culture-packed city is a joy to spend time in. Our tour takes in many of the highlights, from the lively market and colorful promenade to the well-preserved Diocletian Palace, named after the Roman Emperor who lived there in the 3rd century. This afternoon, cruise south towards the medieval town of Korcula, an island-town famed as the birthplace of Marco Polo and filled with narrow stone streets, romantic churches and fascinating museums. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**



The Kotor Fjord

Thursday, May 15th. Dubrovnik. A highlight of your cruise lies ahead as your ship docks at Dubrovnik for a tour of the breathtaking old city, which once rivaled Venice as a trading centre and now equals it for its beauty. Enclosed in mighty medieval walls measuring over a mile long, this jewel of a city is justifiably known as the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Today, there is time to marvel at its marble-paved "Stradun," famous clock tower and enchanting Franciscan monastery, as well as its glorious Rector's Palace and imposing gateways. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**

Friday, May 16th. Kotor. Another day of wonder awaits as we glide into the spectacular Bay of Kotor in Montenegro early this morning. Known locally as the "Boka Kotorska," this majestic fjord is the only one in the Mediterranean and makes a stunning sight, with its soaring mountains and untouched fishing villages. Cupped at the end of the fjord, Kotor is a well-preserved medieval town, complete with 4 kilometre-long walls and towering fortress perched high above on a hilltop.

Enjoy this picturesque, peaceful city or take an optional excursion to the former Montenegrin capital of Cetinje with its grandiose Royal Palace, stopping at Budva, a picturesque coastal resort, on your way back. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**

Saturday, May 17th. Ploce. Today, your ship moors at Ploce on the central Dalmatian coast. There is an included excursion to a picturesque nearby beach where you can relax away your final day on the Adriatic. Alternatively you can take an optional excursion to the famous city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dating back to the 16th century, and scene of some of the heaviest fighting in the recent war, this deeply poignant town is built from stone and boasts an iconic bridge, first constructed by the Turks some 500 years ago and recently restored to its former glory. **(B, L, D)** **Overnight: MS Arion**

Sunday, May 18th. After breakfast, you disembark from your ship and transfer to Venice Airport for your return flights to Boston. On arrival at Logan Airport in Boston, your private motorcoach will be waiting to return you to Barrington. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**