The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento Presents:

**Italy: the Grand Tour**
*Tuscany, Cinque Terre, Rome*

**June 14 - 25, 2019**
-12 days $3,299*/person

☆ Visit: Florence, Lucca, Chianti Region, The Cinque Terre, Pescia, Pisa, Siena, Viareggio, Volterra, San Gimignano, Rome and Vatican City

★★ Tour Includes:★★

♥ 8 nights in Tuscany and 2 nights in Heart of Rome 4 Star Hotels
♥ All buffet breakfasts
♥ All Italian Dinners in Tuscany
♥ Private Air Conditioned Motor Coach
♥ Full time Tour Director- concierge, and English Speaking city guides
♥ Wine and Olive Oil tasting
♥ Sightseeing Tours & Museum Tickets
♥ Welcome Cocktail Party
♥ Special Travel Booklet and much more!

* Tour price is cash per person, based on double occupancy, single supplement is $500 for private room for entire tour. Tips of €150 euro and airfare are not included in tour price.

The Italian Cultural Society
Phone: 916 italy-00 (482-5900)
italy@italiancenter.net www.italiancenter.net
Welcome to the Heart of Italy!

Discover the heart of Italy with the Italian Cultural Society’s exclusive Grand Tour. Our tour highlights the treasures of romantic Tuscany, Le Cinque Terre and Rome. First, our insider’s tour of Italy visits the most fabled cities in Tuscany: Florence, Siena, Lucca, Pisa, Viareggio, the Chianti Wine Road and more. Then we will visit the Eternal City – Italy’s famous capital city of Rome: Every day brings a new discovery of the finest Italian art, history, architecture, culture, scenic beauty and gastronomic delights.

In Tuscany travelers will discover Florence, known as the "cradle of the Renaissance" for its monuments, churches, and buildings. The best-known site in Florence is the domed cathedral of the city, Santa Maria del Fiore, known as Il Duomo designed by Filippo Brunelleschi. Florence is a living museum, and just one of the many spectacular cities you will explore on our Grand Tour adventure!

Tuscany is also Pisa, with its famous leaning tower and the Piazza of Miracles. Tuscany is Siena, with its stunning Piazza del Campo, where each July 2 and August 16, the breathtaking “Palio delle Contrade” the world’s most exciting horse race takes place. Tuscany is a land of lush olive groves, sweet hillsides, Chianti vineyards, and romantic hamlets. Tuscany is the wonderful walled city of Lucca, nicknamed the city of “one hundred churches”. Lucca is the birthplace of famed Italian Opera composer Giacomo Puccini, who wrote “La Boheme,” “Madame Butterfly,” and “Tosca.”

We will visit the Parco Nazionale delle Cinque Terre. This National Park is treasured for its breathtaking natural beauty and stunning position. In addition to magnificent natural scenery, admire the intense human activity which created the wine terraces or stone walls. It is estimated the wall network took more than 200 years to build, and its total length has been calculated to be greater than that of the Great Wall of China!

Our tour is organized to maximize the beauty of Italy and to minimize the hassles of traveling. The tour begins in Florence and ends in Rome. This affords us the luxury of just one hotel transfer and minimizes the time spent on the road. We stay in the heart of Rome, with its immense wealth of the world’s most magnificent artistic and architectural treasures, where history, legend and monuments coexist with an equally phenomenal concentration of living, Italian energy. We will spend a day at the Vatican and see Rome by night. We will experience the real “Dolce vita”! BUON VIAGGIO!!

ITINERARY:

Day 1 June 14, 2019: Depart for your flight to Italy, on-board meals.

Day 2 June 15, 2019: Arrival at Florence Airport and transfer to your hotel: Tour begins today at the Florence Airport where you will enjoy airport pick up and transportation to our Villa hotel with portage service. Your home is the Villa delle Rose, where you will be staying for the next 8-nights. Hotel Villa delle Rose is located in Pescia, a wonderful area at the foot of the Abetone Mountains, alongside the Pescia River. Enjoy welcome cocktails and orientation before a delicious multi course dinner at the hotel. Welcome to Italy!

Day 3 June 16, 2019: Viareggio and Pisa: Today we will visit the famous town of Pisa with its fantastic “Campo dei Miracoli” with the famous trio: the Baptistry, the Cathedral and the world famous Leaning Tower. This image is synonymous with Italy. Your guide will assist Travelers wishing to climb the tower’s 296 steps purchase tickets in Pisa. (Cost is 18 euros per person.) Next we head to the Versilia Riviera beach town of Viareggio where you stroll the famous seaside boardwalk on the Paseggiata Lungomare, shop the wonderful marketplace, and walk on the sandy white beaches of the Mediterranean’s Tyrhenean Sea. Plenty of excellent seaside restaurants to enjoy a wonderful lunch. ~Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel.

Day 4 June 17, 2019: Full day excursion to Lucca once the capital city of Tuscany and the most important city in Tuscany during Roman times, Lucca remains a city of great charm and beauty. After your buffet breakfast, depart by private motor coach for this Tuscan jewel: the walled city of Lucca. Meet our private city guide for half day tour of Lucca including walk on the famous walls built in the 16th century. Visit the church and Piazza of San Martino which houses Lucca’s most famous and beautiful art pieces: “il Volto Santo” the incredible wood carved crucifix and the white marble sarcophagus of
“Illaria del Carretto”. See the lovely mosaic front of San Frediano Church, the beautiful facade and square of San Michele Church which is located in what was the Roman forum, see the home of Giacomo Puccini, and stroll the city’s most famous street -Via Fillungo and visit the Roman amphitheater, and travelers may climb the mysterious Torre Guinigi. Join Patrizia for a**highly recommended optional lunch at Lucca’s best restaurant. ~Breakfast and an Italian time dinner at your hotel. Additional time in the afternoon for strolling the city, shopping, bike rides and sightseeing. **Optional:** There is no better way to end this glorious day in Lucca than by attending a wonderful concert of Puccini Arias offered this evening. It is highly recommended, and many travelers say the concert is one of the highlights of their Tuscany experience.

**Optional Lunch:** Join us for lunch at Lucca’s most famous restaurant “La Buca di Sant’Antonio” a Michelin Star Rated Gourmet Restaurant (the restaurant dates back to at least 1700s and is one of the oldest in Italy). Traditional delicious Lucchese multi course lunch including Lucchesi wines and bottled water, coffee, tax and tip. € 55. (Collected at our orientation meeting.)

**Day 5 June 18, 2019:** After breakfast, depart for full day excursion to Siena and the Chianti Wine Road. According to legend, Siena was founded by Senus, the son of Remus who was one of the legendary founders of Rome along with his twin brother Romulus. We’ll marvel at the famous Piazza del Campo which manages to squeeze into it thousands of screaming spectators and a racetrack for the famous Palio, which takes place twice a year on July 2 and August 16. You can purchase duplicates of the colorful flags of the 17 competing contrade which are tossed skyward during the Palio parade and whose emblems adorn the horse riders. The Piazza is dominated by the Mangia Tower, which is one of the tallest medieval Italian towers. We will meet our Siena guide for a walking city tour and visit the Duomo, Siena's great cathedral, begun in the 12th century in the Romanesque style but transformed in the 13th century into one of the finest examples of Italian Gothic. The church’s interior is adorned with black and white marble, and its marble floors have decorative inlays by Domenico Beccafumi. The Duomo also houses treasures by Nicola Pisano and Michelangelo, painted frescoes by Pinturicchio, a magnificent baptismal font by Jacopo della Quercia, Donatello, and Lorenzo Ghiberti. Truly, the Duomo is of the world’s most thrilling cathedrals! Lunch is on your own with a delightful array of restaurants, pizzerias and trattorias in the piazza. Siena is famous for its delicious Panforte (a dessert cake) and delicate Ricciarelli almond cookies. In the afternoon, we will drive through the famous picture postcard Chianti Wine Road and be guests at a charming estate for wine tasting and to enjoy one of the most beautiful areas in Tuscany - the heart of the Chianti Hills. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel.

**Day 6 June 19, 2019:** A full day excursion to Florence: Upon arriving in Florence, meet our local guide to visit the famous Accademia Art Gallery, which was founded in 1563 and was the first school in Europe to teach the techniques of drawing, painting and sculpture. The highlights of this museum are Michelangelo's colossal David and the Four Prisoners. Nearby, see Dante’s home and stroll in his footsteps in a maze of neighboring streets. Be awestruck by the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Lily Flower (commonly known as the Duomo), considered one of most impressive examples of Italian Gothic Style, the Campanile, also called Giotto's Bell Tower and the baptistery with the Gates of Paradise by Lorenzo Ghiberti. See the elegant Signoria Square with the Public Palace and the Loggia Del Lanzi, which is an open-air museum of marble and bronze statues. This magnificent day in Florence continues with a glance at the Uffizi Palace and a stroll over Ponte Vecchio (old bridge famous for sumptuous gold shops). The last stop of our unforgettable Florence tour is a breathtaking panoramic view of Florence from the Piazzale Michelangelo. Then, we will say “arrivederci” to Florence. ~Breakfast & Dinner at our hotel.

**Day 7 June 20, 2019:** Le Cinque Terre, Liguria After an early breakfast we will depart by private motor coach for the coastal city of La Spezia which is in the region of Liguria, just northwest of Tuscany. From La Spezia we will board a ferry boat to visit Portovenere and the charming villages of Le Cinque Terre. I have always loved this area and I want to have you approach it by sea. We will begin with a visit to Portovenere in the most southern village, it is spectacular with its beautiful Church of San Pietro and fortress. Next, we visit charming Vernazza with its tiny port and stone arches it is considered by many to be the most beautiful of the villages. Then we visit Monterosso al Mare, best known for its lovely beaches and scenic charm. You will have time to shop, sightsee and enjoy the culinary delights of this region, like pesto, focaccia and exceptional seafood. You should bring a towel and wear your suit under your clothes if you want to enjoy the lovely beach here. After our lovely day on the Ligurian Riviera, we will return to La Spezia where our driver will be waiting to take us back to the Villa delle Rose for dinner and a relaxing evening.
Day 8 June 21, 2019: Day at Leisure- Now that you have visited several cities in Tuscany you will have a free day to rest, or to select one city to return to, or a totally new adventure. OPTIONAL TOUR: Your tour manager/guide will offer an optional tour for travelers wishing to continue exploring the magnificent hill towns, villas and natural beauty of this region. ~Breakfast and Dinner at your hotel.

Day 9 June 22, 2019: Full day excursion to Volterra and San Gimignano:
Volterra is famous for its Etruscan roots and its beautiful alabaster. We visit this ancient Etruscan town whose original walls still stand, and explore the historical downtown with the Priori Palace, the Duomo or you can visit the Guarnacci Museum on your own. Continue to San Gimignano, one of the most charming towns in the heart of the Tuscan region rich in works of art, good shops and with a formidable gastronomic tradition. San Gimignano is famous for its excellent white wine called Vernaccia di San Gimignano, saffron, honey and wild boar called “cinghiale”. We will visit the ancient medieval center with its beautiful squares and picturesque narrow streets, the People Palace and the Duomo. Walk to the castle's ruins in the historical center and admire the breathtaking view of the hills and the vineyards surrounding San Gimignano. Time at leisure to shop and sightsee or climb up to the top of one the towers! ~Breakfast and a special Farewell Dinner at your hotel. Domani si parte per Roma! Tomorrow we depart for Rome!

Day 10 June 23, 2019: Rome ~ After breakfast, depart and say good-bye to the Villa and staff. We travel by private motor coach to Rome stopping along the way for a quick casual lunch on your own. In Rome where we will check into our four star hotel located right in the heart of Rome where we will stay for the next two nights. We will be greeted by our private English-speaking Rome guide who will bring us to discover Ancient Rome: with privileged admission to the Colosseum, scene of gladiator combats and early Christian martyrdom, the Arch of Constantine, the Imperial Forums, the Circus Maximus, the Capitoline Hill and more. With an almost uninterrupted history as an important center of power for more than two millennia, Rome is as close to eternal as it gets. According to the legend, Rome was founded on the Palatine Hill on October 21, 753 BC, by Romulus who also became the first king of Rome. The legend is not all wrong. The first traces of human settlement in the area have been found on the western slope of the Palatine Hill, dating from the 10th century BC, while the first evidence of the existence of a city is from the middle of the 8th century BC!!! The afternoon will continue with the visit to King Vittorio Emanuele Memorial in Piazza Venezia - Venice Square. For our first night in Rome, we highly recommend joining an optional dinner excursion to enjoy a typical Roman dining experience with delicious food and wine and fun entertainment. We will stroll the vibrant streets to see the magnificent, newly restored Trevi fountain and enjoy a Rome by night tour. Welcome to the city of LA DOLCE VITA!!

Day 11 June 24, 2019: Vatican City: After breakfast at our hotel, we will meet out private Rome City guide for privileged tour of St. Peter’s and the Vatican City - State which contains the world's richest collection of art. Prepare to be overwhelmed at the sight of the colossal Basilica and square of St. Peter, where you will marvel at awe-inspiring architecture, yet quietly moved by the sublime Pietà, Bernini's glorious and mystical Baroque Canopy and the burial site of St. Peter. See the colorful Swiss Guards. Museums situated in the Papal Palaces, including Raphael's Rooms, the ancient Greek and Roman Sculptures, and the Gallery of Maps. Views of the Papal Gardens and the Sistine Chapel - the incredible home to Michelangelo's awesome frescoed ceilings - and the monumental Last Judgment will be possible. Remember there is a dress code to enter St Peter’s and the Vatican. No Shorts, no bare shoulders, and knees must be covered to enter St. Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon, we will explore Piazza Navona with its many beautiful fountains. Lunch is on your own, the area is brimming with many good restaurants, wine bars, pizzerie, and gelaterie. Enjoy time at leisure and shopping in Rome’s chic shopping district. This evening optional elegant farewell dinner with wines and live opera entertainment. A highly recommended gala event to say a proper ARRIVEDERCI to ROMA!!

Day 12 June 25, 2019: Check out. Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for the flight home. Arrivederci Roma!

* All Sightseeing subject to changes* *When necessary hotels may be substituted with similar properties”

Italy is a dream that keeps returning for the rest of your life – Anna Akhmatova

Nota Bene: Guest must be able to walk approximately 1.5 miles over uneven and cobble stone surface, inclines and 40 to 65 steps. Due to the nature of this tour, it is not recommended for guests using walkers or wheelchairs or with mobility issues.

Contact: Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti
916-482-5900 or italy@italiancenter.net

Send, form and checks to:
Ships and Trips Travel
3335 B Watt Ave #285
Sacramento, CA 95821  916 564-8747
California Seller Number: 2051435-40
IMPORTANT: Please print your name EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT!

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PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE PHOTO PAGE OF YOUR PASSPORT!!

The tour will include:
- Daily buffet breakfasts, and all daily dinners in Tuscany, Breakfasts in Rome
- Full time English and Italian Speaking tour manager and guide
- English speaking licensed local city tour guides
- Private Motor coach transportation
- 10 nights lodging in premium four star Villa Hotel and Historic Inn
- Accommodations based on double occupancy (single supplement is $500 for private room)
- Sightseeing, tours, museum admissions and reservations
- Porterage fees one large suitcase per passenger
- Welcome cocktail party
- Transfers from the Florence and Rome Airport on tour start and end dates
- Orientation and Cocktail Party
- Wine tasting
- Olive oil tasting

The tour does not include:
- Air transportation
- Drinks except where specifically included
- Laundry
- Lunches except where specifically included
- Travel insurance (**STRONGLY URGED!**)
- Telephone charges, incidenitals and room service
- Gratuities of 150 euros per person to cover all restaurant staff, bus driver, tour manager and guide, reception and hotel staff, and porters. Tips will be collected in euros in Italy.
Contact Patrizia:
italy@italiancenter.net
916 482 - 5900

Send form and checks to:
Ships and Trips Travel
3335 B Watt Ave #285
Sacramento, CA 95821
credit card payment call: 916 564-8747

Terms and Conditions:

Walking is required and is an important part of this excursion. All trip members are expected to be active, in good health, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences with grace and good manners.

Passports and Visas: U.S. Citizens must be in possession of a passport which must be valid for at least six months after the return date. All other nationalities must contact the destination embassies for entrance requirements. This is your responsibility. Passport and visa information may be obtained by contacting the Travel Advisory Section of the U.S. State Department at 202.647.5225 or by visiting the State Department's Web site at travel.state.gov. To obtain medical information, you may contact the Centers for Disease Control at 404.332.4559 or visit the CDC's Web site at www.cdc.gov.

Reservations: I understand that a deposit of $300 per person is required at booking to secure a reservation. All deposit payments must be made payable to Ships and Trips Travel by check. (Please note that Credit card payments have a 3% charge.)

Balance Tour Fees: The balance of the tour cost is due 90 days prior to departure on or before March 14, 2019. If final payment is not received by due date the reservation is subject to cancellation and deposit will be forfeited.

Validity: Tour Price and terms are based on a minimum of 12 participants. In the unlikely circumstance where Ships and Trips or the Italian Cultural Society cancels tour your entire deposit will be refunded. All rates are based on the current value of the US Dollar and are based on double occupancy. A one time charge of $500 for single supplement applies to travelers in private rooms.

Cancellation: Cancellation fees apply to this tour. When the cancellation is received in writing after deposit a $300 penalty applies in addition to the following: 90 days to 76 days prior to departure $500; 75 days to 45 days prior to departure 50% penalty, 44 days or less or NO-SHOW 100% Penalty.

Insurance: We strongly URGE that all passengers have comprehensive insurance. (Health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation) the Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel shall not be responsible for any personal injuries, personal and or property damages, or losses caused by and to any traveler. Including, but not limited to inability to travel due to medical or personal emergency, terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, supplier bankruptcy, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, and omissions. By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes any and all risks involved with such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Traveler is hereby warned of such risks, and is strongly advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them.

I have read and understand and accept the terms and conditions outlined in this trip proposal, and agree to hold the Italian Cultural Society and Ships and Trips Travel, and its employees and representatives harmless for any injury, damage or loss I may suffer traveling on this tour.
Client’s Name: (Please Print)_____________________________________
Client’s Signature: _____________________________________________       Date: ___________________________

California Seller Number: 2051435-40