

The

# Roamin' Romans

Saturday, 29 September 2007

Day 6 of 11

Arrive in Rome

## Some serious railroadin'

You know, it's not like we just fell off the radicchio truck.

We've been around the block. We've seen a little bit of the world. We know a thing or two.

We know how to say *per favore* and *grazie*.

We know to come in out of the rain.

And we know how to take the train. In Italy. In a foreign language.

As a matter of fact, we took two just today. All the way from Bellagio to Rome. Same trains we reserved. Made the connection at Milano Centrale Stazione just like it says in the book.

We're not rubes, you know. We even brought our bags. All of them. Even the pink one Beth carries.

It's not like we don't know what we're doing.

***Continued on Page 2***



Our 185-mph EuroStar Italia train ready to leave Milan for Rome.

### Inside

**Full itinerary**

**Page 2**

**Ask the Answer Lady**

**Page 3**

**Today's picture page**

**Separate email**

## Here's our full itinerary

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Sept 23	<b>24</b> Fly to Italy	<b>25</b> Arrive in Venice	<b>26</b> Vicenza Dedication of Margaret Williamson Memorial Garden	<b>27</b> Vicenza to Lake Como	<b>28</b> Lake Como	<b>29</b> <b>Lake Como to Rome</b>
<b>30</b> Rome	<b>Oct 1</b> Rome to Florence & Tuscany	<b>2</b> Tuscany	<b>3</b> Tuscany to Milan	<b>4</b> Fly to United States	5	6

## All railroads lead to Rome

### *Continued from Page 1*

We rested a bit from the train at the convent where we're staying before we took a taxi to Vatican City to see St. Peter's Basilica around 5 p.m.

Seriously big church, but we didn't get to see the Big Guy with the red Gucci shoes. Somebody said Saturday night was when he finally gets around to his homily.

The lateness of the day meant pictures inside were difficult – you'll see on the picture pages – but if you're going to visit the self-proclaimed Capital of Christendom, you need to go inside anyway and see what can be done with marble. We're not talking countertops here.

An apology in advance. The sisters at our convent aren't into the internet. And they also lock up at 11 p.m. So we have to work hard to find a wireless connection between dinner and lights out, and it may alter publication schedules.



Today we arrived in Rome by *treni alta velocità* (high-speed train).



## Where we're staying

The Istituto il Rosario is on Via Sant'Agata dei Goti, which is a quiet side street located between the ruins of Trajan's Market and Via del Serpenti. It turned out to be a wonderful location for my first trip to Rome. I could walk three blocks in any direction and be in the presence of either the Colosseum, Trajan's Column, or the Roman Forum. The casa is administered by a Dominican order of nuns. Although it is posted that you should make your own bed and keep your room neat, the staff came in each day to mop the floor, empty the trash and replace the towels. The whole casa was exceptionally clean. What I found amazing was their marble floors were so shiny that they looked like glass.

– *Slow Travel Italy*

## Would it be OK to call?

<i>When it's this time in California / it's this time in Italy</i>	<i>When it's this time in N.C. / it's this time in Italy</i>
9 a.m. / 6 p.m.	9 a.m. / 3 p.m.
Noon / 9 p.m.	Noon / 6 p.m.
3 p.m. / Midnight	3 p.m. / 9 p.m.
6 p.m. / 3 a.m.	6 p.m. / Midnight
9 p.m. / 6 a.m.	9 p.m. / 3 a.m.

## Sister Fabiola answers life's persistent question

Of course the question has been on people's minds for centuries, equally as puzzling as that other question of the ages: Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

It's been the subject of cocktail party conversation as well as intellectual examination because it has always seemed simultaneously so intriguing yet unanswerable.

We discussed it many times in planning for our trip as well as in the early days of our travels and decided that it was funny. When you think about it, it does sound like the opening line of a bar joke – you know: A priest, a preacher and a rabbi go into a bar ...

Yet as much as we'd discussed it – and we consider ourselves experts in our own way – we still had no idea what the answer was.

That is until today, when we met Sister Fabiola at the front desk of the Istituto il Rosario convent, where we hoped to stay here in Rome.

"What does a nun say to the guy who comes in off the street with a pair of lesbians and asks 'Is there any room at



Sister Fabiola, taking care of business

the inn?' "

"One hundred thirty-six Euros," Sister Fabiola said. "Cash."



# Today's picture page



Waiting for the Milan train at Varenna station on Lake Como



<<< The train departure and arrival board at Milano Centrale.

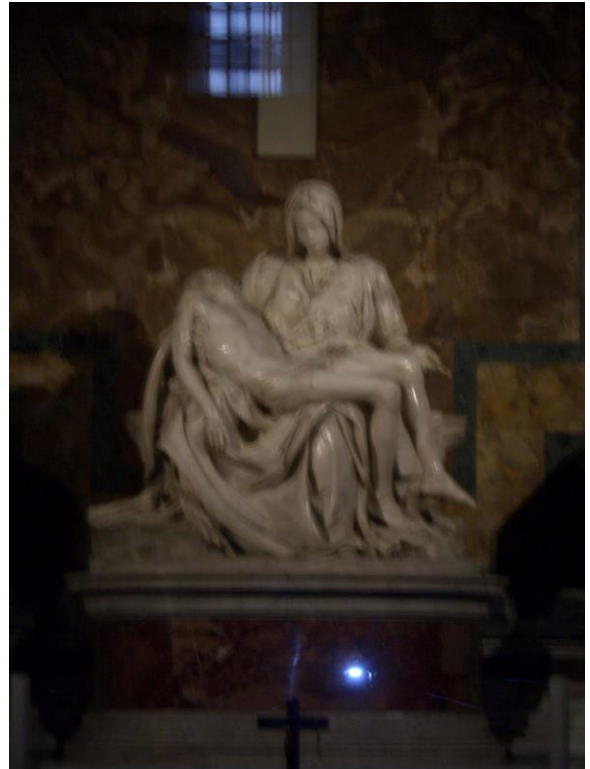
How the newsletter is produced







Beth and Nan go to church.



Michelangelo's *Pietà*.



Late night at the circus. No time to dress before work.