



TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

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Florence, Italy



Leather, Luxury Goods, and Truffle Pasta

Contributed by Michael Davis



A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

After World War II, King Emmanuel III promised the people of Italy a referendum on the type of government they want after living under a fascist regime headed by Benito Mussolini. After the referendum Italy became a republic with a 54% majority vote. A constitutional assembly was created with 3 main political parties; Christian Democracy, Italian Socialist Party, and the Italian Communist Party. The Christian Democrats won a plurality of votes in the first election. After Italy became a republic there was a post war economic boom leading to prosperity within the country. According to Freedom House, Italy has a rating of 90 that is free, but has seen some turbulence due to vaccine mandates and political instability.

Florence, Italy



Some quick tips for Florence :

- You can walk almost anywhere in the city fairly quickly
- The shopping here is great, but there are also a lot of other things to do
- Buy your tickets in advance for the David to skip the line

FOOD & DRINK

The food in Florence is very similar to Rome (pizza and pasta), so check out stop #4 for a good description of the foods in Italy. Florence has a wide variety of restaurants serving pasta and pizza in small buildings. Either way the prices are very fair, and you do not have to break your wallet to have a good meal here.

TRUFFLE PASTA



Italy is famous for its pasta, and the pasta in Florence is no different. I appreciated the decor in all of the restaurants. This restaurant we ate at was in a building that was 300 years old. The truffle pasta was delicious and I probably could have had 4 more portions of it (classic American).

Florence, Italy

EXPERIENCES

There is so much to see in Florence from huge palaces to the David and the Duomo. Everything is a quick walk, so you can go from each of these activities very easily.

CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE

The main Cathedral in Rome began construction in 1296 and was finished in 1436 by Filippo Brunelleschi. The exterior has a gothic style facade designed by Emilio de Fabris. It is one of the largest churches in Italy and is considered a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the largest brick dome that was ever constructed.



PITTI PALACE



The Pitti Palace is situated on the Arno River and is a Renaissance style palace. It was bought by the Medici family in 1549, and was the main residence for the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Napoleon briefly used the palace as his base when Italy was re-united. The palace was initially constructed by a Florentine Banker named Luca Pitti in 1458. Today the palace is the large museum complex in the city of Florence, and is home to paintings, jewelry, and an impressive group of outdoor gardens.

Florence, Italy

DAVID OF MICHELANGELO



Housed in the Galleria dell'Accademia, the David is probably one of the most famous attractions in Italy and Florence. It was built by Michelangelo between 1501 and 1504, and is 17 feet tall. The statue symbolizes the civil liberties represented in the city state of Florence at the time. There were many powerful states around Florence, but they stayed strong and independent. The gaze of the David is supposed to be towards Rome where the Medici family lived. The gaze is supposed to serve as a warning.

LEATHER SHOPS

Leathered goods are very popular in Florence, and it is easy to find shops that have existed for centuries home to families who have passed down leather making tradition for generations. All of these products are really great quality, and can last you for a while. I got a pair of leather shoes as well as a belt. It is really cool to go through all of the shops, and see the various leather products that are sold. They sell everything from bags to shoes to wallets and almost anything you can think of. They also were kind enough to spray my shoes to protect them from any weather. When looking for good quality clothing items, these stores are a must visit.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!