

AFW ELITE TEAM

TYPICAL ITALY TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1, Saturday – Departure Day

- ❖ Departure with AFW group gathering at airports in New York/Chicago/LA or fly directly from your airport scheduled to meet in Rome.
- ❖ Enjoy your overnight flight itinerary with dinner, movies, and *importantly get some sleep* as it is a challenging first day in Rome.

Day 2, Sunday – Classical Rome and The Incomparable Roman Coliseum

- ❖ Morning arrival at Rome Fiumicino International airport. Proceed through Customs and out to the reception area and be greeted by our full-time, bilingual tour manager who will be with you until the groups departure in Milan the following Sunday.
- ❖ Load your motor coach and depart to **Rome city centre** seeing several historical sites along the way.
- ❖ Be oriented in the beautiful **Piazza Navona**. Free time for lunch and a little exploration with our tour manager and AFW coach-chaperones present to make recommendations.
- ❖ The group will gather in the early afternoon to meet professional local guides who will provide a **tour of the Eternal City**. See the famous classical buildings, architectural wonders, fountains and squares of Rome including **the incomparable Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, the beautiful Spanish Steps and more!**
- ❖ Following the tour familiarizing you with Rome you will move to the one-and-only **Roman Coliseum**. Here you will enter one of the most recognizable structures in the world - and a true architectural marvel - where the original gladiators did battle centuries ago. Guides will take you through the Coliseum as well as to the adjacent Roman Forum where the Roman Empire and western civilization was shaped and influenced for centuries.
- ❖ Immediately afterward the group will enjoy a delicious Italian dinner then proceed to your Rome hotel for check-in. There may be a brief team meeting then it will be time for 'lights out' knowing there are many full and exciting days ahead. Welcome to **la vita dolce**.



Day 3, Monday – First AFW ELITE Practice, Vatican Museums & St. Peter's Basilica; More Rome into the Evening

- ❖ The team and staff will be up early for breakfast then proceed promptly to a nearby field for its **first USA-AFW ELITE team practice**. General position drill work and the first installation of offensive and defensive schemes will establish a foundation for our future success.
- ❖ Parents can arise a little later and enjoy breakfast with other guests then walk the local area.
- ❖ After an early lunch at the hotel after the players return after practice we will depart for an exciting afternoon and evening in Rome. Players should bring their helmets and game jerseys in the hopes that if time allows we will take a team photo in front of the Roman Coliseum.
- ❖ From this event the group will proceed to Vatican City to receive a **guided visit** of the well-known **Vatican Museums**. Learn more of the fascinating heritage of the Popes and the Roman Catholic Church, witness the beautiful **Sistine Chapel** by Michelangelo then be awed by the immense nature and beauty of **St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world**. Exiting the basilica you will have time in St. Peter's Square. The group will then be led back into the Piazza Navona area where you can visit some new historical or architectural sites, do some souvenir



shopping or revisit some of the more impressive sites you saw the day before. You will have free time for dinner of your choice in small groups.

- ❖ By mid-evening the group will gather to return to your Rome based hotel. There will be time to gather in the lobby or rooms to discuss the fantastic events of the day spent **in the Eternal City!**

Day 4, Tuesday – Tuscany featuring Siena

- ❖ Players and staff will be up early for breakfast then off to *AFW ELITE Practice 2* increasing the tempo, improving the timing, unit coordination and growing closer together as a USA-representative team.
- ❖ Family members will have a little extra sleep time but then need to be up for breakfast and then packed to beginning the checking out and bus loading process.
- ❖ Upon return from practice, players will shower, check out then grab a snack to load the bus.
- ❖ Then begin your journey to **Tuscany - Italy's "Green Valley"**.
- ❖ In the early afternoon you will arrive at the first Tuscany experience in the quaint and beautiful city of **Siena**, a strikingly well-preserved medieval gem and home to the famous '**Palio**' horse race. The convenient city centre – with its unique 'shell' main square (the 'Campo') and narrow streets – will leave a lasting impression. Upon arrival the group will receive a guided tour of this city that rivalled larger and powerful Florence for centuries.
- ❖ The later afternoon is free for shopping or relaxing at an outdoor 'Campo' café followed by a dinner in an authentic Italian restaurant.
- ❖ After dinner the group will proceed to Montecatini Terme, a town west of Florence known for its spas and relaxation, for your overnight rest – and possibly another serving of gelato at a nearby shop.



Day 5, Wednesday – Florence: "Birthplace of the Renaissance"

- ❖ After breakfast load depart for nearby Florence. Players need to have all of their gear packed in anticipation of our later afternoon co-practice with an Italian American football club.
- ❖ Upon arrival, be treated to a **guided walking tour of Florence** starting from Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio and its old shops, Palazzo Vecchio to the Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore and its imposing duomo. Florence will reveal itself as one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- ❖ The group will then proceed to a scheduled group lunch. You will then have free time to take in Michelangelo's David at the Accademia, one of the other world-renowned art galleries located in the Uffizi or Pitti Palace or explore Florence's fascinating outdoor markets featuring leather. At the end of the day, be certain to take in the fascinating artistic sites that Florence displays in abundance.
- ❖ In the late afternoon near, the team will gather and move to a nearby local athletic field to practice and scrimmage with members of the Guelfi American Football club. Family members are encouraged to continue to enjoy the many phenomenal sites that Florence has to offer.
- ❖ After a good workout the members of **AFW ELITE and Florence Guelfi** will have time to socialize over dinner and drinks at the sports complex restaurant.
- ❖ In the early evening the team will return with the motor coach to pick-up family members at a designated meeting area. The group will return to **Montecatini Terme** to pack for the following days departure and a much-needed night of rest.



Day 6, Thursday – Cinque Terra: "The Italian Riviera" to Como

- ❖ Early team breakfast for the players followed by morning practice at the nearby, turfed Palagina Sports Center. Parents can come to breakfast later then enjoy time strolling beautiful Montecatini.

- ❖ After returning to the hotel, parents need to be packed and ready with the players hustling through a quick shower. The group will checkout and promptly depart to the Mediterranean Coast to enjoy **Cinque Terra** – the “Italian Riviera” – which consists of five authentic Italian villages situated beneath or on steep hills where the Ligurian Sea laps against the shores. The five villages are linked by a convenient rail line that begins in **La Spezia** where you will begin and return at the end of your afternoon. During the day, enjoy a picturesque lunch in a hillside restaurant overlooking the sea or at a quaint beachfront bistro.



- ❖ Depart La Spezia in the late afternoon heading north to the Lake Como region north of Milan. This is our second, and last, lengthy drive taking us from central to northern Italy.
- ❖ Arrive at your hotel, check-in, freshen up, and have a later dinner followed by overnight rest.

Day 7, Friday – Lake Como and Final Pre-Game Practice (Co-practice with Italian National Team?)

- ❖ The team will be up early one last time for its final pre-game practice before their international contest the following day. Parents can enjoy breakfast later on their own and then stroll the local area.
- ❖ The team will return to the hotel to shower then the entire group will proceed to a lunch to take place around the noon hour at a local restaurant.
- ❖ After lunch the tour party will experience a special excursion crossing another international border to nearby **Lugano, Switzerland** – a lakeside city with the Swiss Pre-Alps serving as a dramatic backdrop. You will have some time to stretch your legs, shop for something Swiss (chocolates anyone?), then enjoy a lakeside espresso or cappuccino in this distinctly beautiful location.
- ❖ In the latter afternoon the group will return to Como a charming small city sits at the southern tip of famous **Lake Como**. There will be time to explore the lakefront – and possibly take the funicular up the adjacent hillside so that you can take in a bird’s eye view of the city and lake.
- ❖ Afterward, the group will then return to the hotel for dinner and a relaxing pre-game evening. Do not stay up too late as we have a rather early start – and tomorrow is Game Day!

Day 8, Saturday – Milan & Game Day: USA-AFW ELITE American Football in Italy!

- ❖ Enjoy breakfast then load up all your game and fan gear.
- ❖ The tour group will head to Milan for a concise tour of this remarkable city that for centuries served as the gateway for the Roman Empire to central Europe – and currently while doing the same for Italy is its financial and fashion capital as well.
- ❖ There will be a little free time for last minute souvenir shopping or it is suggested you try to go into the magnificent cathedral of Milan.
- ❖ Near noon the group will depart to a restaurant for a pre-game meal.
- ❖ Following the meal, the team and tour party will head to the game field.

Go Time!

USA-AFW ELITE vs. Italy’s National U19 Team

- ❖ After the game enjoy social time and photo-taking opportunities with players from the Italian national team.
- ❖ AFW ELITE will then shower and load your motor coach for a final meal and at an Italian restaurant where there will be **much to celebrate** - from an incredible week experienced and friendships forged in Italy - and Victory!
- ❖ After dinner return to the hotel for continued celebration, but importantly packing as many will have a very early morning departure for the airport.



Day 9, Sunday – Return to USA!

- ❖ After a likely early breakfast load luggage on to the motor coach and depart to the airport for your respective flight home to the USA.

Arrivederci Italia! Grazie!



TOUR SERVICES INCLUDED:

- **Round-trip flight to Rome and returning from Milan Malpensa** (full package)
- **Meals**
 - **All but one dinner** (only water included)
 - **4 Lunches** (3 additional are at traveler's choice and expense)
 - **Daily buffet breakfasts** (including juices and coffee)
- **7 Nights Accommodations** 4 stars hotel in Rome area (2 nights), in Montecatini Terme, Tuscany (2 nights), and in Lake Como area (3 nights)
- **Motor coach Transportation** available daily (max. 8/ 9 hours per day):
 - *All Driver Expenses (tips recommended)*
- **Full time bilingual tour manager** at your disposal 24 hours daily (*tips recommended*)
- **Up to half-day guided visits with bilingual professional guides:**
 - **Rome,**
 - **Vatican Museums,**
 - **Roman Colosseum & Forum**
 - **Siena**
 - **Florence**
 - **Admission ticket to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel** and guided visit with local professional guides; earbud microphone pieces for select tours
 - **Admission ticket to the Colosseum**
- **Cinque Terra Excursion & Tourist Train** from La Spezia
- **Lugano, Switzerland Excursion**
- **Medical Insurance for Players**
- **5 practice site rentals**
- **International Game vs. Italian National 19U Team**
- **Celebration Dinner** (restaurant)
- **AFW Tour Gifts**
- **All tour land taxes, parking costs, all city entries fee, land taxes**

SERVICES/FEES NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks at dinners like wine, beer, soft drinks, are customarily not included/billed separate
- Hot American breakfast daily (eggs, meats ...) only included selectively.
- Extra guided tours and visits
- Travel Insurance
- Non-player medical insurance
- Personal food and wine tasting
- Drinks at dinners like wine, beer, soft drinks, are customarily not included/billed separate
- Any personal boat cruise on Lake Como
- Touring Tips (*need to budget*)
- Other items not listed in Service Inclusions