



TRAVELING  
OWLS

The Association of Rice Alumni presents

# PORTRAIT OF ITALY

From the Amalfi Coast to Venice

October 4-20, 2016

**17 days for \$5,584 total price from Houston**  
(\$4,895 air & land inclusive plus \$689 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Rice University

*Featuring Dr. Art Gottschalk, The Shepherd School of Music*



Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Join us on a grand visit of bella Italia! Our small group will experience the best of Italy's countryside and the finest of its famed cities — Rome, Florence, and Venice. We are pleased to have Dr. Art Gottschalk lead this dynamic journey. Throughout your time together, he will be giving a variety of talks and has worked to coordinate some special visits to a variety of sites that will surely make this a once in a lifetime trip throughout the Italian countryside.

This journey showcases priceless art, outstanding cuisine, and unique lodgings. Starting in Italy's Campania region, we will stay in the stunning seaside resort of Amalfi, visit historic Pompeii and explore Sorrento. During three days in Rome, we will see the city's most famous sights and have time to explore on our own. Then, it's on to Umbria and Tuscany with their villages and medieval hill towns: Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, and San Gimignano. In Florence, we can immerse ourselves in Renaissance art and experience a wine tasting at a local winery. Our journey concludes in magical Venice, with time to view its main sights. If you wish to extend your stay further, an optional three-day/two-night post tour extension, "Venice - On Your Own," is also available.

With space for only 24 Rice-affiliated guests in total, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place on this fascinating journey!

Warm Regards,

Dan Stypa  
Associate Director of Alumni Programs  
Office of Alumni Relations

RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: PORTRAIT OF ITALY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_(\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_ person/people on **Portrait of Italy**, departing **October 4, 2016**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard or VISA or by personal check. **Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send with completed registration form to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. Or call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS or email travelingowls@rice.edu. You may also fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour "Venice – On Your Own" Extension: Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Portrait of Italy, October 4-20, 2016**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**     Check     American Express     Discover     MasterCard     VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 24 Rice alumni and friends

# PORTRAIT OF ITALY

## From the Amalfi Coast to Venice

**17 days for \$5,584 total price from Houston**

(\$4,895 air & land inclusive plus \$689 airline taxes and fees)

**F**rom the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to eternal Rome, through the gentle Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to timeless Venice, this leisurely tour showcases ancient sites, contemporary life, priceless art and beautiful natural scenery. You'll especially appreciate the small size of your group as you stay in unique accommodations in the Tuscan countryside and a medieval village.



### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Naples, Italy

**Day 2: Arrive Naples/Amalfi** After arriving in Naples this morning, we travel to seaside Amalfi, a popular resort and our base for exploring Italy's Campania region. We dine at our hotel tonight, as we will throughout our stay here. **D**

**Day 3: Amalfi/Ravello** This morning we experience this breathtaking coast by sea as we cruise from our hotel to Amalfi Center (weather permitting). Here we enjoy a brief tour of the region's largest town then have lunch on our own. Next we ascend to mountaintop Ravello, with its spectacular gardens and coastal views. **B,D**

**Day 4: Pompeii/Amalfi/Sorrento** Our full-day excursion begins in Pompeii, the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE but not excavated until 1748. After a tour and lunch on our own here we embark on a breathtaking drive along the winding Amalfi Coast high above the azure Mediterranean — with stops for photos and in Sorrento along the way. We return to our hotel late this afternoon. **B,D**

**Day 5: Amalfi/Montecassino/Rome** En route to Rome today we visit the town of Montecassino, whose Abbey is the mother church of the Benedictine order and a center of medieval art. A German stronghold during World War II, the hilltop Abbey was destroyed by Allied bombing then rebuilt as a replica of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century original. We tour the Abbey, then continue on to the Eternal City. We arrive at our well-located hotel mid-afternoon; our tour director will lead an informal walk of the nearby area. **B**

**Day 6: Rome** This morning we tour the heart of ancient Rome: the 55,000-seat Colosseum, built in 72 CE to stage gladiator spectacles; and the temples of the Forum, ancient Rome's political and legal center. The afternoon is free to explore on our own; the possibilities endless: shopping

Avg. High (°F)	Sep	Oct
Amalfi Coast	79	70
Rome	79	71
Venice	75	65

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Stunning Amalfi Coast ... Ruins at Pompeii ... Amalfi Coast cruise ... Rome sightseeing, including St. Peter's Square, Sistine Chapel, Colosseum, Forum ... Pastoral Umbria, the "green heart" of Italy ... Italian cooking demonstration ... Visit to the walled city of Assisi ... Comprehensive Tuscany sightseeing: San Gimignano, Siena, Florence ... Local wine tasting ... Timeless Venice ... Three-and-four-night stays in intimate small hotels in Amalfi, Tuscany, and Umbria

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Naples		
2-4	Amalfi	Marmorata Hotel	First Class
5-7	Rome	Empire Palace	Sup. First Class
8-10	Orvieto (Umbria)	Grand Hotel Italia	First Class
11-14	Siena (Tuscany)	Hotel Villa Lecchi	First Class
15-16	Venice	Carnival Palace Hotel	Sup. First Class
17	Depart Venice for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: On Day 4 we enjoy one of the world's greatest drives along the breathtaking Amalfi Coast.





Rome's Colosseum is the largest ever built.

along the fashionable Via Veneto; sipping *espresso* in beautiful Piazza Navona; seeing the Pantheon, the city's best preserved ancient building; tossing a coin into Trevi Fountain; or visiting any number of renowned museums and churches. **B**

**Day 7: Rome** Today we visit the Vatican for a tour of St. Peter's Square and Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums. Highlights include Michelangelo's "Pieta" in St. Peter's, considered one of the greatest sculptures of all time; his frescoed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, now restored to its original glory; and art-filled St. Peter's itself, the most important church in all Christendom. **B**

**Day 8: Rome/Umbria** Leaving Rome, we travel north through a pastoral landscape of gentle agricultural land bounded by mountain wilderness and dotted with traditional villages and medieval hill towns. Mid-afternoon we reach Orvieto, perched high on a plateau above a vineyard-clad plain. After checking in at our hotel in the heart of the city's medieval quarter, our tour director leads us on an informal walking tour. Tonight we attend a simple cooking demonstration followed by dinner at Zeppelin Restaurant. **B,D**

**Day 9: Orvieto** This morning we embark on a guided walking tour of this dramatically-set city. We visit the medieval *Duomo* featuring a frescoed chapel by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli's masterpiece, "The Last Judgment." Next we explore the formerly secret passages of Parco delle Grotte, a labyrinth of underground caves used since Etruscan times. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **B**

**Day 10: Orvieto/Assisi** Today's excursion is to Assisi, considered a gem of an Umbrian town with inviting plazas, abundant flowers, buildings of white marble, and a pervasive medieval air. We visit St. Clare Church and the renowned Basilica di San Francesco, the burial place of St. Francis and a sacred pilgrimage site. Inside are Giotto's priceless frescoes "The Life of St. Francis." There's time on our own to stroll the fountain-splashed *piazze* and to enjoy local specialties for lunch. We also visit Deruta, known for its prized hand-painted Majolica ceramics. **B**

**Day 11: Orvieto/Perugia/Siena** Continuing our journey, we leave Umbria for the equally alluring region of Tuscany. We stop along the way in charming Perugia. Late afternoon we reach Villa Lecchi, our restored 18<sup>th</sup>-century country villa hotel outside Siena. **B,D**

### Post-Tour Extension

October 20-22, 2016

#### VENICE – ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights for \$345 total price

Single Supplement: \$245

*Enjoy time on your own  
in this most timeless of cities.*

#### Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Carnival Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

"ROME IS THE CITY OF  
ECHOES ... OF ILLUSIONS,  
OF YEARNING."

- GIOTTO DI BONDONE

**Day 12: Siena** Today we visit walled Siena, whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke the city's medieval past. We set out on a guided walking tour that includes an inside visit to the *Duomo*, housing masterpieces by Michelangelo and Donatello, then have free time to explore on our own. *B,D*

**Day 13: Florence** A living monument to the Renaissance, Florence is the crown jewel of Tuscany. We encounter this splendid city on a full-day excursion that includes a morning walking tour. Then we visit the Galleria dell'Accademia to view Michelangelo's sublime "David," as well as his pieces for the papal tombs; and the revered *Duomo*, with its stupendous dome by Brunelleschi. This afternoon is free to enjoy Florence as we wish. *B,D*

**Day 14: San Gimignano** We encounter classic Tuscany today as we visit the hill town of San Gimignano, known for the 13 watchtowers that have left its skyline virtually unchanged since medieval times. Later we visit a local winery and enjoy a tasting before returning to our lodgings mid-afternoon. *B,D*

**Day 15: Siena/Venice** Leaving Tuscany today, we travel through the Veneto region to Venice, arriving early this afternoon. Then we're free to explore this wondrous city on our own. *B*

**Day 16: Venice** This morning we take a guided walk through St. Mark's Square and surroundings. Our afternoon is free to explore Venice independently; tonight we bid "*arrivederci*" to Italy and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

**Day 17: Depart for U.S.** We depart early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S. *B*

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 15 nights' accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 24 meals: 15 breakfasts, 9 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

### Meet Your Faculty Host



Arthur Gottschalk serves as a Professor at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. Dr. Gottschalk served for many years as the Chair of the Department of Music Theory and Composition. In addition,

he founded and directed the university's electronic and computer music laboratories until 2002. Dr. Gottschalk has hosted past Traveling Owls trips and is excited to lead another group to Italy, as he has many personal connections that will be incorporated into the group's trip.

Dr. Gottschalk has worked in many areas of music, including recording studio management, commercial writing and arranging, record music publishing, and artist management. He continues to work as an expert in music copyright cases, and as a forensic musicologist. He attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, receiving a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Composition, a Master of Arts degree in Music Composition and English Literature, and his Doctorate in Music Composition.

### Tour Departs: October 4, 2016

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York	\$5,184
Boston, Philadelphia	\$5,384
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$5,484
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,584
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,095

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$689, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$895. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class - \$3,995 per person; Premium Economy - \$895 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

**Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. In addition, several of our small hotels do not have elevators. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.**

**For reservations and information, please call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210**

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

*Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.*

### **Not included in tour price**

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only Tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You would confirm directly with your airline.

### **Cancellations, refunds and changes**

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-85 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If a guest makes any changes between 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

**Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, your date of birth and your gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

### **Responsibility**

The liability of the Office of Alumni Relations and Rice University, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

### **Health and Medical Issues**

We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### **Air Transportation – Important Information**

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE  
TRAVELING OWLS JOURNEY  
TO ITALY!

*Guaranteed Small Group:  
Limited to 24 Guests*