



## 2010 TEXAS EXPEDITION

### Aosta, Italy

#### PRE-Trip to MILAN 18 – 22 January 2010

Milan, the second largest city in Italy, is renowned as a world capital of design and fashion. (The English word *millinery*, referring to women's hat, is derived from the name of the city.) Fashion houses and shops are found along via Montenapoleone and in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele (reputed to be the world's oldest shopping mall).

With a long history, Milan has many worthwhile sights. Although little is found of the Roman times and earlier, Milan Cathedral is one of the largest and greatest examples of Gothic architecture. It hosts a remarkable collection of marble statues including the widely-visible golden Madonna atop the spire.

The rule of the Sforza family, between the 14th and 15th century, made Milan the seat of an elegant Renaissance court, attracting artists of the calibre of Leonardo da Vinci leaving works of inestimable value, such as the fresco of the Last Supper.

**Cost per person: Check with your club for price and details**

#### **Price Includes:**

- Transportation by private motor coach from Milan airport to hotel
- 3 nights at First Class Starhotel Splendido in Milan with daily buffet breakfast
- Half-day guided city tour of Milan including visit to Cathedral
- All local taxes and service charges in Italy.

#### **Optional Day Excursion to Como:**

Como is a lovely city located on the southern end of Lake Como, surrounded by an arc of hills. Founded nearly 2,200 years ago by the Romans, little survived of the ancient walled perimeters. Today we can admire the grand buildings and architecture of the "maestri comacini", known as early as the 7th century, who were builders, masons, stone carvers and plasterers developing the great Romanesque style. The magnificent cathedral was Como's greatest architectural project, started in 1396 and finished with the cupola in the 18th century.

Lake Como is surrounded by lovely historic villas and private homes of many famous actors from around the world, which can be seen from a boat ride on the lake.

(All prices are based on a minimum of 25 participants.)



## 2010 TEXAS EXPEDITION

### Aosta, Italy

#### POST-Trip to ROME 29 January – 1 February 2010

Known as the “eternal city”, Rome is a treasure store of history and culture. For almost a thousand years, as capital of the Roman Republic and Empire, Rome was the most politically important, richest and largest city in the western world, its power extending over most of Europe. Rome is also identified with the seat of the Roman Catholic Pope in the tiny enclave state of Vatican City, a sovereign territory and smallest nation in the world. As one of the few European cities that escaped World War II relatively unscathed, central Rome remains essentially Renaissance and Baroque in character and has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

**Cost per person: Check with your Club for price and details**

#### **Price Includes:**

- Motor coach transfer from Aosta to Milan central train station
- High speed train from Milan to Rome (4 hours), seating in 2nd class.
- Transfer from Rome train station to hotel.
- 3 nights accommodation in First Class Hotel Universo in Rome.
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Half-day guided city tour of Rome
- Motor coach transfer Rome hotel to Rome airport
- Return flight from Rome to USA

#### **Optional Day Excursion to Naples and Pompeii:**

Naples, in the USA best known as the birthplace of “pizza”, is Italy’s third largest city known for its rich history, art, culture and gastronomy, playing an important role throughout much of its existence; it is over 2,800 years old. The city has seen a multitude of civilizations come and go, each leaving their mark and now the historic city centre is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. We will have a guided tour of the city then time for lunch (not included). We then continue to Pompeii for the visit of the archeological excavations of this Roman settlement which was destroyed and buried by the volcanic ashes of the Vesuvius.

(All prices are based on a minimum of 25 participants.)