OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION IN VENICE

Travel Dynamics International is pleased to offer an optional post-cruise extension tour for travelers who wish to explore Venice. The optional extension includes two nights hotel accommodations, breakfast daily, sightseeing tours, and a ship to hotel transfer on August 15 and a hotel to airport transfer on August 17. A registration form, which includes pricing information, is included in your Confirmation Portfolio.

August 15 –17, 2012

Please note: August 17 is the date you fly to the U.S.

Upon arrival in Venice, visit the Basilica Santa Maria Gloriosa de Frari. One of Venice’s great Gothic churches, it was built on a plot of land given to the Lesser Friars of the Franciscan Order, and its construction took place over more than a century, from 1338 to 1446. Restored artworks within the basilica include the Monument to Melichior Trevisan, a 15th century statue of St. John the Baptist, and Titian’s Pesaro Altarpiece.

Continue to the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, built in 1515 by a group of Renaissance architects that included Bartolomeo Bon the Younger and Scarpagnino. The Scuola had been operating for seven years when the body of Saint Roch of Montpellier was brought to Venice from Germany, and the consequent boom in donations was so great that in 1489 it acquired the status of scuola grande. Due to its ties to the saint, the Scuola remained a haven of relief for the sick. Today the Scuola is famous for its more than fifty Tintoretto paintings, including the Glorification of Saint Roch and the Crucifixion, Tintoretto’s masterpiece. The dark paintings with dramatic figures hurling through space and flashes of light took more than twenty-three years to complete.

Check in at the four-star Hotel Palace Bonvecchiati. Afterwards, spend the afternoon at leisure for independent exploration.

The next morning, walk through St. Mark’s Square, described by Napoleon as the “finest drawing-room in Europe.” It’s notable as one of the few great urban spaces in Europe where human voices still prevail over the sounds of motorized traffic, which in Venice is of course confined to the waterways. Visit St. Mark’s Cathedral, and then continue to the Palazzo Ducale, or Doges Palace, the complex that served as the official residence of the dukes of Venice. It was the seat of the Venetian government from the 9th century until the fall of the republic in 1797. A ceremonial gateway leading to the courtyard is famous for its triumphal arch and the grand Staircase of Giants. The colossal statues of Mars and Neptune that stand at the top represent Venetian power on land and at sea.

Cap off our visit with a “cicchetti” tour through three historic Venetian taverns for tastings of the local specialties and wines.

On the last morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight home.
**HOTEL INFORMATION**

**Bernini Bristol Hotel** *(pre-cruise extension only)*
Piazza Barberini, 23  
00187, Roma (RM)  
Tel +39 (0)6 488931  
Fax +39 (0)6 4824266  

The luxurious Bernini Bristol Hotel, a five star hotel, is housed in a historical palace in the heart of Rome. Conveniently located across from the Piazza Barberini and near the Trevi fountain and the Villa Borghese, the Bernini Bristol is walking distance from some of Rome’s most renowned sites. The hotel offers a terrace restaurant, a Turkish bath, Jacuzzi, gym, and wellness center, and its 127 rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe, TV, and high-speed Internet access.

**Hotel Palace Bonvecchiati** *(post-cruise extension only)*
San Marco,  
Calle dei Fabbri 4680  
30124, Venice, Italy  
Telephone: (+39) (041) 296 3111  
Fax: (+39) (041) 528-8645  
[www.palacebonvecchiati.it](http://www.palacebonvecchiati.it)

The inviting contemporary Italian design of the Hotel Palace Bonvecchiati breaks with the 18th-century tradition of 4-star hotels in Venice and makes a new statement for Venetian hospitality: modern, cosmopolitan, and with the most advanced comforts and services. Located in the heart of Venice near St. Mark’s Square and the Rialto, the hotel is decorated with contemporary works of art and has a wellness center with beautiful views of Venice, in addition to a restaurant, breakfast room, and bar. Hotel Palace Bonvecchiati’s 70 rooms come equipped with air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe, high-speed Internet access, LCD satellite TV, hairdryer, and a courtesy beauty kit with robe and slippers.

**Check-in**
Since check-out time at many overseas hotels is early afternoon, it is not always possible to guarantee room occupancy immediately upon a morning arrival. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

**Check-out**
At the end of your stay, please check out with the hotel’s cashier. Settle any incidental charges you may have incurred and remove your valuables from the safe. Please allow sufficient time to accomplish this before the group’s announced departure time. In the case of an early morning departure, you may prefer to take care of these details the previous evening.

*Travel Dynamics International reserves the right to substitute hotels if required.*