**No place can compare to Rome.** And no time is better than autumn in the Eternal City, where we’ll have exclusive access to some of the most private and elusive places in the Italian capital. From the great villas built in and around the city, to the most secret gardens, the best of Rome will unfold for us. There will be exclusive, private visits to the Sistine Chapel and the Villa Medici and meals at the Palazzo Patrizi and the American Academy in Rome. Not to mention special visits to the Papal Palace of Castel Gandolfo, Parco dei Mostri, and a secret, private villa that has been in one noble family for over 400 years. We’ll be based at the luxurious Hotel de la Ville, noted for its confluence of classical Roman design and contemporary cool. Housed in an 18th century palazzo at the top of the Spanish Steps, the hotel has breathtaking views of the city and features three restaurants, an enchanting courtyard, and a Sicilian-inspired spa.

![Mosaico / Courtesy of Hotel De La Ville](image1)

**HOTEL DE LA VILLE, ROME**

The luxurious, five-star Hotel de la Ville is centrally located near the Spanish Steps, yet provides a tranquil atmosphere away from the throngs of tourists. This vibrant, modern-day icon incorporates the best of classical design with modern comforts, as exhibited in the onsite wellness center and throughout each spacious guest room. Guests will enjoy sumptuous linens, over-sized king beds (a true luxury in Europe!), and lavish marble bathrooms. We’ll dine in the elegant Mosaico and Da Sistina onsite restaurants, or sip cocktails on the Cielo rooftop terrace bar.

![Cielo / Courtesy of Hotel De La Ville](image2)

**ITINERARY**

*Monday, October 11*

**Arrival in Rome**

Arrive independently at Rome Fiumicino Airport and transfer to Hotel de la Ville. We’ll gather in the evening for a stroll to the nearby French Academy in Rome, housed in the breathtaking surroundings of the Villa Medici. Here we’ll have a private tour of the gardens, followed by an elegant reception of heavy hors d’oeuvres in the Salon de Musique.
**Tuesday, October 12**

**Rome**

The morning begins with an exclusive visit to a **private villa** that has been in one noble family’s ownership for over 400 years. Our host will give us a full history of her family, their 16th century palace, and the beautiful frescoes by Guercino and Caravaggio. Then we’ll stroll down the famous Via Veneto, passing through the Piazza Barberini to admire Bernini’s **Fontana del Tritone**, before arriving at the **Chiesa di San Carlino alle Quattro Fontane**. This church is Francesco Borromini’s first independent commission and serves as an iconic masterpiece of Baroque architecture. We’ll then walk on to the enormous **Palazzo delle Esposizioni** for a buffet lunch at one of central Rome’s most highly regarded restaurants. This evening, the owners of a **rarely visited private villa** invite us to tour their grand residence, originally built for Cardinal Alessandro Albani in the mid-18th century. Since 2014, the villa has housed one of the largest collections of ancient marble sculpture in Italy. Dinner this evening will be in the Ludovisi neighborhood, near our hotel.

**Wednesday, October 13**

**Tivoli & Vatican City**

This morning we head for the low hills east of Rome, where we’ll visit the remains of **Hadrian’s Villa**, the sensational, sprawling country home of ancient Rome’s best-traveled and most sophisticated emperor. Hadrian himself designed the buildings of the villa to showcase the various styles of his far-flung empire, the ruins of which are remarkably well maintained today. We’ll have lunch at a great eatery in the Roman countryside, after which we’ll visit the **Villa d’Este**, one of the greatest late Renaissance homes ever built, and experience the 400-year-old water features, which still function as perfectly today as when they were built. Tonight, back in Rome, we’ll have an exclusive, after-hours access to the **Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel** (without another visitor in sight!). Dinner tonight is on your own.

**Thursday, October 14**

**Rome**

Our Thursday begins in the colorful Trastevere neighborhood of Rome, known for its trattorias, artisan shops, and quaint B&Bs. Here we’ll meet with expert art historians and conservators at the **Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration**, which is rarely open to visitors. Together with the Opificio in Florence, this is one of just two state-run conservation centers overseen by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Here we’ll tour the restoration labs and see some of the projects currently underway, after which we’ll continue up the Janiculum Hill, which will provide marvelous views over Rome. Next we’ll visit **San Pietro in Montorio** to view Bramante’s **Tempietto**, an unrivaled gem of early Renaissance architecture. Then we’re off to the venerable **American Academy in Rome**, one of Italy’s top centers for scholarship and a beloved haven for American scholars studying ancient Roman and Italian culture and history. Following a guided tour of the campus, we will join the academy’s fellows for a gourmet buffet lunch in the elegant courtyard. Then we’re off to the **Villa Farnesina**, a Renaissance riverfront palace created by the richest man in 16th century Rome, Agostino Chigi, where we will have a private tour. Today’s pièce de résistance is a visit to the majestic **Galleria Borghese**, where we’ll have a tour through frescoed rooms filled with jaw-dropping art. After time to rest and relax at the hotel, we’ll walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner.
Friday, October 15
Bomarzo, Vignanello & Caprarola

This morning we’ll embark on a journey to the countryside just north of Rome, where we’ll visit the one-of-a-kind Parco dei Mostri, the esoteric Mannerist sculpture park of fantastical monsters and creatures that was created in 1585. The rest of the morning is dedicated to the lush gardens and grounds of the Villa Lante, considered the pinnacle of Mannerist design. Every aspect of this garden is perfectly proportioned and richly detailed, from the countless fountains to dramatic, cascading terraces. We will have typical Lazio cuisine for lunch in the lovely village of Vignanello, followed by a visit to the 16th century Renaissance gardens of Castello Ruspoli. The noble and influential Ruspoli family was closely connected to the Holy See and still maintains ownership of the property today. On our way back to Rome, we’ll stop for a guided tour of the Villa Farnese, the lavish five-sided mansion that houses an exceptional art collection. This massive Renaissance and Mannerist house, surrounded by a range of densely wooded hills, asserts itself as a showplace of a powerful family. After our return to Rome you will have the rest of the evening and dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 16
Castel Gandolfo, Frascati & Rome

Our final full day in Rome is dedicated to the southern Lazio countryside, where we’ll begin with a visit to the Palazzo Apostolico di Castel Gandolfo, the pope’s summer residence that overlooks pristine Lake Albano. Next, we’ll visit the botanical and architectural beauty of the Villa Barberini Gardens, famous for the Giardino della Madonna, where oak trees twist out of the villa’s ancient masonry. We’ll break for lunch at a bucolic winery near Castel Gandolfo, after which we’ll head to Frascati, where we’ve been granted special permission to tour the mid-16th century Villa Falconieri. This amazing villa, today the headquarters of the Vivarium Novum Latin academy, was expanded and updated in the 17th century by Borromini for the Falconieri family. Our next visit is to the strictly private Villa Parisi, built on the slopes of the Alban Hills in the early 17th century. This was the summer residence of Cardinal Scipione Borghese and, later, Princess Pauline Bonaparte and her husband, Camillo Borghese. The villa is noted for its 18th century painted decoration by Giuseppe Valeriani and his brother, Domenico, and for the remains of an ancient Roman villa in the garden. We will celebrate the ending of a glorious week in Rome at the Palazzo Patrizi, the private residence of Marquis Corso Patrizi, who will give us a tour of his opulent home, after which we’ll sit down for a festive farewell dinner.

Sunday, October 17
Return to the United States

Transfer to Rome Fiumicino Airport for independent flights home.
VILLAS AND GARDENS OF ROME
October 11–17, 2021

Tour Cost:
Land Package ................................................................. $8,895
Single Supplement ........................................................... $1,995

Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 12 paying participants.

Activity Level: Moderate; good walking ability is advised.

Deposit & Final Payment: A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on July 2, 2021. Final payment is due to NEHGS by check, or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

Flights: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements.

Terms & Conditions: International Seminar Design, Inc. (“ISDI”) acts only as an agent for the participant and for the New England Historic Genealogical Society (“NEHGS”) with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, NEHGS, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. NEHGS and ISDI reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Cancellations & Refunds: All cancellations must be received in writing by NEHGS, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by NEHGS. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are non-refundable. Written cancellation received by NEHGS on or before July 2, 2021: full refund minus $500 per-person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by NEHGS between July 3 and August 27, 2021: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $4,100 cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Cancellations received by NEHGS on or after August 28, 2021: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable, and no substitutions are allowed. If NEHGS or ISDI cancels the tour due to low registrations, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

Travel Insurance: NEHGS and ISDI strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. NEHGS will send you travel insurance information upon tour registration. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

Tour Price Inclusions: Six (6) nights’ accommodation at the Hotel De La Ville, Rome, in Superior Rooms; breakfast daily, five (5) lunches, two (2) cocktail receptions, three (3) dinners; two (2) glasses of wine or Prosecco at included lunches, receptions, and dinners; all sightseeing and admission charges as outlined in the itinerary; land transportation by deluxe air-conditioned coach and private Mercedes vans; bottled water on coach; leadership of Curt DiCamillo for duration of the tour; services of Cy Britt, Director of Heritage Travel, as tour manager; expert, local English-speaking guides for all planned sightseeing activities; gratuities at included meals and for guides and drivers; two (2) group airport transfers to Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO) upon departure; handling of two (2) pieces of luggage per person at the hotel upon arrival and departure; service charges and taxes; complete pre-departure documentation and materials, including recommended reading list, travel tips, and destination information.

Tour Price Exclusions: Airline tickets, airline taxes, or fuel surcharges; airport porterage; arrival airport transfers; transfers to the airport upon departure for individuals not using the group transfers; gratuities for hotel cleaning staff; personal items such as wines, liquors, à-la-carte orders, meals other than those specified in the itinerary, personal services, room service, valet/laundry service, and tour deviations. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend any additional nights, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfer, and meal costs. Personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation is not included. Tour cancellation/Interruption Insurance is strongly recommended. Travel insurance forms will be supplied to registrants by ISDI.