



Florence & Val Gardena, Italy

GOLDEN GATE TOP OF THE HILL GANG

January 17 - 29, 2011 (Mon – Sat)

\$2,575 per person (*double occupancy*)



PLUS: OPTIONAL extension to VENICE, described on the next page.

Florence - Start your European adventure with a 4-night stay in the historical and cultural city of Florence on the way to Val Gardena. As the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence preserves some of the greatest art and culture of the Western world as well as being one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant cities. The historic center of Florence attracts millions of tourists each year and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982. Florence is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and its artistic, historic and cultural heritage and impact in the world remains vast up to this day. The historic centre of Florence contains numerous elegant piazzas, Renaissance palazzi, parks, churches, monasteries and never ending art (e.g.- Michelangelo's David and the famed Uffizi museum). Florence is arguably the best preserved Renaissance city in the world and is regarded by many as the art capital of Italy. The remarkable Duomo, with its pink, white and green marble façade and characteristic dome, dominates the city's skyline. Stay at the centrally located 4* **Hotel Cavour** with breakfast, hairdryers, internet access, transfers, welcome wine reception and half day city tour included.



Val Gardena, the small Italian province of Südtirol and the majestic Dolomites await your arrival next winter. The Dolomites are a winter wonderland, famous for their sunshine, fresh air, and spectacular scenery. Our group will be in the heart of Val Gardena, staying in the quaint mountain village of Selva. Spend a week exploring the valley and the Dolomites – and Ski the Sella Ronda, a nearly 30 mile circular ski route leading round the mighty Sella Massif.

The Dolomiti Superski pass entitles you to 450 lifts and over 600 miles of meticulously maintained runs! The Val Gardena region of the Dolomites offers some of the most challenging skiing in Italy, along with numerous and varied excellent intermediate runs (such as much of the Sella Ronda). For walking enthusiasts, there are superb trails with some of the most picturesque snow walking & hiking offered in Europe.

Stay at the fabulous 4* **Hotel Oswald** in the village of Selva—central to the vast ski area, and within walking distance to some of the furthest reaching lifts in the network. The hotel also offers gourmet dining, a social lobby and bar area, full-service Spa and all of the amenities and service typical of a "Sud-Tyrolian" family hotel. Spend a week in Sud-Tyrol--and leave with incredible memories of great skiing, friendly people, outstanding food and a little culture too! Hotel Oswald recently renovated all the rooms, furnished them with care and love in order to make your holidays more pleasant. The new rooms are bright, comfortable and enriched with all comforts. All rooms are provided with balcony, shower or bathtub, hairdryer, telephone with direct line, WI-FI internet access, TV-SAT, mini-bar and safe.

The Oswald also includes: Welcome drink & resort briefing upon arrival; nightly multi-course dinners with Gala dinner or Tyrolean buffet once per week; Piano bar live music after dinner, once per week; Orientation and information for guided ski safari will be provided; Free entry to the ice stadium and skates rental; Free access to the wellness-centre; Bathrobe and slippers on loan; Vat and taxes.

Trip Price Includes All of the Following:

- Round-trip air from SFO into Florence & out of Venice on Lufthansa
- Deluxe motorcoach transfers between hotels & airports
- FOUR nights 4* Hotel Cavour in Florence including breakfasts
- SEVEN nights at 4* Hotel Oswald in the heart of Val Gardena

- Full European breakfast & gourmet dinner daily at the Hotel Oswald
 - Wine & cheese reception upon arrival in Florence
 - Wine and cheese party upon arrival in Val Gardena
 - Baggage Tags and travel packets for all participants
 - All resort taxes and fees*, surcharges, & portorage as well as all tips for bus drivers, transfers and hotel staff
- *Does NOT include current Int'l. Departure Taxes & Fuel Surcharge, currently estimated at \$369; subject to change)



You are offered an optional extension trip to Venice (Jan.29-Feb.1, 2010) at \$330 per person based on double occupancy, including: **THREE nights at 4* Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal. Our bus into the principal island of Venice will bring us to Piazzale Roma, a 3-4 minute walk to our hotel. Price includes a boat transfer of our luggage and skis to and from the bus and hotel; return air from Venice to San Francisco; European Buffet Breakfast each morning and all hotel taxes and tips for the hotel, bus, and luggage boat.. Our hotel's 150 rooms were completely renovated in 2001 in 18th century Venetian style and include fridge-mini-bar, hairdryer, safe-box and internet access. From the hotel, you can walk through the historic streets of Venice, across the Rialto Bridge, to St. Mark's Square and other Venice attractions – or you can go by boat. For a thousand years, Venice led an independent existence as one of the most enduring mercantile sea powers in history. Today, the brilliance and influence of the city remain. The fact that Venice is built on 117 small islands, and has some 150 canals and 409 bridges is part of the reason why it is so unique. Walk and tour through the highlights of Venice, including the Basilica of St. Mark, St Mark's Square, and the Doge's Palace. You may also want to visit Venice's beautiful islands of Burano and/or Murano to inspect their famed unique lace and glass respectively.**

To purchase the trip "Land Only" - i.e. - exclude the air, you may deduct \$525 from the trip cost. However, you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from all hotels and airports to meet your schedules. There will only be one bus for participants on the group flights, without any schedule adjustments for those opting for their own air arrangements.

To sign up or obtain additional information, please contact your trip co-leaders:

Tony Suh (tonysuh@comcast.net , 925-285-3376) or **John Maerzke** (maerzke@earthlink.net , 925-330-9658).

Initial deposit of \$500 due **ASAP** to hold space. The **deadline** is June 11th to confirm your spot on this popular trip.

Make all checks payable to Alphorn Tours and mail to: John Maerzke, 2543 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131

This trip is limited to the FIRST 30 DEPOSIT-PAID applicants with current, paid up dues as members of the GGTOTHG.

ALPHORN TOURS, INC.: RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSES

ALPHORN TOURS & INCENTIVES, INC. and/or its agents, act in the capacity of agent for the passengers in all matters pertaining to travel, whether by plane, rail, boat, steamer, or any other means of conveyance. They shall not be liable for any injury, damage, or loss occasioned by neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the tour, or any hotel proprietor or car rental organization or other persons supplying services or materials in connection with the tour. Neither ALPHORN TOURS & INCENTIVES, INC., (and or its agents) nor the airline concerned are to be held responsible for closure of access routes to or from resorts due to bad weather or road conditions, or for any other reasons beyond their control. In addition, they are not to be held liable for any additional payment or any refunds for unused hotel accommodations or meals occasioned by such late arrivals at hotels holding rooms as per confirmed itineraries or any other hotel. ALPHORN TOURS & INCENTIVES, INC., and its agents act only as agents for reservations concerning hotels, transportation and sightseeing tours (if included) and do not guarantee the psychological satisfaction of the client for these reservations. Neither the tour operator nor its agents assume any responsibility or liability for schedule and time changes of airline, transfer companies and trains.

DEPOSIT / PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

\$500 initial deposit due ASAP to hold space (final deadline June 11, 2010)

1st Payment of \$750 due by August 27, 2010

2nd Payment of \$750 due by October 1, 2010

3rd & Final payment / remainder of balance due by November 12, 2010

Sorry, credit cards will not be accepted for this trip, price reflects cash discount. A SINGLE SUPPLEMENT of \$550 will apply if a suitable roommate is not available. Cancellation penalties will apply after August 1, 2010. See Cancellation & Refund Policy below. Information which may assist you to secure a roommate will be provided upon request.

PRELIMINARY / TENTATIVE – LUFTHANSA (LH) FLIGHT SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE, WITH NOTICE)

<u>Outbound (Jan.17, 2010):</u>		
LH #455	SFO-FRANKFURT	2:25P-10:15A + 1DAY
LH #312	FRANKFURT-FLORENCE	12:50P-2:15P
<u>Return (Jan.29 and Feb.1, 2010):</u>		
LH #1909	VENICE-MUNICH	12:45P-1:50P
LH #458	MUNICH-SFO	4:15P-7:25P

CHANGE OF ITINERARY

Any changes in the itinerary by a participant will result in a \$100 change fee, plus any additional charges as a result of the change -- if the change is possible. There will be no refunds for any unused portions of the trip as the group rates are based on everyone following the same itinerary.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Some restrictions and penalties apply to your vacation investment. If you cancel your reservations, **YOUR RIGHT TO A REFUND IS LIMITED**, as set forth in the following schedule. All cancellations must be in writing and sent to Alphorn Tours, Inc., 4 Congress St. Newburyport, MA 01950. Date of postmark will determine applicable policy:

After August 1, 2010 and up to 120 days (September 17, 2009) prior to departure cancellation policy is as follows:

- A: Any and all cancellations, whether by individual trip participants or by the Group in its entirety are subject to a \$150.00 per person contracted administration fee up until 120 days prior to departure.
- B: Any and all cancellations received 119 to 90 days prior to departure - \$ 395.00 per person contacted cancellation fee.
- C: Any and all cancellations received 89 to 39 days prior to departure - \$ 695.00 per person contacted cancellation fee.
- D: Any and all cancellations received 38 days or less to departure – NO refunds.

No refunds for early departure or late arrival. No shows, no refund. No partial refunds will be made on car rentals, airfare, or unused portions of this package. Refunds will be made as soon as they are received from vendors (minimum eight (8) weeks).

INSURANCE

Purchase of trip insurance is strongly recommended covering, accident, sickness or death of a participant or covered family member that would result in cancellation either prior to or during the trip.

Trip participants can go to www.alphorntours.com homepage and click on the Travel Guard link to sign up for trip insurance. If calling Travel Guard (800-549-9037) give Alphorn Tours agent code of 125081 to sign up.

PASSPORT

For Passport Info. go to <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Your passport needs to be valid at least 3 months beyond final exit date (1/29 or 2/1/11) and you must have at least 3 blank pages for visa (none needed) and/or immigration entry/exit stamps. If you are/will be deficient, take care of it NOW !



Florence & Val Gardena, Italy
GOLDEN GATE TOP OF THE HILL GANG (GGTOTHG)

Monday, January 17 to Saturday, January 29, 2011 or to Tuesday, February 1, 2011 with Venice extension
TRIP APPLICATION, DEPOSIT AND WAIVERS

(DUE BY JUNE 11: This trip is strictly limited to the FIRST 30 DEPOSIT-PAID applicants)

Enclosed is my (our) \$500.00 per person deposit(s) for the Jan. 17 - 29, 2011 Florence & Val Gardena
 ADD \$330 for each person's 3-NIGHT VENICE EXTENSION TO MY TRIP – CHECK HERE →→→→→

Name(s)(1): _____ Rooming* with(2): _____
 (Exactly as it appears on your Passport) (*Please arrange your own roommate, matching service IS NOT offered. Single Supplement is \$550.)

Email(1): _____	Home Phone: _____	Email (2): _____	Home Phone: _____
Address: _____	Cell Phone: _____	Address: _____	Cell Phone: _____
	Work Phone: _____		Work Phone: _____

Yes, I have (1) completed fully the enclosed participant information sheet - page 5; (2) enclosed the required deposits;
 (3) read, understand and accept the cancellation, refund & limits of liability policies of Alphorn Tours, Inc. on the reverse side - page 3
 and (4) have read, understand, accept and signed the GGTOTHG waiver form below.

Signature	Date	Signature	Date
-----------	------	-----------	------

GGTOTHG SPORT AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES WAIVER

PARTICIPANT(S) RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.

Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing.

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with Sport, Venue(s) Use and Related Activities.

I / We do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I / we have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with this trip to Val Gardena and related trip venues and/or activities, transportation of equipment related to the activities, and travelling to and from activity sites in which I / we am about to engage. Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:

1. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized is significant including the potential for broken bones, severe injuries to the head, neck, and back or other bodily injuries that may result in permanent disability and death.
2. Possible equipment failure and/or malfunction or misuse of my own or others' equipment.
3. I / we agree that I / we will wear approved protective gear as decreed by the governing body of the sport I / we am / are participating in. However, protective gear cannot guarantee the participant's safety. I / we further agree that no helmet can protect the wearer against all potential head injuries or prevent injury to the wearer's face, neck or spinal cord.
4. Variation and/or steepness of terrain, variation or changes in surfaces including but not limited to snow surfaces, ice, bare spots, rocks, stumps, debris, cliffs, trees, fences, posts, trees, light poles. Signs buildings, roads, walkways, ramps, rails, stairs, pyramids, manual pads, bowls, half-pipes, Jumps, padded and non-padded barriers, other persons, and other natural and man-made hazards.
5. My / our own negligence and/or the negligence of others, including but not limited to operator error and guide decision making including misjudging terrain, weather, riding surfaces or other obstacles.
6. Exposure to the elements and temperature extremes may result if frost nip, frost bite, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sunburn, hypothermia and dehydration.
7. Dangers associated with exposure to natural elements include but are not limited to avalanche, rock fall, inclement weather, thunder and lightning, severe and or varied wind, temperature and other weather conditions.
8. Accidents or illness occurring in remote places where there are no available medical facilities.
9. Fatigue, exhaustion, chill, and/or dizziness, which may diminish my reaction time and increase the risk of accident.
10. Impact or collision with other athletes, spectators, facility employees, pedestrians, motor vehicles, and cyclists.

I / we understand the description of these risks is not complete and unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death.

Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement.

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the above described activities and related activities, I / we hereby agree and acknowledge that:

1. **I / WE HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE,** the following named persons or entities, herein referred to as releasees: Golden Gate Top of the Hill Gang (GGTOTHG), its Board of Directors, and Trip Leaders.
2. To release the releasees, their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers from liability and responsibility whatsoever and for any claims or causes of action that I / we, my / our estate, heirs, survivors, executors, or assigns may have for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death arising from the above activities whether caused by active or passive negligence of the releasees or otherwise. By executing this document, I / we agree to hold the releasees harmless and indemnify them in conjunction with any injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property that may occur as a result of my engaging in the above activities.
3. By entering into this Agreement, I / we am / are not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the releasees, other than what is set forth in this Agreement.
4. This agreement shall apply to any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property occurring at any time after the execution of this agreement.

This release shall be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any provision of this release is found to be unenforceable, the remaining terms shall be enforceable.

I / WE HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, I / WE FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, I / WE UNDERSTAND THAT I / WE HAVE GIVEN UP LEGAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I / WE SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Signature	Date	Signature	Date
-----------	------	-----------	------

Florence & Val Gardena, Italy
GOLDEN GATE TOP OF THE HILL GANG (GGTOTHG)

Monday, Jan. 17 to Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011 or to Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011 with Venice extension

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Note: Complete #1. Spaces for yourself. #2. Spaces for roommate (if known)

Name (EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT !) :

1. Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name or Initial: _____

2. Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name or Initial: _____

1. Address: # & Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ State: _____

2. Address: # & Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ State: _____

1. Email: _____ Home Phone:(____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

2. Email: _____ Home Phone:(____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Passport Information (EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT !) :

1. Passport #: _____ Date of Expiration: ____/____/____
(You must have at least 3 blank pages for immigration control officer's stamps) (must be at least 3 months beyond 2/1/11 – i.e. 5/1/11 or later)

2. Passport #: _____ Date of Expiration: ____/____/____

1. Nationality: _____ Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: ____/____/____

2. Nationality: _____ Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Other Information:

1. Skier Level: Advanced Intermediate Beginner Will Bring Own Skis?: Yes No Non-skier / Hiker

Brief self-description / interests: _____

2. Skier Level: Advanced Intermediate Beginner Will Bring Own Skis?: Yes No Non-skier / Hiker

Brief self-description / interests: _____

Will you opt for the Venice extension ? 1. Yes No 2. Yes No

Will you be participating as a single, paying the \$550 supplement ? Yes No

Airplane Seating Preferences:

(We can request, but; THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL BE HONORED.)

Airplane seating preference: 1. Aisle Window No Preference 2. Aisle Window No Preference

.....
Special notes or anything else we should know ? _____

1. _____

2. _____