

Visions of Italy: The Great Cities – Rome, Florence & Naples

The latest production in WLIW New York's acclaimed *Visions* aerial travel series soars over the rooftops of centuries-old villas and churches, Roman ruins, lush gardens, and the island playlands of Capri and Ischia. Stunning aerial views of Rome, Florence, Naples and their surrounding areas include previously unexplored sites and new perspectives of favorite destinations from past *Visions of Italy* specials that will leave even the most seasoned traveler in awe. ***Visions of Italy: The Great Cities – Rome, Florence & Naples* premieres nationwide August 2008 on public television** (check local listings).

The Great Cities begins at the very center of Italian civilization in Rome, a city surrounded by its past and energized by its very urban inhabitants. Traveling along the Appian Way, the helicopter-mounted high definition camera sweeps across the 12-mile, stone Aurelian Wall and the famed Seven Hills of Rome, before lingering over the Campo de' Fiori, where sidewalk cafes and markets reveal the heart of modern Rome. This is where Romans slow down, sip their espressos and savor the city's street theater. Following the flow of the Tiber River, the helicopter circles Isola Tiberina, the only island on the river that was originally settled by the Greeks. Across the river find Ponte Sant'Angelo, built by Emperor Hadrian so Romans could visit his final resting place. Less familiar to tourists is the Altar of Peace (Ara Pacis), constructed during a period of peace following the victories of Emperor Augustus. Next, witness thousands of years of history from the sky over the Roman Forum, the ruins of the Temple to Julius Caesar, the House of the Vestal Virgins and the Domed Hall of Romulus. These new *Visions* sites complement favorite destinations like Vatican City, Castel Gandolfo, Trevi Fountain and the Colosseum – all accompanied by new historical narration, and regional and classical music to provide a fresh experience of the eternal city.

From Rome to nearby Tivoli and Florence, originally named Florentia (meaning "flourishing") by Julius Caesar, who founded the city in 59 BC in the fertile valley of the Arno River to celebrate the triumphs of Rome's veteran soldiers. Many of Florence's great treasures are found within her churches, and *Visions* captures the vastness and spectacular intricacies of these world-renowned structures. Enjoy the Basilica di San Miniato al Monte, high on a hill overlooking Florence, and the late 13th century Basilica of Santa Croce, the burial place of Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli and Rossini. Often called "The Pantheon of Glories," it is the largest Franciscan sanctuary in the world. Other destinations include the breathtaking dome of Tempio Maggiore – one of Europe's most beautiful synagogues – and the weathered and angular copper roof of Florence's central market, Mercato Centrale, home to legendary Tuscan pastas, meats and cheeses.

From the stately beauty of Florence, ***The Great Cities*** jets to Naples, Italy's busiest seaport and chief import/export center. Home to Limoncello liqueur and Lacryma Christi wine, Naples is well-known for its tomato-loving cuisine. The Duomo of Naples, the city's main church dedicated to its patron saint, San Gennaro, houses a vial of the Saint's blood. The most famous of several blood liquefaction ceremonies takes place on feast day, September 19, celebrated in the U.S. as an 11-day Italian-American street fair in New York's Little Italy. Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii and the islands of Ischia and Capri – the jewel of the Bay of Naples – conclude the latest *Visions* tour of Italy's great cities.

--MORE--

Visions of Italy: The Great Cities – Rome, Florence & Naples is the latest in a long line of WLIW New York productions examining Italian culture, heritage and landscapes. Past productions include *Visions of Italy: Southern Style*, *Visions of Italy: Northern Style*, *Visions of Sicily*, *The Italian Americans* and its sequel. For more information, visit www.wliw.org.

Sites Visited

Appian Way	Hadrian's Villa
Aurelian Wall	Arno River
Porta San Sebastiano	Florence
Vatican City	Pitti Palace
Saint Peter's Square	Boboli Gardens
Campo de' Fiori	Palazzo Vecchio
Trevi Fountain	Piazza della Signoria
Via Veneto	Basilica di Santa Croce
Spanish Steps	Tempio Maggiore
Tiber River	Ponte Vecchio
Isola Tiberina	Basilica di San Miniato al Monte
Ponte Sant'Angelo	English Garden Cemetery
Castel Sant'Angelo	Basilica di Santa Maria Novella
Villa Borghese	Mercato Centrale di San Lorenzo
Galleria Borghese	Basilica di San Lorenzo
Villa Medici	Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore
Pyramid of Caius Cestius	Piazzale Michelangelo
Ara Pacis (Altar of Peace)	Naples
Basilica of Saint John Lateran	Castel del Ovo
Palatine Hill	Port of Naples
Circus Maximus	Castel Nuovo
Baths of Caracalla	Galleria Umberto
Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore	Piazza del Plebiscito
Victor Emmanuel Monument	San Francesco di Paola
Piazza Venezia	Royal Palace
Piazza del Popolo	Vomero Hill
Piazza della Repubblica	Sant'Elmo Fortress
Piazza Navona	Santa Chiara
Pantheon	Duomo of Naples
Piazza del Campidoglio	Piazza Garibaldi
Roman Forum	Naples Financial Center
Coliseum	Ischia
Castel Gandolfo	Capri
Villa Barberini	Faraglione
Tivoli	Villa Jovis
Fortress of Rocca Pia	Pompeii
Villa d'Este	Mount Vesuvius

A WLIW New York Production. Executive Producer/Aerial Director: Roy A Hammond.
Producer/Writer/Editor: Roman Brygider. Narrator: Ron Pobuda. Presented nationally by WLIW New York.

####