Monday, June 10: Depart Origin Location

Tuesday, June 11: Arrive in Rome
Upon arrival at the airport, we will be met by a tour representative, who will transfer us to the Hotel Quirinale, centrally located in Rome. After checking in, we can enjoy some time at leisure. Our welcome aperitif and dinner will be at local restaurant.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, D)

Wednesday, June 12: Introduction to Rome across the Centuries
Faculty leader Jeffrey Blanchard will guide us through three impressive sites during this morning’s introduction to Rome walking tour. Piazza del Campidoglio is one of Rome’s most beautiful squares, designed in the sixteenth century by Michelangelo and laid out between two peaks of the Capitoline Hill, the most important of Rome’s fabled seven hills. Then we will explore the Santa Maria in Aracoeli, a titular basilica located on the highest summit of the Campidoglio. It is still the designated church of the city council of Rome. The shrine is known for housing ancient and beautiful relics. Our final morning visit will include the Capitoline Museums. Its creation has been traced back to 1471, when Pope Sixtus IV donated a group of bronze statues of great symbolic value to the people of Rome. The collections are closely linked to the city of Rome, and most of the exhibits come from the city itself.

After a lunch at local restaurant, we will visit the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. The Roman Forum is surrounded by the ruins of several important ancient government buildings. For centuries the Forum was the center of day-to-day life in Rome: the site of triumphal processions and elections; the venue for public speeches, criminal trials, and the nucleus of commercial affairs. Here statues and monuments commemorated the city’s great men. The teeming heart of ancient Rome, it has been called the most celebrated meeting place in the world and in all history. The Colosseum is the largest amphitheater ever built. Construction began under the emperor Vespasian in AD 72 and was completed in AD 80 under his successor and heir, Titus.
We shall also visit Palatine Hill, which was long occupied by the Imperial residence.

Dinner and evening at leisure.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)

Thursday, June 13: Churches and Convents and their Transformations
Delving into the history of astonishing transformations of churches throughout the region, Jeffrey Blanchard will share insights into not only the archaeologically rich dimensions of the buildings, but also ways their creation helped shape the culture and richness of the city through the ages. Our morning walking tour will include the Basilica of San Clemente, Quattro Santi Coronati, San Giovanni in Laterano, and Santa Maria Maggiore.

After our group lunch, the rest of the day is free to explore or relax at your leisure.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)

Friday, June 14: A Central Campus Martius Anthology
We will explore the development of Campus Martius throughout this morning’s walk with stops at major churches of influence including Santa Maria sopra Minerva, Il Gesù, Sant'Ignazio, San Luigi dei Francesi, as well Sant'Agostino, Navona/ Sant'Agnese, and finally Santa Maria della Pace.

After lunch on our own, we will visit the Galleria Nazionale, housed in Palazzo Barberini, which contains paintings from the late middle ages to the 18th century. After, we will dine as a group at a local restaurant.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, D)

Saturday, June 15: A Renaissance Villa & Princely Palace
We’ll start with a visit to Villa Farnesina, considered one of the noblest and most harmonious creations of Italian Renaissance and then continue to Palazzo Colonna.

One of the richest and most powerful of the old Roman families, with a long and illustrious history, is the Colonna. We will visit the Palazzo Colonna, built in part over the ruins of an old Roman serapeum. The Palazzo Colonna is one of the largest and oldest of the private palaces in The Eternal City. We will also take a look inside the Apartment of Princess Isabel, exactly as she left it upon her death, and the surrounding gardens. The palace has belonged to the prominent Colonna family for over twenty generations. Its Galleria Colonna, described as a true jewel of Roman Baroque, was commissioned in the 1660s and inaugurated in 1700.

We’ll lunch on our own at a local eatery and then we’ll repair to one of Italy’s most scenic towns, Castel Gandolfo. We’ll visit the summer residence and vacation retreat for the pope. We’ll enjoy a group dinner at local restaurant in the Roman Countryside.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, D)

Sunday, June 16: A Roman Castle & Princely Palace
Jeffrey Blanchard will guide us through the Castel Sant'Angelo, a mausoleum built for Roman Emperor Hadrian and later transformed into Rome's principal fortress. After our group lunch, we’ll visit Palazzo Doria Pamphili, a palace still owned by the family of that name, which hosts a collection of famous art works, such as Velazquez's portrait of Innocent X, and original furnishings.

Late afternoon and evening is at your leisure.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)
Monday, June 17: Vatican and St. Peter’s Basilica
Not only is the Vatican with St. Peter’s Basilica the most important complex of Renaissance and Baroque architecture and one of the holiest Catholic shrines in the world, it is also a breathtakingly beautiful feat of human artistry and engineering. The day will be dedicated to exploring the museums before we head into St. Peter’s Basilica. The church itself is a magnificent work of art and architecture, and it houses many other great works of art, by masters such as Michelangelo, Bernini, Borromini, Bramante, Raphael, Maderno, and many others. The Sistine Chapel, the Pietà, and the Cathedra Petri are among its best known treasures. We will have a semi-private tour of the Sistine Chapel and a guided excursion to the excavations under St. Peter’s after our group lunch.

Dinner and evening activities are on your own.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)

Tuesday, June 18: Bernini and Borromini on the Quirinale
We will journey to the highest point in the City, Piazza del Quirinale where you will have splendid views towards Saint Peter's Basilica. We will visit Santa Maria della Vittoria, a church known for Gian Lorenzo Bernini’s masterpiece, The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa in the Cornaro Chapel, and Sant’Andrea al Quirinale, an important example of Roman Baroque architecture, also by Bernini. To top off this morning’s walking tour, we’ll stop by San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane to learn more about about Borromini’s style of architecture in his first independent commissioned masterpiece.

We’ll have a group lunch at local restaurant, then the group will visit to the Galleria Borghese, featuring one of the world’s greatest private art collections, assembled by Cardinal Scipione Borghese in the 17th century in his Roman garden villa. The collection is particularly rich in ancient Roman, Renaissance, and Baroque art, with major works by Bernini, Titian, Caravaggio, Raphael, Correggio, Rubens, and Canova.

Evening activities are at your leisure.
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)

Wednesday, June 19: A Day in the Country: 16th Century Villas and Gardens
Today’s journey will take us into the countryside of Italy to experience two real pearls of Italian 16th-century architecture: Palazzo Farnese at Caprarola and Villa Lante at Bagnaia. Palazzo Farnese is an incredible wonder, an aristocratic retreat, a delightful villa, and a fortified residence. It was designed by Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola and built between 1559 and 1575. The gardens of the Villa Lante are among the most significant in all of Italy.

We celebrate our adventure with a farewell lunch in the countryside before we head back to the city to prepare for our travels home tomorrow
HOTEL QUIRINALE (B, L)

Thursday, June 20: Return to place of origin.
Transfers will be provided for your flight home.