

Studio One – Big Sur

Fine Art | Photography | Workshops

Awaken the Artist Within – Sketching Italy

Friday, October 2 through Wednesday, October 14, 2019

13 days / 12 nights

With Erin Lee Gafill & Tom Birmingham

Information & Registration

Program Description

Two Nights in Florence

Visit Pitti Palace, Boboli Gardens and the Historic Center

Stay in a 4-star hotel near Santa Maria Novella

Seven Nights at Spannocchia

15th Century castle | Introduction to Tuscan food and wines

Sketch, Photography, Journaling & Creativity Sessions

Three Day Trips

Siena - Duomo, Piazza del Campo, Historic Center

Spa Day – Terme Rapolano near Asciano

Civita di Bagnoregio – Etruscan City, The town that time forgot

Registration Fee	Double Occupancy		Single Occupancy	
	Shared Bath - Spannocchia	Private Bath - Spannocchia	Shared Bath - Spannocchia	Private Bath - Spannocchia
12 nights, Spannocchia and Orvieto	\$4200	\$4600	\$4800	\$5250
7 nights, Spannocchia only	\$3000	\$3400	\$3500	\$3900

All prices are per person.
If you are traveling independently but, would like to share lodging,
we will try to match you with another traveler.
Spaces filled first come, first served upon receipt of completed registration form and deposit.

Join us for an unforgettable exploration of the culture and countryside of Italy. Experience some of Italy's most special treasures with a small group of kindred spirits. Enrich your experiences by using sketch, watercolor, writing, and photography to hone your attention and heighten your enjoyment.

We meet on Friday, October 2nd in Florence. We'll spend three days experiencing all this beautiful city has to offer. We'll have visits to some of our favorite sites, while allowing plenty of time for sketching, relaxing, or having a glass of wine.

Our stay at Spannocchia will include a daily schedule of sketch and watercolor, timed writing exercises, yoga, morning walks, a Taste of Tuscany, and photography lessons. As full as this

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roster sounds, there will be plenty of time for relaxing with a book on the front lawn, playing cards in one of the sitting rooms, and sharing conversation.

Spannocchia is a medieval castle. It is located at the end of a mile-long unpaved driveway. There are hundreds of acres of fields and woods, with many hiking trails. At this agriturismo retreat they grow their own organic vegetables, produce their own wine and olive oil, and raise Cinta Senese pigs from which they produce prosciutto and other cured meats.

The bedrooms are on two wings, the Villa and the Fattoria. The eight rooms in the Villa wing have private baths, while most of the rooms on the Fattoria wing share three bathrooms on the hall. During our stay at Spannocchia, we have our own studio. Here we share daily instruction and creative practice. The space is available for our exclusive use throughout our stay.

We will take two day trips from Spannocchia. One will be a sketch day in the historic center of Siena. Our second will be to the Terme Rapolano near Asciano. Where we'll soak in the thermal baths and enjoy a relaxing lunch.

From Spannocchia, we'll travel by private coach to the medieval hill-town of Orvieto, where we'll spend three nights. We'll stay in a 4-star hotel within the walls of the historic center. We'll have daily instruction in watercolor sketch technique with Kelly Medford. We'll take a day trip to Civita di Bagnoregio, a one of a kind medieval city that has been separated from its modern sister city by seismic activity. It is like an island in the sky, a city that time passed by.

This trip includes a significant amount of walking on cobblestone streets and uneven surfaces. We are visiting hill towns, which means, hills. Our stay at Spannocchia will be in a beautiful, rustic, and secluded 15th century castle. All bedrooms are on the second floor. While we will do our best to accommodate all our guests' needs, this is a rigorous and adventurous trip.

Unforeseen circumstances or unanticipated opportunities may change parts of our itinerary. We reserve the right to change any part of this tour as needed. We will do everything in our power to make changes that only enhance your experience.

Any questions – contact Tom Birmingham – tom@bigsurarts.com | 831.646.9000.

Send your completed registration to -

Tom Birmingham 48510
Highway 1
Big Sur, CA 93920

Along with -

The \$500 non-refundable deposit and
a photocopy of the photo pages of
your passport

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Registration Form

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Preferred Phone #	
Email Address	

Emergency Contact Info

Name	
Phone	
Email	
Passport #	Expiration Date
Expiration Date	

(Please attach a Xerox copy of your passport picture page)

Registration Fee	Shared bath at Spannocchia	Private Bath at Spannocchia
Twelve Nights - Single Occupancy	\$4800	\$5250
Twelve Nights - Double Occupancy	\$4200	\$4600
Spannocchia only - (seven nights) - Single Occupancy	\$3400	\$3900
Spannocchia only - (seven nights) - Double Occupancy	\$3000	\$3500

_____ I would like to reserve double occupancy, but I am traveling alone. Please pair me with another traveler.

Payment Information

Registration Fee (from above)		
Enclosed Deposit (\$500)		
Balance Due		

Signature

Date

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Please Read & Initial

Cancellation Policy – The \$500 trip deposit is non-refundable. All registration fees must be paid in full by July 1, 2019. If you are unable to participate in this trip for any reason, the following refund schedule applies:

Cancellation before -

March 1, 2019 – all registration fees, less deposit returned

May 1, 2019 – 75% of all registration fees, less

deposit returned July 1, 2019 – 50% of all

registration fees, less deposit returned After July 1,

2019, no refund is available.

We reserve the right to cancel this trip for any reason, in which case we will refund 100% of registration fees paid, including deposit.

Fitness – This tour will include a significant amount of walking. It will include standing and sitting for periods of time. It will also include climbing stairs and walking up cobblestone hills. Our lodging at Spannocchia is on the second floor of the Castello, climbing up 600-year-old, uneven marble stairs. By signing up for this trip you are acknowledging that you feel ready to participate in these activities. Throughout the trip you will need to carry your luggage between lodging spots. We encourage you to bring no more luggage than you can comfortably carry.

Loss or Injury – Travel is an inherently risky undertaking. We do not accept liability for any loss or injury that you may sustain during this trip.

Travel Insurance – we highly recommend that you purchase travel insurance to cover any losses of air fare or tour costs in case you are unable to participate in the tour. If you would like a recommendation of a local agent who sells travel insurance, please let me know.

Ground Transportation – We provide ground transportation from Florence International Airport or Santa Maria Novella train station in Florence to Spannocchia on October 4th. We will provide transportation by vans or on private coaches on each day trip; to and from Siena, to and from our spa day, to and from Civita di Bagnoregio and from Spannocchia to Orvieto. On October 16th we provide ground transportation from Orvieto back to Florence International Airport or Santa Maria Novella Train Station.

What is Included – registration fees include all lodging, all breakfasts all but three lunches in Orvieto, and all dinners entry fees to all museums, churches, and points of interest described in the tour. Your registration fee also includes all instruction and guidance offered during the tour, as well as ground transportation.

What is not Included – registration fee does not include three lunches in Orvieto, airfare to or from our meeting points in Florence, travel insurance, incidental or extra hotel charges, art and photography supplies.