

TENTATIVE FLORENCE and MILAN ITINERARY

FLORENCE

- * **Leather School** of Santa Croce. Inside the cloister a school has been established by the monks of St. Francis. This school keeps alive the ancient tradition of the arts and crafts, applying gold to leather. Demonstration and chance to buy the finest leather goods at the most economical prices. Quality copies of designer items especially handbags.
- * **Church of Santa Croce**, 1294. Tombs of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Dante, and Galileo.
- * **Museo Salvatore Ferragamo**, private appointment at the Ferragamo Shoe Museum housed in the 14th century Spini Feroni Palazzo.
- * **Palazzo Pitti**, 1457. Originally built for the banker, Luca Pitti. In 1550 it became the main residence of the Medici family. Richly decorated rooms exhibit treasures from the Medici collections. Many different tours offered: Royal apartments, Galleria del Costume, Boboli gardens, and more!
- * **Galleria dell' Accademia**, Michelangelo's original "David".
- * **Ponte Vecchio**, 1345. Shops on bridge specializing in jewelry.
- * **San Lorenzo Market**, where shopping is like ordering from a Chinese menu; silks, marbled paper, faience pottery, and more!
- * **The Silk Market**, a.k.a. the Straw Market.

MILAN

- * **The Duomo**, Milan's magnificent cathedral, 1386.
- * **Quadrilatero Couture**, known as the Golden Triangle; Armani, Versace, Gianfranco Ferre, Missoni, and more.
- * **Exclusive designer appointment.**
- * **Couture discount.**
- * **Santa Maria delle Grazie Refectory**, reservation to see Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper".
- * **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** shopping arcade through a triumphal arch. It is considered "the living room of Milan".
- * **La Scala Opera House and Museum**, see the renovated Teatro alla Scala, the world-renowned Opera House plus the wonderful artifacts, memorabilia, and costumes.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY VENICE and BURANO

VENICE

- * **Basilica di San Marco**, 13th century. Magnificent mosaics sheathe the domes, walls, and floors of this Byzantine Basilica.
- * **Piazza San Marco** with plenty of pigeons to go around.
- * **Palazzo Ducale** at the Piazza San Marco. This was the residence of the Doge or ruler and the seat of the administration of justice, 9th century.
- * **Bridge of Sighs** owes its melancholy name to the fact that it connected the Palazzo Ducale with the prisons across the canal.
- * **Ponte di Rialto** is a famous Venetian bridge with shops.
- * **Ca Mocenigo**, small 18th century palace with historic costume museum. The Mocenigos are one of the oldest and greatest of all Venetian families.
- * **Gondolas** to ride the Grand Canals!
- * **Peggy Guggenheim Collection**, a museum of modern art created by the American heiress Peggy Guggenheim (1898 - 1979) housed in her 18th century palace, the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni.
- * **Ca' Rezzonico**, a richly furnished and perhaps the most splendid Baroque palace. It is the museum of 18th century Venice with frescoes, paintings, and period pieces. It was bought by the poet Robert Browning. A whole room is devoted to Pietro Longhi's portrayals of everyday Venetian life.
- * **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, housed in three former religious buildings and has the largest collection of Venetian art in existence.
- * **Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari**, a plain Gothic church which has masterpieces by Titian, Bellini, and Donatello.
- * **Carnival Mask Making and Costumes**, the tradition of Carnival began in the 11th century. See hand painted masks and folklore costumes.

The Island of BURANO, a ferry ride from Venice and a most unusual canal island of gaily painted houses. Fishing is the industry with open-air trattorias specializing in fresh seafood. While the men fished the women worked hand made lace. You will fall in love with the island of Burano.

* **Scuola dei Merletti** or lacemaking school houses a superb collection of exquisite lace. Lacemakers are actually plying their trade making this famous lace that is so delicate it is called "points in the air".

The Island of MURANO has been the center for the glassmaking industry since 1291. See a demonstration of glass-blowing technique.