

Heritage Choir Newsletter #33 – Rome, Italy

It's Monday, October 15th, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. Next....We will say farewell to Rome Only Travelers who will depart for the airport.

Those who have chosen the Optional Tour will board their motorcoach for Siena, the City of the Arts.



Surrounded by olive groves and the vineyards of Chianti, Siena is one of the most beautiful cities of Tuscany. Set on three hills, the city is drawn together by winding alleyways and steep steps, whilst the Piazza del Campo stands at its heart, and the Duomo and St Maria della Scala serve as additional cultural landmarks. Famed for the "Palio", the annual historic horse-races that take place on 2 July and 16 August, it is also home to one of the oldest Universities in Europe, which ensures a vibrant Italian student atmosphere throughout the academic year. In addition to the bustling daily life of the streets and squares of the city, Siena offers many cultural events, concerts, cinema, theatre and a wide range of sporting activities.

A universal symbol of the city, the distinct formation of the Piazza del Campo is just one of the reasons why UNESCO recognizes Siena as the ideal embodiment of a medieval city. Built in the exact place where the three antique hilltop towns sloped together, before eventually combining to create the community of Siena.

The main square, commonly called "il Campo" was built on the intersection of the three main roads that lead to and from Siena. The square, with a circumference of 333 meters, is paved with a fishtail design of red brick divided by 10 lines of white travertine stone creating a shell-like appearance with 9 sections pointing directly to Palazzo Pubblico, the civic headquarters. Each section representing one of the ruling 9 governors in the "governo dei nove" and long considered to be one of the most stable and peaceful governments in Italy. Artistically speaking, the sections were to resemble the folds in the Virgin Mary's cloak, who was not only the patron saint, but considered the "ultimate ruler" of Siena.

Next, we will have a Guided Tour of Siena...**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

Rome "Fun Fact" #33 – Greetings in Italy:

The **Italian** word that is used to say **Good morning, Buongiorno**, is also used to say Good afternoon, because **Giorno** translates to Day. Friends use **Ciao** a lot, the equivalent of Hi. This greeting has no hourly limit.

- **Buon giorno!** (Hello; Good morning; Goodbye [Formal])
- **Buona sera!** (Hello; Good evening; Goodbye [Formal])

Use the longer **Buon giorno** and **Buona sera** in more formal situations, like when you enter a store.