Ciao!

"Andiamo." "Va bene, ma dove?" ("Let's go." "Okay, but where?") "To Italy of course, on a Bjorklunden Seminar Abroad with Dan and Donna Taylor, who have lived there for 3 1/2 years and have visited there frequently." Yes, we're going to **Milan, Venice, and the Italian Lakes**. As usual, the 4 and 5 star hotels are ideally located, the food and wine will be delicious, especially at our welcome and farewell banquets, and the sights and sites will provide lifetime memories. Join us!

We'll start in Milan with visits to its huge Duomo, da Vinci's incredible **Last Supper**, the mighty Sforza Castle, and other sites over a two-day period. Then we'll spend a day on Lake Como, visiting villas and gardens and strolling through Bellagio, arguably the jewel of the many beautiful lakeside towns. Next we'll have a free day, and Donna and I will have many, many suggestions about what you can do, including shopping. We spent a month in Milan last year, fell in love with the city, and can't wait to return. Then we'll visit Stresa before cruising around the Borromean islands on Lake Maggiore, where we'll have lunch on the only one that is inhabited.

Next we'll head for Lake Garda with a stop at Sirmione, a peninsula which Catullus immortalized in a poem that I simply must read to you in both its original Latin and my own English translation. We'll also cruise the lake, stopping at several historical sites, tasting some delicious wine, and enjoying the sights of the mountains surrounding the lake, which is our favorite and which we have visited often. Then it's off to the Arena and the Casa di Giulietta in Verona ("O Romeo, Romeo..."--well, you know the rest) and Padua, where we'll get up close and personal with Saint Anthony in his basilica and with the artistic genius of Giotto in the magnificently restored Scrovegni Chapel, and then we arrive in Venice.

Venice defies prosaic descriptions, for it is unique and must be experienced in person. We'll have a half-day walking tour of the historic center with visits to St. Mark's and the Doge's Palace, and then we'll have a precious day and a half on our own. Donna and I will make sure that you have many options for indulging yourselves in a city with canals, museums, churches, and photo ops around every corner. I need not mention shopping for Venetian glass.

The dates, including flights, are April 7 - 18, 2015, an electronic brochure is available, you can query Mark Breseman about anything and everything, and you can contact Donna and me at 970-262-3800 or <Varro753@aol.com>. Donna and I are practically packed, but in the meantime I'll send you a plethora of emails with historical and geographical information, tips on traveling in Italy, numerous suggestions and recommendations on places to go, things to do, where to eat and shop, and much more. As I said at the outset, "Andiamo!"

Arrivederci, Dan and Donna
Tuesday, April 7\textsuperscript{th}. Depart JFK airport

Wednesday, April 8\textsuperscript{th}: Milan, arrival at Malpensa Airport.
Arrival at Malpensa airport and transfer by luxury bus to the Hotel de la Ville with assistance at the airport and porterage service.

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<th>ACCOMMODATION IN MILAN: HOTEL DE LA VILLE - 5 nights</th>
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**Milan: Half-day walking tour of city highlights**
After checking into our ideally located hotel and lunch or a snack on our own, we'll be introduced to the city center of Milan by our private guide. We'll enter the Duomo, Milan's magnificent Gothic cathedral and the fourth largest in the world; stroll through the Vittorio Emmanuele Gallery, one of the world's oldest shopping malls and home to many prestigious international shops and cafes; and gaze in awe at La Scala, the most famous opera house in the world. Dan will point us towards the high fashion shopping district known as the Quadrilatero, the Brera area with its wonderful art museum and trendy eating spots, and several charming, small museums, all within easy walking distance of our hotel. Welcome banquet at our hotel.

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**Thursday, April 9\textsuperscript{th}: Milan, half-day bus tour featuring the Last Supper & Castle.**
After breakfast we will continue our exploration of the city by bus. First, we'll visit one of the most famous masterpieces in the entire world of art, Leonardo da Vinci's *Cenacolo or Last Supper*, which has been magnificently restored. To protect the fresco from further exposure that could damage it, only small groups are admitted to see it, and the visit lasts no more than 20 minutes. If time permits, we'll also visit the nearby Romanesque Basilica of Sant' Ambrogio that is dedicated to Milan's patron saint, Ambrose, who famously refused to allow the Roman emperor Theodosius the Great to enter Milan's Cathedral. Then we'll visit the majestic Castello Sforzesco, one of the symbols of the city that well represents the political and military power of the Dukes of Milan. Now it's a symbol of culture and contains Michelangelo's fourth and awesomely modern *Pieta*. Lunch will be on our own, and for the remainder of the afternoon we'll be at leisure for our own sightseeing. Dan and Donna will have many recommendations for maximizing our free time in one of their favorite cities. Dinner on our own.
Friday, April 10th: Milan, full day tour to Lake Como and its villas – around 8 hours.

Today we'll be heading north to Lake Como, which is magical and enchanting, thanks to its unspoiled landscapes, luxuriant vegetation, and sumptuous villas (George Clooney owns one). We'll visit the city of Como briefly and then head to Tremezzo and the Villa Carlotta with its museum featuring many of Canova's elegant sculptures and its wonderful park famous for rare plants, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Next we'll take a private boat to Bellagio, where we'll have free time for strolling around a truly lovely town, shopping, enjoying lunch at a local trattoria, and visiting the elegant Villa Melzi. Back to Milan with dinner on our own.

Saturday, April 11th: Milan, FREE DAY. Today we are free to discover more of Milan on our own. Such time is precious, and Dan's emails will provide numerous suggestions for museum and church visits, shopping, day trips, and just hanging out. Lunch and dinner on our own.

Sunday, April 12th: Milan, full day tour to Lake Maggiore and its islands – around 8 hours.

This morning we're going to Lake Maggiore in the nearby Piedmont region. Our first stop will be at Stresa, a small lakeside town with numerous villas built by European aristocrats, who have been visiting the town for centuries. Hemingway also visited and set part of *Farewell to Arms* in the Grand Hotel des Iles Borromées. Then we'll enjoy a cruise around several of the incredibly picturesque Borromean islands with lunch on the Isola dei Pescatori, the only inhabited island, and a visit to Isola Bella, named for Isabella, a Borromean countess, and featuring an attractive but unfinished palace dating back to the late 17th century. Back in Milan some of us may be inspired to dine at the Osteria Borromeo, one of Donna's and Dan's favorite Milanese restaurants if, that is, we haven't done so already.

Monday, April 13th: Private bus transfer from Milan to Bardolino via Sirmione on Lake Garda.

After breakfast and check-out, we'll leave Milan and head east with the snow-capped peaks of the Italian Alps on our left. We'll see the town of Salò, Mussolini's last stand so to speak, and enjoy both a lunch and a visit to a winery for a tasting of the local wine production, which is justifiably well known. Then
we'll drive to Bardolino and check in at our splendid hotel with its thermal spa. We can swim, take the cure, or walk through the surrounding park before dining on our own either at the hotel or on the lake in the town of Bardolino, which is just a short walk away.

ACCOMMODATION AT LAKE GARDA (Bardolino): HOTEL CAESIUS THERMAE & SPA – 2 nights

Tuesday, April 14\textsuperscript{th}: Full day boat tour of Lake Garda and wine tasting – around 8 hours.
Today we will enjoy a two-hour cruise on Lake Garda, the largest and most popular of the Italian lakes. Rocky cliffs swathed in pines, snow-capped mountains, and magnificent villas hug the shoreline, and all this splendid scenery makes the lake a favorite summer playground. We'll disembark at Gardone on the western side of the lake and visit the quirky Villa Il Vittoriale built by the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio. This afternoon we'll stop at Sirmione, a destination tourist venue (it's both a peninsula and a town) and a longtime Taylor family favorite as well as an inspiration for the Roman poet Catullus. We'll have time for a leisurely stroll out to the tip of the peninsula to visit the ruins of the Villa of Catullus, where Dan will read Catullus' sublime poem on the peninsula and its lake \textit{in situ}. We'll have plenty of time for souvenir shopping and a lakeside lunch. Back at our spa, we'll make our own plans for dinner.
Wednesday, Apr. 15th: Private bus transfer from Lake Garda to Venice, with stops in Verona and Padua.

After breakfast and check-out we'll head for Venice via Verona and Padua. In Verona we'll visit both its famous Arena, the ancient Roman amphitheatre that is still used for concerts and operas, and the House of Juliet with its exquisite balcony, arches, and internal courtyards. After lunch we'll visit the enchanting town of Padua; its university is one of the oldest in Europe and attracted students like Dante, Petrarch, and Galileo. Padua is also a major pilgrimage site since St. Anthony of Padua's remains lie within the basilica named for him. Art lovers also make pilgrimages to the Scrovegni Chapel where Giotto frescoed the entire interior in the very early 1300s; the chapel is stunning, to put it mildly. On the way to Venice we'll enjoy the many Palladian villas along the Brenta Riviera, and in Venice we'll transfer by private boats from the parking area to our hotel with porters and full assistance. After check-in at the luxurious Bauer Hotel, we'll wander around one of the most famous piazzas in the world, and then we'll enjoy the equally famous Venetian cuisine on our own.
Thursday, Apr. 16th: Venice, Half day private guided walking tour: the splendors of San Marco and Rialto Bridge – 4 hours

After breakfast we'll literally stroll into history with our guide. Venice dominated the eastern Mediterranean both militarily and commercially and was the most prosperous city in Europe during the 13th century; its awe-inspiring St. Mark’s Basilica and Doge’s Palace, both of which we'll visit, still reek of power, money, and prestige. The architecture is Byzantine, Gothic, and Renaissance; the art is uniquely Venetian and inspired by the incredible colors of the city and its waters; and the spirit is almost tangibly mysterious as befits the city synonymous with Carnevale and Casanova. Yes, Venice is unique, and its central square is breathtaking. Then we'll proceed to the Rialto Bridge with its crowded and colorful market. We'll be on our own for the rest of the day, including lunch and dinner, and Dan and Donna will offer their usual touristic smorgasbord of places to go and things to do.
Friday, Apr. 17th: Venice, FREE DAY

Today is dedicated to our own preferences and pleasures. We can visit several of the numerous museums, go "churching," shop, gamble on the Lido, take public boats (vaporetti) to one or more of the lagoon's many islands, e.g., Murano (glass) or Burano (lace), or simply hang out and revel in getting lost and finding our way back to the hotel. As usual, Dan's emails will provide lots and lots of choices for using our time wisely. In the evening it will be time to say "arrivederci" and enjoy a wonderful farewell banquet at The Bauer. Later, some of us may even dream about returning to Milan, Venice, and the Italian Lakes.

Saturday, Apr. 18th: Venice, private boat transfer from hotel to airport with full assistance and porters.

After breakfast and check-out, private boats will whisk us and our assistant across the big lagoon to the airport pier, where porters and a bus will take us from the pier to the departure lounge in time for check-in and departure procedures.
**TOUR DETAILS**

**Cost Per Person: $5500.00,** based on twin occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplemental charge of $1050.00. The supplement pays for privacy, not better or larger accommodations. Please contact our office for availability.

International Airfare is additional on Delta Airlines from JFK to Milan and Back from Venice to JFK. Additional cost per person is **$1040.00**

The trip cost is based on a minimum of 30 participants. Should fewer than 30 paying participants sign up, Lawrence University and TravelStore reserve the right to re-price the program or cancel the tour and provide a full refund.

A deposit of **$1,200.00** per person is required at the time of booking. Final payment is due no later than **January 17, 2015**. *Payment of deposit connotes your review and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.* We will acknowledge your reservation with an invoice, which will also serve as your confirmation.

**Included Services:**
- 10 nights hotel stay
- Meals as listed in the itinerary
- Deluxe motor coach for touring, transfers and excursions as listed
- Service of a professional driver and guide, and local guides
- All sightseeing with entrance fees
- Hotel Porterage for 1 piece of checked luggage per person
- Service charges and taxes
- Tips and gratuities for included services

**Not Included:**
- Passport and visa fees (if applicable for non US passport holders)
- Communication costs, such as phone calls, emails, and faxes
- Any items of a personal nature
- Any items not included in inclusions
- Insurance

**Cancellation & Change Penalties:** For cancellations made prior to January 17, 2015 a $1,200.00 per person cancellation fee applies. No refund can be paid for cancellations made on or after January 17, 2015. No refund will be given for services voluntarily not taken or for cancellations during the group itinerary. Airline tickets have separate changes and cancellation fees depending on fare paid and date of change or cancellation. **TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

**Dietary & Health Considerations:** This program will be moderately active and will include walking uphill, walking on uneven surfaces, and the handling of luggage. It is the responsibility of the tour participant to advise in advance of any health or dietary limitations that may affect the tour's successful operation or compromise the tour participant's enjoyment, including, but not limited to,
getting on and off a motor coach, climbing stairs, or walking with any impediment. There is a no-smoking policy on the motor coach. No inoculations are required for travel to Italy at this time; however, you may wish to check with your doctor about any precautions you may need to take based on your health conditions.

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Any such change shall not modify the cancellation provisions in the brochure. No credit will be allowed or refund given for any services should any such services not be utilized by the tour members. Availability of refunds for air transportation depends on the type of air tickets purchased, and the point at which transportation is not used.

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**OPERATORS:** This program is operated by Travelstore of Brentwood, California, and Select International Tours.

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LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
Bjorklunden Seminar Abroad
2015, April 8th - 18th
Milan, Venice, and the Italian Lakes

Please reserve_______ place(s) for this trip

Passenger # 1 oMr. oMrs. oMs. oDr.
Name as it appears on your passport
(First)____________________(Middle)________(Last)____________________

Passenger # 2 oMr. oMrs. oMs. oDr.
Name as it appears on your passport
(First)____________________(Middle)________(Last)____________________

Street Address

(City)____________________(State)________(Zip or Postal Code)________(Country)

Home Phone____________________
Office Phone____________________
Fax Number____________________
Email Address____________________

○ I/We have read the “Tour Details / Conditions and Contract” section and agree
to its terms.
○ Enclosed is my deposit check of $________($1200.00 per person), made
payable to TravelStore

○ Charge my deposit in the amount of $______________to:
Credit Card Type:________
Number:____________________Sec:____________________
Name:____________________Expitation Date____________________

Signature:____________________

○Yes, Please send me information on Optional Insurance
○ No, Declining Insurance
○ Yes, Need Air Line Reservation from (city)____________________
○ No, Declining Air Arrangements

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Suite 300
Los Angeles CA 90025
For further information, Please call Nada Vostmyer at TravelStore at 310-689-5420

*** There is limited availability. Although you may have already indicated your intent to participate, your spots will be confirmed upon receipt of the deposit. After receiving your deposit, TravelStore will mail you a confirmation packet that will include additional travel details.