

♥ paesano's
SPRING FLING
VENETO
APRIL 3 - 10, 2006

The Veneto is a delight to the senses with its delicious Venetian cuisine, remarkable sights, and gorgeous landscapes. It is bounded by Venice to the east, the Dolomite Mountains to the north, the Italian Lakes to the west, and the Renaissance cities of Padua and Mantua to the south.



The delightfully charming town of Sirmione on the banks of Lake Garda will be our home base for six nights. From there, we'll discover the visual and culinary delights of the region with day trips that introduce us to the natural panoramas of Lake Garda, the artistic masterpieces of Verona, Padua and Mantua, and the walled medieval villages that dot the Venetian landscape. The restaurants will be a highlight of the trip - all carefully chosen for the quality of their cuisine, the variety of their wine lists, and their ambience.

Highlights of our stay in the Veneto region include:

- Sirmione - This romantic, medieval town is dramatically positioned on a peninsula jutting into Lake Garda. Sirmione offers wonderful lake views, lush growth of palms, cypresses, and umbrella pines, and a fairy-tale castle. The 13th century Rocca Scaligera is surrounded by a moat, complete with mallards and swans. The Grottoes of Catullus are another interesting site.
- Verona - We'll enjoy a guided walking tour of the city, visiting the market in the Piazza del Erbe, the Piazza dei Signori with its brooding statue of Dante, the world-famous Roman arena that is now the home of the Verona Opera, the house and balcony of Juliet, and the Duomo, with its magnificent painting by Titian. We'll have lunch in a very special local restaurant after which there will be time to shop or optionally to taste wines from around the world at the prestigious VINITALY Wine Fest
- Padua - Our full-day excursion begins with a guided walking tour of this ancient university town. Stops include the 13th century Basilica di Sant' Antonio with its frescoes, sculptures, and the tomb of St. Anthony, and the Scrovegni Chapel to view Giotto's magnificent floor-to-ceiling frescoes. We'll have lunch in Padua before visiting Villa Pisani, an 18th century palace with magnificent gardens, built along the Brenta River.
- Mantua - Home to the powerful Gonzaga family in Renaissance times, this atmospheric city is a treasure trove of artistic, architectural, and cultural gems. We'll visit the 500-room Palazzo Ducale, home to Isabella d' Este, one of the greatest patrons of the Renaissance. The Palazzo houses some magnificent frescoes painted by Andrea Mantegna over a nine-year period. We can also visit Mantegna's tomb in the Basilica di Sant' Andrea.



We're sure you'll enjoy this early Spring getaway. Act now or you'll miss out!

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Package Price of \$3,145.00 Includes:

- Round-trip economy class airfare from Detroit on Air France (Call for air add-on fares from other cities.)
 Air taxes, fuel surcharges, and fees are additional
- 6 nights in the 4-star Hotel Eden in Sirmione
- Daily continental breakfast buffet,
- 3 lunches and 3 dinners with mineral water and local wines
- Welcome cocktail reception
- Full-day guided excursion to Verona
- Full-day guided tour of Sirmione and Lake Garda region
- Full-day guided excursion to Padua and the Brenta River area
- Half-day guided tour of Mantua
- All gratuities
- Transfers via private, air-conditioned motor-coach
- Baggage handling, service charges, and all taxes at hotel
- Entrance fees to all sites described in the itinerary
- Services of professional, bilingual, local guides
- Services of professional, bilingual, local escort
- Cultural Encounters escort throughout the tour



This package price is a double occupancy rate, based on a minimum of 15 passengers. The supplement for single occupancy is \$395. This tour is limited to 18 participants.

Paesano's Italian Spring Fling, April 3-10, 2006

Please reserve _____ places on the Paesano's Italian Spring Fling tour.

Enclosed is my payment for \$_____ (\$3,145.00 per person) for the complete 8-day package plus local airport & departure taxes, fuel surcharges, and fees (actual tax will be included in final invoice)

My departure city is: _____

Options:

- _____ Air add-on from departure city other than Detroit
- _____ Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance for complete tour \$_____ (call for options & price)
- _____ Date of Birth: _____ Beneficiary: _____
- _____ Single Accommodation: \$395

Name(s) as appears on passport: _____

Passport Number(s): _____ Expiration Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Rooming with: _____

Make payment with personal check payable to Cultural Encounters, Inc by February 17, 2006. We cannot guarantee space on the tour until we receive a check. If you must cancel, for any reason, all payments are nonrefundable. Optional cancellation and tour interruption insurance is advisable.

Please return form and deposit to:

Suzan Alexander or Karen Street
 Cultural Encounters, Inc.
 Box 179, Chelsea, MI 48118
 734-327-1931 • Fax: 734-327-0567 or 734-433-9971

This tour is operated by Cultural Encounters, Inc., Box 179, Chelsea, Michigan 48118. Cultural Encounters acts only as agent for tour members in arranging room accommodations, transportation, sight-seeing, admissions, and restaurants. Cultural Encounters reserves the right in its sole discretion to make itinerary changes and is not responsible to any person for expense, loss of time or money, or other circumstances resulting from a change in itinerary or change of tour arrangements made by it for tour members. Rates quoted are based upon tariffs and exchanges current at the time of printing and are subject to change at or before the time of payment. Cultural Encounters reserves the right to decline or accept any person as a tour member of any tour at any time. Cultural Encounters is not responsible for any loss or damages to personal property or for injuries, expenses, or damages whatsoever incurred or claimed by tour members. Cultural Encounters reserves the right to cancel a tour at its discretion should it become necessary and all monies will be refunded, thus releasing Cultural Encounters from any further obligation.

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Dear Paesano's Travelers:

As you know, our annual Paesano's Food and Wine tours to Italy have developed such a loyal following that we have had to disappoint people wishing to travel with us for the past two trips. In an effort to accommodate more people, we have decided that if we moved very quickly, we could expand our program for 2006 to offer two great travel opportunities instead of one.

This year, Paesano's and Cultural Encounters will collaborate on tours to two very different parts of Italy. Our first trip, Paesano's Italian Spring Fling, is a great chance to enjoy the flowers, lakes and mountains of northern Italy's Veneto region with a 6-night stay on Lake Garda from April 3 to 10, 2006. This trip is limited to 18 people maximum, and will incorporate many of the same fantastic wining, dining, and reclining features that are an enjoyable part of all our trips (including a chance to taste wines from around the world at the VINITALY Wine Fest in Verona). We will stay in a 4-star hotel in Sirmione, an absolutely lovely small town on the shores of spectacular Lake Garda, and we'll dine in some very special restaurants during our excursions to such historic places as Verona, Mantua, and Padua. You will have at least one full day of free time, which you can use to visit Venice independently if you so desire. You must act very quickly to book this trip as we will need full payment by February 17, 2006. Complete and mail the attached registration form or Suzan or Karen at 734-327-1931 to book.

We will also be offering a 7-night visit to the incredibly beautiful Italian Riviera on the Ligurian coast in the Fall. We're anticipating that the dates for this trip will be September 27 to October 5, 2006, but these could shift a little depending upon availability. Day excursions will include visits to such famous places as the Cinque Terre, Portofino, and Genoa, as well as time for individual exploration. The number of participants on this trip will be limited to 25 passengers. If you want to guarantee a place on this exciting tour, please send a fully refundable retainer of \$250.00 per person to Cultural Encounters, Box 179, Chelsea, Michigan 48118.

We will be mailing a complete description of the Riviera trip, including a price, as soon as all the details are finalized. You can expect to receive this information in March. If there are still spots available at that time, we will do a more widespread mailing of the brochure.

These tours will offer the high level of quality and value for money that you have come to expect. Please join us and on either, or both, of these fantastic trips!

Sincerely,

Michael and Bridget Roddy

Cultural Encounters
Suzan Alexander and Karen Street
P.O. Box 179, Chelsea, Michigan 48118
Phone: 734-327-1931
Fax: 734-433-9971 or 734-327-0567

E-mail: [HYPERLINK mailto:kstreet@corecomm.net](mailto:kstreet@corecomm.net) kstreet@core.com or suzanalxdr@aol.com