



HELLO FRIENDS!

We are off to Italy this coming May, 2009 for another wonderful decorative arts tour and hands on workshop, led once again by Gary Lord and Melanie Royals. Joining us on this trip will be a special guest teacher, Alison Woolley Bukhgalter. Alison's teaching and decorative furniture studio was the site of our LAST painting trip to Florence in October 2007. www.florenceart.net

This new trip is scheduled to depart the US on May 1st and arrive at the Rome Airport on May 2nd. From there we will take a deluxe motor coach up to the beautiful Umbrian region of Italy, about 2 hours north of Rome. This region, called "the green heart of Italy" is known for its majestic panoramic landscapes, exquisite cuisine, medieval hill towns, and old world charm. See <http://www.initaly.com/regions/umbria/umbria.htm>

We will be staying in a medieval hamlet in a castle called Castello di Casigliano, www.castellodicasigliano.com, owned by the Corsini family who also owned the Villa di Maiano we stayed in on our last trip to Tuscany in October 2007. This location features a series of "apartments" with kitchenettes.

The Corsini family has a great history of poverty and wealth, they have been wool merchants, popes, cardinals, shipping magnates, land owners, and agriculturalists. The Corsinis purchased the Castello from the Catholic Church in the 1600's with the sale of one of their ships, The Mayflower. Now THAT is some history! The property at one time encompassed all the land you could see and much more. There is a restaurant on site that serves very good fresh regional food. There is also a bar on site with ample amounts of liquor and numerous varieties of Italian wines.

We will be relaxing the first days we arrive in Italy and then on Monday we will start classes, which will be led by Gary, Melanie and Alison. We will be using Italian products that can also be purchased in the US. The large room we are working in is called the Granaio and we will be doing an embossed plaster finish on the walls, stenciled and hand painted Grottesca work on the pilasters, and stylized landscape mural painting on glass for a faux etching effect using Modello Decorative Masking Patterns.

The pace will be nice and relaxed with a wonderful addition to your portfolio as an end result. Todi is a fun hilltop town only 15 minutes away from the Castello, with great views, good shopping and fantastic places to eat. You can share a van, if you wish, on the evenings when we don't have a planned group dinner. Umbria is a small region and the Castello is centrally located. Most of the entire Umbrian region can be driven to within 2 hours of where we are staying.

ITALY 2009

THE FOLLOWING IS A ROUGH ITINERARY OF THE TOUR
(SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES)

MAY 1ST Depart late evening from the US and fly into Rome Airport (not included in trip price).

MAY 2ND Arrive Rome Airport the next morning by 9:30-10 am. Take a deluxe motor coach up to Castello di Casigliano. Stop at grocery store to purchase items for your room. Relax, then have group dinner at the Castello (all included).

MAY 3RD Romano will give us a private behind the scenes tour of the Castello and all of its history. We will then tour to a location less than one hour away called Tittignano (www.titignano.com). Owned by another Corsini family member, this location has an unbelievable view of mountains and a huge lake. Here we will be taking a tour of the olive oil press and the winery. We will be having a wine tasting and lunch while there. (all included). Evening free.

MAY 4TH Classes at the Castello. This evening we will provide bus transportation into the nearby town of Todi, where you can select from several fine, local restaurants to dine at.

MAY 5TH
Classes at the Castello. Evening free.

MAY 6TH Classes and painting at the Castello. We will break early and in the late afternoon we will be taking the deluxe motor coach into a charming Umbrian town called Orvieto. We will be dining at a restaurant that has won the top Italian award for the best food in Italy. (like our Mobil 5 Star award) The church in this town is amazing with all of the mosaics on the outside of it. For those that like to shop it has a beautiful shopping district.



MAY 7TH
Painting at the Castello. Evening free.

MAY 8TH
Complete projects at the Castello. Hosted "potluck" dinner with wine.

MAY 9TH
Take the deluxe motor coach into Assisi for the entire day and Grand Gala departure dinner together in Assisi.

MAY 10TH
Return to Rome approximately 6:00 am via deluxe motor coach.

During classes
Gary, Melanie and Allison
will be teaching you specialty
finishes created exclusively
for our Italy 2009 group!

TRIP COST PER PERSON: \$3195.00

Includes:

- 8 nights accommodations at the Castello di Casigliano (prices based on double occupancy, rooms are also suites where up to four or five share one apartment, which has a stove and refrigerator.)
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Breakfast each day
- 5 lunches/wine during class and work days
- 3 Dinners
- Tour of Tignano including wine tasting and lunch
- Friday night “potluck” and game night hosted by Gary and Melanie. Wine complimentary!
- Entry to Assisi
- Taxes and Tips

Not Included:

Air Fare

Note on flights to Rome: We are currently researching the best times and pricing on non-stop flights from major US cities. We will notify you of the flight and city WE select so that you can book on that same flight if you wish. We ALL need to arrive in Rome by mid-morning to take the bus together to the Castello.

Note on return trip: Our motor coach will return all to Rome by about 8am on Sunday, May 10th for those of you who may want to catch a late morning flight back to the States on this day. Gary and Melanie will be staying in Rome until Wednesday morning, May 13th. If you would like to stay on in Rome, we can provide you the hotel information where we will be staying or you can find your own accommodations. Our bus will bring those who are staying into Rome for drop-off. Alternatively, you may want to travel by train from Termini Station in Rome to other destinations in Italy!

Note on Italy transportation: We will have motor coach service for the days that we are travelling and touring together. Additional transportation can be reserved nightly for mini-van service into the nearby hill town of Todi if you wish to leave the Castello on our free nights there, rather than dine at the Castello’s restaurant.



To reserve your spot we require a \$1,000.00 deposit. We only have space for 19 people on this trip, so space is very limited. We will be taking those that sign up in a first come, first served basis.

Payments can be made to:

Prismatic Painting Studio

11126 Deerfield Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

In the memo denote Italy 09

Credit cards are accepted with an additional 3% surcharge if used for payments

Payment Schedule:

\$1,000 Deposit to reserve (non-refundable)

\$1,097.50 Due January 15, 2009

\$1,097.50 Due March 15, 2009*

**Please note that the trip cost is based on the current Euro to dollar value of currency as of October 2008. In the unlikely event that the dollar should weaken considerably prior to our trip, we reserve the right to adjust the final trip payment accordingly.*

Special note from Gary: We have always filled the trips from this short list in the past and do so usually within three weeks of the letters being sent out. My wife and I toured this area this summer and loved it! Alison said she thinks the area is as beautiful as Tuscany and she sheepishly said she thought the food in this region was even BETTER.

For more information contact

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