

## Heritage Choir Newsletter #35 – Rome, Italy

*It's Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. Next....We will travel to Florence Italy – Home of the Renaissance.....*



Florence, capital of Italy's Tuscany region, is home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. One of its most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The Galleria dell'Accademia displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation."

During your Guided City Tour, you will enjoy the highlights of Florence including the Galleria Dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's sculptures, the Old Palace, Piazza Del Duomo, where the cathedral along with the campanile and baptistery form an admirable group white, green and pink marble monuments.

**The Accademia Gallery** is one of the top museums in the world and in Florence. Every year, millions of visitors to Florence and Tuscany enter the Accademia to see with their own eyes Michelangelo's *David* and some of the most famous works of art and masterpieces that have marked mankind's artistic innovation through the centuries.



**The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore**, commonly called the Duomo Cathedral of Florence, helped set the tone of the Italian Renaissance. The Duomo of Florence was especially important because of three unique features that helped spark the Renaissance and inspire artists and engineers across Europe.

The Duomo is the prominent landmark of the Florentine skyline. Not only is it known for its size and beauty, it also has hundreds of years of history and its dome is a major architectural masterpiece ahead of its time. Conceived in 1293, the Cathedral took over 140 years to complete.

The Cathedral dome, with about 4 million bricks weighing over 40,000 tons; almost the size of half a football field across at the base, and standing over 10 stories high, is the largest masonry structure in the world.

Next, we will visit *Pisa* on the way to *Venice*.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

**Rome "Fun Fact" #35** – Michelangelo's *David*, 14.0 ft marble statue was created between 1501 and 1504 depicting the Biblical hero David. Originally commissioned by the Opera del Duomo for the Cathedral of Florence, it was meant to be one of a series of large statues to be positioned in the niches of the cathedral's tribunes.