

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents

## NORTHERN ITALY

From the Alps to the Adriatic

May 7-20, 2016

**14 days for \$4,999 total price from Washington, DC**  
(**\$4,295 air & land inclusive plus \$704 airline taxes and fees**)



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

# NORTHERN ITALY

## From the Alps to the Adriatic

**14 days for \$4,999 total price from Washington, DC**  
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**T**his leisurely exploration of Italy's varied northern regions, from the romantic Lake District and dramatic Cinque Terre to beloved Tuscany and canal-laced Venice, offers a refreshing perspective on a well-known land. In the company of our congenial small group, we celebrate the Italian penchant for hospitality, good food, and good living. In a word, *splendido!*



### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Milan, Italy

**Day 2: Arrive Milan/Stresa** After arriving in Milan, we drive to the international resort of Stresa on lovely Lake Maggiore, straddling the border between Italy and Switzerland. This afternoon is at leisure before tonight's welcome dinner. **D**

**Day 3: Stresa/Orta San Giulio** This morning we visit the lovely lakeside town of Orta San Giulio – dubbed “God’s watercolor” by Italian writer Piero Chiara – with its cobblestoned streets, 16<sup>th</sup>-century town hall, and medieval houses flanking the inviting town square. After lunch on our own here, we return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure. **B**

**Day 4: Stresa** We embark this morning on a cruise to Isola Bella, the beautiful Borromean island in the middle of Lake Maggiore. Fully occupied by 17<sup>th</sup>-century Palazzo Borromeo and its extravagantly landscaped gardens, the island offers lovely views of the lake and surrounding mountains. We take a guided tour of the *palazzo*, with its priceless works of fine art, and stroll through the flower-decked gardens then enjoy lunch together on the island. **B,L**

**Day 5: Stresa/Milan/Santa Margherita** Today we visit Milan, Italy’s commercial and financial center, and world capital of design and fashion. We see the immense *Duomo*, one of the world’s largest churches with 135 spires and some 3,400 statues; and Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, the four-story double-arcade that is one of the world’s oldest shopping malls. Then we visit the Brera Picture Gallery, Milan’s first fine arts museum and still its foremost gallery, with works by Caravaggio, Tiepolo, Tintoretto, Raphael, and other great masters. After lunch on our own, we travel on to Italy’s Liguria region, the narrow coastal plain whose capital is seafaring Genoa. Our destination is the Italian Riviera resort town of Santa Margherita, with its palm-lined esplanade overlooking the harbor. **B**

Avg. High (°F)	Apr	May
Stresa	62	71
Tuscany	64	73
Venice	62	70

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Relaxing three-night stay on Lake Maggiore ... Lake region touring, including medieval Orta San Giulio and Stresa ... Cruise to Isola Bella, with palace and gardens tour ... Full-day Cinque Terre excursion featuring Monterosso and Vernazza ... Milan city tour ... Visit to medieval Lucca ... Beautiful Florence ... Tuscany tour to San Gimignano and Siena ... Winery visit and tasting ... Venice sightseeing ... Outstanding small group accommodations, including a restored villa in Tuscany

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Milan		
2-4	Stresa	La Palma Hotel	First Class
5-7	Santa Margherita	Hotel Metropole	First Class
8-11	Barberino Val d'Elsa (Tuscany)	Villa San Filippo	First Class
12-13	Venice	Carnival Palace Hotel	Sup. First Class
14	Depart Venice for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: The rugged and scenic Cinque Terre region has remained unchanged for centuries.



*We spend four nights in beautiful Tuscany.*

#### **Day 6: Santa Margherita/Portovenere/Cinque Terre**

The rugged coastline from Santa Margherita to the five towns of the Cinque Terre region (literally, “five lands”) virtually bursts with scenic and cultural significance. Dramatically situated at the edge of vertical vineyard-clad cliffs, the towns here once could be reached only by sea, and even today, no road connects them all (though walkers can use an ancient footpath). From Portovenere, we tour comfortably by boat today along this striking coastline – called the Riviera Levante – stopping along the way in the villages of Vernazza and Riomaggiore. We return to Portovenere for a walking tour and dinner at our hotel. *B,D*

**Day 7: Santa Margherita/Portofino** This morning we travel by boat to the renowned – and beautiful – resort town of Portofino, a former fishing village where palatial yachts now crowd the port and the good life is celebrated. We have free time to wander the colorful streets and visit the chic boutiques and galleries here before we return to our hotel mid-day. *B,D*

#### **Day 8: Santa Margherita/Lucca/Tuscany**

Moving on today, we travel south to beloved Tuscany, stopping first in the atmospheric medieval town of Lucca. We take a walking tour of this incredibly well-preserved gem, whose city walls and ramparts remain intact and a popular attraction. After time for lunch on our own, we continue on to our lodgings, a restored 18<sup>th</sup>-century villa where we dine tonight. *B,D*

**Day 9: Tuscany/Florence** We spend today touring and exploring wondrous Florence, a living monument to the Renaissance and crown jewel of Tuscany. Our day includes a guided morning walk-

ing tour followed by free time. Together we visit the Galleria dell’Accademia to view Michelangelo’s sublime “David” and his pieces for the papal tombs; and see the *Duomo*, with its stupendous dome by Brunelleschi. This afternoon there’s time on our own to visit the Uffizi Gallery, stroll the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Ponte Vecchio, with its many jewelry shops; shop for leather goods and artful Florentine paper; and to enjoy lunch on our own at a typical Florentine restaurant. *B,D*

#### **Day 10: Tuscany/Siena/Castellina in Chianti**

Today we visit the walled city of Siena, whose historic center is a UNESCO site and whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts vividly evoke its medieval past. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe’s greatest public squares; its *Duomo*, with pillars of black and white marble, is one of Italy’s finest, with masterpieces by Donatello and Michelangelo. Following a guided walking tour that includes an inside visit to the

#### **Post-Tour Extension**

May 20-22, 2016

#### **VENICE — ON YOUR OWN**

**3 days/2 nights for \$395 total price**

**Single Supplement: \$295**

*End your journey with a longer stay  
in this most beautiful of cities.*

#### **Your Tour Price Includes**

- 2 nights’ accommodations at Carnival Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

“THE NAME ITALY HAS MAGIC  
IN ITS VERY SYLLABLES.”

- MARY Shelley

*Duomo*, we have free time to explore on our own. Then we return to our villa via Castellina in Chianti, where we visit a local winery for a tour and tasting; only in this region is authentic Chianti Classico produced. **B,D**

#### Day 11: Tuscany/Volterra/San Gimignano

We encounter classic Tuscany today as we visit first nearby Volterra, set high on a bluff some 1,800 feet above the valley below. A fortress-like town, Volterra was a center of Etruscan art and commerce from the 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE through the 4<sup>th</sup> century. On our walking tour here we explore the maze of medieval alleys and see some of the white alabaster carvings for which the city is renowned. After free time for lunch on our own, we continue on to the classic hill town of San Gimignano, whose 13 remaining watchtowers have left its skyline looking much as it did in medieval times. We enjoy a brief walking tour of this town known for its churches and museums that house important works of art; and for its smart shops and art galleries. **B,D**

**Day 12: Tuscany/Venice** Leaving Tuscany today we travel through the Veneto region to Venice, arriving early this afternoon. The remainder of the day and evening is free to begin savoring this wondrous city on our own. **B**

**Day 13: Venice** This morning we take a guided walk through vast St. Mark's Square, deemed "Europe's most magnificent drawing room" by Napoleon Bonaparte. The afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration. Tonight we bid "*arrivederci*" to Italy and to our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. **B,D**

**Day 14: Depart for U.S.** We depart early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S. **B**



Our tour ends in timeless Venice.

### Tour Departs: May 7, 2016

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York	\$4,699
Boston, Philadelphia	\$4,899
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$4,999
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,099
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$704, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$695. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,595 per person; Premium Economy – \$995 per person (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

**For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free**

**888-370-6765**

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time

**For further information contact VMFA Member Travel at**

**804-340-1519**

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 12 nights' accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 21 meals: 12 breakfasts; 1 lunch; 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## Dear VMFA Members,

We invite you to travel with us on a 14-day journey through Northern Italy. From the rustic Lake District and Tuscan countryside to the vibrant cities of Milan, Florence and Venice, your small group will experience the best of Italian hospitality ... and *la dolce vita*.

Begin your journey at the international resort of Stresa, and delight in a three-night stay on Lake Maggiore. Cruise to Isola Bella, experiencing its beautiful landscaped gardens and priceless works of fine art. Visit Milan, with its awe-inspiring marble *Duomo*, before continuing on to Italy's beautiful Liguria region. Experience the breathtaking vineyard-clad cliffs of Santa Margherita, and relax on a cruise along the Riviera Levante. Enjoy a full-day Cinque Terre excursion featuring Monterosso and Vernazza. Next, you will tour beloved Tuscany, from Florence through San Gimignano and Siena. Conclude your remarkable tour of Italy in Venice, with its complex maze of canals and unforgettable St. Mark's Square.

Space on this program is limited to only VMFA members, friends, and family. We expect it will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,



Adele "Hutch" Livingston  
Coordinator of Member Travel

## VMFA RESERVATION FORM: NORTHERN ITALY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person/people on **Northern Italy** departing **May 7, 2016**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard or VISA or by personal check. **Please make check payable to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and mail check to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., One Newton Place, 275 Washington St., Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax reservation to 617-454-9199.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

**Post-Tour Extension: "Venice — On Your Own":** Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Northern Italy, May 7-20, 2016**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**     Check     American Express     Discover     MasterCard     VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only Tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline.

### Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-85 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If a guest makes any changes between 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

**Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, your date of birth and your gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

### Responsibility

The liability of the VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

### Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance. In such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the VMFA assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



VMFA Travel  
200 N. Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23220-4007

Presorted  
Standard  
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PAID  
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Unlimited, Inc.



JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE VMFA  
ADVENTURE TO NORTHERN ITALY

May 7-20, 2016