

# Flavors of Italy

## With Michigan Radio

October 2 – 13, 2022

*"You may have the universe if I may have Italy."*  
Giuseppe Verdi



Italy owns an astonishing thirty percent of the world's cultural heritage, according to UNESCO. Fine arts, architecture and design are maybe the best-known treasures, but music, food and wine have also left a great legacy throughout the centuries.

Join **MICHIGAN RADIO** host, Executive Director and General Manager, **Steve Schram**, on a twelve-day tailor-made art, food, wine and music lover's journey to "Bella Italia" and celebrate the lives of Verdi, Michelangelo and Da Vinci! Walk in the footsteps of great Italian masters by visiting the very places they loved, lived and worked. Enjoy in-depth, private tours highlighting the origins of painting and sculpture in central Italy. Along the way, you'll be introduced to the culinary arts and visit the producers of fine wines, delicious olive oils and mouth-watering cheeses. This exclusive custom MICHIGAN RADIO journey will also include an entertaining cooking class, outings to colorful markets, Italy's stunning Lake District, the towering hill towns of central Italy and ancient Rome. Celebrate the arts with MICHIGAN RADIO in "Bella Italia!" *Space is limited*

### TRIP AT A GLANCE

- 2 Nights on the shores of stunning Lake Maggiore
- 3 Nights Parma/ Bologna (Italy's premier food producing region)
- 3 Nights in Montecatini, Tuscany
- 3 Nights Eternal Rome, Province of Lazio



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Hosted by Michigan Radio ❖ Exploring the low alps and villages of Lake Maggiore ❖ A tour of Bologna's Museum of Musical Instruments and university ❖ Walk in footsteps of Verdi and Puccini ❖ Explore the colorful food markets of Bologna ❖ Visit the producer of Balsamic Vinegar in Modena ❖ Explore the UNESCO site and mosaics of ancient Ravenna ❖ An in-depth tour of Rome ❖ The spa town of Montecatini, Tuscany ❖ Tuscan Hill Towns ❖ Wine, cheese, balsamic vinegar, olive oil and grappa tastings ❖ Guided visits of the Uffizi and Accademia Museums in Florence ❖ Time for self-discovery ❖ Travel with like-minded friends of MICHIGAN RADIO.

## IT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ With MICHIGAN RADIO Executive Director/ General Manager Steve Schram
- ✓ Fully guided by a veteran, Italian, bi-lingual Earthbound Expeditions guide
- ✓ Airport transfers upon arrival and departure in Italy for those arriving with the group
- ✓ An audio whisper system provided on most walking tours (*whenever available*)
- ✓ Private guided museum tours by local experts
- ✓ Eleven nights of accommodation in charming hotels (*Superior 3 and 4 star*)
- ✓ Transportation from Lake Maggiore to Rome by private motor coach
- ✓ All breakfasts, plus 11 multi-course meals featuring regional specialties (*with wine provided with dinner*)
- ✓ All entrance fees as listed in your tailor-made itinerary
- ✓ Gratuities for your driver, guide and local guides
- ✓ Entertaining Italian lessons en-route
- ✓ Complimentary evening wine and cheese pre-dinner gatherings
- ✓ Pre-trip educational reading/video and packing lists
- ✓ Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions
- ✓ A small, fun group of like-minded MICHIGAN RADIO fellow travelers

Not Included: Airline tickets, trip insurance and any items not mentioned in your custom Michigan Radio itinerary.

## TRIP FACTS

12 Days/ 11 Nights (land)

\$5,395 Per Person based on Double Occupancy

\$1,275 Single Supplement

\$1,295 Group air from Detroit on United / Lufthansa departs Oct. 1, 2022

Airport transfers in Italy included

Trip begins in Stresa, Lake Maggiore on October 2, 2022

Trip ends in Rome on October 13, 2022 Group flight returns to the USA on October 13, 2022

**RISK FREE:** Your \$500 reservation deposit is fully refundable until May 1, 2022

**SAVE \$350:** Travel alumni save \$100 \* Pay by check and save \$100 \* Reserve before May 1, 2022 and save \$150



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*Your journey begins on stunning Lake Maggiore!*

*"No man is lonely eating spaghetti...it requires too much attention."*

Christopher Morley

## *Your Journey Begins!*

### **Day 0: Saturday, October 1 - Depart the USA for Bella Italia**

Say "arrivederci" to the USA and make your way to Italy's majestic Lake District.

Note: Remember, you'll lose a day on the way to Italy so if not joining the group flight, please make sure to depart the USA on or before October 1, 2022 and arrive at the Malpensa Airport in Milan. \*Group flight scheduled to arrive from Detroit via Frankfurt at 8:15am on October 2-

### **Day 1: Sunday, October 2 - Arrive on Glorious Lake Maggiore**

Buongiorno! Welcome to bella Italia. Many believe this to be Italy's most beautiful region and Lake Maggiore certainly is a stunning place to start our journey. Take some time to enjoy the rich atmosphere of this northern Italian gem. This evening, meet host Steve Schram and your guide for a welcome orientation and multi-course dinner. *Sleep on the shores of Lake Maggiore (D)*

**Note: About the day of arrival:** For those arriving on the group flight, your guide will be in the arrival hall waiting for you this morning. From Malpensa Airport it's a short one-hour drive to our charming lakeside home, Stresa. All non-group flight guests are invited to join this private shuttle if you notify our office 14 days prior to departing the USA. Shuttles, buses and taxis are also available for independent travelers wishing to arrive early or on a different flight. Please make sure to fly into Malpensa Airport.



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*Spend three nights in Italy's Culinary Capital, Bologna!*

### **Day 2: Monday, October 3 - Stunning Lakefront Villages**

Buongiorno! After a delicious breakfast join your guide for a morning excursion by boat to Isola Bella. Located just 400 yards offshore, the island is a natural treasure. Enjoy the unparalleled views of the lake and Alps. Tour a baroque palace and a luxuriant Italian-style garden. The garden is full of flowers and exotic plants of great rarity. The white peacocks that wander over the manicured lawns add their grace to this enchanting spot.

After our morning visit, enjoy an independent lunch. Options this afternoon? Hop a cable car to the top of a local mountain and soak up the stunning views of the Swiss alps and lake district below. Or, participate in a traditional passeggiata (afternoon stroll) along the lakeshore where a two-mile long promenade meanders past florid gardens and chic cafes.

Note: Set in the low Alps on the border of Switzerland, the town of Stresa is known for its spectacular beauty, ornate palaces and lush gardens. Garden lovers won't want to miss the Giardino Botanico Alpina, whose collections includes 1000 alpine and subalpine species.

In the early evening let's gather for an included dinner featuring regional specialities.

*Sleep on the shores of Lake Maggiore (B, D)*



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*“Life is a combination of magic and pasta.”*

*Federico Fellini*



**Day 3: Tuesday, October 4 - South to Bologna via Busetto &**

**Modena:** Nestled between the Veneto and Lombardia to the north, and Tuscany to the south, the region of Emilia-Romagna is not well-known to many visitors. The cities of Bologna, Ferrara, and Rimini are often overlooked by tourists traveling between Venice and Florence, but these cities have long histories as well, since 187 B.C. when the Romans built Via Emilia. Bologna is also the site of the oldest university in the western world.

But what will be most immediately recognizable to foreign visitors to this region is its food. Some of the most prominent products and favorite Italian dishes hail from this region. Emilia Romagna is the only region in Italy where Parmigiano Reggiano cheese can be produced, as well as Prosciutto di Parma and the Balsamic Vinegar of Modena. It is the home of stuffed pastas, from tortellini to tortelloni to capallacci. While in Bologna, enjoying a plate of homemade pasta topped with bolognese sauce is a must.

Today let's savor the region's edible art by enjoying tastings with the producer Balsamic vinegar di Modena. Along the way, we'll also tour Verdi's hometown. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*

**Day 4: Wednesday, October 5 - A Food, Wine & Music Lovers' Dream**

In addition to being Italy's culinary capital, the music of Toscanini, Rossini, Monteverdi, Verdi, Pavarotti and Stradivarius will forever be associated with this region.

Your day of gourmet delights begins when you meet your knowledgeable English-speaking guide in the city center of Bologna. Rich with architecture, history, student life and artisanal food products, your guide will show you a fascinating side of Bologna most tourists never discover. Together we will visit the historic medieval market, a one-of-a-kind foodie experience! See (and sample) the huge rounds of mortadella, flavorful ciccioli and sausages and the mouthwatering cheese.

Then, it's a short stroll over to the University of Bologna. Here we'll tour one of the world's oldest and most beautiful anatomical theatres. Your guide will be happy to leave you at one of Bologna's wonderful trattorias for some of their famous filled tortellini pasta.

Note: This afternoon's option? Tour the "Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale."

7:00pm meet in the lobby of the hotel and walk to dinner. *Sleep in Bologna (B, D)*



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### About Il Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale:

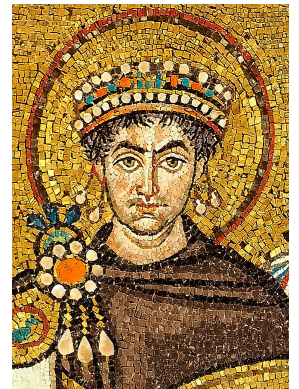
The original core of the museum's musical collection is credited to the Franciscan Father, (Bologna, April 24, 1706 - August 3, 1784), who was one of the most famous and complex personalities of the eighteenth-century European music world. He was also a great scholar and collector, a theorist and composer, and a teacher of counterpoint, where Johann Christian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were among his students.

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### Day 5: Thursday, October 6 - South to UNESCO's Artful Ravenna

Ravenna is one of the most unusual towns in Italy. As the capital of the Western Roman Empire (from A.D. 402), the Visigoth Empire (from A.D. 473), and the Byzantine Empire under Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora (A.D. 540-752), Ravenna became one of the greatest cities on the Mediterranean.

Ravenna achieved its cultural peak as part of the Byzantine Empire between the 6th and the 8th centuries, and it is known for the many well-preserved mosaics created during that time ~ the finest in all Western art and the most splendid outside Istanbul. The low Byzantine domes of its churches still evoke its Eastern past. Following our in-depth tour enjoy a wonderful lunch. We then return to Bologna in time for an independent dinner. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*



### Day 6: Friday, October 7 - A Day with Michelangelo and Da Vinci:

This morning we'll drive the short distance to bustling Florence. Though teeming with tourists, Florence is still well worth the intellectual and physical effort, for inside the city walls lies one of the world's greatest collections of paintings, architecture and sculpture. Simply said, the city contains the entire history of the renaissance. Works by Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Brunelleschi and their fellow masters sit side by side in the Florence's world-renowned galleries.

This morning, journey into the world of Botticelli, Raphael and Michelangelo with a privately guided visit of the Uffizi Art Gallery. Your mid-afternoon is free for lunch.



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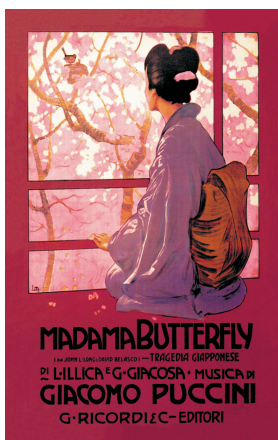


*Savor the wines of Tuscany*

*“Wine is constant proof that God loves us and wants to see us happy.”*  
- Benjamin Franklin

This afternoon tour the Galleria dell’Accademia which houses Michelangelo’s celebrated David. Once inside, you’re also treated to his unfinished and powerful Slaves, along with works by Perugino, Giambologna, and Botticelli.

In the late afternoon we depart bustling Florence for the tranquil Tuscan hill town, Montecatini. *Sleep in renowned Tuscan Spa Town, Montecatini (B, D)*



**Day 7: Saturday, October 8 – Friday, June 9 - In Pursuit of Puccini:  
The Tuscan Hill Town of Lucca**

Today, it’s a short drive to one of Tuscany’s most charming hill towns, Lucca! Together, we’ll walk in Puccini’s footsteps by visiting the very home where Puccini was born and Torre del Lago where the great master lived and worked. Puccini is buried inside a small chapel inside the villa.

For lunch, we will dine in a restaurant loved and frequented by Puccini himself.

The afternoon is yours to explore the little alleyways, cafes and shops of charming Lucca. *Sleep in Montecatini (B, L)*



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*Spend a day exploring Puccini's Lucca*

*"Open my heart and you will see graved inside of it, "Italy."  
- Robert Browning*

**Day 8: Sunday, October 9 – Hill Towns, Vineyards & Hot Thermal Waters**

Enjoy a relaxing morning in Montecatini. Take a hike up to the old town, or, visit one of the many spas, shops or cafes before meeting your guide and host for an outing to a nearby winery. Here we'll learn first-hand what makes Tuscan wines so unique and loved the world over. A delightful Tuscan lunch is included today. *Sleep in Montecatini (B, L)*

**Day 9: Monday, October 10 - All Roads Lead to Rome via Montepulciano**

This afternoon you'll enjoy a wine and olive oil tasting in the famed wine town of Montepulciano. This is one of Tuscany's tallest and most charming hill towns. After lunch we are off to the eternal city.

True to the adage "all roads lead to Rome," our journey brings us to the capital. If you love ancient history, colorful markets and world class museums, you will surely fall in love with Rome. Enjoy an independent dinner upon your arrival. *Sleep in Rome (B, L)*

**Day 10: Tuesday, October 11 - In the footsteps of Julius and Augustus**

Today we set off to explore what was once the political heart of the Roman Empire. In doing so, we will literally be walking in the illustrious footsteps of Julius, August, Nero and Trajan. Accompanied by a local historian, we'll stroll down the via Sacra from the Capitoline Hill to the Coliseum.

This evening, enjoy an included dinner in the ancient and colorful Trastevere neighborhood. *Sleep in Rome (B, D)*



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*Enjoy an in-depth walking tour of historic Rome*

**Day 11: Wednesday, October 12 – Colorful, Vibrant Neighborhoods**

Enjoy a fascinating walk across what was once ancient Rome (it's not as big as you might think). Our local guide will highlight the history and architecture of the gorgeous Campo di Fiori (flower market), Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps and Fountain of Trevi.

And since many of our fellow travelers have a very early morning flight to catch the following day, let's enjoy a hearty multi-course farewell feast in a charming trattoria in the heart of Rome. Note: Wishing to visit the Vatican Museum and Saint Peters? This afternoon would be the perfect time to do so. Your guide will be available to assist you with getting to additional sites. *Sleep in Rome (B, L)*

**Day 12: Thursday, October 13 - Return Home with a Lifetime of Memories**

Group airport transfer departs from the hotel this morning. You may wish to spend an additional night or two in Rome. (B) *Buon Viaggio!*

**QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS**

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## *Meet Your Host!*



Steve Schram is Executive Director and General Manager of Michigan Radio, the state's most listened to public radio service. Under Steve's leadership, the station's local journalism news team has won prestigious awards, including a Peabody Award, a national Scripps Award, DuPont-Columbia national journalism award and multiple Edward R. Murrow awards.

Steve currently serves as a Director on several boards for national and regional organizations in the public media industry, including the Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters, Public Radio in Mid America and the Radio Research Consortium.

And despite overseeing the public radio station affiliated with the University of Michigan, Steve is a proud graduate of Michigan State University and was honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2014 from the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences. He was also honored with the Michigan Association of Broadcaster's Hall of Fame distinction, awarded in 2016.

Steve and his wife Laurie live in Green Oak Township. They enjoy traveling and visited Italy in 2015, having explored Rome, Florence, Lake Como, Milan, Pisa, Assisi and more. They are excited to share the stunning sights and flavors of Italy with Michigan Radio listeners!

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## *About Earthbound Expeditions*

Established by veteran globetrotting guides, Matthew and Danna Brumley in 1997. Earthbound Expeditions team has over 75 + years of experience in the field. We are proud to be America's premier public radio travel provider. And, we are honored to have the opportunity to provide, educational, tailor-made adventures for many of America's top museums, botanica gardens to Europe, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Cuba, Central, North and South America. Matthew, Danna and team Earthbound Expeditions work and live on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Note: Matthew contributes to NPR member station KNKX- NPR. Matthew's travel stories and advice may be found at Going Place, KNKX.org



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## *Know Before You Go!*

**About Earthbound Expeditions:** Founded by veteran travel guides, Matthew and Danna Brumley in 1997. Today, Earthbound Expeditions is America's premier public radio travel provider. We are honored to have provided educational; tailor-made adventures for guests to Europe, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Cuba, Central, North and South America.

**Health Matters:** It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations, and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. Transportation will be by foot, train and private bus. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office.

**Dress:** In general, we suggest “casually smart” dress and a good pair of walking shoes. You may leave your formal attire and your treasured family heirlooms at home. You should also check the average monthly temperatures for your destination before you go.

For average temperatures see: [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

**Travel Insurance:** Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

**Concerts and Events:** If a planned concert or event is cancelled for any reason, another concert or event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Concerts are subject to change.

**Hosted Journeys:** If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Reservations:** A \$500 deposit is required to secure your space. An additional \$200 deposit is requested if opting for the group flight. Please call our travel staff with any questions or to confirm your reservation 800-723-8454.

**Risk Free Reservations:** Your reservation deposit is fully refundable until April 1, 2022

**Terms & Conditions:** Please read Earthbound Expeditions full terms and conditions [online](#).

~ Itinerary is Subject to Change ~



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**Carbonfund.org**

*Proud Partners Since 2008*

### **Environmental Commitment**

Through Earthbound's proud partnership with the Carbonfund.org, Earthbound Expeditions makes annual donations so as to help offset a guest's carbon footprint associated with international flights for Earthbound Expeditions tours.

These funds will be used to purchase and retire third-party validated and verified carbon offsets in voluntary carbon offset projects around the world, but these offsets only will neutralize some of our travelers' commercial flight emissions. Earthbound Expeditions makes a donation to the Carbonfund for every sign up.

Click [here](#) to learn more!



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