



## HILLTOWNS OF TUSCANY AND UMBRIA STUDY TOUR:

Renaissance Italy and the Literature of the Grand Tour

May 28 – June 8, 2012

This Study Tour is designed for travelers who want to experience the renowned beauty of Tuscany, Umbria, and the Marches, to discover its artistic treasures, to absorb its dramatic history, to experience its people, to taste and feel its culture. We invite you to join us on this rewarding journey of exploration, reflection and enjoyment. For Liberal Studies students in the BALS, MALS and DLS programs, the Study Tour may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit, with the approval of the student's Dean.

The **tour leaders** will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Francis J. Ambrosio, Director, Doctor of Liberal Studies Program, and Ms. Deborah Warin, Director, Renaissance Tours Company, LLC, former Director of Continuing Education and lecturer at Georgetown University, and author of the forthcoming book, *Battista Sforza and the Court of Urbino*. Together they have led more than 35 previous Liberal Studies tours to Italy.

The **cost of the tour** for Liberal Studies students is **\$3995 per person**, plus the charge for tuition at the normal rate for Liberal Studies credit. This is a special discounted price for registered students only. The

cost for all other participants is \$4875.00. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels. All other meals are at the expense of participants. The cost of the tour includes ground transportation and admission fees for all activities included in the itinerary. Please be sure to read the details of Costs, Terms and Conditions in the accompanying statement.

### **Program Overview**

The tour will begin in the city of Florence. During our brief stay here, we will use our time to become acquainted through lectures, slide presentations and discussion with the places we will visit, their special attractions, and the rich patterns of historical and cultural interconnection among them during the Renaissance. In addition, we will begin reflecting and discussing what we can learn from our discoveries for living more fully and humanely in our own societies. Our reflections will be guided by the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> American and British authors for whom the tradition of the European "Grand Tour" became a prism through which to examine the powerful impact of exposure to a cultural tradition altogether different than their own which opened up new horizons and powerfully challenged all their assumptions about human living.

Departing from Florence, our itinerary will take us through western and southern Tuscany and then into Umbria, a region of unique and unsurpassed natural beauty as well as home to richly-layered heritage of living culture, in which the making of wine and cheese, cooking, and working the land play roles as important as the creation of great art. Along the way we will visit towns like Siena, San Gimignano, Volterra, Monteriggioni, Pienza, Montalcino, Cortona, Arezzo, Sansepolcro, Gubbio, Assisi and Orvieto. In addition to following the "Piero della Francesca Trail" which will ultimately lead us over the mountains from Umbria into the Marches and the ducal city of Urbino, we will take a day trip through the breathtaking Casentino province of Tuscany to visit Mount La Verna where St. Francis of Assisi is believed to have received the stigmata.



## ITINERARY

Monday, May 28 - Travelers arrive at the hotel in Florence. In the evening, we gather for a Welcome Reception and a brief orientation before dinner.

Tuesday, May 29 - In the morning, we gather for a preparatory lecture and slide program to introduce some of the major artists, cultures and monuments that we shall encounter in the days ahead. After pranzo, we visit the historic center of the city, the Duomo, Baptistery and Museo del Opera del Duomo. The evening is at leisure.

Wednesday, May 30 - We leave Florence and travel to the home of the Palio, the majestic city of Siena. There we will visit the dramatic black and white cathedral which, even when viewed from miles away, seems to watch over the city and its passionate contrade; and the famous Piazza del Campo and the Palazzo Pubblico with its soaring tower and the famous frescoes by Simone Martini. Later in the afternoon, we visit San Gimignano, the medieval city of skyscrapers in the afternoon.

Thursday, May 31 – Thursday our journey takes us to the extraordinary, ancient Etruscan town of Volterra, known for its breathtaking landscape, for its historic production of alabaster objects and for its exceptional museum, offering a superb overview of Etruscan culture.

Friday, June 1 - First, we visit the beautiful, luminescent 9th century monastery of San Antimo. After our morning visit, we arrive at Montalcino, home of the famous Brunello wine. There will be sufficient time at leisure to sample Brunello at the historic fortress with its renowned "wine library" (enoteca), enjoy the local cuisine and explore its medieval city center.

Saturday, June 2 - Today is devoted to Pienza, the tiny jewel of Renaissance urban planning, where we will visit its splendid cathedral, as well as the Piccolomini Palace. In its charming gardens we will discuss the central role of Pope Pius II Piccolomini, who undertook the project of creating an ideal city to embody the vision of Renaissance humanism here in Pienza.

Sunday, June 3 - A few millennia before Frances Mayes' *Under the Tuscan Sun*, Cortona was a bustling city with a population density equal to New York City. The city is little changed from the Renaissance when it was home to the great artist Luca Signorelli and Pietro da Cortona. During our morning here we will visit Cortona's greatest artistic treasure the famous Fra Angelico "Annunciation." In the afternoon we travel to Arezzo, our first stop on the Piero della Francesca Trail to view that artist's magnificent fresco cycle "The Legend of the True Cross."

Monday, June 4 - This morning we travel through the ruggedly beautiful Casentino to Mount La Verna, the wooded retreat of St. Francis and his followers. It was at La Verna that Saint Francis prayed to receive the Stigmata. In the chapel of the Stigmata we view some of the most magnificent and beautiful of Andrea Della Robbia's works. After a picnic lunch at La Verna, we travel to Monterchi to see Piero della Francesca's famous and newly rescued "Madonna del Parto." Then, on to the charming and historic town of Sansepolcro, Piero's birthplace.

Tuesday, June 5 - In Sansepolcro, the home of Piero Della Francesca, we will visit the small museum housing perhaps his most famous work, "The Resurrection," as well as his stately "Madonna Della Misericordia." In the afternoon, we travel to the austere beautiful medieval town of Gubbio, where we will spend three nights. After checking into our hotel, a restored Cappuccian convent, we visit Gubbio in the afternoon and evening.

Wednesday, June 6 - Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis and itself one of the loveliest of the hill towns. Here we shall visit the famed basilica of San Francesco, built in the mid-13th century and decorated by many of the most renowned painters of the time. St. Francis' beliefs, his humility, his love of his "brothers and sisters" as well as his celebration of nature, while having a tremendous influence on religion, gave rise to a wholly new humanistic vision in art and literature. Giotto was the master who transformed the rigidity of byzantine painting to the very human yet spiritually inspiring image seen in to the upper basilica depicting the life of the saint. After lunch we will enjoy the opportunity to visit first the "Carceri," the retreat high up on Mount Sebastiano used by St. Francis and his companions, and then the little church of San Damiano where St. Francis received his mission from God to rebuild is ruined church. We return to Gubbio for an evening at leisure.

Thursday, June 7 - We leave Gubbio early, traveling through the scenic Apennines to what was once one of the cultural centers of Europe, the small fairytale like city of Urbino. Urbino was the birthplace of

Raphael and Bramante, but it is most famous for the creation of the ideal court under the rule of Federico da Montefeltro and his wife Battista Sforza. Urbino with its magnificent Renaissance Palazzo Ducale is our final stop on the Piero della Francesca Trail. Inside the palazzo, now a museum, is the “world’s greatest small painting” - *The Flagellation* by Piero della Francesca. After lunch and a stroll through the city, we return to Gubbio for our Festa di Addio.

Friday, June 8 - In the morning, we travel to Orvieto, perhaps the most striking of the hilltowns for its dramatic setting atop a plateau of volcanic rock. We will visit the famed Cathedral with its beautiful facade of mosaics and carvings, and within it the dramatic frescoes of Luca Signorelli’s “Last Judgment.” In the late afternoon we travel to Rome. The tour officially concludes with our arrival in central Rome.

**\*\*N.B.** to allow participants greater flexibility in planning their travels, the tour does not include hotel accommodations in Rome for Friday night, June 8. Participants wishing to spend the night in Rome should make hotel reservations independently in advance.



**Program Notes: \*\***

**Cost of the Tour:** The cost of the tour for Liberal Studies students is **\$3995 per person**, plus the charge for tuition at the normal rate for Liberal Studies credit. This is a special discounted price for registered students only. The cost for all other participants is \$4,875. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Florence, arriving in Florence at the Hotel on May 30 for the opening reception and dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Both the reception and dinner are included in the price of the tour, as is the wine tasting dinner in Montalcino and the farewell dinner on the last night of the tour in Gubbio. Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels. All other meals are at the expense of participants. In addition to the accommodations specified below, the cost of the tour includes ground transportation and admission fees for all activities included in the itinerary. Airfare and

ground transportation prior to the official start of the tour at the hotel on May 30 or after its conclusion upon arrival in Rome on June 10 are not included. The tour officially concludes with arrival in central Rome. All arrangements for subsequent travel and accommodation are solely the responsibility of the participant. Participants are themselves responsible for all charges, including room charges and hotels, incurred in connection with any activity not explicitly specified in the itinerary.

**Level of Physical Activity:** The nature of the tour program and the type of sites which the group will visit make for a moderately strenuous routine; those who need to limit their physical activity or who cannot easily walk longer distances are strongly encouraged to consult with the tour leaders prior to reserving space. The Directors reserve the right to limit individual participation in group activities at their sole discretion in cases where the group's interests might be adversely affected.

**Accommodations:** Cost is based on double occupancy in hotels. In some cases single rooms might be available at the hotels for a supplemental charge. All hotels are three or four star and have been carefully chosen for their location, comfort and quality of service. A list of hotels will be provided separately to registered participants. Room assignments are made by the hotel management. Breakfast is included each day at the hotel.

**Reservations:** Places on the tour are strictly limited to a maximum of 18 participants to ensure the comfort and focused attention of the group experience. As a result, places on the tour will be reserved in the order in which deposits are received. Places may be reserved by completing the application form in the "Make a Reservation" section of the website, either online or by mail, and returning it with a deposit of one thousand dollars per person. Deposits are refundable according to the terms specified on the Reservation Form. Payments may be made by credit card or check. The balance must be paid in full by April 1, 2012. **Please read the "Terms and Conditions" below for other important information including the Cancellation Policy. Travelers are strongly urged to purchase separate travel insurance including coverage for cancellation loss to protect themselves in the event that they are unable to travel for any reason.**

If you should have any questions regarding this tour, please feel free to call Prof. Frank Ambrosio (202) 687-7741 or email ambrosif@georgetown.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Hilltowns of Tuscany and Umbria Study Tour.

***All details of the itinerary subject to change based on availability of accommodations, changes in opening\closing schedules, acts of God and other conditions beyond the control of the tour directors. Be sure to read the Terms and Conditions carefully before submitting a deposit.***

**\*\* N.B.** This Study Tour is not affiliated with Georgetown University's Charles A. Strong Study Center, Villa Le Balze, in Fiesole.

## Syllabus

### The Italian Renaissance and the Literature of the Grand Tour

A Liberal Studies Course in conjunction with  
the “Hilltowns of Tuscany and Umbria” Study Tour

The goal of this course is give participants the unique opportunity to read and reflect on some of the great works of travel writing and literature that have been inspired by the country and culture of central Italy during the Renaissance while at the same time visiting that region and experiencing many of its natural and artistic beauties for themselves first-hand.

The tour will begin in the city of Florence. During our brief stay here, we will use our time to become acquainted through lectures, slide presentations and discussion with the places we will visit, their special attractions, and the rich patterns of historical and cultural interconnection among them during the Renaissance. In addition, we will begin reflecting and discussing what we can learn from our discoveries for living more fully and humanely in our own societies, guided by 19th and 20th American and British authors who for whom the tradition of the European “Grand Tour” became a prism through which to examine the powerful impact of exposure to a cultural tradition altogether different than their own which opened up new horizons and powerfully challenged all their assumptions about human living. The Hilltowns tour is more fully described in the accompanying itinerary.

The **course instructors and tour leaders** will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Francis J. Ambrosio, Director, Doctor of Liberal Studies Program, and Ms. Deborah Warin, Director, Renaissance Tours Company, LLC, former Director of Continuing Education and lecturer at Georgetown University, and author of the forthcoming book, *Battista Sforza and the Court of Urbino*. Together they have led more than 25 previous Liberal Studies tours to Italy.

The course, which can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit \*\* in the Georgetown Liberal Studies Program, includes the following additional elements:

- ❖ Two on-campus classroom sessions prior
- ❖ Participation in the full Study Tour Program
- ❖ required readings as described in the “Reading List” below
- ❖ A research paper of approximate 7500 words (graduate) or 5000 words (undergraduate) on a subject of the student’s choice related to the course material and approved by the Instructors, to be completed upon return from the study tour.

## Reading List

Henry James - Portrait of a Lady and Daisy Miller

Edith Wharton - "Roman Fever"

Ernest Hemingway - A Farewell to Arms

E.M. Forster - Room with A View, and Where Angels Fear to Tread

Paul Johnson, The Renaissance, Modern Library Chronicles

Christopher Hibbert, The House of the Medici, W. Morrow Publishers.

A. Richard Turner, The Renaissance in Florence, The Everyman Art Library, Calmann and King

**\*\* Fourth Credit Option (undergraduate only): With permission of the Dean, undergraduate Liberal Studies students may opt to complete a fourth credit option involving additional reading and writing assignments as well as an oral examination which enables the course to fulfill the requirement for either the Medieval or Renaissance Core Course in the BALS program.**

### **Terms and Conditions**

The cost of the Study Tour is \$3995.00 per person plus tuition for a three credit course\* for LSP students registered for credit. The cost of the Study Tour for all others is \$4,875.00. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) with breakfast each day; no other meals are included. All entrance fees and guided tours by the faculty, and bus travel as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions are included. Ground transportation prior to the official start of the tour at the hotel on May 30 or after its conclusion upon arrival in Rome on June 10 are not included.

Participants are urged to make reservations using the Reservation Form at their earliest convenience in order to guarantee a place on the tour. Enrollment is determined by date of receipt of a deposit of \$1,000, which shall be refundable according to the conditions of the stated cancellation policy. Payment in full, including tuition for participants taking the Study Tour for credit, is due March 15, 2011.

### **Cancellation Policy**

\* After receipt of the deposit, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a minimum \$250 per person cancellation fee.

\* Cancellation after January 15, 2011 will result in forfeiture of the full amount of the deposit (\$1000.).

\* Cancellation after April 1, but prior to 14 days before the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture of 50% of the cost of the trip (exclusive of tuition).

\* Cancellation within 14 days of the commencement of the tour or “no show” at the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture full cost of the trip per person (exclusive of tuition). \* **Given the necessity of strict adherence to this cancellation policy, Georgetown University strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance from a reputable vendor of their own choosing. The University reserves the right to make exceptions at its sole discretion.**

**All tours are offered on condition of sufficient enrollment. If the offer of a tour must be withdrawn at any time due to insufficient enrollment, all deposits and additional payments will be refunded and this will constitute full satisfaction of all claims by participants on the University.**

\*BALS student may, with permission of their Dean, register for a four credit course which will fulfill the core requirement for the Renaissance.

### Responsibility

The University and its representatives act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary, and they will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, they do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person and property due to any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour.

The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other rendering service shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Further, the University and its representative agents accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control.

The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice, and to decline to accept any tour member at any time, when such action is determined by the University and its representatives, at their sole discretion, to be in the best interests of the health, safety or general welfare of the tour group or individual. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance.

In view of the statutory or contractual limitations which may apply to personal injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance, is strongly recommended, as well as trip cancellation insurance, is strongly recommended.

Finally, the University bears no responsibility whatsoever for any travel arrangements made by individual travelers that do not form part of the published itinerary. Extensions of stay, hotel accommodations beyond those indicated in the program, early arrivals or departures, hotel charges not included in the basic room rate including but not limited to telephone, beverages and meals, and hotel services, and all other arrangements undertaken at the initiative of individual participants are their sole responsibility. No change can be made in group plans or schedules to accommodate such arrangements.

