



**Excel International Sports, LLC.**

www.eurosoccertours.net

Tel - 410-489-2287



## **MSYSA 1995 Boys ODP TEAM**

### **\*PROPOSED ITINERARY – ITALY**

#### **PACKAGE INCLUSIONS**

- Airfare - Roundtrip flights from IAD/BWI/DCA. Airline taxes and fees.
- Accommodation - 4 nights in shared rooms at a 3\* Chioggia, Venice Area Hotel; 3 nights in shared rooms at a 3\* Montecatini Terme, Florence Area Hotel; Triple rooms for players, Twin rooms for chaperones. Single room upgrades available at \$39 per night.
- Meals - Two meals daily.
- Transportation - Private Bus for all scheduled sightseeing trips. Private Bus for all friendly games.
- Games - Four games against quality opposition.
- Tour manager - Services of a full-time Excel Sports Representative.
- Sightseeing - Walking tour of Venice and Florence.



*\* Package excludes sightseeing entrance fees, lunch, optional travel insurance and anything not included in the above inclusions section.*

#### **COSTS (9 DAYS/7 NIGHTS)**

- \$2945 per person

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

MSYSA ODP 1996 Boys' team will travel to Italy for a series of friendly matches and cultural activities arranged by Excel International Sports. Below you will find a tentative schedule and recent testimonials and pictures. The soccer program will include training and games. A great deal of flexibility is built in to this trip where we hope to catch one or more pro games and enjoy some professional guest coaching sessions.

What is the purpose of the trip? For many years Excel International Sports has followed its mission of bringing people from North America to different countries to participate in the world's greatest game while breaking down barriers of language, culture, and geography. As world travelers, we make it our mission to enhance your cultural and soccer awareness. Never has either mission seemed so important or so relevant as today. We thank you for your continued belief in the value of global discovery and look forward to showing you amazing things in a world of soccer where learning has no limits.

ODP Tours As soccer experts with first-hand knowledge of the special needs of an ODP soccer program, we are confident we provide the best possible program. The combination of playing quality opponents, top-level facilities, and some great sightseeing is what we at Excel International Sports take great pride in.

Experience the Culture See country sides so picturesque that you will never think of green the same way again. View societies which have stood the test of time and people that have maintained a sense of their culture throughout history. This is what we offer at Excel Sports: an adventure in soccer and an opportunity to build friendships that will last a lifetime.

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See the Pros The game is faster, the players more impassioned, and the excitement contagious. Do not miss your opportunity to take part in the intensity that is European football. See the premier players in the world compete with the pride and passion that is only found in Europe.

International Matches We take great pride in organizing playing experiences that are remembered for a lifetime! We match a team's level of ability to international sides.

Accommodations All lodging and food is assured to meet the Excel Sports rigorous standard of excellence.

Tour Managers The tour will be managed by a staff member of Excel International Sports. Teams are met on arrival by a local tour coordinator who assists the group throughout your entire tour.

Flights and Transport All flights are arranged on scheduled routes with carefully selected airline partners. When you arrive at your destination airport, all ground transfers will be undertaken by high quality and experienced bus operators.

The Best Contacts We have developed quality relationships with the individual soccer specialists in each country. This is critical to our guarantee to include highly personalized arrangements in each of our soccer tours. Our excellent reputation for reliability and integrity has ensured that these relationships are maintained and strengthened from year to year, greatly benefiting our clients.

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

- Depart IAD/BWI/DCA Airport on an overnight flight for Venice Marco Polo Airport, Italy.

**Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

- Arrive at Venice Marco Polo Airport where you are met by your Excel International Sports Italian Representative.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Chioggia Sottomarina, on the Venetian Lagoon, where you will be based in a 3\* hotel for the following four nights.
- Check-in and time to unpack.
- Welcome meeting and orientation.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Light evening practice session.

**Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- This morning, take the hotel minibus to the Chioggia Pier where you will set sail along the lagoon to Venice on a privately hired motorboat.
- Arrive at Riva degli Schiavoni in Venice. Riva degli Schiavoni is near St. Mark's Square, perhaps the most famous square in the world.
- Enjoy a 2-hour guided walking tour of Venice. The sightseeing walk includes St. Mark's Square and its very expensive "Cafés", St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the "Sospiri" Bridge (Bridge of Sighs), the Rialto Bridge and much more. Entrance fees to be paid apart.
- Free afternoon to explore Venice on your own.
- Return to Chioggia via private motorboat and hotel minibus.
- Dinner at hotel.

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- This evening, play your first international friendly game vs. an Italian side.

**Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning coaching session by a guest Italian Coach.
- Free time for sightseeing on your own in Chioggia or enjoy the fabulous beach in front of the hotel. Chioggia or "Little Venice" is an ancient town built on 3 islets on the Venice lagoon.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening play your second international friendly game vs. an Italian side.

**Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning guest coach practice session.
- Today we visit the weekly market in Chioggia. The weekly market is an authentic Italian street market with many different types of vendors which takes over the main town center. It is one of the biggest weekly markets in the Venice region.
- This evening enjoy a "Pizza Party", a pizza making demonstration in the hotel's restaurant.
- Evening practice session.

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Florence (approximately a three hour journey).
- En-route visit to Pisa and its famous Leaning Tower.
- Arrive in Montecatini Terme, the famous Spa Town in Tuscany, where you will be staying for the following three nights.
- Time for sightseeing in Montecatini, visit the thermal spas or the Montecatini Alto.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening practice session.

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning practice session.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Florence (approximately an hour journey).
- Enjoy a 2-hour walking guided tour of Florence. The sightseeing walk includes the Ponte Vecchio, the "Duomo", and Santa Maria Novella. Option to enjoy Michelangelo's David and many other masterpieces at the Accademia di Belle Arti. Entrance fees to be paid apart.
- Free time to enjoy some shopping and for additional sightseeing options on own.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening play your third international friendly game vs. an Italian side.

**Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Optional Easter morning church visit.
- This afternoon, play your fourth international friendly game vs. an Italian side.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free to enjoy your last night in Italy!

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**Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Depart for Florence Airport and return to the US.

## ABOUT ITALY

**Chioggia** - Chioggia is a coastal town of the province of Venice in the Veneto region of northern Italy, situated on a small island at the southern entrance to the Lagoon of Venice. Chioggia is a miniature version of Venice (it is called *Little Venice*), with a few canals, chief among them the Canale Vena, and the characteristic narrow streets known as *calli*. Its small streets, all perpendicular at the square, are suggestive of the classic image of a fishbone. Sights to see in Chioggia: The Church of the S. Maria, The Church of St. Andrew, Sottomarina's Beaches, Corso de Popolo, Chiesa di San Domenico, Duomo, and much more!

**Florence** - Few cities are as easy to fall in love with during a short stay than Florence. As the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence is known for its incredible art and architecture, and its vast history and culture. Impressive buildings, remarkable galleries, and beautiful churches are crammed with treasures depicting the Florentine love of display. The russet rooftops and lofty domes of Florence's skyline provide a picturesque view of the striking city. Sights to see in Florence: Michelangelo's David, Palazzo Vecchio, Signoria Square, Old Bridge, Uffizi Palace, Uffizi Gallery, Duomo of Florence, The Dome of Brunelleschi, Pitti Palace, and much more!

## TESTIMONIALS

"Italy was a fantastic experience as a vacation spot as well as soccer wise. We went to beautiful cities - Venice, Verona, Padua, and others. Along the way we met a lot of new people from other countries. The food was an experience too! Every new restaurant provided a new list of possibilities to give a try. All four teams we played while in Italy were great sports. After all the games they were very hospitable offering us food and drinks, and always wanting to trade jerseys and take a few pictures. The staff was great too; our coaches allowed us to be really independent when we were touring the cities and at night also when we went into the local town. Overall, this experience was an eye opener. Coming home from Italy showed just how different it was, everywhere you went in Italy you were greeted nicely and everyone was really friendly in general. It also brought each team closer together, how could it not when you're with the same girls for ten days! This trip gave me lots of memories I'll never forget, and lots of new friends too!" **Kayla Clark, MSYSA 1992 Girls ODP, Italy, Player**

"This was my second trip to Europe with Excel sports, and Italy was absolutely phenomenal. The rich history, the delicious food, the style, the soccer... it was all great. While walking around in ancient cities like Verona and Venice, it was neat to experience different foods and culture. Our tour guide Mauricio did a great job at guiding us through the cities and showing us sites like Juliet's House or St. Mark's Square. The training facilities were splendid; it would be amazing to train over there everyday. I know playing the Italian teams has improved me as a player. I can share what I learned with my club team back home. Thank you MSYSA for making this a part of our ODP training!" **Jake Smith, MSYSA 1992 Boys ODP, Italy, Player**

"I would highly recommend Excel International Sports as the travel company for the Maryland ODP program. Their organization and personal contacts made the trip highly successful for this year's U13 ODP team. Their ability to set up top quality games and tours at facilities like the Glasgow Ranger's training facility and the Celtic's professional stadium were special events." **Bill Stara, Director of Coaching, MSYSA**

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