TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Tour the most beautiful libraries of Rome and see their rare manuscript collections.

By special arrangement, enter the Vatican Museums before they open to the public.

Gain behind-the-scenes-access to a private villa opened by the owners exclusively for Manuscript Society travelers.

Enter the Vatican Library by special permission to see important manuscripts housed in the collection.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel in Rome

Enjoy the gracious amenities and central location of the Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, situated within walking distance of the Villa Borghese, the Spanish Steps, and the Trevi Fountain. The superior 4-star hotel’s Roseto restaurant allows guests to enjoy a range of Italian specialties in an idyllic rose garden setting. With a gym, spa, and lovely small indoor pool, the Rose Garden meets guests’ every need to relax after a long day of sightseeing.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020

Departures
Travelers will board independent flights to Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO) from the United States.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

Welcome to Rome
Upon arrival at the Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO), take private car transfers to the Luxe Rose Garden Hotel to check in. Gather this evening for a private visit to the French Academy in Rome, housed in the breathtaking surroundings of the Villa Medici complex. Enjoy a private tour of the gardens and grounds before an elegant reception in the Salon de Lecture. Return to the hotel for an independent dinner.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (R)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

Angelica & Casanatense Libraries
Begin the day with a walking tour of Piazza Navona, the most outstanding square of the Baroque period in Rome, which features Bernini’s Fountain of the Rivers and faces St. Agnese in Agone, a church designed by Francesco Borromini. Continue to the Pantheon, the world’s most important and well-preserved Roman temple. Visit the Church of St. Ignatius, one of the most impressive late Baroque churches in Italy. End our walking tour with the iconic Trevi Fountain, designed by Italian architect Nicola Salvi and completed by Giuseppe Pannini. The Trevi fountain is the largest Baroque fountain in the city. Visit the beautiful Biblioteca Angelica, a public library that formerly belonged to the Augustinians and contains about 180,000 volumes of manuscripts and 1,100 incunabula. See some of the most important Latin and Greek manuscripts in the collection. Pause for lunch at a nearby restaurant specializing in traditional Roman cuisine. Following lunch, visit the Biblioteca Casanatense, which began with the collection of Cardinal Girolomo Casanate, a collection of 20,000 volumes left to the Dominicans. Take a tour of the library ending with the exhibition of a few rare, ancient volumes taken from the Library archives, illustrated by a curator of the collections. Return to the hotel for an independent evening.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, L)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

The Vatican
The day begins with a private early opening of the Vatican Museums where we will be among a limited group of visitors allowed into the cultural treasure trove of the papacy. Highlights of this tour include visits to the Raphael Rooms—the Pope’s library, lavishly decorated with Raphael’s master frescoes—and the Sistine Chapel. Once the museum opens to the public, we continue touring other masterworks, from Raphael’s Transfiguration to highlights of the world’s most important collection of ancient sculpture, including the Laocoön and the Belvedere Torso. We will see Melozzo da Forli’s famous fresco of Sixtus IV appoints Bartolomeo Platina Prefect of the...
Vatican Library, which was meant to be a “photograph” of the foundation of the institution. Continue to the Vatican Gardens, a system of private urban gardens and parks that cover more than half of Vatican City. Tour the gardens and enjoy incredible views of St. Peter’s Basilica. Visit St. Peter’s Basilica, where we will skip the line and view the great monuments of the main church, as well as the amazing ancient necropolis that lies below. Highlights include Michelangelo’s Pietà dei vent’anni, Bernini’s Baldachin, and the papal tombs by sculptors such as Bernini, Canova, and Algardi. With special permission from the sacristan, we will view the burial grounds where it is said that St. Peter was taken after his death. We’ll gather for lunch at the nearby Locanda di Pietro, a restaurant specializing in delicious Roman dishes. This afternoon, pending special permission, we will be granted access to the incredible Vatican Library, which hosts a phenomenal collection of significant manuscripts. Continue to the Vatican mosaic studio, an active workspace for a team of highly skilled artists whose job it is to restore and preserve the centuries-old mosaics inside St. Peter’s Basilica. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

Academies of Rome

Following breakfast, visit the Spanish Royal Academy of Rome, whose library specializes in the history of Spanish art and architecture. Following a tour of the library, see the courtyard that houses Tempietto, a small commemorative temple designed by Donato Bramante, which is considered a masterpiece of Renaissance Italian architecture. Tour the Academy’s art collection, which includes works by painters who were visiting members of the Academy, as well as works loaned by Madrid’s Reina Sofia Museum. Continue to the 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, enjoy a gourmet buffet lunch in the elegant courtyard. This afternoon, take a walking tour of colorful Trastevere, known for being the most authentic Roman neighborhood, with typical trattorias, artisan shops, and quaint B&Bs. Return to the hotel for an independent evening.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, L)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

National Roman Museum,
Corsiniana Library & Villa Farnesina

This morning, visit two of the branches of the National Roman Museum. Begin at the Baths of Diocletian to see a few of the inscriptions in their collection. Continue to the nearby Palazzo Massimo to tour their incredible collection of ancient sculpture, which includes masterpieces in bronze such as the so-called Hellenistic Prince and the so-called Boxer. Continue to the Palazzo Altieri, the former home of the Altieri family, who were the princes of Oriolo and the family of Pope Clement X. Tour the interiors of Palazzo Altieri, which contain major works of art as well as the beautiful library of the Italian Bank Association. Enjoy lunch near Palazzo Altieri. Tour the archives of the Biblioteca dell’Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei e Corsiniana. The Corsiniana was designed in the early 18th century as part of the palace of the Corsini family by architect Ferdinando Fuga. Visit one of the world’s...
most complete collections of the earliest Italian incunables and highlights of the manuscript collection. This afternoon, tour Villa Farnesina, a Renaissance jewel opened exclusively for The Manuscript Society. The villa is considered one of the most noble and harmonious creations of the Italian Renaissance. Among countless other beautiful works, the Farnesina is home to glowing frescoes by Raphael, who also designed the villa. Return to the hotel and enjoy an independent evening.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, L)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2020

Hertziana Library & Villa Giulia

Gather this morning for a visit to the Biblioteca Hertziana, a German Art History research center, which is part of the Max Planck Society. The library is housed in the home of great Renaissance artist Federico Zuccari, who also designed it. Take a private, special-access tour of the Institute archive with the library director. Continue to Villa Ludovisi, the only surviving Baroque-era villa in Rome that is still a private residence. Built as a country retreat for Cardinal Francesco Maria del Monte, the villa contains frescoes by dozens of early Baroque masters including Caravaggio’s only ceiling painting. The Princess of Piombino will graciously host our visit and will open the family’s priceless historical archives. Enjoy lunch at a nearby trattoria, then visit the Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia, which offers the most complete overview of every aspect of the Etruscan civilization in the world. Tour its extensive collection of art and ancient artifacts, including the incredible collection of Etruscan inscriptions, and walk through the museum’s picturesque garden. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, L)

DAY 8 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020

Vallicelliana Library & Palazzo Altemps

Visit the Biblioteca Vallicelliana, which houses a collection of about 130,000 volumes. The collection of manuscripts contains about 3,000 Latin, Greek, and Asian manuscripts of great importance for paleographic studies, the history of the church, scientific and literary culture, and a small collection of musical works. Visit the library’s reading room and see highlights from the manuscript collections. The Vallicelliana Library is one of the masterpieces of European Baroque architecture designed by Francesco Borromini. Continue to the Palazzo Altemps, another of the locations of the National Roman Museum. Tour its collections of ancient sculpture, which are among the world’s finest and include masterpieces such as the Ludovisi Ares restored by Bernini, and explore its important collection of Republican and Imperial inscriptions. Enjoy an afternoon to explore Rome on your own. Gather for a farewell dinner at a lovely Roman restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

Luxe Rose Garden Hotel, Rome (B, D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

Return to the U.S.

Following breakfast, take private independent transfers to the Rome Fiumicino Airport for independent flights home.

(B)

Images (from top): Triumph of Galatea, Raphael, Villa Farnesina; courtyard at Villa Giulia (Jean-Pierre Dalbéra); and Ludovisi Ares, Palazzo Altemps (Colin)
GREAT LIBRARIES OF ROME

DATES: October 3–11, 2020

TOUR COST:
Land Package ................................................................. $5,250
Single Supplement ........................................................... $995

Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 18 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of November 2019 and are subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Moderate, good walking ability advised

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of $1,000 by check or credit card per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the program, and is due on March 25, 2020. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on June 10, 2020. This may be paid by check or by credit card. Please make checks payable to The Manuscript Society with ATTN to Shirley Sands at PO Box 13349, Overland Park, KS 66282.

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 with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, The Manuscript Society, 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. ISDI and The Manuscript Society 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 ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. 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 ISDI on or before June 26, 2020: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 26 and August 18, 2020: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $2,259 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Written cancellations received on or after August 19, 2020: 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 ISDI or The Manuscript Society cancels the tour due to low registrations, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: ISDI and The Manuscript Society strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. ISDI recommends USI Travel Insurance. USI can be contacted for a quote through their website at https://select.travelinsure.com/ or by phone at (800) 937-1387. 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: Seven nights at the four-star Luxe Rose Garden Hotel in Rome, entrance fees to sites, and transportation by deluxe private motor coach as outlined in the itinerary; transfers to/from hotel upon arrival and departure at Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO); breakfast daily, five (5) lunches, one (1) dinner, and one (1) reception; mineral water, coffee, and tea with all lunches and dinners, and wine with included dinner; tour leadership of an ISDI tour director; expert, local English-speaking guides for most planned sightseeing; personal listening devices for duration of the tour; handling of two (2) pieces of luggage per person at hotels; gratuities for guides, motor coach drivers, and boat captains; bottled water on private motor coach excursions; taxes, service fees, and porterage fees.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: International airfare to and from Rome, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; any items or excursions listed as optional; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Shirley Sands, Executive Director
The Manuscript Society
sands.manuscript@protonmail.com

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Great Libraries of Rome

OCTOBER 3–11, 2020

Enclosed is my credit card information or deposit by check made payable to The Manuscript Society in the amount of $1,000 per person.

Name (as listed on passport)  Name (as listed on passport)

Address (billing, if using credit card)

City  State  Zip

Daytime Telephone  Cell Phone

E-mail Address  ○ please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly

# of persons  Amount Enclosed

LAND PACKAGE DEPOSIT ($1,000 PER PERSON):
○ Check  Make check payable to The Manuscript Society
○ Visa  ○ MasterCard  ○ American Express

Card Number  Exp. (mm/yy)  Security Code

Name as it appears on credit card  Billing Zip Code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)
○ Double Occupancy; I will share a room with _____________________________________________________________________
○ Single Supplement ($995)
○ I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN (registration invalid without signature)
The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless The Manuscript Society, International Seminar Design, Inc (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

Signature Participant 1 / Date  Signature Participant 2 / Date

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:
Shirley Sands
Executive Director
The Manuscript Society
PO Box 13349
Overland Park, KS 66282

Email: sands.manuscript@protonmail.com