

Day 5 Wednesday, April 18 Florence

FRESCO WORKSHOP

This six-hour fresco workshop provides a hands-on experience of the materials and technique of fresco painting. The session begins with a visit to the studio of our docent, an accomplished fresco artist, and a brief lecture/overview of fresco. We are then guided through the steps of preparing a surface, drawing and transferring one of our Venice sketches (cartoon), and finally applying the paint. At end, participants take home their own fresco. Since the proper materials are critical to fresco, much attention will be paid to the traditions and conditions of fresco making.

The primary objective of this workshop is to explore first-hand the art of fresco painting by using the same materials and techniques of the Renaissance masters.

Day 6 Thursday, April 19 Florence

Enjoy free time to sketch this morning.

After lunch, meet up with your private expert guide for this tour:

Masterpieces of the Uffizi (3 hours)

The Uffizi Gallery, one of the most important galleries in the world, offers a collection of world-famous artistic masterpieces such as Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Caravaggio's Bacchus along with other works by Renaissance masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. You will enter with reservations and tour the gallery's treasures with an expert, English-speaking private guide. Tour will also include an overview of the Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio.

Day 7 Friday, April 20 Florence

After a free morning to sketch we will re-connect with the group to explore the Oltrarno area—it's just across the bridge from your hotel—with an expert guide. The Oltrarno area – literally "the other side of the Arno River" – is considered by many to be the most beautiful and characteristic area of Florence. This quarter has many artisan workshops, which maintain age-old traditions, such as working with gold, silver, and wrought iron or creating paper, hats or shoes. Stroll through the quaint streets and enjoy the heritage and history of Florence as it thrives in this charming neighborhood. The Oltrarno is also home to a trio of treasured churches—Santa Felicitá, with not just one, but two of Jacopo Pontormo's masterpieces; Santo Spirito, designed by Brunelleschi; and Santa Maria del Carmine, where the Brancacci Chapel is located. There are many terrific restaurants in the area. One of our favorites is La Osteria di Cinghiale Bianco (The White Boar), and we've made arrangements for you to have dinner there this evening.

Day 8 Saturday, April 21 Depart Florence

Sketch Italy with Judy Taylor

Venice to Florence



April 14-21, 2012

Itinerary

Friday, April 13

Arrive Venice

Arrive in Venice by train or plane, depending on your pre-workshop plans. Once you know your travel plans, we can assist you with getting from the train station or airport to the hotel.

Day 1

Saturday, April 14

Meet in Venice

Now that you've had a good night's rest, we're ready to begin our exploration of Venice in earnest. Where else to start but St. Mark's Square?

Venice Walking Tour (3 hours)

Our expert guide will meet you and escort you on a walking tour of this romantic city that begins in San Marco Square with the magnificent Basilica of San Marco. One of the most unique cities in the world, Venice offers priceless art, stunning architecture and an element of mystery with its canals and winding alleyways. Admire the church's rich, detailed mosaics and the sculptures that adorn this enchanting structure. Next, learn about Venetian art and style with a tour of the gothic Doge's Palace that dates to approximately 1309, and its trove of treasures. This visit concludes in the Rialto area where clients will stroll over the city's oldest and best-known Rialto Bridge to end in the bustling Rialto Market for a glimpse of local life. As you've seen, Venice has its fair share of monuments, museums, and decorated churches, but frankly just about the best thing you can do today is ignore all the sights and just wander the streets aimlessly and sketch. If you can, try to get lost. You'll stroll past slowly decaying Gothic palaces decorated with pointy Byzantine windows, stumble across pocket-sized campielli (squares) where the news du jour is exchanged and discussed, and duck into the shade of a tiny bar to share a glass of wine (ombra here in Venice) with the locals. To best avoid the tourist crowds, head deep into the residential neighborhoods of Castello (especially in the eastern half); northern Cannaregio, especially the Ghetto (the medieval Jewish quarter); and La Giudecca, another large Venetian island not connected to the rest by any bridge.

Enjoy dinner together tonight.

[Trip Includes Complete Itinerary \(Hotels in Florence and Venice, expert guides, instruction, sketching material, all breakfasts, dinners except one night on your own, fresco class, gratuities, admissions \)](#).

\$5200 does not include airfare

[To reserve contact Rosanne Zammuto Cofoid at 630 887 8983](#)

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Day 2

Sunday, April 15

Venice

Visit the island of Burano this afternoon after a morning of sketching. Burano, with its brightly painted houses, is world-renowned for intricate lace making and provides countless artistic opportunities. There are many charming yards and squares where drying laundry adds to the general decorative gaiety of Burano. Along the lagoon shore you'll find superb views of neighboring island Torcello (with, on a clear day, a mountainous backdrop) and smaller islands like San Francesco del Deserto. The town of Burano covers the island, with several small canals acting as thoroughfares. There are a couple of larger squares, and many little lanes and alleys. The town's fishing industry can be glimpsed along the canal sides and around the island's shores, where there are tiny fishing harbors. There are no essential tourist attractions other than the island itself and its general ambience. Apart from the painted houses, Burano's most identifiable landmark is the island's church, San Martino, which has an impressively-leaning bell tower, to rival the most slanting of Venice's campanili. Inside the church is a Crucifixion by Tiepolo.

Dinner on Burano

Day 3

Monday, April 16

Venice

Artistic Treasures of Venice (3 hours) You will discover exquisite Venetian art from important artists such as Bellini, Veronese, Tiepolo, Canaletto, and Guardi at the Accademia Gallery. The collection is a true history of European art with works ranging from the Byzantine era to the eighteenth century. Next, explore the artistic and creative personality of this beautiful city during a walk through the most noteworthy quarters, including a maze of hidden cobblestone streets and the area where locals once built their world-famous gondolas. Lastly, clients will proceed through the characteristic Zattere borough with its inviting promenade and home to a number of former palaces and churches. The last stop within this area is the church of Gesuati, famed for its beautiful frescoes and inlaid with magnificent marble.

Dinner together.

Day 4

Tuesday, April 17

Venice to Florence via Verona

Take the vaporetto or a private boat to Piazzale Roma. Upon arrival at Venice's Piazzale Roma our driver will transfer you to the picturesque town of Verona. Built along the Adige River, it's the famous setting of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliette, and is home to this spectacular opera performed every year in the Roman amphitheater. Visit the Piazza Erbe, Church of San Zeno and Arena that dates to 30 AD. Whether a Shakespeare enthusiast or not, Juliette's balcony shouldn't be missed. After touring Verona, you will proceed to Florence.

Enjoy dinner together. Close to the hotel