Rome- Paris & Madrid
12 DAYS/ 11 nights

Day 1:
Depart USA for overnight flight to Rome

Day 2:
Morning arrival is at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport. After clearing customs you will Meet your tour escort who will assist with transfer and check-in at your hotel in Rome. En route you will see Rome's ancient glory in your guided tour of Imperial Rome. Stop at the Coliseum- ancient Rome's greatest monument and Roman Forum, the civic heart of Imperial Rome. Drive along the banks of the Tiber River passing the Synagogue, Theatre of Marcello, Tiberina Island and Castel Sant Angelo, the fortress that for hundreds of years guarded the Vatican. Check in after your tour at your hotel to freshen up before dinner.

Day 3:
Vatican Tour
This morning experience a very special guided tour of the priceless collection of art and treasures in the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. You will be amazed by the beautiful wall frescoes created by Michelangelo, Perugino and Botticelli. The unique ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is surely one of Michelangelo's greatest achievements. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, built over the tomb of St. Peter. This afternoon continue your guided tour of Classic Rome with the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona- with Bernini's "Fountain of the Four Rivers" and visit the Pantheon-one of the best preserved monuments of antiquity. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4:
Tour of Pompeii
Today's excursion is to Pompeii, the ancient city covered by volcanic lava 2,000 years ago, for a guided tour of the remarkably preserved ruins of temples, houses, gardens and public buildings. Return to Rome for dinner and overnight.

Day 5:
Transfer to airport for flight to Paris. Arrive in Paris where you will be met and transferred to your hotel for 3 nights. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris ending with a visit to the soaring Eiffel Tower. Check into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6:
Sightseeing tour of Paris. Tour includes the Place de l'Opera, the Place de la Concorde, the Tuileries, the Invalides, the Champs-Elysees, and a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral. Then take the funicular up to Montmartre and visit Sacre Coeur. Enjoy a 1 hour cruise on the Seine before dinner.

Day 7:
Tour of the Palace of Versaille. Depart for your excursion to Versailles. Visit Vieux-Versailles, where Streets look just as they did in the 1700's, or the 300+ shops that make up the "Golden Triangle." Entrance to the Versailles Palace, see its dazzling Hall of Mirrors, Marie Antoinette's Chamber, the Royal Chapel, and stroll through the palace's beautifully landscaped gardens. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

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Day 8:
Depart for the airport for your flight to Madrid. Upon arrival in Madrid you will be met and transferred to hotel .
Hola! Welcome to Madrid, the capital of Spain. Known as one of the most breathtaking cities in Europe! Hope of the Spanish Royal family and intense cultural and artistic vitality, Madrid is surely a city you will remember.

Day 9:
Sightseeing Tour of Madrid. Madrid is yours to discover on your guided sightseeing tour to include the Puerta del Sol, the statues of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza in the Plaza de Espana, Christopher Columbus' statue in the Plaza Colon, the city's old quarters, Retiro Park, Oriente Square, the Alcala Gate and the Parliament. Tour ends with drive by the 18th century Royal Palace, the nearby Queen Sophia Gallery. Enjoy a visit to the remarkable Prado Museum. Dinner and overnight.

Tonight enjoy a dinner and a traditional Spanish Flamenco Show.

Day 10: Tour of Segovia
Today we head to Segovia for a guided tour of this scenic city including the magnificent Cathedral as well as Alcazar. This is truly a picturesque city embellishing the beauty of Spain's history. Visit the Alcazar, perched over a magnificent rock, it is believed to be the inspiration for Disney Castle and where Queen Isabel promised Columbus the financial backing he needed to discover America.
Dinner and overnight.

Day 11: Tour of Toledo
Half-day excursion of Spain's medieval capital, Toledo.
Sightseeing to include the Gothic Cathedral, the Church of Santo Tome, Sinagoga de Santa Maria, and El Greco's famous paintings.
Farewell Dinner In the evening discover how to prepare Spanish "tapas".
Dinner and overnight.

Day 12: Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the USA.

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(1 night on plane)

Proposal for Hartford Christian Group 12 Students and 2 Chaperones : June 2011

DAY 1: DEPART USA
Depart USA today for your tour of Italy. Dinner and a breakfast snack will be served on this overnight flight to Rome. You will have a chance to watch a movie before getting some rest - you have a busy week ahead of you.

DAY 2:ARRIVE ROME

After clearing customs and claiming your luggage you will depart for your hotel while driving by Rome's' famous landmarks.

Sightseeing tour of Rome
Depart with your local Italian Guide for your tour of Imperial Rome. Your tour begins atop the Colle Oppio with a panoramic view of the Colosseum, Rome's most recognizable landmark. Next you will visit the Colosseum. Once inside your guide will take you through the bloody past of the amphitheater as you listen to tales of gladiators, mock sea battles and executions. After arrive at the Palatine Hill, the most famous of the Seven Hills of Rome. From here you can admire the views of the Roman Forum and Neros Circus Maximus where chariot races were held. Romulus and Remus were said to have been found on the Palatine Hill by the she-wolf who nursed and raised them. Legend also holds that Romulus went on to found Rome. The last stop on your tour is a walk along the Via Sacra or Sacred Way, the main path through the Roman Forum that was used for triumphal processions. The tour ends at the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated. Visitors from around the world still leave flowers and candles at this site to this day.

Dinner at hotel and overnight.

France & Italy: Taconic italy and Riviera 9d

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DAY 3: ROME- VATICAN CITY AND SISTINE CHAPEL

Breakfast
Tour of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel including headsets
You will have a brief introduction to Rome on our bus enroute to Vatican City. Highlights en route include Piazza della Repubblica, following the ancient Aurelian Walls, the famous Villa Borghese gardens and the northen gate of Rome leading into Piazza del Popolo. Upon arrival, your guide will lead you into The Vatican museums. You will see the beautiful Spiral stairway and continue through the Gallery of Tapestries and Gallery of Geographical Maps, before arriving at the famous Sistine Chapel with its magnificent fresco of the last Judgment by Michelangelo.
Walking tour of Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain
After lunch on own, your walking tour will continue
With your escort to Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona.
Return to your hotel.

Dinner at hotel and overnight.

DAY 4 ROME OPTIONAL TOUR TO POMPEII
Breakfast
If you do not do the Pompeii tour day will be at leisure in Rome.

Optional Tour of Naples and Pompeii
Depart from Rome on an air-conditioned coach for your trip to Naples. Your sightseeing tour of Naples included stops at the cathedral to visit its Treasure Chapel and S. Restiuta basilica, dating back to the 4th century. You will also drive to Plebiscite Square to see the Royal Palace, the beautiful church of St. Francesco di Paula, the Town Hall Square and the New Castle built by the French Family of Anjou. Before driving to Pompeii, you will admire wonderful views of the city from the terraces of Posilipo. Your visit to the haunting ruins of Pompeii will take you back to the fateful day in 79A.D. when neighboring Mt. Vesuvius erupted, covering the prosperous Roman City in deadly volcanic ash . On your visit to Pompeii you will see the Forum, the Thermal Baths, all buried by volcanic ashes during the eruption.

Return to Rome in the evening for dinner and overnight.

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DAY 5 DEPART ROME AND ARRIVE PARIS

Arrive in France.
After clearing customs and claiming your luggage you will depart for your hotel while driving by Paris' famous landmarks. Arrive at your hotel for check in. After getting settled, meet local guide for your
PARIS SIGHTSEEING TOUR
To include the Place de l'Opera, the Place de la Concorde, the Arc de Triumph, the Tuileries, the Invalides, the Champs-Elysees, and a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Sainte Chappelle. At the tour's conclusion you will be dropped off in front of the world-famous Louvre Museum, where you'll find a collection of art, sculpture, and others from all over the world, including African, Oceaniac, Asian, Islamic, Oriental, Grecian, Roman, and others. Entrance to the Louvre Museum.
Dinner and overnight.

DAY 6; GALLERIE LAFAYETTE SHOPPING
Breakfast in the hotel.
Visit the Gallerie Lafayette for some fabulous Parisian shopping.
The Gallerie Lafayette first inaugurated in 1893, is a fashion institution. Located near the Opera Garnier, Galleries Lafayette is an essential stop for fashion enthusiasts. The store flaunts unique Belle Époque architecture. With its glass and steel dome and Art Nouveau staircases, it is a stunning sight.
Afternoon at leisure.
Dinner and overnight.

DAY 7:

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