

Heritage Choir Newsletter #17 – Rome, Italy

It's Saturday, October 12th, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. We will travel to the Medieval Hill Top Town of Orvieto....



Today, we will travel by motorcoach along the Tiber Valley to reach the medieval hilltop town of Orvieto.

Orvieto is one of the most striking picturesque, memorable, and enjoyable hill top towns in central Italy. Less than 90 minutes from Rome, Orvieto sits majestically high above the valley floor atop a big chunk of *tufo* volcanic stone, overlooking cypress-dotted Umbrian plains. A visit here will reward you with a delightful, perfectly preserved, and virtually traffic-free world highlighted by a colorful-inside-and-out cathedral.

Orvieto has two distinct parts: the old-town hilltop and the new town below. All travelers start at the bottom, where train passengers disembark and, drivers can leave their cars for free. Visitors can then ride or take an elevator or escalator to the medieval upper town. You may walk with the locals or ride the lift; joining the locals to climb the town's natural fortress hill on the slick funicular (cable car), which deposits riders about a 10-minute walk from the heart of town.

The funicular takes you to the center of Orvieto in a few minutes. This system has been used for a long time, before the electric powered funicular there was a hydraulic funicular driven by a water counterweight. For this reason, in the past there was a water basin used solely for this purpose.

Orvieto is a city full of impressive monuments, churches and noble buildings – where some are over 2,500 years old. The hill-top town has beautiful views, gorgeous buildings, and an aura of history. The well-preserved Gothic and medieval buildings will make you feel like you're frozen in time. The city is surrounded by small parks and gardens that offer a truly unique view of the surrounding countryside.

Next, we will continue our journey through to Orvieto to the Cathedral.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

Rome “Fun Fact” #17 There is an underground city with as many as 1,200 Etruscan Caves and wells below Orvieto. Speleologists discovered this underground world that had been dug, used and forgotten: an obscure maze divided into more than 1,200 caves, tunnels, wells, cisterns, created by man over nearly three millennia of willful and continuous work.