



A special invitation for Family and Friends of
MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble

Artistic Director, Conductor: Gordon Mansell

Sicily, Southern & Northern Italy

14-Day Journey
November 16 - 29, 2024

Palermo ~ Monreale ~ Agrigento ~ Syracuse ~ Catania ~ Naples ~ Pompeii ~ Amalfi
Coast ~ Rome ~ Lucca ~ Milan ~ Bergamo

INCLUSIONS:

- **Accommodations:** Twelve (12) nights' accommodations in twin rooms with private facilities at first class hotels.
- **Meals:** European breakfast daily plus one (1) wine tasting and eleven (11) dinners, **including a festive dinner in Rome.**
- **Coach Transportation:** Local modern deluxe motor-coach transportation, upon arrival and available for the entire tour.
- **Tour Management:** One full-time, multilingual tour manager on each motor coach throughout the entire tour, including arrival and departure transfers. Peter's Way tour managers and overseas office staff are easily available 24 hours daily to render assistance whenever needed.
- **Excursions:** All sightseeing conducted by licensed, professional, English-speaking guides as outlined in the day-by-day tour itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all sights, as per itinerary included.
- Portage of one piece of luggage, per person, at hotels throughout.
- Coordination of all venues as per attached itinerary.
- **Tour brochures:** Special promotional brochures printed for your distribution.
- Peter's Way travel documents, travel wallet, luggage tags, and name badge.
- **Liability Insurance:** Two million-dollar Peter's Way Tours Liability Insurance coverage.
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EXCLUSIONS:

- Health, trip cancellation/interruption or baggage insurance. All are strongly recommended. Peter's Way offers a comprehensive policy at additional cost.
- Passport & visa costs, if any.
- **Canadian Passports must be valid for at least (6) months subsequent to return date.**
- Items of a personal nature (hotel extras, laundry, phone calls, etc.).
- **Gratuities** to the tour manager, guides and driver.
- Meals not specified in the program.

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– I T I N E R A R Y –

Day 1, November 16, Saturday: Depart Toronto

Today: Independent departures from Toronto to Palermo (airfare not included).

Day 2, November 17, Sunday: Arrive in Palermo

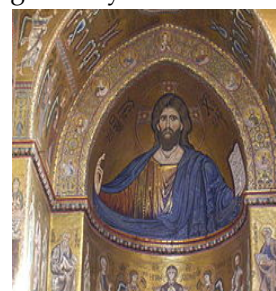
Afternoon: Arrive in Palermo, go through Passport Control, claim our luggage and meet our Peter's Way tour manager **Ambra** as we exit the Arrival Hall. Board our private motor coach and we will be on our way to our hotel in Palermo for check-in.

Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Palermo. (D)

Day 3, November 18, Monday: Palermo | Cefalù

Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll have a panoramic tour of Palermo. Palermo is a city of wide boulevards, old quarters, town houses, architecturally harmonious squares, baroque palaces, and modern buildings. Palermo is bordered on the north by 1,800-foot Monte Pellegrino, which Goethe described as "the most beautiful promontory in the world." We'll enjoy a guided tour of the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta**. It is characterized by the presence of different styles, due to a long history of additions, alterations, and restorations, the last of which occurred in the 18th century. Continue to the Church of St. John of the Hermits (*San Giovanni degli Eremiti*), a lovely Arab-Norman church built in 1132 at the request of Norman King Roger II. It has picturesque red domes and a cloister with elegantly wrought columns and a beautiful tropical garden.



Independent lunch.

Afternoon: We'll continue to Cefalù, on the northern coast of Sicily on the Tyrrhenian Sea. Visit Cefalù Cathedral, a 12th century fortress-like structure with elaborate Byzantine mosaics and soaring twin towers. **20-minute informal recital at Cefalù Cathedral, sung by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.** Return to Palermo.

Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Palermo. (B,D)

Day 4, November 19, Tuesday: Palermo | Monreale | Agrigento

Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll Palermo to visit Monreale, the site of the famous Cattedrale di Santa Maria la Nuova, built by King William II between 1172 and 1176. Undisputedly the most important Norman church in Sicily, it contains some extraordinary medieval artwork. The facade is grand, but nothing to compare with the vast interior, the walls of which are almost entirely covered with mosaic scenes from the Old and New Testaments. The eye is drawn immediately to the apse, where a magnificent portrait of Christ Pantocrator ("Ruler of All") gestures in blessing and gazes serenely off to one side. **20-minute informal recital at the Cathedral of Monreale, sung by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.**



Independent lunch.

Afternoon: We'll continue to Agrigento, "Land of the Gods." Described by the Greek poet Pindar as "the most beautiful city of mortals," the symbol of the city is a group of magnificent temples occupying a valley. The origins of Agrigento date from 581 BC. The 5th century marked the apogee of the town, and it was then that the main temples were erected. The classical city comprises of magnificent temples and tombs. The finest are Tempio di Giove (Olympian Zeus), the largest Doric temple ever known; Tempio di Giunone (Juno/Hera), which commands a view of the valley; and Tempio della Concordia, one of the best-preserved temples in the world. Check-in at our hotel in Agrigento.



Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Agrigento. (B,D)

Day 5, November 20, Wednesday: Agrigento | Syracuse | Catania

- Morning:** Breakfast at our hotel.
This morning we'll leave Agrigento to visit Syracuse, where the Apostle Paul stayed for three days after he departed Malta en route to Rome (AA 28:11-13). Today, Syracuse is a small, sun-bleached provincial capital, but in ancient times it was the western capital of Magna Graecia and one of the greatest cities in the world. Many buildings from this ancient period have survived. Most are in the "archaeological zone," the town's ancient Parco Monumentale della Neapoli (Viale Rizzo). We'll visit the Catacombs of John with its magnificent frescos and the crypt of Marziano, site of the first Christian Church on the island.
Independent lunch.
- Afternoon:** We'll visit the **Shrine of Our Lady of Tears**, a place of pilgrimage, prayer, and recollection of a miracle, where Mary wept from a humble plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart in the heart of the city of Syracuse. The reliquary containing the tears of Mary is the heart of the shrine. Next, visit the Duomo and the Church of Santa Lucia alla Badia, located on the south side of Piazza Duomo. Inside the church there is a very famous painting by Carravaggio, *St. Lucia's Funeral*. St. Lucy is the patroness of Syracuse.
After our visit we'll continue to Catania for hotel check-in.
- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Catania. (B,D)

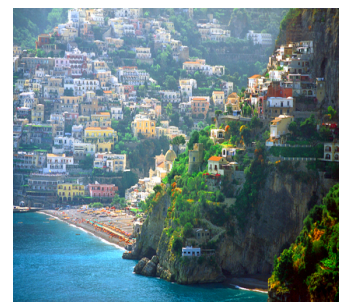


Day 6, November 21, Thursday: Catania | Naples | Vico Equense

- Morning:** Early breakfast at our hotel.
We'll be transferred to Catania Airport for our connecting flight to Naples. Upon arrival in Naples, claim our luggage and board our touring bus for an orientation tour of the city, situated on a beautiful bay on the Mediterranean Coast. Enjoy and photograph the famous view of the city, the bay, and Mt. Vesuvius.
Independent lunch.
- Afternoon:** We'll be transferred to our hotel for check-in.
- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Seiano or Vico Equense. (B,D)

Day 7, November 22, Friday: Positano | Amalfi Towns

- Morning:** Breakfast at our hotel. Today the group will travel by mini-buses along the Amalfi coast. Our first stop is Positano with its commanding view of the sea. From Positano, continue to the town of Amalfi, where we will visit the Cathedral of St. Andrew the Apostle and the crypt where the saint's relics are kept in the central altar.
Independent lunch in Amalfi town.
- Afternoon:** Continue along the coast to Ravello, said to be nearer to the sky than the sea. Then, we'll pass through Minori, Maiori, Vietri Sul Mare, and Salerno.
Return to our hotel.
- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Seiano or Vico Equense. (B,D)



Day 8, November 23, Saturday: Pompeii | Rome

Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll explore the incredibly well-preserved remains of this ancient Roman town, where all life was suddenly stopped by an eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79 A.D. Pompeii was destroyed and completely buried during a catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days in 79 AD. The volcano collapsed higher roof-lines and buried Pompeii under 60 feet of ash and pumice, and it was lost for nearly 1700 years before its accidental rediscovery in 1748. Since then, its excavation has provided an extraordinarily detailed insight into the life of a city at the height of the Roman Empire.



Afternoon: We'll leave for Rome, the "Eternal City." See 2,500 years of history in the Roman ruins, 15th century churches, 17th century palaces, and 20th century monuments. Early evening, check-in at our hotel in Rome.

Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Rome. (B,D)

Day 9, November 24, Sunday: Sung Mass at St. Peter's Basilica | Tour of Ancient Rome | Concert Presentation

Morning: Leisurely breakfast at our hotel.

Late morning, we'll be transferred to **St. Peter's Basilica for the 12:00 p.m. Mass, sung by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.**

Independent lunch.

Afternoon: Continue our day with a visit to the ancient Roman Forum. See the Arch of Titus and the Arch of Constantine and proceed to the outside of the Colosseum for a fascinating explanation of its history. Continue on to the grandiose white marble monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, often called the "Wedding Cake." See the Trajan Column and the Market (the ancient Roman equivalent of a department store).



Evening: **Dress rehearsal and concert presentation at the Church of St. Agnes, presented by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.**

Independent dinner. Overnight at our hotel in Rome.



(B)

Day 10, November 25, Monday: Tour of the Vatican Museums | Sistine Chapel | St. Peter's Basilica | Tour of Imperial Rome

Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.

Our morning of sightseeing begins with a visit to one of the great art collections in the world: the Vatican Museums. Walk in the footsteps of the Princes of the Church through the richly decorated galleries. Continue to the Sistine Chapel, the private chapel of the Popes, where Michelangelo best expressed his genius in monumental frescoes. End our morning tour in St. Peter's Basilica. Take in the outstanding architecture and the statues adorning the largest of all Christian churches, including Michelangelo's magnificent "Pietà." Pray at the new tomb of St. John Paul II in St. Sebastian's Chapel. If time permits, you may wish to independently visit the Vatican Crypt to see and pray near the tomb of St. Peter and the final resting place of numerous Popes among incredible works of art. Independent lunch.



Afternoon: Enjoy a walking tour and experience the best of ancient Rome. Begin at Piazza di Spagna, one of the most famous squares in Rome. From the *Fontana della Barcaccia* (Fountain of the Old Boat), in the middle of the piazza, climb the famous Spanish Steps to the top. Continue to the Trevi Fountain and toss in a coin. Our next stop is the Pantheon. Built more than 1800 years ago, the magnificent Pantheon still stands as a reminder of the great Roman Empire. The name Pantheon refers to the building's original function as a temple for all the gods. When approaching the front of the Pantheon we can still see the original Latin inscription by Marcus Agrippa. Visit to the nearby Church of San Luigi dei Francesi to see *The Calling of St. Matthew*, painted by Baroque master Caravaggio. Continue to the beautiful lively Piazza Navona, the Church of St. Agnes, and Bernini's fountain.



Evening: **Our gala dinner will be at a restaurant in Rome.** Experience an atmosphere of hospitality and friendship and taste the Mediterranean cuisine in a typical Roman setting with wine and music. Overnight at our hotel in Rome. (B,D)

Day 11, November 26, Tuesday: Rome | Lucca

Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll leave Rome for the gentle Tuscan hills (*five-hour bus ride to Lucca*).

A stop will be made at one of the wineries for wine tasting and snacks.

Afternoon: Check-in at our hotel in Lucca and freshen-up.

This afternoon we'll visit the Cathedral of San Martino. The nave of the cathedral was rebuilt in Gothic style in the 14th century, while the west front was begun in 1204 by Guido Bigarelli of Como. It consists of a vast portico of three magnificent arches, and above them three ranges of open galleries adorned with sculptures. In the nave, a small octagonal chapel contains the most precious relic in Lucca, the Holy Face of Lucca. This cedar-wood crucifix and image of Christ, according to the legend, was carved by his contemporary Nicodemus, and miraculously conveyed to Lucca in 782. Additionally, the cathedral contains Domenico Ghirlandaio's *Madonna and Child with Saints Peter, Clement, Paul, and Sebastian*.

After an early dinner, we'll be transferred back to the cathedral for rehearsal and 9:00 p.m. concert presentation by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.

Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Lucca.

(B,D)



Day 12, November 27, Wednesday: Lucca | Milan | Bergamo

- Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.
 This morning, we will have a walking tour of Lucca. While at first you may get the impression that the city isn't quite as grand as its Tuscan neighbors, that all changes when you reach the **Piazza San Michele**. This L-shaped square is bursting with graceful architecture, including the **Praetorian Palace**, converted banks, and the square's focus, the **Chiesa di San Michele in Foro**. Taking center stage, this white marble church has a steep front facade packed with columns and statues. Continue on to Piazza Napoleone and view Palazzo Ducale di Lucca. Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: We'll leave Lucca and drive north to Bergamo (*four-hour bus ride*).
 Hotel check-in.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Bergamo. (B,D)

Day 13, November 28, Thursday: Bergamo | Milan

- Morning: Breakfast at our hotel.
 This morning, we'll leave Bergamo to Milan. Upon arrival we'll visit the Duomo, Milan's Cathedral, dedicated to St. Mary of the Nativity (Santa Maria Nascente). The cathedral is the city's centerpiece and fourth largest church in Europe. The interior of the cathedral includes numerous monuments and works of art.
 11:00 a.m. Rehearsal at the cathedral in Milan.
12:00 p.m. Concert presentation by the Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble.
 Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: We'll have an orientation tour of Milan, we pass the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, La Scala Opera House, the most famous opera house in the world and pass by the Castello Sforzesco is a medieval fortification. It was built in the 15th century by Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan, on the remnants of a 14th-century fortification. Return to Bergamo.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Bergamo. (B,D)

Day 14, November 29, Friday: Return from Milan

- Morning: Breakfast at our hotel. Today, we will be transferred to Milan Linate Airport for independent return flights home.