



## **Italy: Rome, Florence and Torino Trip Notes November 22 – December 10, 2019**

### **Highlights**

- Both a wonderful trip and a trip from hell.
- Yet it all worked, we got home only slightly beaten up, and we have some good memories as well.
- For seeing many new places, many new repeats, being with friends, happy new experiences, etc. it has been wonderful.
- For thinking we lost Tom in Tivoli Italy, it was traumatic and probably will stay with all of us.
- We were gone 18 days yet it sometimes seemed more like a month.
- Wonderful apartments and even an exclusive family villa.
- Time with sister and friends.

### **Daily reports? No, but here are some updates sent:**

#### **In Italy**

First to Rome for three days, then seven days in Florence, followed by seven days in Torino. Tom and I are accompanied by my sister Beverly and my two hiking leaders and friends Steve and Nola. We were all together in Florence a few years ago (2015?) and then Steve and Nola and I were in Rome later that same year. I suspect that my sister has not been in Rome since she was a child.

This might be my sixth or seventh time in Rome, and more times in Florence, and only once in Torino.

We had intended to stay in the same Westin hotel as 2015 but arrangements didn't work as expected so Tom found this rather glorious looking artsy penthouse apartment. We all had mixed emotions after seeing it but follows is the Vrbo description. It WAS fun, interesting, full of discoveries and frustrations, and we look forward to learning about the famous 60s architect that put it together and found fame.

"Domitilla" - Splendid Rome Penthouse - 3552 sq. ft., Bedrooms 3, Bathrooms 2, Sleeps 5 – Near Trevi fountain - Splendid duplex penthouse apartment set on one of Rome's famous Seven Hills, and just steps away from the Quirinale Palace, one of the President's residences.

*This penthouse apartment on the fifth floor offers 2 terraces, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and views to die for. It sleeps 5 in comfort. The apartment and its terraces surmounts two "palazzi", one 19th Century and the other 20th. Its two terraces offer 360 degrees views of the entire Eternal City, with its evocative layers of centuries of History from Roman time through the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Neoclassic. Inside this two-floor apartment, on the first floor are the open plan living room, dining room, and its approaching gallery encased by terraces offering bird's eye views of all of Rome. The living room has 3 comfortable couches, iconic art books, and designer chairs. You will find a stereo*

and TV with satellite cable, offering International channels. The dining table sits 12. The adjoining kitchen has all amenities including electric water boiler, and Nespresso coffee maker. Of course, there is a full cooking stove, a dishwasher, a large fridge, and much more.

On this floor there are two bedrooms; a single bedroom and a double bedroom with a queen size bed. There is one bathroom. A large, easy to climb staircase goes to the second floor which is the top floor of the building. Here is the master bedroom with its own large bathroom, its own sitting room overlooking a very large terrace, again with fabulous 360° views of the domes: St. Peter's Cathedral, the Gianicolo Hill, the Roman Forum and other major landmarks of the city. From the master bedroom's unique half-moon shaped window, you can see the Roman Forum, and from the binocular window, you can see the cupola of San Martino and the Quirinale (Presidential Palace). Of course, there is WiFi.

*The Neighborhood:* Within a 15 minute walk from your Quirinal hill (the highest of the original Seven Hills of Rome and which starts from the top of Spanish steps across Via Veneto and the Trevi Fountain, up to Piazza del Quirinale), you will find: Museums, archeological sights, churches, fountains: Art lovers should head to Scuderie del Quirinale Museum and Palazzo delle Esposizioni, both of which host major exhibitions. Don't miss Palazzo Barberini, home to the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, and Borromini's Baroque church of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Palazzo Colonna and Palazzo Doria Pamphilj famous for its beautiful architecture and art collection. Also within this area are Palazzo Massimo, which hosts the Roman museum, the Trajan's Market, and Piazza Venezia. You will want to walk along Via dei Fori Imperiali, for the majesty of the Roman Forum, it's easy to reach the Coliseum, flanking Colle Oppio with the ruins of the Baths of Trajan, or the Baths of Caracalla. Palazzo Colonna, the church of Santa Maria in Via Lata, Villino Huffer, Casino dell'Aurora Pallavicini, Casa dei Cavalieri di Rodi, Palazzo Koch, and the church of San Pietro in Vincoli, with the statue of Michelangelo's Moses, are also worth a visit. End.

Truth in packaging. The place had seen better days when huge sums were spent. Art was everywhere. Yet the kitchen was early 60s and just workable.

More truth. Not everything went famously. Our first full day out to Tivoli to see Villa de Estes found Tom fading, Diana trying to be brave, Beverly fully calm and supportive, but Tom hospitalized. He refused to stay hospitalized and worked on recovery, being driven an hour or two back in Rome to our unique apartment.

After three nights we will be transported by van to our comfortable and well-known Florence apartment.

We usually say Life is Good. May I modify it to Life is Challenging.

The Scientific Reason You Love to Travel - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/science-love-of-travel>

Ambassadors Recommend the One Book to Read Before Visiting Their Country - <https://apple.news/AqqVaeCT1R9mTQlbGphmgHA>

Airport clothing. There are sure some crap outfits people are willing to wear in public. I almost cringe at what we see at airports. It's not so long ago that people wouldn't even wear around the house what we are now seeing in public. And maybe even worse, wearing clothes that even Goodwill wouldn't accept.



Spanish Steps area where we lived with Marie last year. We walked over 6 miles the day of arrival. We stayed up. Painful but worth it. We then slept well. Yep. It rained and rained. Not only in Venice. Then it cleared after the monsoons.

The world's first shopping center? Right out our apartment.



It was Marathon Day! I did that not so long ago. So why am I so slow today? The many layers of Rome are on display here. Like layers of lasagna. Onto Tivoli. It was lovely but didn't go well.



On our way into Villa de Estes, and from the balcony overlooking the famous gardens and fountains

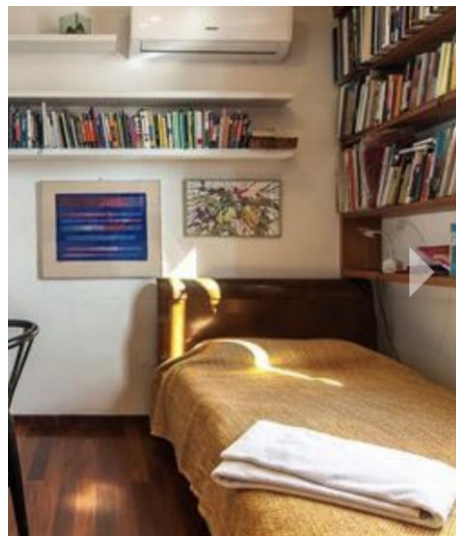


Franco is wonderful. We've been with him before. If we're to spend time with him again, we best hurry as he's retiring to Sardinia in a couple years. Tom was slipping. Soon to fade.



Now we are at the apartment with a fabulous view of central Rome.





Our view and sunset  
Ha ha ha. art work throughout and this was in our bathroom.

I stayed in with Tom while others toured Rome with Franco and driver under perfectly warm sunny skies of 65 degrees. I decided Rome would wait. I only had one Tom.

On that, I must say I'm looking forward to the comfort and hopefully health of Florence.

### **Still in Italy having come from Rome to Florence.**

We are in Florence now and have been here for three days. It is difficult to write when things aren't wonderful so here I am now because Tom's health has seen some improvement today. Thank you to so many of you inquiring.

We were fortunately picked up in Rome by a private and driver friend which was good because we probably could not have managed the train. Two stops at two unique little famous villages, a meal full of memories, and then we arrived in Florence before 6 PM.

We all went grocery shopping. I think all of us somewhat enjoy the challenge of figuring out these foreign foods but it was a bit of a circus. As with most apartment entries, that was enough fun so we bought pizza to eat in.

We had arranged for a private guide who is a friend to meet us at 9:30 AM. We spent most all of that time in the nearby Pitti Palace and probably could have spent the rest of the day but we were meeting another Guide friend for lunch, all of which took us until nearly 3:30 PM. Beverly hurried back to the Palace for a concert.

On our second full day, Leonardo again picked us up in his new Mercedes van to take us to first Pisa and then Lucca, where we had a meal at a place we'd enjoyed with Marie. Tom went with us but it was a lot for him and fortunately the restaurant let him lay down in a booth for a while. He was a real trooper as we didn't arrive home until late. We had made a diversionary trip up to the Florence hilltop town of Fiesole at the end of the day for a climb up to an overlook. A couple of us laughed a lot about getting caught in a hailstorm on the way down.

Civita di Bagnoregio, - <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/read/articles/italys-civita-di-bagnoregio-jewel-on-the-hill>

I was very excited to see this hilltop town. While I was in Rome during the marathon Tom visited here. Tom had gone into Orvieto before me where we had an apartment for a few days overlooking the valley. Orvieto is wonderful but this hilltop town I've never seen.

Orvieto: the "5 Reasons to Stop in Orvieto": <https://we3travel.com/orvieto-italy/>

A restaurant in Orvieto - [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g194843-d1798407-Reviews-Trattoria\\_La\\_Palomba-Orvieto\\_Province\\_of\\_Terni\\_Umbria.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g194843-d1798407-Reviews-Trattoria_La_Palomba-Orvieto_Province_of_Terni_Umbria.html)

Our apartment in Florence is one you've seen pictures of prior. We were here when Tom and I came following my Cinque terre hike, with the same group in 2015, then with Marie recently, and maybe once more. Were I to go again and alone, the price is so "right" that I would consider renting again.



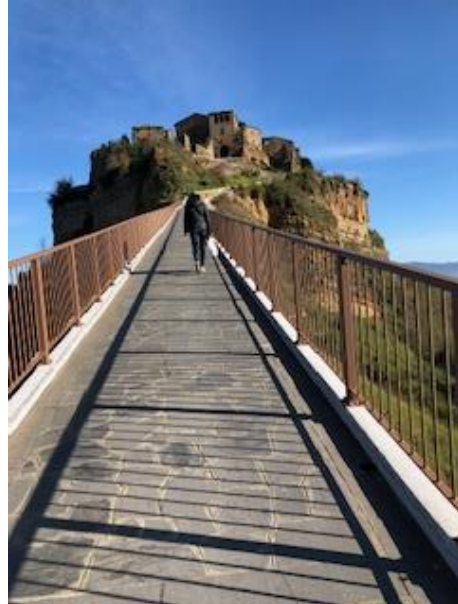
From VRBO – More pictures at [www.vrbo.com/421522](http://www.vrbo.com/421522)

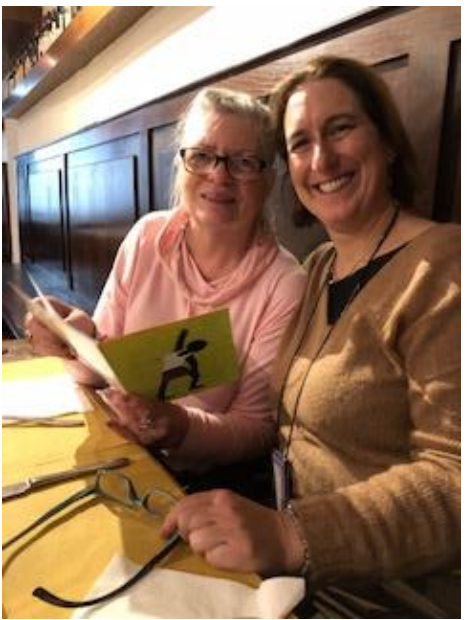
*The apartment is located in one of the historical sites of Florence: via Maggio, next to the Pitti Palace and the famous Boboli Garden and it's just a few minutes walk from Ponte Vecchio. The street itself has always been the street of the antique shops in Florence, however, since it's only a short walk*

from the historical square of Santo Spirito, the-area is surrounded by typical local restaurants and by many other shops for each type of need. The Palace, though very old, in fact it has a modern elevator and the apartment maintains the beauty of a conservative restoration and provides all the amenities and comforts. In the apartment there is a spacious living room of 40sqm or 1292 SF, a separate dining room with a dining table for 6 persons and a fully equipped kitchen. The master bedroom has a king size bed and it is vary spacious and comfortable. The second bedroom has a baldachin king size bed and both the bedrooms has original drawings on the walls. In the loft there is a double bed. There are three bathrooms. In the apartment there is AC in all the rooms, WIFI internet access. The renovation has been completed in October 2012 so the apartment is brand new and accurate in every detail. It belonged to the Corsini family until the XIXth century and then to the Rosselli del Turco family it is still under arts protection. End.

Today Steve and Nola are on their way to the Duomo, Beverly is out for a little walk, and later afternoon Beverly and I are off to a food tour. Tom had a noontime meal that was probably more than he has eaten since Kansas City — all combined. Again, where most of us would complain, he seems happy and contented and always smiling and just fine about sleeping as much as 24 hours at a time.

Is all this description out of order? Very likely as so am I and very much so is Tom. But we're here, we are happy, and we hope our trip mates are surviving despite us.









From Florence's famous bridge of jewelers (once butchers were housed there) to the cemetery at Pisa, and then "what is this?" People posing for pictures in front of the leaning Tower of Pisa can be more interesting than the historical site itself and certainly amusing. The Asians probably go home with a zillion pictures.



After Pisa, which is interesting but hardly worth its own trip, we ventured to Lucca where Tom wanted to rest in a favorite restaurant, he and Marie especially enjoyed the year prior.



After Lucca and our drive home through Chianti Country, we made a step up in Fiesole above Florence where we got a sunset view of Florence just before the heavy rain and then hail came.

### **Update from Florence on our way to Torino**

Leftover From Pisa- The Reason the Leaning Tower of Pisa Leans Is the Same Reason It's Never Fallen - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-news/reason-leaning-tower-of-pisa-has-never-fallen>

Tom? He has a big heart but I am concerned that it is not working as well as we would like. He is very tired and can't walk but a couple blocks without needing a rest. He always said he liked naps but I doubt he ever thought he'd sleep so much. In between naps he plans where he wants to dine or shop or walk. It doesn't happen. Still, he never complains. As well said by a friend: Tom's spirit is willing but the body isn't cooperating.

The rest of us have kept mostly busy. A food tour with Mara, a Medici themed tour by Elizabeth, a unique concert in the historic Teatro Verdi, some shopping, a couple sweet restaurant visits and even more eating in. One day I even managed 11 miles over these cobblestones and wondered how I ever pulled off 26.2 on Rome's cobbled streets.

Teatro Verdi - For more than 160 years in the heart of Florence - The biggest Italian style theatre from Tuscany is located in Florence, in the historic area of Santa Croce, and hosts shows from every genre. Founded in 1854, since 19 years is property of Orchestra della Toscana, which here has its permanent headquarters.

Anna Fusek at Teatro Verdi - <https://www.albagorka.com/index.php/artists/anna-fusek/>

Fusek in Mogliano - <http://annafusek.com/> - scroll down in the link and maybe this is the town and the villa where we had the Ferrari cop out. It is near to Venice. Near to where we had our first white truffles. And our second. And our third. All while waiting for the Ferrari to get fixed. When it was delivered back in running condition and we asked why, the mechanic said "she just didn't want to run".

In the morning we say goodbye to Florence after our 7 days. Fortunately, we have a driver. Will we come again? Maybe. Florence has a lot to offer and much of it well worth repeats. We have good contacts and Tour Guides here and the surrounding areas are full of even more things to explore.

But don't come in the summer. We choose the cold and the rain each time in order to avoid the lines and even at that some streets are like Times Square on New Year's Eve and the lines look like they will never clear. Florence is, after all, often times listed as the number one tourist destination.

On our way to Torino we plan to stop in Rapallo along the Mediterranean just barely south of Genoa.



It is an anniversary for Leonardo da Vinci and this type of mulberry tree was his favorite so it becomes the temporary feature and hopefully to stay in the main square.

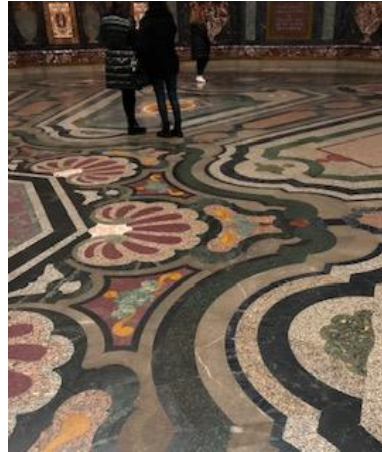


After a morning type coffee and breakfast sweets stop – onto the unusual: this is some sort of innards like tripe and is a local favorite sandwich. Always tested out on the tourist. I like it. Olive oil later as well as balsamic vinegars, where I returned for more olive soap. Truffles!



A wine shop and vineyard owned by a young woman and we had the cellar and tasting to ourselves. Lampredotto is the innards sandwich. I ate that, but generally wouldn't care for gelato (if you can't chew it, I don't call it food) but they had persimmon sorbet . . . .

Next, off the next day to a tour by Elizabeth with a Medici theme.



An entire chapel for the Medici burials. Because they couldn't be buried in the Duomo they built their own grand crypt(s). All marble marquetry plus the unfinished Michelangelo sculptures.



Will they ever put the façade on the church as Michelangelo designed it? Probably never. It looks like a plain climbing wall but inside the simplicity is mind blowingly lovely. In the upstairs private chapel of the Medici home.



With Elizabeth of Signature Italy Tours. Then my solo walk through town coming across a parade apparently in honor of this guy who obviously was fetted and received the award.

Onto the old opera house called Teatro Verdi: Box seats were just 13 euros. I suspect opera and theatre is still state supported. You can read above about the woman conductor, noted for being unusual, plus being accomplished with the flute and violin. To say nothing of the toy piano.

Next up? My last restaurant meal before departing to Rapallo and Torino.

**From Florence to Torino for still another week.**

Fortunately we had hired a van and driver once again Instead of taking the train which may have taken a transfer in Milan. Our intent had been to stop in for a little look around and lunch in Portofino but some of the cinqua terra type towns have been pretty much closed down due to rain and mud slides. Our guide and driver Leonardo did us well with a stop at a sweet family run restaurant in Rapallo on the Mediterranean.

Rapallo - <https://www.thecrowdedplanet.com/things-to-do-in-rapallo-italy/>

For those of you asking how is Tom doing, pretty much the same but eating more.

Leonardo took us to the downtown Torino Hertz to pick up two small vehicles and then lead us to the Torino Villa. We felt we needed the vehicles for some touring and grocery shopping but Beverly and I needed it every day for commuting to the skating arena.

Skating would start early the next day so we really didn't have any daylight to see the Villa. But we saw enough to know that it was quite the bargain and had been some wealthy family's well cared for and updated private villa. All week we kept finding new and lovely features. I had worried and expected it to be old and musty. Tom of course always knew that it would be perfect. Smile. It was all it was said to be plus more.



You can see pictures at:

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/14235359?s=1> - Entire Villa, Charming 300 sqm (3229 SF) villa a few minutes from downtown - 5 bedrooms (2 being single beds) and 4 1/2 baths, three floors. *Three bedrooms with ensuite bath on top floor. Small bedroom on ground floor. This beautiful villa in the heart of Crocetta is the perfect retreat for a Turin stage.*

*It is not just a unique dwelling in its style and in its elegance, but also a strategic location. Despite being just minutes from the city center, you will have the impression of being outside the urban area thanks to the lovely garden with tall trees that surrounds and isolates it from the rest of the neighborhood, allowing you to enjoy the quietness and tranquility of your stay. 300 square meters of rooms on 3 floors are at your disposal. On the mezzanine floor there are two large living rooms, a study and a bathroom. On the first floor you will find a large kitchen, a dining room, a sitting room and a single bedroom with its own bathroom. The top floor is the sleeping area, a master bedroom suite with walk-in closet and private bathroom, two double bedrooms each with a private bathroom, a sitting area with a sofa that converts to a single bed and another walk-in closet.*

*Guests will have access to the garden of the villa through a private driveway. You can park more cars in the part pertaining to the residence. We will take care to welcome you and show you the house on your arrival.*

*Review by a past guest - Chiara's house is a once in a lifetime experience, exceptional in every way! The artwork, architecture, spacious rooms, tradition and thoughtfulness wowed us from the time of arrival to departure. This mansion is tucked away in a lovely neighborhood in Torino. As we stepped inside we were able to piece together the story of generations of a prominent Torino family, successful business people who created a luxurious environment for their children, grandchildren, posterity, and now guests of Airbnb. Throughout our three day visit, the house unfolded like a puzzle, revealing hints of a glorious time past when parquet floors, bronze reliefs, and cinnamon scented bed pillows were the norm. We continued to marvel the entire time, thinking how lucky we were to discover this unique treasure in the beautiful city of Torino. But don't tell too many people... because once they discover Chiara's house, it will be impossible to get a reservation! Our special time at Chiara's was the crowning glory of a two week visit to the Italian lake region. We would make a trip to Tornino again just to stay there! End.*

But skating was starting early our first morning and sister Beverly really wants to be there for all of it. But all of it might well be 14 hours in a day. I held my ground to say I simply could not leave at 8 AM and sit on my ass all day at the stadium and get home at midnight. She relented to leaving at 10 AM. I suspect she was relieved.

The stadium has a major problem that there is no alcohol but that's probably good because driving this little Fiat 500 diesel is quite the challenge on Italian streets with Italian drivers with Italian street signs or not.

Winnie the Pooh to the Japanese - Their hero gold medalists male skater used to have a Winnie the Pooh Shrine. Now his audience dresses like WP and throw out WP stuffed animals. An amazing amount of them. See:

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/sports/olympics/here-why-olympic-figure-skater-yuzuru-hanyu-fans-throw-winnie-the-pooh-bears-the-ice/QGEDBzssVXhx31fkmLpO0I/amp.html>

These are the Grand Prix Finals - Thank you Nola for this reminder of good skating. Since Jason Brown and Ashley Wagner, we've been short of what I find to be good performers pleasant to watch. Now the tiny Asians have taken over with jumps and quads that American skaters like Jason can't do. Jason didn't qualify for these Grand Prix Finals.

Article - It's Been 5 Years, and I'm Still Not Over This Mesmerizing Riverdance Figure Skating Routine - Here's the deal: I watched Jason Brown's Riverdance-themed figure skating program about three years ago. It was finals week. I was supposed to be writing a paper. Instead, I sat there and replayed it until I had memorized every move and was literally typing to the tune of the music. This free skate, ...

Read in POPSUGAR: <https://apple.news/AxVvrh90HQM6hTE667JmSyA>

Our Torino time comes to an end. Travel is expected to be a challenge. It will be good to be home.



From mountains to the Mediterranean and on to the mountains of Piedmont. We were in Piedmont for my hiking in 2017.



We fortunately had VIP lounge access. We unfortunately were hugely outnumbered by the Asians. We Americans now fortunately have a someone to take over the ugly American role. The crowds were unusual, and oftentimes were the show itself in addition to the skating.



Steve and Nola at the gala/exposition on the last day. Get a load of those seats. They call that VIP? It was very difficult to spend a whole day with metal backless seats.



The Spectacular or Gala on the last day is always the best for me. This one included giant balls with people inside, trapeze artists and as we had in Milan Italy last year, the fireworks includes streamers. Lots of streamers.

Follows are some of the apartment pictures. There were far too many rooms to get a good look at let alone live in.



**The Burton's are not where they are supposed to be**

Hello to our friends and family - We might not be where we are supposed to be, but we are now comfortably ensconced in an airport hotel that is just fine. Finer yet is the fact that it has a bar. Mr. Burton is feeling ok and says that he is pretty much normal. But I say it is a new normal that we hope his cardiologist can fix.

For the record our hotel is called Intercity hotel at the Frankfurt airport. 60549 Frankfurt/Main. Tele:+ 496-969-7099. We are scheduled tomorrow on the same flight 961 that should have been today (fingers crossed) arriving Newark at 2:15pm.

Always looking for adventure!



## Home again!

We are now home. Harrah! Has it been a good trip? For seeing many new places, many new repeats, being with friends, happy new experiences, etc. it has been wonderful. A very long wonderful. For thinking we lost Tom in Tivoli Italy, it was traumatic and probably will stay with all of us. It was a very long trip but sometimes seemed to go too fast. Were we gone 18 days or has it seemed more like a month? Both.

Beverly and I had caused the addition to the trip of seven days in Torino due to the ice-skating competition having been moved from Strasburg France to Italy. Last year we experienced the Grand Prix Finals in Vancouver and this is why we went to Torino this year. I have a report on that December 5-8 event which I will add to my website in due course. It was super for the good competition and stunningly atrocious for the poor arena conditions. It was also like being in Asia as probably the majority of the spectators were Japanese or Chinese. THAT is a story in itself.

All of our apartments were an experience. Rome penthouse was totally oldly-worldly and artsy. And stupidly expensive. Yet the location was great and we all kept finding new wows. Florence was like returning home again to a favorite place we have been many times as well as with the same group. Torino couldn't have been a more long-lasting super experience. I was sure the villa was going to be someone's old musty dump, and Tom was sure it was going to be someone's fantastic rich Villa. Neither of us were correct but Tom was closer as it was much more and better than anyone could imagine with it's richness and history. Why a family would share such a rich villa with strangers is unusual.

Did we get home easily? I say not but nothing like Tom's hospitalization in Tivoli. After that, everything should feel like Easy Street.

Bev: Home safe, but hardly sound. 23 hours of crazy. I am ready for bed, but I need to unpack. Oh, wait. My suitcase made it to Chicago but not St. Louis. They will deliver it when they find it... (Beverly had just come down with a cold the day before we were leaving and in St. Louis she still would have had to take a shuttle to get home to Columbia. Plus I noted that her boarding pass included the random SSSSSS security check which means at least an extra pat down if not more).

Nola: We just got into the hotel in Denver & will head home tomorrow. No problems at all. Burger time now! 😊 (Nola had come down with a serious case of shingles just a couple days before departure yet she bore up well).

I can only talk about Tom and Diana (but will seek input from each of our other travelers for the website report): we got up at 2 AM to leave at 3:15AM in our little rental Fiat 500L car. The roads and the directions were rough but we got nearly to the airport when I thought I had left behind my purse, necessitating a turn around and rush back to the villa, ringing the doorbell to wake our friends at 4AM, and finally finding I had it all along. I was somehow not surprised to have totally lost it. Not the purse. My mind. We didn't expect to make our plane but even after the mess of rental car return, we did. Just.

Damn but it gets better. Or worse depending on how you look at it. Upon arrival in Frankfurt we learned our plane was totally canceled until the next day. Option flights were impossible. All of which would be awful except in fact we didn't mind the idea of going to a hotel and sleeping, and sleep we did for as much as 12 hours straight. I had probably not slept more than a couple hours each night and Tom had been sleeping 22 hours a day. (Then he slept through most of the flight home and I slept through most of it).

We learned to travel by wheelchair and or “shuttle” and the latter is not a good idea when you have to go through passport control, security, the lounge, and three times thinking they forgot us, and forget us they did at the last stage but fortunately they held closing the plane door for us. Just.

After affects? My phone bill to the US will be high. As is probably my blood pressure. Our limo friend met us and a wheelchair in Newark. Tom’s Cardiologist is expected to have some miracle cure and not just tell us that it is old age. Meanwhile, Tom keeps smiling and seems happy with life, and still says “how can I complain - I like naps anyway”. He says he feels fine and apologizes that he really can’t manage even a flight of stairs without having to then lay down and rest. He missed all the private tours, all the special meals he had researched and remembered, and the ice skating spectacular. Until the last couple days, he missed any eating but a spoonful or two at a time but now his appetite has totally improved.

Marie arrives from Kansas University in Lawrence December 21 (to the 26th). She wants to be a medical student so she may be the one helping Tom to some medical testing. I will hopefully give her a day in New York City (with lots of foot miles) and a car if she wants to do something on her own.

We plan to meet her again in Las Vegas January 1 (to the 8th) and already have some big name show tickets that we hope Tom can attend. We have two adjoining apartments in the MGM. PS. Don’t think we haven’t invited our daughter and grandson but they don’t seem to want to travel like we do. We hope and believe that means they are happy where they are.

Arrival in Newark? Ha ha ha. From weather: Yesterday, the temperature in New York City reached 58 degrees. Today, snow has begun coming down and was forecast to fall throughout the morning.

Me? I think I wouldn’t mind being snowed in for a couple days.

The following artwork is from Nola’s daily diary. Maybe more to come.



End of an adventure!

Next is a review of the Ice Skating Arena **Palavela** - <https://convention.turismotorino.org/en/palavela>

- The workers and volunteer workers were exceptional and went out of their way to help.
- The Cuban security guard at the entrance to the private parking, heard my frustration, agreed that there simply wasn't sufficient parking, and let me park right next to him all day. Twice. He refused my €20.
- The seating volunteer ran around finding us answers and got us our VIP passes.
- The volunteer handing out VIP bags and stadium seating pillows felt so bad at running out that she took it upon herself to get our bags when finally more came in. We had a total of four times in line prior. She too refused my monetary thank you. (An administrative problem was they were indiscriminately giving out the bags so no wonder they ran out.)
- The VIP lounge worker ran around trying to find the Wi-Fi password. Service came and went. I wanted to stay in contact with Tom so I paid up for international calling.
- The food servers in the lounge took it upon themselves to give me double servings. I'm sure they saw me making sandwiches so I could get out of there and I know they saw me catching their eye and grinning over the crazy Asians (who were like swarming ants, jamming the facilities, and knew no sense of courtesy).
- The facilities were totally overwhelmed. Where there should have been 10 bathrooms there was one. Where there should have been multiple snack bars, there were two. Even where the lines were short, which was rare, the service was incredibly slow due to their methods and paperwork. The snack bar required a line for the cashier, then another line to place your order then another wait.
- To gain access to the VIP lounge required going outside and fully halfway around the entire arena. To get to it required three stories up cement stairs which equaled six flights. The elevator was often out of order.
- The VIP lounge might have been suitable for 1/3 the number of people who had paid for access. Even worst is that Asians didn't hesitate to take over my spot no matter that it required sitting on my coat two different times.
- We are in Italy but no coffee in lounge! I brought instant. (Later in the week coffee arrived.)
- The parking facilities were nowhere near sufficient. Cars were all over the streets. It seemed a rather desperate situation. One day the residential street I'd found had cars double parked and with no driver even.
- Even though we had VIP seating, it was a flat metal seat with no back and no room to cross your legs. There were no railings on the stairs.
- Oddly there was limited to no security nor much checking of tickets. Didn't stop backpacks or ban food.
- Remember these Grand Prix Finals has first been scheduled to be in Strasbourg France. When they changed to Torino this arena was closed for renovation. We can't imagine what was renovated but almost surprised the Italian got whatever it was done.
- Their opening ceremony was one of the best we have ever seen. Maybe equal to Boston's World's.

## **Itinerary**

### **Fri Nov 22 – Steve and Nola**

8:27am Depart Denver DEN via UA#576  
2:00pm Arrive Newark EWR for connection

### **Fri Nov 22 - Beverly**

10:45am Depart St Louis STL via UA#4234  
2:23pm Arrive Newark EWR for plane change

### **- Beverly, Tom, Diana, Steve and Nola**

5:45pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#40  
Beverly in seat 17F. Steve and Nola in 18 A&B.

### **Sat Nov 23**

8:05am Arrive in Rome FCO

Transport arranged through apartment rental. Elie (Mr.) at Tele: is +39 328 317 2346 – Burtons to cover. Reminder: check in is 3pm but we can store luggage.

Apartment “Domitilla” Splendid Rome Penthouse – 3 nights  
7 Via XXIV Maggio, Rome 00187

Greeter: Adriana Caló of Commendable Rentals LLC. [calo.adriana@commendablerentals.com](mailto:calo.adriana@commendablerentals.com)  
[www.commendablerentals.com](http://www.commendablerentals.com) Tele: +39.388.364.33.89 also Susan Doull,  
[Susan@commendablerentals.com](mailto:Susan@commendablerentals.com) +1 843-548-4213 and + 33(0)675530340

Reservation #497077733; 3552 sq. ft., Bedrooms 3, Bathrooms 2, Sleeps 5 – Near Trevi Fountain. From website - <https://commendablerentals.com/properties/splendid-rome-penthouse-near-trevi-fountain-with-spectacular-terraces-and-views/> - - *Splendid duplex penthouse apartment set on one of Rome's famous Seven Hills, and just steps away from the Quirinale Palace, one of the President's residences.*

*This penthouse apartment on the fifth floor offers 2 terraces, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and views to die for. It sleeps 5 in comfort. The apartment and its terraces surmounts two "palazzi", one 19th Century and the other 20th. Its two terraces offer 360 degrees views of the entire Eternal City, with its evocative layers of centuries of History from Roman time through the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Neoclassic .Inside this two-floor apartment, on the first floor are the open plan living room, dining room, and its approaching gallery encased by terraces offering bird's eye views of all of Rome. The living room has 3 comfortable couches, iconic art books, and designer chairs. You will find a stereo and TV with satellite cable, offering International channels. The dining table sits 12. The adjoining kitchen has all amenities including electric water boiler, and Nespresso coffee maker. Of course, there is a full cooking stove, a dishwasher, a large fridge, and much more.*

*On this floor there are two bedrooms; a single bedroom and a double bedroom with a queen size bed. There is one bathroom. A large, easy to climb staircase goes to the second floor which is the top floor of the building. Here is the master bedroom with its own large bathroom, its own sitting room overlooking a very large terrace, again with fabulous 360° views of the domes: St. Peter's Cathedral, the Gianicolo Hill, the Roman Forum and other major landmarks of the city. From the master bedroom's unique half-moon shaped window, you can see the Roman Forum, and from the binocular window, you can see the cupola of San Martino and the Quirinale (Presidential Palace).Of course, there is WIFI throughout. We would kindly request children from age 12 and above. We can organize your entire stay with a wonderful Italian cook for a special meal at home cook, and/or, cleaning daily services upon request.Guides: We can organize many different tours of Rome, with a choice of some*

*of the best private guides in Rome. Experts in a variety of subjects, including: Archeology, Renaissance and Baroque Art and Culture, Food and Cooking, and even Shopping. Book a guide with us and in addition to the most famous landmarks, you might find yourself inside art collections, private museums, palaces, and monuments that are usually closed to the public. We can provide a personal shopper for any kind of shopping: fashion, design, furniture. The Neighborhood: Within a 15 minute walk from your Quirinal hill (the highest of the original Seven Hills of Rome and which starts from the top of Spanish steps across Via Veneto and the Trevi Fountain, up to Piazza del Quirinale), you will find: Museums, archeological sights, churches, fountains: Art lovers should head to Scuderie del Quirinale Museum and Palazzo delle Esposizioni, both of which host major exhibitions. Don't miss Palazzo Barberini, home to the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, and Borromini's Baroque church of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Palazzo Colonna and Palazzo Doria Pamphili famous for its beautiful architecture and art collection. Also within this area are Palazzo Massimo, which hosts the Roman museum, the Trajan's Market, and Piazza Venezia. You will want to walk along Via dei Fori Imperiali, for the majesty of the Roman Forum, it's easy to reach the Coliseum, flanking Colle Oppio with the ruins of the Baths of Trajan, or the Baths of Caracalla. In summer, the outdoor Opera in the latter is an experience of a Lifetime.*

*Palazzo Colonna, the church of Santa Maria in Via Lata, Villino Huffer, Casino dell'Aurora Pallavicini, Casa dei Cavalieri di Rodi, Palazzo Koch, and the church of San Pietro in Vincoli, with the statue of Michelangelo's Moses, are also worth a visit.*

NO plans for Saturday: recover, settle in and grocery shop.

Ideas of things to do:

- Overview on Hop On/Hop Off
- See trip notes from 11/15 with Steve and Nola and 12/17 with Marie
- Borghese Museum? <https://www.villaborghesetours.com/villaborghese-gallery-rome-tickets.html>
- Eat at Trattoria near to Coliseum – Taverna Fori Imperiali, via Madonna dei Monti, 9.
- Food tour in Trastevere (new area for Steve and Nola) excellent and then end at Villa.

Villa Farnesina in Trastevere area open Mon to Sat 9-2. <http://www.villafarnesina.it/?lang=en>

Eating Italy, Trastevere for Foodies - 4 hours - tickets at 82 Euros each

<https://www.eatingitalyfoodtours.com/rome/tours/trastevere-foodies/>

### **Sun Nov 24**

10:00am Diana and Tom - Tour with Franco's car to Tivoli for Villa Adrienne and Villa d'Estes. Room for 1 additional person in his car. (Offered to rent a van.) Franco: 0039 388 942 8435  
Cost € 65 per hour for two or three people and expecting about 5 hours.

### **Mon Nov 25**

9:00am All – tour with Franco in a rented minivan with driver. Advised Franco of address. Early start needed if we want to visit the Catacombs and St. Peter's Basilica. Includes an overview and out to Appian Way. Cost € 90 per hour all in. Everyone agreed to 5 hours for € 450 divided by 5 = €90 each. Ending near to apartment with a restaurant recommendation.

### **Tue Nov 26**

9:00am Leonardo to pick us up from apartment, 2 hours to hilltop town Civita di Bagnoregio, then 30 minutes to Orvieto the hilltop town of a pope, and then onto the Florence apartment. Cost is €600 divided by 5 = €120 each.

Orvieto: the "5 Reasons to Stop in Orvieto": <https://we3travel.com/orvieto-italy/>

Apt Via Maggio 50, Oltrarno area, Florence [www.vrbo.com/421522](http://www.vrbo.com/421522) – for 7 nights

Landlady: Françoise DEGRELLE at [florenceintoscana@gmail.com](mailto:florenceintoscana@gmail.com)  
+39-342 99 65 329 Italy or + 352-621 65 44 14 Luxembourg or +352-621 307 358

Rep to meet us: Joëan Capuchin at +39 329 1612018 – expecting us around 5-6pm  
Only 3 sets of keys available.



From [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com) – Conf#HA-VSYVVL: The apartment is located in one of the historical sites of Florence: via Maggio, next to the Pitti Palace and the famous Boboli Garden and it's just a few minute walk from Ponte Vecchio. The street itself has always been the street of the antique shops in Florence, however, since it's only a short walk from the historical square of Santo Spirito, the area is surrounded by typical local restaurants and by many other shops for each type of need. The Palace, though very old, in fact it belonged to the Corsini family until the XIXth century and then to the Rosselli del Turco family it is still under the protection of the Fine Arts, but has a modern elevator and the apartment maintains the beauty of a conservative restoration and provides all the amenities and comforts. In the apartment there is a spacious living room of 40sqm or 1292 SF, a separate dining room with a dining table for 6 persons and a fully equipped kitchen. The master bedroom has a king size bed and it is very spacious and comfortable. The second bedroom has a baldachin king size bed and both the bedrooms has original drawings on the walls. In the loft there is a double bed. There are three bathrooms. In the apartment there is AC in all the rooms, WIFI internet access. The renovation has been completed in October 2012 so the apartment is brand new and accurate in every detail.

### **Wed Nov 27**

AM ½ day tour with Elizabeth through Pitti Palace plus more - for 5 who want to go – compliments of Burtons, then lunch on your own at Cammillo Trattoria , Borgo S.Jacopo, 57r. Tele: 055 212 427.

Beverly found Opera di Firenze – Rigoletto at 20:00 | Maggio Musicale Fiorentino  
See: <https://www.italianticketoffice.it/Opera-Di-Firenze-Rigoletto-Tickets-346780-en.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwxMjnBRcTARIsAGwWnBPD40-oPYjLA1RaqLsNZOMmPiuNCUEt5Q0juJZoKWdX8ODo6AW-CgwaAhEmEALw>

Same location as 2015 with tickets for €60-100. Diana offered to go with Beverly. No takers.

### **Thu Nov 28**

Day Full day with Leonardo for 5 – compliments of Burtons. Lucca and Pisa again as it's an excellent tour with special restaurant per Tom.

Idea: Hire Leonardo for Assisi, or Siena again, or to Vinci, Leonardo da Vinci's town, or to Cortona 1 ½ hour drive from Florence - *Cortona is a hilltop town in Tuscany, Italy. The Etruscan Academy Museum displays a vast collection of bronze, ceramic and funerary items reflecting the town's Etruscan past. The museum also includes an Archaeological Park with multiple sites, including city fortifications and stretches of Roman roads. Near the Renaissance-era cathedral is the Diocesan Museum, with sacred furnishings, plus paintings by Fra Angelico. Elevation: 1,621'*  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g187894-Cortona\\_Province\\_of\\_Arezzo\\_Tuscany-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g187894-Cortona_Province_of_Arezzo_Tuscany-Vacations.html)

### **Fri Nov 29**

Idea: Our Uffizi tour with Elizabeth was excellent or see her website for other ideas in and within the area of Florence. <https://signatureitaly.com/florence-escape-2019/>

3:00pm Food tour with Curious Appetite booked for Diana and Tom (recommended by Leonardo). Carol at <https://curiousappetitetravel.com/about/> - We booked the 3-hour sampling at €85 each.

Idea: Another food tour we've done is in our neighborhood. Florence "Other Side" Food Tour. <https://www.eatingitalyfoodtours.com/florence/tours/oltrarno/> - about 4 hours - €75 each.

Eve Beverly found: Chiesa di Santa Monaca, Italian Opera selections 60-70 minutes, just arias, no costumes or scenery for €29. No takers but I would go if timing works.

### **Sat Nov 30**

AM Elizabeth hired for the morning. Others are invited if they want to join in. Diana and Tom looking at Elizabeth's Medici tour "Medici theme with San Lorenzo church, New Sacristy, Medici Chapels and Medici house".

### **Sun Dec 1**

Open

### **Mon Dec 2**

Open

Other ideas":

- Eat at White Boar, eat at Elizabeth's choice restaurant after the Pitti Palace tour
- Opera? There is a downtown old opera house. Went with Marie and Tom.
- Beverly found an event at the new opera house where we went before. Open suggestion.
- Palazzo Vecchio "secret tour" – in a larger group but with access to some rooms that normally are "off limits" by museum staff. Per Elizabeth. (Done by Diana) There is another stairway to the heavens here!

### **Tue Dec 3**

Early am? Leonardo to pick up at apartment, take coastal route, stopping in Portofino for lunch. Cost €730 divided by 5 = €146 each  
Offered that we probably had one extra small bed with half bath in Torino if needed.

Rental car Torino train station – Turin Turati Center, Corso Filippo Turati, 37  
Hertz Reservation #H9873069808 - small automatic – Tom using bus

Note from Torino landlady Chiara: From the car rental it's just a couple of minutes by car to reach the villa. She confirms there is room inside the gate for 2 small cars. Steve also has a rental car.

Villa In Crocetta area – 7 nights  
Via Fratelli Carle, 20, Torino Piemonte 10129 Chiara Tele: +39 347 556 0014

From <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/14235359?s=1> - Confirmation #HM8285JWPR - Entire Villa, Charming 300 sqm (3229 SF) villa a few minutes from downtown - 5 bedrooms (2 being single beds) and 4 ½ baths, three floors. Three bedrooms with ensuite bath on top floor. Small bedroom on ground floor. This beautiful villa in the heart of Crocetta is the perfect retreat for a Turin stage.

*It is not just a unique dwelling in its style and in its elegance, but also a strategic location. Despite being just minutes from the city center, you will have the impression of being outside the urban area thanks to the lovely garden with tall trees that surrounds and isolates it from the rest of the neighborhood, allowing you to enjoy the quietness and tranquility of your stay. 300 square meters of rooms on 3 floors are at your disposal. On the mezzanine floor there are two large living rooms, a study and a bathroom. On the first floor you will find a large kitchen, a dining room, a sitting room and a single bedroom with its own bathroom. The top floor is the sleeping area, a master bedroom suite with walk-in closet and private bathroom, two double bedrooms each with a private bathroom, a sitting area with a sofa that converts to a single bed and another walk-in closet. Guests will have access to the garden of the villa through a private driveway. You can park more cars in the part pertaining to the residence. We will take care to welcome you and show you the house on your arrival.*

*Review by Mary - Chiara's house is a once in a lifetime experience, exceptional in every way! The artwork, architecture, spacious rooms, tradition and thoughtfulness wowed us from the time of arrival to departure. This mansion is tucked away in a lovely neighborhood in Torino. As we stepped inside we were able to piece together the story of generations of a prominent Torino family, successful business people who created a luxurious environment for their children, grandchildren, posterity, and now guests of Airbnb. Throughout our three day visit, the house unfolded like a puzzle, revealing hints of a glorious time past when parquet floors, bronze reliefs, and cinnamon scented bed pillows were the norm. We continued to marvel the entire time, thinking how lucky we were to discover this unique treasure in the beautiful city of Torino. But don't tell too many people... because once they discover Chiara's house, it will be impossible to get a reservation! Our special time at Chiara's was the crowning glory of a two week visit to the Italian lake region. We would make a trip to Tornino again just to stay there!*

Ideas of things to do:

- Hop On/Hop Off bus available.
- Piedmont area has Asta, Alba and well-known wineries. Beautiful countryside. Lots of hilltop towns.
- Milan is one hour train ride.
- See 05/17 Piedmont trip notes at [www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com](http://www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com)
- Our Airbnb has listing of tours and agents.
- Nola found a food tour: Turin Old Cafes 3-Hour Tour with Bicerin at Piazza San Carlo 2019 <https://www.viator.com/tours/Turin/Turin-Coffee-Break-Historic-cafeterias-literature-and-delicacies/d802-61722P2> -- but not available off season, so see <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/italy/articles/the-best-cafes-and-coffee-shops-in-turin-italy/>
- Eat! <http://slowitaly.yourguidetoitaly.com/2013/11/10-reasons-why-turin-should-be-on-your-italy-bucket-list/>
- Eataly - Started in Torino Italy and now in Paris and Las Vegas: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/13/travel/oscar-farinetti-eataly-paris.html>  
<https://www.seriousseats.com/2008/05/italy-eataly-torino-turin-grocery-store.html>

Area of Villa: 2.3 miles from Sitea Hotel in historic city center where we stayed. 3.3 miles to Arena.

Transport per landlady: Bus cost is 1.70€ but the daily ticket should be 4€. To go to the center by bus is about 15 minutes (you just have to take one bus) or 5 minutes by car.

Good info on transport and metro being nearby:



[https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g187855-i842-k3118040-How far is palavela auditorium from Turin city centre-Turin Province of Turin Piedmont.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g187855-i842-k3118040-How%20far%20is%20palavela%20auditorium%20from%20Turin%20city%20centre-Turin%20Province%20of%20Turin%20Piedmont.html)

**Wed Dec 4**

8:45am Start of Grand Prix Skate Practice through 4:35pm  
Palavela Arena, Via Ventimiglia 145, 10126 Turin <https://www.torino2019.com/>  
In Nizza area near Lingotto and Station Regina, just south of Museo dell Automobile de Torino and closer to the famous rooftop auto racing test track. One blog says the metro is just 2 blocks away. North is Caduit Sur Lavoro; near is Alba Sommariva; as is via Vinovo

10:00am Half day walking tour arranged with Lara, guide known by Elizabeth. Lara Carbonatto, [carbonatto@libero.it](mailto:carbonatto@libero.it) Cell +9 339 8150277. Lara will meet Tom, Steve and Nola at the apartment, show the bus to downtown for walking tour. Tour compliments of Burtons. (Beverly and Diana will be at skate forum.)

**Dec 5-8**

ISU Grand Prix Finals event at Palavela Arena  
Via Ventimiglia 145, 10126 Turin <https://www.torino2019.com/>

**Sun Dec 8**

2:00pm Exhibition Gala aka Spectacular at Palavela Areana until 4:30pm  
Beverly has tickets for all 5

**Mon Dec 9**

Open day Might hire Lara again if she's good

**Tue Dec 10 – Tom and Diana**

4:00am? Turn in rental car at airport  
6:05am Depart Torino TRN via Lufthansa LUF#305  
7:35am Arrive Frankfurt FRA for plane change  
  
11:05am Depart Frankfurt FRA via United Dreamliner 10 UA#961  
2:00pm Arrive Newark EWR  
No car booked – use Uber

**Tue Dec 10 – Steve, Nola and Beverly**

10:25am Depart Turin TRN via Air Dolomiti #EN8843 and LH#9521  
11:45am Arrive Frankfurt FRA for plane change

**- Beverly**

1:00pm Depart Frankfurt FRA via UA#906  
3:35pm Arrive Chicago O'Hare ORD for plane change

5:50pm Depart Chicago O'Hare ORD via UA#4626  
7:13pm Arrive St Louis STL

**- Steve and Nola**

1:30pm Depart Frankfurt FRA via UA#8878 operated by Lufthansa  
3:45pm Arrive Denver DEN

**Emergencies**

Sign up at [www.Travel.state.gov](http://www.Travel.state.gov) – STEP program

## ***Embassy***

Rome - US Embassy

Via Vittorio Veneto, 121, 00187 Roma RM, Italy Tele: +39 06 46741

Florence - US Consulate General

Lungarno Amerigo Vespucci, 38, 50123 Firenze FI, Italy Tele: +39 055 266951

Milan - Consulate General of the United States

Principe Amedeo Street, 2/10 - 20121 Milan Tele: +39 02 290351

***Point of Contact*** - Carl Greeson, central point of contact if emergency: 573 999 2119

***Emergency Assistance Plus Program*** – 24/7 – card in file and in Diana's wallet

United Mileage Plus member #0186014 – ID#04-7500132793 - family

Tele: 866 816 2073 or 603 328 1752 collect or questions 877 815 5567

***Cell Phone***: recommend having ability to turn on cell phone. With AT&T, its \$10 a day all in. Prior authorization required. I keep in Airplane Mode but have this as back up. On WiFi, texting to other iPhones is free. **Turn on Airplane mode** before taking off from the U.S.

How to Plan In Case Things Go Wrong: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/20/travel/how-to-plan-in-case-things-go-wrong.html>

## ***Packing and reminders***

Wash cloth, bar soap – all rare in Europe as are decent Kleenex tissues if you're particular

Bag of powdered detergent

Face mask for airplane and bright Rome apartment

Phone battery back-up

Robe or jammies and slippers

Grocery bag

Zip bags as they are hard to find in Europe

Plug adapter – I will have 2 spares to loan

Download Google Offline maps of Rome, Florence and Torino

Download Google Offline translator for Italian

**Basic Italian words** and phrases for your trip to Italy

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/basic-italian-words-phrases>

**Rome tourist info and ideas:**

Re Rome - Archaeologists Uncover Hidden Chamber in Nero's Pleasure Palace Under the Colosseum - There is an underground archaeological tour that I have tried to go on before but it sells out early.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/archaeologists-uncover-hidden-chamber-in-neros-pleasure-palace-under-the-colosseum>

Ten top churches in Rome – should have added San Carlito! -

<https://www.walksofitaly.com/blog/rome/the-most-jaw-dropping-churches-in-rome-that-arent-called-st-peters-a-pilgrimage-to-rome-guide>

Moloch statue at Rome Colosseum - <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/139530/under-watchful-eye-vatican-canaanite-idol-moloch-on-display-in-rome/>

**Libraries of Italy:** <https://www.lifeinitaly.com/culture/the-most-beautiful-libraries-in-italy>

Rome – Vatican – no way in? Inquire of Franco who is licensed guide to Vatican?

Rome – Biblioteca Angelicain Piazza d'Sant' Agostino, #8, just north and east of Navona, with guided tours for groups by arrangement; public?

Rome – Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale near Termini Station, open to public?

Florence – Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale at Piazza dei Cavalleggeri; open to public?

Florence – Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana at Basilica di San Lorenzo compound, architect Michaelangelo.

**Florence tourist and ideas**

Libraries in Florence by StudentsVille - <https://blog.studentsville.it/living-abroad-2/student-stories/libraries-in-florence/>

The Underrated Tuscan City You Need to Visit, According to a Chef Who Grew Up There

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/lucca-italy-according-to-chef-luca-moriconi>

A local's guide to Florence, Italy - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/italy/florence-local-guide/>

Trattoria near apt in Florence - <http://www.trattorialacasalinga.it/>

**Torino tourist info and ideas:**

<http://slowitaly.yourguidetoitaly.com/2013/11/10-reasons-why-turin-should-be-on-your-italy-bucket-list/>

Torino vs Turin: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/you-say-turin-oh-i-say-torino/>

Torino Eatly – Torino was the original of the now famous Eatly. There are two locations, ask tour guide or landlord which one to visit. [https://www.eataly.com/us\\_en/magazine/eataly-stories/story-of-eataly/](https://www.eataly.com/us_en/magazine/eataly-stories/story-of-eataly/)

Our 2-week trip to Torino and Piedmont area (Alba, Asti, etc.) can be found at [www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com](http://www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com) - 2017

The Secret Art Collection of a Reclusive Italian Tycoon Is Unveiled -

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/arts/design/cerruti-collection-castello-di-rivoli.html>

From Nola - A chocolate lover's guide to the best chocolate in Turin -

<https://www.wanderlustingk.com/travel-blog/chocolate-turin>

### **Miscellaneous tourist**

23 Ways To Make Long Flights Less Miserable –

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/long-flights-more-comfortable-tips\\_15d9b5c62e4b03b475f9d6ecb](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/long-flights-more-comfortable-tips_15d9b5c62e4b03b475f9d6ecb)

An ok article but most of what we already know. Maybe helpful for packing list. On the long-haul EWR to Rome all tare upgraded to economy plus. Tom and I will pass two ditty bags to you if you need earplugs, facemask, lotion, non-slip socks, toothbrush, etc. We will have at least two extra plug adapters.

Hunting for the Real Pasta all'Amatriciana - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/travel/pasta-alla-amatriciana-amatrice.html>

Italy Declares War on McDonald's - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/italy-declares-war-on-mcdonalds>