

The New Spirit of Flying IN ITALY

The development of civil aviation in Italy has been so considerable in slightly over ten years that it now ranks among the most progressive in the world. Its origin was delayed until after the advent of Fascism which in 1922 had first of all to create military aviation when the reconstruction of the country was taken up, and the menace of its dissolution due to subversive disorder, passively tolerated by the Demoliberals, was averted. Evidence of the success attained is afforded by the fact that at present Italian air lines cover in flight about 20,000 kilometres daily. Italian aircraft in the beginning was necessarily a hundred percent of foreign manufacture and the speed then reached averaged about 150 kilometres an hour. Today, instead, 95% of the planes in use, as well as their instruments and engines, are of Italian manufacture and their average speed reaches 250 kilometres per hour and exceeds 300

on certain air lines. The fastest four-engined commercial aeroplane in the world, namely the Savoia 48, is Italian and it is employed on the Rome-Paris service with accommodation for 24 passengers in a spacious cabin equipped with every comfort including a refreshment bar and tables for luncheon served on board. The fastest hydroplane is also Italian and for some years past it has been employed on the Mediterranean lines to Palermo, Tunis, Tripoli and Cyrene. It is likewise a "Savoia" and its prototypes are the unsurpassable machines of the famous Italian Air Armada that crossed the Atlantic.

All this is well-known, and it is likewise common knowledge that every year 100,000 foreign passengers travel by air on the Italian lines and that the technical experts of the foreign aviation companies already fully recognize the superiority of Italian aircraft over the Dutch, Amer-

ican and German planes employed on their lines.

In fact, shortly before sanctions were imposed, when one of the most important air companies in Europe, the "Sabena" of Belgium, opened a competition for the best type of plane to be employed for trans-continental air services, preference was given to the Italian planes in competition with those of the whole world. Now that sanctions are over it is reported that important foreign orders for Italian planes will shortly be given.

Civil aviation under the Fascist regime is perfectly organized under every respect. Air passages are cheap, passengers are well taken care of not only in flight but on their arrival at and departure from airports, while safety is assured by the skill and experience of the pilots, most of them having served in the Air Force and are "millionaires of kilometres", as they are called because their training includes a million kilometres' flight. At the same time, the comfortable equipment on board Italian planes and their regularity in making connections with other services, deserve special mention.

But Italian civil aviation besides its intrinsic merits and inherent qualities that contribute towards its superiority, has a great advantage over all the others that renders it unique. Travel by air in Italy is more delightful than elsewhere and it is always a pleasure because the Country flown over is the most lovely one in the world.

It is a well-established fact that air travel in general is perfect. Speed's triumph over space has contracted the Earth's distance and conversely enlarged the bounds of human knowledge. It demands interest and enjoyment which form part of the new technique of travel, and there is no doubt that both are fully supplied by air journeys which imply the utmost comfort. Modern civilization has certainly improved life even by rendering it more dynamic, and bringing it into closer contact with realities, but, fortunately, the eyesight of the soul has not suffered in consequence and the love of beauty still survives as strong as ever.

There is no vision of beauty to compare with that seen in Italy, the land inhabited since far-off mythical times before the dawn of history, wrapped in a mantle of romance, with grey towns besides a turquoise sea, its sunshine and fertility envied by every nation.

The Direction of Italian Tourists is compiling and will shortly bring out a kind of artistic guide of Italy seen from the sky. It will be illustrated by a magnificent collection of aerial photographs representing both scenery and notable buildings. No doubt this modern guide-book will be in great demand and of great use, but like all books, however perfect and complete, it will never convey to its readers the full beauty of Italy actually admired from the sky.

In fact, there will be something new and better to see by those who travel by air. It is the unexpected that one seeks and therefore prefers.

The guide will be useful for reference to Italy's history, its literature, its agriculture and its new buildings, but the ordinary air passengers will be satisfied with its beauty.

It follows from the above that preference should be given to the Italian air lines if one really wants to admire the country. Italian planes are known for the comfortable accommodation they afford and for the speed with which they fly, and no effort is

being spared to improve them in order to render Italian air services the best in the world. But beauty comfort and all the advantages offered, although undoubtedly appreciated, are entirely forgotten, when one journeys by air, because the prevailing feeling that overpowers, as it were all other sensations, is due to the fact that one soars over the earth and all its great beauty can be admired.

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E' proprio il momento di pensare al Natale in famiglia. Chi ha lungamente ideato di fare una gita in Italia, adesso è già in movimento per trovarsi in patria alla fine di dicembre. Le partenze dei grandi transatlantici dell'"Italia" sono parecchie. A non contare quella della "Vulcania", 31 ottobre, da New York e Boston; in novembre abbiam quello da New York, del 7 col "Conte di Savoia"; del 14 col "Rex"; del 21 con la "Saturnia", pure da New York e da Boston il giorno dopo. A dicembre ci sono quelle del 5, "Vulcania", e, la più prossima a Natale del "Rex", che salpa da New York il 12 e giunge a Napoli il 19, a Genova il 20 dicembre. Quest'ultima partenza sarà spettacolare.

Il focolaro della famiglia: la poesia e la concordia di casa nostra! Riabbracci coloro che si amano e si sognano! Rivedere l'Italia! Due mesi in Patria — tutto novembre e dicembre, sin dopo l'Epifania; o giungere a Natale e passarvi le Feste, gennaio, e ritornare fra febbraio e marzo estasiati dal profumo delle prime viola mammole!

Itinerario di due mesi: 15 giorni di mare, andata e ritorno; 15 giorni in famiglia; un mese in giro per la Penisola: 3 giorni a Napoli o Palermo; una settimana a Roma; un'altra set-

timana tra Firenze, Bologna e Venezia; un'altra settimana tra Milano, Torino e Genova. Viaggio delizioso, sui treni comodissimi e puntualissimi delle ferrovie italiane. Alberghi per ogni gusto e per ogni borsa. Beneficio della lire turistica (\$4.91 per ogni 100 lire) con l'uso di buoni di albergo e con lo speciale prezzo di benzina per l'automobile che o si porta dall'America o si noleggia. Sui treni i turisti viaggiano con forti riduzioni, dal 50 al 70 per cento, in tutte le classi.

Non importa se non si dispone del danaro per il biglietto d'imbarco di prima o seconda classe. La terza classe della Linea Italiana è provvista di cabine signorilissime, tutt'aria e luce. Lo "standard" del servizio è ineccepibile. La traversata è rapidissima: una settimana.

Oggi si va a godere Natale in Italia da veri signori; ci si va da turisti; in terza classe si tratta di spendere col "Rex" e col "Conte di Savoia" 112 dollari, e 105 con la "Vulcania" o con la "Saturnia"; andata e ritorno, da Napoli o Genova, rispettivamente, \$195 e dollari 182.50.

Chi ha pensato al Natale con i suoi, adesso decide di partire e si prepara — beato lui! — alla gioia del rimpatrio.