

Dear Traveler,

Welcome to our 2011 trip to the Tyrrhenian Sea and central Mediterranean. The westward expansion of the ancient Greeks, the rise and fall of Rome, the advance of Islam, and the great



wars of the twentieth century—all these landmark events often centered in the Tyrrhenian Sea—that great circle of the Mediterranean that is framed by the islands of Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily and the southern coast of Italy.

For our fifth annual historical trip to Europe, Al Philipp and I have designed a tour and cruise of these islands and coastline that will cover some 2,500 years of European history—from the 5th-century B.C. Athenian invasion of Sicily, through the rise of Rome and later Ottoman onslaughts, to the bloody fighting in World War II, and the troubled present world of the financially shaky European Union, problem-plagued NATO, and challenge of radical Islam to the southern flank of Europe.

As classicists, Bruce Thornton (PhD UCLA, author of nine books on classical and contemporary Europe) and I will offer together nine formal lectures that highlight the worlds of Rome, Pompeii, the Bay of Naples, and Sicily, as well as the later histories of Sardinia, Corsica, and the southern Italian coast.

My partner and associate Al Philipp once again has arranged for luxury accommodations, gourmet meals, 24/7 service, and a professionally planned itinerary that seeks to cover an enormous amount of ground while minimizing the bother of travel in Rome, during our seven-day cruise, and on shore for our shared meals and visits to sites.

Once more, both Bruce and I look forward returning to the Mediterranean, where we can best draw on both our formal training and published works to present scholarly and accessible lectures on the ancient world and military history, and to share our meals and walking tours with each one of you. As before, the contemporary world will never be far away, as we host lively debates about our own contempory opinion journalism, that will reflect many of the controversies that arise from our tour and cruise of the Mediterranean Sea, that is always at the center of history, ancient and modern.

Sincerely, Victor Davis Hanson

Speakers

Dr. Victor Davis Hanson

Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Military History/ Classics at The Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and Professor Emeritus of Classics, California State University, Fresno. Hanson (B.A. Classics, UC Santa Cruz; Ph.D. Classics, Stanford University; member, the American School of Classical Studies, Athens) is the author of fifteen books, including Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern (2010); Makers of Ancient Strategy: From the Persian Wars to the Fall of Rome (2010); Warfare and Agriculture in Classical; The Western Way of War; Hoplites: The Ancient Greek Battle Experience; The Other Greeks: The Family Farm and the Agrarian Roots of Western Civilization; Fields without Dreams: Defending the Agrarian Idea; The Land Was Everything: Letters from an American Farmer; The Wars of the Ancient Greeks; The Soul of Battle; Carnage and Culture: An Autumn of War; and Mexifornia: A State of Becoming; Ripples of Battle: How Wars of the Past Still Determine How We Fight, How We Live, and How We Think and The Immigration Solution: A Better Plan Than Today's.

Hanson has written essays, editorials, and reviews for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the International Herald Tribune, the New York Post, National Review and Washington Times and has been interviewed often on National Public Radio, the PBS Newshour, and C-Span BookTV. Currently, he is a weekly columnist for the National Review Online and serves on the editorial board of Arion, the Military History Quarterly, and City Journal, as well as the board of the Claremont Institute.

He is a past recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Bradley Prize, the Wreston Lectureship, the Eric Breindel Award, and currently writes weekly syndicated columns for Tribune Media Services, the National Review, and Pajamas Media.com

Dr. Bruce Thornton

Professor of Classics, Director of the Humanities Program California State University, Fresno. Thornton (B.A. Latin, UCLA; Ph.D. Classics and Comparative Literature, UCLA) is the author of eight books on a wide variety of topics, including Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization; Searching for Joaquin: Myth, Murieta, and History in California; with Victor Davis Hanson, Bonfire of the Humanities: Rescuing the Classics in an Impoverished Age; and Decline and Fall: Europe's Slow-Motion Suicide. His numerous essays and reviews on Greek culture and civilization and their influence on Western civilization, as well as on other contemporary political and educational issues, have appeared in both scholarly journals and magazines such as the New Criterion, Commentary, National Review, the Weekly Standard, and the Claremont Review of Books. He has lectured at many colleges and universities and at venues such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, the Army War College, and the Air Force Academy; he has also appeared on television on the History Channel and ABC's Politically Incorrect. His latest book, forthcoming in 2010, is The Anatomy of Appeasement: From Ancient Greece to the War on

Mysteries and Empires of the A







Itinerary

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Depart the U.S.A. on individual flights for Rome, Italy

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Arrive at Rome international airport and transfer to our luxury hotel downtown. For early arrivals a tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel is available. Meet your traveling companions and hosts at the welcoming reception and dinner.

FRIDAY JUNE 3

Today's lecture: Eternal Rome - Why It Emerged, Endured and Fell, Victor Davis Hanson

After breakfast, embark on a breathtaking journey into ancient Rome, the Coloseum, the Imperial Palace, the Forum and Capitoline Hill. According to the legend, Rome was founded on the Palatine Hill on April 21, 753 BC, by Romulus who also became the first king of Rome. The first traces of human settlement in the area have been found on the western slope of the Palatine Hill, dating from the 10th century BC, while the first evidence of the existence of a city is from the middle of the 8th century BC. The city soon encompassed the adjacent Capitoline Hill, and the drained lowland between the hills became the Forum Romanum. This became the political and economic centre of the city for all antiquity, while the Capitoline Hill became the religious centre. For more than five centuries, Rome was one of the largest and certainly the most powerful and glamorous of the cities of the western world.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Today's lecture: Sights and Sounds of the City - What Romans Wrote About Rome, Bruce Thornton.

This morning enjoy a visit to the Catacombs on the Via Appia Antica: Christians were accused of disloyalty to their fatherland, of atheism, of hatred towards mankind, of hidden crimes, such as incest, infanticide and ritual cannibalism; likewise they were held responsible for all natural calamities, such as plagues, floods, famines, etc. The Christian religion was proclaimed "strana et illicita - strange and unlawful" (Senatorial decree of the year 35); "exitialis - deadly" (Tacitus); "prava et immodica - wicked and unbridled" (Plinius); "tenebrosa et lucifuga - mysterious and opposed to light" (from "Octavius" by Minucius); "detestabilishateful" (Tacitus); therefore it was outlawed and persecuted, because it was considered the most dangerous enemy of the power of Rome, which was based upon the ancient national religion and

on the emperor's worship. In the catacombs we can check the evidence of the wonderful life of Christians, as it is described by the Apologists.

Afternoon drive to Civitavecchia and embarkation on the luxurious Azamara Journey for our seven night Mediterranean cruise.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Today's lecture: The Idea of Napoleon - Corsican, Italian, Emperor of France, Victor Davis Hanson.

This morning enjoy an excursion to Bonifacio, Corsica. Careful restoration of its walled citadel and buildings over the past few decades has added to Bonifacio's transformation into a glamorous, sophisticated and very unique historical coastal town.

Three men who came from tiny Corsica have literally changed the world. Corsica claims that the great explorer Christopher Columbus was born in the northwest costal town of Calvi in 1451. The second important man to come from Corsica is Pasquale di Paoli, the father of Corsica's independence movement. Paoli wrote a constitution for what he dreamed would become a free and democratic Corsica. The author of the constitution of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was a friend and admirer of Paoli. A number of towns in the US are named in his honor. The third great man to have come from Corsica was Napoleon Bonaparte, born in the costal port town of Ajaccio in 1769. This Corsican would personally command La Grande Armée on battlefields throughout the continent, Egypt and the Mid-East and build one of the greatest empires the world has ever known.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Today learn about the history of Olbia, Sardinia. In 264 BC war broke out between the Carthaginians and the Romans as the two cities struggled for control of the Mediterranean. This would become known as the First Punic War. After 23 years of conflict, both on land and sea, the Romans were finally victorious and turned Sardinia into the growing empire's grain basket. It would be bread, wheat, and barley from Sardinia that the legions of Rome would eat as they marched off to conquer much of the known world. As history unfolded in the Mediterranean over the centuries, Sardinia would be conquered by the Vandals, the Byzantines, the Muslim Saracens and Berbers. In 1492, having recently fought its way out from under Muslim domination, Spain was unified and would take control of Sardinia and maintain it for nearly 400 years. Finally in 1860, the island's King, Victor Emanuel II, would become the king of a newly united Italy.

ncient Mediterranean from the Persian Wars to the 21st Century







TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Today's lecture: Appeasing Jihad: American Foreign Policy Since the Iranian Revolution, Bruce Thornton

Sicily, it's more than an island! Discover Sicily and discover the world. The world's first multicultural society, this island is Italy's (and Europe's) most historically cosmopolitan region, having been ruled by Asians, Africans, and Europeans. Sicily is black and white and a million shades of gray. The island is a unique place full of art, archeology, history, folklore and breathtaking scenery. And, of course, great food. It's almost a nation unto itself. The land where Archimedes taught and Saint Paul preached was a Greek colony, a Roman province, an Arab emirate and a Norman kingdom. The Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese and Jews made this unique island their own, leaving behind an eclectic history that you can still touch today.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Today's lecture: Invading Sicily: From Alcibiades to George Patton, Victor Davis Hanson

Enjoy a scenic drive to Taormina, Sicily. Visit the Greco-Roman Theater, located on the edge of the older part of Taormina, built by the Greeks in the 3rd century B.C. and redesigned by the Romans in the 2nd century A.D. Renowned for its acoustics, it is still used for modern productions of Greek tragedy as well as summer festivals. Considered as one of the most dramatic settings for a theater in the world, it stands on a perfect site, facing the sea on a hill 702 feet high, with the bay far below and the dominant peak of Mount Etna in the distance. On a clear day the view is truly breathtaking. To the ancient Greeks, Mount Etna was the realm of Vulcan, god of fire, and the home of the one-eyed monster known as the Cyclops. The height of its summit changes with each eruption, and over the centuries a few lava flows have reached the coast.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Today's lecture: The Bay of Naples, Roman Sexuality, and the World of Nero, Bruce Thornton

Enjoy breathtaking Sorrento and Capri. The Greeks came to colonize and trade around 450 BC. Some believe that it was from the cliffs of Sorrento that the Sirens of Homer temped Ulysses as he sailed past, firmly lashed to the mast of his ship. Whatever the truth may be, there is no doubt that the town was designed and built by the Greeks. Temples were erected to their god Athena and to Homer's bewitching Sirens, from which the town received its name. It was upon the Greek foundation that

the Romans built when they took the town around 90 BC. The Romans gave it the name Surrentum. The wealthy Romans built their palaces and villas, each larger and more opulent than the last. The Roman poet Horace wrote of its beauty. The area is so breathtaking and inviting that even Emperor Tiberius Caesar Augustus decided to rule the empire from the near by island of Capri.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Today's lecture: Conclusion: The Tyrrhenian Sea, Ancient and Modern, Victor Davis Hanson/Bruce Thornton

No visit to Italy is complete without a visit to Pompeii. The region thrived...until the morning of August 24, 79 AD. In his letter, discovered in the 16th Century, the Roman Statesman Pliny the Younger would write the only surviving eyewitness account of the massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. "Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker...bits of pumice and blackened stones, charred and cracked by the flames...broad sheets of fire and leaping flames...a dense black cloud was coming up behind us, spreading over the earth like a flood... You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants and the shouting of men...many imagined there were no gods left. I believed that the whole world was dying with me and I with it." The towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum were, of course, destroyed. Sorrento itself, though further from Vesuvius, was heavily damaged by earthquakes and tons of falling ash.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

The ship arrives at Civitavecchia at 5:00 AM. Disembark and transfer to Rome airport for individual flights back to the United States.

Daily breakfast, eight lunches and eight dinners included as well as all excursions and lectures as listed in the itinerary. Additional nights at the hotel are available.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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