



November 2019!!!!



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Surprise!!! On our greatest adventure to date, we spent the entire month of November touring Italy, Spain, and Portugal which included a one week Trafalgar land tour, followed by a three week cruise, which ended with a transatlantic crossing to Ft Lauderdale. It was truly fantastic!!!

The picture above is our tour group with the Coliseum in the background. Bob & I are in the back, on the left hand side of the picture and the red haired lady in front on the left is Rebecca, our tour guide, who was fantastic. Besides Rome, the tour spent time in Venice and Florence.

Of course there is so much to see in Rome, but I included just a few pictures that might interest you.

Our tour of the Vatican and the Vatican Museum was unbelievable with miles of art works, statues, tapestries, and ancient pottery. One needs to go with an organized group or you will spend hours waiting online.

The first picture is on just one of the galleries in the museum. Then we caught a picture of the Vatican Guard.

Next is St Peter's Basilica, and the Michelangelo statue "The Pieta".

Then St Peter's Square; the Pope appears in the 2nd window from the right.

The Trevi fountain of "3 Coins In The Fountain" fame, and a Lira well spent?

Then we were treated to a traditional Italian dinner in a subterranean restaurant which was formerly a Roman Bath—and the wait staff sang opera!

And look what was right outside the restaurant!

We have tons more pictures of our time in Rome, but you will have to visit to see them. And for our RV friends, we have a room with full hookups!

Arrivederci Roma



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Onto Venice!

Everyone knows that Venice is a city of boats and canals, but you have to see it to really appreciate it. Our bus was parked outside the city and from there on it was by boat only.

Each morning, trucks line up and load supplies onto boats to be transported into town. Everything is transported by boat.

From there on it is boats, boats and more boats. There are even boats that run along routes with stops like a bus would on land.

And the canals are everywhere, with water right up to the front steps of the houses. People have boats parked like we have cars parked.

Of course, no trip to Venice would be complete without a gondola boat ride, along with a singing gondolier of course. It was quite an adventure.

Piazza San Marco, often known in English as St Mark's Square, is the principal public square of Venice. It was a beautiful evening when we were there, but a week or so after, it was completely flooded.

We have tons more pictures of Venice, but you know what you need to do to see them.

Arrivederci Venice



Onto Pisa.

Of course the most famous feature in Pisa is the leaning tower. Many tourists pose for pictures try to straighten the tower, but we wouldn't do something silly like that. The picture didn't come out.

Arrivederci Pisa



Onto Florence.

Florence is a historian's dream, with a multitude of architectural delights. Of course the most famous statue is that of Michelangelo's David. And one of the most photographed features is the Ponte Vecchio bridge. Michelangelo is entombed in the Basilica di Santa Croce in Florence.



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We visited the nearby hilltop town of San Gimignano, Italy's best preserved medieval city. The streets were narrow, uneven and hardly ever level.

We were treated to a dinner in an authentic 12th century castle.

Arrivederci Florence.



Onto Siena.

On the route from Florence to back to Rome, we stopped to visit medieval city of Siena. The pictures are of the Piazza del Campo where the Palio di Siena horse race has been held for centuries. We got to see the race on a video. They cover the pathway around the courtyard with dirt and that is the track!



On the way from Siena to Rome, we made an unexpected but welcomed stop at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Firenze, Italy.

This cemetery was dedicated in 1960 and consists of 70 acres. There are 4,393 burials and tablets for 1,409 missing in action. There are 2 Medal of Honor recipients interred and 1 memorialized.

A sculpture of a soldier from the 363rd Regiment, 91st Infantry Division stands watch over the graves of the fallen.

It was a very moving experience.



Onto Rome and Arrivederci Italy

We had a farewell dinner Saturday night with our new found friends and Rebecca our tour guide. PS: Trafalgar is a great tour company!

The following morning we travelled to the Port of Civitavecchia to meet our ship, the Sky Princess.

Our Transatlantic cruise will appear in our December newsletter.

