

# TRIP TO ITALY 13-24 SEPTEMBER 2011

Rug related tour organised by Stefano Ionescu



## FIRST LEG: SARTIRANA TEXTILE SHOW

Our base will be **Agriturismo San Espedito** [www.santespedito.it](http://www.santespedito.it) in Mortara, close to Sartirana. Free transfer San Espedito - Mortara train station, which is 40 min to Milan San Cristoforo station. Participants are welcome to reach Mortara one day earlier to recover after the long flight.

### • TUESDAY SEPT 13 SARTIRANA

Transfer\* from Milan's Malpensa (MPX) airport to Mortara.

After 6 pm: **Preview of the Sartirana Textile Show:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the show will be held in **Sartirana Castle**, which was built towards the end of the 15th century. This event, organised by the Florentine scholar and dealer Alberto Boralevi, has become the most important rug show in Europe. The **Preview** is a great occasion to meet Milanese and international dealers and collectors. A buffet and drinks will be served.



### • WEDNESDAY SEPT 14 PAVIA, VIGEVANO

**Lomellina tour** (by private minibus)

**Pavia** was built along the Ticino River and has one of the oldest universities in Italy. Pavia's **Duomo** has the third largest dome in Italy; Both Leonardo da Vinci and Donato Bramante contributed to the church's design. It has a very impressive interior.

The famous **Certosa** is one of the most important testimonies of the change from late-Gothic to Renaissance and Mannerist styles.

It also affords a unique insight into the lives and beliefs of the Carthusian monks. (10-11.30am) Free time for lunch\*.



**Vigevano** is known to have one of the most beautiful central squares in Italy, surrounded by magnificent arcades, a cathedral with its typical curved face and a beautiful Castle in Renaissance style. **The Piazza Ducale** was built between 1492 and 1494 by Ludovico il Moro Sforza, Duke of Milan, and is rightly considered one of the most beautiful Renaissance squares in Italy.

Return to Mortara.



**Sartirana Textile Show:** presentation of the exhibition *Saddle rugs from China and related areas*, collection De Jong – De Roode (Netherlands).

For several years Koos de Jong was studying origin and development of the tack for saddle and pack animals from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Dinner party** with Alberto Boralevi and with other participants of the Sartirana Textile Show at the restaurant **San Espedito** in Mortara.



## **SECOND LEG: PALERMO AND NORTHERN SICILY**

### **• THURSDAY SEPT 15 PALERMO**

Transfer to the airport of Milano Linate;  
11.50 - 13.30 direct flight Milano Linate to Palermo;  
*Participants should book the flight on [www.edreams.com](http://www.edreams.com)*  
Actual cost 50 € – Transfer to the hotel by private minibus.

First contact with the rich cultural vestiges of Palermo: the **Norman Palace** with extraordinary mosaics, the Palace Chapel (here in the photo), **St. John of the Hermits** founded at the bequest of Roger II in 1142, **Zisa**. It's name derives from the Arabic Al-Aziz, i.e. "splendid", and indeed still today it is one of the most magnificent Arab-Norman buildings in the world.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in Palermo where we will taste the famous Sicilian dish, *caponata*.



### **• FRIDAY SEPT 16 PALERMO & MONREALE**

During the first half of the day we will continue the visit of Palermo, including Vucciria market (similar to an Arab souk). In the afternoon we will visit the **Cathedral of Monreale**, an amalgamation of Arab, Byzantine and Norman styles framed by traditional Romanesque architecture. The Benedictine cloister is an outstanding example of multicultural legacy. The mosaics, one of the world's largest displays of this art, cover over six thousand square metres of the church's interior and are surpassed only by Hagia Sofia in Istanbul. *Discussion on the origin of the coupled-column motif in the Ottoman court prayer rugs.*



Special fish dinner at **Sferacavallo**, outside Palermo.

### **• SATURDAY SEPT 17 CEFALU**

*Half day trip to Cefalu.*

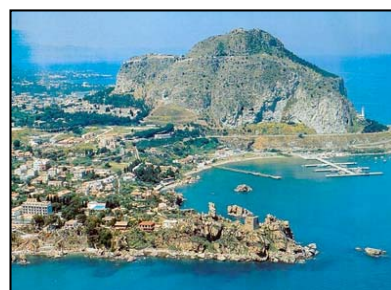
Nestled between the Modonie mountains and the sea, Cefalu is the nicest place on the Northern coast. We will visit the stunning Norman Cathedral, with the adjacent abbey and cloister, whose construction was started in 1131 AD and the ancient stone streets. Lunch to be announced.  
Free afternoon for shopping or for visiting Palermo.



Dinner at the hotel restaurant.

### **• SUNDAY SEPT 18 NAPLES**

7:15 Transfer to the airport.  
8.50 - 9.45 direct flight to Naples operated by Alitalia;  
*Participants should book the flight Palermo Naples on [www.edreams.com](http://www.edreams.com)* Actual cost 50,7 €





**THIRD LEG: NAPLES, SORRENTO, AMALFI, POSITANO, CAPRI**

**• SUNDAY SEPT 18 NAPLES & OPLONTIS**

*Vedi Napoli e muori...*

9.45 landing in Naples. Visit the **Capodimonte Museum**, former residence of the Bourbons. We will start from the *Piano Nobile* with the **Galleria Farnese** and the *Appartamento Reale* displaying paintings by Titian, Raphael, El Greco, Correggio and a large selection of Flemish painting, including Brueghel the Elder while the second floor is dedicated to the arts in Naples.

[www.museo-capodimonte.it](http://www.museo-capodimonte.it).

City tour of Naples by private minibus: Castel dell'Ovo (Egg Castle), Naples' historic center, Royal Palace, Basilica of San Francesco di Paola, San Carlo Opera House, Gallery of Umberto. Free time for lunch\*.

Departure for Pompei where we will visit the archaeological site of Oplontis. Drive along the magnificent Sorrentine coast and finally reach Massa Lubrense. Our base will be Villa Angelina ([www.villaangelina.it](http://www.villaangelina.it)) and Villa Pina, two enchanting locations with magnificent views over Capri and the Vesuvium.

Dinner at **La Villanella** with delicious *scialatelli*.

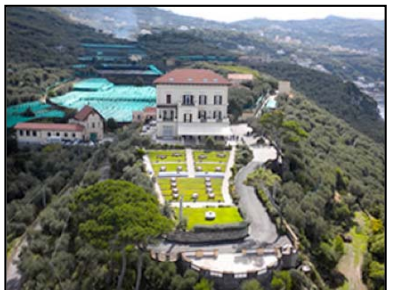
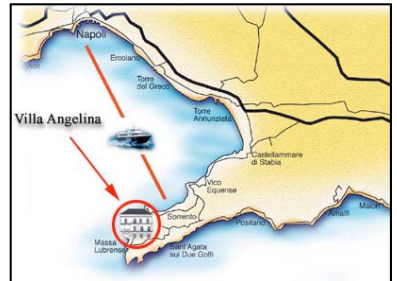
**• MONDAY SEPT 19 VILLA ANGELINA & MASSA**

*Exploring Villa Angelina & Massa Lubrense area*

Short tour of Villa Angelina, former residence of the famous ship owner Achille Lauro. This is the largest property in the whole of Sorrento and Amalfitan coast. Tasting of the products of the Villa: lemon and orange marmelades, limoncello, granita.

**Termini** close to the bottom of the Sorrento peninsula. Stunning views over the 2 bays; descent to **Marina del Cantone** a charming fishermen hamlet close to the fjord of Recommone; Optional trip by boat to Li Galli Islands, which belonged to Nureyev.

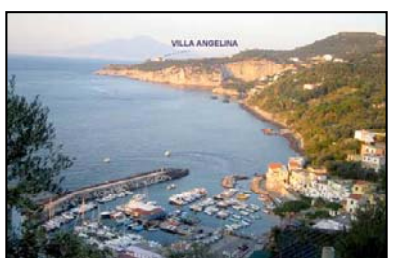
Free time for lunch or for swimming\*. Departure for **Positano**.



**Marina del Cantone**



**Li Galli Islands**



**Marina della Lobra**

In the afternoon: panoramic view of the sorrentine-amalfitan peninsula from the Benedictine monastery The Desert at **S. Agata** and visit to the historic Villa Murat; [www.villamurat.com](http://www.villamurat.com)

Dinner in a fish restaurant at the charming port of **Marina della Lobra**.

## TUESDAY SEPT 20 POSITANO, AMALFI, RAVELLO

*Full day tour of the Amalfitan Coast* [www.amalfiscoast.com](http://www.amalfiscoast.com)

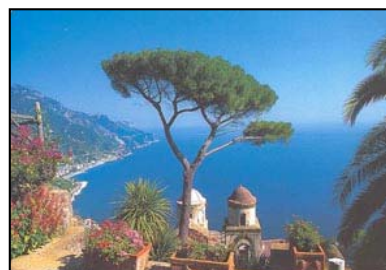
First leg will be **Positano**. At 10:00 we will take the hydrofoil to **Amalfi**. Then we will reach **Ravello** with Oscar Niemeyer's Auditorium and Villa Cimbrone. Return by ship from Amalfi to Sorrento enjoying the coast line at sunset. Just before dinner we will return to Villa Angelina.



**Positano seen from Nocelle**



**The Dome of Amalfi**



**Villa Cimbrone in Ravello**

Sunset watching and dinner at the terrace restaurant **Monte Corbo** [www.tenutamontecorbo.com](http://www.tenutamontecorbo.com)

## • WEDNESDAY SEPT 21 CAPRI

*Full day trip to Capri* [www.capri.net](http://www.capri.net)

Transfer to the port of Sorrento and departure for Capri: Marina Grande, Piazzetta, Via di Tragara, the Faraglioni and also great shopping. Free time for lunch\*. **Anacapri** and Axel Munthe's Villa San Michele. Return to Sorrento and transfer to Villa Angelina.

Special dinner at the historic restaurant **Antico Franceschiello**, probably the best restaurant in South Italy. [www.francischiello.com](http://www.francischiello.com)



## • THURSDAY SEPT 22 RETURN TO ROME

Free morning for visiting Sorrento or having a last swim\* at Karama Club (Villa Angelina). Lunch at **La Villanella**; 5:00 pm departure by bus to Rome; arrival 9:00 pm.

## **FORTH LEG: ROMA CAPUT MUNDI**

### • FRIDAY SEPT 23 ROME

In the morning: walk from S. Maria in Trastevere (mosaics by Pietro Cavallini, 13<sup>th</sup> cent.) to the Campidoglio; among other things we will spot the Cosmatesque pavements, a style brought by Byzantine craftsmen after the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which had its major development in Rome. *What is the influence of the Muslim art over this style?* Visit the Jewish section at Portico D'Ottavio; Time for lunch\*. Via dei Coronari and visit to Carlo Kocman's Gallery.

Dinner at **Ristorante 34**, close to the Spanish Steps. Night walk.



### • SATURDAY SEPT 24 ROME

Morning program to be agreed according to preferences; to include 4th century Mausoleum of St. Costanza. In the afternoon: S. Maria del Popolo and walk to Via Margutta (Fellini's favourite street) visit the top dealers Roberto Danon (Chinese carpets) and Andrea Cohen (Caucasian Rugs). **Farewell dinner** followed by a last view over Rome from the Gianniculum...

## **TOTAL PRICE**

**1.650 € in double room.**

**Single room supplement 250 €**

Participants: 8 to 15.

- **The price includes**

### **FIRST LEG: SARTIRANA TEXTILE SHOW**

*Transfer from Milan Malpensa airport to Mortara should be booked separately.*

2 nights at Agriturismo San Espedito, including bk [www.santespedito.it](http://www.santespedito.it)

(in Mortara there are only a few hotels so participants may have alternative locations);

2 Transfers Mortara/Sartirana; invitation to the Preview of the SARTIRANA TEXTILE SHOW;

Lomellina tour by private minibus, including guided tour to Certosa;

1 dinner; Transfer to the airport for the flight to Palermo.

### **SECOND LEG: PALERMO AND NORTHERN SICILY**

3 nights in 4\* hotel; 3 dinners + 1 lunch;

Palermo and Monreale by private minibus and with English guide. Trip to Cefalu; entrance tickets;

*Participants should book the flight Alitalia from Milan Linate to Palermo of 11.50 am on Sept. 15;*

[www.edreams.com](http://www.edreams.com) Actual cost 50 € (March 30)

### **THIRD LEG: NAPLES, SORRENTO, POSITANO, AMALFI, CAPRI**

Tour of Naples, Capodimonte Museum, Oplontis and transfer to Villa Angelina near Sorrento;

4 nights at Villa Angelina (the double rooms) or Villa Pina (the single rooms);

3 dinners + 1 special dinner at Franceschiello;

Amalfitan Coast and Capri excursions. Entrance tickets as specified;

*Participants should book the flight Alitalia from Palermo to Naples of 8.50 am on Sept. 18;*

[www.edreams.com](http://www.edreams.com) Actual cost 50 € (March 30)

*For good walkers it is possible to arrange trekking on the God's Path (from Praiano to Nocelle), from Termini to Punta Campanella, or on Capri Island (about 2 hours each leg). Please ask.*

### **FORTH LEG ROMA CAPUT MUNDI**

Accommodation in Rome is not included in the price. Participants will be assisted to book

their hotel in the area between Piazza del Popolo – Piazza della Repubblica. See [www.venere.com](http://www.venere.com)

2 days program and guiding in Rome. 1 dinner + Farewell dinner.

This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other.

- **Not included in the price:**

Services marked with asterisk\*;

All drinks at meals (mineral water, soft drinks, wine), airfares, passport & visa fees, phone calls, personal purchases, taxis, beach cabins or arm chairs, local transportation, tips, individual healings with local doctors, additional hotel expenses due to flight cancellation or other unforeseen factors. No insurance is provided as part of this trip.

### **For further information please contact**

[info@transylvanianrugs.com](mailto:info@transylvanianrugs.com)

[www.transylvanianrugs.com](http://www.transylvanianrugs.com)