

Cardon Grateful For The Dead Tour To Italy **Sept. 15 – Sept. 30, 2010**

Dear Family,

We are finally ready to officially launch our **Grateful for the Dead Tour!** The travel committee has spent many hours in putting together a wonderful travel itinerary to our ancestral homeland in Italy. We have divided the trip into three segments: **4-day Piedmont region, 8-day guided tour** (Venice, Florence, & Rome) and a **4-day extended guided tour** (Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri & Amalfi Coast). Detailed itineraries of all three tour segments are available under the travel tab on the Cardon family website at www.thecardonfamilies.org.

All those participating in the **4-day Piedmont tour** will fly from their homes on Wednesday, **Sept. 15, 2010** and arrive in Italy on Thursday, **Sept. 16**. We will then travel by minivans up to the Piedmont region for a 4-day amazing visual/educational experience in our ancestral homeland. Pricing for this segment is still not exact as we cannot lock into hotels and car rentals for another month or so. However, we are anticipating the cost will be about **\$550** per person (double occupancy). This pricing reflects all hotels, car rental, guide fees, tips, all breakfasts and one group dinner. Pricing for this tour and the subsequent tour options does not include air, additional meals not listed, and souvenir purchases. The **4-day Piedmont** portion ends on Monday morning, **Sept. 20**, for those wishing to fly home or for those who wish to continue traveling on their own.

For those continuing on with the group, we board our motor coach the morning of **Monday, Sept. 20** for an **8-day Italy guided tour**. We first travel to Venice, then Florence and finally to Rome; please see the detailed itinerary found on the Cardon website. Cost for this 8-day tour is **\$2,000** per person (double occupancy). This pricing reflects all hotels, motor coach, tour guides, entrance fees, driver/guide tips, daily breakfast and 2 group dinners. This tour ends in Rome on **Monday morning, Sept. 27, 2010**. You can then chose to fly home, continue on your own, or continue on with the group on a 4-day extended guided tour.

Our **4-day extended guided tour** begins the morning of **Monday, September 27, 2010**. We continue from Rome in our motor coach to Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri and the Amalfi Coast before returning to Rome for our flight home on Thursday morning, **Sept. 30, 2010**. (See detailed itinerary on Cardon web site.) Cost for this 4-day tour is **\$650** per person (double occupancy). This pricing reflects all hotels, motor coach, tour guides, daily breakfast, entrance fees and driver/guide tips.

Please do not book your own air until you get more information from the travel committee. We plan to provide a group air option but it is not available for pricing until November 3, 2009. We would love to fly into Torino but we may have to fly into Milan as this airport offers more flight options and better pricing. Those doing only the **4-day Piedmont tour** will fly home from the same airport as you fly into. Those continuing on for the **8-day Italy tour** will fly home from Rome. Those who continue on the **4-day extended tour** will also fly home from Rome. We hope to have group air pricing options and a definite choice of airport to fly into in the next month or so. Our hope is to find a round trip airfare around \$1,000 per person. **If you are booking your own air, it is very important that you coordinate your individual flight arrival/departure times with our group air so please don't book anything until we are able to give you more flight information.**

The **registration form** for this tour is also found in the travel section on the Cardon website. Please fill it out and send it along with a **\$200 per person deposit** to BCS Travel at 641 South 150 West, Orem UT 84058 (all checks should be made out to BCS Travel). Please note that there is an additional fee for single occupancy. Only those who have paid the deposit and filled out the registration form are

guaranteed a spot on the tour. Pricing for the tours reflects 40 passengers per bus. Based on the emails and the number who expressed interest at the reunion, we anticipate a large fun Cardon gathering! It is important to note that **\$50** of your deposit is non refundable should you cancel. We now have to begin making non refundable deposits to Globus Tour and some of the hotels. We will need **50%** of your remaining tour fees by **May 3, 2010** and the **final payment by July 1, 2010**. A more detailed list of cancellation dates and penalties will be sent to those who sign up for the tour. As part of the tour pricing, we are also including a group “during travel insurance” policy. This is not cancellation insurance. It is medical coverage should you get sick or have an accident and need medical attention while on the tour. Individual travel insurance is highly suggested – more info on this will be sent to those who sign up for the tour.

The travel committee has worked hard to keep the trip as affordable as possible. Europe is expensive and we want to do as much as possible, since it may be the only time some of us ever get to Italy. Hopefully, you will see from the itineraries that we have tried to balance your time between “must see” sites, museums and activities with free time to shop and stroll at your leisure. Globus Tours is one of the top-rated tour companies in the industry and we are pleased that we have been able to put this custom tour together with them.

Finally, some general information about our trip – Passports are required. If you already have a passport, please check and see when it expires. It must be valid until at least March 31, 2011 (6 months from date of tour return.) All efforts have been made to make this trip as amazing, enjoyable and informative as possible. However, we have learned to expect the unexpected. We may have to slightly adjust a schedule now and then. Almost all our hotels are 4-star properties but some may seem like a 3-star American hotel. Most hotels in Europe are older, have smaller rooms than we are used to, and usually have two twin beds that may not be as comfortable as your own. It is also likely that you will walk more on this tour than you are normally accustomed to. Though our tour shouldn't be considered “strenuous” it will entail a fair amount of walking. We are asking all who sign up for this trip to agree to come with a PTA – **Positive Travel Attitude!** Being able to go to Italy is an incredible opportunity and we hope everyone who goes will come with the attitude to have fun and overlook the minor inconveniences.

I look forward to a great trip with you, delicious gelato, and wonderful memories of our time in Italy!

Arrivederci!

Becky
beckyandgreg@msn.com