

Day 1 – Fly to Rome

Depart U.S.A for overnight flight to Rome.

Day 2 – Rome

Arrive in Rome where you will be met by your hosts at the airport.

After a brief stop for a snack/breakfast and drinks, our luxury tourist bus will take us directly to the **Coliseum** where we will alight for a brief introduction to Rome. Afterwards we will visit **San Clemente Church** where three layers of history are seen in one building: three churches having been built here over the centuries. We will then depart for our monastery where we will have time to unpack and relax.

Our bus will then take us to the **Spanish Steps** and we will walk to Recafe, a great Pizza Parlour where we will enjoy our first meal together. We will have a fairly early night as tomorrow will be a full day.

Day 3 – Rome

After an Italian style continental breakfast we will leave our monastery for the **Catacombs**. Here we will see where many Christians were martyred for their faith and we will have a Guide to show us around this amazing and sombre place.

Afterwards we will board our bus for the ancient part of Rome where we will split into two groups with specialist Guides and visit the **Capitoline Museum**: a real treat. It is here we will see many relics from the past and gain a better understanding of the history of Rome.

Following this we will go into central Rome and visit the **Trevi Fountain** before splitting into groups for dinner around the **Pantheon**. We will meet back at the Pantheon for our journey to the monastery.



Day 4 – Rome

Today we will leave a little later for our journey back to the Ancient City where we will spend the day discovering the **Forum** and **Palatine Hill**. We will split into two groups, one will start at the **Forum** examining and imagining how Rome looked during the time of Jesus. The other half will visit **Palatine Hill** and after lunch we will change around.

Later in the afternoon we will leave for shopping around Piazza Navona and have dinner in our groups.

Day 5 – Sienna

After an early breakfast we leave for Florence with a stop in Siena.

After winding through the beautiful Tuscan countryside we will arrive in this exquisite town where the medieval square with its fanlike appearance is said to be one of the most beautiful in Europe.

We will visit the **Duomo** with its unusual striped marble pillars surmounted by a carved frieze of the Popes.

After lunch we will leave for Florence where we will check into our Monastery.

We will leave for the centre of town for a first view of the magnificent **Duomo**.

Here we will divide into our groups for dinner. We will then return as a group to our Monastery. Tomorrow we will spend the day at the **Medici Chapel**, **Academia**, and **Uffizi Gallery**.

Day 6 – Florence

Today is our first in Florence. Florence means *City of Flowers*, and Florence is also known as the “Cradle of the Renaissance”; truly one of the world’s great artistic

cities. We will divide into our groups: one will visit the **Medici Chapel** and the **Duomo** with its famed baptistery, also having an opportunity to climb the steps inside to have a spectacular view over the city. The other group will visit the **Academia**, site of Michelangelo’s *David*. In the afternoon, the first group will visit the **Academia** and the other group will have time for shopping and relaxation.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy a gelato: a must in Italy.

Dinner will be near Piazza Della Signora where we will divide into groups before returning to our Monastery. Tomorrow we will all visit the **Uffizi Gallery** in our groups while others will go to the **Medici Chapel**.



Day 7 – Florence

After a great nights rest we will be ready for our second day in Florence.

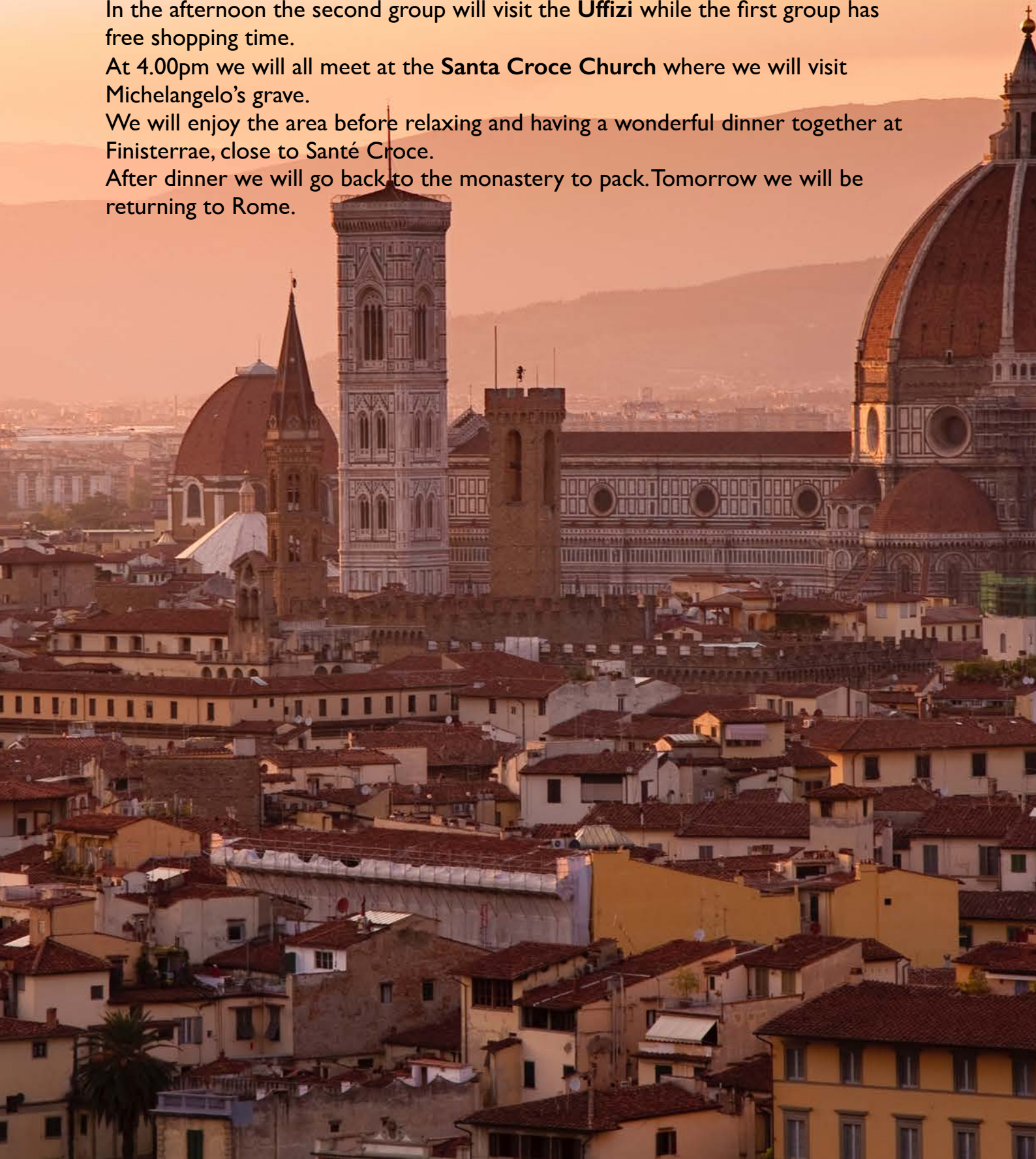
Splitting into two groups, the first will visit the **Uffizi Gallery** with its amazing and world renowned art collection. The other group will visit the **Medici Chapel** and **Duomo**, climbing the stairs for an amazing view.

In the afternoon the second group will visit the **Uffizi** while the first group has free shopping time.

At 4.00pm we will all meet at the **Santa Croce Church** where we will visit Michelangelo's grave.

We will enjoy the area before relaxing and having a wonderful dinner together at Finisterrae, close to Santé Croce.

After dinner we will go back to the monastery to pack. Tomorrow we will be returning to Rome.



Day 8 – Travel to Rome

After breakfast we will leave the beautiful city of flowers and wind through the Tuscan countryside stopping for a short time at one of the quaint towns.

We will eat dinner on our way into Rome, arriving shortly afterwards, where we will check into our monastery where we began our wonderful journey.

Day 9 – Rome

Sadly this is our last day but often the best is last.

Today we will be visiting **St. Peter's Basilica** and the **Vatican Museums**.

The Vatican is the smallest but one of the wealthiest states in the world. We will visit the **Sistine Chapel** and **Rafael Rooms** amongst other amazing and awesome art and sculptures.

Afterwards we will have the evening in Rome where we will divide up for our last dinner in our groups around Piazza Barberini.

Day 10 – Fly Home

Fly back to the U.S.

