My beloved Papa - 12 Friday Aug 7. 55

what a joy to get your sweet-lonely letter!! Let me quickly ease your mind as to my health, behaviour and company — all are in perfect condition. The reason I have been so bad about writing is simply that I have been doing so many wonderful things that there seems barely to be the time to eat and sleep between!! Rome was heavenly - beautiful, warm, charming, gay - I met a young boy from a good family, who fell in love with the show in general and everybody in particular - he has been taking me around to all the fun places - a grand tour of Rome, Naples, and now Milan on a Lambretta (like a Vespa) - dancing after the show - in Naples we went to Capri, Ischia, Procida, Pompeii, the whole Amalfi

drive all the way to Salerno, and back through the mountains at sunset! And of course every night the damn show! The theatre in Naples was as modern, huge and magnificent as the one in Rome was dinky, small and airless - it was a joy to work there. Here the Nuovo is not as bad as I remembered it, and the weather is cool and very pleasant. We have been taking to the lakes for air and sunshine, and a huge pool just outside Milan. You won't recognize me, I promise you, in more ways than one! I am browner than I have ever been, blonder, happier, everything but lonesome. Thanks to my little friend Bruno I have done things I wouldn't even have thought of! Yesterday we went to Como, then took a boat to Bellagio - the most heavenly beautiful day - green lake

green trees, pink[3] houses, old stone, more trees, and blue blue sky! I felt so good when we came home that I even had fun doing the show and that hasn't happened in weeks.

I am actually happy and somewhat relieved about the play - now I can go home and really enjoy it - without being scared stiff!! Especially for a first big play - much better!

Did you see Szeryng before he left? I wrote finally to Dandelot, it was the only address I had - and I don't know where to write in Mexico. Have you his address by any chance?

I had a long long letter from Pauli - sweet and delightful - I hope I will see him a bit more this year. Now in August and then we open Sept. 17 in Philadelphia for three weeks. So he'll be around a little, I expect.

I did get some dresses in

Rome - two beeeautiful ones and then lots of little things - I won't tell you - you will see them next week - If you can't come to Venice I can probably come to you for one day - I am working on another plan still but don't know if it will work. We are definitely ending the tour in Venice August 16th, and going home as soon as transportation can be arranged. As yet no one seems to know whether we are going back to Rome or what - and no one knows exactly when - So I still might have a couple of days free - but I doubt it. I am sure they don't want to keep us on payroll a moment longer than necessary. Actually it will be much better going back with the company than alone - no baggage weighing (we're all over the limit and they weigh it en masse not separately by people) - probably

no customs and very little fuss of any kind -

The show has been a real smash hit in Milan - and only here! All the other places were pleased but not excited. Opening night here the audience not only stood through three encores, but they ~~stood~~ sat through the whole exit music and applauded the orchestra and the conductor at the end! I don't think this has ever happened anywhere! We've had Lollobrigida, Magnani, Fredric March and innumerable "poisonalities" - I've been dancing more here because many people have left, or they're falling out of boats or trains or Lambretta's - It keeps things from getting dull.

Friday the 12th we leave for Venice - we open Sunday night the 14th. I wish we had longer there

and less in Milan. Here I have been catching up on my sleep and vitamins - I think I gained back most of the weight I lost in Paris.

Darling Papa - let me know where you will be in Switzerland - and see you next week I hope!

Love love love

Eva