REFLECTIONS OF ITALY

September 5 – September 14, 2012

A Collette Vacations Tour

Day 1: **Overnight Flight -** Welcome to Italy, a land rich in history, culture, art and romance. Your journey begins with an overnight flight to Rome, "**The Eternal City**."

Day 2: **Rome, Italy -** You arrive in Rome today. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a special welcome dinner at a popular local restaurant featuring regional delicacies and fine Italian wines.

Day 3: **Rome -** This morning, enjoy a locally guided panoramic tour of Rome featuring the impressive **Piazza Venezia, the Circus Maximus, the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine, and the famous Piazza Navona**. This afternoon it's your choice! Perhaps a trip to Vatican City, with an optional tour to the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica will be on your personal sightseeing list.

Day 4: **Rome - Assisi - Perugia** - Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing complete with a short lesson on the local language. Travel to **Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis**. Take a guided walking tour of the old city, including the **Basilica of St. Francis**. Then you are off to medieval **Perugia**, the historic capital of Umbria. Behold one of the grandest squares in Italy, the Piazza IV Novembre, and delight in the medieval palaces and ornate cathedrals.

Day 5: **Perugia - Siena – Florence** - A scenic journey through Tuscany's graceful low-lying hills brings you to the mystical city of **Siena**. You will be delighted by its narrow Gothic streets, magnificent palaces and historic Piazza del Campo. After a walking tour with a local expert, take some time to explore the medieval corners of Siena with its great shops and outdoor cafes. En route to Florence, visit a family owned leather shop and learn the traditional Italian techniques of leather making.

Day 6: **Florence In Florence, the "Cradle of Italian Renaissance," -** Visit the world-famous Academy Gallery to see **Michelangelo's incredible statue of *David.*** During your cultural tour of Florence, you'll also view the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, the Palazzo Vecchio and the Church of Santa Croce, burial place of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavell**i. End your morning with an informative explanation of Florentine gold and its fascinating techniques at a local gold shop. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy this fascinating city on your own.

Day 7: **Florence – Venice -** Start your day with a trip to a historic winery in the heart of the Chianti region with its very own 12th century castle. Learn about **Tuscany's famous win**es and enjoy a lunch filled with local specialties. This afternoon, journey through central Italy, crossing over the wooded **Apennine Mountains** toward the Valley of the Po. Enchanting Venice awaits with 117 tiny islands and its latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges.

Day 8: **Venice - Murano Island – Venice -** Your day begins with a boat trip (weather permitting) to **Murano Island** for an up-close glass making demonstration. Next, return to Venice and visit charming **St. Mark's Square**, the lively hub of the city's activity and events. A local expert will guide you on a walking tour of the area featuring **St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Clock Tower** with its famous Moors.

Day 9: **Venice - Lugano, Switzerland - Como, Italy - Milan Malpensa -** Today you travel to the picturesque Italian Lake district. Cross into **Switzerland** and the lakeside resort of **Lugano** to enjoy beautiful views of Lake Lugano with excellent shopping opportunities. Returning to Italy, spend time in the elegant town of Como. Lake Como's charm is tied to its beautiful villas, lush gardens and spectacular views. Continue to Milan Malpensa for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of an unforgettable trip.

Day 10: **Milan Malpensa - Tour Ends -** Your tour ends in Milan Malpensa this morning.

This trip requires a **PASSPORT !** Included in Price: Transportation to Little Rock airport and return, round trip air, taxes, cancellation insurance, hotels, transfers, all tours that are not listed as optional, 7 breakfast and 4 lunches or dinners., and guides.

Prices: Single - $5,000 Double - $4,500

Deposit of $50 due on March 1, 2012
Final Due on July 1, 2012

Air surcharges are subject to increase by airline.

FRANCIS CUSTOM TOURS
28 Ranch Road Arkadelphia, AR 71923
870-246-3366 / 800-495-6035 francistours@suddenlinkmail.com / www.franciscustomtours.com