**Mosaic Masterpiece Tour 2015 Itinerary**

Start in Rome on **Saturday, October 3rd**. We'll visit major mosaic highlights of Rome and are organizing visits with the director of the Vatican Mosaic Studios and the creators of the Ara Pacis mosaic by Mimmo Paladino.

**Tuesday, Oct. 6th,** head to Florence by private coach with a lunch and tour stop at the new Cantina Antinori, an architectural marvel set into the Chianti hills. Tour the winery production area, enjoy a tasting with the group, view the Antinori Museum, purchase wine to send home and enjoy lunch at Rinuccio 1180, the sunny patio restaurant on the top level of the Cantina.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/27/arts/design/archea-architects-headquarters-for-antinori-winemakers.html>

Three days in Florence include tours of the Duomo and Baptistery, San Miniato, the Museum of Pietra Dura and the Lastrucchi pietra dura studios. We’ll visit the famous Farmacia Santa Maria Novella for both the historic interest and the wonderful perfumes, soaps, shaving tonics and other potions.

The Farmacia: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/heaven-scent-17187251/?no-ist>

**Friday, Oct. 9th,** on to Ravenna by private coach. UNESCO world heritage sites tour, artists' studio visits, exhibit previews and Notte d'Oro, the Big Night of RavennaMosaico. Private visit to the studios of he award-winning artists at CaCo3. See their work up close, discuss their techniques and snap some work-in-progress shots. We offered this opportunity on the 2013 trip. It was an unforgettably fun happy hour, tour and conversation with the artists at KokoMosaico.

Sunday breakfast will end the official tour, and you'll be free to visit RavennaMosaico exhibitions.

**Monday, October 12th:** We will be offering a 3-day, contemporary mosaics workshop exclusively for tour participants at KokoMosaico, **Monday - Wednesday, October 12 - 14th**. Participants will send their designs to Koko ahead of time, so they will be prepared with the proper colors. The special discount price for their workshop is **390 Euro**; this includes the materials, frame and substrate, instruction, use of the kitchen and wifi, and a completion certificate. This is a super fun, talented group of mosaic artists, and participants will learn invaluable skills. If you would like to participate, you can extend your stay at the hotel for the same daily rate I am paying. I will make arrangements for workshop participants to extend their reservations, and you can pay the hotel directly for any extra nights.

Our tour participants have coined the motto, ***"We shan't starve."*** That's because we eat often, and well. We'll teach you the secrets of ordering ***caffè corretto***.

One of the best aspects of our 2013 tour was the private studio visits with artists, which were a mix of scheduled tours and spontaneous opportunities. Every tour offered an unforgettable insight into a particular artist, his or her techniques, inspiration and production. There was some shopping involved at the studios, too. We are working on more visits, with a changing roster of artists.

As in past years, you can count on attentive, organized service, comfortable accommodations, great food, laughs, intelligent fellow travelers, and memories to last a lifetime. Past tour participants are already sending in their deposits for the October tour. We limit our group to 12 – 14 participants so you can count on a custom, personalized experience.

The price for the October 2015 tour is $4050, double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms will be available with a supplement charge of $700 for the whole tour. A historically low Euro means your buying power in Europe right now is excellent.

**What’s Included:**

* Comfortable double rooms in our carefully selected 3-star hotels
* Welcome cocktail/orientation reception
* Private, air-conditioned coach transport from the tour start hotel to the final hotel
* Admission to all tour sites, artist studios and attractions on the tour
* All breakfasts and almost all lunches and dinners, with the exception of a few “free time” meals
* Local wines at lunch and dinner
* Wine tasting and tour at Cantina Antinori
* Dedicated guide for all excursions and travel
* Maps and reference materials for sites we’ll visit
* Assistance with planning your arrival and departure arrangements
* A lifetime of great memories, priceless photos and artistic inspiration

If you have specific questions about the tour, please feel free to email me at [julierichey@mac.com](mailto:julierichey@mac.com).