**Rome of the Caesars, Rome of the Popes**

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***Contact***

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http://cge.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/faculty-led-programs/tcnj-rome/

**Ten Reasons to Spend TCNJ Maymester in Rome**

1. **For three weeks, you will live like a Roman**

[Forget about all of those travel experiences living out of your suitcase and spending every night in another hotel. Live in an apartment with your classmates, shop for groceries in your neighborhood, walk to your favorite haunts, and get to know the transportation system like the back of your hand. You will eat like a Roman: pasta, pizza, and of course, gelato! You can visit…and re-visit the sites of Rome. Don’t rush through museums, churches, and archaeological sites trying to find the ‘greatest hits’ all at once, leaving you with only vague memories of what you saw. Take your time. Study things that interest you. Experience them slowly. You will be in Rome long enough that you can go again to the places that intrigue you the most.]

1. **Dig deep into the archaeological sites of Rome**

[Don’t be stuck following a travel guide holding a red umbrella who is rattling off a few facts as you are rushed with the rest of the herd through Ancient Rome’s spectacular sites, like the Forum, the Pantheon, and of course the Coliseum. Dr. Lee Ann Riccardi, art historian and scholar of Roman art, will share with you one-on-one the illustrious background of the art and architecture of Ancient Rome, offer insightful analyses, and entertain you with the inside scoop.]

1. **Experience the awe of St. Peter’s Basilica**

[Don’t be satisfied with a fly-by visit of Catholicism’s most sacred space. With Dr. Lois Fichner-Rathus as your guide, delve into the history, the engineering, the art, and the intrigue behind the construction of the magnificent St. Peter’s. See Michelangelo’s dome, Bernini’s baldacchino, and the tombs of popes with an expert art historian who will give you context and color.]

1. **Bear witness to the agony and the ecstasy of the Sistine Chapel ceiling**

[Don’t just “do” the Sistine Ceiling. Spend time with it. Measure every square inch with your eyes. Bring to the most renowned interior decoration project in western culture your intimate knowledge of the hunger game (the hunger for fame and glory) between two unwavering forces that had their eyes on a prize—Pope Julius II and Michelangelo. Both legendary for the magnitude of their brilliance and their limitless capacity for rage, it was a partnership that would account for some of the most important works of Renaissance art and architecture.]

1. **Explore the Coliseum’s Highs and Lows**

[Don’t be stuck following the crowds on standard walkways through the Coliseum. Have an experience that others will envy as you are let behind the barrier ropes, gaining special access to the dungeon levels where you will see the mechanical workings of the famous ‘elevators’ that lifted cages of wild beasts into the arena. Then ascend behind the ropes to the highest level of seating. Imagine yourself a Roman taking in the fascination and horror of the spectacles below.]

1. **Take a walking tour of the fountains of Rome…at night!**

[See Rome’s magnificent Baroque fountains lit up in the twilight of the Roman evening. You will learn about the controversies and competitions that led to the creation of these fantastic waterworks, see the magnificent sculptures surrounding the pools, and hear the seductive splash of water drowning out the noisy passersby. Throw a coin in Trevi Fountain to ensure you will return!]

1. **Experience a city *as* art: Florence**

[Tuscany is *THE* birthplace of Donatello, Michelangelo, and Raphael (your Ninja Turtle namesakes) and Florence is *THE* destination for the most famous examples of Renaissance art—um, the DAVID lives here! The Florence Cathedral, AKA Santa Maria del Fiore, AKA the “Duomo,” rises up over a sea of red-tiled roofs as if to protect all who dwell here. Palatial townhomes and civic buildings from the glory days of the Medici leave no doubt as to how a prince called Lorenzo the Magnificent would emerge in a place like this. And yes, Michelangelo’s fingerprints appear to be everywhere. But the whole city is truly a work of art: charming, narrow, cobblestone streets with statues seemingly on every corner; the sounds of rushing water from countless intricate fountains; embellished architecture of grand proportions and modest homes with rickety roofs and colorful shutters. With your professors as guides and your own curiosity, you’ll leave the metropolitan chaos of Rome behind and hold *Firenze*, this small yet mighty city, in the palm of your hand.]

1. **Discover the many bridges that span the Arno—by day and night**

[Don’t just disappear into the flood of bustling tourists headed off the bus and directly for leather shops. Instead, do what the locals do: RELAX. Grab some snacks and something to drink, and take in the character of—and views from—Florence’s many bridges. You’ll find your favorite…which one will it be? The famed Ponte Vecchio? Or maybe the less touristy Ponte della Grazie or Ponte Santa Trinita? Brilliant by day and romantic by night, they seem to never look the same.]

1. **Wander the winding streets of Florence in the footsteps of the Medici**

[Let your professors take you through this beloved Tuscan city—home of Italy’s most powerful Renaissance families—and reveal its power and glory, secrets and scandals. The

atmosphere is potent with the presence of the past. Don’t just be a bewildered spectator; learn instead about the lives of the people who used to inhabit these streets—the shops, houses, and public buildings that made up the fabric of this very well-preserved working-class city. Come and connect with the real lives of people, from princes to paeans, in their day to day world]

1. **Eat. Shop. Repeat.**

[Let’s face it: the food and wine in Italy are amazing. But while you are here, find out why so many say that Florence/Tuscany does it best. There’s a reason why *a la Florentine* is ever-present in restaurants around the world! Sample the delicate pastas and pizzas and be wowed by the complex flavors that can be achieved from minimal ingredients. Have a luscious gelato for dessert and bring your bartering skills to markets and shops known for quality leather—Tuscany is known for it! And then there’s window shopping: New York and Milan may be the fashion capitals of the world, but almost all of the famous high-end brands like Prada and Gucci make their home in Florence.]