



FRIENDSHIP  TRIP TO ITALY
MARCH 11TH – MARCH 21ST, 2004



Please join us for a trip to Italy to visit our Rotarian friends from the Rotary Club of Milano Aquileia, our sister club. They will organize an interesting agenda for us and look forward to welcoming you.

The details of the program itself are still in the works but naturally we would be participating at their weekly Rotary meeting as well as enjoy each others company in various beautiful locations (Milano, Pavia, Lago Maggiore, Lago di Como, Bergamo, Mantova, Lugano, Venezia) to mention some of the cities that we plan on visiting.



Please contact the Rotary office, if you are interested in exploring these beautiful locations in Northern Italy in a Rotary setting.





FRIENDSHIP TRIP TO ITALY

March 11 - March 21

Thursday, March 11th: Departure from New York

Flight duration approx. eight hours (fluctuations based on your air travel preferences).



Friday, March 12th: Arrival in Milan

Morning hours are open for rejuvenation from the flight and Hotel check in (possibly, Grand Hotel Duomo, centrally located on via San Raffaele/Piazza del Duomo), sightseeing and shopping optional. Milan is Italy's financial center, business hub, fashion capital, that reveals its long and event-filled history in a pride of monuments, museums and churches.



Saturday, March 13th: Tour of Milan

Sights of interest: Il Duomo, Castello Sforzesco, Michelangelo's final sculpture, Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper", etc.



Dinner in Naviglio, the bohemian part of Milan, somewhat comparable to the village in New York City.



Sunday, March 14th: Trip to Pavia & The Certosa

After lunch we will leave for Pavia in the afternoon. Pavia is located 22 miles south of Milan and was at one point more

powerful than Milan. It was in fact the capital of Lombardy in the 7th and 8th centuries, and by the early Renaissance,

the Visconti and later the Sforza, the two families who so influenced the history of Milan and all of Lombardy, were wielding their power here. Sights to be seen are the Castle (Il Castello), Il Duomo (third largest dome in Italy) and the most important monument in Pavia, The Certosa (religious compound with a beautiful façade of colored marble, the frescoed interior, etc.). Dinner in Pavia.



Monday, March 15th: Day trip to the Lago Maggiore and Stresa

Located 48 Miles

Northwest of Milan: Anyone who reads Hemingway will know this lake and its forested shores



from A "Farewell to Arms". That's just the sort of place Lago Maggiore (Lake Maggiore) is – a pleasure grounds, which inspired the famous minds of Flaubert,



Wagner, Goethe and others.

Stresa is the major town on the lake and is a pretty, festive little place, with a

long front promenade, a lively and attractive commercial center, and a bevy of restaurants and hotels with just a short boat ride to the Borromean Islands (Isola Borromee).



Return to Milan in the later afternoon and Rotary dinner at the Grand Hotel Duomo with our Rotarian friends from Milano Aquileia.

Tuesday, March 16th: Sightseeing and shopping in Milan

Dinner at "Il Cacciatore"



Wednesday, March 17th: Milan – Bergamo – Mantova - Venice

Departure from Milan after breakfast.

Stopover and visit of Bergamo, located 28 miles Northeast of Milan. Bergamo is two cities, Bergamo Bassa, the lower, a mostly 19th- and 20th- century city, concerns itself with everyday business.



Bergamo Alta, a beautiful medieval/Renaissance town perched on a green hill. Gabriele

D'Annunzio called old Bergamo "a city of muteness". He was inspired by the many piazza, palazzi, and churches, and of course the lovely views. The distinct characters of the two parts of this city go back to its founding as a Roman settlement, when the *civitas* was on the hill and farms and suburban villas dotted the plains below. We will also visit the city of Mantova, center of Renaissance art under the Gonzaga family.



Arrival in Venice late afternoon, dinner and Hotel check in (Hotel to be determined)

Thursday, March 18th: Venice – sightseeing



After breakfast you can explore the city that Lord Byron called "a fairy city of the heart." "La

Serenissima", "The Most Serene" is an improbable cityscape of stone palaces that seem to float on water, a place where cats nap in Oriental marble windowsills set in beautiful plaster walls.

You will be able to indulge in the beautiful arts (paintings from Bellini, Tiziano, Veronese, Tintoretto) and of course the wonderful architecture (San Marco, Ponte Di Rialto, Palazzo Ducale, etc.) Dinner in Venice.



Friday, March 19th: Venice sightseeing



Saturday, March 20th, Venice – Padova - Milan



After breakfast we say goodbye to this beautiful city of Venice and return to Milan by bus. We will stop in the city

of Padova to visit the Scrovegni Chapel (Cappella degli Scrovegni) a must-see with recently renovated vibrant frescoes by

Giotto. Time allowing, Verona may be a stopover as well. Arrival in Milan in the late afternoon. Dinner and relaxation



Sunday, March 21st, Milan – New York

We knew that this day would come: After breakfast we will return to New York.

**Please note that this itinerary is a draft, changes are pending feedback. Cost estimation can be made after the finalization of this itinerary.*

Flight cost may vary as well, pending time of booking but should range, between \$550 - \$650, round trip.