

Our holiday began with 4 days in  
**Rome, Italy.**

Our hotel was a block away from this gaudy building,  
called by many, “The Wedding Cake”





We were walking distance from the Roman ruins.



And many of the famous sights of Rome (on next page).



A wedding in the ruins.



And a wonderful concert by Turkish married couple.

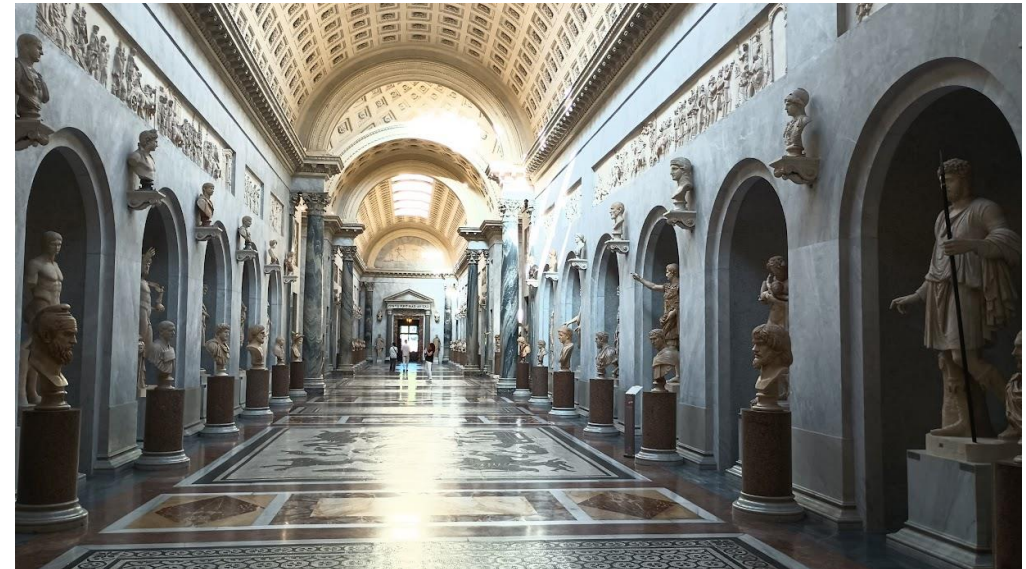
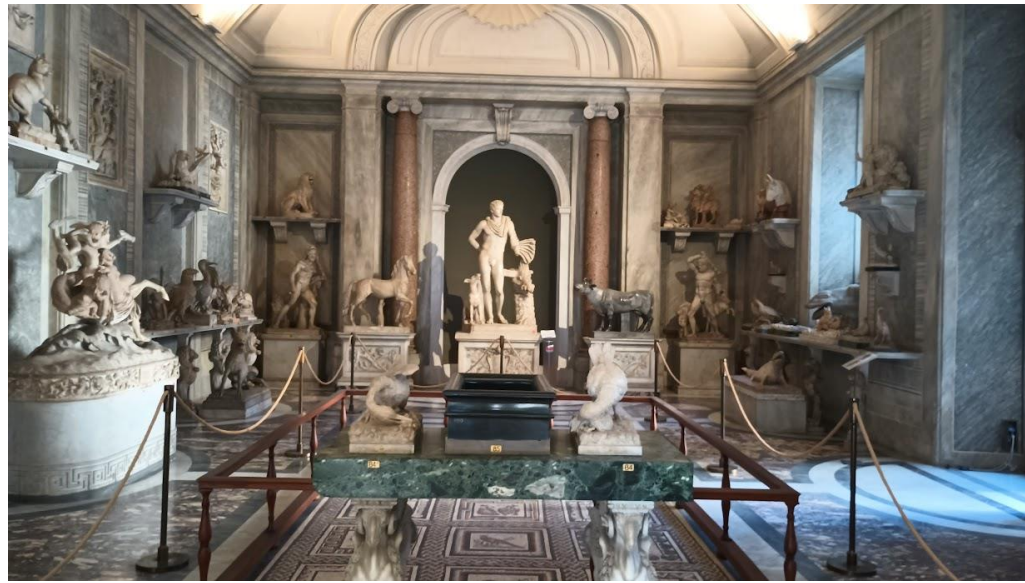


Best meals:  
in the garden of a museum,  
and in a cat friendly café.



A quaint elevator to our  
ultra-modern  
(but unpleasant) hotel room.

A major highlight was the Vatican Museum, especially the Roman artifacts, which were beautifully preserved and displayed.







We did see the Sistine Chapel, but photos were "Forbidden".



We wanted to see St. Peter's, but after a long, hot walk around the Vatican wall, there was an hour's wait in the sun, so we passed.



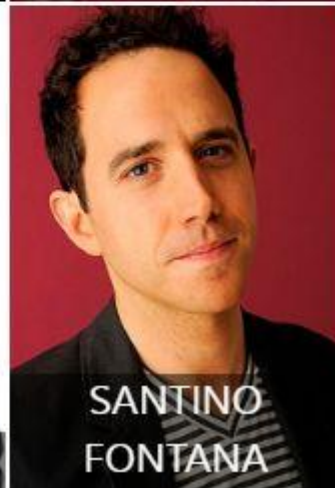




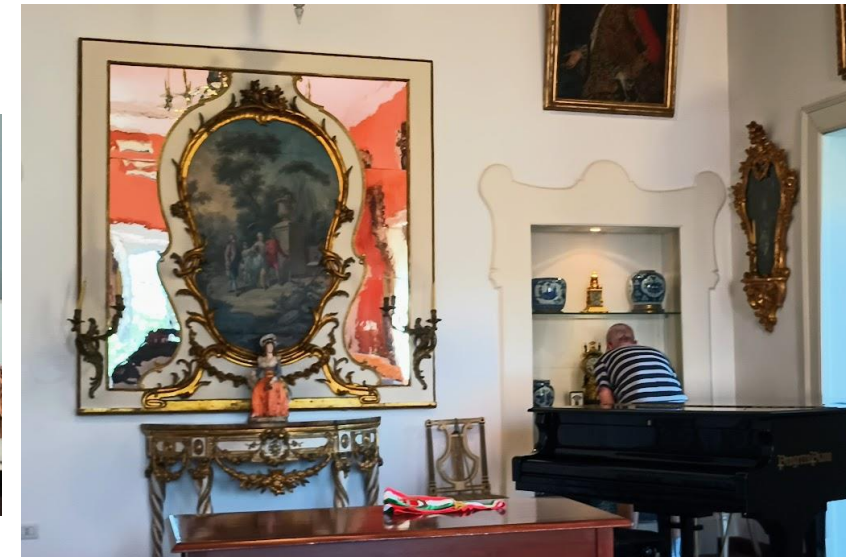
It's time to board our gorgeous cruise ship, the Silver Dawn. We had a big, luxurious stateroom suite, with a walk-in closet, a shower and a bath, a huge balcony, and a butler. On ship were a gaggle of Broadway stars, too. We were in for a wonderful vacation.

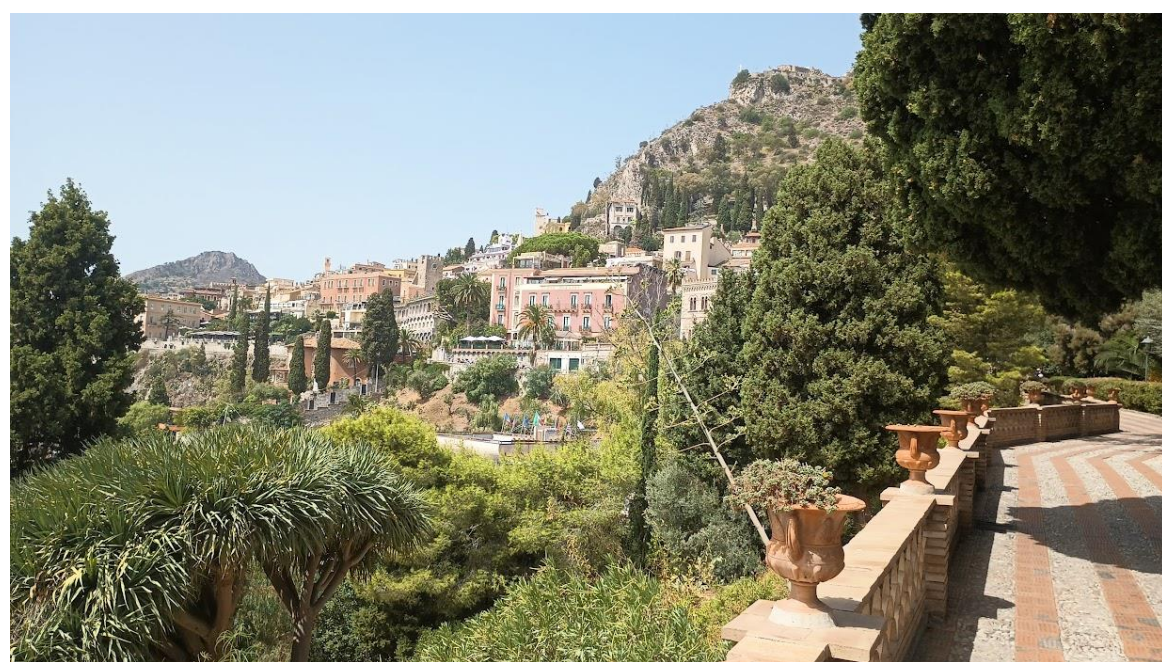


Here is the line-up of super stars we had in store for our entertainment!



Our first port was **Sorrento, Italy**. Not having booked an excursion, we were happy that the ship ran a shuttle bus up the cliff. After wandering around the city, and buying a pair of (unwearable) Italian shorts, we went to a local museum, with *Capodimonte* figures and some clocks.





Our next port was **Taormina, Sicily**, a beautiful city.



After a harrowing bus ride to the top, we wandered around charming, but touristy, narrow streets. We couldn't get into the amazing *Teatro Greco*, but we'd seen it before.



We were so lucky that Susan Dougherty and her friend, also Susan, were on the cruise with us. We had such fun at the concerts and many meals together. Lots of laughs. We were all In the Blue Group, so, we saw the same concerts.



Our first concert was the fabulous Gavin Creel. What a great selection of songs he had, and what charm and talent.



Lindsay Mendez was our 2<sup>nd</sup> concert. I wasn't familiar with her, but she was excellent.





Sailing into the harbor of **Valetta, Malta**, was spectacular. We'd never been here, and we were extremely impressed.



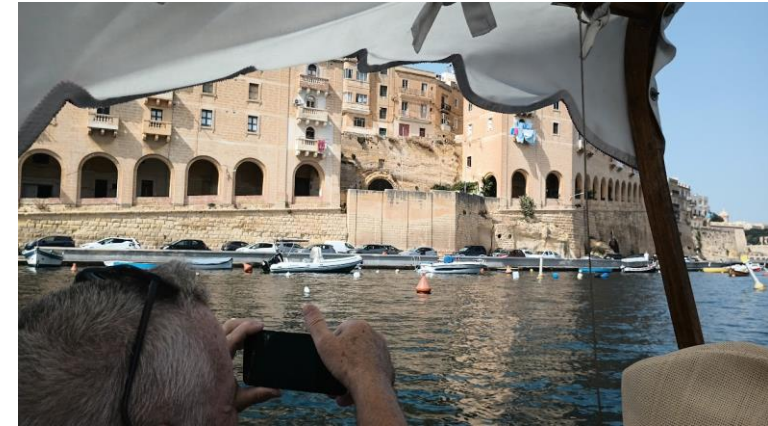


From the harbor, we took an elevator up to the city and explored it on foot. An interesting city, modern an ancient, which included the preparations for their Pride Parade.





Part of an excursion we took was a delightful gondola trip around the harbor. On our boat was author, Ted Chapin.







The day before we'd seen Will Swensen's concert. He's Audra's husband.



The next day was an "at sea day", so we saw 2 concerts: The glorious Audra McDonald and Ted Chapin's interview with legend, Tommy Tune. Both highlights of the cruise.

John McDaniel was one of three great pianists on the cruise.



Tommy demonstrates how his signature came about.



We walked out of Ted's talk with costumer, Ann Roth.

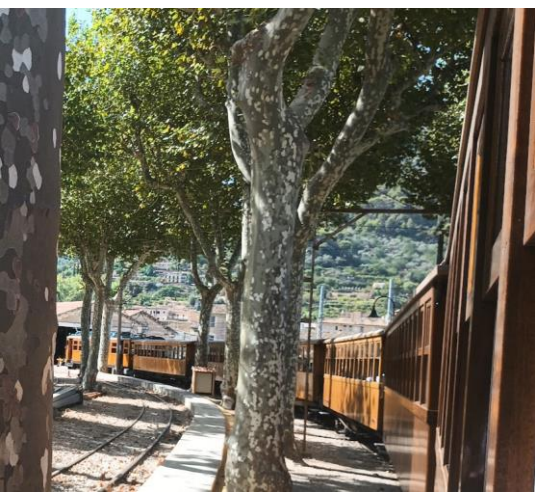




Our next port was **Palma de Mallorca, Spain.**

We wandered the city first, including the “3<sup>rd</sup> tallest cathedral” in Europe.





We took an excursion to Soller by bus, and then rode an old wooden train back to Palma. Spectacular mountain views!



Audra and her daughter were with us.

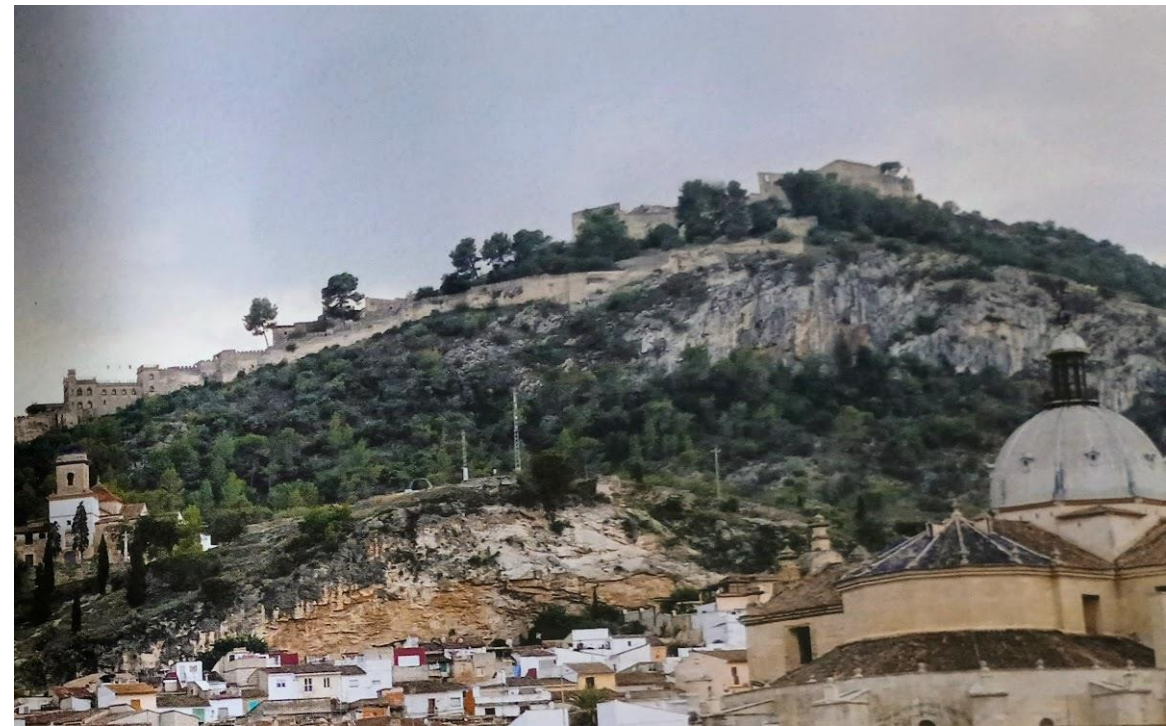




Our next to the last port was **Valencia, Spain**. The exquisite new Opera House and Arts & Sciences Complex was very impressive.



But it was the excursion to Xativa that was the highlight of our trip.





The best part of the trip to Xativa was the LONG walk up and down the mountain to see these two amazing castles.





Before we arrived in our final port  
**Barcelona, Spain,**  
we heard 3 more concerts:  
Liz Callaway, Santino Fontana and  
Christopher Fitzgerald.

From the ship we went directly to the  
airport for our flight back to NYC.



An added  
encore  
treat:  
Chris and  
Santino  
did  
"Who's on  
First?"

