

“The Artful Life”

A painting and culinary workshop
in the hills of Tuscany with
Doug Turman and Mary Lee Larison

October 6 - 13 2018



Blessed with beauty and an unparalleled artistic legacy, Tuscany is a region that fully lives up to its image. Stupendous art, soul-aching countryside, excellent wine and lip-smacking cuisine is what this special region, where the Renaissance rippled out across Europe, is all about.

Join Doug Turman and Mary Lee Larison for a creative and relaxing watercolor and culinary workshop. In this week long workshop you will explore multiple ways of creative expression. The instructors will share their knowledge and love of Italy and their specific skills in watercolor painting and cooking.

The views from our accommodation in the Tuscan hills, an elegant 18th century country residence, sweeps over castles, tiny villages and farmhouses, immersed in the warm golden light Tuscany is famous for. Inspiration is everywhere! Several day trips will take us to beautiful locations in well know cities as well as lesser known gems full of Tuscan history and culture.

The Artful Life Workshop aims to demonstrate that all of your experiences influence you, and what better influence than a week in Tuscany? The circle is completed when you find that the experiences during your time painting and cooking - discovery, over coming fears, learning, risk taking, freedom - can be expressed in other aspects of your life.

About the presenters:

Doug Turman is an accomplished painter of watercolor, oil, and acrylic. He has exhibited in galleries and museums, and has works on all seven continents. Doug has taught at the University level and as a workshop instructor. His philosophy of teaching seeks to accommodate students of all abilities, helping them find their individual creative strengths and deeper levels of expression through observation and enjoyment of the art of painting.

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Mary Lee Larison is a passionate cook and culinary explorer, having worked in professional kitchens and as an avid “student” of master chef’s in the US and Italy.

To participate in the “culture of the kitchen” is at the core of her culinary philosophy. Her teaching style brings enthusiasm and a desire to share her experience with others.

For over 16 years Doug and Mary Lee ran a successful contemporary art gallery in Helena, Montana. Each year they travel to different parts of Italy, enhancing their appreciation of Italian culture and cuisine. Their passion is to share their love of Italy with friends and students alike and to help others create an *Artful Life*.

Watercolor

All abilities are welcome and encouraged to attend. Watercolor painting is basically very simple - paint, water & paper. Easy to start, difficult to master. The challenge is part of the enjoyment. You will do fine, especially if you are a total beginner.

For more advanced painters, your issues are almost 80% psychological in my experience. “I want to loosen up” is a common goal. This usually requires looking at some work habits that may over time have become more limiting than productive. The length of the workshop will allow enough time to give these issues the personal attention they require.

Cooking

Whether you prefer a “hands on” experience in the kitchen or would rather observe, you will always be welcome in the kitchen! With the help of Mary Lee, and a few of her Italian cooking friends, we will create delicious meals to share. Locally sourced ingredients paired with a variety of Tuscany’s delicious wines will be a highlight at each meal.

Several day trips have been arranged to explore the natural beauty of Tuscany, its rich history and unforgettable landscape. We will travel to artisan cheese and wine makers, spend a day in Sienna (with a private tour of the famous Cathedral), San Gimignano, Certaldo (a medieval village near our villa), and visit an Italian country home to paint on the terrace overlooking vineyards and olive groves.

Our hope is that you will come away rejuvenated, with a joyful sense of the pleasures of creativity and good company.

The Artful Life 2018 Program

October 6 - 13 at Bacio`

Day 1 *Saturday: Arrival*

- 1:00 pm** Pick up in Florence airport **OR**
- 2:00 pm** Pick up at Florence train station. Transfer to Villa Bacio.
www.fattoriabacio.com (about 1.15 hrs. ride)
Settle into your room at Villa.
- 5:00 pm** Meet up. Presentation of the program.
- 7:30 pm** Three-course welcome dinner at the Villa prepared by Patrizia

Day 2 *Sunday: Painting at the Villa*

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** Breakfast
- 9:15 am – 12:00 pm** Painting
- 12:30 pm** Wine and Olive oil tasting at the cellars of the farm with light lunch.
Prepared by Patrizia. Tour of the cellar & walk in the vineyards if weather permits.
- 2:30 – 4:30 pm** Painting.
- 5:30 pm** Cooking demo and dinner with Mary Lee

Day 3 *Monday: Wine & Cheese tour followed by Lunch & Painting at Claudia & Giovanni's*

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** Breakfast
- 10:00 am** Leave for Fattoria Corzano, www.corzаноepaterno.com (or similar location)
- 10:45 am** Visit wine cellars and cheese production. Light lunch with tasting of products.
- 1 pm – 3:30 pm** Transfer to painting spot at Giovanni's. In case of bad weather return to Villa, painting at Villa.
- 3:30 pm** Return to Villa for Painting or relaxing
- 5:30 pm** Dinner at the Villa prepared by Patrizia

Day 4 *Tuesday: Paint at Villa, late afternoon visit to Certaldo Alto*

- 8:00 am – 8:45 am** Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm** Painting at Villa
- 12:30 pm** Light lunch prepared by Patricia
- 1:30 pm** Painting at the villa.
- 3:30 pm** **Leave for Certaldo Alto.** Afternoon walking tour in Certaldo Alto. This traffic free town atop of a hill still retains its authenticity as a true medieval settlement and offers beautiful vistas. On own for walking, visit the museum, find an aperitivo or coffee.
- 6:00pm** Return to the Villa
- 7:30 pm** Cooking demo and dinner with Mary Lee

Day 5 *Wednesday: Siena*

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am** Breakfast
- 8:15 am** Day trip to Siena.
- 8:15** *leave Villa*
- 9:03** *train to Siena*
- 9:38** *Arrive Siena, taxi to Piazza del Campo under the tower.*
- 10:00 am** *Meet guide on Piazza del Campo under the tower. Walk the short distance to the Duomo for a guided tour. (pre paid tickets are to be changed with the tickets at the Duomo)*
- 10:30 am** *Tour of the Duomo & city (there will be a short coffee break after the visit of Duomo).*
- 1 - 4:45 pm** *Lunch ON OWN, shopping, etc. in Siena.*
- 4:45 pm** *Meet in Piazza del Campo under the tower. (4.15pm) Mary Lee must call Taxi company: +39 0577 4922. Taxi to Train Station.*
- 5:19 pm** *Leave Siena*
- 5:57 pm** *Arrive Certaldo, Shuttle to Villa*
- 7:00 pm** Dinner at the Villa prepared by Patrizia (Alberto's final dinner with wine selections of the Villa)

Day 6 *Thursday: La Meridiana, International School of Ceramics*

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 12:00 am** Painting at Villa
- 12:30 am** Light lunch at Villa, prepared by Mary Lee
- 4:00 pm** Depart for La Meridiana. Meet ceramic artists; visit the gallery and facilities, enjoy a coffee break with homemade sweets.
- 5:30 pm** Return to Villa
- 7:30 pm** **Cooking Demo & Dinner** Mary Lee & Giovanni

Day 7 *Friday: San Gimignano*

- 8:00 am – 8:45 am** Breakfast
- 9:15 am** Leave for S. Gimignano. An essential feature of any visit to central Tuscany, not only on account of its remarkable towers but also the fabulous frescoes and other art works to be seen here.
- 10:00 am** Visit the Monastery Cellole on the way to San Gimignano.
- 12:30 pm** Lunch on own in S. Gimignano.
- 3:00 pm** Return to Villa. Final painting time, and wrap up
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm** Cooking demo and final dinner Mary Lee

Day 8 *Saturday: Departure*

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am** Breakfast.
Departure by 11 am.
Shuttles to Florence are offered at the following times:
- 6.30 am** To be at the Florence airport by 7:30 am. This accommodates the flights that leave between 9:00 and later
- 9.30 am** To be at the Florence train station by 11:00 am and at the airport by 11:30 am. This accommodates all those travelers who plan to stay longer in Italy, either in Florence or taking a train, or who do have a later flight.

In Italy: Mary Lee's cell phone number: +39 3348206227

The Artful Life 2018 Program Details

Duration: 7 nights, 8 days.

Time of year: October 6 – 13 2018

Expect nice weather with temperatures ranging between 59 and 81 F, allowing for maximum opportunities for painting outdoors, strolling, and, if the weather is particularly fine, swimming in the villa's lovely pool.

Group size: Minimum 10 to maximum 12 students.

Services included:

- Florence Airport or Train Station pick up and drop off.
- Accommodation; there are a variety of rooms at the villa. Prices depend on desired accommodation. Please see price list for specific details.
- 7 Breakfasts (a typical "European style breakfast: coffee, tea, juice, meats, cheese, fresh fruit, yogurt, cereals, etc.)
- 3 Dinners prepared by the villa (wine included)
- 4 Dinners prepared by Mary Lee & workshop participants (wine included)
- 4 light lunches
- Watercolor instruction
- Daily assistance and information through qualified members of staff
- Wine and Olive oil tasting
- Field trips to Siena, S. Gimignano, Certaldo Alto, & La Meridiana Ceramics School.
- Ground transportation

Not included:

- 2 Lunches on our day trips to Sienna & San Gimignano
- Any personal expenses
- Painting materials (*some will be provided*).
- Travel or medical Insurance
- Airfare

The Artful Life 2018 Price List

- single room with private bathroom: 2900 euros
- single room with shared bathroom: 2700 euros
- (max 3 people to one bathroom)
- double room with private bathroom: 2500 euros
- double room with shared bathroom: 2300 euros
(max 3 people to one bathroom)

There is a deposit of 600 euros at the time of booking

Villa Rooms

1. Rosa - double bed (can be separated into 2 twins) with shared bathroom
2. Primula - 2 twin beds with shared bathroom
3. Peonia - 2 twin beds with shared bathroom
4. Dalia - 2 twin beds with shared bathroom
5. Iris - 1 double bed with shared bathroom
6. Glicine - double bed (can be separated into 2 twins) with private bathroom & shower
7. Giglio - double bed (can be separated into 2 twins) with private bathroom
- ** 8. Camelia - double bed (can be separated into 2 twins) with private bathroom
9. Viola - double bed with private bathroom & shower

** As of 11/30/17 These rooms are no longer available for 2018

Camelia