

**Spring Classical Program**  
**Prepared by Dr. Henry V. Bender and Mrs. Elizabeth C. McCall for**  
**Alumnae, parents, and friends of Merion Mercy Academy**  
**Italy: March 29—April 8, 2018**  
**Rome, Florence, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Positano, Amalfi**

REVISED ITINERARY DATE: October 1, 2017

Day DATE

1 29 March Thursday Departure for Rome on American Airlines flight 718 departing from Philadelphia International Airport at 6:20PM

2 30 March Friday 8:00AM Arrival in Rome's Fiumicino airport; transfer by chartered bus to the Hotel ROME Santa Chiara in the heart of Rome; we will our drop bags in the hotel and will walk the area around our hotel passing through the Square of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, entering the Pantheon (the city's most revered ancient monument), stopping for a café or cappuccino; after our check in, we will have a short rest followed by a quick lunch in a nearby restaurant noted for its great food and huge wine selection, Corsi; we will then take cabs at 1:45PM to the Vatican Museums for our reserved entrance with an official Vatican guide at 2:30PM; we will return by cab to our hotel and take our dinner at a nearby restaurant; after dinner a *bella passeggiata* walk through nearby sites such as the Piazza Navonna or Fountain of Trevi; and then enjoy a great peaceful sleep!!!

3 31 March Saturday 9:00AM departure from hotel to visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran which features ROME the original doors to the Roman senate building and a table on which St Peter said Mass; we will then make our way to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore whose ceiling is composed of the gold which Columbus brought back from America and where St. Ignatius said his first Mass in Rome. From there we will head to the Colosseum area where we will find lunch and a brief rest before entering the Colosseum at our appointed time of 4:00PM. We will return to our hotel walking past the ruins of the Imperial Forums; dinner at restaurant of your choice; after dinner excursion for gelato!

4 1 April Sunday This is Easter Sunday!! After breakfast, walk to the Gesu Church for Mass and thereafter ROME walk to the nearby Church of Saint Ignatius. Lunch in nearby restaurant; after lunch return to hotel for rest; 3:30PM gather in hotel lobby for a walk to the Roman Forum which we will tour; dinner at a restaurant of your choice; after dinner walk briefly through the Piazza Colonna featuring the column of Marcus Aurelius and the Piazza Montecitorio, the seat of the Italian Parliament, but stopping for dessert at Giolitti's—easily one of the most famous ice cream parlors in Europe; pack for departure to the south.

5 2 April Monday After an early breakfast, departure from hotel to central railroad station in Rome, the ROME Stazione Termini to catch a 9:45AM train to Florence; arrive in Florence at 11:45AM and taxi FLORENCE to Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci; after check-in, out to lunch and tour of neighborhood with special visits to major areas and shops; late afternoon return to hotel for dinner and overnight; dinner in restaurant of your choice.

6 3 April Tuesday Museum day in Florence; 8:30AM departure from hotel for an appointment to see the FLORENCE David of Michelangelo in the Academia; then on to the Museo della Opera del Duomo containing Donatello's Mary Magdalene, Michelangelo's unfinished Pieta, and the newly restored panels from Ghiberti's Golden Doors on the east side of the Baptistery; lunch on your own in nearby restaurants; afternoon excursion to the Bargello Museum to see other famed works such as Donatello's versions of David and Michelangelo's Bacchus; late afternoon visit to the Church of Santa Croce (often called the Westminster Abbey of Florence); group dinner in nearby restaurant; after dinner further exploration of Florence; pack for busy day tomorrow.

7 4 April Wednesday Morning free for shopping and exploration; early afternoon fast train to Naples FLORENCE Centrale and transfer by chartered bus to Pompeii for late afternoon visit of the site; then on to NAPLES POMPEII SORRENTO Sorrento for dinner and overnight.

8 5 April Thursday 8:15AM Departure by mini bus to the port of Sorrento for a full day excursion  
CAPRI to the island of Capri (weather permitting); take boat from Sorrento to Capri (35 minute  
SORRENTO cruise); arrive at Marina Grande, the main harbor on the north side of the island; take boats to  
see the Blue Grotto (if open); return to Marina Grande and ascend by cab to Monte Solaro and Anacapri; lunch  
there; if chair lift is open, ascend to the top of the mountain to view the island and the Italian mainland; from  
Anacapri return to the Marina Grande to take late afternoon boat bound for Sorrento; dinner and overnight in  
hotel.

9 6 April Friday Departure by chartered mini bus along the Amalfi drive, passing the town of Positano  
POSITANO where we will make a very brief stop for a picture and then continue on to see the Emerald  
AMALFI Grotto; following that visit we will drive to a special restaurant where we will have an excellent  
SORRENTO meal from a spot which overlooks Amalfi. Thereafter we will drive to Amalfi and have time to  
view the city, seeing the cathedral and its wonderful shopping areas along the water edge; from Amalfi we will  
return to Sorrento for dinner and overnight in hotel; after dinner pack for return to Rome.

10 7 April Saturday AM free in Sorrento; 2:30PM departure by chartered bus for return to Rome; arrive for  
SORRENTO overnight and dinner near 6PM; check into our hotel; late special dinner at prearranged site;  
ROME pack for return to USA

11 8 April Sunday departure by private car or chartered bus to Leonardo da Vinci airport for our return flight  
on American Airlines flight 719 to Philadelphia departing at 11:50AM and arriving in Philadelphia at 3:50PM

#### **HOTELS:**

ROME	Albergo Santa Chiara via Santa Chiara, 21	00186 Roma	www.albergosantachiara.com
4 nights	Phone: 011-39-06-6872979	FAX: 011-39-06-6873144	
FLORENCE	Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci Via Tornabuoni 3	Firenze 50123	www.tornabuonihotels.com
2 nights	Phone: 011-39-055-212645	FAX: 011-39-055-283594	
SORRENTO	Hotel Carlton International via Correale	Sorrento, Italia 8006	www.hotelcarltonsorrento.com
3 nights	Phone: 011-39-081-8072669	FAX: 011-39-081-8071073	

**TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM: \$5,400.00 (inclusive of round trip airfare)**

**HOTEL COSTS:** Program participants are accommodated in double rooms (twin or double beds) in outstanding hotels noted for their location, service and hospitality; each room has a private bath; full breakfast included; lunches are not included in the price; dinner on the first night in Rome is included; on all other nights cost of dinners will be shared so as to provide variety of restaurant experience and to accommodate individual preferences. Estimate a per night dinner cost of \$25-\$30 per person inclusive of beverages. On your registration form please indicate your rooming preference (twin beds or double).

**EXCURSION COSTS:** These consist of admission to museums, guide fees (where applicable), train tickets (first class), boat tickets (Capri), and chartered bus (this includes all bus parking fees, accommodations and meals for the driver, all highway tolls, all petrol costs, all city entrance fees), all baggage and service tips.

#### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE: all checks are made payable to: Classical Odysseys, Inc.**

Registration deposit	\$2150per person	due in the week of October 23, 2017 to Friday October 27, 2017
Second deposit	\$1650per person	due in the week of December 11, 2017 to Friday December 15, 2017
Final payment	\$1600per person	due in the week of January 29, 2018 to Friday February 2, 2018

**CONTACT:** Dr. Henry V. Bender, Director (484) 614-0867 hbender@thehill.org; hbender@sju.edu  
Mrs. Elizabeth C. McCall, Co-Director (610) 715-3995 elizabeth.c.mccall@gmail.com  
emccall@sju.edu