

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & FAMOUS



CHAMPAGNE ODYSSEY: MY GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE COMING SOON

By Lynn Tribbling, September 2018

Last time I checked, my blood wasn't blue. But I am convinced that somewhere in my ancestral DNA is a scintilla of royalty. If you exclude 3 generations of Irish horse thieves, I am sure there is an allele, a chromosome, a smidgen of aristocracy lurking in the swampy Tribbling genetic pool.

Hence, the motivation for my upcoming bucket-list trip is to search for my roots, mingle with the rich and famous. I might even find a distant cousin or an annoyingly wealthy soulmate. (Think Ryan Gosling with class, pedigree and Swiss bank account)

For my 7-day stay in Rome, I booked a fabulous Palazzo in the heart of the eternal city, a posh boutique hotel called, Residenza Ruspoli Bonaparte. Have a look at these jaw-dropping photos. Each spectacular room resonates opulence beyond words. Hope they don't throw me out for wearing Walmart sneakers .

Built in 1586, this regal residence was home to Queen Hortence and her ambitious little boy Napoleon Bonaparte III. Handel, the composer, lived there for a while and a genuine Prince and Princess still live upstairs. Nice to know in case I run out of laundry detergent. I can just nip upstairs and borrow a cup of royal Tide.

I can't wait to see the rich silk tapestries, gilded Baroque mirrors, plump feather-stuffed sofas, glittering Empire chandeliers and magnificent renaissance art. I can imagine wandering through my 3000 square foot suite, channeling past nobility who shared this space over the past 5 centuries and thinking I hope they dusted.

I promise a full report of my adventure when I return. If you do not hear from me for a while, don't worry. I am probably stomping grapes in Tuscany, sampling Ouzo in Corfu or swilling Slivovica in Dubrovnik. Most likely, I won't find Ryan Gosling but a flirtation with a sun-tanned goat-herder in Slovenia might be fun. At my age, I have a gratitude attitude.

Inspired by the poet Tennyson, to drink life to the lees and follow knowledge like a sinking star, the plan is to spend 4-weeks, enjoying a land and sea tour of **Italy** and **Greece**, with stops in **Croatia**, **Montenegro** and **Slovenia** aboard the 5-star luxury **Cunard** cruise ship, **Queen Victoria**. The goal is a splendid voyage of discovery, exploring the best things in life: art, antiquity, architecture and Prosecco.

It has been more that a dozen years since my last holiday. I spent the past decade lovingly caring for my dear mother. I was at her side daily, helping her fend off the obscene ravages of old age. Mom is gone. It is my time now. Tick Tock. **Carpe diem**,Baby.

