



October 5, 2017

TO: All Potential Attendees – SSEC Annual Conference

FROM: Michael Berson, Jim Davis, Richard Diem: Conference Coordinators

RE: 2018 SSEC Annual Meeting, Florence, Italy, June 5 – 10, 2018

**We are sending this notice early this year because our Florence hotel, the Ambasciatori, mandates that our attendees make hotel reservations no later than December 15, 2017. Reservation information is in the box below. If you have questions, e-mail Richard Diem at [Richard.Diem@utsa.edu](mailto:Richard.Diem@utsa.edu).**

Booking Website: <http://www.hotelambasciatori.net/index.html>

Use this reservation code: AIA2018

Single room/night – 215 Euros; Double room/night – 235 Euros, both plus city tax

The hotel wrote us that credit cards will not be billed until the time of check-out. Reservations can be modified or cancelled without penalty up to 30 days prior to check-in. After that, they are subject to full charge. You may book for two days ahead of the conference, but not after the conference.

Below is a preliminary conference program, courtesy of Academic Initiatives Abroad, the group who hosted us in Rome four years ago.

***Tuesday, June 5 – welcome reception, 6:00-7:30pm***

- Classic Aperitivo in Hotel Ambasciatori bar. Includes red & white wine, 1 cocktail, soft drinks, light snacks

***Wednesday, June 6 – walking tour of Florence***

- Morning half-day walking tour of Central Florence. Tour includes admission to the Galleria dell' Accademia (Michelangelo's Davis) and an urban walking tour to include Palazzo Medici\*, Palazzo Vecchio\* (\*entrance into public courtyards as permitted without admission), Piazza del Duomo (no admission to monuments included). Tour will include whisper headsets. Two guides will be provided for the Accademia for a group of 26 or more.
- Multi-course lunch at Ristorante Il Pennello

***Thursday, June 7 – wine tasting trip to Chianti hill towns***

- Coach transportation through the Chianti region, 9:00 – 17:00
- Guided walking tour of San Gimignano and 1 – 2 other picturesque Tuscan hill towns
- Multi-course lunch at Agriturismo Croce di Bibbiano (near San Gimignano) with a sommelier-guided tasting of five wines

***Friday, June 8 – day trip to Siena***

- Coach transportation to/from Siena 9:00 – 17:00
- Guided talking tour of Siena. Tour includes guided visits to the Palazzo Pubblico, Duomo and Synagog
- Multi-course lunch at Ristorante Guido Riccio in the Piazza del Campo

***Saturday, June 9 – SSEC Presentation at Hotel Ambasciatori Conference Center***

- Equipped Conference Room suitable for 40 participants, 9:00 – 18:00
- Coffee Break
- Sit-down buffet lunch at Hotel Ambasciatori. Includes 4 appetizers, first course, second course, 2 side-dishes, dessert, coffee and water