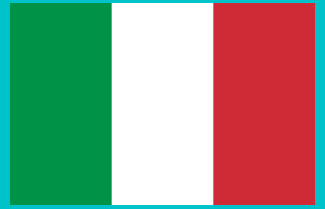




SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOL. 4

TOUR UPDATE

The Newsletter of mikesworldtour



Tour Highlight:

September 2022
Italy and Vatican City

When in Rome

Contributed by Michael Davis



When I found out that visiting Rome would allow me to see two countries in one trip, I knew I had to go. Ryanair hooked us up with the cheap flights (they are not sponsoring this, just had cheap flights to Rome). In Rome I was able to see historic sights, drink my way in Aperol Spritzes, and ate my bodyweight in Pizza and Pasta. The only downside to this weekend was that there was a public transportation strike during the weekend, so getting around the city was semi-difficult, but the weekend was still fantastic.

Rome is an interesting city because at times it feels very metropolitan, but then you are walking down the street and there are just ancient ruins that come out of nowhere. The food in Rome was amazing, and the Pasta and Pizza I ate was fantastic. Luckily we walked a lot, so I was able to burn some of those calories off. Coming back to Spain I definitely said grazie instead of gracias for a few days. Overall, Rome was a very unique city that allowed me to check off country #17 and #18.

Rome, Italy



Some quick tips for Rome :

- Uber is not a thing in Rome (they only have uber black) and taxis are expensive so try to stay walking distance to everything
- The airport is pretty far and airport taxis only take cash
- Be prepared to walk a lot!!!

FOOD & DRINK

Obviously Italy and Rome is known for its pizza, pasta, and gelato, so we tried to eat that for every meal. We also had many glasses of Aperol Spritzes for the ~vibes~. It really was a carb-loading weekend #bulkingseason. However in 2 days we walked 18 miles, so a lot of the calories eaten in the pizza and pasta ended up getting burnt off (hopfully). Food Recs include:

Pizza:

Pizza e Mozzarella: Super delicious and cheap pizza (its the one pictured on the right). There was a small line to order, but that is how you know its good. Really close to Trevi Fountain so great lunch spot. Not a lot of seating inside, we got lucky and found a table, but plan accordingly.

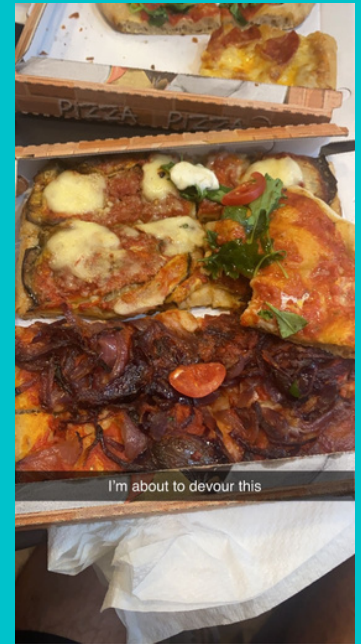
La Prezzemolina: Really delicious pizza as well, highly recommend the egg pizza (soooo good). Really close to the Roman Forum and Colosseum, so it is a good lunch place after visiting these places.

Pasta:

Osteria Da Fortunata: Not exaggerating, probably the best pasta I have ever had in my entire life. They do not take reservation, but the line to get inside does not take too long. The pasta is fairly priced at around 17-20 euros for a plate. This place is really famous so highly recommend to try it, it is absolutely so worth it.

Gelato:

I do not have any specific places for gelato that I went to but do have a couple tips. Do not go to the gelato places directly next to attractions like the Trevi Fountain or Colosseum. Find other places in the center of Rome. Google maps is your friend with ratings so use it, and my rule of thumb is if it had a line that meant it was probably pretty good.



Rome, Italy

EXPERIENCES

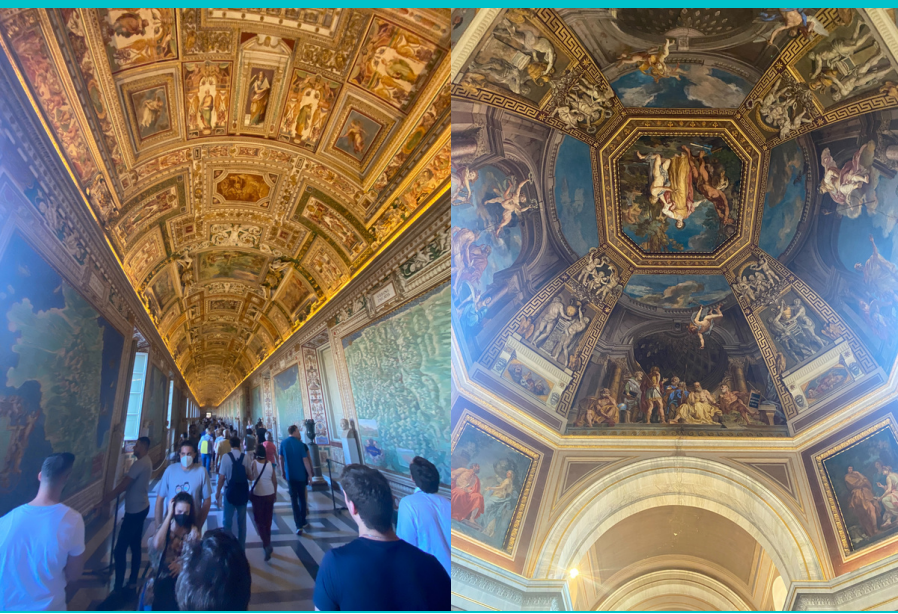
There is a lot of historic and famous sights to see in Rome, so expect to have action packed days. Luckily most of the sights are very close, so you are able to visit most of them in 1-2 days. You need to purchase tickets to enter the Vatican and the Colosseum. Sometimes the Colosseum fills for the day so be sure to buy your tickets early!

THE COLOSSEUM

One of the world wonder, a famous and must see in Rome. The Colosseum was super cool. You get a video tour and get to learn about the history about how the Colosseum was built (through Jewish slaves) and how it was used to entertain the people of Rome. It is the largest amphitheater ever built and was used for gladiator fights, animal fights, and naval exercises. Many people have died fighting in the Colosseum and its estimated there were around 400,000 in total. Entrance to the Colosseum was free to the public, but citizens had to sit by social class once they were inside. We spent around 2 hours walking through everything and inside they have mini-museums with artifacts and information about the building and events that took place.



VATICAN MUSEUMS



The Vatican Museums are inside the Vatican City. The Vatican is actually its own country, so in this trip I was able to visit country #17 as well as country #18. The Vatican Museums are a long stretch of corridors containing various Roman statues, Egyptian artifacts, and it ends in the Sistine Chapel. The Sistine Chapel was my favorite part, but unfortunately you cannot take any photos there. It is such an elaborate room where Michelangelo painted the entire ceiling in a very intricate design. It is very crowded and hot in here so be prepared to deal with the crowds. Unfortunately we spent too much time in the museums and did not get to enter St. Peter's Basilica because it closed, but it was cool to see it from the outside.

EXPERIENCES

SPANISH STEPS



The Spanish Steps were completed in 1725, and its main claim to fame is from a movie in 1953 called *Roman Holiday*. Ironically the Spanish did not finance these, but rather a French diplomat. The name comes from the Spanish Embassy to the Holy See which is at the base of the steps. In total there are 138 steps, and yes they do get harder the higher you go.

The Trevi Fountain is built at one of the terminal points in the Italian aqueduct system, which provides free drinking water throughout Rome. In 1629 Pope Urban VIII commissioned Gian Lorenzo Bernini to renovate the existing fountain. The project was eventually abandoned, but parts were used in 1732 when Nicola Salvi was commissioned by Pope Clement XII. The fountain reflects the god of water, and many believe throwing a coin in can bring good fortune. Unfortunately, it is prohibited to throw coins in the fountain today.

TREVI FOUNTAIN



THE PANTHEON



The Pantheon has free entry, so definitely a site you should see. It was completed in 126-128 A.D. (old am I right), and its design has influenced buildings in Europe and the US. Michelangelo claimed the design of the Pantheon was done by angels and not men.



EXPERIENCES

ROMAN FORUM



The Roman Forum is located right next to the Colosseum, and you buy a ticket to see both sights. It was founded by Romulus and Remus and is the sight of where Ancient Rome once began. Julius Caesar expanded the Forum once it became too crowded, and was the heart of the city in the past.

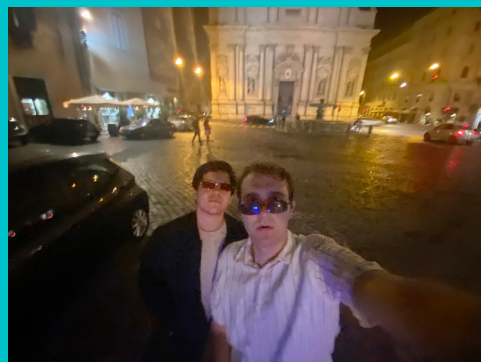
MONUMENT OF VITTORIO EMANUELE II



We happened to stumble upon this monument while walking in Rome, and I am very happy we decided to explore it. After climbing up multiple large sets of stairs it provides panoramic views of the city and the Colosseum. It also is home to the tomb of the unknown soldier. This sticks out in the middle of the city, so it is easy to find!



Rome is a very cool and historic city that will take you back in time while still having a metropolitan feel. Be sure not to drink too many Aperols, so that you can enjoy everything it has to offer!



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!