

Sally & Antony Jeffrey's Musical Journeys



Via Francigena The ancient pilgrim route from Rome to Milan

Il Campo, Siena

The **Via Francigena** is one of the world's great ancient pilgrim paths: from

Canterbury Cathedral through France and Italy to Jerusalem and return. From 18 April to 4 May 2023, for our 16th Tour overseas, we are presenting our friends with a completely different type of cultural experience. We will travel in two eight-seater private cars from Rome to the Italian Lakes along the Via Francigena. Our wonderful agent Claudia and her husband Michael will be our drivers, so we can take twelve guests beside ourselves.

Along the Via Francigena we will visit many historic and beautiful places. Everywhere we stay are treasured towns and villages. Starting in Rome, we stay in Bolsena, Pienza, Siena, Florence, Lucca and Menaggio on the shore of magnificent Lake Como. In Rome we can enjoy a double bill of Puccini's one act opera *Il Tabarro* and Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle*. In Florence we will attend concerts at Italy's most celebrated music festival, Maggio Musicale. The tour's climax will be in Milan at incomparable La Scala for a new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Having two cars of our own throughout, gives us opportunities to walk along part of the great scenic route as we please with detailed walking maps, on our own or in small groups, for as long as you want, then be collected at a point you prefer. If you don't want to walk at all, there's plenty to do in everywhere we visit. At this stage we can include all sorts of fascinating places you want to

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see. So please let us know if there are other places you think we must not miss. Here is our

Itinerary:

TUES, APRIL 18, ROME, Villa San Pio

Hotel transfer from Rome airport. EUR 60. Option to attend Teatro dell'Opera Roma for Il Tabarro (PUCCINI) /Bluebeard's Castle (BARTOK)

WED, APRIL 19, ROME Villa San Pio

Visit to Vatican and other great places at leisure;
8.00 pm: Welcome Dinner

THURS, APRIL 20, BOLSENA Hotel Columbus

Departure from Rome to Sutri; Visit Etruscan tombs; Stop in Capranica; Walk/ drive via Vetralla to Viterbo and visit cathedral and town centre; Drive to Bolsena via Fontana del Sambuco

View from Via

Francigena of Pienza

FRI, APRIL 21, PIENZA (Hotel Corsignano)

Early morning walk along the Bolsena lake shore; Drive to Acquapendente; stroll and drive to Radicofani; after lunch drive to Pienza. (Anyone walking part of way can be collected at pre-arranged stop.)

SAT, APRIL 22, PIENZA (Hotel Corsignano)

Walk from Pienza to Monticchiello ca. 90 min; Explore Monticchiello and meet cars to drive to Montepulciano, or go by car if preferred. Lunch and free time in Montepulciano. Return to Pienza in the late afternoon

SUN, APRIL 23, SIENA (Villa di Str)

Drive or part walk via San Quirico, Torrenieri, Buonconvento & Isola d'Arbia to Siena and check in c. 4.00 pm

MON, APRIL 24, SIENA (Villa di Str.) Full day of exploration in fabulous Siena

TUES, APRIL 25, SIENA (Villa di Str) Drive to historic Monteriggioni.

Explore town and drive/ walk in lovely Tuscan villages on way back to Siena.

WED, APRIL 26, FIESOLE ((Florence) Pensione Bencista

Drive to Monastero di Bose near Pancole. Drive or walk 4 km to San Gimignano, explore (gorgeous hill town above Florence.) Arr c. 5.30 pm.

at Uffizi

THURS, APRIL 27, FIESOLE ((Florence) Pensione Bencista

Explore Florence: (Duomo, Uffizi and/ or Pitti Palace, Boboli Gardens. Performance at Maggio Musicale)

FRI, APRIL 28, FIESOLE (Florence) Pensione Bencista

More exploring Florence: Ponte Vecchio, Accademia, Bargello & San Marco museums, great churches and monuments. Performance at Maggio Musicale Festival (program yet to be released)

SAT, APRIL 29, LUCCA (Villa Elisa & Gentucca)

Free morning in Florence or Fiesole; Drive to Fiesole, then drive or walk from Arno Bridge near San Pierino to San Miniato Basso and up to San Miniato: Drive to Lucca, arrive c. 4.00 pm

SUN, APRIL 30, LUCCA (Villa Elisa & Gentucca)

Full day to explore Lucca, beautiful walled city, including walking around the city ramparts, strolling historic main square Piazza dell'Anfiteatro, Duomo and many famous Renaissance churches.

MON, MAY 1, MENAGGIO (Lake Como) Grand Hotel

Drive to Piacenza, explore town including Piazza Cavalli, cathedral & Palazzo Farnese Museums. Drive to Menaggio

TUES, MAY 2, MENAGGIO (Lake Como) Grand Hotel

Ferry tour of Lake Como to Varenna. Drive to Milan for light pre-opera dinner. *Lucia di Lammermoor* at La Scala

WED, MAY 3, MENAGGIO (Lake Como) Grand Hotel

Excursions to Villa Carlotta and Villa Balbionello and ferry to Bellagio. 8.00 pm: Farewell Dinner,

THUR, MAY 4, Drive departures to Milan or Malpensa airport



Botticelli Angel



Fresco from Duomo Lucca

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Florence at Sunset